

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER SUBGROUP: 06/09/23**

**UPDATE REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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1. Climate Officers' Group

- 1.1 Relevant staff members have been appointed to the COG and a new Terms of Reference has been created along with a dedicated MS Team channel.
- 1.2 The first COG meeting was held on 4th September 2023. In future it will be held two weeks ahead of the Members meeting, to ensure most recent updates are reflected in the Members update report.

2. Climate Action Plan Progress

- 2.1 Moving forward the CAP will be reviewed and updated after every Climate Officer's Group Meeting. The table below outlines the status of the 99 actions;

Table 1. Overview of actions in CAP

Completed	30
In Progress	19
Ongoing	32
Not commenced	18
Total actions	99

Figure 1. Action status

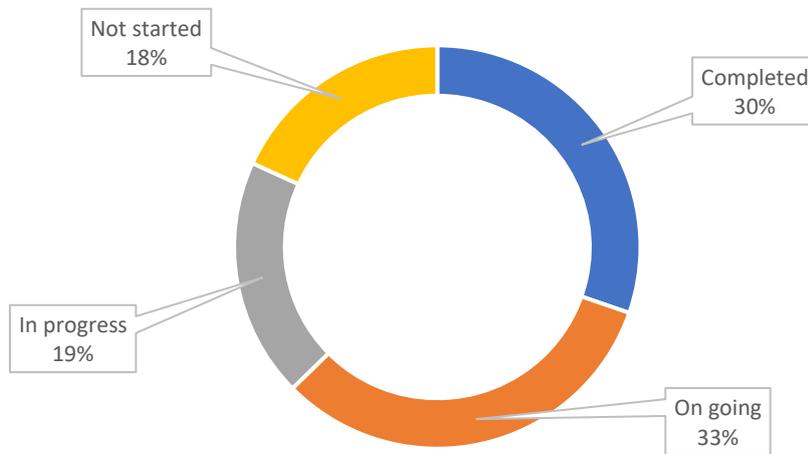
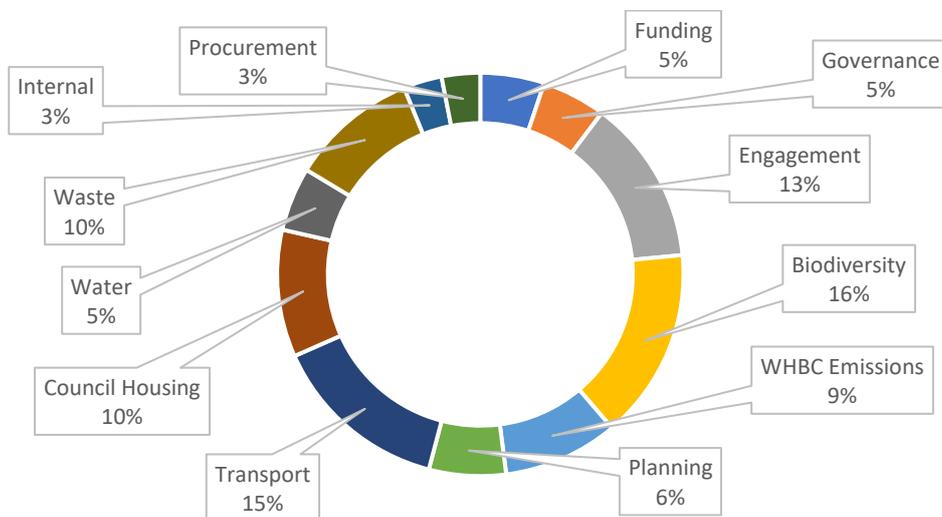


Figure 2. Theme/Impact area



- 2.2 There are 99 actions which fall under 12 themes/impact areas.
- 2.3 We will be focusing on commencing the 18 actions that have not yet started and ensuring actions deemed high priority are driven forward accordingly.
- 2.4 Any new actions that arise from COG meetings will be approved by senior management and will be incorporated into the CAP.

- 2.5 HCCSP will be releasing updated carbon, adaptation, transport, biodiversity, water and behavioural change action plans early next year. Actions which WHBC are responsible for the implementation of, will be identified in a new tab on our CAP. Officers will be assigned ownership of relevant actions and monitored in the same way we monitor our own CAP.

3. Project/Action Update Summary

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

Project update summary			
Reference number on Climate Action Plan	35		
Name of lead officer	Oliver Waring		
Directorate/service area	Resident and Neighbourhood		
Project overview	Maintain up to date management plans for the borough's largest woodlands and open spaces.		
Overall Status	Y	On track	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	N	Off Track	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	N	At risk	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	N	Not started	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	<p>Revised landscape management plans for Danesbury and Singlers Marsh completed.</p> <p>Plans to go to SLT and Cabinet for approval.</p>		

Project update summary			
Reference number on Climate Action Plan	5		
Name of lead officer	Kelly Murphy		
Directorate/service area	Property Maintenance & Climate Change		
Action overview	Promote Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) scheme to residents with a total household income of less than £31,000 and in an EPC rated property D - G to encourage energy efficiency improvements works in 30 off grid homes within the borough (not connected to mains gas supply)		
Overall Status	N	On track	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	N	Off Track	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	N	At risk	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	Y	Not started	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	<p>We are awaiting confirmation on the delivery partner for this scheme. Once this is confirmed (early September) we will be sending letters to approximately 600 homes that have been identified as eligible.</p> <p>Marketing information will be sent to libraires and other community groups and promoted on our two websites and social media platforms.</p> <p>The climate change officer will present the funding opportunity at the Community Inclusion Partnership meeting in October.</p> <p>Greater South East Net Zero Hub and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero have set us a target of generating 97 leads with the hope of getting 30 homes to follow through and have works carried out on their property.</p>		

Project update summary			
Reference number on Climate Action Plan	77		
Name of lead officer	Elliot Manzie		
Directorate/service area	Property Maintenance & Climate Change		
Project overview	Upgrade communal lighting to LED movement detection lighting in all 560 council housing blocks.		
Overall Status	Y	On track	The project is well controlled and is progressing as planned
	N	Off Track	The project has a problem that requires additional focus and management
	N	At risk	The project has a serious problem and needs urgent attention to remedy
	N	Not started	Awaiting approval or staff capacity or funding
Comments	<p>Funding has been approved for 50 blocks.</p> <p>Work will commence in Autumn 2023.</p> <p>The first block will be 101-117 Broadwater Crescent.</p> <p>LED motion sensors will be installed.</p>		

4. Climate Emergency Scorecards

- 4.1 Climate Emergency UK will be releasing the Council Climate Action Scorecards this Autumn. They have arranged a pre-launch briefing session, which officers will attend on 14th September.

74 % of UK council responded to the Right of Reply, including WHBC.

5. Solar Together Scheme Update

- 5.1 During the last meeting, Members requested an update on the Hertfordshire Solar Together Scheme. Below are the most recent figures;

- 670 registrations (640 solar pv, 30 battery-only)
- 140 accepted and paid deposit (131 solar pv, 9 battery-only)
- 49 confirmed installations so far (45 solar pv and 4 battery only)
- 439 panels
- 38 batteries
- 172 KW installed
- 745 tonnes of carbon reduction over 25 years
- £630,738 local resident investment in the scheme
- 81 dropouts (76 solar pv, 5 battery-only)
- Meaning 10 solar pv participants left who will either be installed or cancelled

5.2 We have requested to know if refunds were paid to the 81 dropouts. This data will be available after the scheme closes, which will be in the next few weeks.

5.3 The next scheme will be launched in Autumn 2023 (exact date TBC).

6. HCCSP in person event

6.1 HCCSP will be holding their annual event on Tuesday 7th November. (Save the Date PDF attached).

6.2 The event will provide an opportunity to hear from and quiz expert speakers, interrogate HCCSP's revised plans, hear about projects that are making a difference get involved in new initiatives. You'll have the chance to share your views and learn from others in facilitated breakout sessions, plus there will be plenty of opportunities to network.

7. Additional updates

7.1 Any additional pertinent information that arises between when this report was written and the meeting on 6th September.