

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	11 November 2021
Title:	Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy- Annual update 2021
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Regeneration
Cabinet member:	Councillor Matthew Bird, Cabinet member for sustainability
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):	<p>(1) To approve the Climate Change and Sustainability Annual Update as attached in Appendix, 1 for publication on the Council's website</p> <p>(2) For Cabinet to note progress to date on the strategy action plan as contained within Appendix 1</p>
Reasons for recommendations:	To progress the aims of the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration (2019) to make the Council Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and to assist the same aim to be achieved within the wider district.
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Kate Richardson Post title: Strategy & Partnership Lead- Sustainability E-mail: kate.richardson@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01323 415202

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper reports (through Appendix 1) on the progress of the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and action plan that was approved by Cabinet in February 2021, as a result of the Climate Emergency Declaration made at Full Council in July 2019. The strategy sets out the vision for a net zero carbon council and district by 2030.

This is being published in November which coincides with the UN Climate Summit, COP26, being hosted in Glasgow.

- 1.2 Appendix 1 has been brought forward for approval by Cabinet. The Appendix will be placed as a standalone document on the council climate change web page and will sit alongside the full Strategy.
- 1.3 The carbon emission report within Appendix 1 shows that there has been a 15% reduction on the total baseline and a 11.4% reduction in fleet emissions.
- 1.4 The carbon footprint of the district has reduced by 5.2% based on BEIS data.

No analysis is carried out on the district data and it is provided for monitoring purposes only this year. A more in-depth analysis of district and council emissions will be carried out in 2024/25. This should enable a review of the figures pre, during and post Covid-19 lockdowns.

- 1.5 Partnership working remains key to the success of any local authority's climate change and carbon reduction ambitions and this is no different for Lewes District Council.

We have progressed many regional and local projects working with our partners including:

- Decarbonising social housing with the Greater Brighton Economic Board and the University of Brighton;
- Hydrogen Sussex
- Ouse Valley CARES project with the South Downs National Park and the Universities of Brighton and Sussex;
- Alternative financing with the University of Sussex;
- as well as our neighbouring local authorities and other community groups, such as Seaford Environmental Alliance and Lewes Climate Hub.

2 Update to the national policy context

- 2.1 A raft of new strategies and policies have come out recently and are detailed within Appendix 1 page 3. Most notably the Net Zero Strategy was published in October and has various associated policies and strategies within it. These are currently being reviewed by the council for their impact on our own actions and targets.

3 Evidence base update

- 3.1 Two new bodies of evidence have been released this year. The first is that of the UK's Climate Change Committee's [independent advice report](#) produced as part of their 5 year Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) and the second is that of the IPCC Working Group I report on the physical science underpinning past present and future climate change '[AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)'
- 3.2 Key findings of these reports:
- Of the 61 key UK climate risks and opportunities more than half need more action to address them.
 - More than a third of UK risks have increased in their urgency score regarding a need for action, including issues such as:

Impacts on people's health;
Impacts on coastal communities and businesses;
Reduction in water supplies;
The risks posed by flooding, erosion, pests and invasive species;
The impacts on the natural environment.

- It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.
- The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years

4 Lewes District Council Carbon Emission Report

4.1 This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 along with a comparison of these years with the baseline 2018/19.

4.2 There has been a reduction in the council's scope 1 & 2 emissions of just under 15% since 2018/19.

There full report is available in Appendix 1 pages 7-10

4.3 Scope 3 emissions

The Council continues to expand upon its Scope 3 emissions reporting. This year's report is contained within Table 4 of Appendix 1 (page 11).

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.

5 Lewes District Carbon Emissions Summary

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

6 The Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy -Strategic Action Areas Update

6.1 The strategy currently contains 91 number of actions, of which 76 are active or completed across 7 action areas. A summary of work to date is below.

61% of all actions are currently reported as green or completed, 34% are amber and 5% (4 actions) are red.

Please see Appendix 1 page 18 for the full updated action plan and set of indicators.

- 6.2 Some key actions have included:
- Setting up of the Walking & Cycling Forum
 - Social Housing ‘Decarbonising Our Housing Stock’ project
 - Adoption of Biodiversity Strategy
 - Development of the email ‘Climate Action Bulletin’
 - Development of a Community food growing policy
 - Trialling low carbon waste collection vehicles
 - Expansion of the Sussex Flow Initiative to investigate wetland projects and carbon storage
 - GIS woodland opportunity mapping
 - Adoption of a community wealth building strategy
 - Citizens and Climate- alternative financing for climate action projects
 - Pledging to investigate launch of Climate Bond within 18 months of COP26
 - Signatory to UK100’s ‘Net Zero Pledge’

7 Financial appraisal

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from the report
Finance consulted 12.10.21

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 In the measures it takes across its own functions and estate, and those it facilitates with partners on a district-wide basis, the Council must have regard to the emerging legislative framework alluded to in section 2 of this report. In particular, the Council will need to consider its obligations under the Environment Bill once it becomes law.

Lawyer consulted 11.10.21

Legal ref: 010479-LDC-OD

9 Equality analysis

- 9.1 An equality Analysis already exists for this topic: Cabinet paper February 2021: [Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2021](#)

10 Environmental sustainability implications

- 10.1 The strategy is key to delivering the net zero carbon goal of the 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.

11 Contribution to Community Wealth Building

- 11.1 Community Wealth Building Is a key strand of the climate change action plan. Buying more locally, employing local staff, and encouraging local investment in

our projects helps increase, and keep, wealth and jobs within our community whilst reducing carbon emissions.

12 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Lewes District Council Climate Change & Sustainability Update November 2021 – for publication on the website

13 Background papers

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

- Cabinet paper February 2021: [Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2021](#)