

# Chichester District Council

Council

31 January 2023

## Climate Emergency Action Plan – second annual progress report

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendations

#### 2.1 That the Council notes this report and the progress on implementing the Climate Emergency Action plan.

### 3. Background

3.1 In January 2021 the Council approved a Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan. Action 3.4 within this plan was that the Council receives an annual progress report. This is the second annual report.

3.2 This report covers progress on the individual actions and the two greenhouse gas emission reduction targets within the plan and summarises the council's capital expenditure measures to address sustainability concerns.

### 4. Key points

4.1 Table 1 summarises the overall position of actions within the Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan. More detail on each action is given in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Status of actions within Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan

| Status  | Number of actions |
|---|-------------------|
| On-going  | 38                |
| Waiting for input from others                         | 6                 |
| May not be initiated/completed on time                | 0                 |
| Not initiated/completed on time or not expected to be | 3                 |
| Completed   | 13                |
| Not due to be started yet                             | 4                 |

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Total number of actions in plan | 64 |
|---------------------------------|----|

- 4.2 Focussing on the behind-schedule actions, the first relates to holding another public meeting on sustainability, similar to the home energy efficiency event held in November 2021. The reason for the delay is that the Council was initially unable to fill a new role that would have focused on engagement with individuals and organisations on climate change, such as organising another public event on climate change. The second recruitment attempt was successful with the new staff member starting in December 2022 as a Specialist Environment Officer. A further event is now being organised.
- 4.3 The second behind-schedule action is the project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Westgate leisure centre. This project has overrun primarily due to delays in the supply of equipment, the project is nearing completion.
- 4.4 The third behind-schedule action concerns writing a report on the feasibility of establishing an on-going District-wide fund for sustainability related improvements. As funding has not been a significant limiting factor in the past two years, with successful applications made to several Government schemes, this action has not been a priority. However, this prioritisation will be kept under review and brought forward if/when current funding sources are not available.
- 4.5 In relation to project completion, two major council projects with decarbonisation measures have been completed since the first annual progress report: the installation of energy efficiency measures estimated to reduce energy use by 54% at Westward House and the opening of Freeland Close new short stay accommodation for residents facing homelessness. Freeland Close incorporates sustainability features such as photovoltaic panels, two electric charging points and higher levels of insulation. It has been built so that energy consumption will be minimised to achieve at least a 19% improvement on the energy standard within the 2013 building regulations.
- 4.6 Looking district-wide, the council continues to promote grants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from homes. Promotion of these schemes will be stepped up by the new Specialist Environment Officer. This officer will focus on engaging with individuals, households, and not-for-profit organisations. The role complements the focus of the temporary post which started in August 2022: the Growth and Sustainability Officer within the Economic Development team. This role is focussed on supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises to operate and grow their business in ways which are more sustainable and to reduce their overall carbon footprints.
- 4.7 Turning to capital expenditure, since the start of 2021 the council has maintained a record of the additional costs incurred to achieve environmental goals above a business-as-usual scenario. Expenditure falling in this period includes the purchase of two electric refuse vehicles for £410,000 each. The capital cost of a diesel equivalent is £185,000, but the running costs are greater. The whole life costs of the vehicles will need to be collated and compared when the information on the EVs is available. The car parks team have also purchased two electric vehicles for £25,000 each. The final accounts

for Freeland Close have not yet been closed, so a figure cannot be given. Regarding Westward House, the council applied for £205,000 government funding via the Greater Southeast Energy Hub and also agreed up to £135,000 as a funding contribution in its role as the landlord of Westward House.

- 4.8 Turning to the targets, the action plan includes an area-wide target of a 10% reduction year-on-year until 2025 with year 2019 as the start point. Government data is used to assess progress towards this target. This data is published annually in June with a two-year time lag. The 2020 data was released on 30 June 2022. As can be seen from Table 2, the reduction from 2019 to 2020 is 8.7%, 1.3% short of the target.

Table 2: Chichester district greenhouse gas emission figures

| Year | Greenhouse gas emission figures in tCO <sub>2</sub> e | % difference |
|------|---|--------------|
| 2019 | 743,100   |              |
| 2020 | 678,100   | -8.7%        |

- 4.9 The council's own greenhouse gas emissions are less than 0.5% of the emissions of the district as a whole. Therefore, few emissions in the district are under the council's direct control. However, the council set the district wide target so it could help coordinate and promote possible actions that could unite the efforts of individuals and organisations across the district to reduce their emissions. More information on the area's emissions is given in Appendix 2, which also sets out some of the council's actions to help individuals and organisations in the district to reduce their emissions.
- 4.10 The action plan has a target for the council's own emissions of a 10% year-on-year reduction from the 2018-2019 base year, covering scopes 1 and 2 and selected Scope 3 categories until year-end 2025. Scopes 1 and 2 cover direct fuel use and electricity use and the council's Scope 3 categories are certain leased assets, business mileage and emissions associated with the extraction, production and distribution of fuels and electricity. Table 3 shows the year-on-year changes.

Table 3: Chichester District Council's own emissions

| Year      | Emissions (S1, S2 & selected S3) tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e | % change |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 2018-2019 | 3,479   |          |
| 2019-2020 | 3,046   | -12%     |
| 2020-2021 | 2,930   | -4%      |

- 4.11 More information on these emission figures is given in Appendix 3, which includes a graph showing year-on-year changes in specific emission sources (e.g. refuse vehicles, Westgate leisure centre, East Pallant House).

## 5. Proposal

- 5.1 That this report is noted.

## 6. Resource and Legal Implications

6.1 Production of this report entails allocation of staff time only.

## 7. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

7.1 Chichester district includes coastal areas vulnerable to flooding and areas of freshwater stress, just two of the challenges associated with climate change. Whilst, climate change is a global problem, actions by the council to reduce emissions in the district are an important, albeit small contribution to the global effort to reduce emissions. If the council does not take reasonable steps to reduce its own emissions and assist other individuals and organisations in the district to do likewise, it could be accused of not playing its part in this global crisis, damaging its reputation.

## 8. Other Implications

| Are there any implications for the following?  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
|  | Yes | No |
| <b>Crime and Disorder</b>  |     | X  |
| <b>Climate Change and Biodiversity</b><br>The action plan is designed to address climate change & some of the actions within it have intended benefits for biodiversity. | X   |    |
| <b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>  |     | X  |
| <b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>   |     | X  |
| <b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>  |     | X  |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b><br>Fuel poverty is addressed by the plan.  | X   |    |

## 9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Report on individual actions within the Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan

9.2 Appendix 2 – Chichester District Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2019 to 2020

9.3 Appendix 3 - CDC greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2020-2021

## 10. Background Papers

10.1 None