

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER SUBGROUP: 08/10/23**

**UPDATE REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
MAIN AUTHOR: KELLY MURPHY**

1. Climate Officers' Group

1.1 COG meeting held 17th October

2. Climate Action Plan Progress

2.1 The CAP has been reviewed and updated after the Climate Officer's Group Meeting. The table below outlines the status of the 101 actions;

Completed	35 (previously 30)
In Progress	23 (previously 19)
Ongoing	35 (previously 32)
Not commenced	8 (previously 18)
Total actions	101 (previously 99)

Table 1. Overview of actions in CAP

2.2 Since the last meeting we have seen a number of projects progress, and the addition of two new actions;

- Implementation of an environmental management system (ISO 50001)
- Creation of a 'Transition to Net Zero Strategy' document

2.3 Both of these projects are already progressing and are planned to be implemented and created by the end of the financial year.

Figure 1. Action status

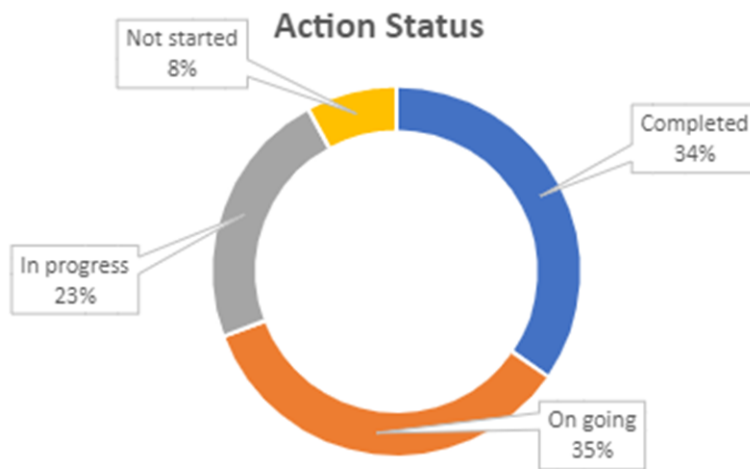
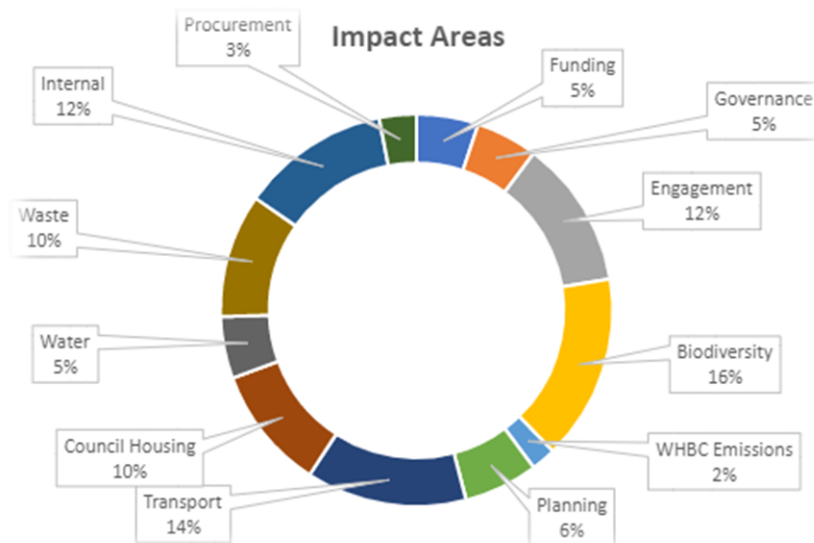


Figure 2. Theme/Impact area



3. Project/Action Update Summary

3.1 Below are summaries of a number of key projects/actions being delivered.


Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	32		
Name of lead officer	Oliver Waring		
Directorate/Service area	Landscape & Ecology		
Project overview	Plant 300 street trees (of appropriate species and in appropriate locations) per year until WHBC		
Overall status	On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to =remedy
	Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	<p>The planning list for this coming winter's tree planting has been completed by the Landscape and Ecology Team and was sent out to tender. The Tree Officers are proposing to plant over 300 new trees across the Borough. A supplier has been confirmed and delivery of the trees is expected November/December with planting commencing in December.</p> <p>The trees are carefully selected for each location taking into consideration the size of the trees when fully grown and the type of growing conditions. Another consideration is the changing climate conditions, and a wide variety of species are chosen that can adapt to hotter drier weather conditions. This broad selection of species also provides resilience to the council's tree stock making them less prone to pests and diseases.</p> <p>The tree planting brings a number of benefits including, climate change mitigation, improved air quality, biodiversity enhancement, health and wellbeing benefits and as well as being nice to look at!</p> <p>Also, we are planting a large area at the Woodhall open space in Welwyn Garden City with pollinator friendly bulbs this coming</p>		

Project summary update

Reference number on climate action plan	5		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Climate Change		
Project overview	Promote schemes around the borough such as Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), Solar together, ECO flex 4/BGIS, BHBH		
Overall status	On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding

Comments
 HUG2 – launched and now live. Targeted mail to off grid homes with low EPC ratings and low-income thresholds.
 ECO flex4/Great British Insulation Scheme – we are releasing a statement of intent which essentially broadens the criteria to allow for more household to be eligible for funding.
 Better Housing, Better health is a one stop shop for energy advice.
 Solar together scheme closed 27th October. Final registration figures were as per below; WHBC 374 registrations.

Community	# Registrations	# Registrations solar PV	# Registrations battery storage	# Registrations interest i..	# Registrations bu
St Albans City & District Council	1,202	1,163	39	562	
North Hertfordshire District Council	914	872	42	384	
Dacorum Borough Council	840	804	36	387	
East Hertfordshire District Council	814	765	49	345	
Three Rivers District Council	593	569	24	284	
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	398	378	20	169	
Watford Borough Council	458	448	10	216	
Broxbourne Borough Council	224	208	16	96	
Hertsmere Borough Council	337	323	14	152	
Stevenage Borough Council	211	200	11	82	
Hertfordshire County Council	1	1	0	0	
Grand Total	5,992	5,731	261	2,677	

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	14 and 18		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Climate Change		
Project overview	<p>Review 'nudge' behaviour theory and use it to identify opportunities to facilitate behaviour change such as publicising walk/cycle to school days.</p> <p>Develop and implement on and offline mechanisms through which residents, businesses and stakeholders can be involved in the progress and delivery of the CAP.</p>		
Overall status	On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	<p>We had previously mentioned the creation of a climate alliance or climate hub. The first stage in the process has been to launch a climate action survey. It has been designed to gauge what actions/behaviours residents are currently doing, learn what motivates them, understand what barriers they are currently facing, and help determine future policies and initiatives we can introduce to help facilitate further action.</p> <p>The survey will initially be open until 30th November, and participants (who chose to be) will be entered into a draw to receive a £30 electronic gift card for RSPB. We may extend the survey or keep it open to use a tool in measuring community engagement particularly after events etc.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YXCMWG3</p>		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	6		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Climate Change		
Project overview	Publish Climate Risk Assessment assessing in detail anticipated local impacts (heat, drought, flooding etc) to understand what adaptation measures are needed.		
Overall status	On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	Climate change risk assessment being conducted by risk leads. This will form the basis of creating new actions to reduce the residual risk and ultimately improve our adaptability and resilience to the impacts of climate change. We will also ensure climate adaptation is incorporated alongside the climate mitigation as a strategic risk on our strategic and operational risk register.		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	68		
Name of lead officer	Jamie Norman		
Directorate/Service area	Building Services		
Project overview	Retrofit programme (SHDF) Implement the energy efficiency measures identified by the investment grade energy audits of council owned social housing		
On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned	
Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management	
At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy	
Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding	
The programme of works has begun;			
Properties Total	187		

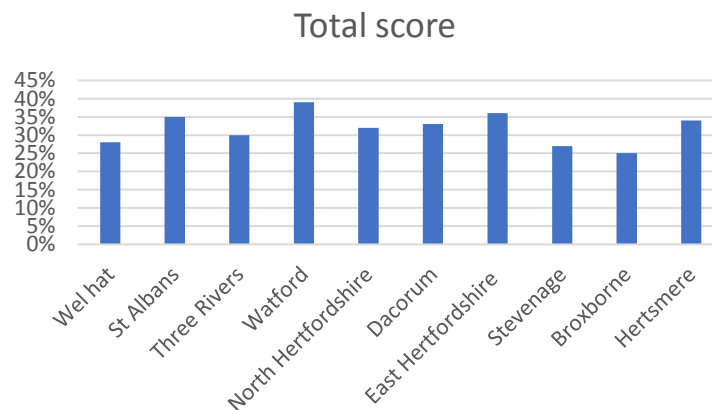
Properties On Hold	52
Properties Sub-Total	135 (112 OF THESE ARE CONCRETE SLAB AND REQUIRE WHOLE RETROFIT. THESE ARE REALLY POOR PERFORMING (EPC E/F/G'S) AND WE WILL GET THEM TO EPC C RATING -WORK WILL INCLUDE TRIPLE GALZED WINDOW, EWI, WARM DECK ROOF, NEW DOORS AND VENTIALATION WORKS
Retrofit Assessments Complete	91
Retrofit Assessments Booked	5
Retrofit Assessments to be Booked	39
Pre-Works Retrofit Coordination Complete	50
Retrofit Design Complete	50
Actual Works Complete	0 (should be 11 before Christmas)

Project summary update		
Reference number on climate action plan	82	
Name of lead officer	Paul Harris	
Directorate/Service area	Environmental Services	
Project overview	Attend 6 events per year at schools and other educational providers to promote WHBC waste initiatives	
On track	Y	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
Off track	N	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
At risk	N	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
Not started	N	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
<p>Attended 2 events at the University of Hertfordshire (22nd September and 27th October) and also planned door knocking event with UoH partners in October to enhance knowledge of waste and recycling requirements in the borough for students moving out of halls of residence.</p> <p>We continue to support school litter picking events with advice, equipment and the removal of waste.</p> <p>Climate change officer will accompany Hertfordshire County Council officer at a Waste workshop at a school in Hatfield, with a view to get ideas in order to potentially develop a climate change focused workshop and potentially run joint workshops around waste and climate change.</p>		

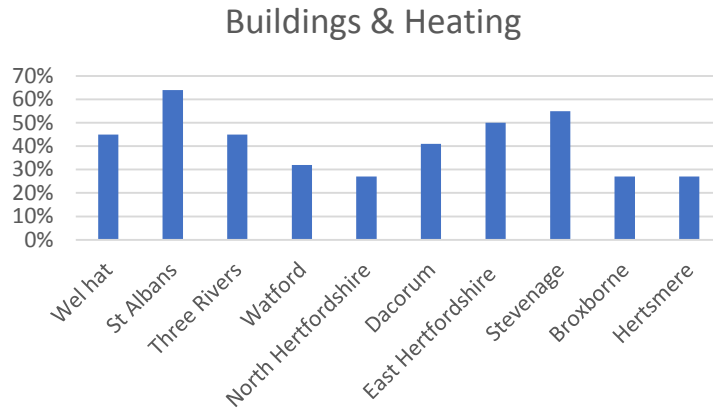
4. Climate Emergency UK Scorecards

- 4.1 Climate Emergency UK released the Council Climate Action Scorecards on 18th October.
- 4.2 The average district/borough score was 29% and we scored 28%.
- 4.3 WHBC came 8th in Hertfordshire, and whilst this is an improvement from last year, it does not fully reflect all the great work being done within the council and around the borough.
- 4.4 Scorecards published by Climate Emergency UK have claimed the majority of local authorities are “underperforming” when it comes to action on climate change.
- 4.5 In response to the score cards, Cllr Darren Rodwell, environment spokesperson for the LGA, said: “We don’t support league tables as they often paint a two-dimensional picture of the context that councils are working within, and unfairly compare councils with different challenges. Councils are already leading the way in transitioning to net zero and are ambitious to do more. Government needs to empower local climate action that can hit targets, mobilise support, and deliver on the evidence showing local approaches can save hundreds of billions.” The LGA’s response was also reported by the Mail, Metro, iNews and the Independent.

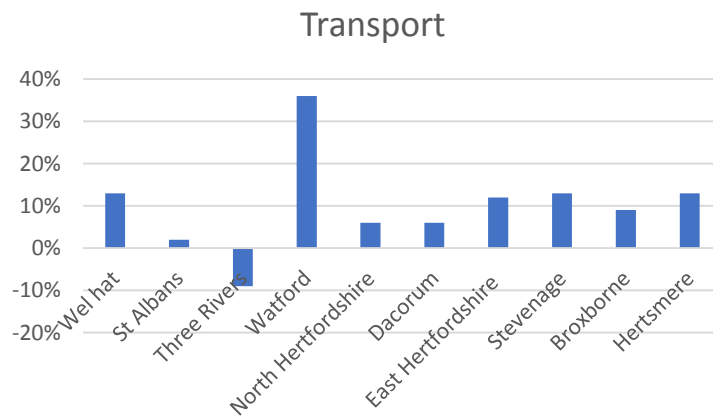
Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Climate score card results



WHBC came 8th in Hertfordshire, this is an improvement compared to the last round of scoring where only the strategy was assessed as opposed to the actual action being taken. Within Hertfordshire the scores ranged from 25% to 39%.

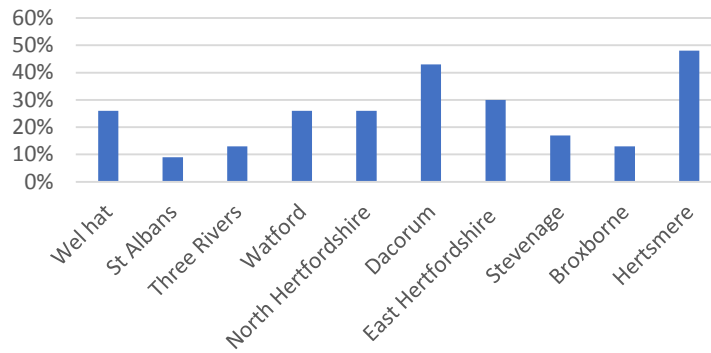


WHBC came joint 4th in Hertfordshire regarding action taken in relation to buildings and heating.



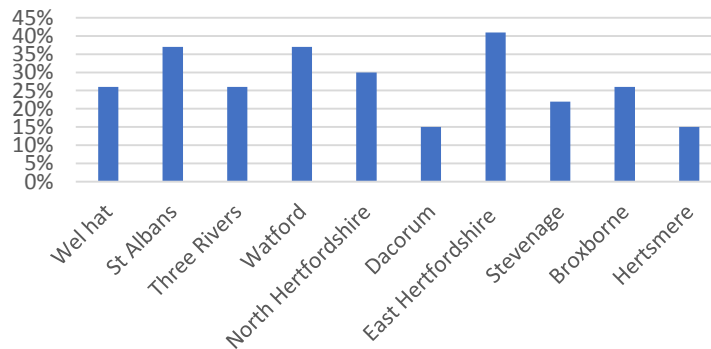
Whilst we only scored 13% in this category, we actually scored second top within Hertfordshire. Minus points were awarded for carbon intensive infrastructure projects.

Planning & Land Use

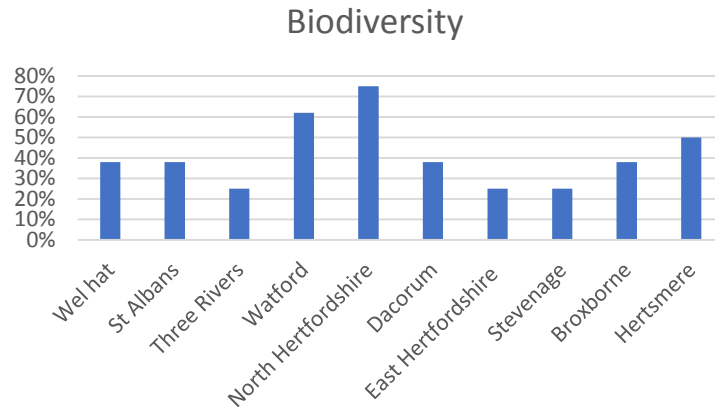


WHBC came joint 4th for planning and Land Use. It should be noted the scoring was completed before the Local Plan was adopted, and a number of points were in relation to the Local Plan.

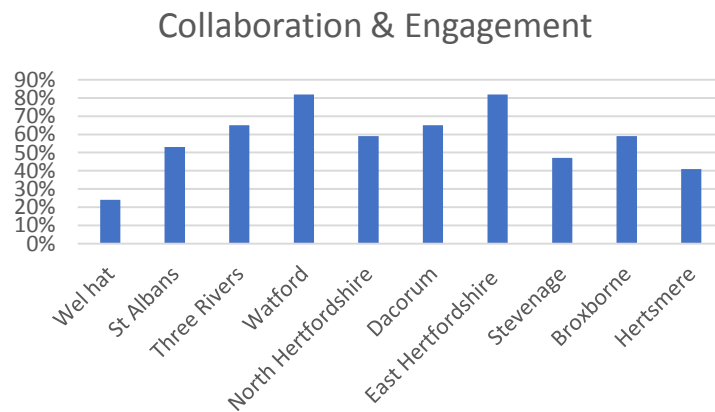
Governance & Finance



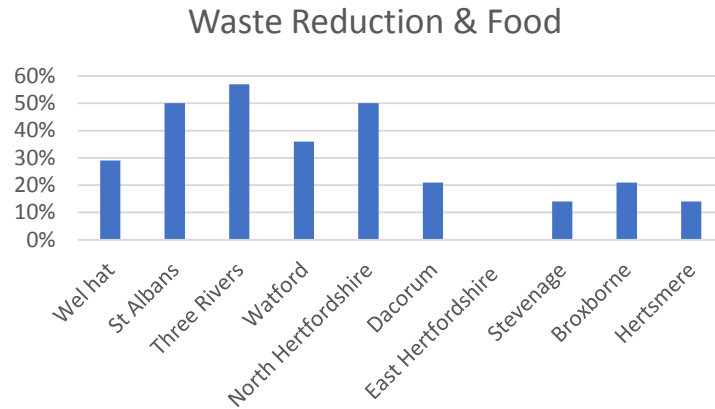
WHBC came joint 5th for governance and finance, and we have identified a few questions where we did not score when we should have.



WHBC came joint 4th for biodiversity. There were few questions within this category, so we did well to score within the limited criteria.



WHBC came last in Hertfordshire for collaboration and engagement, however, although our weakest area, we had already acknowledged this even before the score cards were released and have started taking steps to improve in this area, the first steps being the climate action survey and the creation of the climate hub.



WHBC came 5th in the waste reduction and food category, and again, we will appeal this as we can demonstrate that points should have been awarded when they were not.

5. AOB

- 5.1 Lovely to see so many of you at the HCCSP in person event yesterday. I hope you found it informative and left you feeling positive about the action being taken around Hertfordshire.
- 5.2 If you have any follow up questions arising from the event then feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to answer them, and if not, I can certainly sign post you to the relevant person in HCC.