

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER SUBGROUP: 06/03/24**

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

1. Climate Officers' Group

1.1 COG meeting held 15th February 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	24 (previously 23)
Ongoing	34
Not commenced	7 (previously 8)
Total actions	99

2.2 It should be noted that many actions are not 'quick wins', and therefore there is not much movement of projects that are 'in progress' or 'ongoing'.

Figure 1. Action status

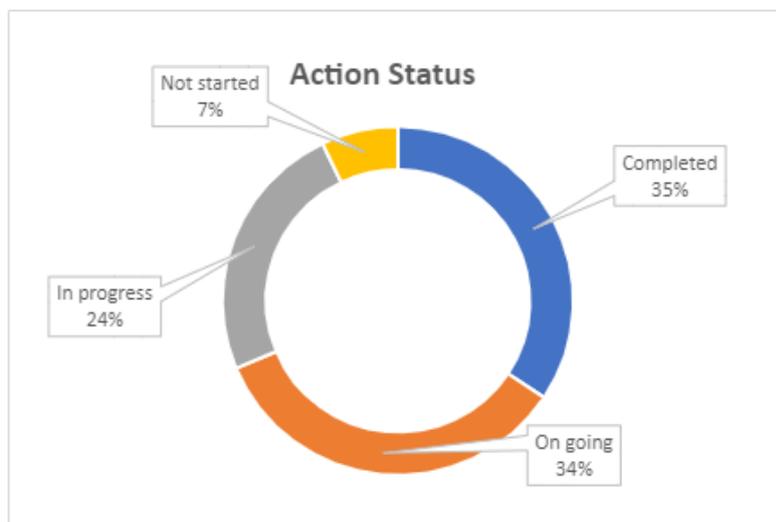
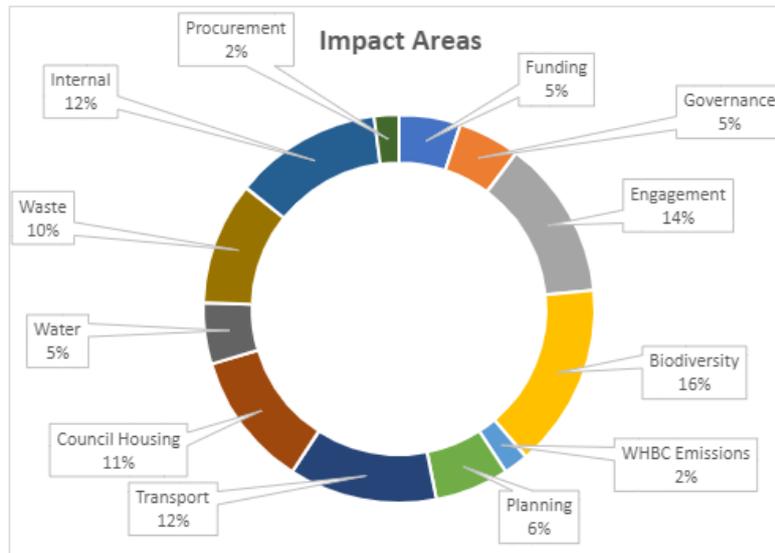


Figure 2. Theme/Impact area



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	74		
Name of lead officers	Elliot Manzie and Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/Service area	Building services and repairs		
Project overview	Work with partners to install water saving devices into social and privately owned homes		
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	We have re established a partnership with Affinity Water to deliver water saving devices to social and privately owned homes in the borough.		

	<p>The work programme is two fold; One aspect will be delivered by Affinity water who are offering home and virtual visits. They are completely free and provide advice and expert help from water-saving experts, as well as installing water saving devices such as showerheads, shower regulators, shower timers, save-a-flush bags, bubblestream kitchen tap regulator, & tap inserts.</p> <p>The second aspect will be delivered by WHBC through;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planned Maintenance 2. Responsive Repair 3. Void properties 4. Decarbonisation works 5. New Developments <p>Affinity Water will provide all the device to WHBC free of charge and our contractors will install them.</p> <p>Estimated water savings will be calculated by Affinity Water so we will be able to measure the impact of this project.</p>
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Project summary update			
Reference number on climate action plan	97 and 98		
Name of lead officer	Andrew Harper		
Directorate/Service area	Transformation		
Project overview	<p>Develop a Sustainable Procurement Strategy that ensures that social, economic, environmental and climate change issues are considered in all procurements and assesses suppliers carbon management and reporting practices.</p> <p>Include sustainability and carbon reduction requirements as part of the assessment criteria for all procurements</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

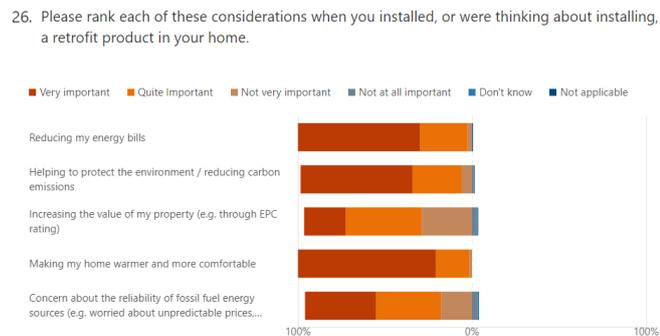
Comments	*THIS UPDATE HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL THE OFFICER RETURNS FROM ANNUAL LEAVE. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO STRATEGY WORKSHOP WHICH WILL FOLLOW THIS MEETING

Project summary update		
Reference number on climate action plan	95	
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy	
Directorate/Service area	Building Services and Climate change	
Project overview	Create a Climate Change Strategy / Transition to Net Zero Document	
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>A workshop will proceed this meeting to discuss the draft of this document.</p> <p>Please note that once the content has been approved, it will be sent to an external designer to make it more aesthetically pleasing, with graphics and pops of colour etc.</p> <p>It is requested that this will be funded from the climate change reserve fund and will be no more than £2,000, and we seek your approval for this.</p> <p>The Climate change officer and comms team do not have capacity to do this, and seeing as the document will be very high profile, there is strong desire to 'get the professionals in'. The document is very informative and to avoid overwhelming the reader it is imperative that sections be broken up and made easy to read by clever graphics.</p>	

4. Other updates

4.1 After the Hertfordshire Sustainability Officers retrofit workshop held in January, HCCSP released a Resident Retrofit Survey (results found [here](#)).

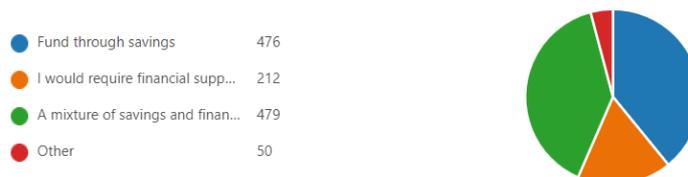
Table 2 Motivation for retrofit measures?



When asked what considerations were made when installing or contemplating installing retrofit measures, helping to protect the environment/reducing emissions came in a close third, behind reducing energy bills. The most popular response was making my home warmer and more comfortable.

Table 3 How to pay for retrofit measures?

28. If you were considering investing in retrofitting your home, how would you expect you might pay for this?

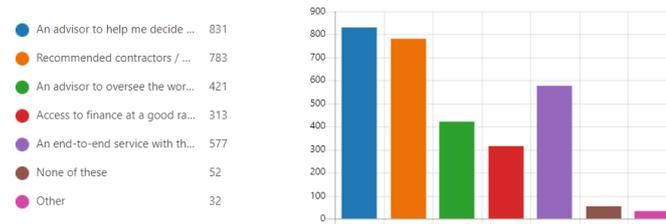


Just over one third of residents would be able to pay for retrofit work through savings.

Table 4 What would assist in installing retrofit measures?

29. There are examples in the UK of local authorities or charities providing a coordinated or concierge service to help building owners install retrofit products in their buildings.

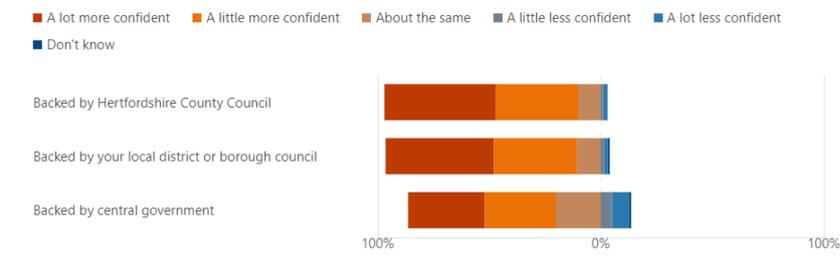
Which of the below elements of a possible coordinated service do you think could be most useful to you when installing a retrofit product/s in your home?



Responses suggest that attaining basic information such as advice on what retrofit measures to install, and the recommendation of contractors would be most useful for resident and nearly half would appreciate a full concierge 'end to end' service.

Table 5 Confidence in a concierge service

30. If this coordinated service was backed by a government body, would this make you feel more or less confident?



Responses suggested that residents would feel 'a lot more confident' if such a concierge service was backed by either county or local districts and boroughs... more so than if it was backed by central government.

Kudos to Helen Burrige, the Projects Lead Officer at HCCSP, who is leading this piece of work.

Next steps will be worked out by officers and presented to HCCSP in due course, and I will of course keep you all updated. I just wanted to share this now, as the work to follow will be an important County wide initiative and I know you are all interested in domestic energy efficiency etc for your constituents. It will be great to get you all on board at this early stage, so you can help promote it!

- 4.2 As you know the Local Plan was adopted, and so the Planning team are working hard on a sustainability SPD. It will not be ready for sharing until after the election period, however, thought it important to make you aware that this piece of work is progressing.

- 4.3 Plans for the Great Big Green Week are coming along nicely, look out for the timetable which will be released in the coming weeks. We hope to see you at some of the events.

- 4.4 In terms of the WHBC Climate Hub, we are working with the Comms team to update the One Welwyn Hatfield webpage. This is all being done behind the scenes offline and will 'go live' once I've sorted the content and the layout has been finalised.