

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel B

Date: **Thursday, 28th October, 2021**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

Lynn Cain

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01623 457317

Scrutiny Panel B

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Christian Chapman

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Trevor Locke

Councillors:

Jim Blagden

Dale Grounds

Caroline Wilkinson

Melanie Darrington

David Walters

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel B to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



Theresa Hodgkinson
Chief Executive

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate or access the meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team at least 48 hours before the meeting.

AGENDA

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- 1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.**
- 2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests.**
- 3. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 22 July 2021.** 5 - 10
- 4. Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Mitigation.** 11 - 46

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,
on Thursday, 22nd July, 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Christian Chapman in the Chair;
Councillors Jim Blagden, Dale Grounds,
David Walters and Caroline Wilkinson.

Apology for Absence: Councillor Melanie Darrington.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Mike Joy and Shane Wright.

SB.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SB.2 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 28 January 2021, be received and approved as a correct record.

SB.3 Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Mitigation

The Scrutiny Research Officer presented the report to the Panel and advised that the document was split into two halves, the first part outlined some outcomes from the 2019 Council commissioned Carbon Management Plan for Ashfield (as compiled by Nottinghamshire City Council) and the current work programme emerging from the Council's internal Climate Change Working Group (attended by senior officers from Assets & Investments, Place & Wellbeing, Waste & Environment, Planning, Procurement and Finance), including development of its draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

The second part of the report outlined some case studies (compiled by the Local Government Association [LGA]) which highlighted some of the work and initiatives being carried out by local authorities across the country regarding climate change mitigation.

Draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The Director of Housing and Assets had provided a briefing note to the Scrutiny Team and advised that the following strategic actions were currently being considered by the Working Group to form part of the upcoming Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan:

- applying for future funding for all Scope emissions - £2m funding already secured
- improvement to the efficiency of current fleet use and consideration of share of electric vehicles
- increasing the availability of electric pool cars
- promoting more sustainable methods of employee commuting, such as cycle to work schemes, car sharing and electric vehicle charging points
- investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and pedestrianising the high street where possible
- reducing the total volume of waste generated where possible through greater reuse, and behavioural change campaigns
- investigating the potential to increase water reuse, for example through grey water recovery systems to reduce wastewater
- flood management and biodiversity
- tree planting
- supporting local businesses and promoting good sustainable behaviours with a Green Business Scheme
- working with and influencing community volunteers and local businesses to help with climate change
- mitigation to encourage an increase in ownership of community open spaces
- asset rationalisation and enhancement
- internal reviews such as procurement, waste/recycling etc.
- requesting allocation of monies from the recently awarded Towns Fund to develop green projects within the town centres (i.e., bee meadows at bus stops).

Members took the opportunity to discuss some of the potential actions and debated the following:

- the negative impact of some pedestrianisation schemes on town centre footfall and acknowledgement that many people still wished to drive to access shops and town centre facilities
- success of the Hucknall pedestrianisation scheme in particular and how the town centre is now thriving due to ease of access and connectivity

- acknowledgement that the Housing Strategy 2021-2023, considered and approved at Cabinet earlier in the week, contained various decarbonisation initiatives for the Council's housing stock with a future eye to the development of greener more sustainable properties
- the importance of the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan being submitted to the Scrutiny Panel at an early stage to enable Members to consider its content prior to adoption by Cabinet
- realisation that the weather was changing due to shifts in global temperatures and the importance of local authorities being equipped and ready to act should any freak weather emergencies unfold locally (reference to the recent freak storms in Germany and the tragic loss of life that resulted).

The Service Manager, Scrutiny and Democratic Services referred to the LGA's recent compilation of climate change case studies (including questions to be considered and asked by Members as part of climate change mitigation discussions) and reflected that all local authorities were now being encouraged to prioritise and develop their climate change strategies and action plans to support the global effort to mitigate against inevitable climate change.

It would be imperative that Panel Members had sight of the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as soon as practicably possible to enable them to consider its content and submit their comments/responses to Cabinet in a timely manner. Members needed to become much more proficient in their knowledge of climate change, how the pandemic had impacted the delivery of any climate change mitigation initiatives and to be equipped with the latest benchmark data and information to enable the cascade of data and education of residents as required.

Members discussed the following:

- concerns that back bench Members were not being given enough information and were being kept out of the loop in relation to the Council's priorities and initiatives
- reference to a previous Ashfield Flood Plan document and concerns as to whether the document remained viable and if it had been updated within the last few years
- the desire for more information from Cabinet in relation to the Council's emergency planning and flood defence programme for dealing with freak weather emergencies including incidences of flooding and storm damage
- the importance of having sight of any recent data in relation to freak weather incidences within Ashfield and any subsequent damage or danger experienced by local residents
- to alleviate any confusion going forward, an urgent need for Members to become conversant as to the correct chain of command for emergency planning responsibilities and operations from County Council level down to District Councils as required

- concerns that the District was home to many disused mining seams and how this could make areas of Ashfield vulnerable to the appearance of sink holes following any sustained incidences of extreme weather and flooding.

The Service Manager, Scrutiny and Democratic Services acknowledged that no training sessions had been delivered to Members for some time in relation to climate change mitigation and suggested that it would be good to consider this as part of the review process. Members could formulate some proposals as to how best this training could be delivered i.e., via a face-to-face session, circulation of information via electronic means or the delivery of updates at Council meetings on a regular basis.

A Member suggested that it might be useful for the Panel to speak to a Planning officer at a future meeting in relation to how the Council was intending to regulate the building of new sustainable homes within the District in the future (to reduce carbon emissions) and what national regulations were currently in place to guide this process.

Whilst considering the Council's current efforts for addressing climate change mitigation, Members were reminded that an Environmental/Sustainability section was included on the Council's corporate report template to be completed by the author in relation to how their report and recommendations might have any local environmental or sustainability implications. It was suggested that going forward it would be more prudent (and lend more weight) to have an expert officer consider and complete the section rather than the author as per current practice. Members suggested that this expertise could maybe be commissioned from the County Council if needed.

The Panel acknowledged that the Council needed to maintain its presence on regional boards and focus groups to ensure that the needs of the District were conveyed, and that local businesses were also signed up and committed to the Council's climate change mitigation programme. Procurement by the Council should prioritise organisations that were committed to decarbonisation and not always opt for the cheapest option. The Council also needed to ensure that the residents of Ashfield were also fully onboard and educated in relation to the Council's efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

To conclude Members were asked to take a look at the Friends of the Earth's 33 actions which had been published on their website to assist Council's in mitigating against global warming and encouraging reduction of their carbon footprint via a range of measures.

RESOLVED that

- a) an informal meeting of the Panel be arranged in October 2021 to consider the following areas of interest and formulate a set of suitable recommendations for submission to Cabinet:
 - the Housing Strategy 2021-2023 as recently approved by Cabinet;
 - the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as developed by the internal Climate Change Working Group;

- the 10 questions published by the LGA in relation to Scrutiny Member involvement in any climate action debates within councils;
 - the potential for requiring expert officers to appraise all Council, Cabinet and Committee reports from an environmental/sustainability perspective;
- b) to furnish Panel Members with copies of the Council's Housing Strategy 2021-2023 and the LGA published questions regarding climate change;
- c) to extend an invite to the Chief Executive and/or the Portfolio Holder responsible for Climate Change to the informal meeting to take part in the discussions and contribute to the review as required.

(During consideration of this item, Councillor Caroline Wilkinson left the meeting at 8.14pm.)

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman.

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Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B
Date:	28 OCTOBER 2021
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
Portfolio Holder:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Scrutiny Panel B Members with further information to progress the Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Mitigation. This includes details of the working group held in October, the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy/Action Plan and the emerging Net Zero Strategy set out by the Government.

Recommendation(s)

Scrutiny Panel B Members are recommended to:

- Consider the implications of the recently published *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener* policy paper on Ashfield District Council's commitment to climate change mitigation.
- Examine the draft Climate Change Strategy and consider any comments and/or recommendations to be made regarding it.
- Discuss any potential recommendations with a view of presenting a final report to Cabinet in the New Year.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Climate Change Mitigation was added as a topic for review to the scrutiny work programme 2020/2021 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2020. Following the annual refresh of the scrutiny work programme in June 2021, Members approved the topic for further inclusion on the 2021/2022 scrutiny work programme.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered. Any alternative options considered will be included within the final report presented to Cabinet at the conclusion of the Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Mitigation.

Detailed Information

INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

The Panel held an informal working group on 5 October 2021 with attendance from the Assistant Director – Assets and Investments and the Strategic Asset Manager. Members of the working group took the opportunity to discuss the following with officers:

- Climate change priorities for the Council
- Leading by example
- Financial challenges of change
- Climate change priorities for the District
- Small steps/long term results
- Environmental impacts

Members agreed to consider the principles of the draft Climate Change Strategy at the next formal meeting of the Panel. In addition, consideration should also be given to how the Council can utilise its position as a Community Leader to continue to discuss climate change issues, carbon footprint reductions and long term solutions.

NET ZERO STRATEGY: BUILD BACK GREENER

On the 19 October 2021, the *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener* policy paper was published by Government. The strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet a net zero target by 2050.

The Net Zero Strategy includes:

- The Government's decarbonisation pathways to net zero by 2050, including illustrative scenarios
- Policies and proposals to reduce emissions for each sector
- Cross-cutting action to support the transition

A section within the strategy that may be of particular interest to the Panel is the 'Supporting the Transition with Cross-cutting Action'.

Key policies outlined within this section are:

- Deliver at least £1.5 billion of funding to support net zero innovation projects.
- Use the UK Infrastructure Bank to crowd in private finance, support more than £40 billion of investment, and pull through low carbon technologies and sectors to maturity and scale.

- Introduce a new Sustainability Disclosures Regime, including mandatory climate related financial disclosures and a UK green taxonomy.
- Reform the skills system so that training providers, employers, and learners are incentivised and equipped to play their part in delivering the transition to net zero.
- Publish an annual progress update against a set of key indicators for achieving climate goals.

It continues with:

“We will also take a place-based approach to net zero, working with local government to ensure that all local areas have the capability and capacity for net zero delivery as we level up the country”.¹

The Strategy sets out that the Government will be embedding climate considerations into policy and spending decisions, increasing the transparency of progress against climate goals, and providing funding to ambitious emissions reductions in schools and hospitals. Furthermore, it is stated that the Government will play a pivotal role in catalysing the role of local government in the transition, by financing strategic infrastructure projects led by local authorities, and providing advice and expertise in order to strengthen the pipeline of investable projects.

Perhaps the section the Panel will have the most interest in is titled *Local Climate Action*. This section goes into more detail on how the Government will be supporting decarbonisation and regeneration in local areas and communities. The following key commitments have been outlined in this section:

- Set clearer expectations on how central and local government interact in the delivery of net zero.
- Build on existing engagement with local actors by establishing a Local Net Zero Forum to bring together national and local government senior officials on a regular basis to discuss policy and delivery options on net zero.
- Continue the Local Net Zero Programme to support all local areas with their capability and capacity to meet net zero. This includes provisions to:
 - Continue with Local Net Zero Hubs to support all areas of England to reach net zero, including those lacking capacity and capability, or those facing unique challenges.
 - Promote best practice and support local authorities to develop net zero projects that can attract commercial investment.
 - Increase knowledge sharing to demonstrate and share successful net zero system solutions.

The *Local Climate Action* section is appended to this report as Appendix A for Panel Member consideration.

The full 368-page *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener* can be viewed through the following link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1026655/net-zero-strategy.pdf.

¹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*, October 2021.

Along with the Strategy, the Government has also published a response to the 2021 Committee on Climate Change progress report.

Climate Change Committee: 2021 Progress Report to Parliament

The Climate Change Committee is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.²

As part of the 2021 Progress Report, the Climate Change Committee published some key messages, stating that:

“The Government has made historic climate promises in the past year, for which it deserves credit. However, it has been too slow to follow these with delivery. This defining year for the UK’s climate credentials have been marred by uncertainty and delay to a host of new climate strategies. Those that have emerged have too often missed the mark. With every month of inaction, it is harder for the UK to get on track.”³

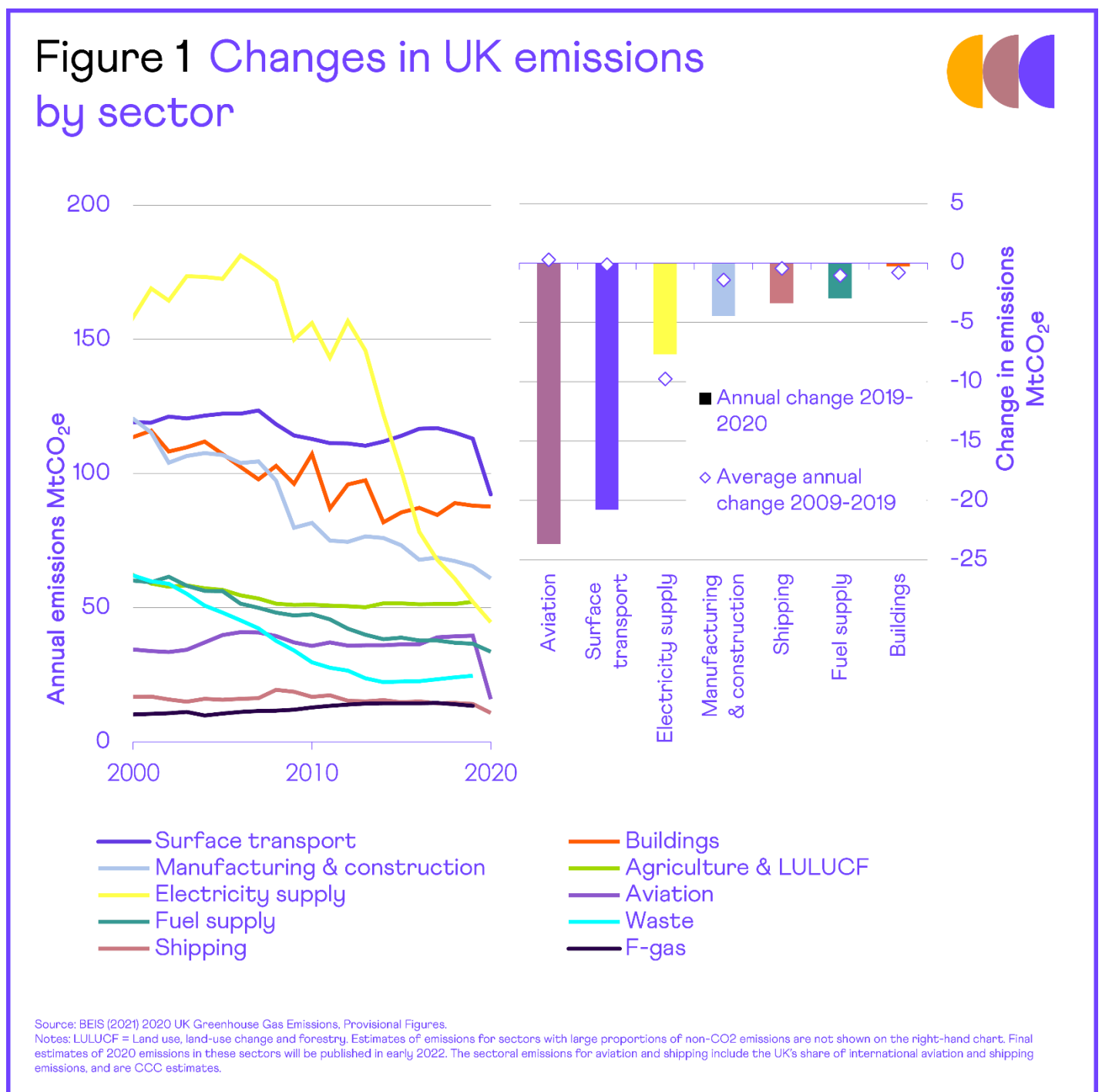
Progress on Net Zero:

- Lockdown measures led to a record decrease in UK emissions in 2020 of 13% from the previous year. Sustained reductions in emissions require sustained Government leadership, underpinned by a strong Net Zero Strategy.
 - A Net Zero Test would ensure that all Government policy, including planning decisions, is compatible with UK climate targets.
 - An ambitious Heat and Buildings Strategy, that works for consumers, is urgently needed.
 - Delayed plans on surface transport, aviation, hydrogen, biomass, and food must be delivered.
 - Plans for the power sector, industrial decarbonisation, the North Sea, peat and energy from waste must be strengthened.
 - The big cross-cutting challenges of public engagement, fair funding, and local delivery must be tackled.

² Climate Change Committee, *About the Climate Change Committee*, 2021.

³ Climate Change Committee, *2021 Progress Report to Parliament*, 2021.

The Climate Change Committee also published the below figure detailing changes in UK emissions by sector:



Progress on Adaptation in England:

- Only five of 34 sectors assessed have shown notable progress in the past two years, and no sector is yet scoring highly in lowering its level of risk. The Climate Change Committee have provided 50 recommendations, including:
 - Restore 100% of upland peat by 2045, including through a ban on rotational burning

- Bring forward proposed plans to address overheating risk in homes through Building Regulations.
- Make the Government's next round of Adaptation Reporting mandatory for all infrastructure sectors.
- Build a strong emergency resilience capability for the UK against climate shocks, learning from the COVID-19 response.
- Implement a public engagement programme on climate change adaptation.

Full details of the recommendations made by the Climate Change Committee can be viewed through the following link: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCC-Joint-Recommendations-2021-Report-to-Parliament.pdf>.

In response to the report and recommendations made by the Climate Change Committee, *Government Response to Climate Change Committee* was published on 19 October 2021 along with the Net Zero Strategy. The response can be viewed through the following link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1026734/government-response-ccc-progress-report.pdf.

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

As has been discussed throughout this review, the Council has been working to develop a Climate Change Strategy, designed to underpin the Council's work towards climate change mitigation and set out how it will work with key stakeholders to achieve this.

Panel Members are asked to read the draft strategy and discuss the key priorities set out within.

The draft Climate Change Strategy is attached to this report as Appendix B.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

'Cleaner and Greener' is one of the five key priorities set out within Ashfield District Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023. The vision for 'Cleaner and Greener' is set out:

"By 2023, we will create a cleaner and greener Ashfield, enabling communities and businesses to thrive in a clean and tidy district, minimising waste and recycling more.

Ashfield is pro-active in encouraging more recycling, tackling environmental crime and finding innovative ways of delivering services that are responsive to the needs of our residents, visitors and businesses.

By working with our communities and businesses, the Council is better able to understand what matters and to shape services to help people enjoy living, visiting, and working in Ashfield."

Legal:

There are no legal implications at this stage of the review. Any legal implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Finance:

There are no financial implications at this stage of the review. Any financial implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Any risks and mitigation considered over the course of this review will be presented in a final report to Cabinet along with the Panel's recommendations.

Risk	Mitigation
Climate change is not just a global issue, it is a major local issue for the Council to contend with.	Development of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, identifying initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change and working strategically with key partners.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications at this stage of the review. Any HR implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

Environmental and sustainability implications are central to the Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Mitigation. Members will be examining Council policies and action plans relating to climate change and the 'Cleaner and Greener' agenda.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications at this stage of the review. Any equalities implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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4v. Local Climate Action

Supporting decarbonisation and regeneration in our local areas and communities

Key Commitments

- Set clearer expectations on how central and local government interact in the delivery of net zero.
- Build on existing engagement with local actors by establishing a Local Net Zero Forum to bring together national and local government senior officials on a regular basis to discuss policy and delivery options on net zero.
- Continue the Local Net Zero Programme to support all local areas with their capability and capacity to meet net zero. This includes provisions to:
 - Continue the Local Net Zero Hubs (previously known as the local energy hubs) to support all areas of England to reach net zero, including those lacking capacity and capability, or those facing unique challenges.
 - Promote best practice and support local authorities to develop net zero projects that can attract commercial investment.
 - Increase knowledge sharing to demonstrate and share successful net zero system solutions.

The challenge

1. Devolved and local government play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Across the UK many places have already made great strides towards our net zero future, having set their own targets and strategies for meeting local net zero goals. Taking a place-based approach to net zero is also vital to ensuring that the opportunities from the transition support the government's levelling up agenda.

2. The combination of devolved, local, and regional authorities' legal powers, assets, access to targeted funding, local knowledge, and relationships with stakeholders enables them to drive local progress towards net zero. Not only does local government drive action directly, but it also plays a key role in communicating with, and inspiring action by, local businesses, communities, and civil society. Of all UK emissions, 82% are within the scope of influence of local authorities.⁴³

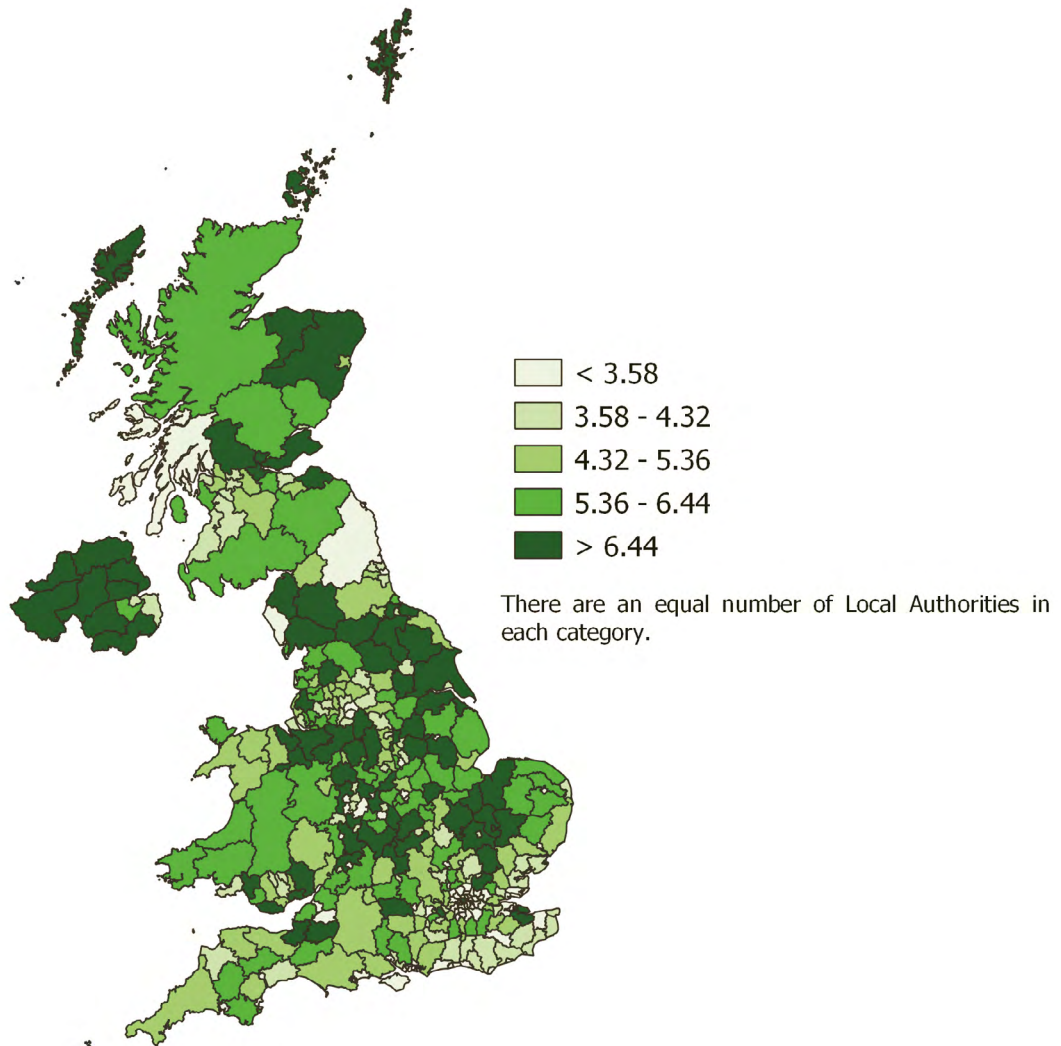
3. Local leaders are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. The government currently works with the Core Cities Group, for instance, which undertakes a range of activities to promote climate change adaptation, raise awareness and foster leadership in cities. Local government decides how best to serve communities and is best placed to integrate activity on the ground so that action on climate change also delivers wider benefits – for fuel poor households, for the local economy, for the environment and biodiversity, as well as the provision of green jobs and skills.



4. Despite the excellent work already underway, we understand that there remain significant barriers to maximising place-based delivery on net zero. We know that some places are moving faster than others and that places and communities will face different challenges when meeting net zero commitments and adapting to climate change.

5. There are significant regional variations in the level of emissions (see Figure 29 below) and some of the hardest hit local economies that face multiple development and growth challenges are proportionally home to a greater number of lower skilled workers. Many of these areas are also where high-carbon industries are located.

Figure 29: Net emissions of carbon dioxide per capita by Local Authority (tonnes CO₂e per capita) in 2019



Source: ONS

6. We also recognise that certain types of communities, such as rural and coastal communities, face significant and unique challenges. For example, the increased age of rural housing makes it both more difficult and expensive to introduce energy efficiency measures and rural communities also have greater reliance on cars. Similarly coastal communities face significant challenges as they may be vulnerable to more frequent

flooding, rises in sea level, and accelerated coastal erosion which will have the potential to affect public services and infrastructure. However different types of localities may also have opportunities available to them that do not exist everywhere. For instance, coastal communities may be able to utilise tidal energy or industrial scale water source heat pumps, and rural areas may have access to sustainable biomass.

7. There are currently no net zero statutory targets on local authorities or communities in the UK, and we do not believe that a new general statutory requirement is needed. This is because of the existing level of local commitment with the sector, and because it is difficult to create a uniform requirement that reflects the diversity of barriers and opportunities local places experience. However, we do understand that there is a real need to ensure local leaders across the board are supported by enhancing the capacity and capability of local areas to deliver net zero, coordinating engagement with local authorities, and clarifying expectations at a national level to accelerate local progress towards net zero.

Our goal

9. The government will continue to set UK-wide priorities for meeting carbon budgets and for assessing how each sector will help meet those budgets. Local government has a key role in integrating delivery at a local and regional level to deliver more cost-effective routes to net zero and derive local co-benefits that embed climate action in the heart of local places and services. By taking this approach, we can achieve even more for net zero and for the economy locally and nationally; we recognise that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. We want to build strong partnership working between central, devolved, and local government, increase the co-ordination and better support all levels of government to utilise the influences available to them.

10. We want to continue to empower our local leaders to take the actions which will lead to the biggest gains in emissions reduction, including the potential opportunities in building back greener and meeting our ambitions to level up the country. While the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our communities, it has also reshaped how we think about place, community, and our natural and built environment.

8. Central and local government will need to work closely together to deliver net zero and our interim carbon budgets. Government analysis suggests that over 30% of the emissions reductions needed across all sectors to deliver on our Carbon Budget 6 target, as set out in this strategy, rely on local authority involvement to some degree.⁴⁴

11. Community empowerment, engagement, and action can play a role in supporting the UK's transition to net zero and enable communities to access the benefits that it brings, from greener jobs to improved health. Communities are especially well placed to help raise awareness and engage people in adopting net zero behaviours. For example, community ownership of renewables and other assets, often in partnership with other organisations, can be an important driver of reducing local emissions. It can also enable people to learn more about climate change and build sustainable behaviours.

12. We will continue to provide support for public and private investment opportunities in local places that will enable the local delivery of emissions savings across the sectors. In the sector chapters we have shown the range of programmes from building retrofit, heating, electric vehicle charging and many others where funding will go to local government to deliver action in their communities.

Enabling local areas to deliver net zero

13. To support all local government in developing and delivering their net zero delivery plans, we need to act in three key areas:

- a. Setting clearer expectations** for local places, clarifying how the partnership with local government should work, and considering how action at national, regional, local, and community levels fits together to tackle the emission and climate risk challenges we face, and the wider benefits the transition brings.
- b. Providing resources** for local places to deliver stronger contributions to national net zero targets, across dedicated funding streams for net zero and non-ringfenced funding, noting the number of broader priorities on which local government needs to deliver.
- c. Building capacity and capability** at the local level to support ambition and share best practice, while also providing support in areas that may not have made as much progress to date.

14. To act effectively across these areas, and for local government to translate national goals into local action, we will build on our existing engagement to improve the way local and national government collaborate on net zero. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will take overall responsibility for improving coordination with local government and other local actors on the effective design and delivery of local net zero policies, as part of the Department's overall responsibility and wider leadership on delivering net zero. Other departments will continue to lead on their specific policy areas such as Department for Transport on the decarbonisation of transport. We intend to

build on many of the existing ways of working together to provide more consistency and clarity over roles and responsibilities between national and local government.

15. We will do this by establishing a Local Net Zero Forum to ensure that there is direct input from local leaders. Chaired by BEIS, the Forum will be cross departmental and bring together national and local government senior officials on a regular basis to discuss policy and delivery options on net zero. The forum will build on our current engagement mechanisms through the representative bodies such as the Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT). The creation of the Forum also draws on the recommendations for a policy framework put forward by member network UK100. The Forum will support the establishment of clearer delivery roles for local government and provide a single engagement route into HM Government in a coordinated and coherent way.

16. On adaptation, local actors will be supported through increased Environment Bill powers to take effective action, reduced financial burdens from waste management and stronger abilities to improve health and social outcomes for local citizens.

17. Achieving our aims requires national decision makers to have the right knowledge and awareness to understand the local impacts of decisions. BEIS will work with other departments and stakeholders to demonstrate successful net zero system solutions by creating a network of experience that amalgamates learning through case studies and non-spatial planning tools.

18. We have already developed a Carbon Literacy toolkit for the delivery of Carbon Literacy training for local authorities. This training has been made available to all local authority staff and aims to increase awareness and ability to reduce emissions across all the policies and programmes local government work on. BEIS has created a sector course and places like Manchester and Sheffield are among the early adopters who have trained staff and councillors.

Funding

19. Funding for local climate action comes from a combination of the Local Government Finance Settlement, other government grants and support schemes, borrowing, and private finance. Collectively, this means there is a range of funding available for local authorities to act on climate change. Some have chosen to explore community bonds and crowdfunding. A third of local authorities say their climate change plans will be cost-neutral by incorporating goals into existing service area strategies, drawing on the funding available for those services.

20. An important part of the funding landscape is the diverse range of grant funding schemes provided by HM Government to support local delivery. The recent National Audit Office (NAO) review into local government and net zero identified 22 dedicated grant schemes for net zero work from central to local government. We recognise that longer term and more co-ordinated funding streams can enhance innovation and investment, reduce bureaucracy, and encourage more efficient and integrated decision making. We will explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change. Building on the vision in the Prime Minister's *Ten Point Plan*, we also will work across departments to explore how we can give certainty to investment in longer-term programmes supported by regeneration initiatives.

21. In addition to the above, the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) will lend to local authorities for strategic and high value projects and invest in projects alongside the private sector, crowding in private sector capital. It has twin objectives of helping to tackle climate change, particularly meeting the UK's net zero emissions targets and helping to support regional and local economic growth across the UK. The UKIB will offer loans to local authorities for high value and strategic projects of at least £5 million. To complement this investment activity, over time, the UKIB will develop an expert advisory service to help local authorities develop and finance projects. The UKIB will build partnerships across the UK including with government departments, government sponsored bodies, local authorities and relevant representative organisations to foster collaboration and drive value for money. As it engages with the market, the UKIB will continue to learn and adapt, which will ensure that its loans to local authorities are as effective as possible.

22. The UKIB is currently operating in an interim form, as it expands its capability and capacity. It will continue to refine the Local Authority Lending Function over the coming months.

23. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will continue to work with partners and the finance sector to develop new finance and business models to support local delivery. These business models will look to develop aggregated projects and portfolios of projects building up scale and spreading delivery risk more effectively for investors.

Sectoral priorities at a local level

24. We understand that for local areas to deliver net zero they will need specific support to plan and identify priorities across different sectors of the economy.

Local energy

25. Decarbonisation of our buildings, transport systems and energy system will require significant action at a regional and local level. Generation and storage are becoming increasingly decentralised, with solar and batteries being deployed in buildings, vehicles, and local communities. Heat and transport decarbonisation in particular needs to be delivered in a way that meets local needs and with the involvement of local decision makers. Decarbonisation will require strong co-ordination across electricity, heat, hydrogen, transport, and buildings. That means local actors can be strong drivers of change, enabling coordinated non-spatial planning and engagement with markets, and supporting cleaner, cheaper and more efficient energy whilst providing a significant contribution towards local economic strategy.

26. Better engagement and information sharing across organisations can enable better forward-planning and a more coordinated approach. BEIS has work underway with Ofgem to develop a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by local area energy mapping and planning (LAEMP) and are considering the most appropriate policy options to take forward. This work could help to bring together key local stakeholders to explore the impact of decarbonisation choices across sectors and how different technology options may impact on local energy networks.

27. The Government has committed up to £102.5 million of funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to Prospering from the Energy Revolution. This is an innovation programme which develops smart local energy systems to provide investable, scalable local business models and finance mechanisms using integrated approaches to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy services. The programme is supporting three places to demonstrate the use of this framework today and a further ten places to develop detailed plans and business cases to deliver whole place decarbonisation.

28. The programme is designed to work across a range of different areas including, big urban conglomerations, cities, towns, industrial regions, regeneration projects and rural communities. Each of these face different challenges and opportunities in reaching net zero and the programme seeks to identify the economic as well as the social and environmental benefits of delivering integrated Smart Local Energy Systems, not just for the place but also nationally.

29. The government also provides funding to deliver programmes that support decarbonisation through the Local Net Zero Programme (previously known as the Local Energy Programme), which is supporting Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), local authorities, and communities in England to play a leading role in decarbonisation and clean growth. Almost £22 million has been invested in the Local Energy programme to date, including funding for the creation and continuing support of 5 Local Net Zero Hubs. The Hubs promote best practice and support local authorities to develop net zero projects that can attract commercial investment. The Hubs are currently supporting local authorities to develop projects with a potential capital value of over £2 billion and have identified further possible projects that take the potential capital value of the pipeline to over £3 billion.

Heat and buildings

30. Local Authorities have been, and will continue to be, key delivery partners when it comes to improving the housing and building stock across the country, especially through integrating activity on energy efficiency, heating and retrofit. This has been recognised in recent years through their delivery of Green Home Grants, Home Upgrade Grant, and heat networks. As demonstrated in previous chapters (*Heat and Buildings*), local delivery of these schemes has been integral in reducing carbon emissions and supporting local economies. For example, over 200 local authorities have taken part in phase 1 of the Green Home Grants Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD) which is focussed on low-income households in homes that most need energy efficiency upgrades. Phases 1 and 2 of the Local Authority Delivery schemes aim to support around 50,000 households who will benefit from energy efficiency upgrades, making it easier and cheaper to heat their homes. Government has also delivered the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme which provides grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy

efficiency measures. Under Phase 1 of the scheme, over £500 million was awarded to local authorities.

31. National planning policies already recognise the importance of sustainable development and make clear that reducing carbon emissions should be considered in planning and decision making. The National Model Design Code provides tools and guidance for local planning authorities to help ensure developments respond to the impacts of climate change, are energy efficient, embed circular economy principles, and reduce carbon emissions. The government is considering how the planning system can further support our commitment to reaching net zero. We will make sure that the reformed planning system supports our efforts to combat climate change and help bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. For example, as part of our programme of planning reform we intend to review the National Planning Policy Framework to make sure it contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation as fully as possible.

Local transport

32. To decarbonise the transport sector, in July, the government published its *Transport Decarbonisation Plan*, which sets out the commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire UK transport system. One of the six strategic priorities of the plan is developing solutions that consider the needs of different locations, highlighting the importance of tackling emissions at a local level to ensure that every place in the UK has its own net zero transport network by 2050, serving the unique needs of its communities.

33. To support this, we will reform the way local transport infrastructure is funded to drive decarbonisation at a local level, engaging local areas about their investment priorities in the round, and making quantifiable carbon reductions a fundamental part of local transport planning. Later this year we will also publish a Local Authority Toolkit to help local authorities reduce emissions from transport. It will provide local authorities with guidance and information to help them build business cases, develop innovative policies, secure funding, and deliver measures on the ground.

Local green infrastructure and the environment

34. Government will launch a new National Framework of Green Infrastructure Standards in 2022. This will support local areas and regions to deliver well-designed green infrastructure where it is most needed to deliver multiple benefits. These networks of green and blue spaces and other natural features, including trees, provide an opportunity to benefit local economies and bring about long-term improvements in people's health and wellbeing. At the same time, it can help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change, through capturing and storing carbon, shading and cooling, and reducing flooding.

35. The Environment Bill is also creating a new system of spatial strategies called Local Nature Recovery Strategies to target action for nature and to drive the use of nature-based solutions to tackle environmental challenges like climate change. It is expected that there will be approximately 50 Local Nature Recovery Strategies covering the whole of England with no gaps and no overlaps. Preparation of each Strategy will be locally led and collaborative, with local government taking a critical role. This will provide local government with a new tool through which they can work with local partners to identify where effort to create or restore habitat would have greatest benefit for climate mitigation, whilst also having positive benefits for nature and the wider environment. Between 2021 and 2027, we will be doubling our overall investment in flooding and coastal erosion to £5.2 billion.

36. In addition, £200 million will be invested in the Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This will help over 25 local areas over six years to take forward wider innovative actions that improve their resilience to flooding and coastal erosion. The Environment Agency is also working with coastal authorities on a £1 million refresh of Shoreline Management Plans.

A universal offer to harness opportunities across the UK

37. We are committed to supporting all local areas and communities, ensuring that none are left behind and creating net zero solutions which work for all of them. As we are reducing emissions across the economy, we must also ensure that the transition to net zero is a fair one.

38. As outlined above, BEIS has been successfully running the Local Programme (previously known as the Local Energy Programme) to support all local areas capability and capacity to meet net zero and government has committed to continuing the Programme. The programme has developed over time and now takes a place-based

approach to tackling net zero in the round, covering all net zero issues. The programme will continue to help places make faster progress towards net zero, improve cost-effectiveness, and significantly increase the economic benefits of the green industrial revolution by attracting commercial investment and supporting green jobs.

39. The programme will focus on all areas of England, including those lacking capacity and capability, or those facing unique challenges, such as rural and coastal communities. The programme will ensure that all local areas can engage on issues relating to net zero.

Case study: Investing in industrial heartlands

The government has invested £95 million for two new offshore wind ports to be constructed in the Humber region and Teesside, boosting the UK's world-leading industry, and creating thousands of new jobs in the North.

Able Marine Energy Park, on the South Bank of the River Humber, will receive up to £75 million government investment, and Teesworks Offshore Manufacturing Centre, on the River Tees, will benefit from up to £20 million. Construction will begin later this year to upgrade the two ports with new infrastructure - helping to revitalise these historic industrial heartlands. Together these new ports will have the capacity to house up to 7 manufacturers to support the development of the next-generation offshore wind projects, boosting the UK's offshore wind manufacturing base while directly creating up to 3,600 new green jobs.

40. The Government has embedded a net zero principle in initiatives which target different types of places, such as the Levelling Up Fund, the Towns Fund, and the Community Renewal Fund. This is to ensure that all funded schemes have considered how to align with our net zero ambitions. We will continue to monitor the impacts of these schemes

and strengthen these criteria if necessary. We will take the same approach with other new schemes and priority places such as Freeports. Investment into places through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should also align with the government's net zero objectives.

41. This year we are working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), ensuring local businesses continue to have clear representation and support in their area to drive the green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. LEPs have played a significant role in providing advice and incentives for businesses to reach net zero. As part of the LEP review, we are committed to ensuring a strong local business voice is retained, particularly to support businesses to transition to net zero.

42. In England, the government works closely with local government, and Defra hosts the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), a forum for dialogue on climate change adaptation between local authorities, central government, and delivery bodies. This supported the production of a guide on adaptation for local government, published in 2019 by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT).

Case study: the Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund is kickstarting over 150 nature projects across England. For example, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust was awarded £1.58 million to create and restore 130 hectares of nature-rich wetland habitat along the Somerset coast. This habitat will help increase flood resilience, improve soil, water quality, and help absorb carbon, increasing the robustness of the county's coastline overall. The GRCF is also support green jobs and is currently on track to support up to 2,000 jobs by the end of 2021, rising to up to 2,500 by the time all projects are completed in March 2023.

Working with local communities

43. To ensure that all parts of the UK benefit from the transition to net zero we also want local communities to take bold action that supports the transition. Local communities benefit from strong relationships and ties to their areas and their local authorities; these can be key to reducing emissions across the economy and making sure people stay engaged in the process. Where local authorities and communities work together effectively, we have already seen significant improvements in both delivery and in wider public engagement.

44. Some very ambitious campaigns on food, recycling, water, and other areas critical to climate action, have been launched and run by pioneering local communities and activists. Community projects can also act as a catalyst for raising public awareness and promoting green choices.

45. Community groups can bring together people, finance, and ideas to have a real impact on the behaviours, infrastructure, and attitudes locally. Community cohesion and grassroots initiatives are also central to locally based resilience to climate change risks, such as flooding and heatwaves.

46. Government understands the important role that communities have in the transition to net zero. Through the introduction of UK-wide growth funding schemes, such as the Community Renewal Fund, the Levelling Up Fund, and the Towns Fund, Government is enabling local areas to tackle net zero goals in ways that best suit their needs. For example, under the Towns Fund, Clay Cross

in Northeast Derbyshire developed a Town Investment Plan setting out their low carbon energy ambitions. Government also works with community groups, both geographic and communities of interest, such as sports clubs, faith groups, and youth groups, on key behaviour change strategies and communications.

Case study: Clay Cross

Clay Cross, in Northeast Derbyshire, was one of the 101 Towns invited to develop a Town Investment Plan. The plan, submitted to Government in October 2020, set out their ambition to establish the town as an exemplar at the forefront of the low carbon revolution. This involved working with established local businesses, including the key local employer Worcester Bosch, to deliver innovation in clean energy and showing the potential to deliver a net zero economy. By 2030 they hope to be able to show significant reductions in the overall levels of emissions by ensuring clean growth principles underpin investment. These ambitions will be realised through a cohort of projects which include the development of a low carbon energy strategy for the town, a low carbon energy demonstrator project linked to the rebuilding of the local leisure centre, low carbon workspace and housing proposals, and a skills and enterprise training centre, which will have an emphasis on providing energy industry related skills.

Community Energy

47. Community Energy is an example of how communities can come together to reach local and national net zero targets. Community Energy England's 2021 *State of the Sector Report* outlined that there are 424 community energy organisations working across the UK to deliver a net zero future and with the appropriate support, they estimate that the community energy sector could contribute up to 5,270 MW, power 2.2 million homes, support 8,700 jobs and add £1.8 billion to the economy each year.⁴⁵

48. Government has provided support to community energy projects through the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), a £10 million fund to supporting community-run projects in England that benefit the energy transition to net zero. The fund has provided development stage grants to projects focusing on a variety of technologies including solar, wind, low carbon heating and electric vehicle charging. Communities have predominantly financed their schemes commercially through share offers and borrowing.

49. The Government has also supported Community Energy England to develop and maintain their knowledge sharing role which includes peer mentoring. This resource can help communities develop their own schemes across heat and power generation, transport, energy efficiency, and also wider approaches to net zero.

Case Study: Cuckmere Community Solar – a world first

Cuckmere Community Solar has an ambition to power the rail network in East Sussex with solar energy – a world first. Working in collaboration with Riding Sunbeams, an innovator focused on decarbonising rail networks, the organisation aims to establish a template for similar projects.

Cuckmere Community Solar plans to build a new 4 MW solar farm at Berwick, East Sussex. This will enable the local community to benefit from a higher income from renewable energy generation, and for the rail network to benefit from cheaper, low carbon power. The Rural Community Energy Fund has provided grant funding for the development stage of the project which includes the cost of studies, land agreements, investigation of the connection point, and legal work.

The project has also recently received capital funding support from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's £85 million share of the government's Getting Building Fund, which aims to help economic recovery.

50. Ofgem also supports community energy projects and following a consultation process has announced that from February 2022 it plans to welcome applications from community interest groups, co-operative societies, and community benefit societies to the Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme. This will allow groups to apply for funds to deliver energy related projects that support energy consumers in vulnerable situations, support decarbonisation, and will benefit people in England, Scotland, and Wales.

51. To build on our existing actions, we intend to continue to work closely with Community Energy England and will reintroduce the Community Energy Contact Group. Since 2017, this group has been merged in a wider Local Energy Contact Group, but given the scale and pace of work being taken forward, and with the development of the Local Net Zero Forum, we believe that it makes sense to strengthen our engagement with the community sector further by reintroducing a dedicated forum for community groups to engage across Government.

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Ashfield District Council Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026

Foreword

Foreword by portfolio holder or council leader?

1.Introduction

1.1 Background

Globally, climate change has become a cause for concern, with human activities dangerously increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Human actions have already caused global temperatures to rise by 1°C, by releasing CO₂ and other gases. As a result, our climate is changing rapidly risking our wellbeing and survival and placing a huge burden on the next generation. Urgent action is needed by all sectors in the coming decade and beyond to halt this trend. The intergovernmental panel on Climate Change has recognised that if the climate increases beyond 1.5°C we risk a climate breakdown as we reach a 'tipping point' when efforts to cut emissions are overwhelmed. Reaching this point is a great threat to humanity as the impacts of global warming will become even more extreme and frequent. If CO₂ emissions continue at their current rate, we can expect to reach 1.5°C at some point between 2030 and 2050. To prevent this, we must cut CO₂ emissions drastically by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and set out a legally binding emissions reduction target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. However, in May 2019 a report by the Committee on Climate change resulted in Central Government revising its targets to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 and with an interim target of 78% reductions by 2035. This is a big challenge and Ashfield District Council intends to play its part in achieving this.

Ashfield District Council recognises the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change and that local action on global warming can make a difference. In a full Council meeting on 26th September 2019 Ashfield District Council made a commitment to do everything possible to combat climate change.

First and foremost, the Council should lead by example, and as a consequence, will:

- Work to reach net zero, or closely to it as possible for the Council's Direct and Indirect (Scope 1-2) emissions by 2030, and work to minimise scope 3 emissions (outside the Council's direct control) by 2050.
- Work to influence and assist the wider community emissions to reduce Ashfield's overall carbon footprint, whereby District wide emissions need to reduce significantly year on year from 2022 to 2050 in order to keep emissions below the carbon budget (the maximum carbon to be emitted by the District) and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in line with national targets.

Alongside reducing the Council's own emissions, Ashfield District Council recognises the importance of supporting the decarbonisation of the whole Ashfield District, in line with the UK Government targets of achieving net-zero by 2050 and the international target of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C.

ADC has already made significant steps in reducing carbon emissions through multiple different projects, including installing solar PV on many council owned buildings, operating smarter working practices in council offices, launching a Climate Change Officer Working Group to collaboratively drive reductions in carbon emissions, and assessing the impact on sustainability and the environment of its decision making processes. A Carbon Management Plan is in place to analyse the trends of remaining emissions and set out actions to deliver reductions in carbon (and carbon equivalent) emissions.

In conjunction with the Carbon Management Plan, this Climate Change Strategy sets out the current challenges and opportunities faced, and how meaningful change can be achieved within this context.

1.2 The Purpose of the Climate Change Strategy

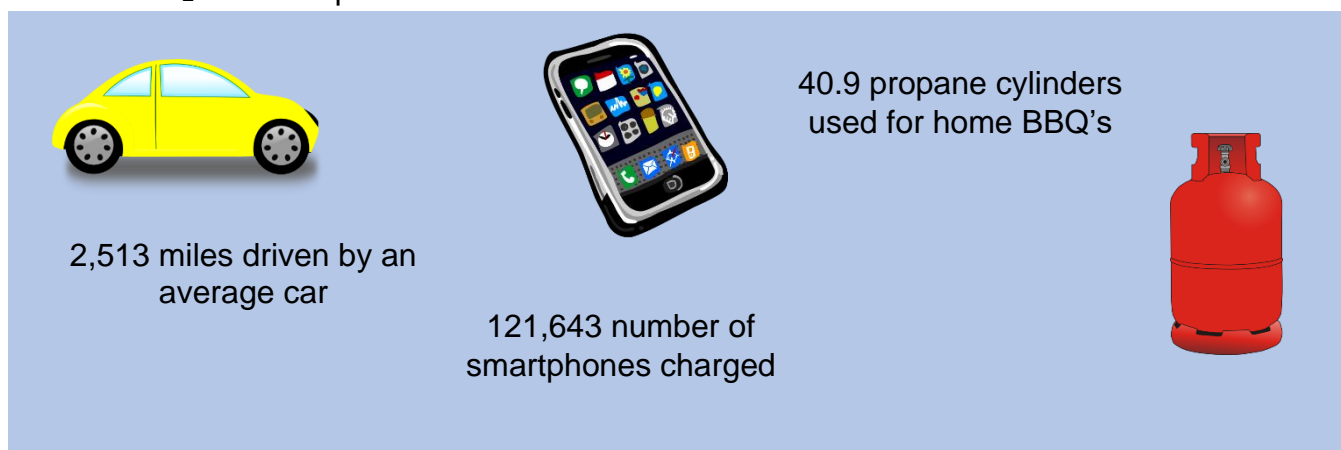
This Climate Change Strategy sets out a roadmap for reducing carbon emissions across Ashfield District Council's operations and services. The Council provides a wide range of services to its local residents across the District and is one of the largest employers in the area. These services include Housing, Parks and Green Spaces, Waste & Environmental Services, Environmental Health, Planning and Economic Regeneration. Therefore, the Council is well placed to have a positive impact on climate change in the area, which can be achieved through:

- Establishing and understanding current emissions (carbon baseline)
- Setting carbon reduction targets
- Setting out key actions to reduce carbon emissions (Carbon Management Plan)
- Gathering and maintaining high quality emissions data and monitoring improvements over time
- Supporting the decarbonisation of the wider District

The Strategy will be reviewed annual and/or when significant change occurs in order to take consideration of emerging renewable technologies, changes to Government targets, legislation, and funding opportunities, along with taking advantage of existing and emerging opportunities and developments in the energy market.

This Strategy uses a baseline year of 2019/2020 to set reduction targets and monitor emissions going forward. The Council's carbon emissions (for which we have direct control over) was 2,531 tCO_{2e} in 2019/2020. The wider context Ashfield Area (District) Emissions (Scope 1 and 2 only) was 536,000 ktCO_{2e} in 2018. (figures will be updated as they become available)

One tonne CO_{2e} is the equivalent of either:



1.3 Policy Context

The most significant national policy relating to climate change is the Climate Change Act 2008, which set out the national goal for achieving an 80% reduction of greenhouse gases (1990 levels) by 2050 (as amended in 2019 to 100% reduction) and also established the Committee for Climate Change. Other relevant legislation includes:

- Paris Agreement 2015 which requires international collaboration to prevent climate change
- The Kyoto protocol which commits industrialised countries to individual targets for greenhouse gas emissions
- The Carbon Plan 2011 which sets out a UK strategy for achieving emission reduction promised in the first four carbon budgets
- Clean Growth Strategy 2017 which sets out the central government proposal for decarbonising all sectors of the economy through the 2020's

In the past 12 months there have been a vast number of policy announcements from Central Government, most notable the 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. A wide range of funding streams have been released to support the acceleration of this. Ashfield District Council has already successfully bid for funding through these streams and will continue to bid for future funding to facilitate change in Ashfield and promote the aims of this Climate Change Strategy.

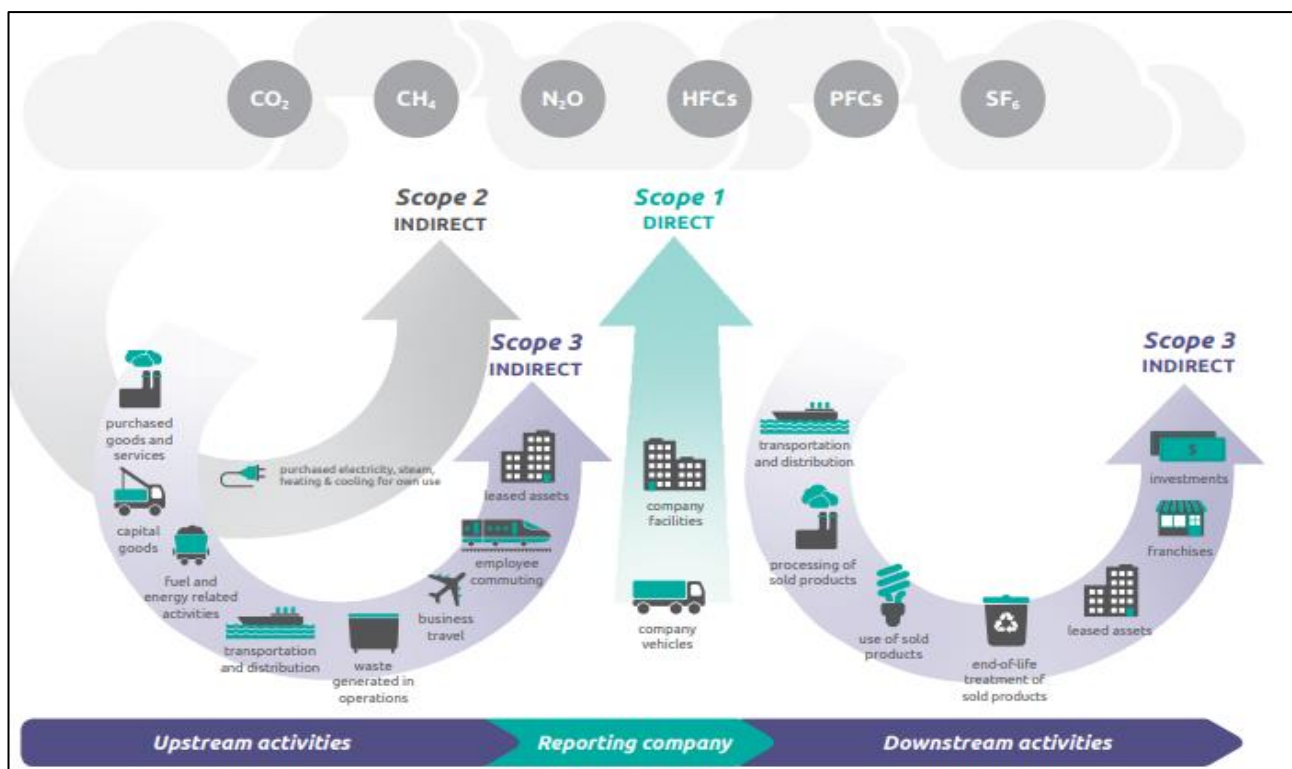
There is extensive and ever-changing legislation issued by central government around how we should tackle climate change. One of the challenges faced will be adapting to policy change and meeting any new corresponding targets, aligned to available funding.

1.4 Ashfield District Council's Emissions

The Council has updated its greenhouse gas emissions profile, established in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. This methodology is compliant with UK Government reduction targets, Global Covenant of Mayors, and the Carbon Disclosure Programme (CDP).

The Council has taken into account both direct and indirect organisational emissions from its own operational estate. The emissions are reported across three different scopes:

- **Scope 1** - Direct emissions from ADC controlled or owned sources
- **Scope 2** - Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy used by ADC
- **Scope 3** - Indirect emissions associated with the value chain of the Council, both upstream into the Council and downstream out of the Council.



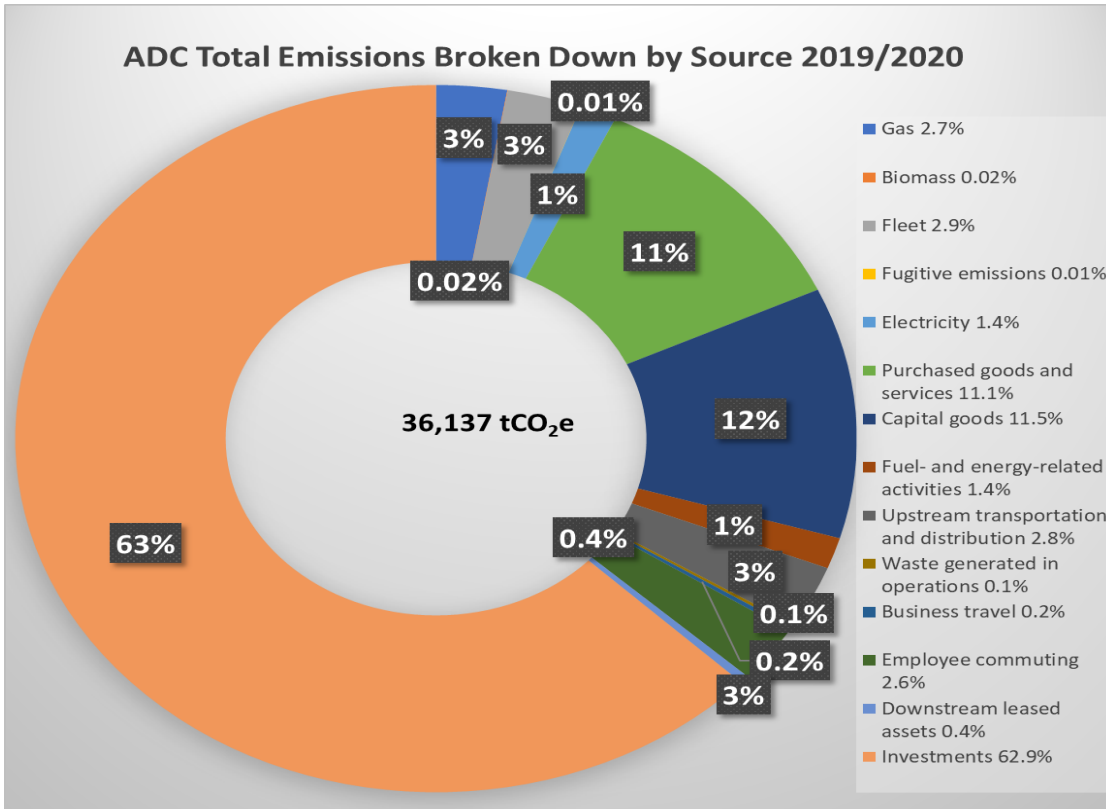
Source: GHG Protocol – Scope

1.5 Ashfield District Council's Carbon Footprint

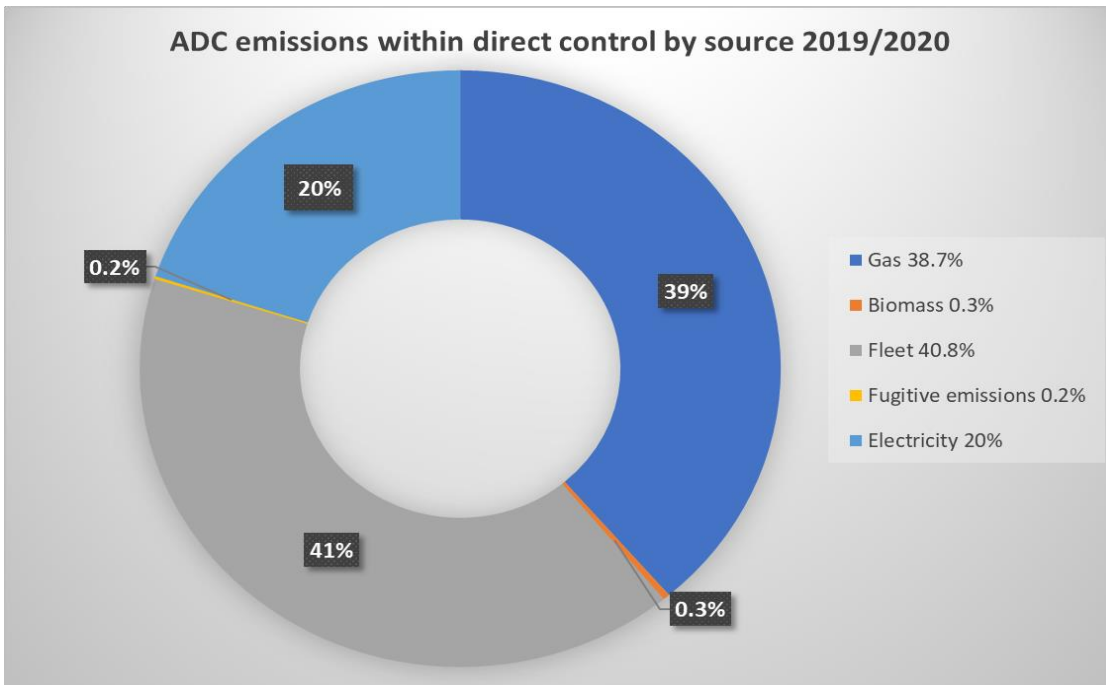
Ashfield District Council has set a target of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by **2030**

The Council's total (Scope 1,2 and 3) Carbon Footprint calculated for the 2019/2020 financial year was **36,137 tCO₂e**. This has been calculated from:

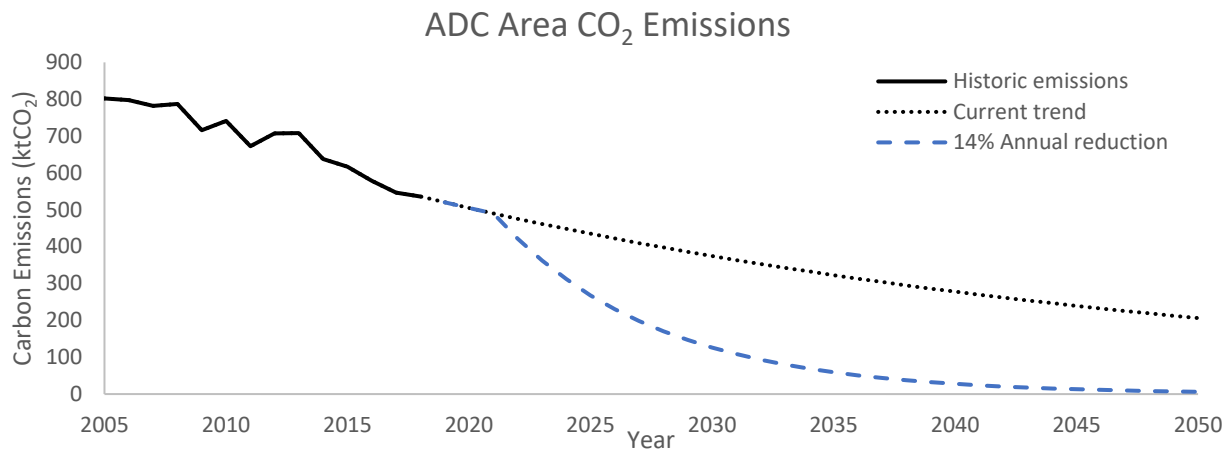
- Energy consumption in Council-operated buildings and emissions associated with refrigerant
- Fuel consumption of the Council's vehicle fleet
- Goods and Services generated purchased by the Council (e.g. materials, components, parts, office furniture, office supplies, IT)
- Capital goods purchased by the Council (treated as fixed assets or as plant, property, and equipment. Examples include machinery, construction, buildings, facilities, and vehicles).
- Fuel and energy related activities undertaken by the Council
- Upstream transportation and distribution of supplying goods/services to the Council
- Disposal and treatment of waste generated by the Council
- Business travel and employee commuting
- Leased assets (leased from and leased to the Council)
- Investments made by the Council i.e. financial, property outside the district etc.



The Council's carbon footprint for scope 1 and 2 emissions (based on analysis by Nottingham City Council) was 2,531 tCO₂e in 2019/2020. It is the Council's intention to reduce these emissions to net zero by **2030** (or closely to it as possible).

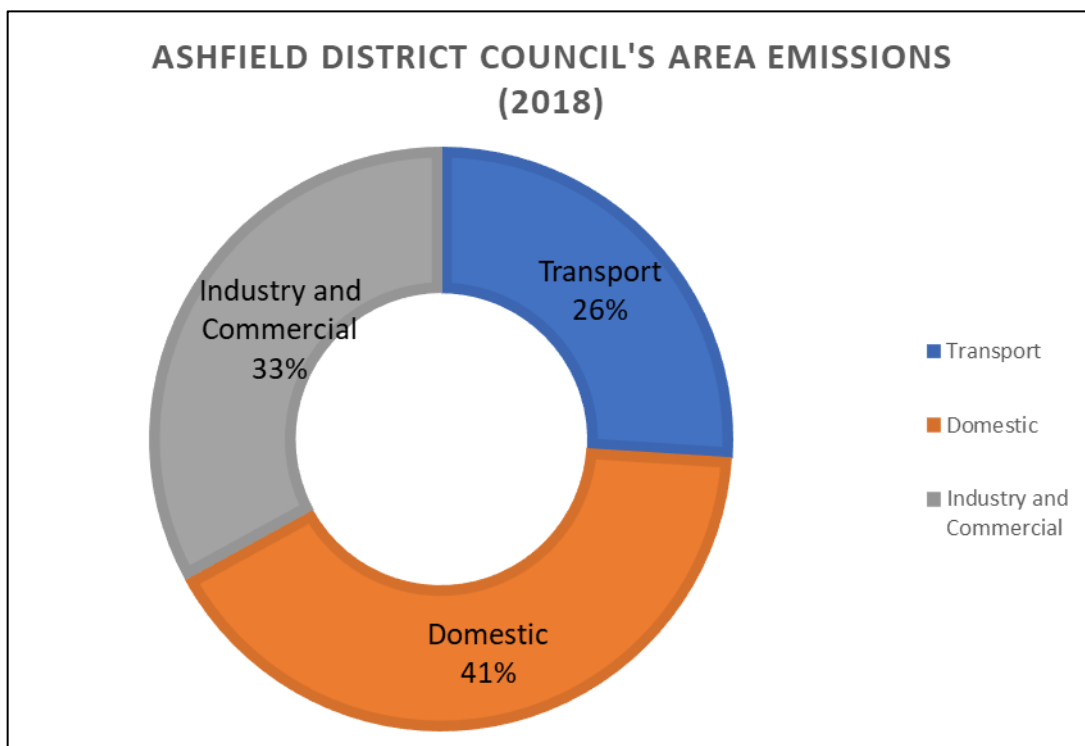


Although the focus will be on reducing emissions from their source, where possible, it will be necessary to carry out carbon offsetting measures e.g. planting trees or Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) (carbon credits) to reach carbon neutral.



1.5.1 Area Wide (District) Emissions

The District’s total area emissions were estimated to be in the region of 770 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide (ktCO₂) in 2018, of which approximately 536 thousand tonnes were attributable to Scope 1 and 2 emissions alone. The Scope 1 and 2 emissions mix was 41% domestic, 33% industrial & commercial and 26% from the transport sector.

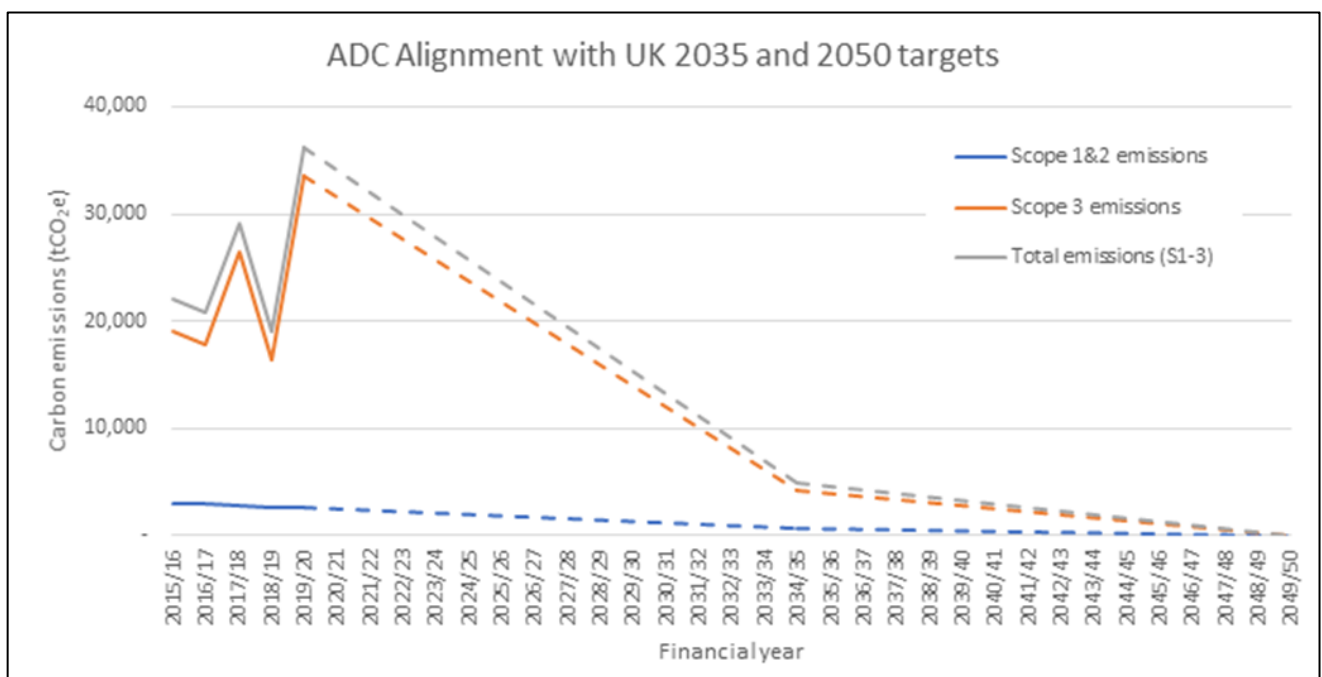


According to the Notts City audit, over the last 14-year period, ADC’s Scope 1 and 2 emissions have on average reduced by 2.94% per year. If this trend was to continue Ashfield area would not reach the net zero target, as emissions would still be 375 ktCO₂ in 2030 and 206 ktCO₂ in 2050. This demonstrates the need for Ashfield’s area emissions to reduce at a greater rate and magnitude than the historic trend.

Research data by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change suggests the Ashfield area has a carbon budget¹ of 4 MtCO₂ for emissions between 2020 and 2100. If Ashfield emissions continued on the historic trend, this budget would be used up during 2028. All emissions past this point would be contributing to a dangerously warmer world. In order to keep emissions below this carbon budget and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in line with national targets, annual emissions reduction rates must be in the region of 14% per year, from 2022 to 2050.

1.6 Roadmap for Reducing Carbon Emissions

The Council will set high level short, medium, and long-term actions to reduce emissions and implement recommendations for suitable metrics and monitoring. Early action is required to maximise the compound savings/benefit and meet the Government’s revised emissions reduction targets.



To reduce the Council’s scope 1 and 2 emissions and achieve net-zero ambitions the main priority will be the decarbonisation of heating systems in Council operated buildings and decarbonisation of the Council’s fleet. In order to reduce the Council’s scope 3 emissions it will be necessary to decarbonise the goods and services purchased by the Council, and all commercial investments made by the Council. This will require significant and rapid change within the supply chain in order to provide the Council with purchasing and investment options to enable this to happen. Steps to achieve this are provided in the strategy action plan. (Graph data derived from Nottingham City Council audit of ADC)

2. Delivery Themes

2.1 Transport

¹ The maximum carbon emissions totals allocated to Ashfield between 2020 and 2100 as part of the national target, to hopefully translate to a maximum 1.5° C global temperature rise

Emissions from the transport sector are one of the major contributors to climate change nationally, and this trend is reflected within the Council. In 2019/2020 emissions from fleet use contributed the largest proportion of scope 1 & 2 emissions. Therefore, to reach net zero by 2050 significant changes need to be made. One of the emerging opportunities for carbon reduction in transport is through technological development in electric vehicles (EV) and/or hydrogen powered vehicles. Central Government have announced that from 2030 the sale of new petrol & diesel cars will no longer be permissible. As technology in the market advances, the Council will be able to increase its use of electric vehicles by purchasing and/or leasing more electric vehicles as part of the Council fleet. There will also be wider encouragement of electric vehicles for business use and commuting, aided by increasing the numbers of charging points available to the Council and the wider public. The impact of Covid-19 has led to more flexible and remote working, which has dramatically reduced emissions during 2020/2021 from business travel and commuting. This has also led to the Council being able to reduce its office capacity requirements, enabling further emissions reduction.

Opportunities-

- Conduct a fleet management review and consider full electrification of the Council's fleet vehicles- to meet the Government's target of zero new vehicle transport emissions by 2035
- Invest in electric machinery, such as strimmers and lawn mowers
- Prioritise low carbon modes of business travel and consider the use of electric pool cars
- Introduce policies which align to use of ultra-low emission vehicles e.g. essential/casual car user allowances.
- Promote more sustainable methods of employee commuting, such as cycle to work schemes, car sharing and electric vehicle charging points
- Invest in walking and cycling infrastructure and pedestrianising the high street where possible
- Promote agile working to reduce commuting and business travel requirements

2.2 Housing

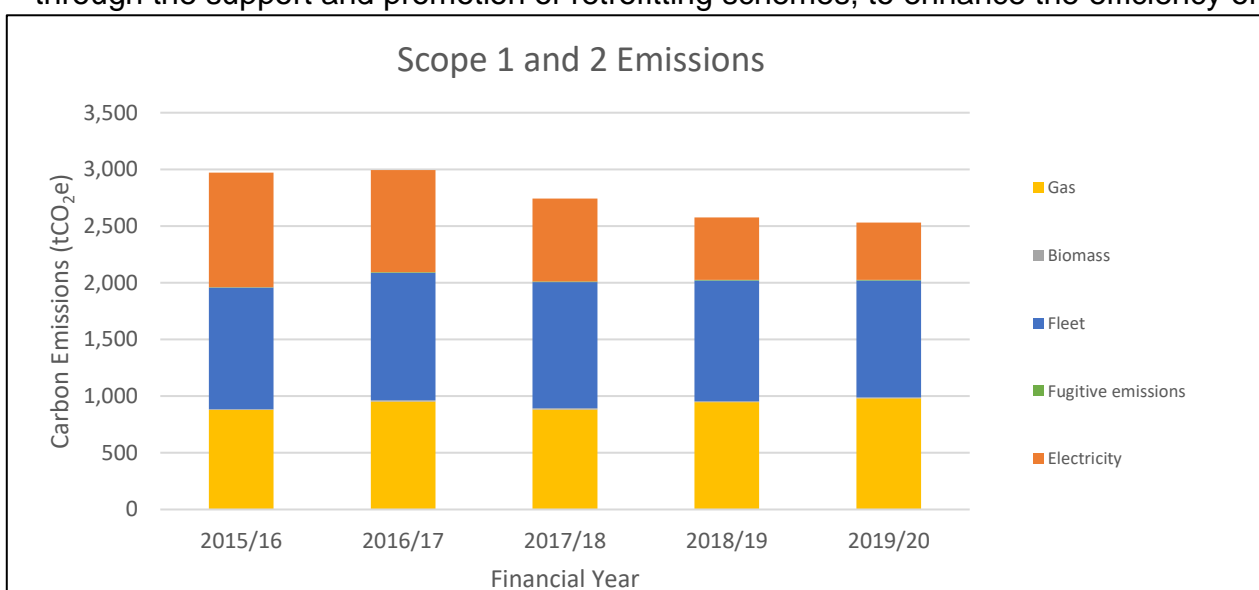
Housing is another key area of focus as it is responsible for around 20% of UK emissions, which will require complete decarbonisation in order to meet emissions targets. Whilst the emissions from Council owned housing is not included in the carbon zero target, it is important that these emissions are addressed as part of the decarbonisation of the District. The Council's housing stock comprises 6632 properties, and whilst the Council aims to continue investment in improving the thermal efficiency and carbon footprint of its domestic stock, it will be reliant on significant Government funding to achieve this. Currently the Council has a number of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions of the housing stock across all tenures, including bidding for Central Government funding streams as and when they arise and carrying out subsequent projects/works. Examples include the Green Homes Grant, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Low Carbon Skills Fund. The Council will continue to seek such funding and deliver carbon reduction projects which in turn will assist to reduce fuel poverty and support low-income households.

Legislatively as a landlord, the Council must ensure that all its properties are brought up to a thermal efficiency level of EPC level C minimum by 2035 and cease the installation of natural gas boilers by 2025. The Council also has a role via Environmental Health to

enforce energy efficiency in the private rented sector. All of which will assist in lowering carbon output in the domestic rental market.

Opportunities-

- Where practically possible, seek to reduce the emissions associated with the housing stock. This will be done by taking a fabric first approach initially, followed by renewable heating/energy production;
- Carry out a fuel poverty impact assessment for any decarbonisation projects that will increase fuel costs for the tenant or resident enabling residents adversely effected to be assisted;
- Continue to explore funding opportunities for improving the energy performance rating and decarbonisation of its own housing stock and in the private sector;
- Support residents to be more resource efficient in terms of energy and water use through the support and promotion of retrofitting schemes, to enhance the efficiency of



homes and their energy systems;

- Explore procurement opportunities to minimise carbon emissions from development projects.

2.3 Energy

Gas and electricity used for heating, power and lighting to the Council's assets and activities are the 2nd and 3rd largest contributors to the Council's carbon emissions respectively, and so are also key areas when looking to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. As with housing, the priority will be to take a 'fabric first' approach across its assets to reduce the amount of energy required, however we must also consider low carbon energy options. In the UK the electricity provided by the national grid is generated from increasingly 'green' sources such as wind, solar and hydro energy, which has contributed to the reduction in emissions over the last five years. The Council has switched to the purchase of electricity from renewable sources which will effectively reduce emissions from electricity to zero. Whilst this is a positive step, in order to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 we will have to take ambitious action and consider alternative renewable energy sources to fully replace fossil fuels as a means of providing heating. Renewable energy presents both a great solution and an exciting opportunity as technology develops rapidly.

As part of the Government's 10 Point Plan, over the next 15 years fossil fuel boilers will be removed from the market. While Hydrogen technology is currently being developed and may prove an effective alternative in the coming years, it is not yet readily available. This means the use of direct electric heating systems currently remains the dominant 'cleaner and greener' source of heating provision. Heat pumps still require electricity to power them and so the switch to the purchase of green electricity will ensure that emissions are low. The Council has already taken steps to increase the use of renewable energy to provide power and heating, including the installation of numerous Solar PV systems across the estate, as well as three Combined Heat and Power systems, and two large scale communal Biomass heating systems.

Opportunities-

- Continue to monitor developments in the renewable energy market;
- Improve the energy efficiency of the Council's assets, including investment in thermal improvements to the building fabric, improved energy controls, LED lighting etc.;
- Replace gas powered systems with renewable heating systems;
- Explore options to increase the use of solar PV and introduce battery storage across all viable sites;
- Reduce energy consumption through behaviour change campaigns.

2.4 Waste

The Council is committed to minimising the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions through effective waste management and setting realistic targets. We can tackle climate change by making the most of the resources we already have and being more efficient in the way we use these resources. In 2019/2020 the waste generated by the Council was 50.3tCO_{2e}. In order to reach net zero this needs to be reduced significantly. One way of reducing waste is through the promotion of a more circular economy through recycling, repairing and reusing goods, which in turn would result in less waste sent to landfill. This extends to wastewater which makes over one fifth of the Council's waste emissions for 2019/2020.

Reducing waste through greater recycling, repairing and reusing goods will reduce carbon emissions and reduce the cost to the Council and wider community.

Opportunities-

- Respond to the government waste strategy and refine the Council's approach
- Reduce the total volume of waste generated where possible through greater reuse, and behavioural change campaigns
- Investigate the potential to increase water re-use, for example through grey water recover systems to reduce wastewater
- Promote the 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle' Waste hierarchy throughout the Council and the community
- Where possible eliminate food waste going to landfill

2.5 Procured Goods and Services

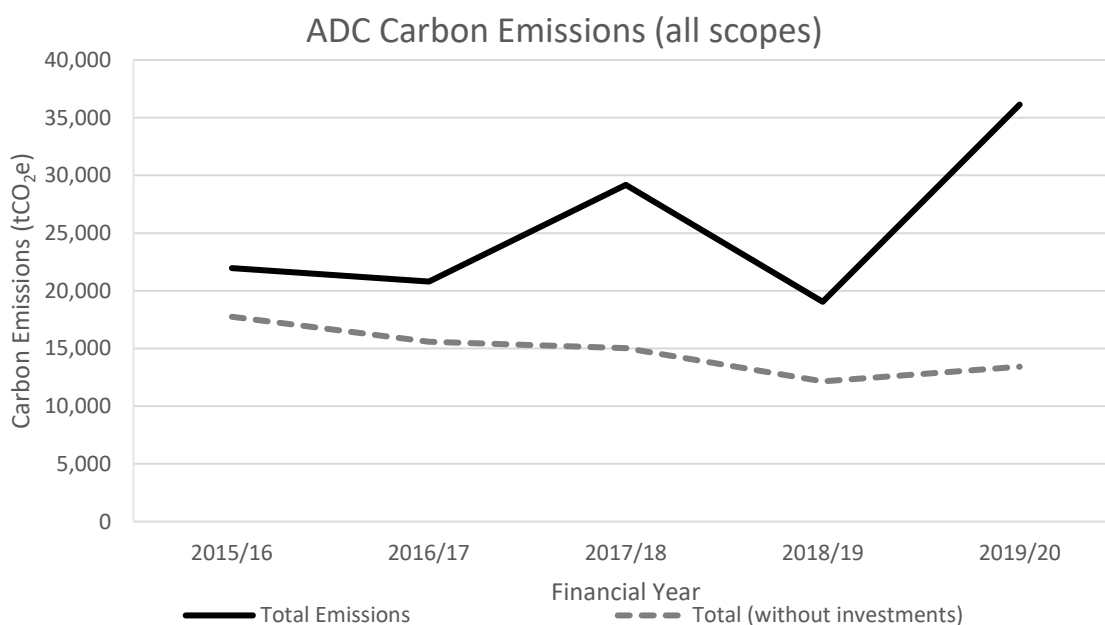
The Council will always aim to purchase goods and services from companies with a commitment to the environment and with good carbon credentials, increasingly including social value and environmental considerations and requirements in larger procurement activity. In doing this, the hope is that companies who wish to sell goods and services to the Council will respond by undertaking an environmental commitment, where they have not already done so. However, for the Council to be able to purchase carbon friendly products, the supply chain will need to provide greater choice in the market. Government pressure on such companies and pending legislation will assist the Council to procure goods and services with lower carbon footprints.

Opportunities-

- Promote low carbon and sustainable procurement through qualitative assessments of carbon credentials within scoring criteria, and performance monitoring;
- Review Contract Procedure Rules and Sustainability Policy and explore options to implement low carbon Procurement Guidance;
- Consider travel distances, methods of transport and fuel type to transport goods and services to the Council where applicable.

2.6 Investments

In order to deliver essential public services against a backdrop of reduced funding, many Council’s across the country have needed to invest in commercial property to ensure financial sustainability. Ashfield District Council is no different. However, all purchases have a carbon footprint, and as a consequence of increased commercial activity, the Council’s emissions have increased significantly in recent years. Investments count for by far the largest of the Council’s scope 3 emissions. In 2019/20 investment activities accounted for 68% of all scope 3 emissions, compared to only 22% in 2015/16.



Whilst the total emissions figure has increased in the previous 5 year period, if you remove property investments from this the carbon emissions has actual decreased by 28%. Taking this into account, there is still a need to reduce the net carbon cost of the Council’s

land and property assets. This can be done through rationalisation, third party rental/income generation and operating efficiencies. The carbon emissions of any investment need to be considered from the outset.

Opportunities-

- Undertake a detailed analysis of current investment emissions and research potential low carbon investments in order to inform future investment decisions;
- Investigate ways of reducing investment emissions e.g. directly financing projects that reduce greenhouse gases.

2.7 Climate Resilience & Biodiversity

We are already seeing the impact of climate change through extreme weather events such as hotter summers, colder winters, and flooding, and this is only going to continue over time. Being able to respond to these changes through climate resilience will be a key challenge faced by the Council. As flood risk increases the Council will need to take action to protect communities from the damage flooding can cause. The Council has worked with Nottingham County Council to deliver flood protection measures to properties within the District considered at risk of flooding.

It is also important to promote biodiversity, as this will not only have an immediate positive impact on green spaces in the community, but also help to offset any carbon emissions in the future. Where carbon emissions cannot be removed, it will be necessary to offset this carbon with measures such as tree planting. The Council aims to not only maintain the current biodiversity by encouraging wildlife and also by planting more trees to help these ecosystems grow and flourish.

Opportunities-

- Explore mechanisms to promote tree planting on Council land and with local businesses;
- Ensure flood risk is reduced through the flood risk management schemes;
- Maintain green spaces and encourage biodiversity in these spaces;
- Work with schools and community groups to improve knowledge and understanding of biodiversity.

2.8 Partnership & collaboration

The carbon emissions of the Council make up only a fraction of the overall emissions of the District. The Council must therefore encourage, assist the wider District to play its part in mitigating climate change, including enforcement where appropriate. The Council will continue to promote carbon awareness to its employees along with the wider public to better inform decision making.

The Council has limited scope to impact upon its Scope 3 emissions but will endeavour to continually reduce them wherever possible. In respect of area wide emissions, the Council

will work collaboratively with the community and develop partnerships with key stakeholders. Demonstrating good environmental practices and leading by example allows the Council to educate, influence, and encourage emissions reductions. The Council recognises that there is already a wealth of local knowledge and skills relating to climate change mitigation, and so it essential to capture the community's drive and ambition, and to use it to strengthen the local economy through supporting business development in carbon reduction activities.

Opportunities-

- Support individuals and local businesses and promote good sustainable behaviours with the Council's Green business scheme and other initiatives;
- Work with and influence community volunteers and local businesses to help the environment to encourage an increase in ownership of community open spaces;
- Collaborate with communities within the District of Ashfield to create, protect and manage local green infrastructure, increase biodiversity and provide accessible environments, aided by relevant funding e.g. Towns Fund;
- Encourage and influence reductions in carbon emissions associated with new developments in Ashfield through the Local Plan;
- Work collaboratively with peers, industry, and government to jointly develop regional and national resilience.

3. Summary

In conclusion, Ashfield District Council recognises the disastrous impact climate change will have if we do not take steps now to prevent reaching a climate breakdown. The Council is already taking steps to protect Ashfield residents from extreme weather events and flooding, whilst also working to reduce carbon emissions and prevent global temperature rise. However, the scale of the challenge goes beyond the scope of the Council and so cannot be faced alone. We need the support of communities, residents, and local businesses to tackle this challenge head on and create a better, green world for future generations.

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