

Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 4

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since November 2020, as reported to the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) in March 2021.

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

Theme / Priority Action	Progress to March 2021
<p>Council assets</p> <p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council’s estate and operations.</p>	<p>As part of its climate and ecological declaration, the Council agreed 2018/19 as its baseline year for emissions monitoring.</p> <p>As previously reported, the Council’s 2018/19 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) submission shows that the total energy consumption for corporate buildings owned and used by the Council was 18,638,896 kilowatt hours (kWh) equating to 5,006 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂). New Vision Homes (NVH) residential properties recorded a footprint of 2,555 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions report for 2019/20 shows a reduction of almost 11% in emissions compared to 2018/19 (the baseline year). As reported previously, the report covers the following sources of energy use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure pavilions; • New Vision Homes (NVH) managed housing (communal heat systems and electricity for communal areas); • Residential and community centres supplied by Thamesway Combined Heat and Power (CHP); • Staff transport (business mileage); and • Town centre and Woking Park assets. <p>Scope 1 emissions have decreased by almost 10%. This is due to decreased gas consumption at town centre and Woking Park sites. Scope 2 emissions have decreased by 13%. This is due to decreased electricity consumption across all sites (except a less than 1% increase at town centre sites). Scope 3</p>

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	<p>emissions have decreased by almost 20% with total business travel decreasing from 124,614km to 102,109km.</p> <p>The Council’s climate emergency declaration uses a definition that also includes all properties that are owned and leased out to other organisations. The Council owns over 550 such leased properties. As reported previously, due to the scale of the portfolio, determining the energy consumption and carbon footprint of these buildings needs to be conducted in a phased approach.</p> <p>As reported in September 2020, the energy consumption and EPC ratings for the top three largest leased buildings owned by the Council - Dukes Court, Export House and Orion Gate have been determined. Officers will identify the next steps as part of this ongoing review as well as determining which buildings should be looked at next.</p> <p>Colleagues from Joint Waste Solutions are working to establish a process for monitoring emissions from Surrey councils’ waste services for the Surrey Environment Partnership. The monitoring will take account of energy and water consumption from buildings associated with waste collection activities as well as fuel consumption from waste collection vehicles.</p> <p>SCC has contracted Leeds and Surrey Universities to identify priority actions for local delivery against climate targets. The study will consider sectoral emissions (e.g. transport, housing, commercial and industry) and renewable energy generation opportunities. Importantly, it will help identify quantifiable carbon reductions and programmes and identify proxies for tangible measurement of projects across the county on baseline emissions. Outputs of the study are anticipated in March 2021 and will have significant value in helping to measure progress against local climate and ecological commitments.</p>
<p>Collaborative work with ThamesWey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and</p>	<p>Action Surrey – part of the ThamesWey Group – was successful in its consortium bid on behalf of the majority of Surrey districts and boroughs under the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme and</p>

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<p>operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.</p>	<p>was awarded £6.2 million. The project – named Green Jump Surrey - seeks to upgrade the energy efficiency of low income, fuel poor households across the county. As at the end of January 2021, 528 eligible households have been identified, of which 462 are proceeding to survey and installation; 124 pre-installation EPCs completed to confirm eligibility; 7 residents received 9 measures -1 park home installation, 1 Q-Bot underfloor insulation, 2 cavity wall insulations and 5 loft insulations completed.</p> <p>In February 2021, Action Surrey was successful in a second bid to BEIS and has been awarded a further £3m for Phase 1B of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. This will enable a greater number of households across the Surrey consortium to receive funded energy efficiency improvements. Phase 1B allows homes with an EPC D rating to be included in the eligibility for measures. Action Surrey gives a full report on this scheme elsewhere on the Working Group’s agenda.</p> <p>Works continue on the Poole Road Energy Centre as does the modelling study with consultants WSP of the district heating networks in Woking Town Centre, as reported in September’s update.</p> <p>ThamesWey has submitted a bid to the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for the connection of Export House and Midas House to the new district heating and cooling networks, together with some internal retrofit works.</p>
<p>Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p>	<p>Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are being reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with the largest three leased properties. As reported in November 2020, EPC ratings for the first phase of the three largest buildings have been identified. Dukes Court and Orion Gate are C rated. Export House however has an EPC rating of E. The accompanying EPC report lists possible remedial actions required to uplift this rating which will be reviewed. Officers will identify the next steps as part of this ongoing review as well as determining which buildings should be looked at next.</p>

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	<p>Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for publicly accessible Council buildings are also being reviewed in a phased approach, beginning with that of the Civic Offices and Monument Way. Energy efficiency consultancy, BSSEC, was contracted to undertake these initial DEC assessments in November 2020. A building's energy performance operational rating is based on its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the last year. It is given a score and an operational rating on a scale from A (lowest emissions) to G (highest emissions). The typical score for a public building is 100. The reports show how efficiently energy is used in the building. The numbers do not represent actual units of energy consumed, they represent comparative energy efficiency. The Civic Offices were given an operational rating of F (137) and the Depot was given a D rating (91). The reports are accompanied with recommendations as to how the buildings' energy efficiency can be improved. Recommendations range from introducing energy management techniques such as energy champions; avoid opening windows when mechanical cooling in use; inspections of building fabric to avoid accidental ventilation paths; and pressure testing to maximise thermal performance.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of carrying out a procurement exercise for water supplies at WBC's corporate properties. The objective is to streamline to a single supplier by the beginning on the next financial year 1 April 2021. This will help improve monitoring of water consumption across the corporate estate.</p> <p>Colleagues in Asset Management have tendered works for solar panels on Dukes Court which will be installed at the end of this month. The installation will generate 36,500 kWh of electricity and will be monitored by Property Initiatives, the Council's managing agents.</p>
<p>Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020. A draft Large Scale Renewable Energy Plan has been prepared by officers and is presented elsewhere on this agenda. It considers the role of large scale renewable energy technologies, notably wind and solar, in decarbonising the Council and borough's energy supply and suggests a</p>

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	<p>range of actions in order to move towards greater proportions of locally generated renewable energy.</p> <p>Building on the Ten Point Plan, the Government published its Energy White Paper 'Powering our Net Zero Future' on 14 December 2020, addressing how the transformation of the UK's energy system will drive economic growth and job creation while reducing carbon emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.</p>
Transport	
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Due to prevailing restrictions, levels of staff travel (to and for work) and flexible working have changed markedly. Social distancing requirements have seen the majority of staff working from home and the use of Zoom for meetings.</p> <p>Officers noted an email signature statement used by Natural England linking this change in working style to carbon savings: <i>"In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing."</i></p> <p>Given the adaptability of many meetings to now use Zoom and web conferencing across the Council's work areas, it is suggested that the Working Group support this as a preferred meeting method as standard in order to reduce business travel and associated carbon emissions.</p> <p>WBC's Human Resources colleagues have sent an Employee Survey to all staff which includes question about travel to and from work, as well as transport modes for business use. The results will be available in summer 2021.</p>
<p>Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys.</p>	<p>This was agreed by the CCWG as a new priority action at its meeting on 12 March 2020. Initial contact has been made with e-bike charging companies to identify potential solutions. Suitable locations and best-fit products are to be identified.</p> <p>As part of the Woking Strategic Transport Project, additional cycle parking has been identified in Adison Road and in Church Street East. The potential to</p>

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	<p>include electric bike charging facilities at these locations has been raised with the project manager.</p> <p>Woking Community Transport (WCT) has submitted a bid under SCC's Low Emission Community Transport Fund. There is £33m match funding available for the delivery of 80 low emission buses and 50 low emission community transport buses across the county. WCT launched its first electric bus in October 2020. WCT's ambition is to purchase ten electric vehicles in 2021.</p>
<p>Work with the Council's car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Existing car club arrangements for business mileage are being reviewed to secure improved environmental criteria and availability / efficiency.</p> <p>Officers from Green Infrastructure (GI) have been in discussion with SCC about the feasibility of joining the countywide car club scheme. This could bring benefits including: a greater number of cars available for business and public use; improved environmental criteria including targets for EVs on the fleet; flexibility in pick up and drop off locations. SCC is in the process of finalising its contract after which GI officers can review contract terms and better assess cost and service implications for the Council.</p>
<p>Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</p>	
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p>This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent updates on these. Climate Emergency Action Plan updates are available on the Council's website under the climate change pages here. To be further progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and call for accelerated action and timeframes.</p>
<p>Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the Council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the Borough).</p>	<p>Officers have been continuing to promote what the Council is doing to address climate change.</p> <p>Work continues on the Planet Woking programme. The purpose of the programme is to raise the profile of what the Council has been doing to date to</p>

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address climate change and sustainability locally; its climate and ecological emergency declaration; and current /future projects.

At the heart of the programme is the involvement of the local community to inspire local residents to make, or continue to make, changes to live a greener, more sustainable home and work life.

On 2 February 2021, Planet Woking held its second virtual event, focusing on the theme “The Great Outdoors”. The talk celebrated the diverse range of natural habitats and wildlife in the borough. We showcased how local organisations are working together to protect our local habitats and species through a series of talks by guest speakers including Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Chief Executive of the Surrey Wildlife Trust; Helen Cocker from Surrey Countryside Partnerships; Pete Bickford, local conservationist; and Andy Salisbury, Principle Entomologist at RHS Wisley. The evening was chaired by Peter Gordon. Their presentation slides along with a recording of the online talk are available at www.planetwoking.co.uk/events.

The January 2021 edition of the Planet Woking newsletter can be downloaded from www.planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/newsletters. It carries all the latest climate change, sustainability and biodiversity project updates.

Colleagues from Green Infrastructure attended a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Task Group to promote linkages between the climate change, biodiversity and green spaces work areas and health and wellbeing. Examples of how each area can directly contribute to determinants of health and wellbeing were discussed. Determinants include factors such as education, income and the built/natural environment. The ideas will be reflected in the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Colleagues from Green Infrastructure and ThamesWey attended a Community Managers’ meeting at the end of February 2021 to raise awareness of the Council’s carbon neutral targets, the CEAP and of Action Surrey’s Green Jump Surrey project in particular which may be of benefit to the members of the public they are in touch with.

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	<p>In January 2021 Mazars, the Council's internal audit consultancy, carried out a Utilities and Energy Management audit. While it focused on procurement of energy and potential cost savings, it also proved a good opportunity to highlight environmental and carbon neutral objectives of the Council.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the Council's climate change activities, highlighting in particular work undertaken since it declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019. A paper is tabled for discussion at its meeting on 22 March 2021.</p>
<p>Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.</p>	<p>Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will continue over the coming weeks and months. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above.</p> <p>Officers are working on ideas to continue to promote awareness, particularly through the Planet Woking programme. The initial funded phase of the Planet Woking project closes in July 2021. Although it will remain an established brand and framework through which the Council can continue to promote and share its climate change and sustainability projects, a paper exploring possible options for its lasting profile and growth is tabled elsewhere in this agenda.</p> <p>Covid-19 and prevailing restrictions around social distancing continue to see a significant reduction in the number of officers and councillors in the office environment, with most largely based at home.</p> <p>Officers from the Green Infrastructure team have joined the Woking Chamber of Commerce's Environment Committee and attended their first meeting in January 2021. This will be a good opportunity to raise the profile of the climate and ecological emergency declaration and how the business community can assist and also continue to improve their own sustainability practices.</p> <p>Planet Woking is a sponsor of the CREST 21 awards (www.crestawardssurrey.co.uk) which promote the positive work by</p>

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	<p>businesses based in the Woking area to protect the environment and promote more sustainable working and lifestyle habits. The awards take place on 20 May 2021 and are being organised by Woking News and Mail in collaboration with the University of Surrey. The closing date for applications is 5 March 2021.</p>
<p>Sustainable development</p>	
<p>Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration.</p>	<p>A draft scoping exercise of the Council's current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps might exist, is being undertaken by officers in Planning Policy. This piece of work will help identify opportunities for further developing planning policy or guidance to help deliver the Council's declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Work with Planning Policy service to update local guidance to reflect how development can be adapted to encourage the adoption of low or zero carbon technologies. Develop planning guidance for developers and homeowners regarding the installation of technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps etc.</p>	<p>Currently, developers applying for planning permission for new homes need to demonstrate that schemes go beyond the Building Regulations minimum requirements (a minimum of a 19% improvement), and incorporate climate adaptation measures. Planning guidance in the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) encourages developers to go even further towards zero carbon housing if viable and technically feasible.</p> <p>Once complete, the Working Group will be consulted on the findings of the scoping exercise referenced above.</p> <p>In January 2021, the Government published its response to the Future Homes Standard consultation (part 1 of the consultation on changes to Part L). Colleagues in Planning Policy have reviewed the response and in particular how potential changes will be relevant to the Council's application of policy CS22 and the revised Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is due later this year.</p> <p>Similarly, the Planning Policy team has also considered the Government's Energy White Paper, published in December 2020. Key issues include:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ending the sale of petrol and diesel cars 10 years earlier than planned, from 2030 will mean that electric vehicle infrastructure parking standards for new development will become more critical.• Reduced dependency on fossil fuels and electrification of heat: Potentially ending gas grid connections to new homes being built from 2025 in favour of clean energy alternatives and new heat network zones.• Growing the installation of electric heat pumps requiring a ramping up of supply chain capacity.• Establishing the Future Homes Standard which will ensure that all new-built homes are zero carbon ready.• Aims to adopt updated energy National Policy Statement by the end of 2021, to provide a planning policy framework to facilitate the infrastructure needed for the transition to net zero.
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