

Chichester District Council

Council

23 January 2024

Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan – Annual Progress Report

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.1 That 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 Action Plan. This report is the third annual progress report to Full Council as required by action 3.4 within the plan.

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 below summarises the overall position of actions within the Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan. More detail on each action is given in Appendix 1. In Appendix 1, there are three tables. Table 2 covers updates from the second half of 2023 and the table was reviewed by Environment Panel in November 2023. Some actions were completed prior to this period and to give a comprehensive picture they are contained in Table 3. Across the lifetime of the action plan, a total of 17 actions have been completed. There are two new actions (7.18 and 7.19). These relate to a project to make car park lighting more energy efficient and a grant application to switch more of the Novium museum's lighting to low energy bulbs.

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

Status	Number of actions
On-going	40
Waiting for input from others	4
May not be initiated/completed on time	1
Not initiated/completed on time or not expected to be	1
Completed	17
Not due to be started yet	2
Closed – unable to complete	1
Total number of actions in plan	66

- 4.2 Focussing on the behind-schedule actions, the first is the project (Action 7.9) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Westgate leisure centre. This project has overrun primarily due to delays in the supply of equipment. The project has almost been completed. The remaining work to be done primarily involves communications equipment and software to enable remote monitoring of the energy system.
- 4.3 One action has been closed; this concerns writing a report on the feasibility of establishing an on-going fund aimed at organisations in the district seeking to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions rather reducing the council's own emissions. This action has been affected by changes to national planning policy as explained in Action 6.4.
- 4.4 Turning to 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. This is capital expenditure only, not revenue. The following information relates to expenditure since a report was made to full council in January 2023.
- 4.5 In February 2023 CDC purchased two electric mowing machines for £45,900. These replace use of hired fossil fuel powered machines. CDC received the second electric refuse vehicle for £433,475 in June 2023. A diesel refuse vehicle costs about £185,000.
- 4.6 Regarding the project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Westgate leisure centre, the project has cost approximately £1.3 million. It has been funded mainly by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 1 grant administered on behalf of the Government by Salix with up to £210,000 committed from Council reserves.
- 4.7 Freeland Close is new, short stay accommodation for people facing homelessness. It opened in March 2022 and has environmental features, such as PV panels. It was reported to full council in January 2023 that it was not possible to give a final expenditure figure for Freeland Close. This remains the case as the final accounts have not yet been closed.
- 4.8 Financial information can now be given on Westward House, another short stay housing scheme where environmental improvements have been made. Energy efficiency improvements were completed to 41 flats in October 2022. The

council applied for £205,000 government funding via the Greater South East Energy Hub and also agreed up to £135,000 as a funding contribution in its role as the landlord of Westward House. Of that, CDC has spent £131,130.30, leaving an underspend of £3,869.70.

- 4.9 The action plan has a target for the council's own emissions of a 10% year-on-year reduction from an October 2018 - September 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 in employee vehicles and emissions associated with the extraction, production and distribution of fuels and electricity. As previously reported, in the first two years of the target, the council's emissions reduced by 12% and 4%. In the third year there was an increase of 2%. The main factor for this relates to coming out of the Covid period, with emissions increasing as life started to return to pre-pandemic patterns. The Carbon Reduction Projects Manager is currently gathering data to estimate the council's emission figures for October 2022 to September 2023. The figures are expected to be ready before March 2024.
- 4.10 The plan has a second target covering greenhouse gas emissions from the district. Its base year is calendar year 2019 and it finishes on 31 December 2025. The target is for a 10% year-on-year reduction. This is an aspiration though as most of the emission sources in the district are not owned or controlled by the council, but the council is working with businesses and householders to help them reduce their emissions. District wide data is provided by central government and released in June each year, 18 months after the end of the year to which they refer. 2022 figures are expected in June 2024. In 2020 emissions reduced by 10.6%, probably due to the Covid lockdowns. In 2021 emissions increased by just under 1%.
- 4.11 Detailed information on changes in emissions covered by both targets can be found at www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange

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. Climate change is a global problem and actions by the council to reduce emissions in the district will not solve these issues but can do so as part of a 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
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity The action plan is designed to address climate change & some of the actions within it have intended benefits for biodiversity.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing 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

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 None