

Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 5 December 2022

Title: Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning

Cabinet member: Councillor Colin Swansborough, Cabinet member for place services, climate change, heritage assets and special projects.

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To note progress to date and approve publication of the Annual Update (Appendix 1)

Decision type: Key

Officer recommendation(s): (1) To note the 'Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030' Annual Update as attached in Appendix 1 for publication on the website

(2) To note progress to date on the strategy action plan as contained within Appendix 1

Reasons for recommendations: To progress towards the aims of achieving Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030 as resolved in July 2019

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper reports on the progress of the Climate Emergency Strategy adopted two years ago and action plan that was approved by cabinet in November 2020 as a result of the Climate Emergency Declaration made at Full Council in July 2019. The strategy sets out the borough wide vision for Eastbourne Carbon Neutral by 2030 (ECN2030).
- 1.2 Appendix 1 has been brought forward for approval by Cabinet and contains detail that is summarised within this report. The Appendix will be placed as a standalone document on the council's climate change web page and will sit alongside the full strategy.

- 1.3 The report provides a summary emission report for the year 2021/22 along with a progress summary against the baseline year 2018/19.

The baseline and all subsequent years have been adjusted to account for gas consumption at the Congress Theatre & Welcome Building complex and for gas and electricity consumption at the Sovereign Centre.

- The emissions trend shows that there has been an overall 15% reduction on the baseline year.
- There has been a 16% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and 15% decrease in electricity consumption.
- There has been a reduction in fuel use of just over 15% (this is predominantly fleet diesel)

- 1.4 Scope 3 (indirect) emissions data has been expanded, reporting this year fuel use by 2 contractors- grounds maintenance and housing maintenance. Work continues to improve the amount and quality of the data collected to enable the council to manage and reduce those emissions for which we are responsible.

- 1.5 The carbon footprint of the borough for 2020 has reduced by 14.5% from 2018

For the first time BEIS have reported LA data in CO₂ equivalents but they have only back dated this re-calculation to 2018.

The borough has had an annual reduction of 8% on 2019 emissions.

The Tyndall Centre and the University of Manchester have carried out analysis that recommends a minimum of a 12.3% per year reduction to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. The borough as a whole is a long way off meeting this year on year reduction.

- 1.6 Partnership working remains key to the success of any local authority's climate change and carbon reduction ambitions and this is no different for Eastbourne Borough Council. Working with our partners such as: the Eastbourne ECO-Action Network; the Sussex Local Nature Partnership; the South Downs National Park and the Universities of Brighton and Sussex; as well as our neighbouring local authorities and other community groups, we have progressed regional and local projects regarding:

- the decarbonisation of social housing;
- the retrofitting and decarbonisation of private sector housing using LAD grant funding;
- enabled funding bids by others, in particular Treebourne;
- progressed a South East LEP nature based solutions project for carbon capture and biodiversity net gain;
- enabled 53 homes to install PV panels through Solar Together;
- Begun the delivery of 18 electric vehicle chargepoints aimed at residents within 3 of our car parks;

- Enabled the Sustainable Business and Solar Summit to take place in November which was organised by Eastbourne ECO-Action Network volunteers;
- Turned areas of Council land into wildflower meadows;

amongst many other things that are detailed within the update to the Theme Areas and the Action Plan Update within Appendix 1.

2 Update to the national policy context

- 2.1 Ongoing monitoring of the national policy context continues – in light of the change of Prime Minister, recent policy changes and the High Court’s ruling on the government’s Net Zero Strategy – to understand the full implications on the Council’s plans.

3 Evidence base update

- 3.1 The evidence base is updated on page 4 of Appendix 1. It highlights the main climate risks that face the UK, highlights the Climate Action Tracker as a tool for monitoring the government’s progress on mitigation targets, policies and actions, and briefly summarises the findings of the new IPCC report on Climate Change ‘Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability’.

Main points to note:

- UK adaptation action has failed to keep up with the worsening reality of climate risk
- Acting now is cheaper than dealing with the consequences later.
- The UK is not on track to meet its net zero by 2050 target due to a lack of practicable policy and real action.
- Climate change has already caused substantial damage and irreversible species and habitat losses.

4 Eastbourne Borough Council Carbon Emission Report

- 4.1 This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial year 2021/22 along with a comparison with the baseline 2018/19
- 4.2 From 2018/19 to 2021/22 the Council’s scope 1 & 2 emissions have reduced by 15% in total.

This year we are reporting for the first time, emissions from: the Sovereign Centre- Gas, Electricity and Water; and the gas consumption of the Congress Theatre/Welcome building complex. Due to the scale of the emissions from these two buildings it has resulted in a re-calculation of each year reported to date including the base year. The information in table 1 has been updated as a result and cannot be compared to previous updates.

- There has been a 16% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and 15% decrease in electricity consumption.
- There has been a reduction in fuel use of just over 15%.

- Electricity emissions are reported using the standard grid electricity factor. The Council continues to purchase a REGO backed green tariff supply.

Table 1. Eastbourne Borough Council emissions table

<i>Emissions source</i>	<i>Tonnes CO2e</i>			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Gas	2941	3094	2194	2484
Liquid Fuel	815	751.9	779	690.5
Electricity	902.5	880	613	772
Total	4658.5	4725.9	3586.0	3946.5

5 Scope 3 emissions

- 5.1 The Council continues to expand upon its Scope 3 emissions reporting. This year's report is contained within Table 3 of Appendix 1.

The Council acknowledges that our greatest source of emissions will be from our purchasing and contracting and continues to improve reporting methods. The Council is starting to include clauses in contracts requiring suppliers to report emissions attributed to the contract. We aim to include similar clauses in more contracts moving forward.

Certain emissions, for example from the cleaning contract will no longer be sought for Scope 3 reporting as these services have been brought in-house so the emissions will, from 2022/23 fall under the Council's Scope 1 & 2

6 Eastbourne Borough Carbon Emissions Summary

- 6.1 This information can be found on page 12 of Appendix 1.

7 Airborne Carbon Emissions Estimate 2022

- 7.1 For the first time this year the Council has collected sufficient data to estimate the carbon emissions that have resulted from the Airborne airshow held over 4 days 18-21 August 2022.

Data was collected from traders (mileage), staff (mileage), display personnel (mileage), waste collected (tonnes), on-site generated power (litres consumed), air display teams (airshow fuel consumption as well as transportation/travel fuel and smoke).

Electricity and water consumption data has not been collected but is accounted for in the scope 2 and scope 3 emissions for the council as reported in section 2 of Appendix 1 and summarised in Table 1 above.

- Audience over the 4 days was estimated at 750,000
- Audience travel forms 96% of the total carbon footprint of the event
- Aircraft displays account for 3.7% of the carbon footprint

- Use of renewable diesel (known also as HVO) prevented 7.5 tonnes of CO₂e emissions
- A rail strike prevented the audience travelling by train and increased private car use.
- The event showcased the world's first electric plane.

7.2 Next steps:

- Create Airbourne Environmental Policy
- Create Action Plan to further reduce environmental impact
- Continue to work towards a greener future and sustainable tourism
- Determine offset policy and offset 2022 emissions if possible.

8 The Climate Emergency Strategy -Theme and Action Plan Update

8.1 The strategy currently contains 67 actions across 8 action areas. please see the full spreadsheet in section 5 for more information of actions within each area. 47 actions (70%) are currently reported as green, 16 (24%) are amber and 4 (6%) are red.

Please see Appendix 1 (page 28 onwards) for the full updated action plan.

9 Financial appraisal

9.1 There are no immediate Financial Implications arising from this report. However, many of the actions within this plan will have financial implications for the Council. Before proceeding with any of them, financial evaluation will be undertaken to assess the costs and benefits. As work develops and further funding is required, schemes will be subject to individual business cases as appropriate in compliance with the Council's Budget and Capital Strategies. The need to pursue and secure external grant funding, collaborating with other organisations is recognised.

10 Legal implications

10.1 The Climate Change Act of 2008 legally binds the government to carbon budgets that set limits on the UK's greenhouse gas emissions during five-year periods. They include a target to be over three quarters of the way to net zero in the next 13 years. 'Net zero' means that the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK is equal to or lower than the amount of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere in the UK. The UK has also committed internationally to reduce its emissions by at least 68% by 2030 from 1990 levels, as part of its 'Nationally Determined Contribution' (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

In October 2021, BEIS issued The Net Zero Strategy, which sets out the government's policies and proposals to ensure the UK continues to meet its carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act 2008 and achieves its nationally determined contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. It also sets out the government's vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050.

In 2022, ClientEarth joined with Friends of the Earth and Good Law Project in applying for a judicial review of the Net Zero Strategy, on grounds that the

government had failed to show that its policies will reduce emissions sufficiently to meet its legally binding carbon budgets.

They also alleged that the Strategy failed to include enough information about the policies and their expected effects to allow Parliament and the public to Page 60 properly scrutinise its plans. In consequence they held these failings meant the Government had breached its legal duties under the 2008 Act.

In its July 2022 judgment, the court found that the Secretary of State had failed to comply with his obligations under the Climate Change Act 2008 s.13 and s.14 in relation to the government's Net Zero Strategy. He had made decisions on whether the proposals and policies in the strategy would enable carbon budgets to be met without being briefed upon crucial information about the contribution to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from individual policies. In reporting to Parliament under s.14, he had also failed to explain how his policies were intended to meet emissions targets.

The government must now update its climate strategy to include a quantified account of how its policies will actually achieve climate targets. These will have to be based on a realistic assessment of what it actually expects them to deliver. The updated strategy will have to be presented to Parliament for scrutiny by MPs.

As mentioned at paragraph 2.1 above, the Council should keep au fait with these developments to ascertain what implications there could be at borough level.

Legal advice dated 28.11.22

Legal ref: 010465-EBC-OD

11 Equality analysis

- 11.1 An Equality Analysis already exists for this topic : Cabinet paper November 2020: [Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: A Plan for Action](#)

Further analysis is done on a project by project basis.

12 Environmental sustainability implications

- 12.1 The strategy is key to delivering the carbon neutrality goal of Eastbourne borough Council by 2030.
It will seek to ensure that carbon implications are taking into account throughout the Council and in all decisions.

Implementation of actions to achieve carbon neutrality is key to mitigate the predicted negative impacts of climate change on the environment, economy and communities.

13 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Climate Emergency Annual Report- December 2022

14 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- Cabinet paper November 2020: [Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: A Plan for Action](#)
- Cabinet Paper November 2021: Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Update Report 2021