

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Briefing Note for Climate Change Sub Group – 8 March 2023

Climate Change Emergency UK

Background

In 2021, Climate Emergency UK (CEUK) evaluated the Action Plans for all UK Councils and created the Council Climate Plan Scorecards.

Plans were assessed according to 28 questions across nine sections and marked against specific criteria.

Outcome (Round 1)

The average score for Scottish and English councils was 46% dropping to 31% for Wales and 25% for Northern Ireland. Within that, there is a wide variety of scores across all council types. In England, the highest scoring County Council was only 63% compared to 19 District Councils that scored between 63% and 92%.

The following table sets out the scores for each category that WHBC received.

Category	Score
Governance, development and funding	9/21
Mitigation and Adaptation	3/18
Commitment and Integration	2/7
Community engagement and communications	2/9
Measuring and setting emissions targets	3/5
Co-benefits	1/4
Diversity and Social Inclusion	0/5
Education, Skills and Training	1/5
Ecological Emergency	1/4
Total Score	22/78

Hertfordshire Local Authority scores

Authority	score %
Broxbourne	32
Dacorum	45
East Herts	31
Hertsmere	41
North Herts	31
St Albans	53
Stevenage	37
Three rivers	55
Watford	37
WHBC	27

Round 2

Following on from extensive research and consultation with council staff, councillors, campaigners and other organisations a second round of evaluation is now underway which will be scored against 89 questions across 7 different categories. They are:

Buildings and Heating

Transport

Planning and Land Use

Governance and Finance

Collaboration and Engagement

Biodiversity

Waste reduction and food

Assessment of these criteria takes the form of FOIs, volunteer research and national data, therefore it is not possible to know when we are being evaluated for each element.

The scorecard will be evaluated from February to March and the results will be published in the Autumn 2023.

Weightings

The following table sets out how each category will be scored.

Section	Single Tier	District	County	Northern Ireland
Buildings & Heating	20%	25%	20%	20%
Transport	20%	5%	30%	15%
Planning & Land Use	15%	25%	5%	15%
Governance & Finance	15%	15%	15%	20%
Biodiversity	10%	10%	10%	10%
Collaboration & Engagement	10%	10%	10%	10%
Waste Reduction & Food	10%	10%	10%	10%

Our approach

During the year the Council has strengthened its approach to the Climate Change agenda following the last assessment. A new structure has been put in place with a Director leading Climate Change, supported by a Service Manager and a Climate Change Officer (currently being recruited to). The Council has reviewed and refreshed its action plan with external specialist support and has published this on its website together with a number of case studies highlighting the positive work the Council is doing in this area.

Mark Croft (Asset Management, Service Manager Building Repairs and Climate Change)

Date: 21 February 2023