

Cabinet – 28 October 2020

Carbon Neutral Council

Portfolio: Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

Related portfolios: Not applicable

Service: Economy, Environment & Communities

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

- 1.1 Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency on 16th September 2019, to ensure that the Council meets its target to become carbon neutral by 2050 and build greater resilience to the effects of climate change.
- 1.2 To agree to commit to a Climate Emergency Action Plan, which works toward a sustainable economic recovery and builds on new ways of working expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Local authorities have had to explore new ways of working in the face of Covid-19 and implement rapid responses to the crisis. The pandemic has demonstrated that it is possible to make transformational changes ‘overnight’ and there is a strong business case for using this to usher in systemic change. During lockdown, we witnessed dramatic improvements in air quality, a renewed appreciation for local green space and the return of wildlife to urban spaces. The public is craving a cleaner and safer world and as the Council resets it should embrace the opportunity to accelerate sustainability transitions and build a clean and climate-friendly future.
- 2.2 This report updates Cabinet on the Council’s response to the Climate Change Emergency Declaration of September 2019. The Council has demonstrated its commitment to tackling both the cause and impact of climate change for some years. At its meeting in December 2019 Cabinet agreed to prepare a climate emergency action plan based on the Council becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2050. This report provides Cabinet with an update on the development of the plan and the key principles it will seek to deliver.
- 2.3 The declaration of a climate emergency requires the Council to work in partnership to drive major change. An internal working group is established to shape the action

plan and officers have engaged APSE Energy, Midland Energy Hub and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to develop an initial baseline of activity. Six key themes have emerged from discussions, which cover all areas of Council activity and help deliver a carbon free future:

1. Strategy (Taking the Lead)
2. Energy
3. Waste & Consumption
4. Transport
5. Nature
6. Resilience & Adaptation

2.4 This report gives an overview of the plan with an outline of activity in Appendix 1. To deliver the programme of work resource will be required and a business case will be created to integrate a fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager into the Clean and Green service structure as part the wider Proud Transformation Programme. The return on investment is substantial; it is estimated that energy saving initiatives will financially benefit the Council by £6million per annum by 2050.

2.5 Engagement with external partners and experts will form a critical component of the action plan. WMCA recently launched #WM2041 Plan sits alongside the Council's commitments proposed in this report. It makes sense to align ambitions and to work together to make the case for investment into the region that is required to bring about the desired change. The Council will need to engage with residents, businesses, schools and the wider community as part of a longer-term vision to decarbonise the region.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the contents of this report and the steps being taken to respond to the Climate Emergency Declaration.
- 3.2 That Cabinet endorses the approach set out in the report for the development of the action plan and reporting.
- 3.3 That Cabinet notes the governance structure set out in the report to integrate a fixed term Climate Change Officer into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformation Programme.
- 3.4 That Cabinet approves the requirement for all Cabinet reports to include an impact assessment on climate change mitigation and resilience (as is currently the case for equalities).

4. Report detail - know

Context

- 4.1 In June 2019, the UK became the world's first major economy to legislate a commitment to cut emissions to net zero by 2050. The Environment Bill 2020 is one of the government's key vehicles for delivering the bold vision as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. It is part of a step-change in environmental protection

and recovery, setting a new and ambitious domestic framework for environmental governance and one, which places greater responsibility on councils specifically in their roles as Local Planning Highways and Drainage Authorities.

4.2 As of 6th February 2020, 67% of councils in the UK have declared a climate emergency in addition to 8 combined authority/city regions. Walsall Council declared a climate change emergency on 16th September 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. In 2020, the WMCA pledged a commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions no later than 2041 publishing "WM2041 – A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery." The Council continues to play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and is operating within the framework established by the UK Parliament.

4.3 The Council is now developing a climate emergency action plan to address the commitments of the declaration passed in 2019. The declaration set the target for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2050 encompassing its own assets and operations. To be clear the first phase of the Council's action plan will cover 'Scope 1' and 'Scope 2' emissions using best practice guidance as set by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:

- **Scope 1** – All direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.
- **Scope 2** - Indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

- **Scope 3** – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that the Council does not own or does not control.

4.4 The plan sets out the initial opportunities the Council has identified to reduce carbon emissions relating to its own estate and operations but the authority recognises that this is only a starting point. The Council will continue to engage staff and stakeholders to expand the range of actions that will enable us to meet our target. The appointment of a fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager will enable this work to be accelerated and further funding obtained.

4.5 In order to meet the net zero target, the Council will need to ensure that reducing emissions and increasing resilience is central to its work, embedded within strategy and day-to-day delivery. The first phase of the action plan will cover a five-year period. There are established tools available to support carbon budgeting and reporting, and these will be utilised to set specific targets as individual project detail is developed.

Progress to date

4.6 Walsall Council has a long-held commitment and track record of climate change action having first signed the Nottingham Declaration in November 2006 and subsequently adopted a Carbon Management Programme. Although considerable progress has been made, changing Council priorities has left a gap in capacity to

drive the agenda forward. The authority recognises that a new action plan, backed by dedicated resource, will achieve greater impact in addressing these issues.

4.7 In order to act quickly and efficiently, Officers established an internal working group, which facilitated cross-departmental working and supported the development of a baseline plan, which is evolving and developing at speed. To help understand and deliberate on key issues, Officers attended internal workshops and discussed best practice with neighbouring local authorities. Carbon literacy training has also been arranged for staff and Members.

4.8 Officers continue to engage external partners in the development of the plan through attendance at the WMCA Low Carbon Officers Group and consultation with Midland Energy Hub. The Council utilised the support of APSE Energy and made use of SCATTER (a local authority focussed emissions tool) to establish the necessary baseline data from its direct activities (i.e. where it pays the bill).

4.9 The Council's carbon footprint of 17,872 tCO₂e from Scope 1 and 2 emissions has been calculated using data that was available to the Council during the reporting year (2018) including gas, electricity and fleet. The carbon footprint has been undertaken in accordance with best practise guidance by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and calculated using 2018 conversion factors for the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Scope 1&2 carbon emissions by source for 2018

Emissions Source	Scope	% Split	TonnesCO ₂ e
Natural Gas	1	30%	5,406
Council Vehicles	1	6%	1,135
Electricity	2	64%	11,331
Total	-	100%	17,872

Emissions Source	% Split	TonnesCO ₂ e
Scope 1	37%	6,541
Scope 2	63%	11,331
Total	100%	17,872

4.10 It is estimated that there will be 3,482 tCO₂e from hard to reduce sources that will be unavoidable by 2050 that will need to be offset, and it assumed that this can be achieved through offsetting initiatives including tree planting schemes, solar energy and solar farm(s). It is estimated that energy saving initiatives will financially benefit the Council by £6million annually by 2050.

- 4.11 Although the net zero carbon target year is 2050, it is assumed that the majority of interventions could be in place by 2035 as ageing building services and vehicles should be upgraded by this point through routine maintenance. Likewise, the Government plans a ban on selling new petrol, diesel or hybrid vehicles in the UK by 2035. The Council should be able to achieve significant carbon and cost savings by reviewing its maintenance policies to specify highly efficient plant and services, and electric vehicles, rather than replacing like-for-like. Changing policies to specify materials with low embodied carbon should also reduce Scope 3 emissions by considering the carbon life cycle cost in terms of the supply chain, operation and decommissioning.
- 4.12 By changing policies to replace ageing services with the most efficient and cost-effective option will ensure that the Council is on track to be zero carbon by 2050. It is recommended that a detailed audit and feasibility study is carried out for all assets to determine the site-specific initiatives. This will provide an indication of the realistic interventions that could be provided and the likely financial and carbon savings.
- 4.13 The initial plan seeks to capture actions from the working group, incorporating recommendations from stakeholders and align (where appropriate) to regional strategy. This approach recognises the scale of the agenda, the importance of building momentum and encouraging widespread action. The plan is attached to Appendix 1; it is presented using 6 key themes:

Theme 1: Strategy (Taking the Lead)

- 4.14 Addressing the climate emergency is a formidable task that will require all services and employees to contribute fully. To achieve net zero whole scale system change is required; staff and Members need to understand why an emergency has been declared and what actions are required. Climate change activity should be embedded into service delivery and investment will be required to communicate the vision and strategy.
- 4.15 To ensure that every aspect of the Council's work is seen through the lens of the climate emergency, measures have been identified to embed carbon reduction objectives into Council decision-making and to raise staff and Member awareness. These include 'officer champions', briefing programmes, carbon reduction e-learning and sustainability appraisal of Cabinet reports.

Theme 2: Energy

- 4.16 This programme of work will align climate action with the Council's Estates Strategy, reducing energy use and improving building efficiency. The Council has been taking steps for some time to reduce energy consumption and it is imperative that improvements continue to be made. A biomass boiler is supplying heat at the depot, a 49.8KW photovoltaic system is installed on the roof of the Civic Centre, new inverter drive systems have replaced air conditioning systems in the ICT suite, and a feasibility study is being progressed into the development of heat networks in the borough.
- 4.17 There has been an estimated 47% per cent reduction in the Council House electricity usage since lockdown and 33% in the Civic Centre highlighting the positive impact of changing the way we work. Enhanced opportunities for remote

working will make a continued positive contribution to reduced energy consumption, staff travel and co2 pollution. Other proposed measures include a feasibility of building removal / seasonal closures, cost effective improvements for 'high energy users' such as Active Living Centres, Crematoria, and Streetly, energy savings campaigns and integration of low carbon and renewable energy options where feasible.

Theme 3: Waste & Consumption (Generated by the Council & its operation)

- 4.18 How the Council manages its waste has a direct impact on climate change. Defra's Resources & Waste Strategy (2018) demonstrates just some of the performance step changes, policy interventions and new solutions now required to contribute to a net zero carbon future. The strategy combines actions with the longer-term policy direction of the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan, setting out the blueprint for eliminating avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.
- 4.19 The Council's role in determining disposal options and influencing consumption and waste generation means this will form an important area of action. Projects are ongoing; between 2019/20 700 tonnes of biomass generated from the Council's tree / grounds operations was sold as biomass and Clean and Green led on 54 litter picks, attended by 555 individuals with a return on investment of £13k. Measures to build on this work involve technological and behavioural change, promotion of waste minimisation methods, 'buy local' campaigns, and work towards the Council becoming single-use plastic free.

Theme 4: Transport

- 4.20 Redressing poor air quality has long been a statutory function for the Council and is an important focus that spans multiple service areas. The Council's Transport in Walsall Strategy 2017-22 supports the promotion of Low Emission Zones and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in accordance with the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan. The Council is taking a lead role in the development of the Black Country's ULEV Strategy and Action Plan, which sets out a series of recommendations for Black Country Councils in order to prepare for the anticipated 2035 Government ban on the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles.
- 4.21 Fuel use by the Council's fleet is estimated at around 6% of direct Council emissions. Opportunities to improve the efficiency of the fleet are therefore required to achieve a net zero target. This will involve installation of adequate electric vehicle infrastructure / charge points at Council offices, depots, car parks and leisure facilities, a review of the car pool scheme and development of a green staff travel plan.

Theme 5: Nature

- 4.22 Green infrastructure has been firmly in the spotlight during Covid-19. With restrictions on daily exercise, the destination of choice for many families became their local green space leading to countless images of overcrowded urban parks. It is widely known that greenery in urban spaces helps improve microclimates, and through lockdown we have witnessed the numerous social, psychological and health benefits of human exposure to green space.

4.23 The Council is committed to improving the green infrastructure across the borough. Walsall sites encompass the recently awarded Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark and work is underway to improve local habitat quality and ecological networks as part of the 'Black Country Blue Network' ERDF programme. Continued enhancements to increase meadow, wetland and green areas in Walsall can help towards offsetting residual emissions whilst delivering a very wide range of co-benefits. Planting 20ha of new woodland in Walsall will sequester between 5500 to 7000 tCO₂e by 2050.

Theme 6: Resilience & Adaptation

4.24 In 2020, Walsall felt the impact of mass flooding which led to closed parks, markets and disruption to transport. Covid-19 has thrust local government into one of the biggest emergencies in memory, but it has also shown what can be achieved when a situation demands it. Taking these themes together, it is clear that the climate emergency is, if anything, more acute than ever, while some of the actions that can be taken to address it are in so many cases more realistic and effective than might have been thought.

4.25 Whilst the climate emergency action plan will enable the Council to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the Council and its partners will need to work together to make sure that it is resilient and adaptable to long-term pressures on services and infrastructure. This programme of action will result in the development of practical and cost-effective actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This includes a 'Walsall Flood Community Resilience Scheme' to provide local communities and businesses with the necessary information and support to prepare, respond and recover from emergency situations.

Resourcing

4.26 The management and implementation of the action plan will require appropriate capacity and resource. Additional expertise is also required to meet new statutory requirements placed upon the Council through the Environment Bill and other government programmes and policy changes.

4.27 A business case will be created to integrate a fixed term dedicated Climate Change Programme Manager into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformation Programme. The Council will look to cover the costs of this post through external funding opportunities for future sustainability.

4.28 The new officer should provide the resource to ensure central co-ordination to a corporate priority. The Council will explore a wide range of external funding options to help support implementation of the plan. These include:

- The Government's £3billion Green Investment Package includes £1billion for public retrofit to reduce emissions and invest in green heating technology.
- £40million **Green Jobs Challenge Fund** for environmental charities and public authorities to help create and protect 5,000 jobs in England.
- £50million **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**.
- Defra / Environment Agency **£200M Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Programme** to support 25 areas (including Walsall) affected by flooding.

- Defra **£40M Green Recovery Challenge Fund** to support nature restoration, nature-based solutions, and sustainable jobs.
- Defra **£2M Air Quality Grant Scheme 2020-21**.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

4.29 Responding to climate change is critical to the future of the borough's quality of life and therefore is fully consistent with the 5 strategic priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Risk management

4.30 There are well-documented risks associated with climate change and as such, urgent steps in responding to these must be taken. Action planning and working jointly with partner organisations will form the mitigation to such risk.

Financial implications

4.31 There are financial implications to declaring a climate emergency and setting a new priority for the Council. A business case will be created to integrate a 3 year fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformation Programme at a cost of £158k. In the unlikely event of external funding not being found this would need to be funded through Council resources.

Legal implications

4.32 There are no direct legal implications of this update to Cabinet. The legal framework for this work is set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA2008) and the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. The Order sets the expectation that the UK will achieve net zero by 2050.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

4.33 The Council's approach to procurement has a role to play in its response to climate change, and this should be reviewed as part of the action planning process.

Property implications

4.34 A significant part of the Council's carbon footprint relates to the operation of Council buildings and this has been considered and outlined in the attached plan.

Health and wellbeing implications

4.35 It is widely acknowledged that the implications of climate change affect all sectors of the economy and can have a profound effect on personal behaviour and wellbeing. Health and wellbeing will be a key cross cutting theme in the development of actions and funding proposals.

Staffing implications

- 4.36 The process for developing the action plan will identify areas of responsibility, new resources requirements or realignments. A dedicated Officer should provide leadership to ensure the council develop, deliver and monitor this programme of work.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.37 Climate change affects all sections of society, however some groups may require additional support to make the necessary lifestyle and behavioural changes than others. Equality analysis will be undertaken against each proposed action.

Consultation

- 4.38 There should be public consultation as part of the development of the climate change action plan and work will be undertaken to identify approaches to ongoing resident and stakeholder engagement on climate emergency issues.

5. Decide

- 5.1 To endorse the 6 key themes set out in the report for the development of the action plan and reporting.
- 5.2 To approve the governance structures set out in the report to integrate a dedicated Climate Change Programme Manager into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformational Programme.
- 5.3 To approve the requirement for all Cabinet reports to include an impact assessment on climate change mitigation and resilience (as is currently the case for equalities).
- 5.4 To note the measures detailed in Appendix 1 that have been proposed by services in support of the delivery of carbon reduction priorities.

6. Respond

- 6.1 Over the next 12 months the Council will prepare a final version of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, following which a series of business cases will be brought forward on each of the items it contains.

7. Review

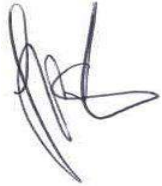
- 7.1 The Council will monitor achievements against measures set out in the action plan, using established tools to support carbon budgeting and reporting. A 6-month and annual review of the action plan will take place, with appropriate oversight provided through scrutiny committees and Cabinet.

Background papers

Appendix 1: Draft Walsall Council Climate Change Emergency Action Plan

Author

Kaye Davies
External Funding and Business Development Manager
☎ 650934 / 07908161384
✉ kaye.davies@walsall.gov.uk



Simon Neilson
Executive Director
Economy, Environment & Communities
29 September 2020



Councillor Bird
Leader of the Council
20 October 2020

Appendix 1

Draft Walsall Council

Climate Emergency

Action Plan 2020 - 2025



Walsall Council

October 2020

Walsall Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

Walsall Council declared a climate change emergency on 16th September 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. This plan describes the actions the council will take to achieve carbon neutrality and has been categorised in target areas of action:

1. Strategy (Taking the Lead)
2. Energy
3. Waste & Consumption
4. Transport
5. Nature
6. Resilience & Adaptation

Walsall Council has a long-held commitment and track record of climate change action having first signed the Nottingham Declaration in November 2006. Considerable progress has been made in reducing carbon emissions by reducing energy use and improving the efficiency of our buildings. However, to achieve the 2050 target we will have to go further.

The plan sets out the initial opportunities we have identified to reduce carbon emissions relating to the council's own estate and operations but we recognise that this is only a starting point. As a council, we will continue to engage staff and stakeholders to expand the range of actions that help us to meet our target and recruitment of a dedicated Climate Change Programme Manager will enable this work to be accelerated and further funding obtained.

The plan encompasses 'Scope 1' and 'Scope 2' emissions using best practice guidance as set by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

- **Scope 1** - All Direct Emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.
- **Scope 2** - Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.
- **Scope 3** - All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that the Council does not own or does not control.

In order to meet the net zero target, the Council will need to ensure that reducing emissions and increasing resilience is central to its work, embedded within strategy and day-to-day delivery. The first phase of the action plan will cover a five-year period. There are established tools available to support carbon budgeting and reporting, and these will be utilised to set specific targets as individual project detail is developed.

WALSALL COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2020-2025 (Scope 1 & 2 Emissions)

ACTION	MEASURE	CORPORATE PLAN	DELIVERY TEAM	OWNER	TIMELINE Short (0-1 year). Medium (1-4 years). Long term (4+ years)
THEME 1. STRATEGY					
1.1 Establish effective governance for the #WalsallZero2050 Programme & identify dedicated resource.	a) Formalised internal governance structure with the establishment of an internal Climate Action Taskforce meeting every 4 weeks with regular online communication via 'office teams'.	All	Place & Environment (Must be cross directorate & include representation from members)	Climate Change Programme Manager (CCPM)	SHORT
	b) Prepare business case for fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager (CCPM) to lead on programme planning & evaluation	All	Place & Environment	Head of C&G	SHORT
	c) Council to establish an internal project team identifying Officer 'champions' within each service area for cross-departmental engagement & aligned to change management process.	All	Place & Environment (Across all services areas - Within PROUD programme)	CCPM	SHORT
	d) Consultant procured to support full assessment of impacts, risks; identify measures and opportunities against Council functions and to inform future actions.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT
	e) Annual performance review for Cabinet and full Council.	All	Place & Environment (CC Working Group)	CCPM	SHORT
1.2. Climate Change embedded within decision-making.	a) Climate Change integrated into Council Reset Strategy.	Internal Focus	CMT	CCPM	SHORT
	b) Climate Change considered as part of the Corporate Plan refresh & future updates of relevant service plans and policies.	Internal Focus	CMT	CCPM	SHORT
	c) Climate Change reflected within committee reporting process i.e. sustainability appraisal.	Internal Focus	Governance	Democratic Services	SHORT
	d) Climate Change integrated into immediate to longer-term financial strategy & external funding priorities.	Internal Focus	External Funding Team	External Funding Manager	SHORT
	e) Climate Change risk assessment undertaken on key high-level decisions and public announcements.	Internal Focus	Communications	Media & Coms Officer	SHORT
	f) Encourage the West Midlands Pension Fund with its strategy to manage its climate change risks.	Internal Focus	Resources & Transformation	Finance	SHORT
1.3. Raise awareness of Climate Change amongst Councillors & Staff.	a) Develop identifiable programme branding & communications programme, which promotes progress & celebrates success & positive changes in environmental practice.	Internal Focus	Communications	CCPM & Media & Coms Officer	SHORT
	b) Environmental sustainability embedded within recruitment documentation, staff induction plans and mandatory e-learning module developed & rolled out.	Internal Focus	Human Resources / Organisation Development	CCPM	SHORT
	c) Internal newsletter briefings & dedicated intranet page.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (with Communications)	CCPM	SHORT
	d) Employee assistance (Care First) webinars on the benefits of carbon reduction, active travel etc	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (with Communications)	CCPM	SHORT
	e) Ongoing internal communications & linked to key events e.g. climate change week.	Internal Focus	Communications	CCPM	SHORT

1.4 Learning from, working with and supporting our partners.	a) Support for #WMCA2041 campaign & attendance at WMCA Environment Board / Low Carbon Officers Group.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT
	b) Engagement with Low Carbon Regional Partners e.g. Midland Energy Hub, Sustainability West Midlands and other stakeholders to progress joint carbon reduction initiatives e.g. College, Universities, NHS, Transport etc	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT
	c) Ensure planning is integrated with climate change declarations, regional and UK policy and strategy e.g. Environment Bill.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT
1.5 Climate Change aligned to PROUD.	a) Climate change integrated across key workstreams.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	CCPM	SHORT
1.6 Promote Sustainable Procurement.	a) Review Procurement Policy & consider extent to which Social Value Act can be used to help achieve Council's Climate Change Strategy	Internal Focus	Resources & Transformation	Procurement	MEDIUM
1.7 As part of a longer term vision of a net zero carbon borough, to encourage environmental education and promote climate action amongst communities, schools and businesses.	a) Engage with residents, community groups and schools to promote environmental education and introduce longer term vision of a net zero borough.	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM	MEDIUM
	b) Encourage a low carbon economy by supporting local businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and signposting to relevant services and funding opportunities.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Employment Growth Team	SHORT
	c) Support green jobs recovery in the borough.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Employment Growth Team	MEDIUM
	d) Roll out of the successful 'ACT' (A Cleaner Tomorrow) Education Initiative in schools focused on litter, recycling and the environment, with links to the national curriculum and in support of 'eco-schools'.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	SHORT
	e) Work in partnership with local businesses to reduce litter through promotion and sign up to Walsall's Litter Charter and development of 'Green' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	f) Implementation of a Green Community Engagement Programme including Volunteer Litter Picker Leader Training, Community Group Workshops & Events to promote behavioural change.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM

THEME 2. ENERGY					
2.1 Estates Strategy aligned with climate action'	a) Review usage of Council properties & consider removal (by disposal, sale or demolition) of the most energy inefficient buildings.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital / Corporate Landlord	Proud/IFM	LONG
	b) Align climate action closely with refreshed Estate Strategy.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital / Corporate Landlord	Proud / IFM	LONG
2.2 Implement and review a Council wide Energy Savings Campaign Programme (gas/ electricity) across Council buildings and schools where practical.	a) Ongoing review of the Council's energy purchasing strategy and the potential for green supplies.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	SHORT
	b) Dependent on 2.1.a - New heating and ventilation system for the Civic Centre & Council House designed with A rated boilers and more manageable heating controllers to improve efficiency (Estimate 2 year programme).	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	c) Dependent on 2.1.a - Installation of LED lighting within buildings and light dimming technology expanded from Civic Centre to Council House. (Estimate 18 month programme).	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	d) Continue purchase of white goods - A or A* rated electrical equipment only.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	SHORT
	e) Dependent on 2. a - Replacement of windows to energy efficient units (A+) in the Civic Centre and Council House as part of a 2 year programme.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	f) Review Civic Centre air conditioning systems including staff feedback survey on civic centre ventilation.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	g) Implement Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections)	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	SHORT
	h) Support Walsall schools to implement a schools energy policy & investigate Invest-to-Save and Salix for Schools funds to implement energy/ carbon efficiency measures.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	i) Review energy usage of Active Living Centres, Crematoria, and Streetly and implement any cost effective improvements as a matter of priority.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM / CCPM	MEDIUM
	2.3 Encourage and enable energy saving behaviour by all Council staff.	a) Improve individual accountability. Energy savings achieved through awareness campaigns aimed at Council staff will cut energy bills and reduce carbon emissions each year.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	CCPM
2.4 Replace streetlights with energy efficiency lighting systems by 2023.	a) 22,856 LED street light bulbs will be installed across Walsall by September 2023 (ERDF funded).	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Highways Road Traffic Network	MEDIUM
	b) Application of multi-use sockets across the 22,856 street lamps, with 22,856 light sensors and 250 temperature sensors, for improved localised environmental and traffic monitoring leading to more efficient public services. Sensors attached to street lamp columns allow for 'remote controlling' and 'targeting' of public services and more localised use of gritting in bad weather for energy efficiency savings.	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Highways Road Traffic Network	MEDIUM
	c) Installation of 5,000 transmission nodes for 4G/5G internet network capability.	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Highways Road Traffic Network	MEDIUM

2.5 Conduct a viability study on Council property to integrate low carbon and renewable energy options such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps.	a) Conduct feasibility study, obtain quotes & submit CMT/cabinet report for use of solar panels / PV across Council property.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport) / Corporate Landlord (Facilities)	CCPM	MEDIUM
	b) Monitor impact of 49.8KW solar panel system on Civic Centre for possible replication on Town Hall.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Facilities	LONG
	c) Investigate low carbon & renewable energy options for leisure centres.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Leisure)	CCPM	MEDIUM
	d) Deliver the heat mapping and masterplanning programme.	Internal Focus	Regeneration & Economy	Housing Standards	LONG
	e) Identify and evaluate potential volumes of biomass building on success of Pelsall depot.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Clean & Green)	CCPM	MEDIUM
	f) Investigate use of suitable sites for solar farm development.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	CCPM & Midland Energy Network	LONG
2.6 Tackle fuel poverty and improve home energy as part of the Council's long term vision of a net zero borough.	a) Implementation of the Council's HECA Plan to tackle fuel poverty, excessive winter deaths, residential carbon emissions, and poor health resulting from cold / damp homes.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Money. Home, Job	MEDIUM
	b) Continue promotion of the Council's home energy saving initiatives and collective energy switching schemes to residents (From autumn 2020 the fuel switches will require all bidding companies to use 100% renewable power).	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Money. Home, Job	MEDIUM
	c) Work with our partners (including energy companies, Registered Social Landlords, NHS Walsall, Private Landlords) to reduce fuel poverty by targeting any discretionary assistance (capital investment, advice and support) and seeking external funding /advice to help residents of these properties.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Money. Home, Job	MEDIUM
	d) Continue to ensure that landlords, agents and those selling or letting their homes are aware of their legal obligation to provide and make available Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and take appropriate action against those who fail in this obligation.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Money. Home, Job	MEDIUM

THEME 3. WASTE & CONSUMPTION					
3.1 Reduce the total volume of waste and associated costs through technological and behavioural change.	a) Develop an action plan to reduce waste arisings and increase reuse & recycling across council premises and operations.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	b) Develop a communication strategy which engages residents, schools, communities and businesses with measures to reduce the volume of waste they produce and increase participation / quality of reuse & recycling. Explore incentive schemes via external funding.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	c) Continue to support and promote community initiatives to reduce waste & fly-tipping e.g. Walsall Litter Charter, Green CSR Programmes, ACT Initiative, and WASSUP 2022 Litter Challenge.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	d) Increase the amount of waste composted from council and school premises. Waste from parks / green spaces is composted/ biomass and sold for power generation.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
3.2 Work towards the Council becoming single-use plastic free.	a) Phase out use of single-use plastics within Council offices and buildings	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	IFM	MEDIUM
	b) Investigate hot and cold drinks and food and water consumption in Council buildings and measures to reduce single use plastics e.g. ban plastic cutlery, promote reusable cups, review waste at functions.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord (Facilities)	CCPM and Commerical	SHORT
	c) Review and reduce postage and packaging waste and stationery supplies.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	Proud	SHORT
	d) Walsall Refill Bottle campaign to minimise against single use plastics	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM / Healthy Spaces	SHORT
	e) Work with local businesses to develop ambitious alternative to plastics (for example by accessing Innovate UK funding).	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Employment Growth	MEDIUM
3.3 Reduce the Council's paper waste.	a) Explore feasibility of moving to mandatory e-payslips.	Internal Focus	Human Resources / Finance	Payroll	MEDIUM
	b) Implement a print reduction campaign e.g. reduced printer availability, limit colour printing, MFD removal, staff awareness campaigns, promote use of Office 365, and publish service usage.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	Proud / ICT	SHORT

THEME 4. TRANSPORT					
4.1 Development and implementation of a Staff Green Travel Plan.	a) Corporate Staff Travel Survey conducted, which provides baseline for a new Council Staff Green Travel Plan. Integrate planning into Culture & Behaviours workstream as part of Thrive Workplace Health Programme.	Internal Focus	Resource & Transformation (Culture & Behaviour Workstream)	Governance with CCPM	MEDIUM
	b) Development of smarter working initiatives including permanent agile / home working arrangements and use of technology to reduce employee travel to workplace.	Internal Focus	Resource & Transformation / HR	Human Resources / Proud	SHORT
	c) Explore feasibility of a 'car share' database promoted via the staff intranet (subject to social distancing restrictions).	Internal Focus	Resource & Transformation / HR	CCPM	MEDIUM
	d) Research and introduce measures to encourage active travel including expanding staff cycling schemes.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment/Public Health	CCPM	SHORT
4.2 Develop public transport initiatives which enable a rapid shift towards active and sustainable travel modes.	a) Explore and develop digital wayfinding measures and provide real time travel updates via e-totems (ERDF funded).	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport/ TfWM	MEDIUM
	b) Implement the Emergency Active Travel Fund Grant 2020-21 to encourage more / safer cycling and walking in the borough including temporary traffic management measures, a new 'pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone' in Walsall Town Centre, installing additional cycle parking on council owned land, as well as remarking and resigning existing cycle routes/infrastructure.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport/ TfWM	SHORT
	c) Implement Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Cycling and Walking Measures to make significant improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure (subject to funding) including: 1) LCWIP Corridor: Rushall to Brownhills via B4152 2) LCWIP Corridor: Darlaston to Walsall town centre via A4038 3)LCWIP Corridor: Wolverhampton City Centre to Walsall 4) LCWIP Corridor: A34 Perry Barr Extension through to Walsall 5) Core Walking Zone: Walsall to Willenhall.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy / TfWM	Strategic Transport / TfWM	LONG
	d) Review potential railway station developments,	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport / TfWM	LONG
	e) Review electric bus feasibility options.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport / TfWM	LONG

4.3 Promote and encourage ultra-low and low emission vehicles in Walsall and sustainable transport options in accordance with the Transport in Walsall Strategy 2017-22 and the West Midlands / Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.	a) To accelerate and amplifying the EV / hydrogen transition in anticipation of a 2035 ban on the sale of conventional vehicles, including coordinating with TfWM to support installation of additional rapid and ultra-rapid chargers.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport / TfWM	LONG
	b) Publishing a local public transport decarbonisation action plan.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TfWM	Highways & Transport / TfWM	LONG
	c) Review off-street electric vehicle charging in Council owned car parks.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Highways & Transport	LONG
	d) Using planning policy to deploy charge points at retail and business car parks.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Highways & Transport	LONG
	e) Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Highways & Transport	SHORT
	f) Promote behavioural change and establishing a programme to inform and encourage public / business switch to EV / hydrogen	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Highways & Transport & TfWM	MEDIUM
4.4 Explore and deliver a transition of the council's own fleet to electric	a) Development of a fully costed 'Green Fleet Proposal' to manage and reduce the environmental impact of Council fleet on emissions.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	CCPM / Fleet	MEDIUM
	b) Reduce unnecessary miles/trips and fuel costs by investigating optimum routes and maximising performance of the vehicles making use of Quartix telematics system currently installed on all vehicles.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	CCPM / Fleet	LONG
	c) To review and ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to facilitate the greening of the Council and contractors' fleet by equipping all council offices, depots, car parks and sports facilities with charge points.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	CCPM / Fleet	LONG
	d) Review car pool scheme & consider the use of electric vehicles.	Internal Focus	Resources & Transformation	CCPM	LONG

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THEME 5. NATURE					
5.1 Enhancing the borough's parks and green spaces to increase meadow, wetland, and green areas in Walsall.	a) Implementation of the Black Country Blue Network 2 ERDF Programme from September 2020 to March 2023- 16.85 hectares of woodland management, wildflower meadows, linear habitat features, hedge planting, pond desilting and enhancement, bulb planting, interpretation and sign posting and upgrading access. Delivered at several sites that are connected by greenways, canal network and public rights of way including Victoria Park, Kingshill Park, George Rose Park, Moorcroft Wood and Walsall Canal in Darlaston.	Communities	Place & Environment (Clean and Green)	Operations	MEDIUM
	b) Build on the Black Country's UNESCO Geopark status to attract investment into the area's geological heritage.	Communities	Place & Environment	Healthy Spaces	MEDIUM
	c) Secure external funding for the development of a 'Love Exploring App' which using augmented reality, mapping and trails, engages people with nature and encourages walking and active travel.	Communities	Place & Environment	Healthy Spaces	SHORT
	d) When new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Planning	MEDIUM
5.2 Investigate and cost opportunities to increase urban greening.	a) Develop greening strategy and Identify land to offset carbon through increased tree planting and creating wildlife friendly corridors.	Communities	Place & Environment (Clean and Green)	Operations	MEDIUM
	b) Integrate the management of green spaces with town centre master planning and regeneration strategies to allow the mitigation and adaptation benefits to be realised.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Operations	SHORT
	c) Conduct survey of Council car parks, estate, and buildings that could be suitable for greening, living walls and/or roofs.	Internal Focus	Regeneration & Economy	CCPM	MEDIUM
	d) Improve green environment around Council buildings to encourage walking during the working day. Further development of work with all schools to increase walking and to reduce car usage.	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM & Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	e) Alignment with WMCA Virtual Forest Campaign and carbon offsetting.	Communities	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Operations	SHORT
5.3 Conduct a viability study on parks and green spaces to integrate renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps and LED technology.	a) Conduct audit and costable options to introduce of lighting across parks building on installation of LED lighting in the Arboretum to increase efficiency savings.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	b) Review equipment and replace with more efficient or battery operated technology.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM
	c) Assess feasibility of solar panel installation at Bar Beacon & other Council parks/sites.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	LONG
5.4 Review of the Green Spaces Strategy and findings of the Walsall Open Space Study 2020	a) Green Space Strategy renewal in 2022 to consider an increase of parks to Green Flag status.	Communities	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Operations	MEDIUM
	b) Volunteers Coordinators (litter picking) to support and engage with Friends Groups and the local community in helping our greenspaces achieve green flag standard.	Communities	Place & Environment	Clean & Green	MEDIUM

THEME 6. RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION					
6.1 Ensure all Council services and operations are adaptable to a changing climate.	a) Review of Walsall Resilience Strategy ensuring plans are updated to reflect the changing climate risk.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	SHORT
	b) Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding and review plans with West Midlands Local Resilience Forum & Black Country Local Resilience Forum.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	SHORT
	c) The development of Walsall Resilience Risk Register.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	MEDIUM
	d) We will ensure business continuity planning at the council is resilient to climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	MEDIUM
6.2 Align climate action with regeneration, construction and planning policy to enable economic prosperity and promotion of sustainability.	a) Review of the Black Country Plan with further regard to sustainable development and the governments emerging proposals in the Environment Bill and other planning policy regulations.	All	Regeneration & Economy	Planning	MEDIUM
	b) Promote sustainable design in construction & planning to reflect changes in national policy inc support for new homes built to net zero carbon standards.	All	Regeneration & Economy	Planning	MEDIUM
	c) Determine planning applications requiring approval for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) systems.	All	Regeneration & Economy	Planning	MEDIUM
6.3 Reduce risk of flooding to estate, properties and infrastructure	a) Review and update of Walsall Flood Management Plan 2020-23.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	SHORT
	b) Annual training and exercise (multi agency every 3 years)	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	SHORT
6.4 Plans in place for emergencies - Issuing alerts in the events of severe weather, increased temperatures and flooding	a) To review and update ' Warning & Informing Policy' to reflect climate change risk.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	MEDIUM
	b) Work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate including the development of an engagement programme (briefing events / toolkit) to support Walsall businesses and community groups with continuity planning.	All	Place & Environment	Emergency Planning Team	MEDIUM

