

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 and comment on the priorities for action for 2023 as set out in Appendix 5.
 - (5) That members note the previously agreed communications strategy, communications and engagement achievements from the past 6 month and updated priorities list from the four-month rolling plan in Appendix 6.
 - (6) That members note the updated Climate Change Funding Strategy as set out in Appendix 7
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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 twelve-month update on progress against each of the CCAP commitments. Each is given a R.A.G rating (Red – Significant issues or challenges encountered, Amber – Progressing with some identified issues, Green – completed or on track) as an indication of progress. 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). The six-month update from May is also included for context.

1.3 **CCAP Progress Highlights:**

1.3.1 **Ambition 1: Net Zero Carbon Council 2025: ensure the new South Warwickshire Council is net zero carbon within a year of its first elections and that services provided through contractors include carbon reduction targets to deliver net zero by 2030.**

Commitment 1.2: Deliver the Heat Decarbonisation Plan by establishing a Building Decarbonisation Fund for three years (2022/23; 2023/24; 2024/25):

- Proposals for energy efficiency and rooftop solar being brought forward for Jubilee House and Althorpe Enterprise Hub. Further proposals being developed for the Temperate House including solar, heat pumps and energy demand reduction measures. Roof top solar for leisure centres being explored through Midlands Net Zero Hub. Further work associated with office relocation, Town Hall and Pump Rooms being developed in the context of other projects and initiatives.

1.3.2 **Ambition 2: Low Carbon South Warwickshire 2030: to reduce net carbon emissions from across South Warwickshire by a minimum of 55% by 2030 and alongside this, plan how to further reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.**

Commitment 1.1: Action - Ensuring the SWLP spatial strategy and policies minimise the need to travel to access employment, schools, services and leisure.

- Carbon impact assessment report of the spatial options has been completed and is a key part of the evidence for the Issue and Options consultation being planned for. SWLP Issues & Options to be considered by Joint Committee in Dec 22 with a recommendation to undertake public consultation in Jan/Feb 23.

Commitment 1.2 Driving less: we will work with our partners and communities to increase the percentage of journeys undertaken by foot, bicycle or public transport from 20% to 25% by 2030.

- "Choose How You move" Better Points scheme will be extended by a further year until September 2023. Interviews are due to take place shortly to take on an apprentice to move forward with this project.

Commitment 1.3: Switching to low carbon vehicles: Work with WCC to encourage and enable the use of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) within South Warwickshire through contributing and agreeing a coherent strategic direction for the County and as a consequence South Warwickshire

- A South Warwickshire EV Infrastructure Strategy was approved by WDC and SDC Cabinets in July. A further paper setting out the delivery will be presented to Cabinet in February 2023

Commitment 1.4 – Action: Undertake feasibility work on a "Hydrogen Hub"

- Report on the next stages of hydrogen considered by Cabinet in August 2022. Progress continues including work to procure a private sector partner to enable the business case to be finalised and work to secure

base hydrogen demand from public sector vehicles including WDC's RCV fleet.

Commitment 3.1 - Action: Continue to apply for external funding sources from BEIS (eg LADs) and other organisations and match against £18m Housing Improvement Programme monies available.

- LAD1B and LAD2 schemes have been completed with over 80 retrofit measures completed in social properties including air source heat pumps, solar PV, and insulation measures. Some Sustainable Warmth Competition money is also being applied to our housing stock and this is now being implemented. Further Wave 2 funding is being applied for also from BEIS.

Commitment 3.3: We will support landlords and homeowners to improve the energy performance of their properties including exploring funding opportunities such as through BEIS schemes and others.

- The Sustainable Warmth funding provides funding for private sector properties including homeowners for properties which are EPC D-G rated and rented properties which are D-E rated (F and G rated properties are exempt under MEES regulations). Since the scheme launch in July 2022, it is currently getting much interest from landlords. The funding is being delivered by E.ON and Act on Energy and will implement just under 700 measures in total.

Commitment 4.1 – Action: Consider retrofit grant/loan scheme for assets managed/owned by community groups and town and parish councils

- The Local Climate Engagement scheme is taking shape and initial events will take place in the coming months. A key focus of this will be how the District Council can support local action including potential energy and retrofit projects.

1.3.3 **Ambition 3: Adaptation 2050: by 2050 to enable our environment and communities to have adapted to the potential of at least 3 degrees rise in global temperatures by 2100.**

Commitment 1.1 We will use the Met Office data to incorporate planning policies in the SWLP which protect key species; enhance connectivity of habitats and encourage investment in new and important ecological assets

- SWLP Climate change consultants have provided evidence to support the inclusion of climate resilience policies into the Issues and Options consultation.

Commitment 1.4 We will plant 160,000 trees in Warwick District by 2030.

- Plan in place - see report to Cabinet March 2022. Over 14,000 will have been planted/enabled through the programme by March 2023. In addition, around 99,000 trees are projected to be delivered at Newbold Comyn and Tachbrook Country Park Phase 1 and Phase 2. The programme is focusing on firming up the delivery on the three major sites as well as addressing the residual gap of just under 46,000 trees by considering options such as, offsetting, land purchase and the Trees Call to Action Fund.

1.4 **CCAP Progress Challenges:**

1.4.1 **Ambition 1**

Commitment 1.3: Where the measures implemented in year 1 result in revenue savings as a result of reduced energy costs, these savings will be used to supplement the delivery of the Building Decarbonisation Fund.

- To date none of the decarbonisation measures implemented or planned have delivered demonstrable financial savings. Further, the steep increase in energy costs has also, for the time being, prevented this approach being taken forward. We have there been unable to use financial savings to supplement funding for building decarbonisation in this way.

1.4.2 **Ambition 2**

Commitment 1.2 – Action: Explore the options of a cycle route through Abbey Fields Park, Kenilworth linking into National Cycle Route 52

- Abbey Fields cycle path, Kenilworth: A report for circulation will be produced before the end of the financial year which will evaluate the pros and cons of the different options and provide a recommendation.

Commitment 1.4 – Action: Support the low carbon "Last Mile Delivery" concept in South Warwickshire Towns

- 'Last Mile Delivery' concept still being considered as potential use for New House Farm. No further updates.

Commitment 3.3 – Action: Review building conservation policies to ensure an appropriate balance is achieved between protecting the significance of heritage assets whilst enabling retrofitting of homes to reduce carbon emissions (such as rooftop solar or cavity wall insulation).

- Building Conservation Policies workstream currently in progress to review guidance relating to listed buildings and conservation areas. Members working group has been set up and guidance which is published on website is in process of being updated. Also review of Conservation Area and CA Statements (currently underway) will allow further guidance to be provided. Conservation webpages have been updated to ensure guidance is up to date

1.4.3 **Ambition 3**

Many of the commitments in ambition 3 are shown as "amber" in the RAG rating column. This reflects that the fact that progress on this whole ambition is still lagging behind the other ambitions. The primary reason for this is that the postholder for the new adaptation officer role, was not in post until August this year. Since August, significant progress has been made in a key areas and good progress is now being made. It should be noted that it is intended to review this section in due course, in light of the detailed work the postholder is doing with staff teams across the Council.

1.5 **Carbon Baseline - Organisational Emissions**

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

1.6 **Carbon Baseline – Warwick Districtwide Emissions**

- 1.6.1 Appendix 3 shows the updated position with regard to District-wide Carbon Emissions. This data, from BEIS and using the SCATTER tool is time lagged,

therefore the most recent data shown is that for 2019, the year this council declared a climate emergency.

1.7 Communications and Engagement Update

1.7.1 Appendix 6 gives a summary of the communications and engagement highlights of the last 6 months, and some of our priorities for the first part of 2023

1.8 Funding Update

1.8.1 An update on the climate change funding strategy is shown in Appendix 7.

1.9 Risk Register review

1.9.1 The Programme risk register has been updated (see Appendix 4). This shows that the likelihood for one of the risks occurring has increased slightly since May 2022.

1.9.2 Risk 6 (Lack of specialist expertise/skills to deliver the CCAP Action Plan) has increased in likelihood as a result of the ongoing challenges with identifying expertise to support a comprehensive approach to assets decarbonisation and the ongoing costs associated with procuring expert advice to support the development of key projects such as the Net Zero Carbon DPD and the the hydrogen hub.

1.9.3 Two risks have decreased in likelihood since May 2022

1.9.4 Risk 5 (Lack of staff resources to deliver the CCAP) has been decreased to reflect the success in recruiting to two new posts, meaning the climate change team is currently fully resourced.

1.9.5 Risk 1 (Diverging political priorities / appetite for address the Shared Ambitions) has been decreased to reflect the bedding down of arrangements to work separately from (but in partnership with) SDC. This means the consequences of different political priorities between the two Councils are less significant

1.9.6 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 funding update at Appendix 7 for further information

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 December 2022 – Ambition 1

Appendix 1b: CCAP Update December 2022 – Ambition 2

Appendix 1c: CCAP Update December 2022 – Ambition 3

Appendix 2: Organisation Carbon Baseline Data

Appendix 3: District-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions - SCATTER 2020

Appendix 4: Climate Change Action Programme Risk Register

Appendix 5: WDC Priorities for 2023

Appendix 6: WDC Communications review 2022, priorities 2023

Appendix 7: Updated Funding Strategy

Also

Climate Change Action programme and Appendices – approved November 2021.

Climate Change Action programme Update and Appendices – May 2022

Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

Committee/Date	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 th December	
Title of report	Climate Change Action Programme Update	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee *required	Date	Details of consultation /comments received
Ward Member(s)		
Portfolio Holder WDC	22/11	Cllr Alan Rhead
Financial Services *		N/A
Legal Services *		N/A
Other Services		N/A
Chief Executive(s)	23/11	Chris Elliott
Head of Service(s)		N/A
Section 151 Officer		N/A
Monitoring Officer	23/11	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