

To:

Councillors:

T Jefferson

D Pemberton

J Barker

M Cargill

T Harvey

A Parry

I Shenton

S Whalley-Hoggins

10 January 2020

Dear Councillor

THE CABINET - MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2020

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting (Monday 13 January 2020) of The Cabinet, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

5. **Climate Emergency (Pages 1 - 30)**

To receive the final report and suggested Action Plan from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

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THE CABINET
13 JANUARY 2020

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 8 January 2020
Chairman: Councillor Peter Richards

A meeting of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 8 January 2020 at which the following item had been considered and is now being referred to The Cabinet as agreed by Council (Minute 140 [2019/20] refers).

Copies of the relevant report are available from Committee Services (telephone 01789 260245; email committeemanagers@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or can be viewed by following [this link](#).

Minute 495 - Update from Task & Finish Groups

DRAFT Minute

Councillor Juned, Chairman of the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group, introduced the final report and associated action plan from the Group.

It was noted that the action plan highlighted the detailed policy work that would be carried out by the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Committee Standing Panel through 2020. Members praised the report and the hard work of the Task & Finish Group.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Kettle and seconded by Councillor Jennings that the Committee endorse the report.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the final report and corresponding action plan be endorsed and that these are both reported back to The Cabinet and Council.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2020

Subject: Final Report from the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group

Lead Officer: Justin Long
Contact on 01789 260216

**Lead Member/
Portfolio Holder:** Councillor S Juned

Summary

This paper presents the final report of the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group and an associated action plan.

Recommendation:

That the Committee endorse the final report and corresponding action plan.

1 Background/Information

1.1 In July 2019, Full Council declared a Climate Emergency with Members pledging to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of practices and policies, with an aim of the District being carbon neutral by 2030.

1.2 Part 2 of the motion to Full Council called on The Cabinet to:

Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to convene a task and finish working group to consult with and invite input from representatives of local environmental groups, residents and businesses, and report back to The Cabinet and Council by January 2020 on the following areas:

(i) the effectiveness of the current activities undertaken by the Council to combat climate change;

(ii) how all Council policy proposals could best consider the impacts of climate change and the mitigation and adaptation measures required;

(iii) a critical analysis of what additional actions the Council could take to contribute to national carbon neutral targets;

(iv) what adaptation measures the Council may need to put in place as climate change worsens;

(v) how the Council could best engage residents on the severity of the Climate Emergency, and the ways the Council could help facilitate local people and businesses to take independent action;

(vi) how the Council could work with local and regional organisations and environmental groups to raise awareness and combat climate change;

(vii) the changes in national regulations and policies that may be needed, so that the Council could, where required, call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources needed.

- 1.3 A Task & Finish Group was subsequently setup by the OSC to take the work forward. Membership of the Group comprised Cllr Juned (as Chairman), Cllrs Cleeve and Richards, Cllr Riley (as a co-opted Member) and with a standing invite to The Cabinet to send an Observer to all meetings of the Group. The latter role has been fulfilled by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Pemberton.
- 1.4 The final report from the Group is attached as **Appendix 1**, a suggested Action Plan as **Appendix 2**, and a summary of the evidence the Group considered is attached as **Appendix 3**.

2 Options available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 The Committee can choose to support the final report and associated action plan and for these to then be reported back to The Cabinet and Council;
- 2.2 The Committee can choose to amend the final report and/or the associated action plan and for these to then be reported back to The Cabinet and Council; or
- 2.3 The Committee can choose to reject the final report and action plan.

3 Evidence Base

- 3.1 As set out in the report and **Appendix 3**.

4 Members' Comments

- 4.1 Members' comments have been incorporated into the Recommendations outlined in this report.

5 Implications of the proposal

5.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no immediate Legal/Human Rights Implications arising from this report; however, further analysis would be needed if these recommendations were taken forward for investigation.

5.2 Financial

- 5.2.1 There are no immediate Financial Implications arising from this report; however, further analysis would be needed if these recommendations were taken forward for investigation.

5.3 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

- 5.3.1 The reports respond to the Climate Emergency with an action plan to help the Council to achieve the aim of the District being carbon neutral by 2030

5.4 Council Plan

- 5.4.1 The proposals support the Key Objective: Responding to the climate emergency.

5.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

- 5.5.1 There are no immediate Equality implications arising from this report; however, further analysis would be needed if these recommendations were taken forward for investigation.

5.6 Data Protection

- 5.6.1 There are no immediate Data Protection implications arising from this report; however, further analysis would be needed if these recommendations were taken forward for investigation.

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The report notes the wording of the motion passed by Full Council: *the need for everyone to take action on climate change is more urgent and immediate than ever..(and)..that not meeting the UK's (carbon reduction) targets will have a negative impact on our residents whilst measures to combat climate change can have significant benefits.*

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This paper presents the final report and a recommended action plan from the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group. These reflect the motion agreed by Full Council and outline proposals to help the Council to achieve the ambition to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of practices and policies, with an aim of the District being carbon neutral by 2030.

Robert Weeks

HEAD OF PLANNING AND HOUSING

Final Report: Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group

Introduction

In July 2019 Stratford-on-Avon District Council declared a Climate Emergency: *as a pledge to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of their own practices and policies with an aim to be carbon-neutral in Stratford District by 2030.*

Part 2 of the motion to Full Council called on The Cabinet to:

Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to convene a task and finish working group to consult with and invite input from representatives of local environmental groups, residents and businesses, and report back to The Cabinet and Council by January 2020 on the following areas:

(i) the effectiveness of the current activities undertaken by the Council to combat climate change;

(ii) how all Council policy proposals could best consider the impacts of climate change and the mitigation and adaptation measures required;

(iii) a critical analysis of what additional actions the Council could take to contribute to national carbon neutral targets;

(iv) what adaptation measures the Council may need to put in place as climate change worsens;

(v) how the Council could best engage residents on the severity of the Climate Emergency, and the ways the Council could help facilitate local people and businesses to take independent action;

(vi) how the Council could work with local and regional organisations and environmental groups to raise awareness and combat climate change;

(vii) the changes in national regulations and policies that may be needed, so that the Council could, where required, call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources needed.

The motion followed a petition, organised by the Stratford Climate Action Group, signed by over 1,000 residents.

This report presents the findings of the Task & Finish Group and follows a series of interim recommendations presented to The Cabinet in October and November 2019. The report outlines the work of the Group, sets out the scale of the challenge, and sketches an ambitious approach (the Action Plan – Appendix 2) for the Council in the coming months and years.

Task and Finish Group Membership
Councillors: Cllr Susan Juned (Chairman), Cllrs Gill Cleeve, Peter Richards, John Riley Observer - Cllr Daren Pemberton
Officers: Robert Weeks (Head of Planning & Housing), Justin Long (Scrutiny Support Officer)

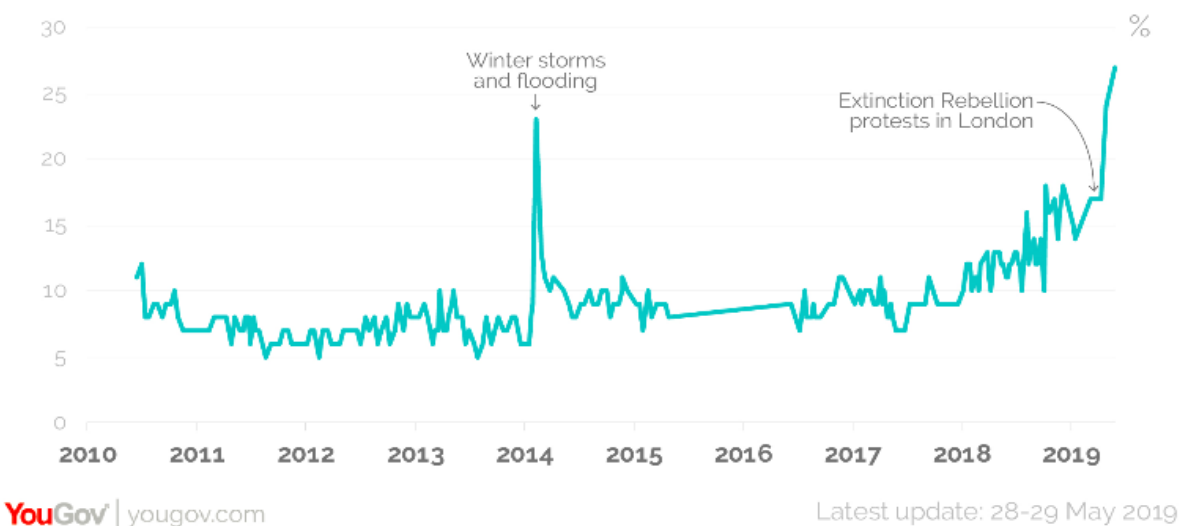
Background

A scientific consensus on climate change has been established for more than a quarter a century with 97% of peer-reviewed climate studies between 1991 and 2011 agreeing that anthropogenic global warming is real and that the burning of fossil fuels is a significant factor¹.

This consensus has not been mirrored in public opinion or political prioritisation. Public concern about climate change actually declined between 2005 and 2013², and the response from national and local government has been criticised as being neither timely nor effective³. However, there is evidence that over the last 12 to 18 months public opinion has shifted with polls pointing to a rise in concern about climate change, particularly amongst 18-24-year olds.

Concern about the environment at highest levels on record

Which do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time?
Please tick up to three. % saying "the environment"



This trend is supported by research from Ipsos Mori (August 2019) showing that 85% of Britons were now concerned about climate change (a new record), with the majority (52%) very concerned. Concern was particularly high amongst the middle classes (89% of ABC1s, compared with 80% of C2DEs)⁴. Key factors behind this rise include:

- Media coverage in response to the first Extinction Rebellion protests in London, a major BBC documentary presented by Sir David Attenborough and the school strike movement inspired by the Swedish school climate protestor Greta Thunberg;

¹ Nuccitelli, D (2013). *Survey finds 97% of climate science papers agree warming is man-made*, The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2013/may/16/climate-change-scienceofclimatechange>

² Ipsos Mori (2019). *Concern about climate change reaches record levels concerned*. <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/concern-about-climate-change-reaches-record-levels-half-now-very-concerned>

³ Various

⁴ Ipsos Mori (2019)

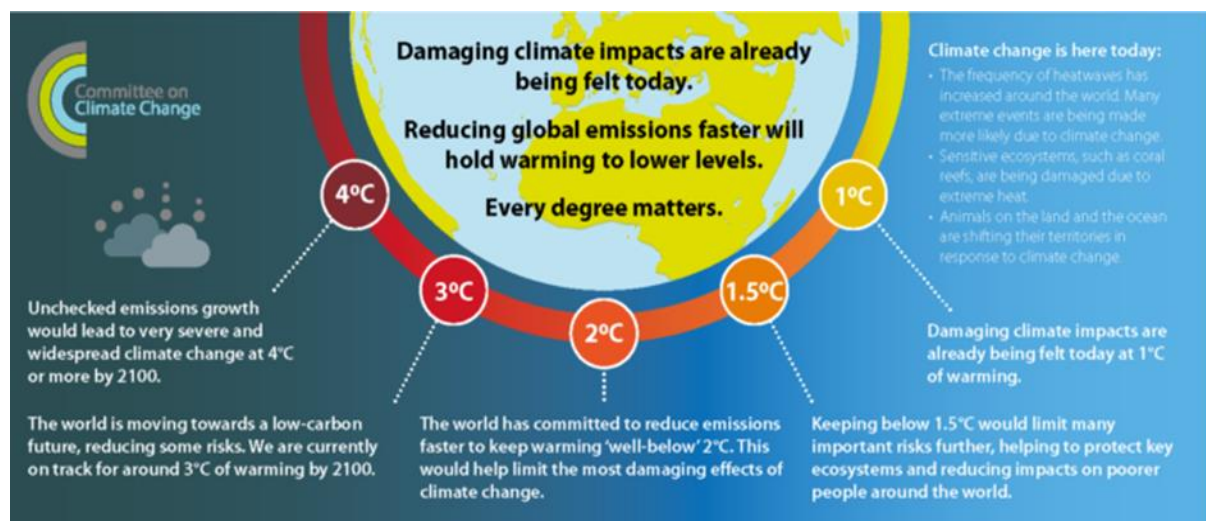
- Stark warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 advising that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C; and
- Recent weather events including record-breaking heatwaves (with all-time high temperatures recorded in the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands in 2019) and UK flooding in November 2019.

Summarising the shift in public opinion, Antonia Dickman, Head of Energy and Environment Research at Ipsos MORI, concluded: “In 2005/6 we saw a peak in concern about the environment, reflecting the prominence of media reporting around, for example, Al Gore’s Inconvenient Truth, the Kyoto Protocol coming into effect and the Stern Report. But climate fatigue appeared to set in, particularly in the aftermath of the economic crash when it struggled to compete for public consciousness. Recently though concern has been creeping up again....this latest poll shows the highest levels of public concern for climate change that Ipsos MORI has recorded in the last 15 years”⁵.

Crucially, there is now widespread public acceptance of the scientific consensus with 93.6% in the UK agreeing that the climate is “probably or definitely changing” and 91% agreeing that climate change is “at least partly caused by human activity”⁶.

Climate Emergency

The current ‘Climate Emergency’ momentum sprung from the aforementioned IPCC report and its projections, which were based on a review of over 6,000 sources of evidence:



⁵ Ipsos Mori (2019)

⁶ Prior, A (2019). *Summary report: Public attitudes on clean growth*. Sciencewise
<http://sciencewise.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Public-attitudes-on-clean-growth-summary-May-2019.pdf>

The report found that limiting warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action at a local, national and international level.

There is no single definition of the term ‘climate emergency’ and in many respects it can be seen primarily as “a novel framing... (that) amplifies the scientific and policy understandings on the causes and consequences we have known about for some time”⁷.

The ‘climate emergency’ movement is typically associated with a need to implement urgent policies to deal with “the devastating impact that volatile and extreme weather will have on UK food production, water availability, public health and through flooding and wildfire damage”⁸, and it is habitually aligned with carbon-neutral ambitions. Bristol became the first UK local authority to declare such an emergency in November 2018.

In May 2019, the UK Parliament also declared a climate emergency. This opposition day motion called for a change to the UK’s climate change targets (from the Climate Change Act 2008) in order to achieve net zero emissions before 2050. To some extent, this national momentum was carried into the 2019 General Election with pundits dubbing it the ‘climate election’ and parties announcing policy commitments that (for some) represented “epochal, systemic changes that would transform the landscape of this country and the daily lives of its inhabitants”⁹. In his first speech after the election, the Prime Minister promised to the electorate: “You voted to be carbon neutral by 2050 and we will do it”¹⁰.

Local Authorities

In the changing national context, much attention has focused on the role of local authorities and how they can tackle climate change at a local level. Since Bristol declared a climate emergency, more than 60% of councils have followed with the majority setting a zero-carbon date of 2030 (either for their own council activities or for the respective council area). This has followed extensive campaigning on a national-level from the Climate Emergency Network and through local groups.

In light of the above, what appears to have occurred in recent months is a rare moment of political clarity in regards to climate change. The challenge ahead for councils such as Stratford-on-Avon is twofold: firstly, to translate the current momentum into coordinated action across all areas for which the Council has a direct responsibility (with these actions being embedded into policies and strategies) and secondly to ensure that a long-term commitment is made to tackling climate change and that this commitment is resistant to the fluctuations of national politics and to any repeat of the 2005-2013 “climate fatigue”.

⁷ Chatterton, P (2019), *Building the 1.5 °C City*, University of Leeds

<http://unlockingsustainablecities.org/A%20Civic%20Plan%20for%20a%20Climate%20Emergency.pdf>

⁸ Smith L, et al (2019). *Climate change and the environment*. House of Commons Library

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CDP-2019-0105>

⁹ Buranyi, S (2019) *This was supposed to be the climate crisis election. So what happened?*, The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/09/climate-crisis-election-tories-brexit-media>

¹⁰ Johnson, B (2019). *Downing Street Speech*. BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50777071>











Stratford's 2030 carbon-neutral target is more ambitious than the current national target or the recommendation from the UK Committee on Climate Change (net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050). Nevertheless, there is some evidence that it aligns with public opinion: in November 2019 YouGov found that 56% of people backed the total decarbonisation of the UK economy by 2030¹¹. However, for any council to meet a 2030 target will require local changes that fall outside of the national legislative cycles, cycles that are working towards a 2050 target. This is a challenge that will require unswerving ambition and accelerated change at a local level.

Local authorities can influence the issue of climate change in a number of different areas. For district councils, the LGA (2019) recommends the focus of action be:

- Energy efficient buildings and assets;
- Changes to vehicle fleet and travel arrangements;
- Changes to procurement and contract management;
- Working practices i.e. home-working; embracing reduce/reuse/recycling;
- Improved flood protection;
- Planning and Regeneration;
- Community development;
- Educating/enabling communities to be more greenhouse gas emissions aware.

The Green Alliance (2019) has analysed where local authorities can drive change:

Where local areas have the ability drive change

	Buildings	Energy	Manufacturing	Transport	Land use
Combined Authorities	 Strategic planning powers to enable low carbon housing. Resources and co-ordination for retrofit programmes.	 Little control over the energy market and infrastructure but can build infrastructure into strategic plans. Well-placed to drive private investment in emerging technologies.	 Able to work closely with LEPs and direct finance towards emerging technologies. Well-placed to co-ordinate large projects like carbon capture and storage. Lack regulatory powers.	 Relevant powers to set more ambitious standards for electric vehicle adoption and to plan for major infrastructure change.	 Little overlap with rural areas to manage the transition to alternative land management methods.
Unitary, county and district councils	 Some potential to encourage lower carbon housing via local plans. Able to use ownership of land and building stock to boost clean technology uptake.	 Some are encouraging external investment in renewable energy but there is a lack of other levers.	 Little power to co-ordinate major overhauls of industrial practices, although waste management powers and assets could help to drive the transition to more circular business models.	 Could use responsibility for non-trunk roads and fleet ownership to support the uptake of electric vehicles and other, greener transport alternatives. Limited powers to support integrated transport solutions.	 Some planning powers and the ability to use procurement and action on their own land.

¹¹The Guardian (2019). *Majority of UK public back 2030 zero-carbon target – poll.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/07/majority-of-uk-public-back-2030-zero-carbon-target-poll>

Beyond areas within their direct control, local authorities can play a leadership role and have a unique ability to bring people together to facilitate action. Councils can raise expectations, communicate, develop partnerships, work with other local organisations and groups and provide support for local businesses and communities. However, as the Green Alliance demonstrate, it is clear that ultimately only a very limited amount of actual environmental activity will ever be in the control of a local authority.

A key consideration for local authorities will be the impact that climate change will have on the services they provide. Impacts could range from increased flooding as well as more frequent heatwaves. Whilst Stratford is more affluent than some parts of the country, it is likely that climate change will exacerbate existing issues of inequality, poverty and health.

Mitigation, Adaptation and Scope

There is a considerable amount of technical work required on this issue. The Task & Finish Group has predominantly focused on overarching policy and strategy; giving itself the mission to set the agenda for future work. Nevertheless, a few headline technical issues should be noted:

Mitigation v Adaptation

The council motion addresses both mitigation and adaptation. These are defined as follows:

- Climate change mitigation: Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Climate change adaptation: Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

The National Planning Policy Framework, Definitions of Adaptation and Mitigation (2019)

Whilst there is an obvious link between mitigation and adaptation, it is noteworthy that councils such as Warwickshire have separated work on the areas into distinct streams with separate working groups being set-up.

Baselines and Data

A key challenge will be undertaking a 'baseline' assessment. This will focus on a measurement of the production of greenhouse gases that have occurred in the past and which are being produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. This is a crucial stage in the process and many councils have commissioned external experts to ensure that science-based targets are developed, and the most effective actions are then employed to tackle climate change. For example, Cornwall Council has commissioned Exeter University whilst Oxford and Bath have worked with the Anthesis Group.

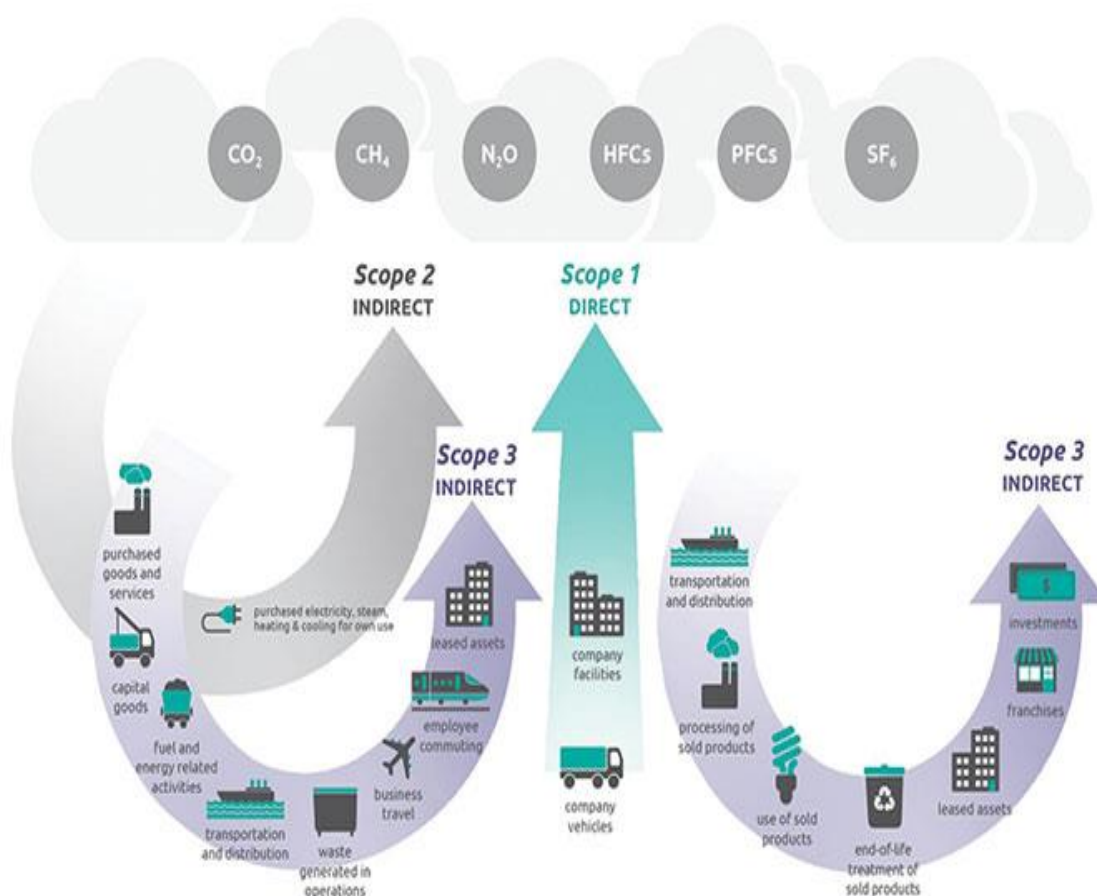
The most established approach to the measurement of emissions is by 'scope'. This is commonly broken down as follows:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

Scope 1 emissions: All direct emissions from the activities of the organisation or under their control.

Scope 2 emissions: Indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by an organisation.

Scope 3 emissions: All other indirect emissions from sources outside of their own ownership or control which can include business travel, procurement, waste and water.



Whilst scope 1 emissions are relatively straightforward to quantify, measurement becomes harder for scopes 2 and 3. A particular challenge will be the measurement of District-wide data (scope 2 into scope 3). This measurement is essential given that the ambition is for the whole District to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Data

The Task & Finish Group has utilised three main sources of data in its work:

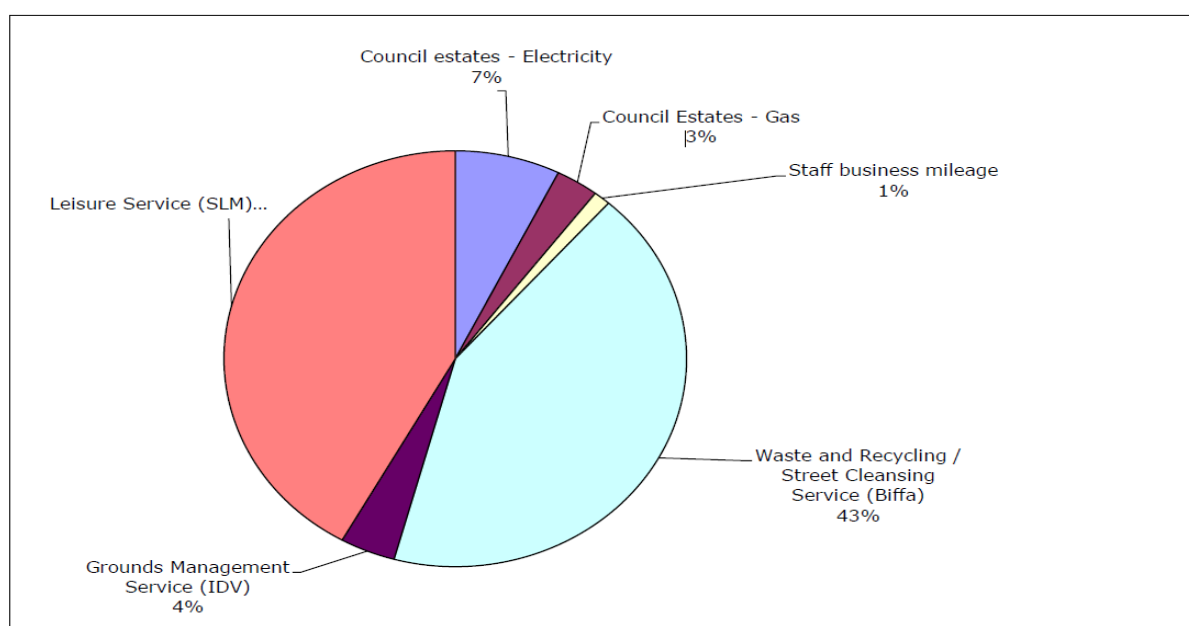
- Local data provided by Council officers and focused on the Council's activities;
- Government data;
- Data produced by specific tools (e.g. SCATTER) or Groups (e.g. Friends of the Earth).

Local Data

SDC Total Carbon Footprint for all sites and services in 2018/19

Sites	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Council estates - Electricity	65	67	67	62	261
Council Estates - Gas	18	2	37	49	106
Staff business mileage	10	10	11	11	42
Waste and Recycling / Street Cleansing Service (Biffa)	404	377	383	351	1,515
Grounds Management Service (IDV)	28	32	23	54	137
Leisure Service (SLM)	346	319	401	418	1,484
Total consumption (kgCO₂e)	871	807	922	945	3,545

Tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO₂e)



For reference, the 2012/13 baseline was 3,965 kgCO₂e (kilograms of Co₂ equivalent). The Council developed a Carbon Reduction Plan in 2012/13 which had a target of a 10% reduction within 5 years i.e. by 2017/18. As a result of a number of interventions, the Council was successful in achieving a 9% reduction within the 5 years. Whilst this was short of the target, work has continued since that time and - as the above figures show - the 10% reduction has subsequently been achieved.

Government Data

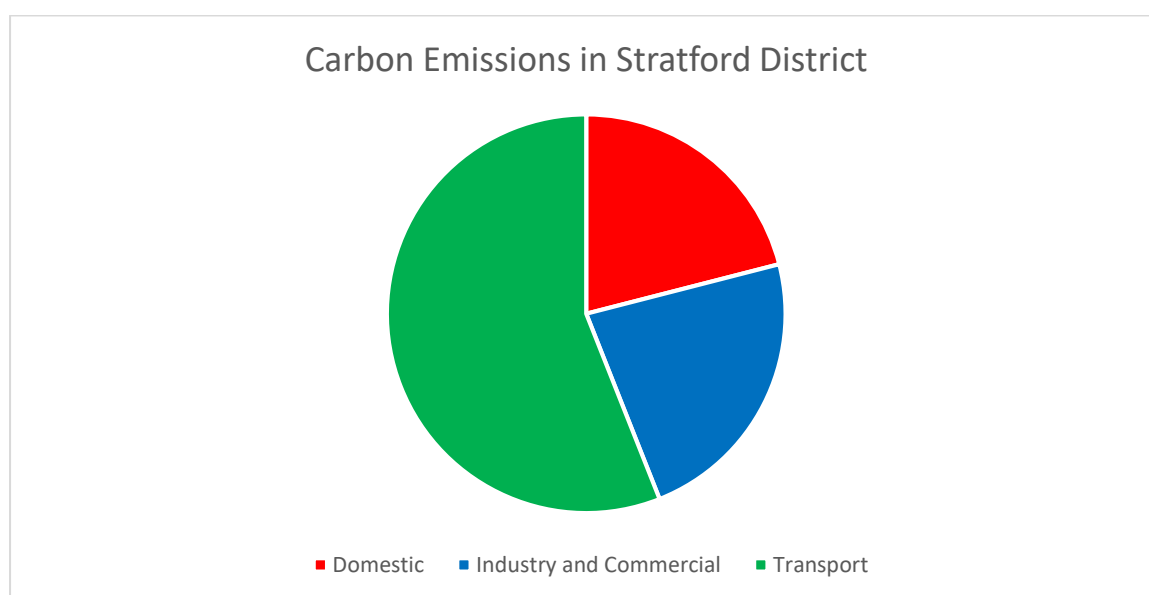
National data, including from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), is regularly focused at a District-wide level:

Stratford-on-Avon (BEIS 2017 Data)

Sector Name	CO ₂ (kt)
Industry & Commercial Electricity	95
Industry & Commercial Gas	39
Large Industrial Installations	0

Sector Name	CO ₂ (kt)
Industrial & Commercial Other Fuels	80
Agricultural Combustion	28
Domestic Electricity	70
Domestic Gas	102
Domestic Other Fuels	43
Road Transport (A roads)	179
Road Transport (Motorways)	261
Road Transport (Minor roads)	118
Diesel Railways	18
Transport Other	10
LULUCF (Land use, land use change, and forestry) Net Emissions	-9
Total for all sectors	1,035

BEIS refines its measurements to emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities. This excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use and results in the following distribution of emissions (which reflect the rural nature of the District):

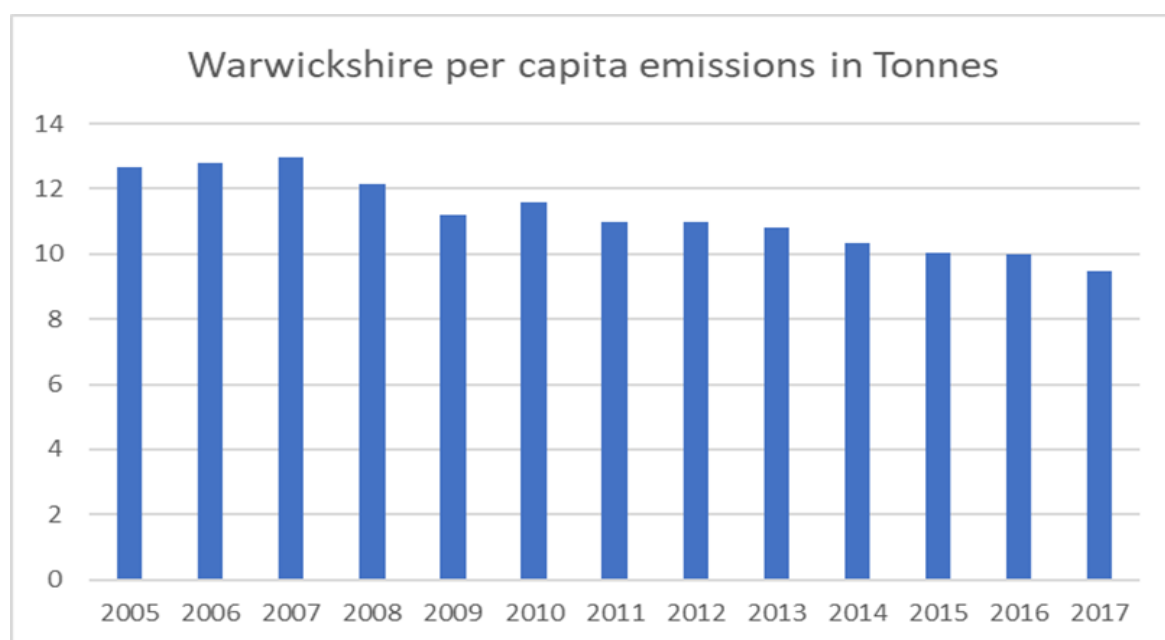


- Domestic – 21%
- Industry and commercial – 23%
- Transport 56%

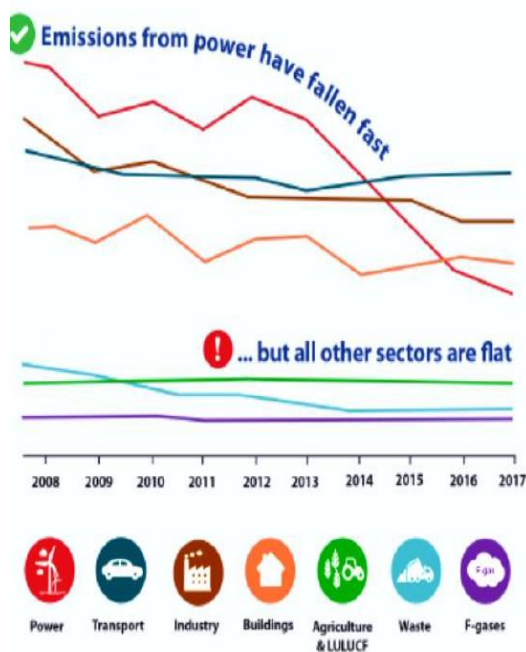
The District's per capita average emissions are 8.3 tonnes per capita per year. Two initial conclusions from this data are:

- A higher than (UK) average transport contribution (this is reflected across Warwickshire);
- A higher than (Warwickshire) average per capital emission.

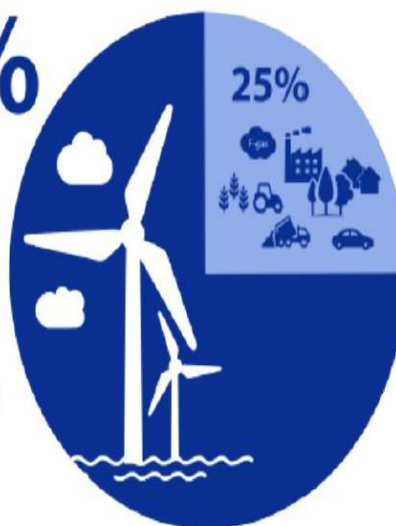
Warwickshire-wide per capita emissions have been gradually falling over the last 10 years:



The trend of falling emissions needs to be broken-down by sector. This shows that local trends reflect the national picture, namely that whilst emissions from power have fallen other sectors are largely flat (particularly transport and agriculture):



75%
of emissions
reductions
since 2012
have come
from the
power sector



Clear goals, ambitious strategy and well-designed policies have been effective. These lessons must now be applied to other sectors

2018 Progress Report to Parliament | Committee on Climate Change

Data produced by specific tools

SCATTER (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) is a free emission mapping and modelling tool designed by Manchester University. Local Authorities can use this to develop a baseline to help them to see where their biggest impacts are: <https://scattercities.com/>. The tool then allows users to develop reduction pathways for different actions.

Allied to this, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has developed a tool for local authorities to understand their role in meeting the climate change objectives set by the UN (net zero emissions by 2050). This approach assigns a carbon budget to the District and sets targets for these budgets based on a 'grandfathering' allocation regime for sub-dividing the UK sub-national energy only carbon budget. This produces:

1. a long-term carbon budget for Stratford-on-Avon;
2. a sequence of recommended five-year carbon budgets; and
3. a date of 'near zero'/zero carbon for the area.

The full report is attached as evidence in Appendix 3. It outlines the scale of the challenge (*and note this is a 2050 target*) for the District to become carbon neutral, concluding that Stratford must:

*Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 6.2 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, based on BEIS LA statistics 2017, CO₂ emissions (excluding aviation, shipping, process CO₂ emissions from cement production and those from LULUCF), **Stratford-on-Avon would use this entire budget within 6 years from 2020.***

Friends of the Earth has used various data sources to set targets for the District. Its work reaches the following headlines for the District:

- Only 42% of homes are well insulated;
- Only 4% of people commute by public transport, 2% cycle, and 10% walk. *In the best performing similar local authority area, the proportions are 11%, 6% and 18% respectively;*
- 7% of the Stratford-on-Avon area has tree cover. *The highest proportion in similar areas is 27%.*

Sector-by-sector analysis is also available. In Housing, the Portfolio Energy Analysis Tool (PEAT) can do a stock assessment of the whole borough stock to determine what energy efficiency measures are best suited for properties within a housing stock and what the impact of those measures would be in terms of the SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating and the CO₂ emissions of the property.

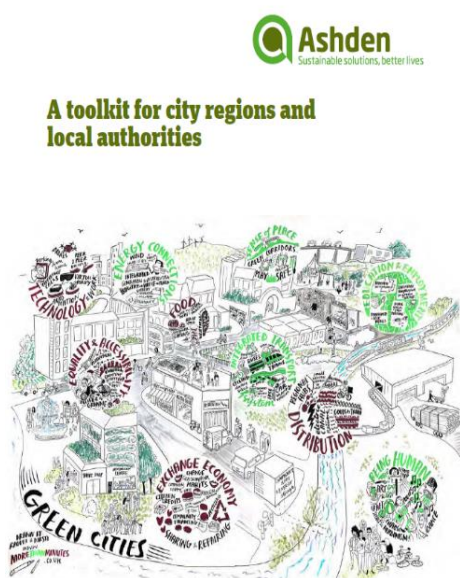
Government data on the EPC rating of housing in the District is also valuable:

	Number of Lodgements	Total Floor Area (m2)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Not Recorded
Total	46,824	4,487,597	58	1,246	14,887	17,386	8,724	3,494	1,029	0

Number of Lodgements by Energy Efficiency Rating (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019)

Case Studies

The Group has looked at best practice examples from the UK and internationally. Of particular note were the approaches of Norwich City Council (as the Carbon Reduction - Edie Sustainability Awards Winner 2019) and Cambridge City Council (as a council which has consistently delivered carbon reduction plans).



Meanwhile, the Environmental charity Ashden stresses the need to consider the wider benefits of climate change action. For example, a move to electric vehicles and active transport (cycling, walking) sees resultant benefits for the NHS and public health while energy efficiency improvements in housing sees the resultant benefits of reducing fuel poverty and inequality while improving health and productivity. In contrast, failure to act on climate change will have a negative impact. It is noteworthy that following the 2013-14 floods in Somerset - as well as the material impact - there was a significant increase in depression, anxiety and PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) amongst flood-affected residents. This co-benefits approach could play a key role both in terms of communication and in working with partners to secure

the political will and organisational collaboration for change.

Current Work at SDC

Part (i) of the motion asked the Task & Finish Group to assess the effectiveness of the current activities undertaken by the Council to combat climate change.

At the beginning of its work, the Group noted there was no overarching climate change strategy in place, climate change did not feature specifically in the 2015-2019 Corporate Strategy, there was no dedicated officer post in place, and there was no explicit public communications or engagement strategy in place. However, it is clear that work has been embedded in many aspects of the Council's activities and there is a strong legacy from pre-2015 work. The latter is reflected in the achievements of a 10% reduction in the Council's emissions following the adoption of a Carbon Reduction Plan in 2012/13.

The relative absence of a clear climate change agenda at the Council should be put into the financial and political context that has faced local government in recent years. The Council has, over the last five years, lost its entire Revenue Support Grant of £3.9m, and is typical of many public organisations in being forced to shift focus and resources away from climate change work. This discernible trend can be found as early as 2015 when the Committee on Climate Change warned, in its report to Parliament, that budget cuts were impacting the ability of local authorities to adapt to climate change with local government across England cutting climate change staff¹².

This development can also be identified in national policy. There was a palpable reduction in the political prominence of climate change from 2015 with the ending of various high-profile 'green' initiatives including onshore windfarm subsidies, curbs on solar subsidies and the dropping of regulations to make all new homes zero carbon. The impact of this can also be seen with local groups such as Act on Energy shifting emphasis from climate change work to fuel poverty work in order to follow national funding streams.

Whilst the above can be easily explained and contextualised, it does mean that the Task & Finish Group was essentially having to start anew on an approach to climate change whilst also considering whether the District-wide 2030 target was realistic.

Approach of the Task & Finish Group

Overarching Approach

As outlined in the motion, the original timeframe given to the Group was to present its final report and recommendations in January 2020. However, following representations from the Deputy Leader and consideration by the Group, the following amended approach was agreed:

1. *To make a series of interim headline recommendations ahead of the final report; and*
2. *To continue the detailed work through OSC from 2020.*

This decision was taken in order to reflect the urgency with which The Cabinet would like to see the matter addressed and to allow sufficient time for the Group to feed into the 2020/21 budget setting process.

Reflecting on the representations from the Deputy Leader, the Group concurred that OSC is ideally placed to undertake future work both in terms of a policy development role and a transparent public challenge and oversight role.

The Group agreed that the best way to take forward OSC's work was through the setting-up of a distinct 'Standing Panel' of OSC. This Panel would follow the precedent of local authorities such as Oxford City Council (which sets-up regular panels to sit the whole civic year) and City

¹² Committee on Climate Change (2015). *Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change: 2015 Progress Report. to Parliament.* <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-emissions-and-preparing-for-climate-change-2015-progress-report-to-parliament/>

of York Council (which has set-up a distinct Climate Change Group via its scrutiny function). It is anticipated that the membership and arrangements for this Panel would be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis via the main OSC.

The Task and Finish Group has seen its role as to set out the scale of the challenge and ambition needed to meet the Climate Emergency, to identify the problems the Council will need to overcome and to set the agenda for upcoming work i.e. the first stages of a basic policy making cycle:



Recommendations

The Action Plan (Appendix 2) outlines how the Group would now like the Council to address the climate emergency and it asks The Cabinet and Full Council to endorse this approach. The plan identifies the work that will be needed to set the Council on the path towards being carbon neutral by 2030. The Action Plan should largely be seen as a ‘Work Programme’ for the new OSC Panel, with headline recommendations falling into two broad categories:

1. Work for the OSC Standing Panel to oversee; and
2. Work for other committees to oversee.

The Action Plan moves the work to the ‘policy formulation stage’ and will trigger a series of reports and detailed recommendations from OSC to The Cabinet in 2020. These policies will include the following:

- Project Details and Aims
- Project Cost
- Carbon savings potential
- Financial savings/payback potential
- Co-benefits
- Deliverability
- Best Practice Examples.

Roadmap 2030

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents is unprecedented and sits outside the normal budget, policy and performance processes of the Council. As has been noted elsewhere, it is a challenge where the totality of the solutions needed is unclear and the approach taken will be emergent. It will need a concerted focus over a number of years that covers all areas of the Council's activities. It is therefore suggested that individual policies sit under a broad-based wider framework.

The approach needed - at a local and national level - can be summarised as follows: "If there was ever an idea that we could approach this as a 'sequential' transition – moving from power, to transport, to heat, to industry and agriculture – then that thought needs to be re-examined... We will need to shift from the current piecemeal approach, relying on departments and sectors to make incremental improvements, to something much more broad-based.¹³".

In early 2019, an Environmental/Climate Change Implications section was added to the Council's committee report template. Whilst it is useful to ask council officers to consider these implications, this alone does not meet the needs of the climate emergency agenda. It is clear that no relevant report should be adopted by the Council without *explicit* reference as to how the policy will contribute to the carbon-neutral target. To aid this, the Group recommends that a 'Roadmap to 2030' strategy is adopted, and every relevant policy outlines how it will contribute to the carbon neutral goal. A similar approach should be taken on adaptation with an embedding of adaptation measures into all relevant council policies. This 'Roadmap' could also help to frame the communications campaign to residents and partners.

Work of the Group: Four Workstreams

The Task & Finish Group adopted a detailed 'Scoping Document' that separated work into four streams:

- Workstream 1 - What can SDC do about SDC?
- Workstream 2 - What can SDC do as a partner and community leader?
- Workstream 3 - What should SDC be saying to Central Government?
- Workstream 4 – What can SDC do on adaptation?

Workstream 1

Scope

This work focused on the areas the Council can most easily influence i.e. its own estate and operational programme. The workstream focused on points (i), (ii), and (iii) of the motion to Full Council.

¹³ Stark, C (2019). *Towards net-zero*. Committee on Climate Change.
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/2019/03/19/chris-stark-towards-net-zero/>

Evidence

Members considered a range of evidence including the Council's current carbon footprint and comparative data from 2015/16, earlier successful carbon monitoring plans completed by the Council, the Council's existing planning policy framework, and information on the Leisure and Waste & Recycling Contracts.

Recommendations

It was agreed that the new OSC Standing Panel would conduct detailed feasibility studies in 2020 with the aim of bringing forward policy papers to The Cabinet on the ideas listed below.

Work Programme Ideas

- Carbon Management Plan focused on the Council estate and its operations (this should include public reporting on the Council's energy usage and its carbon footprint, and this in turn should be incorporated into the corporate performance framework);
- A communications campaign in which the short-term aim is to increase recycling and reduce the 'contamination' of this recycling, but the long-term goal is to encourage residents to reduce and re-use waste;
- An ambitious taxi licensing policy including a feasibility study on all licensed taxis in the District becoming electric, zero or ultra-low emission vehicles by 2030.

On procurement, the Group requested that:

- OSC should have oversight of and make recommendations on, the procurement of new Leisure and Waste & Recycling contracts (given that these are the heaviest consumers of energy across all council activities); and
- All of the Council's procurement decisions for contracts Type A and B should be informed by carbon reduction factors.

Meanwhile, the Group called for:

- An increased number of electric vehicle charging points across the District; and
- The development of a new SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) on existing planning policies, exploring the powers afforded to councils under the Planning and Energy Act 2008 to set higher energy performance standards for new homes and introduce Merton-style targets for renewable energy generation.

Public engagement

The Group has sought to engage local residents and staff in the process. It setup a climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk email which has been promoted via a council press release, through social media, with a story in the Winter 2019 edition of Stratford View, and through the 2019 Residents Survey.

At the Staff Service Fair in October, members of the Democratic Services Team also encouraged suggestions from officers as well as both parish and district councillors. This consultation process is ongoing, and so far over 50 ideas have been received covering topics

including cycling, tree-planting, reducing plastic use, paperless committee meetings and training for parish councillors.

Update

Since these first set of recommendations were put to The Cabinet, a new SPD on Climate Change has been produced and an amended approach to procurement identified in the proposed re-tendering process for the new Leisure Contract. Both of these have been welcomed by the Task & Finish Group.

Workstream 2

Scope

This work focused on what the Council can do through facilitation and community leadership. The workstream focused on points (v) and (vi), of the motion to Full Council:

Evidence

Members considered a range of evidence including submissions from Stratford Climate Action, Act on Energy, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth, Stratford Town Transport Group, Stratford Cycling Forum, Stratford Youth Forum and the Stratford Schools Sustainability Programme. Group members or individual support officers also engaged in discussions with the Midlands Energy Hub, Heart of England Community Energy, Communities for Renewables, the RSC and Norwich City Council as well as considering recent research from organisations including Ashden, the Green Alliance and the Local Government Association (LGA).

Recommendations

It was agreed that the new OSC Standing Panel would conduct detailed feasibility studies in 2020 with the aim of bringing forward policy papers to The Cabinet on the ideas listed below. Where pertinent, the Panel will set quantifiable targets:

Work Programme Ideas

- A Community Hub to include an information and advice point for residents, exhibition space for local businesses and organisations, and a potential office space;
- A programme to improve home insulation and offer energy efficiency advice;
- Tree-planting scheme to support carbon capture;
- Audit of council-owned land to facilitate projects to promote biodiversity, tree planting, educational opportunities and community allotments;
- Review of planning policy to assess how best to deliver greater biodiversity within and without new development;
- Exploration of initiatives to increase solar pv and renewable energy including bulk-buy schemes;
- Energy Policy to encourage external investment in local and community renewable energy schemes; and
- Engagement including supporting the Stratford-on-Avon District Youth Forum and the creation of a Climate Change Citizen's Panel via the Standing Panel.

The Group also called for:

- A Climate Change Officer post to support the work;
- Member Training on Climate Change (including parish councillors);
- An investigation as to whether Council investments underpin environmental sustainability;
- Paperless committee meetings; and
- A regular Climate Forum.

Warwickshire Councils

At the behest of the Task & Finish Group, a meeting was hosted by Warwickshire County Council on 19th November 2019 of representatives from climate emergency working groups from across the county. Alongside representatives from Stratford, the meeting included colleagues from Warwickshire, North Warwickshire, Rugby and Warwick. It was agreed that a further meeting would take place in January 2020, and it was noted that there is potential to work together on a range of cross-boundary projects, policies and standards. Areas for collaboration identified included communications, housing standards, transport, and energy policy.

Workstream 3

Scope

This work concerned changes in national regulations and policies that may be needed, so that the Council could, where required, call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources needed. It focused on part (vii) of the motion to Full Council.

Evidence

Members considered studies from Friends of the Earth (*12 policy changes the government needs to make to enable local authorities in England to deliver much more on climate change*), Greenpeace (*How Government should address the Climate Emergency*), and ongoing research by the LGA, as well as reflecting on the work carried out under the first two workstreams.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council actively calls on the new Government to:

- Increase the powers of local authorities to raise money both through direct funding and through increasing local authority powers to raise funds;
- Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewables and electric cars;
- Introduce a statutory duty to cut carbon pollution for local authorities and combined authorities to empower local councils and protect from any challenges from developers or others;
- Reform the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Policy Statements, and Planning Practice Guidance to make carbon reduction and climate adaptation central to the planning system;

- Increase minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (to at least a minimum EPC band C rating in 2030) and empower local authorities to ensure compliance;
- Empower councils to introduce higher standards for new builds including promptly reinstating the Code of Sustainable Homes nationally to require all new homes to meet the level 6 standard (net zero CO₂); and
- Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling, and consider the (re)regulation of bus services.

The Government should also look at the rules on permitted development rights in regard to larger scale renewable energy installations. In the meantime, the Council should investigate an Article 4 Designation or Local Development Order to extend permitted development rights to enable householders/businesses to install certain energy efficiency/generation developments without the need for gaining planning consent (exceptions to this would be in conservation areas/with listed buildings/in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty/in the Green Belt, etc).

Workstream 4

Scope

This work focused on adaptation measures and part (iv) of the motion. In many respects it is the most important, but at the same time the most overlooked element of the response to climate change.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified climate change as the greatest threat to global health in the 21st Century. Whilst climate change will have a more severe and immediate effect in parts of the world such as South East Asia, the UK and Stratford District will not be immune, and the impacts will still be significant with increased flood risk, heatwave occurrences and a corresponding impact on crop yields.

Even with strong action on mitigation, some degree of change is inevitable. Inertia in the climate system will mean that the climate will change over the next 30 years regardless of any carbon reduction work. The Council will need to implement adaptation policies alongside its carbon reduction work, long term planning will be required, and it is clear that the Council has a strong role to play.

Guidance from the Town and Country Planning Association and Royal Town Planning Institute recommends that “climate adaptation must be understood as the main priority for long-term planning to secure climate resilience and must be accepted as equally as important as meeting housing need”¹⁴. Furthermore, it is likely that adaptation will be more difficult to monitor, evaluate and plan than mitigation measures.

¹⁴ TCPA/RTPI (2018). *Rising to the Climate Crisis – A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change*. <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3152143/Rising%20to%20the%20Climate%20Crisis.pdf>

Evidence

Due to the time constraints, Members agreed that this work would carry over into 2020 when – as the Standing Panel – it would expect to hear from organisations including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, and the National Grid as well as drawing on evidence including the recent *Preparing for a changing climate: Good Practice Guidance for Local Government* report produced by DEFRA, and work from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC).

Recommendations

The Standing Panel will oversee the development of a specific adaptation strategy that aligns closely to wider work including any new Core Strategy. The starting point for this adaptation work will be to build-on the report produced on the Council by Sustainability West Midlands in 2013¹⁵. This included the following proposals:

- Adaptation should be identified as a priority within Corporate Strategy and relevant corporate plans, with impacts and response of key service delivery areas included;
- A nominated cabinet member should be responsible for adaptation with identified lines of responsibility to service delivery officers;
- Adaptation must be a priority consideration within the delivery across all service areas and a key issue within planning policy and associated decision making;
- Detailed information should be communicated both internally and externally about drivers, strategy, targets, reduction plans and achievements;
- Residents and community groups should have a central role in identification of adaptation risks and opportunities.

On the latter point, the Group is aware of some of the outstanding work local voluntary organisations are already doing including the Shipston Flood Action Group.

Workplan Policies

- An adaptation strategy should be developed (as detailed above).

Action Plan

The following spreadsheet (Appendix 2) outlines the suggested approach with policies broken down by the responsible Committee or Group. It includes an indicative timetable for bringing forward detailed policy proposals and begins the process of assessing the carbon impact of the identified policies, the resources needed to implement them, and some best practice examples. As outlined above, the detailed policy development work will take place in 2020

¹⁵ Sustainability West Midlands (2015). *Summary report for Stratford-on-Avon District Council Addressing climate change: mitigation, adaptation and the low carbon economy*.
<https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/P202-1a-Stratford-Final-Benchmark-Report.pdf>

and the Action Plan should be read as series of headline recommendations to inform this future work.

Funding

As noted in the above 'policy cycle', the Task & Finish Group has worked through the 'problem identification and 'agenda setting stages'. The next stage will be detailed 'policy formulation' including the costing of individual projects. The decision-making and implementation stages are therefore most likely to fall predominantly into the 2021/22 budget cycle. Any specific budget amount allocated in 2020/21 - although welcome - is therefore likely to be speculative.

The Task and Finish Group suggest that the Council investigate putting in place a specific Climate Change Fund to help support the delivery of projects. There are a number of ways this could be funded including as part of the annual budget setting process or through funding projects from CIL, Section 106 monies or the new Infrastructure Funding Statements. As an example of the type of scheme that could be investigated, Milton Keynes has required developers to pay into a 'carbon offset fund' for the carbon emissions of all new homes built, and has generated more than £1million for carbon-saving projects as a result since 2008. *(NB the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard may prohibit this).*

Proposed Governance and Monitoring

It is proposed that the monitoring of the Action Plan should happen through the OSC function with the new OSC Standing Panel making a series of detailed policy proposals to The Cabinet in 2020. It is also recommended that a member of the Council's Management Team is given corporate responsibility for the overall delivery of the Action Plan.

Conclusion

The Full Council motion set the ambition for the District to be carbon neutral by 2030. It cannot be stated strongly enough just how challenging this will be and it is not yet clear whether this District-wide ambition is an achievable goal, especially with national policy working towards a 2050 carbon-neutral target.

The scale of the challenge is unprecedented, but it is one that Council should pursue in good faith as ignoring climate change and its impact is not a viable option. The Task & Finish Group has attempted to match this ambition and present a realistic way forward. Pursuing the goal will mean there are some extremely difficult and potentially unpopular decisions ahead, but there is evidence that the political will and ambition exists at the Council to face these decisions (as demonstrated in the commitment outlined in the new Council Plan).

The Council's challenge will be made easier if it successfully utilises both staff and residents. The Group has been consistently impressed with the scale of activity already underway across the District; activity that very often is being led by voluntary and community groups. It will be crucial for the Council to build on this and bring residents with it on the path to a carbon neutral future. Communications and community engagement therefore must sit at the centre of the Council's work, including through 'citizens panel' style involvement in the Standing Panel and through continuing to work with young people across the District.

The Task & Finish Group is confident that carbon neutrality can be achieved by 2030 in regards to scope 1 emissions (i.e. the Council's own estate). However, even this will take a cultural shift from the Council and the genuine embedding of carbon neutral policies into the policy framework and priorities of the Council.

Whilst the Group has already seen encouraging signs in areas such as procurement and the production of a new SPD (for which The Cabinet and officers should be congratulated), the Council must ensure that individual policies (e.g. car parking charges) are always considered as part of a wider climate change strategy with mitigation and adaptation measures explicit in all relevant council policies.

In terms of District-wide emissions (particularly in scope 3), it will be harder to achieve a carbon neutral position by 2030 and this will – as evidenced by the Tyndall Centre projections – involve a cultural shift across partner organisations as well as fundamental changes in lifestyle for residents. Partnership work will be key, and it is clear that the District-wide target will be the biggest challenge facing the Council (along with the emerging work on adaptation).

In this context, it is unsurprising that many councils, even those being praised as leading authorities such as Norwich, are not committing to an area-wide carbon neutral target by 2030. Those councils such as Oxford City that are committing to an area-wide carbon neutral target ahead of 2050, are matching this ambition with a sustained scale of investment (approaching £20 million in Oxford's case) or in the case of York with bold policy decisions such as banning private cars from the city centre.

These examples put into the perspective the challenge facing the Council, and confirm that the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the initial work of the Task & Finish Group can only be seen as the beginning of a long-term process. This report and action plan therefore are merely the 'end of the beginning' of the District's journey to becoming carbon neutral.

Justin Long
Scrutiny Support Officer
December 2019

Roadmap to 2030					
Idea	Policy Details	Measurement (Indicative)	Resource (Indicative)	Target Timeframe	Best Practice Examples
OSC Standing Panel					
1. Carbon Management Plan and Public Reporting	A new Carbon Management Plan focused on the Council estate and its operations (to include staff transport and Elizabeth House options). Alongside this, should be the reintroduction of public reporting on the Council's energy usage and its carbon footprint, and for this to be incorporated into the corporate performance framework. Monitoring of the new Carbon Management Plan and performance data through OSC.	The Council's total consumption was 3,545 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) in 2018/19.	Council carbon footprint data known. Officer time to develop reduction strategy.	Carbon Management Plan with targets to be produced by Spring 2020, with recommendations going to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel) and regular reporting to begin thereafter through OSC/OSC Standing Panel.	Cambridge: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/4456/carbon_management_plan_2016-21_0.pdf
2. Communications	1) Recycling Campaign with the short-term aim of increasing recycling and reducing the 'contamination' of this recycling, and the long-term goal to encourage residents to reduce and re-use waste. 2) Further work to engage residents and in particular young people, including ideas such as supporting the Stratford-on-Avon District Youth Forum and the creation of a Climate Change Citizen's Panel or similar. 3) Ongoing Online/Social Media Campaign.	The Council's 'Waste & Recycling' contract is the authority's biggest producer of emissions (43%). Stratford-on-Avon reuses, recycles and composts 60% of its household waste. <i>This compares to the best figure of 72% in similar local authorities.</i>	Officer time to develop communications strategy - potential to work with neighbouring authorities.	1) New waste communications campaign to be produced by Spring 2020 with recommendations going to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel) 2) Standing Panel to facilitate first 'Citizen's Panel' style meeting in Spring 2020. 3) Immediately.	WRAP (various examples): https://partners.wrap.org.uk/campaigns/recycle-now/ Oxford's Citizens Panel: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20011/environment/1343/oxford_citizens_assembly_on_climate_change
3. Electric Vehicles	1) Recommendations on an ambitious taxi licensing policy including a feasibility study on all licensed taxis in the District becoming electric, zero or ultra-low emission vehicles by 2030. 2) Council should continue efforts to deliver an increased number of electric vehicle charging points across the District at new homes, places of work, council car parks and on street.	Average taxi mileage 25,000 miles or 42,000 km (UK). CO2 emission for petrol car - 135g/km, EV = 45g/km.	Officer time would be needed to engage with taxi drivers and ensure planning provision is made for EV infrastructure etc.	1) Feasibility study to be concluded in 2020 following engagement with taxi drivers with recommendations going to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel). 2) Ongoing investment.	Cambridge: https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7988/electric-vehicle-and-infrastructure-strategy
4. Community Hub	A Community Hub could help to engage residents, raise awareness and give the District's ambitions a permanent physical presence. Therefore, the Council should consider working with local groups to facilitate the setting-up of a dedicated community space that could act as an information and advice point for residents, exhibition space for local businesses and organisations, and a potential office space	N/A - measurement by engagement.	Potential to work with partner organisation and join an existing project e.g. the eco market at Foundation House and/or Stratford Climate Action.	Engagement with partners to begin immediately with a view to supporting a project in 2020.	Foundation House: https://www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk/events/eco-success/
5. Housing	Poorly insulated homes waste energy and lead to high emissions and unnecessary high energy bills for residents. It is estimated that as few as 40% of homes in the District are well insulated. Therefore, the Council should consider an ambitious programme working with partners to improve the insulation of homes. This should take account of best practice including The Warm Homes Oldham scheme and the work in the private rented sector undertaken by Newham Council.	Well insulated homes mean an EPC rating of A, B or C. There are estimated to be 30,633 houses in the District that fall below this (EPC D,E,F,G).	Potential to work with partner organisation e.g. potential for Act on Energy to deliver programme through amended SLA (Service Level Agreement).	Studies in early 2020 with programme to commence in 2021/22. Recommendations to go to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel).	Oldham Warm Homes Scheme https://www.oldham.gov.uk/warm_homes_oldham

6. Tree Planting	An ambitious tree-planting scheme as a means of carbon capture and also as a way to positively engage local residents and community groups. This should include a review of opportunities for tree planting provided through the use of developer contributions (£106 funds) secured for public open space.	Each tree can absorb around 22kg CO2 per annum. Other measurement by Biodiversity Net Gain.	Street trees cost approximately £2-5k per tree if planted properly. On open land (including grassy areas around social housing), it is possible to plant up 2,250 trees per hectare for around £8,500 (all national figures). Potential to work with partner organisations.	Tree planting policy and campaign to be in place for optimum tree-planting time in Autumn 2020. Policy to go to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel).	Staffordshire: https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Environment-and-countryside/Trees-and-forestry/Documents/Leaflet-Free-tree-scheme-Feb-18.pdf
7. Land and Planning	An audit of land across the District to identify a suitable site (or sites) to facilitate projects to promote biodiversity, tree planting, educational opportunities and community allotments. This audit should start with Council owned land. Planning policy should also be reviewed to assess how best to deliver greater biodiversity within and without new developments including. Considerations should be given to an Article 4 designation or Local Development Order to extend PD rights to enable householders/businesses to install certain energy efficiency / generation developments without the need for gaining planning consent (with noted exceptions).	Measurement by Biodiversity Net Gain and measurement of specific projects.	Officer time to Audit and develop policy. Potential capital investment.	Audit to be completed by Spring 2020.	General good practice from RTPI and TCPA: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3152143/Rising%20to%20the%20Climate%20Cr sis.pdf
8. Solar PV and Renewable Energy	Decarbonising energy across the District is a key challenge and therefore consideration should be given to initiatives that will increase the use of these technologies across the District. This could include the Council facilitating a 'bulk buy' scheme for residents to access solar panels or other technologies. This could be modelled on the 'reverse auction' scheme successfully run by Norwich City Council and other local authorities in Norfolk.	Currently the Stratford-on-Avon area has 92 MW of renewable power. <i>If the Stratford-on-Avon area matched the best of similar local authority areas it would have 265 MW.</i>	Potential to work with neighbouring authorities and partner organisations to deliver.	Plan to be produced by Autumn 2020. Recommendations to go to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel).	Solar Together Norfolk https://www.solartogether.co.uk/norwich/home
9. Energy Policy	Options to support and to encourage external investment in local and community renewable energy schemes including solar wind farms.	See above (8) and energy consumption of council estates. A 25.7MW plant is supplying Warrington Borough Council itself with 100% green electricity and cutting its bills by up to £2m a year.	To work with WCC and other partners. Potential capital investment.	Draft policy to be produced by Autumn 2020. Recommendations to go to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel).	Warrington: https://www.theengineer.co.uk/warrington-solar-project/
10. Transport	Specific transport proposals to be developed including 'shared space' options, promotion of active travel i.e. walking and cycling, improved bus services, and improved staff travel options (to link to 1).	Single biggest producer of emissions in the District - approximately 56%.	Need to work with WCC and partner organisations.	List of transport 'wants' to be produced by Spring 2020 by the OSC Standing Panel. Ongoing engagement with Warwickshire County Council.	Greater Manchester: https://tfgm.com/2040
11. Adaptation	To develop an adaptation policy that closely aligns to wider work including any new Core Strategy.	TBC - follow best practice from DEFRA, etc.	Work with WCC and partners as well as local voluntary groups.	Evidence sessions in early 2020 and draft policy produced by late 2020. Recommendations to go to The Cabinet (via the OSC Standing Panel).	Preparing for a changing climate: Good Practice Guidance for Local Government (DEFRA): https://adeptnet.org.uk/system/files/documents/Good%20Practice%20Guide%20ADEPT%202019f.pdf
12. Lobbying	Ongoing work to lobby government and to put carbon reduction at the heart of consultation responses.	TBC - change to government policy is one indication.	Officer time to ensure continued effort via LEP, WMCA, LGA and direct submissions to Government.	Ongoing.	Friends of the Earth: https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/print/pdf/node/115
The Cabinet/OSC					
1. Climate Change Officer	Creation of a dedicated officer post including options to co-fund any such position with other Councils in Warwickshire.	Suggested performance measures could include the funding brought in through successful bid applications.	£45k pa to cover a full time officer, but potential to share post with Warwickshire and District Councils.	In place for 2021/22.	Various posts being advertised nationally.

Cash Management Working Group					
1. Investments	The Cash Management Working Group (as the advisory group on the development of the Council's cash investment strategies and practices) should consider the Council's current investment portfolio and specifically whether it underpins environmental sustainability. The Group should identify and assess the holdings within the Council's portfolio and consider their appropriateness in light of the declaration of a Climate Emergency.	N/A	Work to be conducted as part of overall investment strategy.	Update request to the CMWG (from the OSC Standing Panel) in early 2020.	Waltham Forest https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/council%E2%80%99s-decision-divest-fossil-fuels-helps-tackle-climate-emergency-and-create-better
Member Development Working Group					
1. Training	The Member Development Working Group is asked to identify a series of Member training events on Climate Change to be delivered in 2020 and thereafter. Parish Councils are to be invited in the usual way.	N/A - measurement by member feedback.	To be covered as part of the existing Member Development budget.	First event to take place in early 2020.	Groups to invite include: Ashden and APSE
2. Paperless Meetings	The Council should move towards paperless committee meetings subsequent to the appropriate IT strategy being put in place.	Audit needed of cost (environmental and financial) of current system. Nationally, local authorities use 5.3 million reams of paper a year, requiring 292,000 trees to be felled.	Potential ICT investment but savings on printing and posting. It is estimated that an electronic meeting service would cost £15,000 to implement.	OSC Standing Panel to request an update from the MDWG in early 2020.	Buckinghamshire County Council case study and guidance from ADSO https://www.adso.co.uk/paperless-meetings-modern-way/
All					
1. Annual Climate Forum	An annual Climate Change Summit is organised with the Council holding the inaugural event in 2020.	N/A - measurement by engagement and feedback.	Work with partners including RSC.	Event to take place in 2020.	London Business Climate Leaders: https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/london-business-climate-leaders Bristol City Leap: https://www.bristol-energy.co.uk/cityleap

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Summary of Evidence

Written Evidence and Presentations:

1. Stratford-on-Avon DC Carbon Monitoring Report
2. Stratford Climate Action
3. Friends of the Earth
4. Act on Energy - presentation
5. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
6. Stratford Cycling Forum
7. Stratford Climate Action
8. Stratford Schools Sustainability Programme
9. Stratford Town Transport Group
10. Warwickshire County Council
11. Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
12. Heart of England Community Energy

All published online:

<https://democracy.stratford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=542&Mid=5415&Ver=4>

(Other) Attendance at Task & Finish Group Meetings:

Stratford Youth Forum

Meetings with Chairman/Scrutiny Support Officer:

RSC (Liz Minshall, Quality and Environment Manager)

Communities for Renewables (Jake Burnyeat, Managing Director)

Warwickshire County Council (meeting chaired by Andrew Pau, Waste Management & Partnerships)

Staff/Residents:

Submissions via climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk and staff suggestion box.

Other:

Richard Wilson (Environmental Strategy Manager, Norwich City Council)

Energy Saving Trust (Emilie Carmichael, Head of International Cooperation)

Sustainability West Midlands/Midlands Energy Hub (Ayat Ahmed, Senior Energy Projects Officer)

LGA (various)

Selected Key Documents:

Ashden: *A toolkit for city regions and local authorities* www.ashden.org/downloads/files/CAC-Chapters-all-FINAL.pdf

DEFRA/ADEPT: *Preparing for a changing climate: A Good Practice Guide for Local Government*

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/system/files/documents/Good%20Practice%20Guide%20ADEPT%202019f.pdf>

Friends of the Earth: various including *33 actions local authorities can take on climate change:*

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/print/pdf/node/70>

Imperial College/Grantham Institute (Dr Neil Jennings): *Co-benefits of climate change mitigation*

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/grantham-institute/public/publications/briefing-papers/Co-benefits-of-climate-change-mitigation-in-the-UK.pdf>

Also, see various briefings from APSE: <https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/members-area/advisory-groups/renewables-climate-change/briefings/> and on Sustainable Transport, Greater Manchester: <https://tfgm.com/made-to-move>.

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