

Climate Emergency Action Plan

Response to the Recommendations in the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group's 2020 Report – Update

Recommendation	Response	Update/Progress 2021
<p>1 That the Council work with schools, businesses and community stakeholders to develop a Vision for a Net Zero Borough, with indicators and milestones to demonstrate progress</p>	<p>Agreed. The Council will work with the Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group to develop a Vision for what a carbon neutral Borough will look like in 2030</p>	<p>Ongoing. Aim to complete in 2021/2022</p> <p>Community Deliberative Process Options Appraisal presented to Executive July 2021</p> <p>Community Deliberative Process Proposal to be presented to Executive October 2021</p> <p>Over the last year the following engagement events have been delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Climate Conference, October 2021 • Climate Emergency Drop-in sessions, regular discussions with towns and parish councils' clerks • Climate Conversations, first event March 2021 • Active travel forum, February 2021 • Local Walking & Cycling consultation, 2021 • Green Ways Route B consultation, 2021 • Electric vehicles charging points consultation, March 2021
<p>2 That the annual progress report on the Climate Emergency Action Plan includes recognition of the levels of non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough and progress achieved in delivering</p>	<p>It is agreed that the CEAP should recognise the role of non-CO2 greenhouse gasses in climate change.</p> <p>However, the Council's climate emergency declaration was based on the Committee on Climate Change</p>	<p>Completed. This was included in the 2021 CEAP update report.</p>

<p>reductions through the sequestration measures in place</p>	<p>report and makes commitment to address CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Also, The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy's Local Authority emissions statistics do not at this time provide non-CO2 emissions data at the regional level. The BEIS data we receive automatically includes sequestration in the local authority footprints and offsets these against other sector carbon emissions.</p> <p>Opinions of whether CO2 reductions through sequestration should be offset against other greenhouse gasses rather than actually CO2 emissions are subjective Opinions vary and there is no universally accepted standard</p> <p>Therefore, Officers do not agree that the carbon savings from sequestration actions should be used to off-set the impacts of other greenhouse gasses rather than the CO2 savings in the CEAP</p>	
<p>3. That implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan be monitored to ensure that actions are not detrimental to other environmental priorities such as improved air quality</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Completed. Co-benefits and unintended consequences are assessed for each of the actions implemented. This is now recorded in the CEAP update report.</p>

<p>4 That the Council's key decision reports include a section on Climate Emergency to ensure that the issue is mainstreamed into the decision making process. This must include a transparent, calculated carbon impact assessment of the proposal rather than a generic comment such as "in line with the Climate Emergency Action Plan"</p>	<p>Agreed. A methodology to provide carbon impact will be devised to support this recommendation</p>	<p>Partially completed. Executive reports contain a section on Climate Emergency impacts but do not include carbon impact assessment assessments.</p> <p>Aim to complete in 2021/2022</p>
<p>5 That, as part of the 2021 progress report on the Action Plan, the Council commission an independent carbon accounting audit of the Action Plan's targets, methodology and underlying assumptions.</p>	<p>The officers feel that this recommendation should be subject to the resources available and that considerations to strengthen the internal team are considered as a core requirement to improve the council's own capability.</p> <p>The Action Plan published in July 2020 was presented with a detailed methodology paper to describe the approach to assess carbon emissions providing transparency on the data and methodology used. The council has also introduced a methodology to assess individual projects by its potential carbon savings. This will provide significantly more value to the council and members of the public as it gives more understanding on the effects of individual initiatives. By</p>	<p>Ongoing. Specialist in carbon and climate change to support the process has been recruited. Independent audit of CEAP to be commissioned by the Council's Audit Team. LEP commissioned review of each of the Berkshire Unitary action plans.</p> <p>Aim to complete in 2021/2022</p>

	<p>strengthening the internal team, the council can speed up the practise for embedding these processes into all its operations.</p> <p>Also, The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes annual CO2 emissions data which will calibrate carbon savings projected in the plan</p>	
<p>6 That the six monthly update of the Action Plan, in January 2021, address the gaps and errors in the current version.</p>	<p>The Council committed to present an annual report on the progress of the climate emergency action plan in July each year.</p> <p>As the Action Plan is a living document and planning tool, new ideas and carbon reduction innovations will be added over the next 10 years to help the Council play as full a role as possible in achieving a net carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030.</p> <p>It is expected that the Action Plan will change as more information is made available and better details of individual projects are acquired</p>	<p>Completed. six-monthly report submitted to the Task and Finish Group.</p>
<p>7 That the annual update report on the Action Plan include estimates of consumption emissions, progress of measures aimed at increasing awareness of</p>	<p>Agreed. Although, it should be noted that these will be rough estimates. Assessing consumption emissions for all of the products and services consumed by our residents will be challenging in practice, because</p>	<p>Ongoing. Officers are developing an engagement strategy to consider the immediate and long-term actions required. Communications plan will highlight the importance of addressing consumption emissions.</p> <p>Aim to complete in 2021/2022</p>

<p>these emissions and individual responsibilities such as the promotion of local sustainable sourcing options for food, goods and services.</p>	<p>calculating consumption-related emissions is highly complex and the information is frequently unavailable. Communities consume thousands of different types of products and services, and the emissions associated with each of these is affected by many decisions made by different actors throughout their life cycles.</p> <p>The officers agree that the Action Plan should highlight the level of commitment required by all residents, local businesses and other stakeholders, and that it should strengthen our efforts to promote behavioural change that promote new lifestyle choices such as supporting local sustainable sourcing options for food, goods and services</p>	
<p>8 That future iterations of the Action Plan set out SMART targets to reduce car usage, thereby tackling traffic congestion, and demonstrate how the Council is working with neighbouring authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership, bus and rail operators to deliver transport solutions and a transport network and infrastructure which focuses on active travel and public transport</p>	<p>Agreed. Further work is required to tackle carbon dioxide emissions from transport and that engaging with stakeholders plays a significant part to achieve this.</p> <p>The Council is developing a low carbon transport strategy that will consider best opportunities to engage with stakeholders and will strengthen the targets identified in the Action Plan</p>	<p>Ongoing. LTP4 in development. Low Carbon Transport Strategy produced. Government published Bus Back Better in 2020 and will publish the Decarbonising Transport Plan shortly.</p>

<p>9 That a further report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, setting out the business case for the Green Bank Project, including an assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the viability of the project</p>	<p>Agreed. Once sufficient progress has been made on this project a report will be produced for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing. The council continues to explore opportunities to deliver the Green Bank Project. Aim to complete in 2022/2023</p>
<p>10 That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee scrutinise the impact of the Local Plan Update on the Climate Emergency as part of its review of the new Local Plan later in 2020</p>	<p>Agreed. Particularly in light of proposed changes to planning policy by Government and the potential impact that this will have on the CEAP</p>	<p>Ongoing. Local Plan Update to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in 2021/22. Specialist consultancy advice on climate change to inform the new Local Plan. Aim to complete in 2021/2022</p>
<p>11 That the Council establish and publish details of the amount of land available for sequestration and renewable energy projects by surveying the Borough, in conjunction with Town and Parish Councils, to identify opportunities for tree planting, solar farms and other green projects</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Ongoing. No work carried out yet on land availability. Discussions with Town and Parish Councils on range of Climate Emergency issues continuing.</p>
<p>12 That the annual update report on the Action Plan:</p>	<p>Agreed. It should be noted that adding the likelihood of success or failure for each item is a relatively subjective exercise</p>	<p>Completed. This is now recorded in the CEAP update report.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasise the relative significance of WBC's organisational footprint in any discussion of WBC's estate and facilities;• Provide details of progress on the Council's journey to becoming a Net Zero organisation, including investment, procurement and supply chains;• Outline the measures taken to protect individuals, families and groups most at risk from the impact of climate change and provide details of the outcomes;• Include a risk register, setting out the major risks (including the impact of third party action and non-action); <p>Include an assessment methodology which measures the likelihood (as a %) of success or failure for each item</p>		
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<p>13 That, in light of the increasing number and complexity of initiatives aimed at tackling the Climate Emergency, consideration be given to strengthening the in-house team, especially in relation to “number crunching” of carbon reductions and project costs</p>	<p>Agreed. The report recognises the scale of delivering the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the need for additional resources to ensure successful delivery</p>	<p>Completed. Two additional staff recruited in 2021. The Climate Emergency Officer started on 12 April and will support the delivery of engagement programs The Specialist Climate Emergency Officer started on 19 April and will help improve the carbon accounting of projects within the CEAP</p>
<p>14 That the Action Plan recognises the important role played by Towns and Parishes across the Borough in moving to Net Zero and commits to working in meaningful partnership to develop and support local initiatives which turn new ideas into positive action on the ground</p>	<p>Agreed. Towns and Parishes are currently meeting officers to plan how they can work with the council to deliver some of the actions in the CEAP</p>	<p>Completed. Meetings held with Town and Parish Council Members and Clerks. WBC hosting drop-in sessions for Clerks.</p>