

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 22 March 2021

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At its meeting on 30th October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and produced a policy and action plan "Rotherham Council Responding to the Climate Emergency". This set out seven policy themes of Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and natural environment; Influence; and Engagement.

At its meeting on 23rd March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the targets of:

- Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Rotherham-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

To take this forward, an annual action plan has been produced to enable forward actions to be planned and progress to be monitored and reported.

This report provides an update on progress made during 2020 and provides a framework for action through 2021.

Recommendations

1. That the progress to date towards NZ30 and NZ40 targets be noted
2. That the 2021/22 Carbon Action Plan appended be noted
3. That the report and action plan be forwarded to the next ordinary Council meeting.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Climate Emergency progress summary and 2021/22 action plan

Appendix 2 and 3 Equality Analysis

Background Papers

Anderson, K. *et al.* (2021). *Setting Climate Commitments for Rotherham: Quantifying the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement for Rotherham*. Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

<<https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E08000018/>>

Rotherham Council (2020). *Responding to the Climate Emergency*. Cabinet 23rd March 2020:

<<http://modgov-pdb/documents/s125066/Responding%20to%20the%20Climate%20Emergency.pdf>>

UNEP (2020). *Emissions Gap Report 2020*. Nairobi

<<https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020>>

Environment Bill (as amended in Commons committee stage)

<<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0220/200220.pdf>>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 17 March 2021

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

1. Background

1.1 As part of responding to the “Climate Emergency”, the Council committed to a series of actions to address climate change issues and carbon use, within the Council, in Rotherham and working with other areas. This included:

- Joining with other local authorities in declaring a climate emergency.
- Creating a member working group to propose an informed target for the Council’s carbon reduction by 2025 and to review it every five years thereafter. It was also committed that a “Carbon Action Plan” would be developed.
- Developing a strategy for RMBC to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships in reducing carbon emissions.
- Mandating officers to lobby government for additional resources to support this strategy where these are required.
- Pledging to produce, in January of each year, a Rotherham Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council’s progress against the Carbon Action Plan.
- Pledging to ask partner organisations across Rotherham to support the climate change agenda by making clear commitments.
- Requiring all officer reports from April 2020 to Cabinet and Full Council to contain impact assessments in relation to climate change.

1.2 The Cabinet report of 23rd March 2020 “Responding to the Climate Emergency” outlined two overarching goals:

- Council’s carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30).
- Rotherham-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40).

1.3 The Cabinet report also included an action plan framed around the following carbon themes, covering a framework for action for each year. The themes for the action plan cover:

- Energy
- Transport
- Housing
- Waste
- Built & natural environment
- Influence
- Engagement

1.4 The targets and direction are a long-term approach to major change that will be delivered through a wide range of actions. Whilst projects are being delivered that bring early gains, the strategy is still at an early stage with baselines and theme plans still being developed. The nature of the first annual report and actions being planned reflect the developmental nature of the strategy.

1.5 This report:

- Restates the Council's commitment to the climate emergency agenda
- Provides the first annual progress update since the adoption of the policy
- Sets out planned action for 2021/22

A summary of progress and planned actions for 2021/22 is attached at appendix 1.

2. Key Issues

2.1 This section sets out progress to date, learning since adoption of the policy and plans for 2021/22.

2.2 The Cabinet report of 23rd March 2020 'responding to the climate emergency' included an action plan framed around seven climate themes which will contribute to the pursuit of the long-term targets. These are:

- **Energy** – focuses on the energy used in Council operations and services provided, and energy used by contractors.
- **Housing** – refers to emissions associated with domestic energy usage. This may be social housing or private housing.
- **Transport** – includes emissions from the Council's fleet and "grey fleet", and from public and private transport usage across the borough.
- **Waste** – working across the South Yorkshire authorities through the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy, RMBC will explore extending sustainable waste processing and reducing waste.
- **Built and natural environment** – incorporates considerations of CO₂ typically associated with planning and the urban environment, as well as CO₂ capture by green infrastructure (i.e. trees).
- **Influence** – recognises that to have a meaningful impact on boroughwide emissions, the Council must work alongside other organisations operating in the borough to secure commitments on reduction and specific pledges to act on this. Alongside this work is a commitment to lobby regionally and nationally to inform policy developments.
- **Engagement** – this recognises that the overwhelming majority of emissions from Rotherham are not related to Council activities. Therefore, an effective engagement strategy is required to commit residents to climate reduction.

2.3 **Progress to date**

During 2020/21, work has begun to build the foundations of the Council's response to the climate emergency agenda. Development has focused on baseline work, understanding the gaps in knowledge and data; developing governance arrangements, including establishing a team of climate champions; and the Council agreeing to NZ30 and NZ40 targets and a series of relevant actions in March 2020. This coincided with the country's first Covid-19 lockdown. The consequent reduction of available capacity to provide strategic oversight and co-ordination has affected the pace of development; however, despite this, significant activity and progress has been made in many areas.

2.4 Appendix 1 provides an overview of progress in 2020/21 against each climate change theme.

2.5 **Learning**

Learning from the first-year experience will form an important component in identifying priorities. This has been a year of getting a clear understanding of the themes and the challenges. The establishment of the Climate Champions has been key in the learning journey to understand where the Council is now, identifying the gaps and challenges, and what actions need to be taken next.

2.6 Key first year learning has demonstrated that identifying and developing evidence-based actions is limited by both resource and capacity, together with a lack of comprehensive baseline data.

2.7 The collation of comprehensive baseline data itself is resource and capacity intensive and requires further development of officer expertise and, potentially, external support/consultation. This will be a priority for 2021/22.

2.8 Additionally, learning so far highlights that decarbonisation requires a shared awareness of and commitment to NZ30 and NZ40 targets, and a coordinated approach towards delivering these targets embedded across services. Further awareness raising and engagement with staff, communities and partners will be a feature of the action plan for 2021/22.

2.9 The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on progress of the plan in the last year but has had a positive impact on staff travel due to the proportion of the workforce that are working from home.

2.10 **Plan for 2021**

The action plan for 2021 has now been developed, building on the progress to date and learning points. The actions will be the subject of further detailed reports to Cabinet where appropriate, seeking specific approvals throughout the year.

- 2.11 A summary of progress and updates for each of the themes is set out below. An action plan for 2021/22 has been produced, incorporating the actions set out below together with potential challenges to be addressed. A summary of the actions for 2021/22 is provided in the table at appendix 1.
- 2.12 In the coming year, these will be supported by overarching actions including:
- 2.13 Development of an approach to assess the carbon impact of key Council decisions, including guidance for officers, with a view to adoption in June 2021.]-[
- 2.14 Supporting the development of data for comprehensive baselining, including:
- Transport emissions (borough-wide)
 - Transport emissions (Council fleet – partial)
 - Housing emissions
 - Procurement emissions
 - Waste emissions (Council and commercial waste)
 - Carbon sequestration

This work will be supported by the climate champions and corporately by the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate.

- 2.15 Active and planned engagement with the workforce, local communities (including specialist interest groups) and partners to facilitate participation and involvement in the climate agenda. This will be underpinned by a communications plan.
- 2.16 **Energy**
- 2.17 The Council has actively reduced energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in operational buildings by 54% and streetlighting by 73% against a 14/15 baseline. Over 80 projects have been commissioned and over £1.5m invested in energy efficiency measures, saving over £390k each year and reducing annual emissions by over 1.8k tonnes of CO₂.
- 2.18 A programme of decarbonisation assessments has been carried out across 37 operational buildings, identifying 237 new installations and 256 upgrades of technologies to be included in the Council's 'Decarbonisation Plan'.
- 2.19 The Council presently consumes ~18 million kWh of electricity within its operational buildings and street lighting. A proof of concept capital allocation of £1m is included in the 2021/22 budget proposals, which will look at a project or projects to produce decentralised low carbon electricity.
- 2.20 Around 1% of cars in Rotherham are now electric vehicles (EVs). The Council-owned and operated EV charging infrastructure in Rotherham saved 6.5t CO₂ in 2020 and is connected to photovoltaic systems where possible, consisting of 62 charging points with 215 kW capacity of photovoltaic panels combined with 40.5 kW batteries. This enables the majority of the electric vehicle charging points to charge vehicles from renewable energy.

- 2.21 For the coming year, four key areas of actions have been developed. These are:
- 2.22 Monitor and report CO₂ emissions publicly:
- There is scope to improve the monitoring and data capture processes currently in place, especially for energy generation both internally and throughout the borough. Data collated should be publicly available.
- 2.23 Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades:
- Detailed site surveys are being carried out to identify interactions to decarbonise operational buildings. The results will inform the development of a Council property decarbonisation plan.
- 2.24 Implement energy awareness training for the Council workforce:
- Targeted training packages will be developed and presented to staff using a variety of media including staff briefings, e-learning modules, workshops and presentations. The training will be site/staff specific.
- 2.25 Continue to support the private sector led development of Templeborough biomass heat network:
- Government investment amounting to £8.4m has been secured; after the owners of the plant withdrew from investing an additional £8 million, further investment is being sought.
- 2.26 **Housing**
- 2.27 Work is underway to develop standards and programmes to improve energy efficiency in domestic properties, including the successful submission of a Government-funded Local Authority Delivery (LAD) grant bid, and a possible further submission to improve the efficiency of public and private housing. This is being led by the Council's Green Housing Strategy Group.
- The Council has secured £1.14m through the Green Housing Grant – Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme to bring 217 properties up to a “Band C” Energy Performance Certificate rating at The Lanes, East Dene. The aim of the project is to create Rotherham’s first retrofit ‘Eco Village’ and the Council will use LAD funding to compliment internal funding sources, to fund improvement works to the fabric of the buildings and install additional energy efficiency measures that will support our existing low-income households in reducing fuel poverty.
- 2.28 Government data shows Rotherham as 1 of 4 local authorities in England and Wales (as of 21st January 2021) to install over 2,500 energy efficiency measures through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme that is funded by utility company contributions.
- 2.29 The Community Energy Support Scheme will be launched on 1st March 2021 to provide support for Rotherham residents to reduce energy costs, improve energy efficiency and support with potential Government grants. The project

works alongside National Energy Action funded programmes to support all communities and reduce fuel poverty.

2.30 For the coming year, four key areas of actions have been developed. These are:

2.31 Delivery of schemes under LAD funding:

- The funding bid for Phase 1 of the LAD scheme has been successful with £1.14m secured. A bid for LAD Phase 2 is currently under development.

2.32 Develop a “road map” to zero carbon for Council housing:

- A road map to net zero housing will look at where “quick wins” can be achieved, whilst also setting out action required in the medium and longer term. All options for developing the road map will be considered, including carrying the work out in-house, procuring consultants or a combination of the two.
- Parity Software is being utilised for Council-owned stock to develop a road map for investment in Council homes through HRA.

2.33 Establish energy efficiency specifications for new Council homes:

- The government is bringing in changes to building regulations in the coming years which will eventually require all new homes to be carbon neutral. New Council housing will also need to meet these standards.

2.34 Establish housing stock emission baselines:

- Data held by the Council on private housing stock is not comprehensive enough to identify all opportunities for intervention or provide a baseline to track progress against. In the coming year, the Council will work to consolidate the intelligence available, identify where further intelligence can be gathered and establish a robust baseline.
- A housing green paper is being drafted. This will be cross tenure and ready in 2021/22. There are challenges around supply chain, the impact of Right to Buy on Council homes following substantial investment and subsequent loss of capital investment. However, the process is harnessing the existing partnership with Engie, who are experts in energy and climate change.

2.35 **Transport**

2.36 A vehicle replacement programme is being developed to consider alternative fuel vehicles. Further consideration of technology and market projections is required to understand the feasibility of EV conversion. A reduction of fleet emissions will also be achieved by the rollout of Telematics: this will be used

to monitor driver compliance with fuel efficiency; an invitation to tender this has been drawn up and is in process.

- 2.37 An assessment of transport emissions in Rotherham identifies sources as 97% from road transport (48% cars and 46% road freight) with ~70% of car emissions from 23% of trips over 10 miles. There is a large impact of longer distance travel, including “pass-by” trips on motorways that pass through the borough.
- 2.38 A cycling strategy is in development with a draft document to be presented to Cabinet in March 2021. This is estimated to reduce overall emissions from transport by ~2% across the borough.
- 2.39 All residential developments, and all developments providing five or more parking spaces, are now expected to provide charging infrastructure, with 20% of parking spaces at non-residential developments required to have charging points and cable routes provided to ultimately serve all parking spaces.
- 2.40 An exercise is underway to identify potential sites for neighbourhood EV charging hubs. These are intended to ensure communities in areas where mass on-street charging is not feasible have access to charging infrastructure (for example, where residents are dependent on on-street parking for the stabling of their vehicles).
- 2.41 For the coming year, four key areas of actions have been developed. These are:
- 2.42 Rollout of Telematics:
- Telematics will provide driver performance feedback and will subsequently facilitate the introduction of fuel improvement training. This will also enable the Council’s fleet to look for opportunities to optimise the routes on “Home to School” transport, reducing route mileage and associated emissions.
- 2.43 Timeline for EV conversion:
- Integrating EV/ULEV conversion into the fleet replacement strategy must coincide with better data to understand our current efficiency/impact and benchmarking strategic goals. This will necessitate consultation with Council services and engagement with procurement regarding upcoming replacements, in line with the overall strategic approach of EV. Developing a realistic approach to conversion will require more information to be gathered on feasibility and understanding technology and markets to identify EV/ULEV opportunities.

2.44 Develop a cycling strategy:

- 2021/22 will see the delivery of the earlier part of the Transforming Cities programme, including cycling improvements. These are also programmed under the Active Travel Fund. These programmes will see Rotherham deliver £12m worth of improvements for public transport and cycling by March 2023.
- Additionally, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive are promoting £17m of public transport improvements as part of the Transforming Cities programme, with delivery of public transport improvements on the Parkgate area due to commence in 2021 as well as a planned tram/train stop at Templeborough/Magna.

2.45 Expand EV charging infrastructure:

- The Council is currently in discussion with SCR around using £2.6 million of funding awarded as part of the 'Getting Building Fund' to improve charging infrastructure across the City Region.
- The joint Sheffield-Rotherham Clean Air Plan also presents an opportunity. This consists of a package of support to enable taxi drivers to upgrade to electric (or other ultra-low emission) vehicles, as well as additional charging points. The package is currently under review in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

2.46 **Waste**

2.47 Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) agreed a Joint Waste Plan to guide and manage waste up the hierarchy (away from landfill and towards greater reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery). Rotherham has continuously increased recycling rates since 2014.

2.48 A review of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy is underway in the context of both the climate change agenda, the Environment Bill currently in Parliament, and waste and resources strategies that will both come online this year. The Council will continue to contribute to this and review to ensure it reflects our NZ30 and NZ40 ambitions.

2.49 For the coming year, three key areas of actions have been developed.

2.50 Recycling improvement and contamination reduction through engagement activities:

- A business case has been considered and funding identified to undertake a behaviour-focused campaign to reduce waste and contamination. The project is being co-ordinated by the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Community Liaison and Education Officer (CELO).

2.51 Work with BDR PFI contractor to continue landfill waste reduction:

- The waste treatment facility at Bolton Road in Rotherham has been operational since 2015 and the performance of the facility has improved to such an extent that diversion from landfill is currently

exceeding 95%. There is now an opportunity to incentivise the contractor to divert more waste from landfill than the level that is currently required under the contractual agreement.

2.52 Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer, in order to support schools and businesses to recycle more.

- The current position is that RMBC do not offer any specific recycling options to our commercial waste customers or potential new commercial customers. This includes standard businesses as well as schools.
- The issue is being looked at in a staged approach (resource dependent):
 - Modelling options of waste provision to schools, as there is a baseline of schools with contracts.
 - A full project and modelling of commercial waste recycling options. The current process for collections has been mapped, but there is a need to research, plan and model service options.

2.53 **Built and Natural Environment**

2.54 The Rotherham Local Plan Core Strategy review recognises the continuing challenges of climate change and the need to move towards a net zero carbon approach, with climate change and net-zero carbon being a continuous theme throughout the strategy. This is accompanied by a series of SPDs (supplementary planning documents) relevant to climate change, which were rolled out in June 2020:

- SPD2: Air quality and emissions (adopted June 2020)
- SPD5: Equal and healthy communities (adopted June 2020)

2.55 The Council is working towards a Tree Policy and a tree planting strategy. The following work has been carried out:

- Creation of a draft Tree Management Policy to describe how RMBC will manage its urban trees. Within this, there are proposed policies around tree planting and protection of existing tree stock.
- 17 hectares of green spaces land has been identified for woodland creation.
- A revenue bid is pending to fund a Tree Planting Engagement Officer. The post will engage with external groups to organize tree planting, source external funding, and identify further planting sites on Council land.

2.56 For the coming year, five key areas of actions have been developed. These are:

2.57 Update to Local Plan Core Strategy:

- The core strategy partial update will consider:

- CS 25 Dealing with flood risk (reduce and mitigate)
- CS 26 Minerals (reduce reliance on fossil fuels)
- CS 30 Low carbon & renewable energy generation (EV charge requirements, new dwelling requirements, required info in planning applications)

2.58 Produce SPDs:

- Draft Natural environment SPD (to Cabinet May 2021 for adoption)
- Draft Green space SPD (to Cabinet June/July 2021 to approve consultation autumn 2021)
- Draft Soils SPD (to Cabinet June/July 2021 to approve consultation autumn 2021)
- Draft Trees SPD (to Cabinet June/July 2021 to approve consultation autumn 2021)

2.59 Appointment of the Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer, whose role will allow the Council to source both funding and identify land for planting. This role will also focus on engaging with local communities, thus supporting the wider climate emergency influence and engagement workstream.

2.60 Adoption of the Tree Management Policy.

2.61 Development of a tree planting strategy to guide all tree planting that is carried out on Council-owned land. The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions.

2.62 **Influence**

2.63 The Council continues to engage constructively at a city region level, contributing to the Sheffield City Region Energy Strategy, which was published in June 2020. The strategy's vision is for South Yorkshire to have: 'A clean, efficient and resilient energy system, which supports a healthier environment for people to live, work and visit, and which drives our transition to a low carbon economy.' The Leader of the Council also chairs the city region's transport and environment board, which oversees implementation of a climate emergency response framework, as well as shaping future policy priorities.

2.64 Work is also ongoing at a regional level. The Yorkshire Leaders' Board has established a regional climate commission, which is due to be launched in March. The Council's chief executive sits on the board's zero carbon sub-group, with a lead role on national lobbying and policy development. The Council will continue to play an active role regionally and nationally to promote the climate agenda.

2.65 **Engagement**

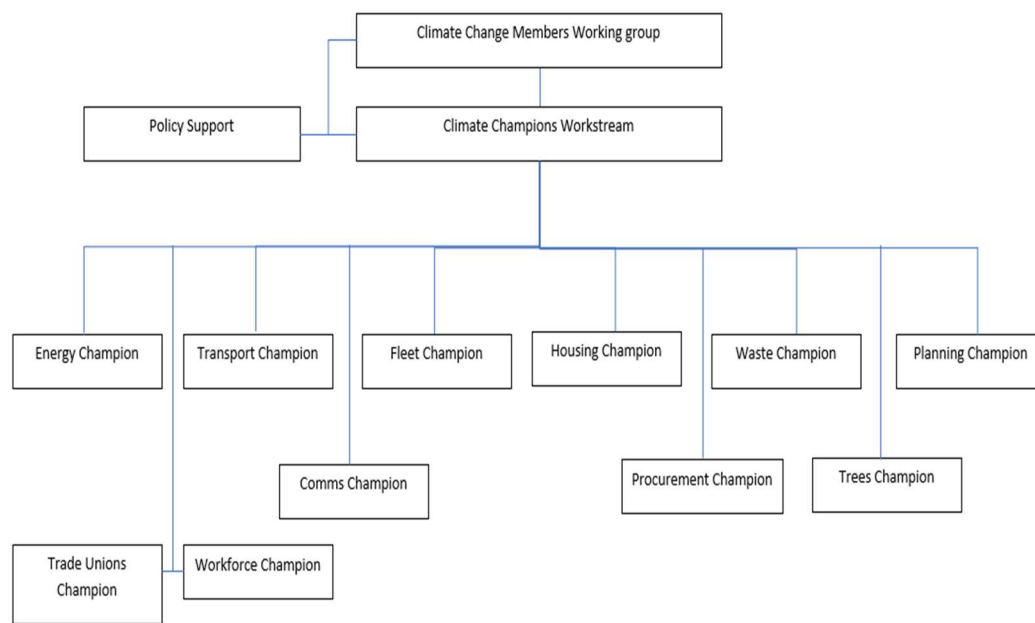
2.66 Two groups are responsible for delivering, monitoring, and reporting on the progress of the action plan:

- Members Climate Change Group
- Climate Change Champions Group

These groups support both internal engagement with officers and members, and external engagement with partners, other organisations, residents, and communities. This has helped the profile of this agenda being raised with partner organisations via the Rotherham Together Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 2.67 For the coming year, the intention is to widen engagement activities and further develop commitments in procurement and commissioning.
- 2.68 Further work will be undertaken to include carbon considerations as part of the council's social value policy. There is an opportunity to review the TOMs identified within the Council's Social Value policy and seek to incentivise commitments against certain measures within a tender process, therefore highlighting to the market the strategic importance to the Council of climate change and reducing CO₂ emissions.
- 2.69 A climate emergency communications and engagement plan will be developed with the aim of facilitating wider participation and involvement in working towards climate change ambitions. Given that only a small fraction of overall CO₂ across Rotherham is emitted by the Council, it will be vital to establish shared priorities with residents, partners, other interested organisations and communities. This will include engagement with young people and collaborating with established groups such as the youth cabinet and the young inspectors to reach out to the community.
- 2.70 **Governance Structure**
- 2.71 Governance arrangements have been established to support the Member Working Group and to ensure that the climate actions are developed and embedded. This has been facilitated by the appointment of Climate Champions in key Council services, brought together through the policy support role. The organogram below shows the linkages through the governance arrangements.

2.72



2.73 The Member Working Group and Climate Champions will work towards the key actions set out above for the 2021/22 period. The action plan will be used as a working document to track progress and identify additional barriers and opportunities.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Note the progress to date towards NZ30 and NZ40 targets
- b) Note the 2021/22 Carbon Action Plan appended
- c) Agree to forward the report and action plan to the next ordinary Council meeting

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Reflecting the climate change themes, this report and the 2021/22 Carbon Action Plan are a cross-service effort; services have been identified in relation to each theme/area and a corresponding Climate Champion has been identified to collaborate around the production and delivery of this agenda. Actions have been developed and shared with the member working group.

4.2 The Carbon Action Plan for 2021/22 identifies a communications strategy as a priority action for this agenda. This will provide the framework for a strategic approach to engagement with partners and other organisations, residents, and communities, who will be consulted with and involved in the further production and implementation of the Carbon Action Plan.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 The delivery of the 2021/22 Carbon Action Plan will be through the Climate Champions group and overseen by the Climate Emergency Member Working Group.

5.2 Progress on the 21/22 Carbon Action Plan, and a subsequent action plan, will be provided in the next Climate Emergency Annual Report.

6. **Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**

6.1 Procurement implications are embedded into the main body of the report. Where there is an identified need to procure goods, services or works in relation to delivery against the Carbon Action Plan these should be referred to the Corporate Procurement Service. This will ensure all projects are procured in line with both the relevant internal financial and procurement procedure rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended), and that social value commitments are secured.

6.2 There are no financial implications as a result of this update on the work being undertaken by the Council to tackle the climate emergency. The work being undertaken is covered within the Councils existing budget allocations.

6.3 To further support this agenda a number of specific budget provisions are being made through both capital and revenue commitments. These include:

- Increased revenue contribution to tree planting of £50,000, adding to the capital commitment.
- Increased revenue contribution to climate change research and data of £49,000. This will meet the challenges identified in data collection and analysis, helping to drive forward the programme to achieve Carbon Neutral.
- A capital commitment of £350,000 over two years 2021/22 for tree planting.
- A capital commitment of £1 million over two years 2021/22 for Corporate Decarbonisation.

6.4 The capital commitments are projected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Tree planting, with over 500 new trees being planted.
- Corporate decarbonisation, building on the success of a number of smaller scale projects having been carried out to generate Green Electricity, with over 200kWp of output recently added to RMBC buildings saving £17,400 in year 1. It is estimated that a further 20MW is required to meet the demand of the operational estate and street lighting (2019 levels). To meet this demand, large scale projects of ground mounted solar PV and wind turbines would be considered, along with battery storage options to absorb peak output and supply energy when needed. A proof of concept capital allocation of £1m is

included in the 2021/22 budget proposals, which will look at a project or projects to produce decentralised low carbon electricity. This project will inform the decision to scale up to circa 20MW at a later stage.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report; however legal advice should be sought in relation to individual decisions around implementation of the action plan.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 In order to reduce emissions relating to staff transport usage, it may be necessary to review related policies and practices.
- 8.2 It is proposed that energy-use behaviours of all staff are targeted through awareness training which will require HR input.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Children, young people, and vulnerable adults are more at risk from the health impact of climate change which is expected to increase the magnitude and frequency of extreme events like floods, droughts, and heatwaves. This includes vulnerabilities to dehydration, heat stress and respiratory disease during persistent hot episodes as well as experiencing profound effects on mental health and wellbeing. The potential impact and mitigations will be considered as part of the implementation and delivery of actions.
- 9.2 Engagement of young people is central to this agenda. Young voices have been central to international environmental movements so far, and it is the youngest generations who will inherit the future, which will be shaped by the success of our response to the climate emergency.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Assessment (Form B) was undertaken as part of the producing “Rotherham Council Responding to the Climate Emergency” and the Cabinet report presented in March 2020.
- 10.2 The equalities action plan has been reviewed and updated and appended to this report.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 As part of its response to the climate emergency, the Council has begun communicating its priorities and potential avenues of action to other organisations through the Rotherham Together Partnership. In order to drive progress towards the 2040 Borough-wide net zero target, and as outlined in

this report, the council is committed to consolidating and expanding its partnerships around environmental issues.

12. **Risks and Mitigation**

- 12.1. There is a risk that climate emergency commitments will be made but not delivered upon. To mitigate this, it will be important that the Council effectively monitors progress and uses all tools available to secure meaningful and effective change.
- 12.2 The debate about climate emergency is constantly evolving and the Council's response must be dynamic and reactive as new ideas and technologies develop, and potential actions become subsequently more or less feasible. The climate report must therefore be treated as a "living document", which identifies key priorities and potential strategies but can be adapted as necessary. Equally, the climate emergency report is currently still a work in progress, intended to provide information regarding the actions currently being considered and the principles guiding these actions.

13. **Accountable Officers**

Jackie Mould, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	Date
<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Sharon Kemp</i>	<i>08/03/21</i>
<i>Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)</i>	<i>Judith Badger</i>	<i>03/03/21</i>
<i>Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)</i>	<i>Bal Nahal</i>	<i>04/03/21</i>

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