

Agenda Item No 5
 Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 31st October 2023

Title: Carbon Emissions Data and Climate Change Measures
 Lead Officer: Dave Barber 01926 456065
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ian Davison
 Wards of the District directly affected: All

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	17/10	Cllr Ian Davison / Cllr James Kennedy
Finance	N/A	
Legal Services	N/A	
Chief Executive	17/10	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	N/A	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	N/A	
Section 151 Officer	N/A	
Monitoring Officer	17/10	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group	N/A	
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes: Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
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?	Yes	

Summary

This report provides an update on the Council's and District's carbon emissions data for 2022/23 as part of the annual update on the Climate Change Action Programme. The report also proposes a set of measures to enable in year progress to be monitored. These measures will be used by the Senior Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders to track progress and focus on priorities. They also will be included in six monthly reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That members note and comment on the Council's carbon emissions baseline data and the updated District carbon emissions data as set out in Appendix 1.
 - (2) That members note the proposed "in year" climate change measures set out in Appendix 2 and comment on the extent to which these measures will enable the Council to be effective in tracking progress towards its wider Climate Change ambitions.
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1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 In July 2023, Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update report on the Climate Change Action Programme. At the time that report was prepared the annual carbon emissions data for the Council and the District was not available. It was therefore agreed that a further report would be brought of the Committee for consideration in the Autumn 2023. It was also agreed, that following feedback from the Committee in December 2022, proposals for other measures to allow "in year" tracking of progress of progress, would be presented to the Committee for comment.
- 1.2 Table 1 below shows the latest position with regard to WDC's organisational carbon emissions.

Table 1

WDC Carbon Emissions Summary Table					
Scope / Activity	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	(base year)				
	Kg CO2e	Kg CO2e	Kg CO2e	Kg CO2e	KGCO2e
Scope 1					
Gas	1,251,217	1,249,158	1,200,938	1,152,444	1,087,798
LPG	36,760	32,774	35,229	3,646	3,646
Lease Vehicles	21,002	14,980	13,204	30,314	9,947
Total (Scope 1)	1,308,978	1,296,912	1,249,370	1,186,405	1,101,391
Scope 2					
Electricity	1,260,865	1,280,251	874,164	910,791	873,783
Total (Scope 2)	1,260,865	1,280,251	874,164	910,791	873,783
Scope 3					
Biomass	4,248	4,426	14,050	9,987	5,563
Water	11,767	13,980	4,202	18,505	2,223
T&D Losses	107,470	108,691	75,178	80,600	15,492

Neighbourhood Services Transport (waste, grounds and cleansing)	1,703,971	1,682,688	1,651,509	1,629,662	1,516,111
Neighbourhood Services Buildings (waste contract)	37,092	34,543	32,470	30,506	63,584
Business travel from greyfleet (staff own vehicles)	53,599	54,427	33,665	43,964	44,402
Leisure Centres	805,945	1,717,232	598,506	814,093	668,471
Total (Scope 3)	2,724,091	3,615,988	2,409,580	2,627,317	2,315,845
Total Gross Emissions (kg)	5,293,934	6,193,152	4,533,115	4,724,513	4,291,019
Total Gross Emissions (t)	5,294	6,193	4,533	4,725	4,291

1.3 Appendix 1 provides further information relating to this data including some graphs and commentary setting out some assumptions, limitations and explanations.

1.4 The key points to note from Appendix 1 are:

- Organisational emissions overall have decreased by 1000 tonnes CO₂e (19%) since the 2018/19 baseline with significant reductions in both gas-related and electricity-related emissions.
- Despite the impact of Covid in 2020/21, emissions for 2022/23 are now lower than 2020/21 by around 5%.
- Scope 1 and scope 2 emissions have fallen by 23% since 2018/19.
- Following current trends, the scope 1 and 2 emissions will have reduced by around 35% by 2024/25 and by 41% by 2025/26.
- Unless there is a dramatic acceleration in the annual level of carbon reduction achieved over the next 2 to 3 years, the ambition will be missed without carbon offsetting.
- Scope 3 emissions account for more than half of all emissions and the emissions from Scope 3 transport (predominantly refuse collection vehicles) accounts for approximately a third of total emissions.
- Scope 3 emissions have reduced, but the data relating to leisure centres needs to be treated with cautions due to the rebuilding programme that has taken place over the last 5 years.
- The Scatter District-wide data update is not yet available and an alternative measure drawing on UK Government data has therefore been used.
- This shows a trend of reducing emissions, but the data needs to be treated with caution due to the impact of covid on the 2020/21 data.
- It should be noted that the time lag in the data means that the impacts of actions since the Climate Emergency was declared, have, at best, only a marginal impact on this district-wide emissions data.
- Whilst it is hard to directly relate WDC actions to any particular trends, it should be noted that:
 - The report to O&S in July 2023 set out progress that is being made on the current CCAP. The report showed significant progress in key areas and given these actions have been designed to impact on carbon emissions, it is not unreasonable to suggest that, at least in part, these actions are related to the trends.
 - Once in place, the measures set out in Appendix 2 may provide better and more responsive insights into the impact that key elements of the CCAP are having on the organisational (and potentially, District) carbon emissions data.

1.5 Appendix 2 shows the range of proposed measures to enable progress on the Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) to be tracked in-year. The measures identified relate directly to each section of the CCAP and have been designed to monitor in-year progress for each carbon source and to supplement the annual carbon emissions data to provide more insight in to cause and effect. These measures will be incorporated in the relevant Service Areas Plans and data will be pulled through in the quarterly performance reports to be considered by the Senior Leadership Team. The data will also be presented in the six-monthly CCAP reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.6 It should be noted that the CCAP is currently under review with advice from the Climate Change Working Party. The revised CCAP will be considered by Cabinet in December 2023. Should this review give rise to the need to significantly change the basket of measures, these will be incorporated in to the next six-monthly update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It should also be noted that to ensure alignment with the emerging Corporate Strategy, the basket of measures proposed includes a number of measures that will be part of the way the Corporate Strategy is monitored.

2 Alternative Options

2.1 Comments on the proposed measures set out in Appendix 3 are welcome, including suggested alternatives.

3 Legal Implications

3.1 None

4 Financial Services

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, it should be noted that making progress against the climate change ambitions and specifically in relation to many of the measures set out in Appendix 3, will require financial resources. The CCAP, along with the associated funding strategy, sets out how this will be addressed. The report to Committee in July 2023 provided an update on the financial strategy.

5 Corporate Strategy

5.1 Responding to the Climate Emergency is a key element of the Council's emerging Corporate Strategy. As explained in para 1.5 above, it is intended to review the CCAP in December 2023, following the approval of the new Corporate Strategy. Whilst the measures set out in Appendix 3 seek to align with the emerging Corporate Strategy priorities, they may require further refinement once the updated CCAP has been completed. Any changes to the basket of measures will therefore be included future updates to Overview and Scrutiny and will the subsequently feed in to changes to the Service Area Plans.

6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

6.1 Given the subject matter, it is inevitable that the report has significant climate change implications.

7 Analysis of the effects on Equality

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

8 Data Protection

8.1 None of the measures set out in Appendix 2 involve personal data. There are therefore no data protection implications.

9 Health and Wellbeing

- 9.1 Many of the climate change actions in the CCAP, and particularly those associated with climate change adaptation and transport, overlap with the Council's health and wellbeing priorities.

10 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 There are no risks associated directly with this report. The CCAP risk register was reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2023 as part of the six-monthly update. The CCAP review report to be considered by Cabinet in December 2023 will incorporate a further review of climate change risks.

11 Consultation

- 11.1 There has been no consultation relating to this report, although the CCAP has been subject to community engagement.

Background papers:

Appendix 1: Organisational Carbon Emissions Data and District Carbon Emissions Update

Appendix 2: Proposed Climate Change Measures