

CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group on 3 December 2019, an initial draft Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was presented and subsequently approved by the Executive and Council on 6 February 2020 and 13 February 2020.
- 1.2 The plan highlights and acknowledges the continuation of the long term commitment of the Council to protecting the environment and addressing climate change. The plan includes activities that are already underway and introduces new actions.
- 1.3 Given the breadth of the pledge to reduce (and eventually eliminate) the Council's own impact and contribution to climate change, the plan is naturally broad ranging and has many ideas and proposed new actions. Therefore, to initiate the plan it was agreed to progress a series of priority actions for implementation in 2020/21. This acknowledges the need to accelerate existing Woking 2050 activities in order to meet the Council's carbon neutral pledge across its own estate and operations by 2030.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 12 March 2020, the Climate Change Working Group received its first update on progress made against these priority actions for 2020/21.
- 1.5 This report gives a further update on progress against these actions and is presented in table form in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Group is requested to

RESOLVE That

- (i) the status report be noted.

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| The Working Group has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above. |
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Background Papers: None.

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REPORT ENDS

Appendix 1: Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 2

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), as reported to the Climate Change Working Group in September 2020.

Background information about the CEAP can be found [here](#).

| Theme / Priority Action | Progress to September 2020 |
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| <p>Council assets</p> <p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council's estate and operations.</p> | <p>As reported in March 2020, the Council's 2018/19 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) submission shows that the total energy consumption for corporate buildings owned and used by the Council was 18,638,896 kilowatt hours (kWh) equating to 5,006 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂). New Vision Homes (NVH) residential properties recorded a footprint of 2,555 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Council's climate emergency declaration uses a definition that also includes all properties that are owned and leased out to other organisations. The Council owns over 550 such leased properties. As reported in March 2020, due to the scale of the portfolio, determining the energy consumption and carbon footprint of these buildings needs to be conducted in a phased approach.</p> <p>The focus for the first quarter of 2020 was to determine the energy consumption of the top three largest leased buildings owned by the Council - Dukes Court, Export House and Orion Gate. The property managers at these sites have provided the following information:</p> <p>Dukes Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC rating of C – 56 (issued March 2020) • Annual energy consumption = 4,084,931 kWh in 2019 compared to 4,300,209 kWh in previous year. • Total CO₂ emissions for 2019: 1,132,751 kg |

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| | <p>Orion Gate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC rating of C – 55 (issued March 2020) • Annual energy consumption = 928,854.6 kWh in 2019. Only partial data available for 2018 between September and December 2018 so year on year comparison not possible. • Total CO2 emissions for 2019: 257,571.4 kg <p>Export House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC rating of E – 104 (issued 31 January 2019) • Annual energy consumption = data to be received. • Total CO2 emissions for 2019: data to be received. <p>It is important to note the impact that Covid 19 lockdown and prevailing social distancing measures will have on the ability to make year on year energy consumption and carbon footprint comparison across the Council estate. Consumption this year will be considerably less* due to under occupied offices brought about by the restrictions. Whilst these impacts are beneficial for a lower carbon footprint, it does mean that the year on year comparisons will be skewed.</p> <p>*in some areas, although note comments made later in this report regarding heating and cooling of fresh air input into buildings made later in this report.</p> |
| <p>Collaborative work with Thameswey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.</p> | <p>Action Surrey – part of the Thameswey Group – has submitted a consortium bid on behalf of the majority of Surrey districts and boroughs under the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. The scheme seeks to upgrade the energy efficiency of low income, fuel poor households across England. £500 million has been set aside for the national scheme as part of the wider £2 billion Green Homes Grant Scheme announced by the Chancellor on 8 July 2020. The result of the application is expected by 28 September 2020.</p> <p>Poole Road Energy Centre</p> <p>The shell of Woking’s new low carbon energy centre has now been completed by ThamesWey’s construction partner Galliford Try and the building has been topped out. Work on the interior fit out has commenced. A time-lapse video of</p> |

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| | <p>the construction shows progress of the project - https://www.thamesweygroup.co.uk/energy-centre-taking-shape/.</p> <p>Work is also nearing completion on new district heat spine pipes, private wire high voltage electricity network and fibre optic communications cables linking Poole Road to the Victoria Square</p> <p>Modelling work with WSP In collaboration with consultants WSP, ThamesWey has commenced hydraulic and techno-economic modelling of the district heating networks in Woking Town Centre. The hydraulic modelling seeks to understand the size of network extension necessary to supply new Town Centre developments from Poole Road, with an added scenario of creating an interconnection between this new network and the existing network supplied from Victoria Way. This interconnection would significantly aid the decarbonisation of buildings connected to this network by reducing the network temperatures, leading to an increase in both the efficiency and range of renewable heating technologies that could be utilised.</p> <p>The techno-economic modelling will consider the different blends of heating technologies to use, which will deliver the best outcomes in terms of efficiency, emissions, diversity, cost and other variables over the next 25 years. This will inform ThamesWey's selection of plant equipment to bolster capacity at Poole Road, which will supply the new Town Centre developments as they come through.</p> |
| <p>Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p> | <p>Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are being reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with the largest three leased properties. Of these, Dukes Court and Orion Gate are C rated. Export House however has an EPC rating of E. The accompanying EPC report lists possible remedial actions required to uplift this rating which will be reviewed.</p> <p>Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for publicly accessible Council buildings will also be reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with that of the Civic</p> |

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| | <p>Offices and Monument Way. Officers are also liaising with Freedom Leisure regarding DEC's for the Leisure Centre and Pool. The DEC's and accompanying reports will give an up to date view of the energy efficiency of these buildings with recommendations as to how they can be further improved to reach at least a C rating, if required. Possible companies to undertake renewed DEC's have been identified however this work had been temporarily paused due to lockdown and social distancing requirements. This work will be progressed over the coming weeks.</p> <p>In the meantime, whilst some projects have been paused due to prevailing conditions, the Council continues to make improvements to energy efficiency across the Council estate. Recent examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As reported at the last meeting, a low carbon heating and cooling options appraisal was undertaken for Woking Park. All technologies were reviewed as to what can offer an optimum solution given the facilities on site and the associated energy demands. As a result of this, WSP has been contracted to look further into Ground Source Heat Pumps for the site. Building Services are working with WSP to review the information required to continue this appraisal.• Boilers at the Leisure Centre are due to be replaced by late October 2020 to improve energy efficiency. <p>It is worth noting that due to current legislation, 100% fresh air input is required at the Civic Offices with no recirculation. Prior to lockdown conditions, only 10% was required. The fresh air coming into the building has to be heated or cooled to maintain comfort levels. With this significant increase in fresh air input, there is therefore a greater energy demand for heating and cooling. So despite reduced occupancy, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in energy demand for this area of consumption. In this way, energy consumption figures for 2020/21 will have to be treated with caution. These changes came into effect during mid-March 2020 and so will impact on the whole reporting period.</p> |
| Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across | This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020. Work has begun on preparing an initial high level renewable |

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| <p>the Borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.</p> | <p>energy strategy. This has been paused during the progression of other priority projects, notably Planet Woking (see update elsewhere in this report) and will continue during the autumn.</p> <p>As part of its Greener Futures programme, Surrey County Council is planning to develop a countywide renewable energy strategy and is recruiting a renewable energy manager to oversee this work. Updates will be received via the recently formed Surrey Climate Change Officers group and conveyed to the Climate Change Working Group.</p> <p>Officers have become aware of community municipal investments being taken up by local authorities to raise capital for renewables projects. Residents can invest as little as £5 with a near-guaranteed return of 1.2% a year under the scheme orchestrated by crowdfunding adviser Abundance Investments. West Berkshire DC was the first to join the scheme in July and has so far raised £600,000 of a planned £1m from 480 investors. Warrington BC has just launched a plan with Leeds City Council due to open a scheme this autumn offering bonds to locals to add solar panels to buildings. The schemes could offer an interesting model to consider in the context of the work to identify a large scale renewable energy plan for the Borough.</p> |
| <p>Transport</p> | |
| <p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p> | <p>Due to circumstances in the spring, levels of staff travel (to and for work) and flexible working have changed markedly. Social distancing requirements have seen the majority of staff working from home and the use of Zoom for meetings.</p> <p>The necessary restrictions on everyday life are having unintended but welcome benefits for our environment, including reduced air pollution and decreases in road transport. As flexible working practices prevail for many staff, video calls and online working continue to benefit our environment.</p> |
| <p>Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys.</p> | <p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020. Electric bike charging points were put forward for consideration as part of the active travel funding released by Government during lockdown. Suitable locations and charging point products are to be identified.</p> |

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| <p>Work with the Council's car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.</p> | <p>Existing car club arrangements for business mileage are being reviewed to secure improved environmental criteria and availability / efficiency.</p> |
| <p>Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</p> | |
| <p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and emerging climate emergency action plan.</p> | <p>To be progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and call for accelerated action and timeframes. This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent updates on these.</p> |
| <p>Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the Council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the Borough).</p> | <p>Officers have been continuing to promote what the Council is doing to address climate change. Recent activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further updates to the Council website including: walking and cycling information; details of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) including the update made to the last CCWG in March 2020; and a new webpage promoting local wildflower schemes. • Work continues on the Planet Woking programme. The purpose of the programme is to raise the profile of what the Council has been doing to date to address climate change and sustainability locally; its climate and ecological emergency declaration; and current /future projects. At the heart of the programme will be the involvement of the local community to inspire them to make, or continue to make, changes to live a greener, more sustainable life. Preparations are underway to launch the programme with a video to be released via social media channels and the publication of the standalone website – www.planetwoking.co.uk. The programme will also feature online themed talks with guest speakers throughout the year. The first of which is planned for October 2020 with the theme "Home". Further details will be made available to the Working Group when they become available. |
| <p>Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.</p> | <p>Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will continue over the coming weeks and months. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above.</p> |

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| | <p>Officers are working on ideas to continue to promote awareness, particularly with the launch of the Planet Woking programme including an email signature for staff signposting to the standalone website.</p> <p>Covid-19 and prevailing restrictions around social distancing have naturally seen a significant reduction in the number of officers and councillors in the office environment, with many largely based at home.</p> |
| <p>Sustainable development</p> | |
| <p>Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration.</p> | <p>A draft scoping exercise of the Council's current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps might exist, has been undertaken by officers in Planning Policy and is being finalised. This piece of work will help identify any opportunities for further developing planning policy or guidance to help deliver the Council's declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the Core Strategy.</p> |
| <p>Work with Planning Policy service to update local guidance to reflect how development can be adapted to encourage the adoption of low or zero carbon technologies. Develop planning guidance for developers and homeowners regarding the installation of technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps etc.</p> | <p>Currently, developers applying for planning permission for new homes need to demonstrate that schemes go beyond the Building Regulations minimum requirements (a minimum of a 19% improvement), and incorporate climate adaptation measures. Planning guidance in the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) encourages developers to go even further towards zero carbon housing if viable and technically feasible.</p> <p>Once finalised, the scoping exercise referenced above will be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.</p> |

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