

# Overview and Scrutiny Commission

# Climate Change and

# Decision Making

**Kevin Gibbs**  
**Executive Director: Delivery**



# Background

**7 billion tonnes**  
of CO2 are emitted each  
year as a result of fossil  
fuel usage

From 1990 to 2100,  
it is expected that  
**1.1 to 6.4 degrees**  
of warming will have  
been experienced  
across the globe

The IPCC stated that  
the world has just  
**12 years**  
to take control of the  
climate change issue or  
irreversible damage will  
occur

*“The agenda has a “Hokey/changey” 60’s vibe, but this is necessary if you are to tackle huge change. In thinking big, people must believe that change is possible”* - **Richard Benyon fmr MP (Newbury)**



# Background

## **Purpose of the workshop and expected outcomes**

- Ready Members for their role in overseeing the council's resource allocations and decision making
- Contribute to the development of the new Strategy
- Provide focus of Community response (Community Risk Register)



# Background

The themes and context that should be taken into account in good decision making are:

- **Budget** - Financial context
- **Equalities** - Public Sector duty

New:

- **Public Health** – over the life course
- **Climate Change** - mitigation



# Climate Change



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lre2UluS80c>



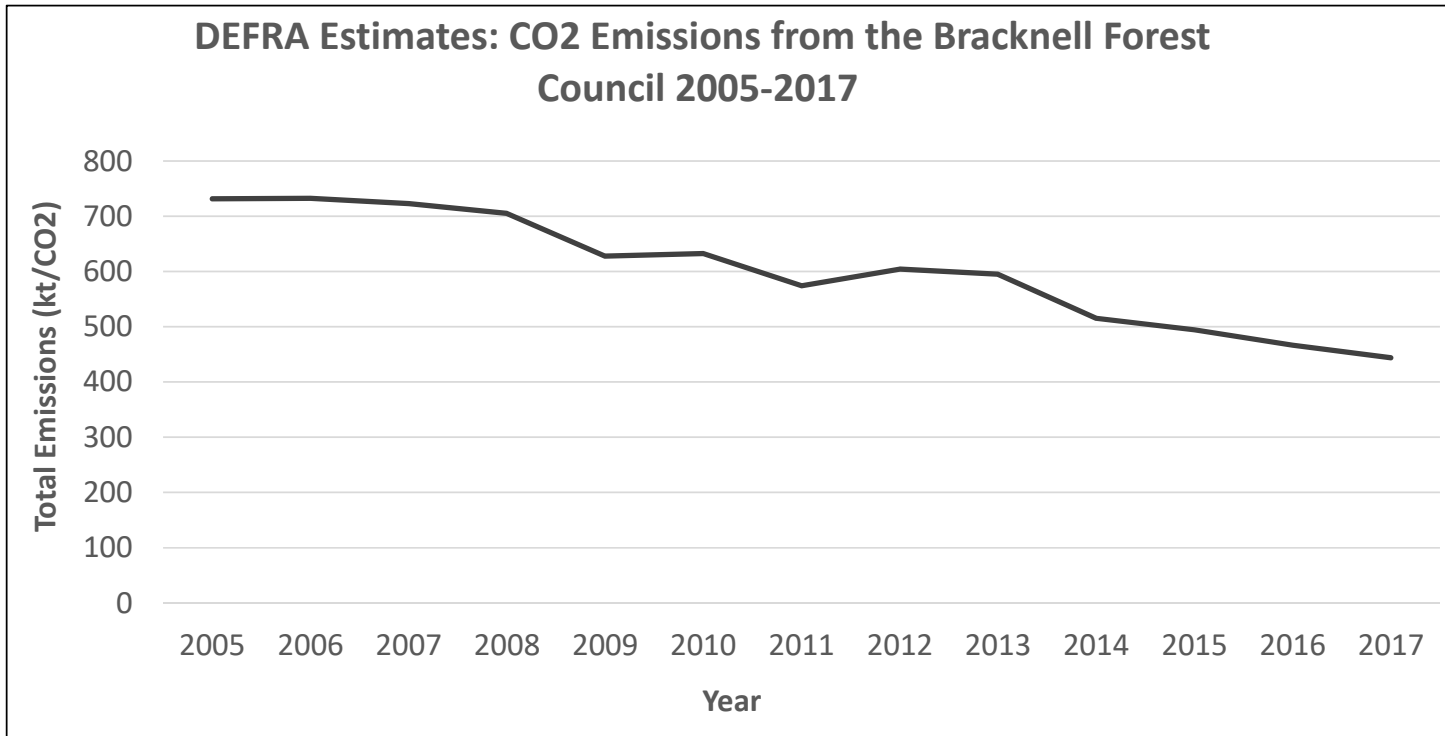
# Climate Change

- In October 2018, the IPCC reported that at the **international level**, the climate change problem is worsening.
- Under the **Climate Change Act**, the UK must reach a net greenhouse gas emission value of **zero by 2050**.
- **Responsibility lies with the Secretary of State** to respond under the Climate Change Act, therefore funding from national government will be needed to support these local level efforts



# Climate Change

## Bracknell Forest: CO2 Emission Trend



*...things that have worked haven't required individuals to change, the systems that they have used have changed (structural change and not individual change) - Tom Heap (Countryfile presenter)*



Data from DEFRA indicates a trend towards a reduction in Bracknell Forest's CO2 emissions but some emitters have been excluded from this e.g. transport by rail

# Climate Change

**Bracknell Forest Council** is committed to continuing in its efforts to become carbon neutral by 2050 via a motion that stated:

**“This Council strongly believes in the need to continue its work to address the impact of man-made Climate Change on our local communities. To this end, this Council asks the Executive to develop detailed action plans with measurable, ambitious, annual targets and an annual report to address this pressing matter to ensure that the Council meets the government target of eradicating its net contribution to climate change by 2050.”**





# Decision making

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New:

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# Decision making

News

## Bracknell has record high level of hospital admissions for alcoholic liver disease

By Isabella Perrin | [@IsabellaHPerrin](#)  
News Reporter



Hospital admissions for alcoholic liver disease hit record high in Bracknell Forest

Journal of  
**Public Health**

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## Festive waste overflows bottle banks in England

© 2 January 2019

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## Public health and climate change: How are local authorities preparing for the health impacts of our changing climate?

Sarah C Woodhall , Owen Landeg, Sari Kovats

Journal of Public Health, fdz098, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdz098>

Published: 11 December 2019 [Article history](#) ▾

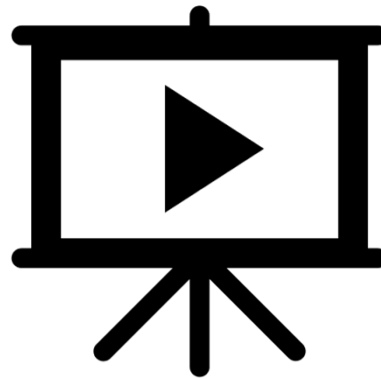


# Decision making

- Particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide are harmful to human health. Generally, for people in good health, short term, moderate exposure should not give any cause for concern. However, high levels or long term exposure can lead to the worsening of existing health conditions or the development of new cardiovascular/respiratory conditions.
- In 2010 the [Department of Health's Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants](#) estimated the burden of Particulate Matter in the UK was equivalent to nearly 29,000 deaths in 2008, 25,000 of which were in England. DEFRA estimate the burden of Nitrogen Dioxide is equivalent to nearly 23,500 deaths per year in the UK. It is likely there is some overlap between the pollutants so it is not possible to estimate the total health burden.

# Strategy

## Bracknell Forest Council: 2013 Action Plan



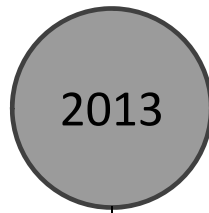
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000fsz5/inside-out-london-24022020>

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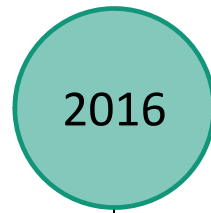
# Strategy

## Bracknell Forest Council: 2013 Action Plan



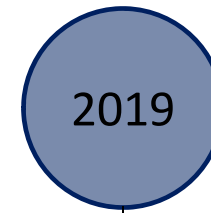
2013

BFC became a signatory to the LGA's Climate Local and issued a Climate Change Action Plan



2016

BFC's Climate Change Action plan was revised and updated



2019

A summary of progress made since 2013 is being drawn up with support from relevant officers from across the council

Headline examples of completed and/or ongoing projects include:

- 1,416 trees will have been planted by the end of the 2019/20 winter as part of a green highway project
- £1.2 million awarded by Warm Homes - March 2019 (shared partnership with other LAs) to provide affordable heating solutions to poorer households
- LED lanterns with Telensa controls have been installed on all 14,500 street lights, accounting for energy savings of 55% between April 2016 and April 2019



# Strategy

## Bracknell Forest Council: Towards a Climate Change Strategy

1) Adopt a 5-point approach to produce a climate change strategy and action plan

2) Develop a Climate Change Strategy

2a) Develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions that are under the council's control

2b) Develop an action plan to influence and lead community action against climate change



# Strategy

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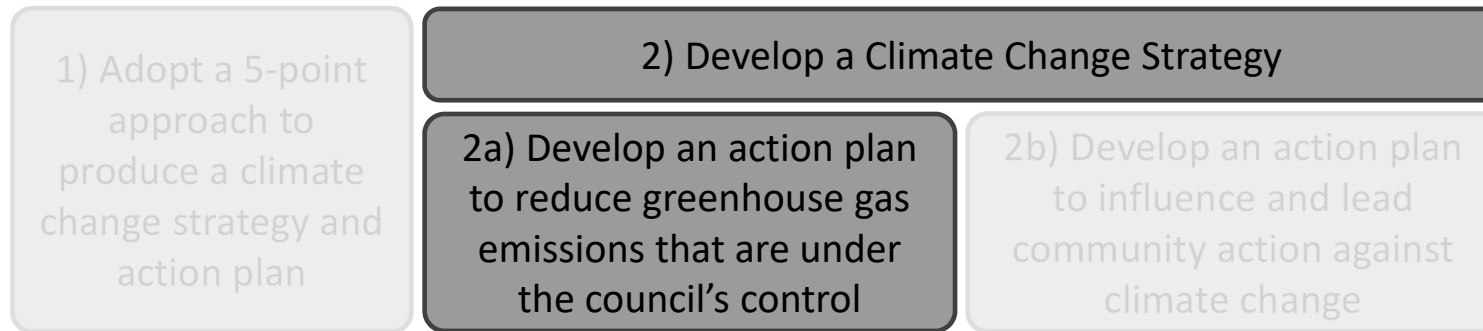
2b) Develop an action plan to influence and lead community action against climate change

- **Recognise the importance** – climate change will impact on supply and demand of services so it must be given a high profile
- **Allocate finance** – internal or external financial resources are required to tackle the problem
- **Provide training** – staff must be trained so that they understand the context in which they are working
- **Engage** – local authorities have the ability to bring public and private sector bodies together to work collectively
- **Advocate** – as the only democratically elected organisation in the area, the council has a duty to lead on matters as serious as climate change



# Strategy

## Bracknell Forest Council: Towards a Climate Change Strategy



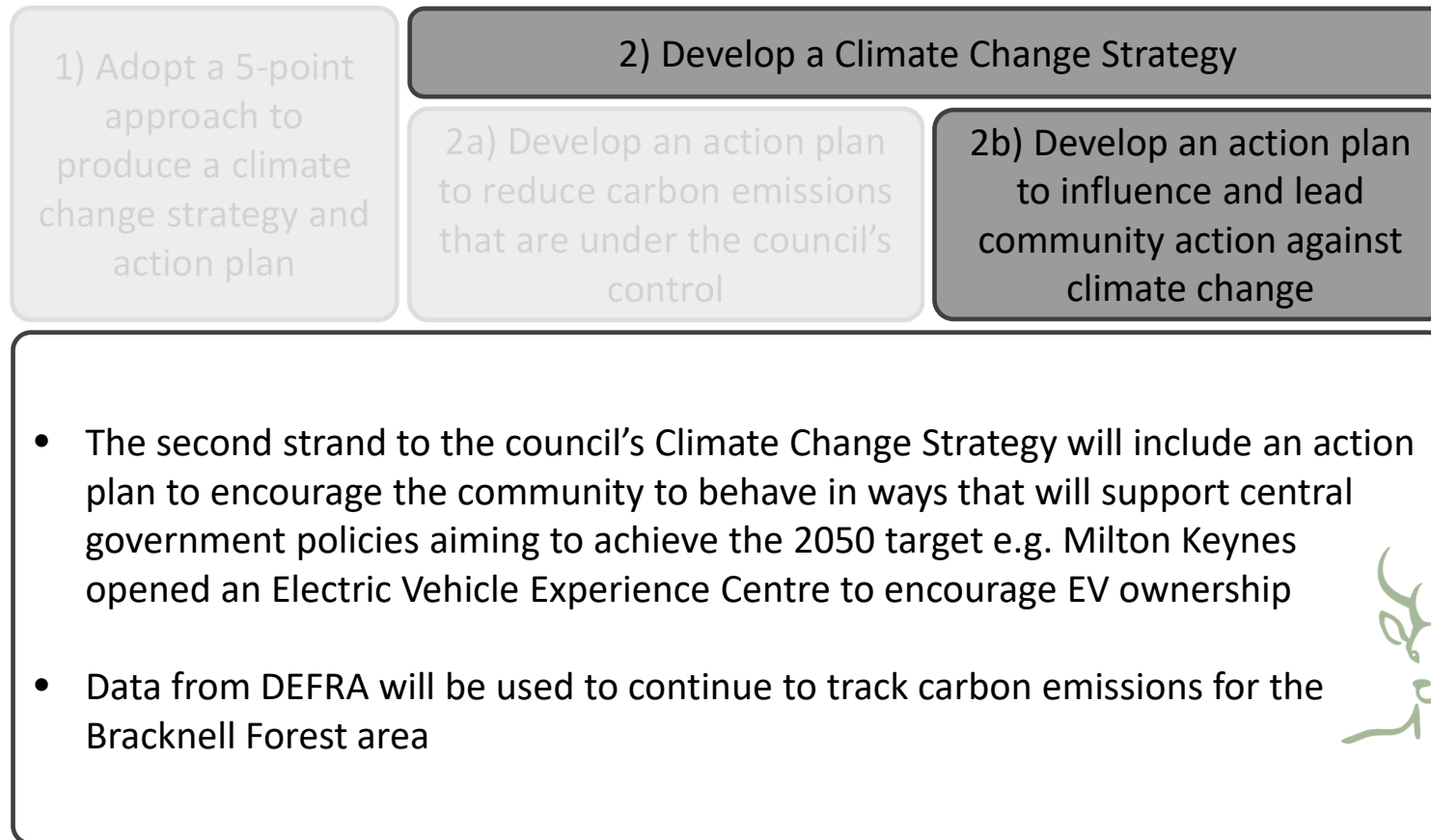
In order to reach and prove a state of net greenhouse gas emissions of zero by 2050, it is proposed that:

- A consultancy is tasked with establishing **baseline emissions for BFC** and advising on how to track progress against targets up to 2050
- Focus will be placed on **direct emissions** from activities under the organisation's control e.g. fleet vehicles and air conditioning; **indirect emissions from electricity** purchased by the organisation; **other indirect emissions** from activities that are powered by sources that the council does not own or control e.g. business travel and procurement
- An action plan will be developed against all the three areas mentioned above



# Strategy

## Bracknell Forest Council: Towards a Climate Change Strategy



# Conclusions

## As the Commission:

### Decision making

The themes and context that should be taken into account in good decision making are:

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- **Equalities** - Public Sector duty

New:

- **Public Health** – over the life course
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## For the Strategy:

### Strategy

Bracknell Forest Council: Towards a Climate Change Strategy

2a) Develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions that are under the council's control

2b) Develop an action plan to influence and lead community action against climate change

- Focus will be placed on **direct emissions** from activities under the organisation's control e.g. fleet vehicles and air conditioning; **indirect emissions from electricity** purchased by the organisation; **other indirect emissions** from activities that are powered by sources that the council does not own or control e.g. business travel and procurement
- An action plan will be developed against all the three areas mentioned above

- The second strand to the council's Climate Change Strategy will include an action plan to encourage the **community to behave** in ways that will support central government policies aiming to achieve the 2050 target e.g. Milton Keynes opened an Electric Vehicle Experience Centre to encourage EV ownership
- Data from DEFRA will be used to continue to track carbon emissions for the Bracknell Forest area

*"...There needs to be a new definition of a "good life", away from having stuff and consumption. The current measure of UK success is GDP and a good life needs not to be based on GDP." - Tom Heap (Countryfile presenter)*