

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3 FEBRUARY 2021

When the council renewed its terms and conditions in 2019 for awarded contracts, it set a minimum standard of Euro 3 for its school buses and coaches, one of the first authorities to do this. In doing this, it was recognised that it wasn't setting the bar particularly high but given where the market was, it was considered a good start to its longer-term ambitions of awarding carbon neutral contracts in 2031.

Working closely with the market and the council's own climate change team, environmental standards will be raised every four years as the Dynamic Purchasing System (through which contracts are awarded) is renewed. This will be in 2023, 2027 and then with the carbon neutral target in 2031.

In 2018, surveys were carried out to assess the current carbon output from supported transport activities. This showed that each day some 50,000 miles were travelled performing this function accounting for around 3,800 tonne CO₂e per year.

From September 2021 there is an ambition that tracking devices will be installed in all vehicles allowing detailed monitoring of emissions allowing a targeted action plan to be developed in 2022 on how it might meet its 2031 ambitions and the standards it will need to set when the dynamic Purchasing System is renewed in 2023.