



Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:
Cabinet Portfolio:

Carbon Emissions 22/23

Report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources

Officer Contact Details

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Adur & Worthing Councils declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. As part of the declaration, Members committed to *work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030*.
- 1.2. This report presents the fourth annual update on progress towards this target.
- 1.3. Since the previous report, the council has completed a number of decarbonisation projects that have significantly decreased gas consumption across the councils' property portfolio.
- 1.4. As a result, reported emissions for 22-23 decreased by 5.4% when compared to the previous year.
- 1.5. An update on current carbon reduction projects is presented at Section 4.
- 1.6. A Fleet Strategy and Estate Carbon Management Plan are currently in development and will be presented to Committee for adoption in 2024.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Committee notes:

- the councils' current carbon emissions and carbon reduction work programme
- That further funding bids may be made, in consultation with the relevant executive member, and that if required further reports will brief members on the outcome of the bidding process

3. Context

- 3.1. Adur & Worthing Councils jointly declared a climate change emergency on 9 July 2019, simultaneously setting a target to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- 3.2. The councils' adopted: Adur & Worthing Councils' Carbon Neutral Plan: Working towards the 2030 target on 3 December 2019 and a Carbon Reduction Team was appointed in September 2020 to facilitate work to achieve the target and attract funding to contribute to the councils decarbonisation.
- 3.3. On 6 March 2022, as part of its strategic commitment to addressing its impact on the climate, Worthing Borough Council agreed 'Fair, Green and Local' principles underpinning policies responding to the Climate and Ecological crises.
- 3.4. Tackling Climate Change is also a key strand of *Our Plan*, which sets *Action now achieves a fair transition to Net Zero Carbon by 2045* as one of its missions. This target is for the areas as a whole - the 2030 target remains for council operations.
- 3.5. This report sets out the emissions for the year 2022/23 for the councils.
- 3.6. The 2030 carbon neutral target required the councils to deliver a linear 10% reduction in emissions annually through the decade. Some years may see lesser and some greater emissions reductions, depending on

interventions delivered, climatic conditions and other unforeseen events.

- 3.7. Additional work on updating the *Carbon Neutral Plan*, particularly around the reduction in scope 1 emissions, is currently being undertaken and a report will be presented to Committee in early 2024 outlining future reduction proposals.

4. Background and Scope

- 4.1. The councils report their emissions according to the following Scopes, as defined in the BEIS Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020 guidance,

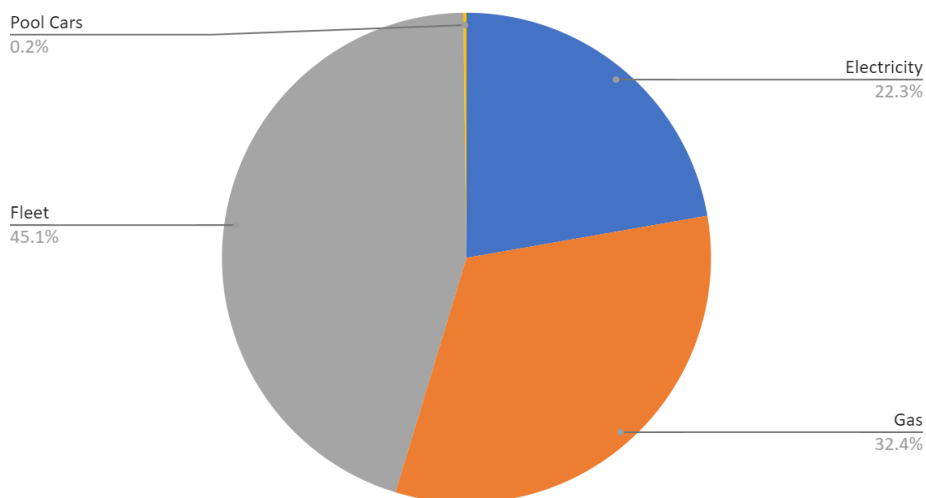
Category	Description	Data analysed
Scope 1	Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting organisation.	Metered gas data in properties owned and operated by, and where the councils pay for gas. Diesel and petrol consumption for council-owned vehicle fleet and mileage figures for pool cars
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased by the reporting organisation.	Metered electricity data in properties owned and operated by, and where the councils pay for, electricity
Scope 3	Indirect emissions that result from other activities that occur in the value chain of the reporting organisation, either upstream or downstream.	Scope 3 emissions are those from indirect council operations, for example leisure or cultural sites not operated by the council, or from activities not directly controlled by the councils, such as water consumption. Scope 3 emissions do not currently form part of the Emissions Reduction Pledge.

Table 1: Emission scopes

- 4.2. As noted at JSSC in November 2022, the councils' corporate 2021/22 emissions were 2,417 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tonnes CO2e), broken down as follows:

Corporate (2417t)

Corporate Emissions 2021/22



5. 2022/23 Emissions

5.1. Given the shared nature of Adur & Worthing Councils offices, staff and operations, corporate emissions are presented jointly for both councils. Emissions from Adur Homes buildings are not presented in this report.

Building Emissions

5.2. Analysis of the council's emissions associated with gas and electricity use in corporate buildings revealed that reported emissions decreased by 13.7%, broken down as follows:

	Emissions (tonnesCO ₂ e)		% change
	2021/22	2022/23	
Electricity	570	565	-0.89%
Gas	784	626	-20.15%
Total	1354	1191	-13.7%

Table 2: 2022/23 Building emissions to nearest tonne

5.3. It should be noted that:

- The majority of corporate emissions reductions are accounted for by a reduction in gas consumption at Worthing Crematorium. This is largely due to a decline in the number of cremations as a result of a lower death rate following the Covid-peak and more competition from other crematoria in the local area.

- Whilst electricity emissions varied little year-on-year, they remain lower than the pre-pandemic peak.

Vehicle Emissions

- 5.4. Based on the amount of fuel consumed by the councils' fleet and the number of miles driven by pool cars, emissions from vehicles reduced by 0.18%:

	Emissions (tonnesCO ₂ e)		% change
	2021/22	2022/23	
Fleet	1090	1085	-0.4%
Pool Cars	5	8	+61.1%
Transport	1095	1093	-0.18%

Table 3: 2020/21 Vehicle Emissions

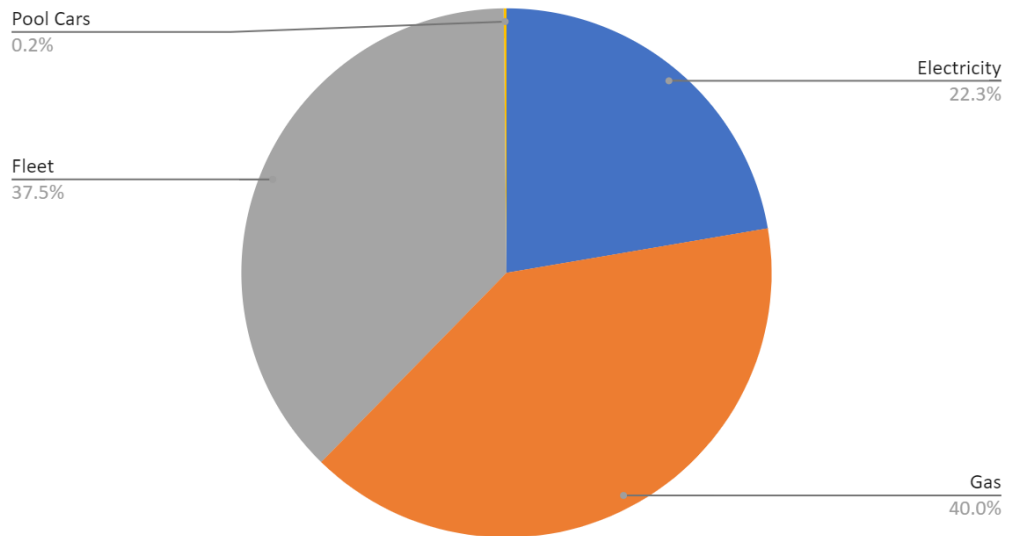
- 5.5. Fleet emissions are based on the amount of fuel received by the depot, rather than actual consumption totals.
- 5.6. Pool car use has continued to increase following staff returning to offices and undertaking additional site visits but still represents a negligible amount of emissions from vehicles.
- 5.7. It is hoped that future reports will also account for 'grey fleet' mileage - that is, business mileage completed by staff-owned cars.
- 5.8. A fleet strategy is currently being developed that will demonstrate how the council intends to decarbonise its fleet by 2030.

Total Emissions

- 5.9. The councils' 2022/23 emissions were 2,285 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tonnes CO₂e), broken down as follows:

Corporate (2285t)

Corporate Emissions 2022/23



6. Project Progress Pipeline and Forecasting

- 6.1. The councils continue to progress on the delivery of the 2019 *Carbon Reduction Plan*
- 6.2. Air source heat pumps have now been commissioned at the Shoreham Centre.
- 6.3. This year work has particularly focused on Worthing Civic Quarter sites, with additional energy efficiency measures being commissioned on Civic Quarter Buildings and contract negotiations regarding the Worthing Heat Network continuing.
- 6.4. The councils continue to seek external funding support for decarbonisation work where appropriate. To date this has totalled approximately £7m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) through the Heat Network Delivery Unit/Heat Network Investment Project (HNDU/HNIP), the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF).
- 6.5. A Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) bid focusing on Worthing Civic Quarter buildings was submitted on 11 October totalling £5.8m. The outcome of this bid will not be known until mid-winter and the funding is very competitive, however if successful it will contribute significant funding to the decarbonisation of buildings throughout the Civic Quarter.

- 6.6. A further report will be brought to JSS-C Worthing seeking budgetary approval if this bid is successful.
- 6.7. Aside from the projects mentioned above, additional work is ongoing on the following:
- Offsetting via renewable energy generation feasibility work
 - Scoping for additional rooftop solar PV installations on corporate and commercial buildings
 - The replacement of 5 fleet vans with fully electric models by 2024
- 6.8. In order to become carbon neutral by 2030, the councils need to achieve a linear 10% reduction annually from 2019/20 to 2029/30, although this trajectory will, in reality, vary depending on when new projects are completed.
- 6.9. These carbon savings will accrue from:
- Projects to reduce the amount of gas, electricity or vehicle fuel consumed in order to meet service needs
 - UK-wide reductions in emissions associated with gas, electricity or vehicle fuel (for example, increased renewable electricity supplying the national grid)
 - Offsetting of any residual emissions
- 6.10. An updated *Carbon Management Plan*, summarising the councils' work to date and planning for emissions reductions will be presented to JSSC in early 2024 for adoption. This will include information on the decarbonisation of Worthing Civic Quarter buildings to be achieved through connection to the Worthing Heat Network, as well as works that could be delivered to community buildings for which the council has a responsibility for heating provision.
- 6.11. Projects will continue to be subject to individual business case development and approval by the relevant committee.

7. Engagement and Communication

- 7.1. The following internal groups and teams have had input into work that has been used to generate these figures:
- Carbon Reduction Delivery Group;
 - Technical Services & Facilities;

- Building Services;
- Environmental Services;
- Housing;
- Waste, Recycling & Cleansing;
- Major Projects;
- Finance;
- Procurement;
- Legal;
- Democratic Services;
- Planning;
- Bereavement Services.

7.2. The following external groups have been consulted as part of various carbon reduction projects:

- BEIS (Heat Network Delivery Unit, and Heat Networks Investment Programme)
- Salix (Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme)
- West Sussex County Council
- Ministry of Justice (Worthing Law Courts)
- Worthing Theatres and Museums
- South Downs Leisure
- Sussex Police
- Goring Cricket Club
- Age UK
- Community Centre Trusts

7.3. Consultation has also been undertaken with the following external groups relating to carbon emissions reporting:

- TEAM (energy management software supplier)
- BEIS (emissions reporting)
- UK100

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The Council has committed a range of projects to support decarbonisation within the Capital and Revenue budgets to meet the 2030 target.

8.2. Where possible, the Council will bid for external funding to support the delivery of the decarbonisation ambitions of the Council given the associated costs.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. The Climate Change Act 2008 as amended by the (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 is the basis of the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. The Act requires emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to be reduced from 80% to 100% by 2050 and the Council is committed to working towards this goal.
- 9.2. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.
- 9.3. Section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 provides that every statutory provision conferring or imposing a function on a Local Authority confers the powers on the Local Authority to enter into a contract with another person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both (whether or not together with goods) for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the Local Authority.
- 9.4. In procuring for works goods or services to comply with its climate change proposals the Council must have regard to The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and / or The Public Concession Contract Regulations 2016 and take detailed legal advice as appropriate for each project.
- 9.5. When entering any arrangement with a provider the Council is to ensure that it does not infringe the rules relating to subsidies detailed in the Trade and Co-operation Agreement 2020 which are set out in Article 3 of the Agreement.
- 9.6. The Council is to remain fully compliant with any relevant grant funding terms and conditions and where there is an on-grant to an appointed provider, the Council is to ensure that there are appropriate indemnities in place in favour of the Council for any potential breaches of the funding terms, by that provider.

Andrew Mathias 23 October 2023.

Background Papers

- [Carbon Emissions for 2021/22](#) (JSSC 10/11/22)
- Adur & Worthing Councils [Carbon Neutral Plan](#)
- [UK100](#)
- [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#)
- [Low Carbon Skills Fund](#)
- [Climate Change Act 2008 \(2050 Target Amendment\) Order 2019](#)

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Transition to a low carbon economy is vital to provide future energy systems resilience, and to address and reduce potential impacts of climate change. Improved energy efficiency across the councils' assets reduce ongoing revenue requirements for energy purchasing.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

By securing affordable, low carbon energy into the future, the councils protect budgets from future energy price rises, drawing less budget into council operational costs away from services delivery that benefit local communities.

2.2 Equality Issues

The impacts of climate change are predicted to impact on all communities, but the greatest impact is predicted to impact the most vulnerable communities. It is imperative that all is done to mitigate climate change.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

No impacts identified

2.4 Human Rights Issues

The impacts of climate change are predicted to impact on all communities, but the greatest impact is predicted to impact the most vulnerable communities. It is imperative that all is done to mitigate climate change.

3. Environmental

The key driver for ongoing carbon reduction is to mitigate the predicted catastrophic impacts of climate change on the environment, economy and communities.

4. Governance

The reporting and management of carbon reduction emissions show leadership in response to our declaration of a climate emergency. This aligns with national legislation (the Climate Change Act 2008); national and regional policy, and the councils' own policy.