

Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 04 December 2023

Title: Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report

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

Cabinet member: Councillor Jim Murray, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Water Champion

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): Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the 'Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030' Annual Update as attached in Appendix 1 for publication on the website
- (2) Note progress to date on the strategy and action plan as contained within Appendix 1
- (3) Approve to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Lead Member for Climate Change, to complete a light touch refresh of the Climate Change Strategy and action plan in readiness for the new financial year 2024/5.

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

Officer recommendation to the Scrutiny Committee

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- 1.1 This paper reports on the progress of the Climate Emergency Strategy and action plan adopted two years ago 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 Neutrality 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 2022/23 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 and Welcome Building, and for gas and electricity consumption at the Sovereign Centre.

- The emissions trend shows that there has been an overall 20% reduction on the baseline year.
 - There has been a 16% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and 30% decrease in electricity consumption.
 - There has been a reduction in fuel use of just over 22%.
- 1.4 Scope 3 (indirect) emissions data has been expanded. Work continues to improve the amount and quality of the data collected to enable the council to manage and reduce those emissions for which it is responsible.
 - 1.5 The carbon footprint of the borough for 2020 has reduced by 14.5% from 2018.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), now Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has reported local authority 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, the council has progressed regional and local projects regarding:
 - Publication of Decarbonising our Housing Stock: Roadmap for 2030 zero carbon

- Enabled funding bids by others, in particular Treebournes' tree tagging / tree champion scheme to care for the 1000 streets planted in the town.
- Provided supporting evidence for Eastbourne Food Partnerships Sustainable Food Places bronze award application.
- Secured funding for 84 retrofits from Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2.
- Development of an affordable housing scheme in the town centre with low carbon heating, a green roof, and sustainable travel plan.
- Participation in Solar Together, a bulk purchase solar PV and storage scheme, 87 residents and 2 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) have accepted offers from the scheme (as of October 2023).
- Delivery of 18 electric vehicle charge points aimed at residents with no access to off street charging in 3 council car parks.
- Enabled the Sustainable Transport Summit to take place on November 17th, organised by Eastbourne ECO-Action Network volunteers.
- Production of Carbon Neutral e-bulletin.

Other actions are detailed within the update to the Theme Areas and the Action Plan Update within Appendix 1.

2 Eastbourne Borough Council Carbon Emission Report

- 2.1 This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial year 2022/23, along with a comparison with the baseline 2018/19.
- 2.2 From 2018/19 to 2022/23, the council's scope 1 and 2 emissions have reduced by 20% in total.

From 2022, reporting began on 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 updates prior to 2022.

- There has been a 16% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and 30% decrease in electricity consumption.
- There has been a reduction in fuel use of just over 22%.
- Electricity emissions are reported using the standard grid electricity factor. The council continues to purchase a Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (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	2022/23
Gas	2941	3094	2194	2484	2447
Liquid Fuel	815	752	779	690.5	633
Electricity	902.5	880	613	772	629
Total	4659	4726	3586	3947	3709

3 Scope 3 emissions

- 3.1 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 its greatest source of emissions will be from purchasing and contracting and it continues to improve reporting methods. The council is starting to include clauses in contracts requiring suppliers to report emissions attributed to the contract. The council aims to include similar clauses in more contracts moving forward.

4 Eastbourne Borough Carbon Emissions Summary

- 4.1 This information can be found on page 8 of Appendix 1.

5 The Climate Emergency Strategy -Themes and Action Plan Update

- 5.1 The strategy currently contains 66 actions across 8 action areas. The full spreadsheet in section 5 sets out the detailed information of actions within each area.

45 (68%) actions are currently reported as green, 8 (13%) are amber, 0 are red and 12 (19%) complete.

Appendix 1 (page 18 onwards) sets out the full updated action plan.

6 Financial appraisal

- 6.1 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.

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 created a framework for reducing the UK's carbon emissions. It 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 NDC under the Paris Agreement. It also sets out the government's vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050.

- 7.2 The Climate Change Act did not include a statutory duty for local authorities to develop plans and deliver cuts in line with its carbon budgets. Nor did it set local authorities their own carbon budgets. However, this does not preclude local authorities from developing their own climate change and sustainability plans to enhance environmental conditions across their own areas and to contribute to national efforts. The council has power to do this under its general power of competence conferred by sections 1 to 4 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.3 It is legitimate (indeed advisable) for the council to work with other local organisations on a partnership basis to advance its plans. Paragraph 1.6s above and Appendix 1 sets out examples of such support and collaboration.
- 7.4 Action to reduce carbon emissions across the borough of Eastbourne is an executive function and proper for Cabinet to determine. Accordingly, Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider and approve the recommendations set out on page 1 of this report.

Legal input provided 21.11.23

Legal ref: 010465-EBC-OD

8 Equality analysis

- 8.1 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.

9 Environmental sustainability implications

- 9.1 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 taken 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.

10 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Climate Emergency Annual Report- December 2023

11 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 2022: [Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report \(lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk\)](#)

