

## **Divisions Affected - ALL**

### **CABINET 24 MAY 2022**

## **CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME – ANNUAL UPDATE**

### **Report by Corporate Director for Environment and Place**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
  - a) Note the annual update on the delivery of the Climate Action Programme (Appendix 1)
  - b) Approve the Climate Action Programme delivery plan for 2022/23 (Appendix 2)
  - c) Approve the council's Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (Appendix 3) and the interim emissions reduction target for 2024/25.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. In response to the council's declaration of a climate emergency, a Climate Action Framework was developed to mobilise a cross-organizational Climate Action Programme.
3. This report updates Cabinet on the delivery of the 21/22 Climate Action Programme delivery plan and sets out the 22/23 delivery plan.

#### **Annual update on delivery of the Climate Action Programme**

4. OCC's Climate Action Programme (CAP) annual delivery plan for 2021/22 included 20 priority actions – 10 OCC-only and 10 joint with CDC – split into two groups: decarbonising the councils' estate and operations and enabling the Oxfordshire's transition to net zero.
5. Please see Appendix 1 for an annual update on the delivery of the priority actions and next steps.
6. Alongside the CAP priority actions, additional work was delivered in 2021/22 to support OCC's commitment to 'becoming a climate active council':

- (a) We trained six staff to deliver the nationally recognised [Carbon Literacy training programme](#), which was offered to staff, leadership and councillors
- (b) E-learning course ‘Climate Action at OCC: a role for everyone’ now mandatory and completed by 2,720 staff members in 2021/22
- (c) New Climate Impact Assessment tool developed to inform decision making
- (d) ‘Net Zero by 2030’ dashboard developed to monitor corporate emissions monthly.

### Climate Action Programme delivery plan for 22/23

- 7. The scope of OCC’s Climate Action Programme (CAP) 22/23 delivery plan was expanded beyond the transition to net zero to reflect the Strategic Plan 2022-25 and the new climate and natural environment policy (in development).
- 8. The 22/23 delivery plan (Appendix 2) includes OCC’s priority actions in three areas:
  - (a) Becoming a climate active council – actions to continue embedding climate action into our organizational DNA
  - (b) Decarbonising our own estate and operations by 2030 – actions captured in the **Carbon Management Plan 2022-25** (see Appendix 3 and section below)
  - (c) Enabling Oxfordshire’s transition to net zero – actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as nature protection and restoration.

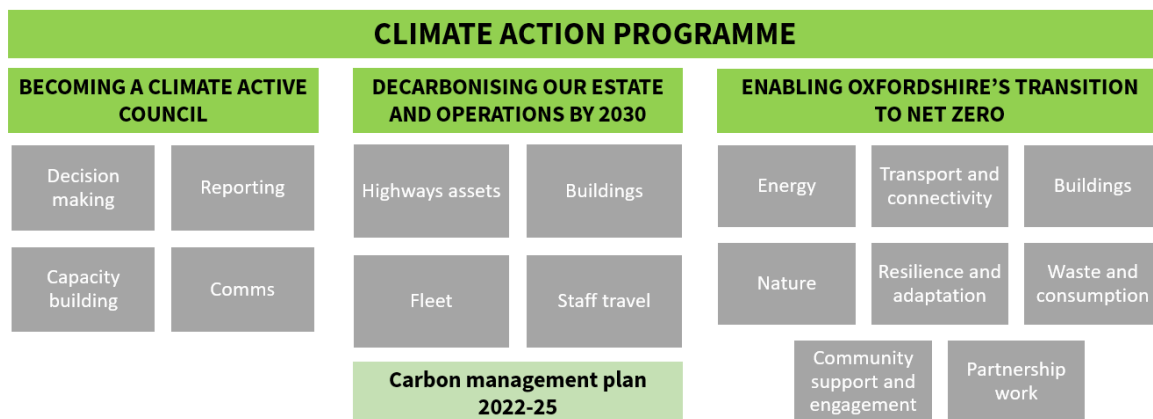


Figure 1 Three pillars of the Climate Action Programme

9. The Climate Action Programme (CAP) represents a selection of the council's wider climate-aligned activity. There are numerous other projects and initiatives taking place across the council and in collaboration with partners that advance OCC's climate commitments.

## **Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (CMP)**

10. The Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (Appendix 3) is one of the components of the Climate Action Programme. It sets out the approach to reducing the emissions from our buildings, highway assets, fleet, and staff business travel. These are the emissions that we committed to reduce to net zero this decade.
11. The short-term and longer-term actions set out in this plan, combined with the decarbonisation of the electricity supply, are likely to put the council emissions on a trajectory to reduce emissions to about 6,000t CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2024/25. This is equivalent to a 75% reduction from our 2010/11 baseline. During this period, the most significant reductions will come from:
  - (a) the streetlight LED conversion programme (73% of the estimated reduction from a Business-as-Usual scenario)
  - (b) release of leased buildings (10%)
  - (c) commitments to reduce staff travel (9%)
  - (d) delivery of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme measures (5%).
12. The CMP aims to accelerate action on estate decarbonisation and fleet electrification, with the recruitment of a Property Decarbonisation Manager and the implementation of the One Fleet integrated management system.
13. Our 'net zero by 2030' target does not include emissions from our supply chain. We recognise the importance and scale of these emissions and work is currently taking place to identify and evaluate major contracts to set science-based targets.

## **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

14. The Climate Action Programme supports the council's commitments to tackle the climate emergency, as expressed in the Strategic Plan 2022-25 and the Climate Action Framework.

## **Financial Implications**

15. The key emissions-reduction initiative in the Carbon Management Plan – streetlighting LED conversion – is fully funded and in progress. However, the

full costs and impacts of delivering all the longer-term actions in the plan (e.g., fleet and building decarbonisation) are not currently known.

	Investment required	Status	Carbon savings (24/25 vs BAU)	Financial savings
<b>Highway assets</b>	£40m	Fully funded – capital programme	2,783 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	£77m over 20 years
<b>Buildings</b>	c.£15m for 14 top consuming sites excluding County Hall + £40m for rest of estate	PSDS funded  Remaining pending funding – grants, recycling fund, capital and/or revenue bid	686 t CO <sub>2</sub> e (funded) + TBD from unfunded measures	TBD
<b>Fleet</b>	Under analysis	Pending funding – service revenue budgets	TBD	TBD
<b>Staff travel</b>	--	Fully funded – staff time	359 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	TBD

16. Activities planned for 2022/23 in the Carbon Management Plan – including the recruitment of an estate decarbonisation manager and the implementation of One Fleet – will provide the data to assess the level of investment required to transition our buildings and fleet to net zero. An invest-to-save programme will be developed, and business cases will be put forward for funding, including from grant sources such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
17. The remaining actions put forward in the Climate Action Programme 2022/23 delivery plan are being funded through the revenue budget, including £699k additional funding committed to support climate action initiatives over the medium-term financial plan.
18. Funding for future programme developments will need to be considered through the Budget & Business Planning process from 2023/24 onwards.

Comments checked by:

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## Legal Implications

19. This report does not raise legal implications.

Comments checked by:

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## **Staff Implications**

20. Staff involvement in current programme delivery is funded by agreed resource allocation and grant funding. Staff requirements of future programme developments will be put forward through the service and resource planning process.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

21. This paper does not raise any specific equalities implications. The Council's Climate Action Framework targets a 'just transition' in which all our communities and businesses are supported to participate, and costs and benefits are fairly shared.
22. While acting on climate change will bring benefits to all, it is most likely to have additional positive impacts on several of the protected and disadvantaged groups considered within the Council's equality framework. As an example, the work being done to increase energy efficiency in homes in fuel poverty will help reduce energy bills.

## **Sustainability Implications**

23. The Climate Action Programme is at the core of the council's response to the climate emergency. A number of its actions have a direct impact on our corporate emissions e.g., converting streetlighting to LED, while others, e.g., developing an adaptation strategy, aim to put in place the strategies, partnerships and initiatives that will help reduce carbon emission and increase climate resiliency across the county.

## **Risk Management**

24. The following challenges to reaching net zero by 2030 need to be addressed in tandem with delivery of the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2022-25:
  - (a) Evolving service needs for assets – as services adapted to COVID restrictions, new ways of working emerged that changed how our buildings and fleet are used; to meet the 2030 target, a way to continue decarbonising our estate within this evolving context must be identified.
  - (b) Fragmented asset management – lack of centralised management systems for buildings and fleet have slowed down decarbonisation efforts; implementation of One Fleet, an integrated fleet management

system, and of an integrated building energy management system are essential for CMP delivery.

- (c) Competing investment priorities – decarbonising our estate and operations will require significant investment, particularly to retrofit buildings and replace specialist vehicles; at the moment, the full costs are not known.
25. The council is leading work with Future Oxfordshire Partnership to develop a countywide net zero routemap and delivery plan based on the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report. Its delivery will require significant engagement and partnership work – with contractors, community action groups, vulnerable populations, schools, districts, retrofit value chain, energy system stakeholders, among others.

## **Communications**

26. The 21/22 Climate Action Programme annual update (Appendix 1), the 22/23 Climate Action Programme delivery plan, and the Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 will be published on the council’s website.
27. The 22/23 Climate Action Programme comms plan is being developed by the Comms, Marketing and Engagement team

Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Environment and Place

Annex:

- 1 – Climate Action Programme annual report (two-pager)
- 2 – Climate Action Programme delivery plan 2022/23
- 3 – Carbon Management Plan 2022-25

Background papers: Nil

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