

Divisions Affected -

CARBON REDUCTION SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

11 MARCH 2022

Briefing #2: Carbon Management Plan and climate and ecology additional funding

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Scrutiny Working Group is RECOMMENDED to**
 - Note the council's draft Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (appendix 1)
 - Note the breakdown of additional funding for climate and ecology agreed in the 21/22 Budget setting process (appendix 2).

Executive Summary

2. A draft Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2022-25 has been developed setting out the council's decarbonisation approach for buildings, highway assets (streetlighting, traffic signals and signage), fleet, and staff business travel in their own vehicles. The plan includes short-term and longer-term actions that amount to a 75% reduction in emissions by 2024/25 from our 2010/11 baseline.
3. The full cost of delivering the CMP is not known. Actions planned for 22/23 will assess the level of investment required.

Draft Carbon Management Plan 2022-25

4. The Carbon Management Plan 2022-25 (CMP) sets out the approach to reducing the emissions included in the 'net zero by 2030' target, as well as short-term and longer-term actions that add up to the council's emissions trajectory to 2024/25.
5. The CMP acknowledges that these council's emissions represent only 0.22% of Oxfordshire's total but recognises a leadership role for OCC in inspiring

residents and local businesses to take action. It also acknowledges that the emissions in scope for the 'net zero by 2030' don't include the totality of the council's scope 3 emissions. It highlights that steps are being taken to develop a comprehensive view of our supply chain emissions, while simultaneously working with suppliers to deliver contracts that are increasingly aligned with science-based targets on net-zero emissions.

6. The CMP echoes the key guiding principles of the Climate Action Framework. It emphasizes a 'avoid-shift-improve' approach to decarbonisation that prioritises reducing energy demand and uses offsets only as a last resort.
7. The actions included in the CMP 2022-25 place the council on a trajectory to reduce emissions to about 6,000t CO₂e by 2024/25, which 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 (72% of the estimated reduction from BAU)
 - (b) release of leased buildings (12%)
 - (c) commitments to work to reduce staff travel (9%)
 - (d) fleet electrification (3%).
8. The key emissions-reduction initiative – streetlighting LED conversion – is fully funded and in progress. However, the full costs of delivering the plan are not currently known.
9. The following conditions must be met to ensure delivery of the longer-term actions in the Plan and a pathway towards net zero by 2030:
 - (a) Identifying a way to continue decarbonising our estate in the face of changing service needs for assets – the Agile Working Strategy (currently under development) will address this issue
 - (b) Implementing One Fleet, integrated asset management system for fleet – estimated to be in place by March 2023
 - (c) Implementing an integrated energy management system for buildings
 - (d) Identifying the measures and investment required to decarbonise the estate; determining which offer a viable invest-to-save payback and which require external funding
 - (e) Estimating the investment required to decarbonise the fleet
 - (f) Securing adequate funding for approved decarbonisation measures
 - (g) Agreeing an offset threshold above which alternative investment options will be considered
 - (h) Implementing a council-wide programme to minimise emissions from staff travel, linked to a corporate KPI.

10. The CMP 2022-25 will be endorsed by the Climate Action Programme Board on 14 March and sent for Cabinet approval in May.
11. The governance structure for the CMP will also be approved by the Climate Action Programme Board on 14 March. It will be proposed that a delivery group is formed, led by the Director of Joint Property Services, to report quarterly to the Climate Action Programme Board, which will in turn report to Cabinet every six months. At the moment, the Board reports annually to Scrutiny.
12. When possible, progress will be monitored using the council's Carbon Neutrality dashboard, which displays the latest monthly data on energy and fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and progress on key projects, along with KPIs and targets agreed with services.
13. The CMP actions and targets will be reviewed annually.
14. The Plan is part of a wider Climate Action Programme that also includes actions to embed climate and ecological considerations into the organizational DNA and to enable Oxfordshire's transition to net zero across transport and connectivity, buildings, schools, energy systems, waste and consumption, and the natural environment.

Climate and ecology investment budget

15. The revenue budget for 2022/23 includes £740k in additional funding to support climate change initiatives. Please see Appendix 2 for breakdown of the funding and how it will be used.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

16. Addressing the climate emergency is the council's top priority. The carbon neutrality target and the Carbon Management Plan are key pieces of the Climate Action Programme, as set out in the council's Climate Action Framework.

Financial Implications

17. CMP actions planned for 2022/23 will provide the data to assess the level of investment required to transition OCC's buildings and fleet to net zero. An invest-to-save programme will be developed, and business cases will be put

forward for funding through the Budget & Business Planning process from 2023/24 onwards.

18. Funding sources include the existing invest-to-save loan facilities such as the Salix Recycling Funds and grant sources such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Legal Implications

19. This briefing raises no legal implications.

Staff Implications

20. Staff involvement in current programme delivery is funded by agreed resource allocation and grant funding. The Climate Action Team is providing centralised support. The Property team is recruiting a decarbonisation manager to develop an investment pipeline and implement building energy management good practice.
21. Staff requirements of future programme developments will be put forward through the service and resource planning process.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

22. When developing and implementing its climate change and carbon reduction strategies and projects, the council must take an inclusive approach, ensuring the costs and benefits of the transition to a low-carbon economy are fairly shared.
23. 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

Sustainability Implications

24. One of the three pillars of the council's response to the climate emergency is achieving net zero emissions in its estate and operations by 2030.

Appendix 2: Climate and Ecology Investment budget

Background papers:

Nil

Contact Officer:

Sarah Gilbert, Climate Action Team Leader,
07867467797, Sarah.Gilbert@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

March 2022