

Part I

Item No.

Main author: Kelly Murphy

Executive Member: Cllr Max Holloway

All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT FOR CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY CABINET PANEL
REPORT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER (RESIDENT SERVICES AND CLIMATE
CHANGE)

WEWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL – CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE REPORT

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines progress being made regarding WHC’s corporate priority on ‘Action on Climate’.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the progress of specific projects/actions within the Climate Action Plan, which is the main tool used to monitor our pathway to net zero as an organisation (2030) and as a borough (2050) and note the wider co benefits of such actions.

- 3 That we publish the recently corporate (2023/24) and borough (2022) carbon footprints on our council websites.

3.0 Explanation

- 3.1 It is important to monitor progress as we transition to net zero. Key updates against the Councils’ action plan are as follows;

Actions 86 and 88 – In relation to general decarbonisation work of commercial portfolio

- Hatfield leisure centre had its inefficient sports hall lighting changed to LED’s. This project is set to result in an 84% reduction in running costs, save 14.7 tonnes CO2 annually moving forwards, and the payback period is just 1.35 years.



Action 54 - In relation to LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding)

- The parking team I continue to work with HCC to implement the LEVI funding. We are awaiting the Partnership Agreement in order to proceed to the next stage.

Action 3 – In relation to funding opportunities

- We have been awarded £20,000 by the National Lottery Community Fund to install some energy generating outdoor gym equipment.
- Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership partnered with Funding4Sport – a specialist sport and physical bid writing service.
- We had to provide an idea that encouraged people to be more active, whilst also improving the environment.
- The location will be King George V playing fields. We hope to install three pieces of equipment, new surfacing and a display board to explain about the renewable energy being generated.
- Users will be able to charge up their phones, tables etc

Action 90 – In relation to ISO 50001 accreditation

- We are in the final stages of writing the documentation which establishes the energy management system.
- The documents define the scope and boundary, internal processes, internal monitoring schedule, training and energy policy.

- Once completed, the system will be audited and verified externally, and certification will hopefully be awarded.
- ISO 50001 will help us monitor energy use across our portfolio, it will flag anomalies in a timely manner, ensure we fix any issues that arise, identify buildings that are not performing optimally, and highlight areas that can be improved. It will ultimately keep us on track to making significant energy reduction as we transition to net zero.

Action 97 – In relation to the Transition to Net Zero Strategy

- The strategy is out for public consultation (so please do share link with constituents as we value everyone's feedback).

Action 34 – In relation to implementing statutory obligations (nature and biodiversity)

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy will answer three questions about nature recovery; What can we do? How can we do it? Where can we do it?
- HCC are currently running engagement session to identify potential sites for the creation or restoration of habitats. They are seeking help on determining sites of importance for nature, ongoing/proposed nature projects and pressures and priorities within Hertfordshire.
- Within the initial engagement period, HCC have hosted 5 in person events around Hertfordshire and two virtual events.
- They have scheduled two more engagement periods which will run September and October and then November and December.

Action 91 – In relation to emissions reporting

- As per another item on the agenda, we have recently received up to date emissions reporting from Team Energy (our energy management consultant who hosts, our energy monitoring platform and conducts annual greenhouse gas assessments).
- We request that we publish the corporate and borough carbon footprints on our council websites.
- Making this information publicly available demonstrates our continued efforts in reaching our net zero targets and ensures we are being robust and transparent on our pathway.
- See appendices A and B for the full reports

Action 5 - Seek and promote schemes around the borough such as Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), Solar together, ECO flex 4/BGIS, BHBH

- We have signed up to support the delivery of Home Energy Retrofit Options (HERO) Plans. They are being offered to Hertfordshire residents for a limited time, by the National Energy Foundation.
- The scheme provides homeowners the opportunity to learn and understand how they can maximise the energy efficiency of their home, achieve greater comfort, cost savings and reduce their carbon footprint.
- A qualified Retrofit Consultant will conduct a home survey and create a bespoke HERO Plan, which will provide independent advice on retrofit measures.
- Homes are being prioritised that are 'difficult to retrofit and are 150m² or less', for instance listed buildings, poorly insulated homes, homes within conservations areas or have solid walls. However, there is other eligibility routes, so residents are urged to contact <https://superhomes.org.uk/beds-herts/> or to call 01908 699991, to see if they can take up this fantastic, limited time opportunity.
- We have promoted this via social media, targeted emails, a press release and NEF have also sent direct mail out to certain homes.
- We have signed up to support and promote the "Let's Go Zero" Climate Action Advisors campaign. The advisors will attend the education setting and provide free tailored advice to help 'green' England's school buildings, transport, menus and more by creating their own climate action plan.
- The service provides an excellent opportunity for education providers to receive expert, bespoke advice on how to become net zero, guidance on best practise and signposting to funding and resources.
- WHBC are supporting and promoting this initiative on our Climate Hub and through social media posts. We have also sent an email to all schools in the borough.
- To find out more visit [Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)

General info

Sustainability Masterclasses

Councillors or senior council officers who have responsibility for delivering their council's ambitions for delivering net zero, climate adaptation or biodiversity targets can now sign up for one of the LGA Sustainability masterclasses to learn

how to take meaningful action and become carbon literacy accredited, with plenty of opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and support.

Councillor Cohort 3: 9:30am - 3:30pm, 30 and 31 January 2025

LGA Sustainability Masterclasses Councillor Cohort 3: 30 & 31 January 2025 (office.com)

Councillor Cohort 4: 9:30am - 3:30pm, 13 and 14 February 2025

LGA Sustainability Masterclasses Councillor Cohort 4: 13 & 14 February 2025 (office.com)

Senior Officer Cohort 3: 9:30am - 3:30pm, 19 and 20 March 2025

LGA Sustainability Masterclasses Senior Officer Cohort 3: 19 & 20 March 2025

Senior Officer Cohort 4: 9:30am - 3:30pm, 29 and 30 April 2025

LGA Sustainability Masterclasses Senior Officer Cohort 4: 29 & 30 April 2025

Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership annual in person event

Save the date. 9 November – 9-4.30 – at Hertfordshire Development Centre, Stevenage.

More details to follow.

Implications

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There will be no legal implications associated with providing this climate update report.

5. Financial Implication(s)

5.1 There will be no immediate financial implications associated with providing this climate update report.

6. Risk Management Implications

6.1 There are no immediate risk management implications associated with providing this climate update report.

7. Communication implications

7.1 There are no communication implications associated with providing this climate update report.

8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are likely to be no security and terrorism implications associated with providing this climate update report.

9. Procurement Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are likely to be no procurement implications associated with providing this climate update report.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 10.1 As per above in section 3.

11. Human Resources Implication(s)

- 11.1 There are likely to be no HR implications associated with providing this climate update report.

12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 12.1 There are likely to be no health and wellbeing implications associated with providing this climate update report.

13. Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 Outlining progress in relation to projects/action from the climate action plan relates to the corporate priorities in the following ways;

- Action on climate change
 - Renew our commitments to be a net zero Council by 2030 (and as a borough by 2050)
 - Step up climate change adaptation and mitigation measures
 - Lead by Example and encourage others to make positive change
 - Increase and promote biodiversity

Projects being delivered are in support of our net zero targets and address climate mitigation and/or adaptation.

A number of the projects mentioned relate to improving biodiversity and community engagement to encourage others to make positive behavioural change.

14. Equalities and Diversity

- 14.1 There are likely to be no equalities and diversity implications associated with providing this climate update report.

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Date: 19.8.24