

Appendix 2

Chichester District Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2020

- 1.1 In 2019 Chichester District Council declared a climate emergency and set a challenging target of a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions every year until 2025 for the whole of the Chichester district. The target was chosen to reflect the emission reductions that need to be made to reduce the disastrous effects of climate change, rather than what was easily achievable.
- 1.2 In the first year of the target — 2020 — an 8.7% reduction was reached. This is the most recent year of data that we have available. Data is created by the Government and there is always a two-year time lag in the data received from the Government due to the amount of underlying information to be processed.
- 1.3 In 2020 the UK went through the Covid pandemic, leading to some of the biggest changes to our way of life in living memory. The fact that emissions in the district did not reduce further, despite lockdowns, shows the scale of the challenge to avert climate disaster. The council's own emissions are a small fraction of this district wide total (less than a 0.5% of the emissions of the district as a whole) but the council is working to reduce them and help others in the district to reduce their emissions.
- 1.4 Graph 1 below illustrates the emission sources. Road transport emissions are so big that they are split into two bars on Graph 1: emissions from vehicles on A roads and emissions from vehicles on minor roads. The road network is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) except for the A27 which is the responsibility of National Highways. However, Chichester District Council works with WSCC on walking and cycling schemes and you can read about that in Section 12.3 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.5 Households are another big source of greenhouse gas emissions. Chichester District Council has successfully applied for Government funding to improve the energy efficiency of homes and install renewable energy generation. See Section 9.1 of the plan for the latest numbers. The council encourages householders and landlords to sign up for these schemes.
- 1.6 Forests and other ecosystems such as grassland can be carbon dioxide "sinks". This means that on balance they take in and store more carbon dioxide than they give out. That is why there are two negative bars in the graph below. Mindful of this, and the need to protect wildlife and biodiversity in the district, the council is taking part in five tree planting pilots, funded by HM Treasury in partnership with Defra. This has led to almost 12,000 trees being planted in the 2021/2022 tree-planting season and thousands more trees are set to be planted in the 2022/2023 planting season. These trees are planted in partnership with landowners, farmers, community groups, parish councils,

schools, charities and businesses, and hundreds of the trees have been planted on the council's own land.

- 1.7 In 2022 the council created two new roles in the council focused on sustainability: one sits within Economic Development and is focused on supporting small- to medium-sized enterprises to operate and grow their business in ways which are more sustainable and to reduce their overall carbon footprint and the other role sits with the Environmental Strategy Unit and is focused on working with individuals and other not-for-profit organisations. These roles will assist in reducing emissions in the district.
- 1.8 To explain Graph 1, 2019 was set as the baseline year for the target as it was the year in which the council declared the climate emergency. Government data for all local authorities is used to assess progress towards this target. The 2020 data was released on 30 June 2022. It is the first year of data available for the area-wide target. Previously the Government data only covered one greenhouse gas: carbon dioxide. It now includes two more greenhouse gases: methane and nitrous oxide. The effect of each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential, so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO₂e). The impact of these gases has been backdated by the Government to 2019.
- 1.9 Emissions per resident have traditionally been reported, although they are not the basis of a council target. They are included below for completeness. Per person emissions showed an 8.2% reduction (see Table 1). This figure is still the highest of all districts and boroughs in West Sussex. The West Sussex average is 4.0 tCO₂e/person.

Table 1: Per person emissions in Chichester district

Year	Per person greenhouse gas emission figure in tCO ₂ e	% difference
2019	6.1	
2020	5.6	-8.2%

Graph 1: Chichester District Greenhouse Gas Emissions

