



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee  
8 February 2024

Key Decision [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected:

## **Adoption of Adur & Worthing Councils *Carbon Management Plan***

### **Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources**

#### **Report Author**

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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. The *Carbon Neutral Plan* was adopted in December 2019, setting out pathways for the councils to achieve the target
- 1.3. In the intervening years significant progress has been made reducing carbon emissions and further developing the recommendations set out in the *Carbon Neutral Plan* to develop the pipeline of projects that will ensure the councils meet their commitment on carbon emissions.
- 1.4. This work is now summarised as the *Carbon Management Plan*, set out at Appendix A. It is recommended that the councils adopt the new *Carbon Management Plan*

## **2. Recommendations**

### 2.1. That the Committee:

- Notes the progress made on projects and recommendations since the publication of the *Carbon Neutral Plan*
  
- Approves the adoption of the *Carbon Management Plan* and to publish it on the councils' website

### **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. 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.
- 3.4. The councils' emissions (including Adur Homes) have reduced by just over 500 tonnes since 2019/20. Whilst this is approximately 1/6th of total emissions, the pace of reduction must increase if the council is to meet its carbon neutral target.

### **4. Summary of the *Carbon Management Plan***

- 4.1. The *Carbon Management Plan* is intended to be a public facing document, highlighting progress that the councils have made since the publication in 2019 of the previous *Carbon Neutral Plan*. This includes:
  - Decommissioning two large communal gas-heating systems, replacing them with 55 Ground Source Heat Pumps at Shadwells Court and Tollbridge House
  - Installing solar PV across a number of Housing and Corporate sites.
  - Improving the building fabric and energy performance of Worthing's Civic Quarter buildings
  - Developing a fleet strategy to tackle the largest portion of the councils' emissions. This will be reported on fully in summer 2024
  - Developing the Worthing Heat Network, which will be key to decarbonising not only council buildings within Worthing, but also the wider public and private estate into the future.

- 4.2. Since the publication of the *Carbon Neutral Plan*, decarbonisation plans have been developed for a significant proportion of the councils' portfolio. Whilst these measures are each subject to detailed business cases being developed, it has enabled the refinement of the councils' trajectory to achieving net zero (presented at Figure 3 in the *Carbon Management Plan*).
- 4.3. It recommends prioritising interventions that make the most contribution to reducing carbon emissions, specifically:
- The replacement of the refuse fleet with low carbon alternatives (500 tonnes)
  - Connection to the Worthing Heat Network (200 tonnes)
  - Decommissioning of sheltered housing gas boilers (190 tonnes)
  - The gradual decarbonisation of the grid (190 tonnes)
- 4.4. It also shows that even if the ambition, commitment and funding is found to deliver all of the interventions already identified, there will still be a residual total of about 380 tonnes of carbon emitted from council activities - principally those associated with the production of electricity.
- 4.5. Offsetting these residual emissions will be required in order to achieve carbon neutral status and the *Carbon Management Plan* recommends that this is achieved through the delivering (in-house and/or with a third-party) of new, renewable electricity generation assets.
- 4.6. The *Carbon Management Plan* makes a number of recommendations throughout the document. Should approval be received, officers will work on progressing these in due course, noting the ambitions of the councils to continue their journey towards the 2030 target.

## **5. 2045 target emissions**

- 5.1. Alongside the 2030 target to be carbon neutral in council operations, the councils are also committed to achieving net zero carbon status more widely by 2045.
- 5.2. The 2045 target encompasses two areas of emissions that are outside the scope of the *Carbon Management Plan*. These are Scope 3 emissions and 'area-based' emissions.
- 5.3. Scope 3 emissions are all those not associated with the *direct* consumption of gas or electricity (or, when the Worthing Heat Network starts providing heat,

heat) by Adur & Worthing councils. This includes those from buildings operated by partners, such as South Downs Leisure, as well as supply chain emissions.

- 5.4. Due to resource constraints, no scope 3 analysis has been conducted for the councils, however it is reasonable to assume that the councils' scope 3 emissions are extensive. The council has some control over these emissions and work streams are ongoing to develop an approach to minimising them through procurement requirements, partnership working and contractual obligations.
- 5.5. Area-wide emissions incorporate *all* emissions from within Adur & Worthing. Reducing these to net zero by 2045 will be a considerably harder challenge and require significant input and policy support from central government. The councils are already leveraging energy efficiency funding to reduce emissions from private sector homes, but a significant and systematic approach will need to be developed across a wide variety of organisations and sectors if this target is to be reached.
- 5.6. The councils are committed to taking a leading role in achieving the area-wide target and in so doing will proactively and strategically seek to coordinate action. A plan to deliver this will be developed, however it should be noted that whereas the trajectory presented in the *Carbon Management Plan* was developed in-house, the scale of the work required for the 2045 target will necessitate external support. This work is therefore subject to budget restrictions.

## **6. Engagement and Communication**

- 6.1. Significant and ongoing engagement has been had surrounding the councils' carbon reduction programme. The following internal groups and teams have had input into work that has been used to generate these figures:
  - Carbon Reduction Delivery Group/Environment Missions Board;
  - Technical Services & Facilities;
  - Building Services;
  - Environmental Services;
  - Housing;
  - Waste, Recycling & Cleansing;
  - Major Projects;
  - Finance;
  - Procurement;
  - Legal;

- Democratic Services;
- Planning;
- Bereavement Services.

6.2. Whilst the focus of the *Carbon Management Plan* is on scope 1 and 2 emissions, the following external groups have been consulted as part of carbon reduction projects to reduce the councils' emissions:

- Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (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

6.3. More widely, the council is engaged with the following organisations and will seek to build these relationships over time in order to meet the 2045 target:

- Housing Associations
- NHS Trusts
- Major Employers
- Community Organisations and Groups
- SMEs
- Industrial Estates/Business Parks
- Partnership organisations (e.g. UK100)
- Mobility (active travel) organisations

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 While some of the projects discussed in the body of this report will have financial implications each will have been, or will be, subject to scrutiny via the presentation of a full business case to the Joint Strategic Committee as required.

7.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1. 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.

- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. 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.
- 8.5. 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.
- 8.6. 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.

### **Background Papers**

- [JSS-C\(A\)/36/23-24 - Adur Carbon Emissions 22/23](#)
- [JSS-C\(W\)/32/23-24 - Worthing Carbon Emissions 22/23](#)
- [JSC6719-20 - Adoption of Carbon Neutral Plan](#)

## **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.