

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan Progress Report

A progress report on the 2023/24 action plan is provided below including a summary of the actions and an update on the progress to January 2024.

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 2023/24 has been to develop the Council's monitoring and reporting mechanisms and integrating Carbon Literacy training into business as usual.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Monitoring and Reporting	Further develop accounting for scope 3 emissions arising from procurement activities and waste generated from Council operations in baseline and annual reporting data.	Dec 2023	Climate Change Team	Scope 3 emissions reporting now includes emissions arising from Council staff commuting and home working; water supply and treatment; transmission and distribution of electricity, to Council buildings and streetlights; emissions from waste disposal and recycling; and emissions from official business travel and accommodation. Of these, only scope 3 emissions from 'grey fleet mileage' i.e., vehicle mileage incurred on official business travel, are considered within scope of the Council's Net Zero 2030 climate change target.	Blue
	Use of scenario-based projection modelling to create a "roadmap to net zero," outlining future projects/initiatives, their annual carbon savings, financial costs and projected future energy savings.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	Delays due to staffing within the climate change team. Some modelling has been undertaken on emissions relating to specific projects, but a full net zero outline is not yet complete. Expected completion by Spring 2024.	Yellow
	Development of an internal Climate Change Power BI Report Server to house and share key Climate Change Data including baselines,	March 2024	Asset Management	Annual reporting data is now available to all climate change leads through the PowerBi platform and Microsoft Teams application. This reporting is interactive and allows for a degree of manipulation for interrogation purposes.	Blue

	annual reports and projections.				
Management	Develop a mid to long term action plan scoping the full programme of decarbonisation works from 2023 to 2030 and 2040. This will allow for identification of gaps and should also consider work required in relation to the nature crisis and climate adaptation works necessary.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	A gap analysis has been completed and further work is now being undertaken to complete this action by Spring/Summer 2024.	
	Ensure Nature Crisis workstreams are fully integrated within the Climate Change work programme for reporting in 2024.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	Actions have been included in the 2024/25 forward plan to integrate nature into the climate change workstream. Officers have also undertaken focus groups and engagement internally to develop awareness of the nature crisis and some of the actions that can be undertaken at home or in the workplace. The Improving Places Select Committee has undertaken a review which will also need to be considered as part of this agenda.	
Training	Investigate whether changes to the climate change impact assessments could improve accuracy of completion, general awareness and user friendliness.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	A review of the current process has been undertaken and a number of improvements identified. Next steps for improvement are included within the 24/25 action plan.	
	Carbon literacy training to be rolled out across the	March 2024	Climate Change Team	Carbon Literacy training is now available for booking on the Council's training system for all interested staff. This action has now been moved into business as usual.	

	Council , including in-person workshops and e-learning modules.			Sector specific Carbon Literacy training for museums staff has also been delivered by the Climate Change Team. The Council also celebrated Carbon Literacy Action Day by training seven of its graduate trainees during an in-person session at Riverside House.	
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ENERGY
Summary: Decarbonisation activity continues across the Council property portfolio including one successful bid for PSDS funding and two further PSDS 3C bids which are currently awaiting a response.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Decarbonising Buildings	Continued delivery of the proof-of-concept self-generated green electricity scheme to the Rotherham portfolio to enable a reduction in grid supply reliance; installation and operation to be completed in the coming years.	Ongoing	Energy Team	All suitable Council owned sites have been reviewed by Asset Management, however, there have been challenges finding a suitable site that offers both an appropriate grid connection capacity or is of a large enough size to provide a return on investment. This work is proposed to continue into 2024/25.	
	Develop a building decarbonisation standard and working group for new and refurbishment of existing Council buildings to achieve delivery of NZ30.	March 2024	Energy Team	A building decarbonisation standard which builds upon the work to decarbonise the Council's existing property portfolio to ensure the readiness of new builds for net zero and reduce revenue costs is being drafted. This includes recommendations for measures such as standardised insulation levels, creating suitable space for onsite renewable energy generation and sustainable drainage. Where possible, the recommendation is that buildings meet the standard from the build stage but allows for readiness measures where initial funding is not conducive to immediate installation. Wider consultation will be required to finalise and gain approval of this piece of work. This is estimated for completion Summer 2024.	
	Undertake a full decarbonisation	March 2025	Energy Team	A number of suitable buildings have been selected as options but are not yet ready for modelling to be undertaken. Further work	

	<p>modelling on a selected building to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes.</p>			<p>required in this area to complete this action, which will be carried over to 2024/25.</p>	
	<p>Continue to support the private sector led development of Templeborough heat network.</p>	<p>Ongoing -private sector led</p>	<p>Energy Team</p>	<p>This action has now been superseded by the Council Building Decarbonisation Report approved by Cabinet in September 2023.</p>	<p>No longer applicable.</p>
<p>Community Energy Support Scheme</p>	<p>Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost.</p>	<p>Ongoing whilst funding lasts</p>	<p>Energy Team</p>	<p>The ECO4-FLEX project is still proving very popular with residents in the Borough. The number of Installers permitted to have ECO4-FLEX work signed off via the council has now increased from four in August 2022 to ten as of July 2023.</p> <p>This now allows more domestic retrofit projects to be completed each month, resulting in the increased rate of decarbonisation of Rotherham's private housing stock.</p> <p>Each of these new installers has been carefully screened by the Energy team and RMBC trading standards. The average funding per ECO4-FLEX project is currently at £6745 per property. This has meant that in a period of 11 months the Council has saved residents approximately £3,507,592.40 in total across the 520 projects delivered.</p> <p>Latest figures relating to project sign off: 452 ECO4 projects signed off since April 2023 – October 23. 134 CESS household support projects since April 2023.</p>	

TRANSPORT

Summary: Delivery of cycleways and identification and installation of EV charging units across the Borough has been a priority through the 23/24 period.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Further analysis required to target areas of need for EV charging in relation to housing/EV density.	Ongoing	Energy & Transport Teams	The Energy team, in association with Transport Planning and SYMCA continue to identify new sites for EV charging infrastructure installation. The most recent programme of works presented 7 additional sites across the Borough to Cabinet. This proposal was approved in October 2023. These sites are on track for delivery by April 2024.	
	Continue roll out of EV charging infrastructure	Ongoing	Energy & Transport Teams	The seven sites approved as part of the latest EV infrastructure programme are currently on track for delivery by April 2024.	
Transport Planning and Data	Funding options to be explored to facilitate a review of baseline model and allow further analysis and bridging of gaps in data	March 2024.	Transport planning	This is delayed and will be carried over into the 2024/25 action plan.	
	Delivery of Sheffield Road cycleways (phases 2 & 3)	As per project plan	Transport planning	The delivery of the second and third phases of the Sheffield Road cycleways is expected to be complete by August 2024.	
	Delivery of Broom Road cycleway	As per project plan	Transport planning	Works to complete the Broom Road cycleway are on track and planned for completion by February 2024.	
	Delivery of Wath to Manvers cycleway	As per project plan	Transport planning	The Wath to Manvers cycleway is complete.	

HOUSING

Summary: Progress continues to be made in increasing energy efficiency within the extensive Council housing stock with the Council portfolio currently having an average EPC of C.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Zero carbon housing	Delivery of 3 zero carbon new build	On Hold	Housing	This project is now scheduled for implementation in 2025/26 financial year due to unfavourable initial costs. Plans are in place	

	<p>properties in Thrybergh (2x 2bed houses 1x 1bed bungalow).</p> <p>This project will help establish an energy efficiency specification for new Council homes to be carbon neutral.</p>			<p>to reduce these by undertaking procurement alongside other ongoing projects to achieve best value for money, However the scheme is currently on hold due to viability concerns</p> <p>Alongside this project the Council is undertaking 10 further units over four sites in East Herringthorpe. These units will be net zero ready, including measures such as air source heat pumps, solar PVs and built to a high standard.</p>	
	<p>Develop delivery plan for achieving Band C for all Council houses by 2030.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<p>This action is delayed and will be carried over into 2024/25. A compliance review is underway which includes information relating to the housing stock. Further surveys will be needed covering 85% of the Council's housing stock to confirm the delivery plan. Interim measures have included increasing the specification of loft insulation to 350mm for voids and new works and an increase in cavity wall insulation surveys have been undertaken. Existing data, which requires update indicates that the average EPC of the Council's housing stock is currently at a Band C.</p> <p>However, budget has been allocated to provide resource for retrofit strategy development which will support this action moving forward.</p>	
	<p>Complete Maltby SHDF project</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<p>This is now complete. Further information is available in the case study presented below.</p>	
	<p>Gain approval for and implement a policy for tenants wanting to install renewable technologies to their homes at their cost.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Housing</p>	<p>This is now complete.</p>	

WASTE

Summary: 2023/24 has been focussed on the optimisation of commercial waste and planning for the new simpler ways in which household waste will be processed.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023./24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Waste from households	Development of high-level plan to deliver the new South Yorkshire Waste Strategy by April 2024.	April 2024	Waste	A high-level plan is on track for completion by April 2024 which also considers the transitional arrangements in relation to delivery of household food waste recycling. Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley can continue to process food waste as part of its residual waste collection using its existing anaerobic digestion facility at Manvers until 2040.	Green
	Contamination policies to be reviewed to assist in the reduction of contamination.	March 2024	Waste	This work has been delayed due to other priorities within the service and will be carried over to 2024/25.	Red
Behaviour	Roll out of behaviour change campaign based on 21/22 HUBBUB Analysis	March 2024	Waste	Some information is being shared via the Waste Less South Yorkshire social media account which is signposted to from the Council site. The work to deliver a specific behaviour change campaign based on the Hubbub analysis is delayed and this action will be carried over into 2024/25.	Red
Commercial waste	Completion of route optimisation for commercial rounds and develop recycling offer	March 2024	Waste	The Business Waste Service has now launched the paper and card recycling free of charge for existing customers, including the Council's corporate estate. Additional plans for dry mixed recycling inclusion are being considered and will be included in the 24/25 action plan. Route optimisation is on track for completion by March 2024.	Green

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 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Planning	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy including policies related to climate change. To	March 2024	Planning	Critical friend review of the Core Strategy Partial Update draft consultation document completed. Completion expected June 2024.	Yellow

	<p>be informed by the Council's October 2019 climate emergency declaration and May 2022 nature crisis declaration, and taking account of the critical friend review recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the 2019 Core Strategy Review • Consultation on a draft revised Core Strategy 			<p>Uncertainty around government reform of the planning system presents a lack of clarity over the strategic direction of national policy, risking abortive work.</p>	
	<p>Introduction of further SPDs relevant to climate change – SPDs elaborate on Local Plan policies, giving developers additional technical guidance, speeding up applications and resulting in better quality development for the community and environment. Adoption of further SPDs relevant to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Net Gain • Trees • Preparing a Soils Strategy 	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>This is complete. Three additional supplementary planning documents were adopted by Cabinet in July 2023 including Biodiversity Net gain, Trees and Preparing a soils strategy.</p>	

Green spaces and trees	Development of tree planting Strategy giving consideration to appropriate species delivery. Planting schemes should be more focussed on native plant species to enhance biological diversity but also needs to recognise the importance of non-natives in climate change resilience and disease tolerance.	March 2024	Green spaces	A tree planting plan which has been written and is expected to be published before March 2024.	
	Planting 10,000 new woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2024	Green spaces	The Council's Tree Management Protocol & Guidance was adopted in 2021. It sets Key Targets for tree planting including 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. Throughout the 22/23 planting season, 11348 trees were planted including 8919 woodland trees and 2429 urban trees. The planting season is currently ongoing and updated figures will be available in April 2024.	
	Commissioning of an i-tree ECO survey via Woodland Accelerator Funding.	August 2024	Green spaces	Funding has been awarded for an i-tree survey which will detail carbon sequestration potential for the Borough and other ecosystem services provided by Rotherham's natural environment. This work is on-track for completion by the Aug 2024 deadline.	

INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Summary: This year internal engagement has increased significantly, sharing information, training and gaining employee feedback on core topics. Work to engage local stakeholders has been undertaken including young people, local businesses and anchor institutions.

PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Employee Engagement	Deliver additional opportunities for internal awareness	March 2024	Climate Change Team	This is now completed with 4 focus groups being undertaken throughout the year including topics such as active travel, single use plastics, nature recovery and an employee consultation on the 2024/25 climate change action plan. This group has	

	via the creation of an employee climate change sub-group for the change champions employee network.			developed into a consistent group of committed individuals which plan to form an official employee network in Spring 2024.	
Local & Regional Engagement	Continue to engage with Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, exploring ways in which the Council can contribute to the borough's Circular Economy Initiatives.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	The climate change team continues to engage with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission, including through attending regional policy forums, circular economy local authority forums and other means. The Climate Change Team has enabled a number of inter-Council interactions with the commission, Climate Change lead officers, procurement colleagues and staff from Regeneration and Environment. A cross-Council Community in Practice session was also held with Change Champions and facilitated by the commissions lead officer which encouraged open discussions on the circular economy and generating ideas for future action.	
	Further explore other local and regional engagement opportunities to share knowledge and resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Ensure local groups and individual wards needs are captured with regards to the climate agenda.	Ongoing	Climate Leads	The Council is engaged with regional and national partners through 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. 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.	
	Involvement in the Rotherham show to showcase progress made and increase climate awareness.	October 2023	Climate Change Team	This action is complete. The Climate Change Team, Energy Team and Greenspaces Woodland Engagement Officer attended the Rotherham Show to talk to residents, engage young people in tree planting and arts activities. Energy Officers also provided information to residents relating to energy efficiency and the ECO4-Flex scheme.	

Children and Young People's Participation	Continue to engage the Youth Cabinet to hear their thoughts on the Council's plan and works in to 2023/2024. Involvement of Youth Cabinet in reviewing the climate change action plan. Feedback from cabinet on wider recommendations to be incorporated into workstream plan where feasible.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	Ongoing engagement with the Youth Cabinet has occurred throughout the financial year including receiving feedback on 23/24 and 24/25 climate change action plan. All feasible recommendations were incorporated into the plans with reasons given for those not taken up. Officers have also trained 6 members of the Youth Cabinet in Carbon Literacy, funded by the Rotherham Together Partnership.	
Communication	Develop the website and intranet to include up to date and useful information to residents and employees.	March 2024	Climate Change Team	This is on track for completion by March 2024.	
ADAPTATION Summary:					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2023/24	TARGET DATE	SERVICE AREA	PROGRESS UPDATE	BRAGG RATING
Flood risk	Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams	A report was submitted to the IPSC on 19 th September outlining the progress of the six priority flood alleviation schemes and planned works moving forward. Works are continuing to reduce risk (from the River Don) through Rotherham Town Centre, Parkgate and Kilnhurst (including works at Kilnhurst primary school). Consultants are approaching the completion of several draft outline designs and reports for the preferred option.	

				<p>At the July 2023 Yorkshire and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting, the Council bid for £1.9m of Local Levy funding was approved to support ongoing pre-construction development work</p> <p>Works are also continuing at Parkgate and Rawmarsh and at Whiston Brook. However, flooding occurred in October 2023 due to Storm Babet. The October 2023 flooding events will now need to be reviewed and factored into this work programme.</p>	
Climate adaptation	<p>Develop an updated risk assessment and climate adaptation work plan alongside other local authorities participating in the YHCC's Adaptation Work programme. Include a plan for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness.</p>	Pilot by March 2024	Climate Change Manager & Service Leads	<p>This pilot project is on track for completion by March 2024, with risk assessments and service plan currently being developed by adult services which keeps in mind the vulnerable residents potentially affected by climate change related events. A working group of officers from across Adults, Climate, Risk, Emergency Planning and Public Health have been working alongside the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission to improve knowledge and integrate planning for climate change impacts into business as usual.</p>	