

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER SUBGROUP: 17/01/2024**

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

1. Climate Officers' Group

1.1 COG meeting held 4th January 2024

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 99 actions;

Table 1. Overview of actions in CAP

Completed	34
In Progress	23
Ongoing	34
Not commenced	8
Total actions	99

2.2 Not much movement, however projects still progressing, which will be outlined later in the report.

Figure 1. Action status

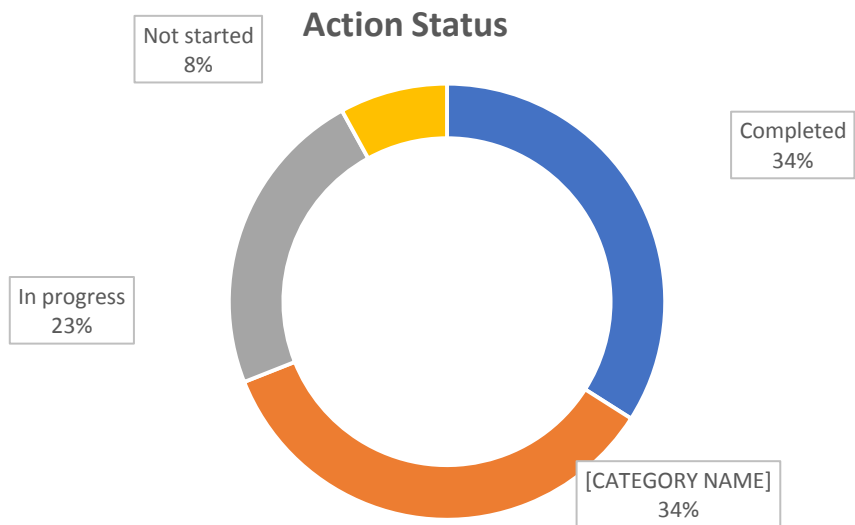
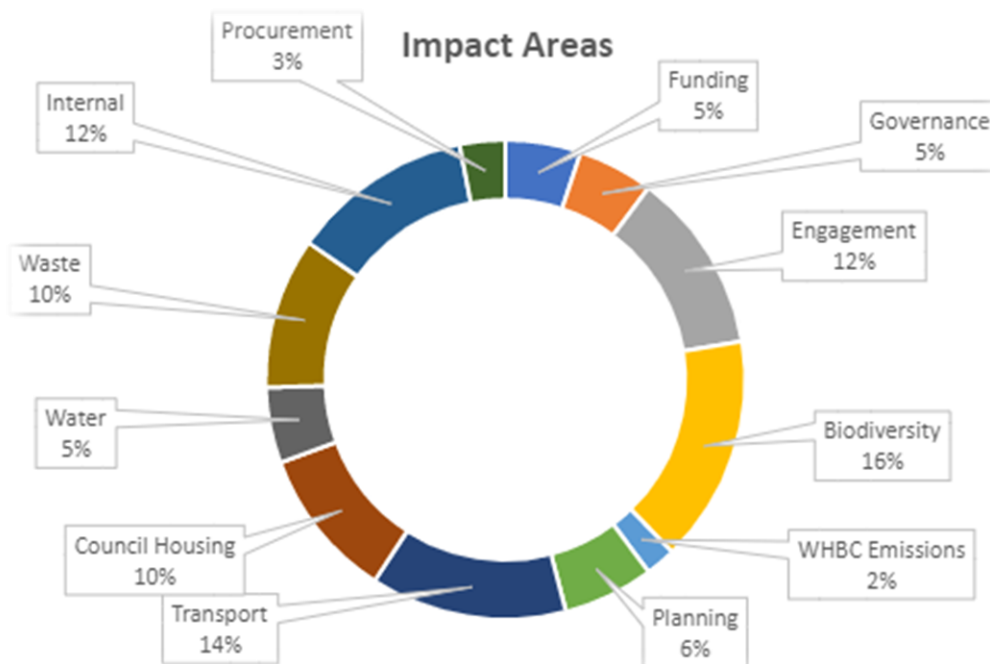


Figure 2. Theme/Impact area



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	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	<p>Climate change risk assessment completed.</p> <p>Individual risks will be embedded into service plans and climate action plan accordingly.</p> <p>Climate adaptation is being added on the strategic risk register alongside the existing climate mitigation risk.</p> <p>The full climate change risk assessment has been circulated to members prior to the meeting and will be available during the webcast.</p>		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	48		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Climate Change		
Project overview	Conduct a new staff travel survey and produce an up-to-date Travel Plan for Campus East and Campus West, to be updated every three years.		
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>Staff travel survey completed in November. 203 respondents.</p> <p>Creation of an up-to-date travel plan for Campus East and Campus West, aimed at staff, members and visitors to the sites.</p> <p>The principal aim of the Travel Plan is to reduce reliance on the private car for single occupancy journeys and to encourage the use of alternative modes of travel by making people more aware of sustainable travel options available and highlighting incentives.</p> <p>A sustainable travel action plan has been created within the travel plan.</p> <p>See supporting docs for full travel plan.</p>		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	38		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Climate Change		
Project overview	Calculate the council's own carbon emissions (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) at least annually to check if emissions are being reduced Calculate borough wide emissions		
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>Team Energy have completed the GHG assessment for WHBC organisation 2022/23.</p> <p>They also completed the boroughwide GHG assessment using data from DESNZ for 2021 (the most recent year we have data for)</p> <p>These have been reformatted into our own reports which are now published and accessible online.</p>		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	38		
Name of lead officer	Oliver Waring		
Directorate/Service area	Landscape & Ecology		
Project overview	Explore opportunities for additional tree planting around the borough		
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	For the second year in a row WHBC took part and contributed to the County wide Your Tree and Our Future give away. Over 11,000 trees were given out to residents of the Borough as part of the scheme. The trees are to be planted in residents' properties and will contribute to the tree cover across the Borough.		

Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	35		
Name of lead officer	Oliver Waring		
Directorate/Service area	Landscape & Ecology		
Project overview	Maintain up to date management plans for the borough's largest woodlands and open spaces		
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	The Landscape Management Plan for Singlers Marsh and Danesbury Park are due for renewal. The drafts plans have been approved at Cabinet and have been out to consultation. Overall the consultation responses were positive with 85% of respondents agreeing with the Visions and objectives. Some factual issues have been amended following responses and the amended plans are going to Cabinet for final approval in February.		

4. Climate Audit

- 4.1 HCC recently conducted an audit on our climate change strategy and action plan. They were satisfied with their findings in terms of our internal governance, reporting, strategy and action plan.
- 4.2 They had no recommendations or actions.

5. Climate Action Survey Results

- 5.1 The community climate action survey ran from 6th – 30th November.
- 5.2 A lucky respondent was sent her £30 electronic gift card for RSPB.
- 5.3 A full report has been sent with the supporting documents, however a summary of key findings are;
 - 678 respondents
 - The largest proportion of respondents were in the age range 25- 34 (35%)
 - 346 wanted to sign up to a climate e bulletin
 - The main action people take to address climate change is to reduce their meat intake, followed by walking or cycling frequently.
 - When asked to identify what motivates these lifestyle choice, (respondents could chose more than one option), the most popular answer was to improve the natural environment (63%), followed by reducing emissions (36%), increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change (35%), health and wellbeing improvement (32%), improving air quality (25%), financial savings (22%) because someone they know does it (8%).
 - Provided lots of ideas on how we can support residents in achieving their own climate aspirations and help us achieve our boroughwide net zero target.

6. WHBC Climate Hub

- 6.1 The Climate Hub is designed to facilitate action 18. (Develop and implement on and offline mechanisms through which residents, businesses and stakeholders can be involved in the progress and delivery of the CAP).
- 6.2 The Climate Hub Logo has been approved and we are working towards launching this early in the next financial year, which will be well timed to promote when we host some in person events. For instance, we hope to have a WHBC Climate Hub stall at the BID's vegan market on 9th March and we are looking to facilitate a number of events to celebrate the Great Big Green Week (8th – 16th June).
- 6.3 We are being mindful to piggyback upon existing relevant planned events to avoid creating extra work for ourselves and to broaden the impact of events.
- 6.4 We will utilise existing partnerships to avoid duplication of events and have begun reaching out to new community eco groups that we can work with in future.

7. AOB (other progress updates)

- 7.1 Transition to Net Zero document is well underway, hoping to be able to share the first draft by the end of this financial year.
- 7.2 Wenta programme has 29 business registered to date.
- 7.3 Solar Together second cohort had 398 registrations of interest.
- 7.4 HUG 2 has had approximately 10 referrals come through to date.
- 7.5 Just before Christmas we were awarded £3,000 from the Towards Net Zero Carbon funding scheme (from SHARE Museums East) to upgrade the lighting in Mill Green Museum to LED's. Work will be commencing shortly.