

Title: Climate Change Action Programme Update
Lead Officer: Dave Barber 01926 456065
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Rhead
Wards of the District directly affected: All

Summary

This report provides an update on the Council's progress towards its climate change ambitions and specifically in relation to the delivery of the Climate Change Action Programme.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That members note and comment on the progress made on the Climate Change Action Programme as set out in Appendix 1.
 - (2) That members note the Councils' carbon baseline data as set out in Appendix 2 and the updated District carbon emissions data set out in Appendix 3.
 - (3) That members note and comment on the updated CCAP risk register as set out in Appendix 4.
 - (4) That members note the priorities for action for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 5.
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1 Background/Information

- 1.1 The Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) was agreed by Cabinet in November 2021. This sets out the key activities to be undertaken to ensure progress towards the Climate Change ambitions that had been agreed in July 2021.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 provides a six-month update on progress against each of the CCAP commitments. As can be seen from Appendix 1 there has been significant progress in a number of areas (see para 1.3 below). At the same time there are a number of activities where progress has faced some significant challenges (see para 1.4 below).

1.3 CCAP Progress Highlights:

Ambition 1

Commitment 1.1 / 1.2: An assets decarbonisation strategy has been agreed and work is under way to deliver initial (stage 1) interventions to achieve fabric improvements.

Commitment 1.5: Feasibility work with Warwickshire County Council to develop a local verified carbon offset fund has progressed well and proposals are now being developed for implementation.

Commitment 2.1: WDC's directly operated vehicle fleet is now 100% electric

Commitment 4.1: WDC has fulfilled its commitment early to divest from fossil fuel funds by April 2023.

Ambition 2

Commitment 1.2: Improved cycling facilities have been delivered in St Nicholas Park, at Victoria Park and are being planned for consultation for Abbey Fields.

Commitment 1.3: Preparation of EV infrastructure strategy for District Council owned assets in underway.

Commitment 1.4 / 7.2 A hydrogen hub feasibility study is complete and demonstrates that subject to accessing a site and identifying funding, a hub within the District is feasible. Work is underway to explore potential sources of funding including the Government's Net Zero Hydrogen Fund.

Commitments 3.1 to 3.4: we have received grants from BEIS for housing retrofit totaling around £7m which, with HRA match funding, will deliver nearly £10m worth of investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Heat Pumps are now being installed through LAD 1B funding.

Commitment 3.5 – The housing service have acquired new Section 106 affordable housing sites with carbon upgrades. These now include Europa Way, Bishops Tachbrook, Radford Semele, Cubbington, Hatton Park and Kenilworth.

Commitment 3.6 – The Net Zero Carbon DPD is currently at Regulation 19 Consultation (2nd stage) prior to being brought back to Council for approval to submit. Specialist climate change consultants have been appointed to support the evidence base for the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

Commitment 4.1: A Public Sector Network and SME Network have been established.

Commitment 8.1: we have been successful with a bid to secure resources to help with climate change engagement in rural areas. Planning work is now underway for this with delivery of the scheme planned from the late Autumn onwards.

Ambition 3

Climate change consultants have been appointed to support the Local Plan evidence base, including around adaptation.

Proposals for the delivery of 160,000 trees by 2030 were agreed by Cabinet in March 2022, including details of delivery of 5000 trees in 2022/23.

1.4 CCAP Progress Challenges:

Ambition 1

Commitment 1.2: issues relating to power supply, planning and appointing contractors have prevented the delivery of schemes under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund Phase 1.

Commitment 1.4: Discussions with a solar farm provider have not yet led to WDC investing directly in local renewable energy as they are choosing to take scheme to the wider market.

Ambition 2

Commitment 1.2: Progress on the consultation for the Abbey Fields cycle route has been delayed by the length of time taken to receive a response from Historic England. Progress on bringing forward proposals for a cycle hire

scheme in the District have been set back as a result of the initial costs quoted by West Midlands Cycle Hire for doing this. We are seeking alternative proposals.

Commitment 3.3: Conservation policies are still giving rise to tensions with the Council's climate change ambitions. Discussions have taken place with officers from different services to explore these issues, but it has not yet been possible to find the time to thoroughly review these.

Ambition 3

Commitment 0.1: There have been delays in appointing to the Climate Adaptation Programme Officer role which has restricted our capacity to progress against ambition 3.

Commitment 1.1: Met office city pack data has been subject to a lengthy delay and now it has been received is not in a format where it can robustly support local plan policy development.

1.5 Carbon Baseline - Organisational Emissions

1.5.1 Appendix 2 shows the latest position with regard to WDC's (and SDC's) organisational carbon emissions and provides some commentary on this.

1.6 Carbon Baseline – South Warwickshire Emissions

1.6.1 Appendix 3 shows the updated position with regard to District-wide Carbon emissions. This compares the District's carbon emissions for 2018 based data against the 2019 based data using the SCATTER carbon tool. It should be noted that the time lag in the data means that the impacts of actions since the Climate Emergency was declared, do not impact on this emissions data. The changes shown in the data predominantly relate to on-road transport – this reflects both increasing car usage, but more significantly different measurement method between the two-year comparisons. Other significant increases relate to industrial buildings and processes. The reason for this increase is being investigated with Anthesis who manage the SCATTER data.

1.7 Communications and Engagement Update

1.7.1 Since the CCAP was adopted, there has been a significant focus on communications and community engagement. Examples include

- Holding six engagement webinars for SMEs in partnership with Sustainability West Midlands
- Making a successful application to the Local Climate Engagement scheme. This will focus on engaging with rural communities and will seek to support communities to develop their own local climate action plans as well as providing a channel to feed local rural perspectives into the decision making of the District Councils. It is expected training and planning will take place during the summer of 2022, with community events starting in late Autumn 2022
- With Warwickshire County Council, establishing a Public Sector Climate Change Forum
- Holding a "one year on" feedback session with the Warwick People's Inquiry members.
- Improvements to the website including the introduction of the climate quiz

which helps people make achievable lifestyle choices to reduce carbon emissions.

- Launch of the South Warwickshire Climate Champions which provides case studies of individuals and communities that have taken steps to make a real difference.
- Regular social media campaigns linked to the strapline #onesmallthing.
- Further Carbon Connected webinars covering sustainable food and a sustainable(ish) Christmas.

1.8 Funding Update

- 1.8.1 Through the 2022/23 budget setting process, the Council has confirmed its commitment to a recurring annual allocation of £500,000 specifically to support the climate change action programme. Importantly, this core funding is supplemented by other key funding sources included within other service budgets. Examples of this include: the Housing Investment Programme; budgets for tree planting (including £140,000 allocated from the New Homes Bonus); Assets budgets (such as the planned maintenance budget); and air quality Section 106 contributions which are supporting active travel initiatives.
- 1.8.2 In addition, we have continued to explore external support and funding. Since Autumn 2021, we have had confirmation of substantial additional funding (worth almost £5m) from the Sustainable Warmth Competition to deliver housing retrofit works; in partnership with Wychavon DC, Stratford DC and Heart of England Forest we have made a submission to the Trees Call to Action Fund (total grant of £500k over three years); we have received support worth in region of £70,000 for the Local Climate Engagement scheme.
- 1.8.3 Despite success in drawing on funding from a range of sources, we will need significant additional funding in the months and years to come to achieve our ambitions. There remain many elements of our Climate Change projects that are currently unfunded or underfunded. Examples include asset decarbonisation, contractor vehicles conversion, development of low carbon energy (solar, hydrogen); active travel interventions such as a cycle share scheme; and more extensive housing retrofit works.

1.9 Risk Register review

- 1.9.1 The Programme risk register has been updated (see Appendix 4). This shows that the likelihood for two of the risks occurring has increased slightly since October 2021.
- 1.9.2 Risk 1 (diverging political priorities) has increased in likelihood as a result of the decision not to merge with SDC. However, mitigation is being put in place to develop a approach to continue joint working on climate change.
- 1.9.3 Risk 5 (Lack of staff resources to deliver the CCAP) has been increased to reflect the delays in recruiting to two new posts. Recruitment for both posts is now underway.
- 1.9.4 There are two risks which have been categorised as "red". These are:
Risk 2: The cost of achieving the shared ambitions cannot not be met within available Council resources. See paragraph 1.8 above for ongoing mitigation and challenges relating to this risk.
Risk 3: Increasing local impacts from climate change and increasing costs of

supporting adaptation. Whilst the Council has its part to play in minimising the likelihood of this risk, in the main the likelihood of this risk occurring will be dependent on international action. However, it is important that we stay focused on this in considering the actions (and the costs) that we need to take to adapt to climate change. The greater the impacts on local weather patterns, the greater the long-term cost will be in helping our economy, environment and communities to adapt to those changes.

2 Alternative Options available to (name of Committee/Cabinet etc.)

2.1 Comments on the approach set out in the CCAP are welcome, including suggested alternatives.

3 Consultation and Member's comments

3.1 This report has not been subject to any consultation.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

4.1.1 None

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 See update at 1.9 above. There are no financial implications of this report, aside from those already set out when the CCAP was adopted in November 2021.

4.3 Council Plan

4.3.1 Responding to the Climate Emergency is a key element of the Council's Business Strategy. This report updates on the progress made over the last six months following the adoption of the Climate Change Action Programme. In particular the report is relevant to the Council's aim around a clean and green environment.

4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

4.4.1 Given the subject matter, it is inevitable that the report has significant climate change implications. These are set out in section 1 with details in the appendices.

4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

4.5.1 The report has not been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.6 Data Protection

4.6.1 There are no data protection implications.

4.7 Health and Wellbeing

4.7.1 Climate change actions, and particularly those associated with climate change adaptation, has significant implications for health and wellbeing. These will be incorporated into decision around adaptation interventions.

5 Risk Assessment

5.1 A risk register is set out in Appendix 4.

6 Conclusion/Reasons for the Recommendation

6.1 This report updates on progress towards the Council's climate change ambitions and in particular around the Climate Change Action Programme. The report seeks the views of the Committee on this.

Background papers:

Appendix 1a: CCAP Update May 2022 – Ambition 1

Appendix 1b: CCAP Update May 2022 – Ambition 2

Appendix 1c: CCAP Update May 2022 – Ambition 3

Appendix 2: Organisation Carbon Baseline Data

Appendix 3: District-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions - SCATTER 2019

Appendix 4: Climate Change Action Programme Risk Register

Appendix 5: WDC Priorities for 2022/23

Also

Climate Change Action programme and Appendices – approved November 2021.

Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

Committee/Date	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24 th May	
Title of report	Climate Change Action Programme Update	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee *required	Date	Details of consultation /comments received
Ward Member(s)		
Portfolio Holder WDC & SDC *	9/5	Cllr Alan Rhead
Financial Services *		N/A
Legal Services *		N/A
Other Services		N/A
Chief Executive(s)	9/5	Chris Elliott
Head of Service(s)		N/A
Section 151 Officer		N/A
Monitoring Officer	9/5	Andy Jones
CMT (WDC)		N/A
Leadership Co-ordination Group (WDC)		N/A
Other organisations		
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Ctte/Council?		N/A
Contrary to Policy/Budget framework		No
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?		No
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?		No
Accessibility Checked?		File/Info/Inspect Document/Check Accessibility