

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan Progress Report

A short-term action plan was created in October 2022 as an interim measure to maintain momentum whilst the new Climate Change Team was onboarded. A summary is provided of the actions and progress to date is provided below.

BRAGG STATUS DEFINITIONS	
Not yet due to start	Action not yet scheduled to start
On track	Action started and on track to be delivered by the original deadline
Known delays	Action has some risk/delay to delivery or is behind the original schedule by less than three months
Will not be met	Action will not be/has not been met within three months of the original target date
Complete	The action is fully complete and/or operational

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY

Summary: The primary focus for 2022/23 has been the establishment of a dedicated climate change team and the further development of existing baseline carbon emissions data, reporting and planning across Council services.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Monitoring and Reporting	Continue to develop baseline data	Ongoing	Climate Change Team	<p>A carbon emissions baseline for the 2018/19 reporting year has been established.</p> <p>A Scope 3 Data Action Plan has been created and is in progress, setting out a guide to capturing Scope 3 emissions. Baseline data further developed to include scope 3 carbon emissions arising from Council staff commuting, working from home and water usage.</p> <p>Year-on-year carbon budget established and BAU emissions forecasting introduced, creating the foundations for future data projection modelling of a “roadmap to net zero.”</p>	
	Introduce carbon impact assessments for all Cabinet reports	March 2022	Policy	<p>It is now standard practice for Cabinet reports to include a carbon impact assessment.</p> <p>A review and evaluation of carbon impact assessments is planned for 2023/24.</p>	
	Recruitment of a new Climate Delivery Team	Sept 2022	Asset Management	The Principal Climate Change Officer, Climate Change Officer and Climate Change Manager have been recruited and are embedded within the Asset Management Service.	
Awareness Raising	Monitor and report CO ₂ emissions publicly	March 2022	Climate Change Team	The Council’s carbon emissions baseline is now published on the Rotherham Data Hub.	
	Deliver climate change and	March 2023	Climate Change Team	Briefings have been delivered, to support officers completing carbon impact assessments.	

	energy awareness training for Council staff			An initial trial of Carbon Literacy training has been successfully piloted, with a view to roll out this trial training to priority groups imminently. The new Climate Delivery Team will take this forward. This action, including assessment of a wider workforce roll out has been carried forward to 2023/2024 delivery.	
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ENERGY

Summary: Decarbonisation activity continues across the Council property portfolio including two bids for PSDS funding which are currently awaiting a response.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Decarbonising Buildings	Develop a site decarbonisation plan and implement energy efficiency upgrades	Ongoing	Energy Team	Plan developed and detailed site surveys. Undertaken for the application for PSDS funding to decarbonise operational buildings. Currently awaiting results. A Rotherham renewable energy concept to supplement renewable energy use and offset increased electrification of Council buildings has been developed. A business case to award a service delivery contract for decarbonisation has also been developed.	
	Continue to support the private sector led development of Templeborough heat network	Ongoing	Energy Team	Continued support provided to the private sector led development of Templeborough heat network / Rotherham Energy Network (REN).	

TRANSPORT

Summary: Extensive transport research and development has been the main focus in the last year, exploring the feasibility of making the Council's own fleet greener, identifying suitable locations for EV charging infrastructure and using data-driven solutions to better understand the sources of transport emissions across Rotherham.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Further expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and support for uptake.	Ongoing	Energy & Transport Teams	Quality analysis of customer experience at existing public installations and change of Management System provider for improved customer satisfaction. Collaboration with SYMCA / ARUP on joint MCA project, scoping, sites and procurement. Scheme in progress for the delivery for up to 6 sites offering 6 Fast + 12 Rapid charging bays.	

				Final analysis of site selection to deliver 2 residential charging hubs, plus further installations planned in collaboration with Towns & Villages projects.	
Transport Planning and Data	Delivery of cycling and public transport infrastructure: £12m worth of improvements for public transport, walking and cycling	As per project plan.	Transport planning	<p>Baselining work was completed in Summer 2022, and is now published as an attachment to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/downloads/file/7/transport-co2-emissions-in-rotherham).</p> <p>Cycleways on Broom Road, Sheffield Road and between Wath and Manvers have been developed to Full Business Case. Projects at Moor Road Manvers and Broom Road were approved for delivery in late 2022, with funding decisions expected from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in March 2023 for Sheffield Road.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the improved footbridge to Forge Island, with opening to the public forecast as part of the wider Forge Island redevelopment to occur in 2024.</p>	
Fleet transport	Rollout of telematics	March 2023	Fleet Transport	Telematics package trialled, with data now available Driver training team roles now recruited and work underway to develop a "Safe, fuel-efficient driver (SAFED) training programme" with a view to rolling out across the Council's fleet of drivers throughout 2023.	
	Timeline for fleet for a low carbon fuel fleet conversion	March 2023	Fleet Transport	Work to assess the current condition of the fleet has been undertaken to understand the extent of the initial replacement phase required. Fuel data has been obtained and analysed, to baseline the carbon impact of the existing fleet of vehicles. A separate Fleet Plan cabinet report will be submitted in 2023.	
HOUSING					
Summary: Progress continues to be made in increasing energy efficiency within Council housing. The coming year will build upon these achievements through the development of delivery plans to dramatically increase Council housing energy efficiency by 2030.					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Zero carbon housing	Implement the high-level plan to zero carbon for Council housing	Ongoing	Housing	Development of a high-level plan for Council housing which considers short, medium, and longer term actions. Initial targets set for EPC C by 2030 for all council housing.	

				<p>There has been an overall increase of average stock EPC rating from a Band D to Band C.</p> <p>Secured funding of £1.2m to assist with the delivery of energy efficiency measures (External/Cavity Wall/Loft Insulation, A rated windows and doors, draft proofing, ventilation) to 142 properties in Maltby. Retrofit assessments have been undertaken and work to cavity wall insulation has commenced, the remainder of works will be undertaken in 2023. The aim of the project is for all properties to meet at least an EPC Band C rating.</p> <p>Successful delivery of a scheme of works to 217 properties in The Lanes, East Herringthorpe under LAD1B funding. The Council secured £1.14m through the Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme to bring 217 properties up to a “Band C” Energy Performance Certificate rating.</p>	
	Establish housing stock emissions baseline	March 2022	Housing	Established the Council’s housing stock emission baselines by utilising Parity software with existing data on Council owned housing stock. (As of April 2022 - 57,000 tonnes of carbon across 20,040 residential assets)	
Community energy support scheme	Continue to run the Community Energy Support Scheme	Ongoing whilst funding is available	Energy Team	<p>Through the scheme the Council has now established a community energy network in Rotherham with several partner organisations.</p> <p>Over 530 1 to 1 support appointments conducted in the last 12 months with Rotherham residents.</p> <p>Improvements to be signed off on over 250 properties in the borough via the ECO 4 scheme.</p>	

WASTE

Summary: 2022/23 has been focussed on the exploration of future strategies and technologies which will optimise the way in which commercial and household waste is processed.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Waste from households	Review the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy	March 2022	Waste	Review of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy conducted to ensure reflection of the Council’s NZ30 and NZ40 ambitions. Progress over the last year has been limited due to delays at a central government level in responding to consultations on the Waste and Resource Strategy for England. Detailed work on the development of a new strategy is on hold.	

				Route optimisation is being progressed to ensure maximum efficiency of rounds and routes.	
	Recycling improvement and contamination reduction	Ongoing	Waste	Pilot for behaviour change undertaken by HUBBUB across BDR, the results of which are currently being analysed. Actions to be determined as a result of the analysis.	
Commercial waste	Set out and deliver plans to introduce recycling to the Council's commercial waste offer	March 2023	Waste	Continued review of current services, including process mapping and commencement of digitisation of existing service. Pilot launched in Hellaby for internal customers. Additional recycling offer is currently in development and will be rolled out in 2023/2024	

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Summary: The planting of new trees across Rotherham continues to be a priority, alongside the revision of key planning documents relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Planning	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy	August 2022	Planning	Critical friend review of the Core Strategy Partial Update draft consultation document completed. Uncertainty around government reform of the planning system presents a lack of clarity over the strategic direction of national policy, risking abortive work.	
	Introduction of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)	August 2022	Planning	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) relevant to climate change adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Environment Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Parking Standards Further SPD enhancement including, Biodiversity Net Gain, Trees, and Soils SPDs will be included in the 23/24 plan.	
Green spaces and trees	Appointment of a Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer	March 2022	Green spaces	A Trees and Woodlands Engagement Officer was appointed early in 2021/22 and has since led public engagement on tree planting and administration of new woodland creation.	

	Adoption of the Tree Management Policy	March 2022	Green spaces	The Council's Tree Management Protocol & Guidance was adopted in 2021. It sets Key Targets for tree planting. Targets were 500 urban trees and 10,000 woodland trees to be planted on average annually. 390 urban trees and over 21,000 woodland trees were delivered. As per February 2023 trees planted during the 2022/2023 planting season include 7166 woodland and 257 urban trees.	
	Development of a Tree Planting Strategy	March 2023	Green spaces	Funding has been awarded for an I-tree survey which will detail carbon sequestration potential for the borough and for the development of the Tree Planting Strategy.	

INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Summary: This year has focussed on developing relationships with external partners and stakeholders which have a bearing on the strategic Climate Change Communications Plan developed.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2021/22	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Procurement	Develop Emissions Considerations as part of the procurement process	March 2023	Procurement and Climate Change Team	Carbon emissions have been developed as a consideration under the Council's Social Value policy. Climate change is also included in the Council's pre-procurement business case for Service Areas to give consideration this agenda. Non-scored questions are built into tender documents to help build an understanding of where the Council's supply base are with supporting the climate agenda. Further approaches to reducing emissions through procurement are to be explored. Next steps to be included in 23/24 plan.	
Communication	Develop a climate emergency communication plan	March 2023	Climate Change Team	A Climate Emergency Communication and Engagement Plan has now been developed. Whilst engagement to date has been largely via the climate change leads and discussions via the Carbon Impact Assessment process the Communications Plan will promote good climate, low emission practice within the Council and amongst, groups, businesses, residents, partners.	

Regional Engagement	Continue to play an active role regionally and nationally on the climate agenda	Ongoing	Climate Leads	<p>The Council is engaged with regional and national partners through the, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission, the Local Government Association and other groups at the local and regional level.</p> <p>Initial engagement and interest gauged with Youth Cabinet on a more collaborative engagement to support the provision of appropriate communications and education to young people across various settings.</p>	
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