Report of the Climate Emergency Advisory Panel - Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan

For Cabinet on 11 March 2021

Summary

Lead Member: Councillor Matthew Bailey – Portfolio Holder for Sustainability

Lead Director: Paul Taylor - Director of Change & Communities

Head of Service: Gary Stevenson - Head of Housing, Health & Environment

Report Author: Karin Grey – Sustainability Manager

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: [All]

Approval Timetable	Date
Climate Emergency Advisory Panel	21 and 28 January 2021
Communities and ED CAB	Wednesday 17 February 2021
Cabinet	Thursday 11 March 2021

Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That Cabinet approve the results of the 2020 Carbon audit of the Council's own operations, services, and buildings.
2. That the Cabinet approve the recommended carbon reduction pathway and modelled scenarios as set out in the report and Corporate Carbon Descent Plan to achieve the carbon neutral target by 2030.
3. That the Cabinet approve the Council's first Corporate Carbon Descent Plan and actions for 2021 – 2022 and its trajectory with the aim to achieve its carbon neutral target by 2030 for its own operation, services, and buildings.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 In July 2019 Full Council, (FC29/19), declared a “climate emergency” and agreed to start a dedicated report within the fiscal year setting out the actions the council needs to take to address this emergency. Including how the wider community, businesses, organisations, and individuals can be encouraged to make their own contributions to meeting a goal to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2030.

1.2 The Climate Emergency Advisory Panel (CEAP) was established with the terms of reference and a high-level work programme agreed by Cabinet March 2020, (CAB150/19), to enable the delivery of the motion to be progress.

1.3 The Council motion required a green audit to be undertaken of all council services and ensuring that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impacts as well as cost.

1.4 This report sets out the result of the green audit and the actions that could be taken to meet the ambition to make the council’s operations carbon neutral by 2030 and to inform the next iteration of the Council’s five-year plan.

1.5 The Council also agreed to: “Take steps with partners to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future by setting up a Citizen’s Assembly as a way of also involving residents and businesses in the process, as Climate change will have implications for generations to come.” A separate report details the various approaches the council can take.

Carbon audit and emission reductions

1.6 The first element of work following procurement was the appointment of consultants ‘LASER’ a division of KCC’s Commercial Services in February 2020, to conduct an audit of the Council’s own operations, services, and buildings to quantify the existing carbon emissions and identify the level of carbon reduction required.

1.7 Prior to the declaration of the climate emergency the Council had already made some progress in terms of energy efficiency and reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the Carbon Management Plan 2010 – 2015. The result of this audit shows some success in delivering a reduction on previous carbon emissions.

Carbon Audit

1.8 The audit results presented in this report has been compiled in accordance with the World Resources Institutes globally recognised accounting methodology, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol)[1],[2]. This is the standard used by most organisations around the world and the UK for carbon emissions accounting.

1.9 Greenhouse gas emissions are reported in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e) or (tCO_2e tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This allows the impact of each of the seven main greenhouse gasses to be expressed in terms of the amount of CO_2 that would create the same amount of warming, allowing easy comparison of the impact of different emission types. Throughout this report, all greenhouse gas emissions are given in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent.

1.10 The GHG Protocol divides the emissions into three scopes: -

- Scope 1:

Direct emissions from our organisation, e.g., from burning fuels such as natural gas for heating or fuel for company cars.

- Scope 2:

Indirect emissions from purchased electricity.

- Scope 3:

Other indirect emissions which do not relate to the generation of purchased energy, such as purchased goods and services, (i.e., leisure and waste contracts), business travel, leased assets and franchises. Scope 3 emissions are wide ranging and represent the largest source.

Audit Results

1.11 The audit provides a record of TWBC greenhouse gas emissions in the 12-month period covering April 2018 to March 2019 (inclusive), by assessing the 2018/19 data sets held by the authority.

1.12 The Council's total carbon emissions for 2018/19 came to 3473.4 tonnes of carbon (tCO_2e) per year.

[1] https://ghgprotocol.org/
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-how-to-measure-and-report-your-greenhouse-gas-emissions

1.13 This is already an improvement on 2013/14[3] (last time an audit was undertaken to comply with the Greenhouse Gas reporting requirements from DEFRA), when the council reported a total of 6,046 tonnes of carbon (tCO_2e) per year.

1.14 This reduction in part will be due to some differences in the reporting and the reductions in the national electricity grid carbon emissions[4] since 2013/14. Importantly, the Council had taken steps to improve energy efficiencies and the use of renewable energy included installing solar PV on the tennis centre roof of the St John's sports centre, lighting changes, and other building improvements. A detailed list of previous actions can be found in appendix A.

1.15 The Council's carbon footprint was calculated and broken down in a variety of ways in order to quantify and analyse the different types of emissions sources as shown below in figure 1.

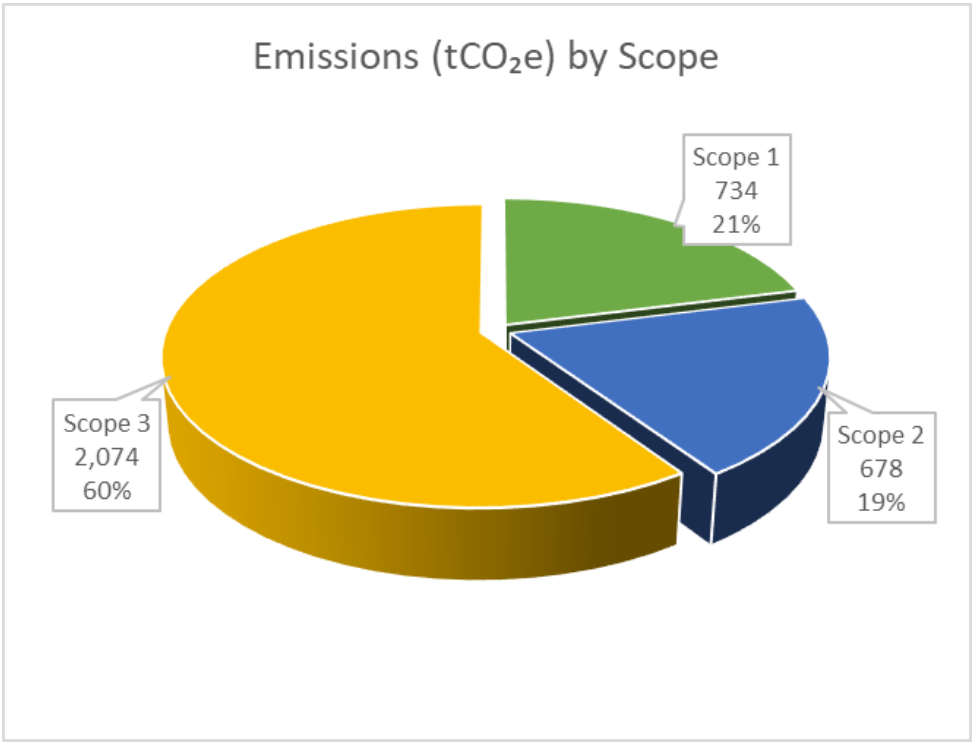

Figure 1: TWBC 2018/19 tCO_2e emissions divided up by scope.

1.16 Most emissions are scope 3 making up 60 per cent of the total and most notable through the councils procured goods and services, with the other scopes comprising approximately 20 per cent each, being natural gas (Scope 1) and electricity (Scope 2). Such emissions patterns are typical for a Council, as several services are outsourced, including the leisure and waste contracts.

1.17 Further analysis of the data as detailed in figure 2 shows that the outsourced services of leisure, waste and grounds maintenance create the highest emissions accounting for 57 per cent of the 60 per cent total. The waste

[3] https://opendata.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/datasets/tunbridge-wells-open-data-greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-2009-10-and-2010-11
[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2018

collection and leisure contract make up over half of total emissions, each accounting for just over a quarter.

1.18 It should be noted that the 'waste management' emissions only consider the operation of waste refuse vehicles, and not the waste itself nor its treatment and storage.

1.19 The Council's own vehicle fleet in conjunction with business mileage for the grey fleet, (private owned vehicles used on council business), account for 3 per cent of the overall emissions. Whilst these are not the biggest emissions the Council still has reasonable influence over these through company policy on business travel.

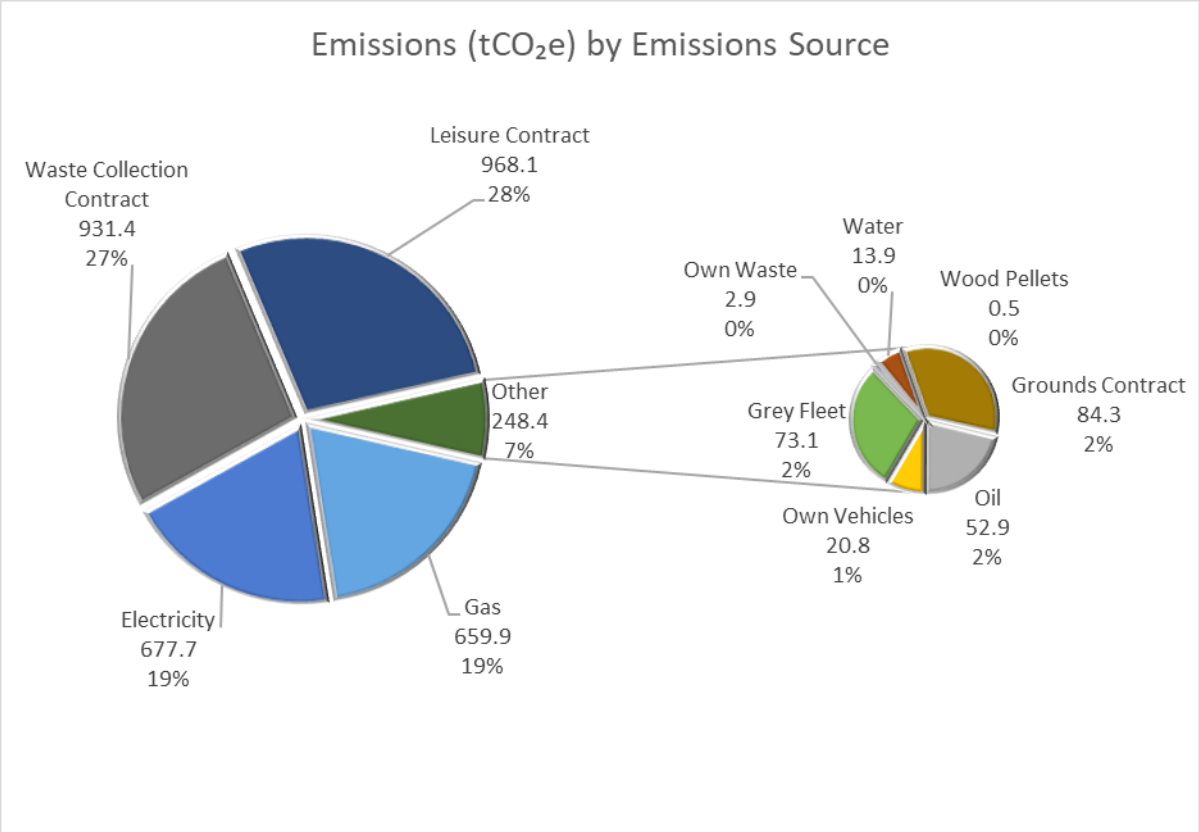

Figure 2: TWBC tCO_2e emissions by source 2018/19 data sets.

1.20 In terms of the Council's owned buildings/assets the top ten emitters are shown in figure 3 below. It should be noted that the Amelia Scott was not part of the Council's property portfolio at the time of the audit and therefore was not included in this round of assessments.

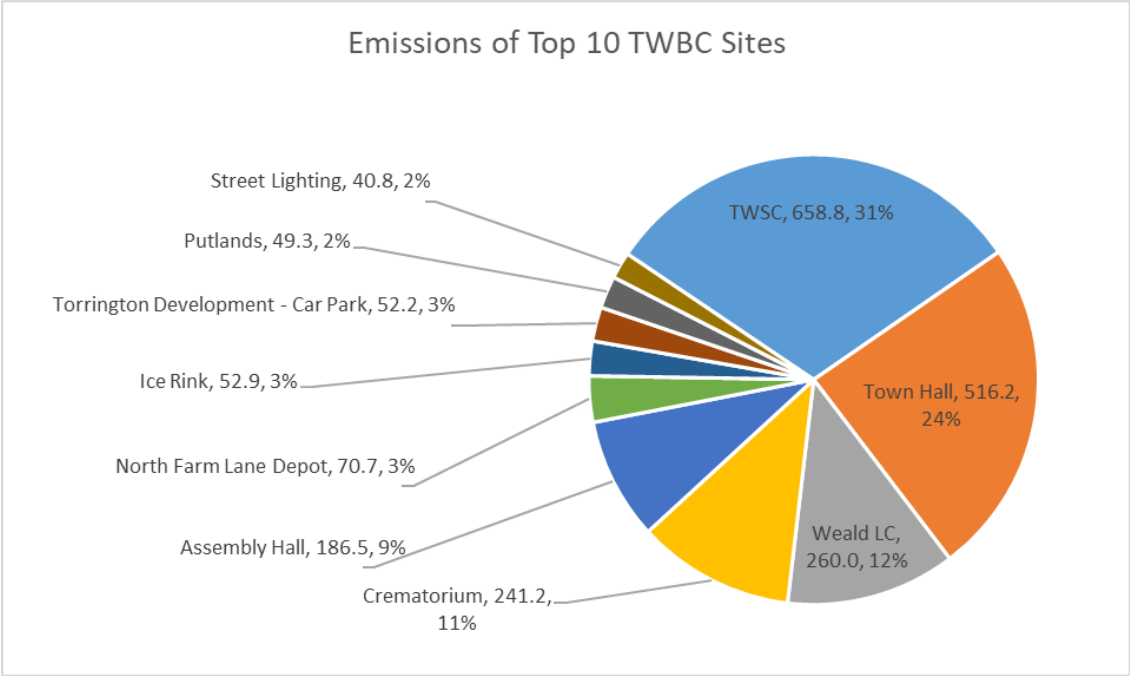

Figure 3: Emissions of the top 10 TWBC sites

1.21 A more detailed overview of the Council's carbon footprint can be found in the LASER report at Appendix C.

Emission reduction

1.22 The Council recognises the global biodiversity and climate emergency, and the need to act urgently to reduce carbon emissions to limit further global warming and associated environmental impacts.

1.23 The Council now needs to work towards rapidly reducing its footprint to achieve this target, building and accelerating on the emissions reductions that have previously been achieved throughout the organisation.

1.24 A recommended pathway towards reducing emissions and meeting the Council's ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030 has been modelled by LASER. The carbon reduction pathway considered the various reduction opportunities currently available to the Council including, energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, procurement of green energy and off-setting.

1.25 To reach its carbon neutral ambition by 2030 as shown in figure 4 below, the Council needs to reduce its' emission, against business as usual (BAU), by 25 per cent by 2022, 49 per cent by 2025 and 74 per cent by 2030.

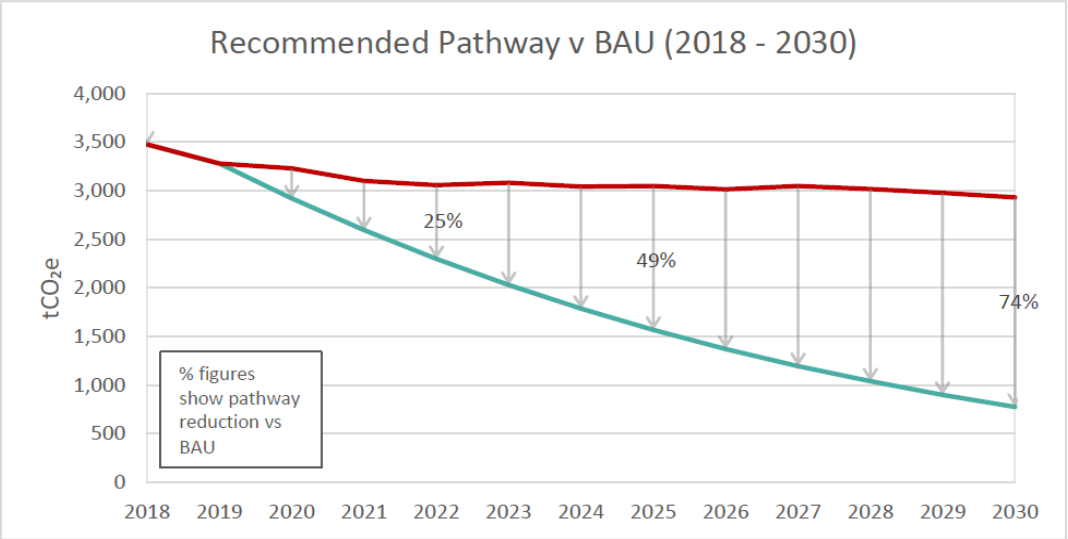

Figure 4: Recommended reduction pathway for carbon to 2030

1.27 The detailed carbon reduction analysis can be found in the LASER report.

1.28 Based on the carbon budget pathway analysis, meeting the 2030 carbon neutral target, would contribute to annual carbon savings of approximately 2,154 tonnes carbon (tCO2e) from business as usual. The current solutions and modelled scenarios by LASER, do not enable the Council to reach 'neutral' emission by 2030 – there is a 'gap to target' of 776 tonnes carbon (tCO2e) per year. Therefore, remaining carbon reduction not achieved by 2030 and which keeps emissions above the carbon neutral target would need to be 'offset'.

1.29 Carbon offsetting enables the Council to invest in environmental projects to balance out its own carbon footprint and ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030. Only emissions that cannot be abated by other means should be offset. The reduction opportunities will continue to be kept under review to work towards achieving the Council's ambition of a preferred 100 per cent reduction without offsetting by 2030.

1.30 Keeping on track and reducing our emissions as much as possible by 2030 will ensure we are restricting our contribution to damaging climate change. Early action will be critical to avoid falling behind target.

1.31 The importance of taking early action and meeting our ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030 is shown in figure 5 below. If we did nothing and maintained 'BAU' the Council would use its entire carbon allowance[5] to avoid dangerous climate change within 7 years from 2020.

[5] https://tyndall.ac.uk/news/tyndall-carbon-targeter-helps-local-authorities-respond-their-climate-emergency

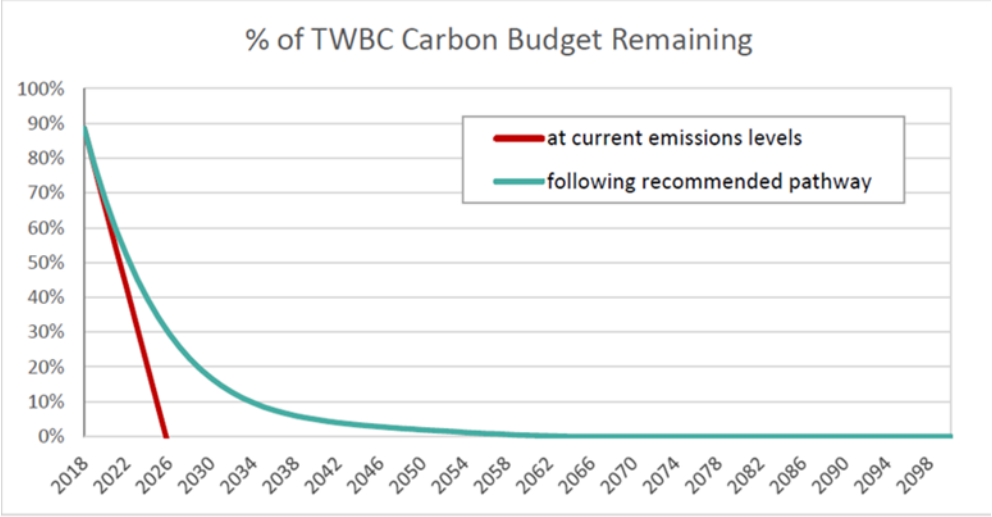

Figure 5: BAU Emissions Against Carbon Allowance showing the need to deliver a rapid and very significant drop in emissions.

2. Carbon Reduction Opportunities to 2030

2.1 Local authorities are well placed to lead on the development of transitions towards a more sustainable, low-carbon economy. Opportunities exist to lead the way in reducing emissions and to take ownership of this issue to support organisations, businesses and residents across local areas enabling all to collectively work together to reduce their environmental impact.

2.2 Further drivers for local authorities to act on this issue are based around national legislation and regulation, organisational reputation and leadership, and the cost reductions that can be achieved through delivering robust action to reduce carbon emissions.

2.3 The current coronavirus pandemic has impacted everybody both locally and across the entire globe and changed it permanently. It has both exacted a human toll and transformed the way we live, work, learn, access services and much more.

2.4 It has reminded us how the biggest crises, whether medical or environmental, demand an ambitious response. It has accelerated efforts to transition to a just and sustainable economy with the net-zero transition offering opportunities for organisations that are proactive in the green agenda. Local authorities that have a well-articulated long-term strategy to address the energy transition are in the forefront of supporting these changes.

2.5 Developing a Corporate Carbon Descent Plan based around the carbon reduction pathway and modelled data will be an important first step for the Council towards meeting its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. By building on previous carbon management activities the Carbon Descent Plan will outline the Council's vision for managing and reducing emissions arising from its own

activities over the next 10 years. With a yearly action plan that is reviewed and updated annually.

2.6 Assessing various carbon reduction opportunities including best fit for TWBC enables the Council to map a path to continual improvement in carbon and energy management, driving down energy and fuel spend and their associated carbon dioxide emissions.

2.7 To develop a programme of activity for carbon management LASER were tasked with modelling several options and scenarios aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. The modelling is designed to aid decision making and is based on current factors and state of the market technologies, with the BAU forecast used as a baseline.

2.8 The modelled data clearly show the impacts of the various choices. A key finding to consider is that limited action, with more 'business-as-usual', results in much higher levels of offsetting. With the resultant loss of revenue funding, to pay for the yearly offsetting costs. There are no financial returns from offsetting. These costs will also increase over time due to this being a finite resource of tonnes/carbon.

2.9 Carbon offsetting is defined as, 'the process of trying to reduce the damage caused by releasing carbon dioxide into the environment by doing other things that remove carbon dioxide, for example, by planting trees, and must draw down more carbon than is being emitted'. It usually involves paying a third party to remove or otherwise offset an amount of carbon equivalent to the volume emitted.

2.10 Offsetting is controversial and currently there is no defined standard or methodology on how to account for offset emissions. As much as possible should be done to reduce operational and organisational emissions and only emissions that cannot be abated by other means offset. When considering a future offsetting strategy, the Council should aim to tackle residual emissions by using high quality certified offsetting methods only and show the level of commitment and leadership through local offsetting schemes where possible. This could for example include investment in community renewable energy schemes and local biodiversity & conservation schemes.

Modelled outputs and Financial Implications

2.11 LASER modelled six separate scenarios to assess the carbon and high-level financial implication. Detailed analysis on the modelling can be found both in the Corporate Carbon Descent Plan and the LASER report

2.12 The models included the following assumptions: -

- 60% of gas heating moved to Heat Pumps, insulate those buildings for 20% reduction in heat loss.
- 40% roll out LED lighting in all TWBC buildings where practicable.

- 10% reduction in streetlighting - switch offs or further trimming and dimming to reduce energy use by 2030.
- 0%, 5% and 40% estate rationalisations used for examples/demonstration purposes only i.e., to gain some insight into building reduction and impact on carbon emissions.
- 50% - 70% reduction in own fleet and grey fleet mileage.
- Moving to 80% of Gas Heat Pumps, insulate those buildings for 20% reduction in heat loss and 60% LED's including investment in 'Power Purchase Agreements', PEPPPA's, which relate to zero/low carbon electricity procurement.
- The 'waste collection and street cleaning' contract is a long-term contract which the council is already committed to, a step change in emissions from current levels to zero carbon would be achieved at the contract renewal. This would be reflected in emissions from 2029 onwards.
- Emissions for the ground's maintenance contract were assumed to abate in a linear fashion from current levels to net zero over the course of the next contract. This would be built into the tender specifications at contract renewal in 2021 with net zero by 2026.
- As the Council own the leisure centres, the emissions from these buildings were included within the council's own estate.
- Investment in a solar farm.

2.13 The key impacts of the various scenarios are shown by the net emissions and net cashflow which clearly demonstrate the cumulative impact of the selected option on the council's emissions. With each model providing an indication of the differing strategies to achieve net zero by 2030 and of the high level of financial investment required and the amount of carbon offsetting, ('gap to target'), from 2030.

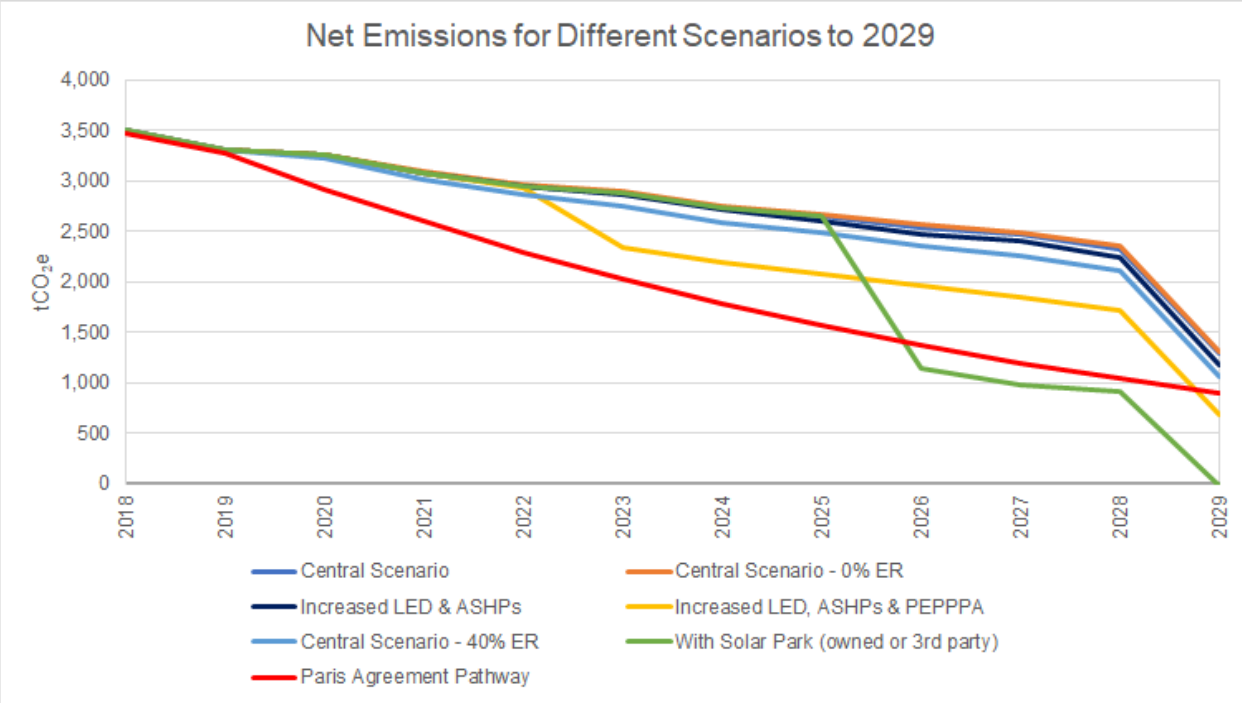

Figure 6: Emission reduction for all modelled scenarios by 2029

2.14 Figure 6 shows the emission reduction achieved by 2029, with all remaining emissions from 2030 offset to reach the Councils carbon neutral target.

2.15 The scenarios with the most impact are: -

- Investment in a solar park reaches net zero without offsetting. In effect this is to be expected as the solar park creates a positive carbon impact, counteracting those emissions that have not yet abated. All other scenarios include offsetting from 2030.
- Increased LED and ASHP roll out and investment in PEPPPA (yellow line) also generates more significant early impact.

2.16 Analysis of financial impacts is based on energy costs only and at this stage it was not possible to quantify any potential significant early impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

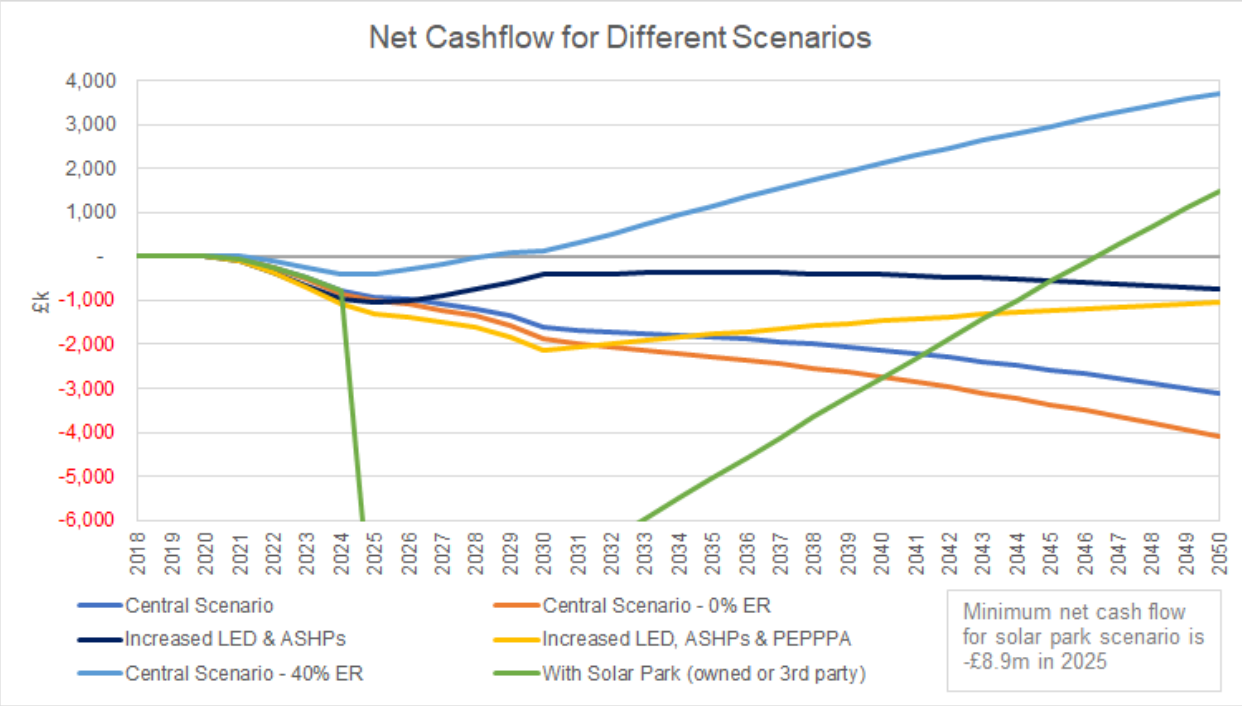

Figure 7: TWBC net cashflow under the six scenarios

2.17 As can be seen in figure 7 the options with biggest impact: -

- Significantly reducing the estate, (light blue line), (though estate rationalisation has a very narrow focus on energy only and not on the council's requirements or impacts in general).
- Enhanced levels of energy savings in buildings combined with investment in large scale renewables and green electricity procurement through PEPPPA's (yellow and dark blue lines).
- Developing a solar farm, but requires significant upfront investment, (approx. £8M), which is unlikely to be considered as a potential realistic opportunity for the council.

2.18 It is recognised that 'Green Basket' electricity purchase and PPA's provide the easiest access to green electricity with traceability to renewable assets and eventual additionality. Therefore, establishing a suitable procurement strategy for electricity is a key priority.

2.19 A PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) is a long-term agreement between a renewable developer and a consumer for the purchase of energy. PEPPPA - Public Energy Partnership Power Purchase Agreement is a customisable option for PPAs that encourages new build generation and is a LASER product. A combined procurement exercise with other public sector bodies to source a PPA. A local authority on its own is usually too small to purchase a PPA by itself.

2.20 The work undertaken to date demonstrates that the Council can achieve its carbon neutral target, but it does require substantial action to be taken quickly. It also recognises that a certain amount of offsetting, whilst this is not the first

choice, will be required. The models provide an indicative high level financial analysis of the approaches to enable the Council to reach its target of carbon neutral by 2030, as set out in table 1 below. The analysis does not include the costs of Estate Rationalisation.

2.21 Funding source(s) will need to be identified as part of the development of actions.

Scenarios modelled:	Investment requirement (£million)	Carbon offsetting required (Tonnes CO_2e)
Central Scenario – 5% Estate Rationalisation	3.13	1,128
Central Scenario - 0% Estate Rationalisation (ER)	4.10	1,158
Central Scenario - 40% ER	0.40	920
Increased LED (60%) & ASHP's (80%) & 5% ER	2.14	855
Increased LED, ASHPs & PEPPPA (5% ER)	2.14	498
With Solar Park (owned or 3rd party)	8.93	0

Table 1: Initial modelled high level financial assessment.

3. Corporate Carbon Descent Plan

3.1 Developing a Corporate Carbon Descent Plan based around the carbon reduction pathway and modelled data is an important step for the Council in meeting its own ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. By building on previous carbon management activities this plan will outline the Council's vision for managing and reducing emissions arising from its own activities. It will inform and influence the Council's corporate strategies, plans and policies, including the Council's revised 'Five Year Plan'.

3.2 The draft Corporate Carbon Descent Plan with the actions for 2021-2022 is attached in Appendix B.

3.3 Actions and projects proposed are expected to evolve and change as detailed feasibility studies are undertaken and new reduction opportunities identified.

3.4 The portfolio holder will report back to Cabinet on a yearly basis and each year the plan will build on previous actions with the aim of achieving the Council's ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030.

3.5 To assess progress on meeting the Council's ambition to be net zero by 2030 an annual audit of energy emissions will be undertaken, with more detailed assessment supported by specialists in 2023, 2026 and 2028.

3.3 The long-term future of the Council's estate will need to be considered when bringing forward specific carbon reduction opportunities (CROs), such as insulation, heat pumps, LED's, and rooftop solar PV.

3.4 A key emphasis will be on enhancing knowledge sharing and integration across internal council-led teams and ultimately focussing on initiatives that can be driven forward by the organisation.

3.5 Actions included in the Descent Plan will be subject to their own approval process through a standard Business Case analysis. Funding will be agreed on this basis if available within the TWBC financial envelope at that point in time. Every effort will also be made to secure funding from external grants.

3.6 The main actions for 2021 – 2022 as set out in the Descent Plan include: -

- Developing a carbon assessment toolkit/process for all projects/committee reports
- Bringing forward plans to reduce carbon emissions within estate and services.
- Developing a sustainable procurement strategy including a requirement for all contractors to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Procurement of green energy/energy basket and develop options for PPA's/PEPPPA's or similar
- Develop a sustainable and affordable offsetting strategy.
- Report progress annually through green audit and detailed analysis at set times
- Develop a communication strategy.

4. Options Considered

4.1 That the Cabinet approve the results of the 2020 Carbon audit of the Council's own operations, services, and buildings.

4.2 That the Cabinet approve the recommended carbon reduction pathway and modelled scenarios as set out in the report and Corporate Carbon Descent Plan to achieve the carbon neutral target by 2030.

4.3 That the Cabinet approve the Council's first Corporate Carbon Descent Plan 2021 – 2022 and its trajectory with the aim to achieve its carbon neutral target by 2030 for its own operation, services, and buildings.

4.4 The alternative option would be to: -

a) limit the action taken/reduce the trajectory of carbon reductions.

b) do nothing, maintain 'business as usual'.

These two options are not recommended. The proposed carbon reductions already include an amount of offsetting and reduces our emissions by a minimum of 74 per cent. Slowing the reductions pathway down further does not meet the council's ambition of meeting carbon neutral by 2030.

The problems of climate change are known as well as some of the potential solutions. To support staying within a global temperature threshold of "well below 2°C" requires limiting cumulative CO_2 emissions over the coming decades. By not reducing our carbon emissions in the recommended timeframe we add to the environmental impacts of rising global temperatures.

The declaration of a climate emergency recognises and acknowledges the importance of acting, with increasing pressure and requirement for local authorities to take an effective leadership role on climate action. Failure to act could lead to reputational risks and adversely affect the Council's public image. Similarly, by not acting the Council risks opportunities to stimulating a green recover, locking itself in to ever increasing costs on offsetting and energy costs and missing out on savings though improving the efficiency of their operations.

5. Preferred Option and Reason

5.1 That the carbon audit and carbon reduction pathway be approved.

5.2 That the recommended Corporate Carbon Descent Plan and action plan for 2021 – 2022 be approved and recognised as a strategic policy document which will inform key Council decision making and the 'Five Year' plan.

5.3 As part of adoption of the Corporate Carbon Descent Plan, corporate oversight and delivery will be implemented. With a yearly review and update of the action plan and an annual report by the portfolio holder to Cabinet.

5.4 As local authority funding changes, demand for services increase and in the light of the current coronavirus pandemic, continual improvement in energy and carbon management will contribute towards controlling and reducing energy, fuel, and water consumption. This will impact on spend and contribute to development of the Council's financial resilience, and protection of front-line services.

5.5 The approval of the Council's own Corporate Carbon Descent Plan will enable the Council to demonstrate its leadership, which will support its work on encouraging its communities to work towards the ambition of making the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

6. Consultation on Options

6.1 This report details the amount of carbon emitted from the Council's own estate, operation, and services. A detailed member briefing was provided on 20 October 2020. Option appraisal workshops were held with senior staff and CEAP and CEAP members sought feedback from their respective Groups.

6.2 CEAP will continue to steer the direction of the Carbon Descent Plan, with an annual review and reporting on progress to Cabinet. The Carbon Descent plan will be refreshed and updated yearly in consultation with members and officers across the Council.

6.3 How to ensure that our communities and young people have a voice in shaping the future is considered in a separate report including the various options on citizens' engagement.

6.4 Subject to Cabinet approval the proposed Corporate Carbon Descent Plan will be a key Council strategy document and shared will all officers and members. To manage the implementation of the carbon reduction programme organisational procedures will be put in place to maintain the focus on carbon reduction over time. Similarly, the actions identified in the Corporate Descent Plan will be incorporated into individual teams/services objectives.

Recommendation from Cabinet Advisory Board

6.5 The Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board were consulted on 17 February 2021 and agreed the following:

That the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report be supported subject to Cabinet giving consideration to the use of contractual terms in the event of any of the Council's estate being disposed of to require the purchaser to undertake measures to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

6.6 Following consultation with Property Services it is suggested that when decision makers are considering the disposal of any assets they be mindful of the Council's borough wide aspiration of net zero carbon emissions and identify potential carbon reduction opportunities on a property by property basis. It is noted that imposing such contractual terms would have a significant negative impact on property valuations which would need to be taken in to account during the options appraisal.

7. Implementation

7.1 Implementation of the Corporate Carbon Descent Plan will be overseen by CEAP and Corporate Projects Group, with quarterly reporting and actions by the various departments across the organisation.

8. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Completed Energy Efficiency Projects
- Appendix B: Corporate Carbon Descent Plan with the Action Plan 2021– 2022
- Appendix C: LASER Report: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council January 2021

Background Papers: None

9. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

The Climate Change Act 2008 originally required the UK to achieve an 80% reduction in green house gas (GHG) levels (below 1990 levels) by 2050.

In June 2019, the *Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (SI 2019/1056)*revised this target upward from 80% to 100% which is termed a net zero reduction in GHG levels by 2050. The Order increases the UK's 2050 net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target from 80% to 100%.

The CEAP is recommending an initial carbon descent plan to Cabinet in response to the Council's Climate emergency motion to aim to achieve its carbon neutral target by 2030 for its own operation and services.

Achieving a 'net-zero' target by 2030 is ahead of the UK's 2050 commitment under the Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, to curb the polluting gases that cause climate change.

Patricia Narebor, Head of Mid Kent Legal Partnership 8 February 2021

B. Finance and Other Resources

The report focuses on the Council's own operation and services in terms of how it will achieve its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Corporate Descent Plan and LASER's report sets out the high-level financial modelling undertaken as to possible future costs to achieve the target.

Currently no additional funding has been set aside, with the action plan for the first year 2021-2022 setting out opportunities to explore future options in terms of our own estate. As individual projects are brought forward these will require their own independent cost and business case assessment and approval.

Since the Climate Emergency motion agreed by Full Council the country has entered a National Emergency due to the Covid-19 Pandemic which has resulted in the cost of providing local services exceeding the level of income that can be raised. This has necessitated the temporary use of reserves to meet the additional costs in responding to the pandemic and filling the budget gap from the loss of income. The strain on the council's finances will be felt for some time and the ability of the council to finance new commitments is severely limited.

The Climate Emergency motion agreed by Full Council agreed to; 'lobby central government to provide additional resources and to grant necessary freedoms to deliver the motion'. No such additional funding or freedoms have been received at the time of writing this report.

Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development (s151 Officer) 3 February 2021

C. Staffing

The report focuses on the Council's own operation and services in terms of how it will achieve its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. Currently no additional new staffing requirements have been identified. The descent plan includes the first-year action plan for 2021-2022 which sets out actions to explore future carbon reduction opportunities and support from across the Council as a whole. Whilst no new staffing resources have been identified the actions will need to be incorporated into individual teams/services objectives. Specific projects would require their own assessment and approval and would identify any additional staffing implications.

Nicky Carter - Head of HR, Customer Service & Culture 3 February 2021

D. Risk Management

The Council adopted the motion to aim to achieve a carbon neutral target, for its own estate and operation, by 2030. This report and the Carbon Descent Plan set out the task facing the Council and has modelled various opportunities on how the target can be achieved. The activities within the first-year action plan recognise further work is needed in identifying specific projects and business case analysis to be brought forward. The report also recognises that the opportunities do exist for the Council to achieve its target as well as the potential risks if it does not meet its target.

Karin Grey - report author

E. Environment and Sustainability

This report positively impacts on the environment and biodiversity. It recognises the climate and biodiversity emergency and aims to work towards supporting local improvements to biodiversity if possible and by reducing the Council's own carbon emissions supports environmental benefits.

Karin Grey – report author

F. Community Safety

This report focuses on the Councils own carbon reduction commitment and does not impact on community safety.

Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager 3 February 2021

G. Equalities

The report focuses on the Council's own carbon emissions and opportunities to reduce these in line with its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are no impacts on equality issues. Any specific projects would require its separate approval and would include a separate assessment in terms of equality issues.

H. Data Protection

The report focuses on the Council's own carbon emissions and opportunities to reduce these in line with its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are no direct impacts on data subjects as it does not involve the collation storage etc. of data subjects. Any individual projects brought forward would include its own assessment in terms of data protection and approval.

Karin Grey – report author

I. Health and Safety

The report focuses on the Council's own carbon emissions and opportunities to reduce these in line with its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are no direct impacts on health and safety any individual projects brough forward would require its own assessment including for health and safety.

Karin Grey – report author

J. Health and Wellbeing

This report focuses on the Council's own corporate carbon emissions and the need to reduce these to aim to achieve the carbon neutral target by 2030. There are no direct impacts on the health and wellbeing on residents. Any specific projects brought forward would also include any assessment on health and wellbeing.

Rebecca Bowers - Health Improvement Team Leader 3 February 2021