

Appendix 10 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Impact unknown	Schemes to upgrade District Heating boiler houses will be funded through the HRA Business Plan, with a view to replace existing gas boilers with low or zero carbon alternatives in the long term.	<p>Recommendations with respect to District Heating charges are benchmarked to the Ofgem energy price cap, so that households with a heat network connection are not penalised compared to those with central heating and a gas boiler. This may become relevant to carbon emissions in the longer term, since low or zero carbon heat networks offer an alternative technology to decarbonise domestic heating, in dwellings where an air source heat pump might be unviable.</p> <p>Homes which are connected to the Council's existing district heat networks comprise ca. 1% of all domestic properties in Rotherham.</p>		Supply of gas and biomass (wood pellets) to District Heating boiler houses is monitored through the Council's energy procurement portfolio. Greenhouse gas emissions from District Heating are outside the scope of the Council's NZ30 target, however they will be included as scope 3 emissions in the 2025 Climate Change Annual Report.

Emissions from transport?	Impact unknown	For new residential developments and works to existing council stock vehicle movements to and from the site will be generated during demolition and construction.	While it is possible that new households will increase vehicle movements, they may also reduce them, depending on the location of new developments with respect to residents' places of work and access to services.	It is recommended that new housing development should account for access to public transport and active travel, in its location and design.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Construction and works to existing Council stock will generate waste materials through demolition, exporting of materials from groundworks and waste construction materials.	Albeit new homes might not mean more people living in the Borough, there may be a small increase in the amount of waste collected from households and distance travelled by waste collection vehicles.	Prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will mitigate waste in their tenders, to include re-using/recycling materials on site where possible.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease		It is a principal focus of the 2025/26 HRA Business Plan to improve the thermal comfort of existing Council homes and to save Council tenants' spending on energy bills, which should have the additional benefit of cutting emissions from domestic heating. In 2022, domestic gas heating accounted for ca. 16.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough of Rotherham;		EPC ratings are recorded for all the Council's housing stock. These data will be supplemented by stock condition surveys, to commence in January 2025. New buildings are monitored once they are occupied, to ensure their stated energy performance standards are met in practice.

			<p>at the 2021 Census, 16.7% of households rented from the Council.</p> <p>£13 million is allocated in the HRA business plan to increase all Council homes' energy performance to EPC band C by 2030: the Council will seek to leverage further investment from external sources, including the Warm Homes: Local Grant.</p> <p>New build homes will be designed to Future Homes Standard, to be introduced in 2025. All options set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on the Future Homes Standard exclude the use of fossil fuel boilers in new dwellings.</p>		
<p>Emissions from construction and/or development?</p>	<p>Increase</p>	<p>There will be emissions from the construction of new and refurbishment of existing housing. In the HRA business plan, 150 dwellings are to be added to the Council's housing stock between</p>		<p>For new build schemes, there may be a smaller carbon impact per dwelling, where modern methods of construction are used.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a RICS 'whole life carbon assessment' or suitable alternative should be completed for at least one housing development, to provide evidence which can</p>

		<p>2026/27 and 2028/29, by a combination of acquisition and new development.</p> <p>Some new properties in the programme i.e., homes purchased by the Council as strategic acquisitions, will have a carbon impact regardless of the Council's purchase.</p> <p>It is possible that mature trees will be removed as part of the development of some new sites.</p>		<p>For refurbishment schemes, emissions from retrofitting properties to a higher energy performance standard will be partially offset by increased energy efficiency.</p> <p>If trees are present on the site of a proposed development, they will be retained wherever possible. Planning consent for the removal of mature trees will depend on their equivalent replacement, plus 10%.</p>	<p>inform the design of future schemes and increase understanding of their respective carbon impacts.</p>
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	<p>The HRA Business plan identifies funding for environmental schemes, which may include tree planting: an additional £1.2 million is to be invested in the Environmental Programme between 2026/27 and 2029/30.</p>			
<p>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>N/A</p>					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The HRA Business Plan sets out the proposed value of investment in the housing service for the next 30 years. Given the Council's commitment for carbon emissions in Rotherham to be Net Zero by 2040, this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the Business Plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £600m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. As a result, this means that drawing in external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. Participation in national grant funding schemes will be prioritised.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Lindsay Wynn, HRA Business Planning Manager.
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking reference: CIA 366 Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer, Finance and Customer Services