

Report Title:	<b>Climate Strategy</b>
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	No - Part I
Member reporting:	Councillor Stimson, Lead Member - Environmental Services, Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet - 28th May 2020
Responsible Officer(s):	Russell O'Keefe Executive Director Chris Joyce, Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth
Wards affected:	All

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## REPORT SUMMARY

1. The council declared an environmental and climate emergency in June 2019. As part of the motion at Full Council, the Royal Borough made a commitment to form a cross party working group to develop a climate strategy to be approved at full Council by June 2020.
2. The cross-party working group has developed a draft strategy and action plan in partnership with key stakeholders and communities across the borough, setting out the approach to tackling the climate emergency.
3. This report is seeking approval to the draft strategy and action plan to be taken forward to Full Council in June to allow the document to be published for public consultation at the appropriate time.

## 1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) **Approve the strategy for public consultation and refer the strategy to Full Council for endorsement.**

## 2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

### Options

**Table 1: Options arising from this report**

Option	Comments
Approve the draft strategy document to be referred to full Council for endorsement as per the recommendation <b>This is the recommended option</b>	The strategy sets out a framework to tackling the climate emergency to support the UK's commitment to reaching net zero in 2050 as well as a series of actions in the short term to begin that journey in partnership with businesses, community groups and residents.
Delay consideration of the strategy in light of the current Covid-19 crisis. <b>This is not recommended</b>	The evidence shows that early action is needed to tackle the climate emergency. Any delay in

Option	Comments
	adopting the strategy is likely to have a negative impact on achieving the UK's objective of being net zero by 2050 and complying with the Paris Agreement.
Do not adopt the strategy and pursue an alternative approach to meeting our obligations <b>This is not recommended</b>	The strategy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and our community. It is based on best practice and policy guidance at a local and national level.

## Background

- 2.1 Climate change is a global challenge. The consequences of not taking action are well understood and the climate movement is gaining momentum in communities, national and local levels of Government across the world. The UN 'Paris Agreement' seeks to limit global average temperature rises to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial period. We could see 1.5°C of unnatural heating as early as 2035 unless there is a rapid fall in emissions.
- 2.2 In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change set out the actions needed to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The recommendations included the need to legislate for the 2050 target, the need for strategies across all sectors of the economy (including international shipping and aviation) as well as the need to meet any targets through domestic effort rather than through international credits.
- 2.3 The Environment Bill 2020 brings into UK law the target of reaching net zero carbon by 2050. It also creates a wider framework for environmental governance, including a new direction for resource and waste management, embeds the principle of biodiversity net gain and improving air quality. It sets into law the principles of the Government's 25-year environment strategy that was published in 2018.
- 2.4 In June 2019, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead declared a climate emergency. As part of that commitment it was agreed the Council would:
- Declare an environmental and climate emergency; whilst noting the council's achievements in reducing its environmental impacts including reducing its energy consumption by 21% and the ambitious ongoing targets to further reduce energy consumption by 10% within four years, adopted in the Energy and Water Strategy 2019-2023;
  - Welcome the Government's commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and call on them to provide additional powers and resources to ensure the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead can help deliver on national targets; and
  - Establish a Cross-Party Working Group to undertake an in-depth review of the council's current carbon footprint and to formulate, consult and agree on a net Zero Carbon Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead by 2050 Strategy in consultation with local stakeholders and partners with a draft strategy to be brought before Full Council within 12 months.

## Developing the strategy

- 2.5 The development of the strategy has been overseen by a Cross-Party Steering Group of members, working with officers from across the council and co-ordinated by the recently formed sustainability team in the Council's Place Directorate.
- 2.6 A series of public meetings between November 2019 and February 2020 were organised to seek the views of key stakeholders and communities. This has played a substantive role in the development of the strategy and the more detailed five-year action plan. The intention is that the strategy has been developed and will be delivered in partnership with our community and residents.
- 2.7 The strategy has been developed in four stages, with each stage of the approach being reviewed and agreed with the Cross-Party Steering Group. This has allowed the strategy to incorporate stakeholder input as well as ensuring it is aligned with policy at a local and national level as well as best practice from other local authorities:

<p><b>Stage 1: Analysis and review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish baselines</li> <li>• Review existing policies, actions and activities</li> <li>• Assess resources and capabilities</li> <li>• Bring together wider policy context (national and local)</li> <li>• Identity key stakeholders and contributors</li> <li>• Explore and gather best practice from elsewhere</li> </ul>	August – November 2019
<p><b>Stage 2: Identify strategic options informed by engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess opportunities and options</li> <li>• Test options</li> <li>• Evaluate and prioritise options</li> </ul>	December 2019 – January 2020
<p><b>Stage 3: Develop draft local strategy, action plan and monitoring framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate first draft of strategy, action plan and monitoring framework</li> <li>• Test drafts through engagement and refine</li> <li>• Carry out consultation on updated draft</li> </ul>	February – May 2020
<p><b>Stage 4: Approval, implementation and review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet and Council approval</li> <li>• Embedded within plans and approach of Council and partners</li> <li>• Regular review, monitoring and refinement</li> </ul>	June 2020 and ongoing

### Key elements of the strategy

- 2.8 Whilst this is the Council's strategy, to reach net zero will require action from everyone including central Government, Local Authorities, businesses, community groups and private individuals. The strategy is intended to set out the actions we will take as a council to support this effort.
- 2.9 The strategy sets out the carbon emission baselines for the council's own activity and operation as well as for Borough-wide emissions. This will allow performance of the strategy to be monitored on an ongoing basis and inform changes to our action plans over time.
- 2.10 The council's carbon emissions inventory has been developed in accordance with the World Resources Institute GHG Protocol, the internationally recognised and established methodology for calculating organisational carbon footprints. Borough wide emissions will be assessed using central Government data provided through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- 2.11 The strategic framework has been based on focussing our action around four key themes. For each theme there is an overall aim and three objectives. The purpose of this framework is to guide development of the actions we are taking to tackle climate change and reach net zero by 2050.

<b>THEME 1: CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b>	
<b>'Reduce waste and increase repair, re-use and recycling in the borough'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Increase reuse opportunities across the Borough
	Improve recycling rates
	Promoting more sustainable food choices
<b>THEME 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	
<b>'Reduce energy consumption and decarbonise supply'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Reduce energy demand
	Decarbonise supply
	Increase renewables generation
<b>THEME 3: NATURAL CAPITAL</b>	
<b>'Improve the natural environment and establish the principle of net gain'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Protect and enhance our natural environment
	Green our towns and urban areas
	Increase awareness of biodiversity
<b>THEME 4: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</b>	
<b>'Enable sustainable transport choices'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Improve health and wellbeing through transport
	Enable the transition to more sustainable vehicle use
	Support innovative smart mobility solutions

- 2.12 The strategy is supported by a series of practical actions that the council will take in the next five years to support the delivery of our strategic objectives. Each action has a target against which we can measure our success, which can then be tracked. In each of the four themes we have identified a key action, which is likely to require more significant resources. These projects are likely to require external funding or will form the first step in achieving a larger aim.

2.13 An annual monitoring report will be prepared setting out the council’s annual carbon emissions and the most recent data for the borough’s carbon emissions. The report will also set out progress against our individual objectives and actions. We will seek to review the strategy on a five-yearly basis with a new action plan and targets.

**3. KEY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Implementation of the strategy will require delivery from across the different cabinet portfolios and council departments. It will need to be delivered with our communities and partners and therefore will require buy-in from across the organisation.

3.2 It is also likely to influence future approach to policy development in a number of service areas. The intention is that the council’s sustainability team will be able to support other services in policy development that support our commitments in relation to climate change. It is also likely to impact future prioritisation of capital funding.

**4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY**

4.1 The financial and economic impact of not tackling climate change is likely to be far greater than the costs of implementing measures. We have recognised there will be a role for the UK Government in funding larger projects. We will continue to lobby for funding pots to be made available to deliver those projects.

4.2 In many areas, such as energy efficiency and reducing energy demand there will be positive financial impacts. The strategy has been designed to make use of existing budgets and to support community led initiatives to deliver change. Where funding for a project is required, it will follow the normal capital funding process to ensure the proposals represent good value for money and based on sound evidence.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 No significant legal implications have been identified.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Table 2: Impact of risk and mitigation**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Uncontrolled risk</b>	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Controlled risk</b>
Stakeholders have a key role in supporting and delivering the strategy without this support the delivery is at risk.	MEDIUM	The strategy has been developed in consultation with stakeholders and the team will continue to engage through delivery	LOW

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Uncontrolled risk</b>	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Controlled risk</b>
Elements of the strategy will require external funding from central Government to meet the target of net zero by 2050	HIGH	We have made clear in the strategy and action plan that key elements will require funding from government. We will continue to lobby and apply for relevant funding when available.	MEDIUM

## **7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- 7.1 **Equalities.** the adverse impact of climate change on society is likely to fall unequally and reinforce existing inequalities. The strategy can be used to tackle issues such as fuel poverty and improving accessibility for those without access to a car. An EQIA is not required at this stage.
- 7.2 **Climate change/sustainability.** The purpose of the strategy is to set out an approach to support the UK Governments net zero target by 2050.
- 7.3 **Data Protection/GDPR.** Adopting the strategy will not have any associated data protection issues.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The strategy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and communities throughout the process. The intention is to hold a formal public consultation following agreement to the draft strategy by Cabinet and full Council.

## **9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 9.1 The intention is to take the strategy to full Council for approval in June 2020 and progress to implementation of the action plan.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 This report is supported by one appendix
- The Draft Strategy Document

## 11. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
Duncan Sharkey	Managing Director	30/04/20	02/05/20
Cllr Donna Stimson	Lead Member - Environmental Services, Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside and Climate Steering Group Chair	30/04/20	03/05/20
Cllr Gerry Clark	Lead Member Infrastructure and Transport	30/04/20	30/04/20
Cllr Julian Sharpe	Climate Steering Group Member	30/04/20	
Cllr Karen Davies	Climate Steering Group Vice Chair	30/04/20	30/04/20
Cllr Wisdom Da Costa	Climate Steering Group Vice Chair	30/04/20	
Russell O'Keefe	Executive Director	29/04/20	30/04/20
Adele Taylor	S151 officer	30/04/20	
Elaine Browne	Head of Law	30/04/20	06/05/20
Mary Severin	Monitoring Officer	30/04/20	30/04/20
Nikki Craig	Head of HR, Corporate Projects and ICT	30/04/20	02/05/20
Louisa Dean	Communications	30/04/20	
Kevin McDaniel	Director of Children's Services	30/04/20	
Hilary Hall	Director Adults, Health and Commissioning	30/4/20	30/04/20
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance	30/4/20	30/04/20

### REPORT HISTORY

<b>Decision type:</b> Key decision: Included in the forward plan in March 2020	<b>Urgency item?</b> No	<b>To Follow item?</b> No
Report Author: Chris Joyce, Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth		

**Royal Borough Windsor and Maidenhead**  
**Climate Strategy**  
**DRAFT**

**May 2020**

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## **FOREWORD**

One year ago the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. The issues driving this decision were, and remain, some of the most challenging ever faced by mankind. We recognised the possibility that, within a few decades at most, our planet could warm to an extent that would make life difficult for many and impossible for some – and that could drive the life of many species up to and beyond the point of extinction. We are all now aware of this but we are also confident that, if we take action and use our human ingenuity, we can turn back this tide.

The past 12 months have allowed us to develop the report that follows. It has involved the work of Councillors and Council officers and staff, as well as people across our community. It is not yet a detailed plan and our next step, if we receive the Council's endorsement, is to take it out to our community for their comments and commitment, and to further develop the specific programmes that will turn our plans into actions.

The commitment we made as a Council in June last year was to achieve a target of net zero carbon output in the Borough by 2050, in line with the Government policy. We are aware that this is our minimum commitment and that, to be sure of addressing the challenges facing us, we need to try to bring the net carbon date forward if possible.

Our experience through the current COVID-19 lockdown has inevitably impacted some of the work on this report, notably the planned public consultation on our strategy. It is also teaching us valuable lessons. We have shown how a society and individual communities can adapt, surprisingly rapidly, to new pressures; how our energies, enterprise and community spirit can achieve what previously seemed impossible.

In adopting this report the Council in its entirety will be demonstrating that this challenge is of paramount importance to us. We must communicate this commitment to our community across the Borough and show, through our actions and the urgency with which we apply them, that we mean business.

We are proud to present this document. It will drive the decisions, resources and actions we make across all of our activities. If we do this we can look forward to a borough that is a healthier, happier, more community-focussed place to live, play and work, and that is showing real leadership in tackling these major challenges. We look forward to delivering each of these promises alongside you.

**Cllr Donna Stimson**, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change, Sustainability, Parks and Countryside and Chair of the Steering Group

**Cllr Karen Davies** Councillor for Clewer East and Vice Chair of the Steering Group

**Cllr Wisdom Da Costa** Councillor for Clewer and Dedworth West and Vice Chair of the Steering Group

**Cllr Gerry Clark** Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and Steering Group Member

**Cllr Julian Sharpe** Councillor for Ascot and Sunninghill and Steering Group Member

## Executive summary

Our vision is to be a Borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a sustainable future, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

We have structured our strategy around four key themes. Each theme has an overarching aim with three objectives. The strategic framework provides the basis for our ongoing activity and investment in the climate strategy.

<b>THEME 1: CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b> <b>‘Reduce waste and increase repair, re-use and recycling in the borough’</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Increase reuse opportunities across the Borough
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	Green our towns and urban areas
	Increase awareness of biodiversity
<b>THEME 4: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</b> <b>‘Enable sustainable transport choices’</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Improve health and wellbeing through transport
	Enable the transition to more sustainable vehicle use
	Support innovative smart mobility solutions

Whilst this is the Council’s strategy and we take responsibility for leading on its delivery, it will only be successful through collaboration. It will take the combined efforts of business, industry, residents and community groups to make this a reality.

The strategy will be delivered through services across the council, co-ordinated through our sustainability team. An annual monitoring report will be prepared setting out progress against our objectives and actions.

The council will utilise a range of internal funding sources to develop and deliver its programme of activity. A challenge of this scale will require funding from central Government. We will also continue to lobby Government to make available specific funding for local authorities to tackle the climate crisis.

Our strategy can only be delivered in partnership with all stakeholders to make net zero by 2050 a reality.

## 1 Context

- 1.1 Climate change is a global challenge. The consequences of not taking action are well understood and the climate movement is gaining momentum in communities, national and local levels of Government across the world. The UN 'Paris Agreement' seeks to limit global average temperature rises to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial period. We could see 1.5°C of unnatural heating as early as 2035 unless there is a rapid fall in emissions.
- 1.2 In June 2019, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead declared a climate emergency. As part of that commitment it was agreed the Council would:
- Declare an environmental and climate emergency; whilst noting the council's achievements in reducing its environmental impacts including reducing its energy consumption by 21% and the ambitious ongoing targets to further reduce energy consumption by 10% within four years, adopted in the Energy and Water Strategy 2019-2023;
  - Welcome the Government's commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and call on them to provide additional powers and resources to ensure the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead can help deliver on national targets; and
  - Establish a Cross-Party Working Group to undertake an in-depth review of the council's current carbon footprint and to formulate, consult and agree on a net Zero Carbon Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead by 2050 Strategy in consultation with local stakeholders and partners with a draft strategy to be brought before Full Council within 12 months.
- 1.3 The Council has also declared motions to support the principles of the Plastic-Free Communities scheme and to support biodiversity in the borough through its maintenance and planting approaches. These have been important in the development of the strategy.
- 1.4 We all have a role to play in achieving this aim and this strategy seeks to set out the actions we will take as the Council. It also sets out how we will work with our partners and communities to deliver our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050.

### **Policy context**

- 1.5 In 2015, an historic international agreement on climate change was reached. Known as the 'Paris Agreement' countries committed to:
- Keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels

- Pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.
  - All countries work together to bring greenhouse gas emissions to zero within the second half of the 21st century
- 1.6 In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change set out the actions needed to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The recommendations included the need to legislate for the 2050 target, the need for strategies across all sectors of the economy (including international shipping and aviation) as well as the need to meet any targets through domestic effort rather than through international credits.
- 1.7 The accompanying technical report set out the key actions the UK needs to take to deliver on its target. This includes accelerated action in the 2020's to largely decarbonise the electricity grid and phase out coal for renewables, to ramp up the electric vehicle market and make decisions in relation to HGVs transition to zero carbon technology. Development of heat networks and efficiency programmes for buildings as well as the need for reducing waste and banning landfill.
- 1.8 The Environment Bill 2020 brings into UK law the target of reaching net zero carbon by 2050. It also creates a wider framework for environmental governance, including a new direction for resource and waste management, embeds the principle of biodiversity net gain and improving air quality. It sets into law the principles of the Governments 25-year environment strategy that was published in 2018.
- 1.9 The climate strategy also needs to be considered in relation to the wider industrial strategy. The Industrial Strategy White Paper published in 2017 sets out the principles of the Governments approach. Many of the actions required to support the five foundations of productivity (ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places), will also support action on climate change. Transition to a low carbon economy will help to maintain quality of life and create prosperity and growth for business. Two of the four grand challenges: Clean growth and the future of mobility are also critical to a low carbon future.
- 1.10 There is a locally approved industrial strategy, developed by the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership. This has been a collaborative process with all the relevant local authorities and sets out our commitment to responsible economic growth. It embeds the importance of the climate emergency as well as the value of place to the ongoing success of the local economy. This means that valuing our natural environment and quality of life of residents will be central to plans to continue to grow the economy.

- 1.11 The Council already has a number of strategies and policies in place to support a reduction in carbon emissions. The energy and water strategy will deliver a 10% reduction in energy related carbon emissions and 5% reduction in water use by 2023. The Local Transport Plan and Cycling Action Plan already set out proposals to help reduce emissions from transport and grow the number of cyclists by 50% by 2028. The submission version of the Borough Local Plan also sets out key objectives and policies on climate change to guide new development as well as a supporting Green and Blue Infrastructure Study.
- 1.12 This strategy will have an influence across every part of the council. It will require officers and members to work together to review policy to ensure that our plans support delivery of reductions in carbon emissions. Our strategies will need to be reviewed in light of our commitments on climate change to support our overall commitment to net zero by 2050. The actions set out in this strategy will support those changes and set policy direction for any new or emerging strategies.

#### **Developing the strategy**

- 1.13 We have prepared the strategy through engagement and involvement of the community. This has involved several public workshops and meetings to seek views and develop ideas and actions for our approach. This included four public workshops and one specific event for school children. We have also sought best practice from other local authorities and other organisations to ensure we learn the lessons.
- 1.14 The strategy has been developed through a cross-party working group of members. The group has been supported by officers from across the council, from various services and with different specialisms.
- 1.15 Delivery of our strategy will be contingent on working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and our community. It will require support and action from central Government to drive forward changes across the whole country. It will also require local action from individual residents, community groups and partners to enable change.

## 2 Baseline carbon dioxide emissions

- 2.1 The council has calculated current carbon emissions using the latest available data to understand where emissions come from and what activities they relate to. This information is key to understanding what actions RBWM can take to reduce emissions, and the part it can play to ensure the Royal Borough can achieve the target of net-zero emissions by 2050. Emissions as they currently stand constitute the baseline against which future performance will be measured.
- 2.2 The council will monitor two sets of emissions; those arising from our own estate and operations, and those arising from activities carried out in the Royal Borough i.e. emissions generated from domestic dwellings and business premises, as well as from travelling within the borough.
- 2.3 Our approach is to make best use of available data in a simple and transparent way that will allow us to focus on the actions we need to take. We will use the data to track progress towards our net zero target and to inform the actions we need to take as we progress the strategy.

### **The council's carbon emissions**

- 2.4 Our carbon emissions inventory has been developed in accordance with the World Resources Institute GHG Protocol, the internationally recognised and established methodology for calculating organisational carbon footprints. RBWM has taken an operational control approach to calculating its emissions.
- 2.5 Emissions represented include: direct emissions from sources controlled by RBWM i.e. fuels consumed at council owned premises and from owned vehicles; emissions from purchased energy produced off site i.e. electricity; and other emissions produced indirectly i.e. mileage undertaken by staff travelling on business.
- 2.6 We commit to expanding the scope of our carbon footprint to include emissions produced indirectly as a consequence of our activities e.g. waste arising from council premises.
- 2.7 Electricity, gas and oil emissions arise from the following operations:
- Street lighting
  - Corporate buildings
  - Car parks
  - Libraries
  - Schools

- Parks, cemeteries and pumping station supplies
- Day care and community centres

2.8 Transport emissions arise from:

- The council fleet of pool cars;
- Mileage undertaken by staff travelling on business

2.9 Due to the fact they fall outside of our operational control, we will not be including the following:

- Leisure centres operated by a third party;
- Investment properties where we have no control over what activities that are undertaken in the buildings;
- Emissions from contractors as they will be responsible for monitoring and managing their own emissions.

2.10 Whilst these are considered out of scope for the council's own direct emissions, it should be noted that they are captured within the borough-wide emissions and therefore can be monitored as part of our commitment

2.11 Carbon emissions calculated most recently represent the Council's carbon baseline, against which future performance will be compared. They are set out here below.

<b>Source</b>	<b>Emissions</b>
Gas	1,415 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Oil	278 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Transport	74 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Electricity	2,818 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,585 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

*Data here has been calculated using 2018/19 consumption data provided by suppliers. Emissions factors are produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and are available here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/847121/Conversion-Factors-2019-Condensed-set-for-most-users.xls](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847121/Conversion-Factors-2019-Condensed-set-for-most-users.xls)*

### **Borough-wide carbon emissions**

2.12 Borough-wide carbon emissions comprise of those deemed under Local Authorities' scope of influence by The Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). They have produced carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission estimates for every local authority-controlled area in the UK. These comprise of:

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors from the usage of electricity, gas, and other fuels
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in the domestic sector from the usage of electricity, gas and other fuels
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced from road transport

2.13 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use and waste are deemed out-with the scope of Local Authority influence.

2.14 The most recent figures provided by BEIS state emissions arising from the Borough total 670.8kt CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 1). This is made up of 190.5kt CO<sub>2</sub> from industry, commercial and agricultural sectors, 257.3kt CO<sub>2</sub> from domestic premises and 223.1kt CO<sub>2</sub> from transport. Domestic emissions make up the largest portion of emissions (38%) closely followed by transport emissions which make up 33%. Industrial, commercial and agricultural emissions make up the final 28%. These emissions will be used as a baseline against which the Royal Borough's future performance will be compared.

2.15 As Figure 1 demonstrates, significant emission savings have been realised in both the domestic sector and industrial & commercial sector. This is broadly a reflection of UK wide trends driven mainly by reductions in emissions from power stations and the decarbonisation of the electricity grid. It is worth noting the transport sector has seen little change and tackling emissions in this area remains a robust challenge. The steps we are taking to address the transport emission challenge, as well as the challenge of reducing emissions in other areas are outlined in the following chapters.

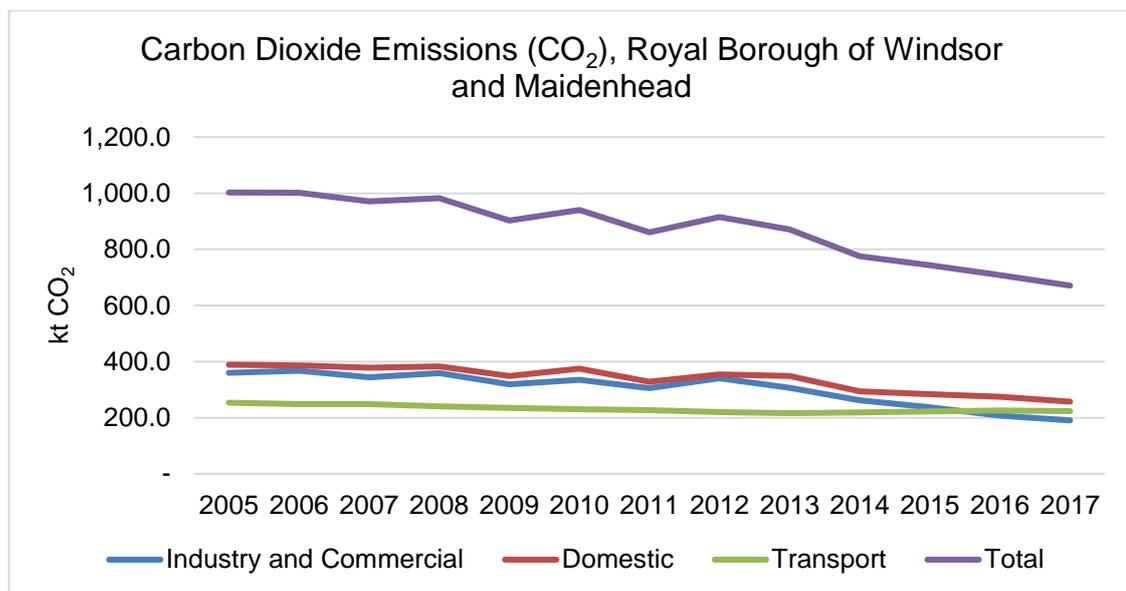


Figure 1

### 3 Vision, aims and objectives

- 3.1 Our vision is to be a Borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a sustainable future, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 3.2 Our strategy has not been prepared to simply deliver carbon emission reductions. It is important that it supports our communities to provide a better quality of life for residents across the borough as well as a thriving economy to support jobs and businesses of the future. It provides the opportunity to support better health and wellbeing outcomes as well as guiding the borough towards the wider government objectives of clean growth.
- 3.3 We have structured our strategy around four key themes. The strategic framework provides the basis for our ongoing activity and investment in the climate strategy.

#### **Theme 1 - Circular Economy**

- 3.4 The efficient and sustainable use of resource is critical to establishing a low carbon future. This theme is focussed on reducing waste, increasing recycling and supporting less resource intensive lifestyles. There are opportunities to support local suppliers, innovation and sustainable approaches to food production.
- 3.5 To achieve net zero we need to reduce consumption, and increase the amount we re-use, recycle or compost. In the Royal Borough, we currently re-use, recycle or compost around 44% of our household waste. This compares to 63% achieved in other similar local authorities.

#### **Theme 2 – Renewable energy**

- 3.6 The Committee on Climate Change, the Government's independent advisory committee on climate change, have reported decarbonising the UK's energy supply and building decentralised heat networks are essential steps to the UK achieving net zero carbon by 2050.
- 3.7 Currently the Royal Borough produces 13,142MWh renewable energy per year. The best similar local authority areas produce 10 times more than this. We will also focus on reducing energy demand, which will be critical to meeting peaks in demand through renewable sources. This also provides the opportunity to tackle important issues such as fuel poverty and improving the energy efficiency of domestic and commercial buildings across the borough.

### **Theme 3 – Natural capital**

- 3.8 Changes to our climate will have a significant impact on our environment. Quality of life and the role of the natural environment in creating great places is a critical part of the success of the Thames Valley economy and to our residents' health and wellbeing. Helping our residents to be able to access green spaces and support their local environment will have a positive impact on mental health. Taking actions to protect and enhance our natural assets will help protect against the effects of climate change too.
- 3.9 The Royal Borough has substantial natural assets with almost 16,000Ha of green and blue space which makes up around 80% of the land within the borough. There are opportunities to protect and enhance these spaces, deliver biodiversity net gain and build partnerships within the community to support these critical assets.

### **Theme 4 – Sustainable mobility**

- 3.10 The transport sector has proved to be the most challenging area to reduce carbon emissions to date. Good connectivity is critical to the economy, whether this is physical infrastructure, transport services or digital. We are committed to finding ways to deliver good connectivity compatible with our commitment to net-zero emissions.
- 3.11 In Windsor and Maidenhead only 12% of people commute by public transport, 3% cycle, and 10% walk. There are opportunities to support the way in which people travel to increase the ability of our residents to walk and cycle with the associated benefits of active travel. These include improved health and wellbeing, better air quality, economic benefits and reducing inequality.
- 3.12 We will also seek to improve public transport, with opportunities to explore the best approach to delivering 'shared mobility'. This may be through improvements to traditional bus and coach services, working with operators to improve rail services or to investigate and introduce new and innovative forms of transport. Where the only alternative is the car we will support the transition to low emission vehicles through the provision of electric vehicle charging.

## Aims and objectives

- 3.13 For each theme we have identified an over-arching aim and three objectives. These have guided the action plan for the first five years and will provide the strategic framework for the development of future action plans.

<b>THEME 1: CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b>	
<b>'Reduce waste and increase repair, re-use and recycling in the borough'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Increase reuse opportunities across the Borough
	Improve recycling rates
	Promoting more sustainable food choices
<b>THEME 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	
<b>'Reduce energy consumption and decarbonise supply'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Reduce energy demand
	Decarbonise supply
	Increase renewables generation
<b>THEME 3: NATURAL CAPITAL</b>	
<b>'Improve the natural environment and establish the principle of net gain'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Protect and enhance our natural environment
	Green our towns and urban areas
	Increase awareness of biodiversity
<b>THEME 4: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</b>	
<b>'Enable sustainable transport choices'</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	Improve health and wellbeing through transport
	Enable the transition to more sustainable vehicle use
	Support innovative smart mobility solutions

## Trajectory to net zero

- 3.14 The council has a key role in reducing the Borough-wide emissions. Communicating the progress made in tackling emissions and setting out a vision for the trajectory of emission reductions is an example of our commitment to leadership. There is currently no recommended pathway to net-zero issued from the UK government. We have therefore set interim targets for a trajectory to net zero by 2050:

Year	Emissions (ktCO <sub>2</sub> )			
	Total	Industry & Commercial	Domestic)	Transport
<b>2020</b>	671	191	257	223
<b>2025</b>	559	159	214	186
<b>2030</b>	447	127	172	149
<b>2035</b>	335	95	129	112
<b>2040</b>	224	64	86	74
<b>2045</b>	112	32	43	37
<b>2050</b>	0	0	0	0

3.15 We commit to reviewing expert guidance produced by the Committee on Climate Change (the UK Government independent advisory body on climate change) and other experts to inform our pathway to net zero. We commit to publishing an updated trajectory within 6 months of the climate strategy being approved by Full Council.

## 4 Action plan

- 4.1 In the following section we set out actions identified to support the realisation of our vision, aims and objectives. The actions were identified by stakeholders during workshops, and expert opinion. The community that collectively makes up the Royal Borough has to work together to identify the most cost-effective course of action.
- 4.2 We as the council commit to taking the actions below in an effort to support the Borough to decarbonise in the quickest and most effective way possible. To ensure this approach remains compatible with the commitment to reach net zero, emissions will be monitored on an annual basis and actions will be evaluated against their capacity for decarbonisation versus the resources required to deliver them. Each action has a measure of success which will be subject to regular reporting. Further details are set out in the chapter on monitoring.
- 4.3 To ensure the actions taken best protect the Royal Borough residents, we will carry out a climate risk assessment to map out the likely impacts the Borough will face. We will do this in collaboration with experts such as the Environment Agency, Water and Energy Utilities, Infrastructure Operators and Businesses to leverage work already carried out in this area. We will then prioritise actions that mitigate the risks identified.
- 4.4 Actions have been assigned to each of our four themes. Each of the four themes contains a key action. This is a project which is likely to require external funding or will form the first step in achieving a larger aim.

## Circular Economy

- 4.5 The key focus of our circular economy workstream will be a programme of activity focussed on reducing waste and increasing recycling rates in the borough. We will investigate the potential for reducing waste collections as a means of increasing recycling in the borough, supported by a series of campaigns to support recycling. Our proposed actions are as follows:

Objectives	Action	Measure of success
<b>KEY ACTION: To review household waste collection regime to deliver reductions in waste</b>		To prepare a review of the benefits of recent changes to waste collections and make recommendations on future provision.
Increase reuse opportunities across the Borough	Hold repair cafes for residents to attend	Implement at least one community trial of 3 events in 2020/21 with the ambition to spread across the Royal Borough
	Open and support plastic free refillable shops	Promotion in resident communications. Pop up space provided in communities
	Reduce single use plastic usage	Review, update and adopt a single-use plastics strategy based on the draft being developed by Plastic Free Maidenhead and Plastic Free Windsor.
	Holding clothing swap shops in schools	Pilot sale to be held in 3 schools
	Investigate the feasibility of a reuse shop associated with the household recycling and waste site.	Prepare a feasibility study and business case.
Improve recycling rates	Calculate emissions produced from household waste	Develop a waste baseline and metrics for the Royal Borough by 2020
	Improve education about what can be recycled	Continue to Support WAM Gets Recycling
	Increase availability of specialist recycling facilities	Maidenhead Library to house mini specialist recycling centre as trial
Promoting more sustainable food choices	Encourage more plant-based food and promote buying local and seasonally	New campaign of promotion and including a food section in resident communications and newsletters.
	Provide opportunities for people to grow their own	Review of existing land and allotments policy to look for opportunities to increase availability
	Help reduce food waste	Promote food waste facilities
	Partner with local suppliers to promote sustainable food production and education	Identify a partner to work with to develop a programme of education

## Renewable energy

- 4.6 Both decarbonising the energy supply and reducing energy demand are required to meet a net zero target. A key focus will be to review our current energy consumption within the council estate and identify opportunities to reduce it. Our proposed actions are as follows:

Objectives	Action	Measure of success
<b>KEY ACTION: Review options to reduce energy demand from the Council's estate</b>		<b>To reduce energy demand from council sources by 10% by 2023 and agree a new stretch target to 2025.</b>
Reduce energy demand	Improve energy efficiency of domestic premises	Year on year improvement in uptake of ECO funding achieved  Enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector through the use of EPCs  Support energy companies to target fuel poor or vulnerable households with insulation  Increased take-up of Flexible Home Improvement Loans
	Develop a heat and energy efficiency strategy for the Royal Borough	Funding application for strategy development through Local Energy Partnerships (LEPs) and/or Heat Network Delivery Unit produced
	Reduce energy and water demand in new build	Prepare a new SPD based on best practice to support new targets for the Local Plan.
Decarbonising Supply	Encourage renewable energy uptake amongst council staff and Royal Borough residents	Encourage switching of domestic energy tariffs to green supplies. Achieve 100 switches annually.
	Work with housing associations to agree a programme of retrofitting with low carbon heating	Monitoring framework to be included in the Councils annual monitoring report.
	Moving oil heated homes to renewable heat alternatives	Host an outreach workshop and provide information to off grid homes on alternatives to encourage adoption
	Encourage businesses and industry to decarbonise their energy supply to reduce emissions	Engage with the Chamber of Commerce and set up a forum for collaboration
Increase renewables generation	Increase council building capacity for renewable generation	Feasibility study of all council properties completed by end of 2022.
	Scope heat network potential across the Borough	Feasibility study of opportunities completed by end of 2023.
	Support community led renewable projects	Work with MaidEnergy and others to install 5 new renewable systems a year
	Increase requirement for renewables generation in new build	Prepare new guidance through an SPD based on best practice.

## Natural Capital

- 4.7 Our key action is to develop, establish and deliver a Natural Capital Programme. This will require close collaboration with key landowners and others stakeholders such as the National Trust, Crown Estate, farming businesses and Thames Water. It will build on the recommendations of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Study and the work of community groups to promote local biodiversity action plans. Our proposed actions are as follows:

Objectives	Action	Measure of success
<b>KEY ACTION Implement a new Natural Capital programme to deliver biodiversity net gain</b>		<b>To have an action plan by June 2021 including borough-wide biodiversity action plans.</b>
Protect and enhance our natural environment	Work with partners to establish a Nature Recovery Network	Prepare a funding bid by December 2020 to seek funding
	Engage community groups to enable a rewilding programme	To have launched the programme and agreed targets by December 2020
	Implement a tree planting scheme	To have planted 15,000 new trees by 2025
Green our towns and urban areas	Work with developers to provide green infrastructure in new town centre developments	Ensure all new town centre development provides some form of green infrastructure in any public realm
	Increase tree cover in the Royal Borough	Seek funding for tree planting
	To investigate the benefits of 'greening' infrastructure through ideas such as living lamp posts, green walls and/or 'city trees'	Implement one new pilot by 2021
Increase awareness of biodiversity	Provide biodiversity training to planning officers	Ensure planning officers have been provided with biodiversity training by 2021
	Set up biodiversity and climate education sessions at Braywick Nature reserve	Run training sessions for local businesses and education sessions for local schools
	Offer a volunteering programme and awareness training for Council employees and partners	Set up a scheme by December 2020
	To develop a biodiversity baseline and metrics for the borough based on the work already undertaken by the local 'Wild Groups'	To have agreed baseline measures and metrics by June 2021
	Encourage wildlife friendly gardening	Set up a community competition by 2020

### Sustainable mobility

4.8 Transport is a key contributor to carbon emissions across the UK and within the borough. Whilst other areas of the economy have seen levels of emissions steadily falling, transport emissions have seen limited reductions. To support delivery of our net zero target by 2050, we will need to produce a new Local Transport Plan with clear carbon reduction targets. This will focus on opportunities to decarbonise the transport fleet, creating a better environment for walkers and cyclists and creating new opportunities for shared mobility and public transport.

4.9 Our proposed actions are as follows:

Objectives	Action	Measure of success
<b>KEY ACTION: To prepare a new Local Transport Plan to support carbon reduction targets</b>		To prepare a new Draft Local Transport Plan, which supports the objectives and actions set out below, for consultation by June 2021.
Improve health and wellbeing through transport	Remove barriers to walking and cycling through delivery of cycle action plan	Delivery of the cycling action plan routes. Identify a new process to request 20mph zones by August 2020.
	As part of development planning, identify opportunities for people to walking and cycle more in new 'growth areas'	To ensure site promoters have developed additional walking and cycling plans for Ascot, South West Maidenhead and Maidenhead Town Centre.
	Reduce transport emissions at sensitive locations	No idling' zones outside schools investigated by April 2021
Enable a transition to more sustainable vehicles use	Set new emissions standards for taxis and buses	Considered as part of the new Transport Plan
	Increase electric vehicle charging capability in RBWM	Identify a partner and funding model to deliver sufficient charging points to meet demand, monitored through the council's annual monitoring report. Parking SPD to be adopted setting out standards for electric vehicle charging in new developments.
	Lower emissions of council owned transport	Replace council pool cars with low emission alternatives when contract is renewed
	Launch a car sharing scheme for RBWM.	Provide a recommendation for a borough-wide scheme by December 2022
Support innovative smart mobility solutions	Investigate options for demand responsive transport in the borough and implement a trial through external funding.	To have prepared a funding bid to Government in the next available bus funding opportunity.
	Facilitate roll out of digital infrastructure in the borough to enable flexible working.	Identify partners to provide 5G and superfast broadband.
	Trial Smart City concepts in RBWM.	To have implemented a trial by December 2023

## 5 Implementation

- 5.1 Our strategy has been developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to make net zero emissions by 2050 a reality.
- 5.2 Whilst this is the Council's strategy and we take responsibility for leading on its delivery, it will only be successful through collaboration. It will take the combined efforts of business, industry, residents and community groups to make this a reality. There is also a substantive role for central Government and regional organisations such as the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 5.3 The strategy will be delivered through services across the council, co-ordinated through our sustainability team. Responsibility for delivery will be split across council members portfolios. A delivery plan will be prepared that sets out the programme for delivery of the action plan, with funding streams and key delivery partners identified.

### **Monitoring**

- 5.4 An annual monitoring report will be prepared setting out the council's annual carbon emissions and the most recent BEIS data for the Royal Borough's carbon emissions. The report will also set out progress against our objectives and actions. This tool can be used collectively by the community that makes up the Royal Borough to understand performance against target.
- 5.5 Performance will also be assessed against a carbon reduction trajectory to 2050, which will be published 6 months after this strategy has been approved by full council. It is expected the trajectory will comprise of emission reduction targets from 2025 to 2050 in 5-year increments.
- 5.6 We will seek to review the strategy on a five-yearly basis with a new action plan and targets. We will also review the scope of emissions included in the target based on latest government guidance.

### **Governance**

- 5.7 The intention is that the Cross-Party Climate Steering Group will continue to oversee the development and delivery of the strategy. Delivery of projects will be integrated into existing governance structures such as our capital funding processes.
- 5.8 The steering group will be supported by a new Stakeholder Advisory Board that will meet on a six-monthly basis to support monitoring and delivery of the action plans. The board will be made up of key community stakeholders covering each of the four strategic themes. This will provide the opportunity to challenge and review the action plans and make recommendations on changes to the action plans.

## **Funding**

- 5.9 A challenge of this scale will require funding from central Government. The Council will seek to make maximum use of any opportunities to bid for funding. We will also continue to lobby Government to make available specific funding for local authorities to tackle the climate crisis.
- 5.10 The council will utilise a range of internal funding sources to develop and deliver its programme of activity where appropriate. This will include individual service revenue budgets, our capital programme and developer funding such as S106 funding and the community infrastructure levy.