

Climate change



Climate Change Strategy

Bracknell Forest Council 2020-2024

KG/GJ

12/11/20

Final

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Owner (Responsible for Approval of Issued Versions)			
Role	Signature	Date	Issue
Executive Director: Delivery			

Revision History:

Date	Version	Reason for change	Author
08/10/2020	0.3	Draft	Gareth Jones
06/11/2020	0.4	Draft	Gareth Jones
02/12/2020	0.5	O&S Commission review	Kevin Gibbs
16/12/2020	0.6	Corporate Management Team	Kevin Gibbs
06/01/2020	0.7	O&S Commission	Kevin Gibbs

Distribution:

Date	Version	Distribution



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BFC's climate change work is published on the Council's website at:
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/climate-change>

Bracknell Forest Council – Climate Change Strategy

Statement from The Leader of the Council

Bracknell Forest Council has committed itself to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. It is clear that delivering on this challenging target will require the whole council, Members and Officers, working together, to achieve this important objective.

In Motion 02/2019, on 17 July 2019, a climate change motion was agreed at Council. This stated that, “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”.

It is worth noting that addressing man-made climate change isn't a new policy area for the council, or the council's thinking and planning. In January 2013 the Council refreshed its commitment to action on climate change by becoming a signatory to Climate Local, the Local Government Association's successor to the 2007 Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Council also issued a Climate Change Action Plan in 2013 reflecting our commitment under Climate Local which was revised and updated in 2016.

We have already delivered, 14,500 LED streetlights accounting for energy savings of 55% between April 2016 and April 2019 (6,261,869 kWh to 3,412,604 kWh).

We have secured £3 million of external funding for the residents of Warfield Park Mobile Homes, to enable the installation of mains gas; providing an average saving of 40% on gas bills for these residents.

We have supported the introduction of Personal Travel Planning to businesses and targeted residential areas, using funding from Central Government, as part of the Local Sustainable Transport policy in 2014/15. Walking, cycling and the use of public transport has continued to be promoted in marketing campaigns, resulting in annual bus travel, in the Borough, increasing by 13% between April 2017 to April 2018. This is on top of a 2% increase in the number of people walking and a 13% in bike journeys, between May 2018 and May 2019.

There are many more examples that can be cited, demonstrating the council's commitment and actions taken.

The Climate Change Act (2008), as amended in June 2019, sets a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The UK has become the first country in the developed world to put this target into law.

There is the need to embed climate changing actions within the Council's DNA. BFC's current Corporate Plan covers its commitment to tackling climate change. We all need to understand that we have a part to play and everyone in the Bracknell Forest Council area is encouraged to build climate change considerations into their day to day actions and behaviours.

Cllr Paul Bettison OBE
Leader
Bracknell Forest Council

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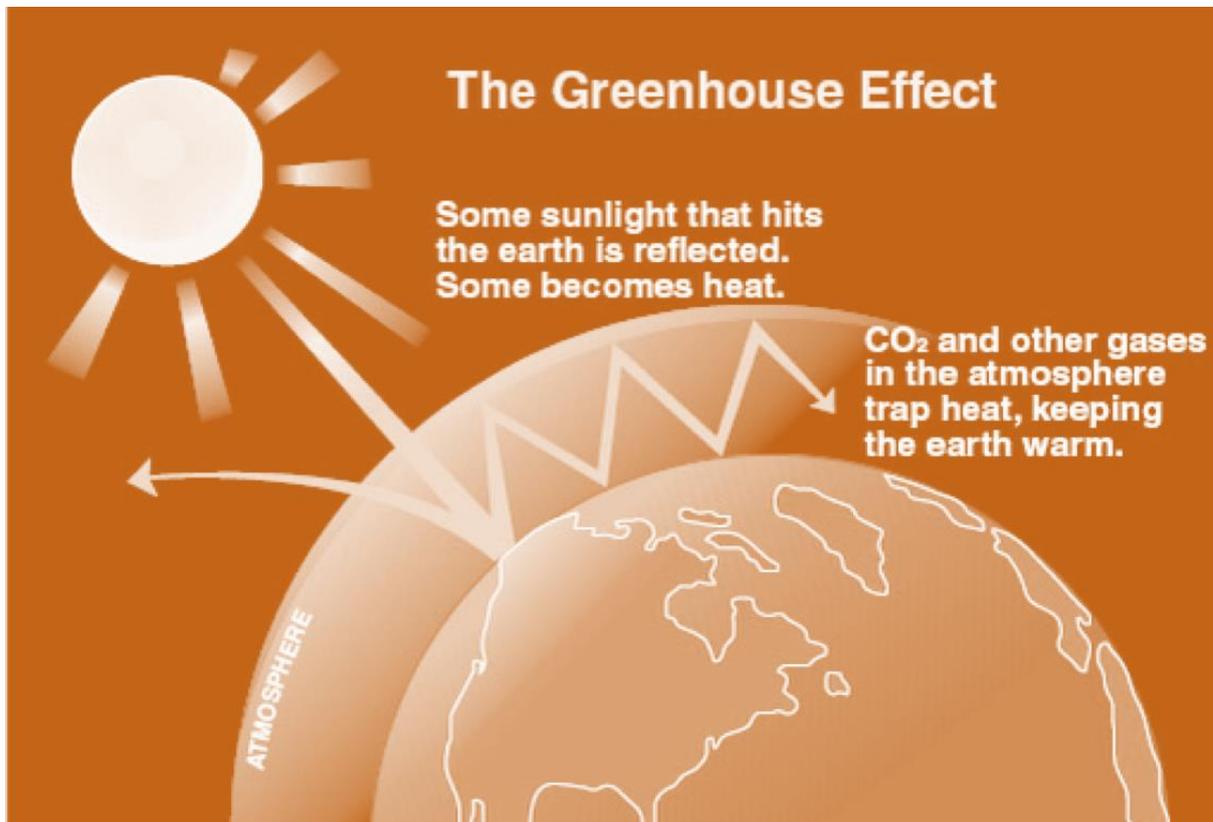
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Climate Change general info

Human activities have increased carbon dioxide emissions, driving up temperatures. Extreme weather and melting polar ice are among the possible effects.

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2018 suggested that keeping to the increase in global average temperature to below 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels would require “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”.

Temperature increases are linked to the greenhouse effect, which describes how the Earth’s atmosphere traps some of the Sun’s energy. Solar energy radiating back to space from the Earth’s surface is absorbed by greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and re-emitted in all directions. This heats both the lower atmosphere and the surface of the planet. Scientists believe we are adding to the natural greenhouse effect, with gases released from industry and agriculture trapping more energy and increasing the temperature.



(TutorBin)

The World therefore needs to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to help minimise the risks and impacts of climate change.

Executive summary

Bracknell Forest Council – Climate Change Strategy (Executive Summary)

Our ambition is to reach carbon net-zero by 2050

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report. The IPCC concluded that the Climate Change problem was getting worse. Therefore, in order to avoid the risks of dangerous and irreversible climate change in the future, political rather than scientific action was required.

The scientific consensus agrees that the main human influences on global climate are emissions of the key greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The concentration of these gases in the atmosphere has now reached levels unprecedented for tens of thousands of years.

For the UK, climate change means hotter, drier summers, milder, wetter winters, higher sea levels and a risk of coastal flooding. Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts and flooding. There may be severe problems for regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather. Food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted.

Climate Change Act

The Climate Change Act (2008), as amended in June 2019, sets a legally binding target on the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to ensure that the net UK carbon account for all six Kyoto greenhouse gases for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. In November 2020, the government published its “Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution - Building back better, supporting green jobs, and accelerating our path to net zero”. This plan details a path to net reductions by 2030 and 2050. The ten-point plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially 3 times as much from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs across the UK.

It is clear that the duty does not fall to councils and therefore there is no additional “climate change” funding allocated to councils, in order to implement the act.

Bracknell Forest 2007-2019 Action plans

Addressing man-made climate change isn't a new policy area for the council. Bracknell Forest Council first signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change in February 2007. In January 2013 the Council refreshed its commitment to action on climate change by becoming a signatory to Climate Local, the Local Government Association's successor to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Council also issued a Climate Change Action Plan in 2013 reflecting our commitment under Climate Local which was revised and updated in 2016.

An evaluation of the 2013-19 plan has taken place. The key learning point were the difficulty in measuring progress against a benchmark / starting position and the focus was on what Bracknell Forest Council could do to address climate change, rather than how the wider community could be harnessed to have a more substantial impact on the whole borough.

Comparative performance data

In terms of comparing Bracknell Forest Council to other local authorities, there are a number of published benchmarks which feature Bracknell Forest Council. As no two local authority areas are the same (population, geography, housing density, etc.) so, the council takes a pragmatic approach to findings, treating them as indicative rather than definitive.

The Friends of the Earth published a league table which compared Bracknell Forest Council to Similar local authorities (rural-urban fringe) for various climate change performance measures. Based on the 2016-17 data, summary headline results were that the area was good on tree coverage, air quality, shared commuting and home insulation. The areas for improvement were the local production of renewable energy, Domestic eco-heating initiatives, waste re-use / recycling, electric vehicle (EV) charging points, and reducing the number of residents commuting by car / increasing those commuting by non-car means.

CO2 Emissions for the Bracknell Forest Council area 2005-2018

Since 2003, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published carbon dioxide emissions for local authority areas. Currently, the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes annual data sets on greenhouse gases.

The borough's emissions have decreased from 732 kt CO₂e in 2005 to 443 kt CO₂e in 2018 (an overall reduction of 40%). The three main sub-emission groups (Industry & commerce, domestic and transport) currently contribute almost similar levels of CO₂ to one another within the BFC area. Emissions from all road transport and domestic gas heating alone make up almost 60% of total emissions.

Coronavirus - COVID 19 Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020. As of 7 December 2020, more than 67.3 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 1.53 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.

The pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Influenza Type Disease", was identified as a top risk on the Government Risk Register and is identified as a top risk on the Thames Valley Community Risk Register (CRR). Climate change is also identified as a key risk to the TVLRF area and therefore features both on the Thames Valley Community Risk Register and in the council's risk strategy key issues.

COVID Lockdown One – Global energy review

The International Energy Agency Global Energy Review [30 April 2020], reported that global energy demand will plunge this year [2020] as a result of the biggest shock since the Second World War. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, emissions declines of almost 8% are predicted in carbon for the year (energy demand will fall 6% in 2020).

"This crisis has underlined the deep reliance of modern societies on reliable electricity supplies for supporting healthcare systems, businesses and the basic amenities of daily life...Resulting from premature deaths and economic trauma around the world, the historic

decline in global emissions is absolutely nothing to cheer,” said Dr Birol. (International Energy Agency).

Yet the BBC reported in August 2020 that “the dramatic drop in greenhouse gases and air pollutants seen during the global lockdown will have little impact on our warming planet say scientists”

Bracknell Forest: Borough context – the Story of place

Bracknell Forest comprises of both a 1950’s first generation New Town which has seen several phases of subsequent growth, along with a number of older villages across a varied geographic area. The principal conurbation is Bracknell itself with secondary population centres built up around the historic towns and villages of Sandhurst & Crowthorne to the south, Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield to the north and North Ascot to the East. The Borough has one of the highest percentages of tree cover (40%) for any local authority and one of the highest ratios of publicly accessible open space to its population. 12% of the borough is within a designated Special Protection Area and there are nine designated sites of Specific Scientific Interest.

- The population of Bracknell Forest is 121,676 (ONS 2018 estimate*). (ranked 291 out of 326 local authorities in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010).
- The total number of dwellings in the Borough at March 2019 was 50,225. Only 1.2% of all homes had no central heating – much lower than the national average of 2.7%. Domestic energy efficiency is slowly improving in the Borough. The number of homes EPC rated poorly (E, F or G) is around 8%.
- Levels of car ownership are high in the borough; the average number of vehicles per household is 1.49 (1.16 in England). Air quality is generally good in Bracknell Forest, with only 2 air quality monitoring sites in the borough.
- Waste and Recycling - levels of waste re-use, recycling and composting have remained static at around 43% for some time.

Council Plan 2020-2023

The Council Plan has 6 strategic themes:

- value for money
- economic resilience
- education and skills
- caring for you and your family
- protecting and enhancing our environment
- communities

Under the theme **Protecting and enhancing our environment** a number of annual priorities take the council towards the achievement of its 4-year key objectives. Progress against the Council Plan is reported by a quarterly overview report from the Chief Executive. At the end of the financial year an annual report is published summarising progress made over the year.

Strategy development approach – Our path to a new Climate Change Strategy

Both Members and the Corporate Management Team (CMT) are committed to having a strong climate change mitigation culture within the organisation. The Bracknell Forest Council, Motion (02/2019) passed at Full Council, set the new strategic objective for the council.

Bracknell Forest Council carbon footprint baseline is **6,288 tonnes** CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent). 3,427 t were generated by purchase of electricity (scope 2); 2,808 t were generated through the combustion of natural gas (scope 1); and 52 t were generated via emissions from council owned/leased fleet vehicles (scope 1). Roughly 25% of all our electricity outputs comes from the streetlighting infrastructure, 100% of which has already been converted to LED lanterns. At the time of the report the council was responsible for approximately 90 electric and 73 gas meters across its entire estate. Schools feature heavily in the top 5 emitters of both gas and electric, with Time Square (electric) and the Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium (gas) also featuring.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission's engagement with climate change

Following the 5 November 2019 Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting, in setting the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2019 – 2023, the Commission took unto itself the role of being the Scrutiny panel for Climate Change.

The Commission has now held around 6 hours of public meetings, and considered over 200 pages of written evidence, plus reviewed 76 projects on the climate change work that the council has either undertaken or has been proposing to take forward. This being on top of private meetings and individual investigations and reviews. Public and private discussions have been had with a number of stakeholders and their views have been sought and presented.

The output from its meetings and the considerable internal and external consultation it has had has been fed into the strategy. The Commission's Climate Change Review Group are to take forward a review on "Climate Change Review – harnessing a community call for action".

Bracknell Forest Council - Climate Change Strategy (2020- 2024)

Bracknell Forest Council recognises that this strategy will rely on the engagement and support of our residents, communities, local town/parish councils, local action groups and local businesses. Such partners will not only help us to deliver but will take the responsibility for achieving targets to help close the greenhouse gas emissions gap we are all facing up to.

Our strategy brings together our management strategy, set in the council's corporate plan and our climate change mitigation goals and builds upon the distinctive competences of the borough council, Town and Parish councils, the local private sector businesses and the community itself to help deliver it.

The council's climate change strategy is a strategic framework, underpinned by annual action plans that are refreshed each year.

Our objective will be to achieve this through 4 strategic principles:

- Working with partners
- Preserving the climate beneficial elements of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Working with schools and young people

- Preserving the natural environment sustainably in line with the Bracknell Forest plans

Our action plan has 2 main strands:

- Reduce carbon emissions that are under the council's control
- Influence and lead community action against climate change

At the launch of the climate change strategy the action plan database holds 41 projects, covering the breadth of council directorates. 5 of these projects reflect emissions that BFC has direct control over; 18 of these projects reflect emissions that the council can influence within the borough; and 18 of these projects are a combination of both of the above. In order to ensure that projects can be monitored effectively these are grouped by Executive Member's portfolio, and then directorate / section. Each project has a clearly identified lead Officer who will take responsibility for the delivery and reporting on the project.

Strategy Conclusions - Reaching carbon net-zero by 2050

This strategy is the third refresh of this work, with the council motion being the latest and most definitive public declaration on this important agenda.

There is a strong commitment from the council to this agenda and this has been put into the DNA of all our work.

Under the council's priority action areas, projects are being developed and implemented. Only by taking on bold and innovative projects will we, as the council, enable our communities, to achieve their goals. Bracknell Forest Council is successful because we do what is right and what is practical. When asked, why is Bracknell Forest Council approaching this objective in this way, it is simple, "**because we are Bracknell Forest**".

Highlights from 2013-2019 Action plan

Travel & Transport

- Improvements to A322 / A329 corridor (2011-2019) to provide a better managed traffic flows resulting in reduced vehicle queues and improved air quality.
- Secured Local Sustainable Transport Funding of £1.6M (2012-15) which delivered several outcomes including: Working with local employers to reduce the congestion and emissions caused by single occupancy car commuting and Working with schools to encourage more cycling.
- Campaigned to increase walking, cycling and the use of public transport in the borough. This resulting in annual bus travel, increasing by 13% between April 2017 to April 2018, a 2% increase in the number of people walking and a 13% in bike journeys, between May 2018 and May 2019.
- Installed Electric Vehicle charging points in and around the town centre and town centre car parks.

Energy

- £7.3M LED street lighting lantern conversions -14,500 streetlights upgraded to LED accounting for energy savings of 55% between April 2016 and April 2019 (6,261,869 kWh to 3,412,604 kWh)
- £3 million of external funding for the residents of Warfield Park Mobile Homes (2019), to enable the installation of mains gas; providing an average saving of 40% on gas bills for these residents.
- Secured £1.8m Green Deal Communities grant (2014) to support residents with home energy efficiency measures.
- Installed Solar photovoltaics (PV) cells on Garth Hill College, Kings Academy Binfield schools, Priestwood Community Centre, Bracknell Leisure Centre and the Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park.
- Installing a biomass pellet boiler at Garth Hill College and replacing (retrofitting) the existing (gas) Combined Heat & Power units at Coral Reef and Bracknell Leisure Centre.
- Assessed and now display Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) in all council owned assets of over 500m² floor space.
- Have reduced council office space and consolidated our energy consumption by demolishing Seymour House (2013), refurbishing Time Square (2014) and vacating Easthampstead House (2018).

Natural Environment

- Published Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2012) including climate change mitigations.

- Published Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) including requirements for Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs).
- Increased the number of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS) within the borough to help mitigate / reduce visits to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and better protect their biodiversity.
- Created a new countryside park at Peacocks Meadow.
- Implemented two Air Quality Management Areas within the borough (2011).
- Included Climate Change mitigations within the Biodiversity Action Plan (2012).

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Our ambition is to reach carbon net-zero by 2050

Background

In October 2018 the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) published a [Special Report](#). The IPCC concluded that the Climate Change problem was getting worse. The IPCC concluded that the world needed to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, in order to have any chance of reducing the risks of dangerous and irreversible climate change in the future. However, it recognised that the solutions to this problem will not be scientific, but political; only politicians can take the decisions necessary to make the changes that will make the difference.

The IPCC report attracted publicity and media attention at the time but action at the national government level, to work towards the objective, has been until relatively recently slow. But the IPCC Special Report of October 2018 was the strongest yet and seems to have hit a nerve amongst the public. Effectively, it said that the world has just 12 years to get a grip on this issue or irreparable damage will be done to our ecosystem that cannot be reversed.

The scientific consensus agrees that the main human influences on global climate are emissions of the key greenhouse gasses: carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of CO₂ are emitted globally through fossil fuel use and an additional 1.6 billion tonnes is emitted by land use change, largely by deforestation. The concentration of these gasses in the atmosphere has now reached levels unprecedented for tens of thousands of years.

According to IPCC, mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C (with a best estimate of 1.8 to 4.0°C) above 1990 levels by the end of the 21st century, depending on our ongoing emissions.

For the UK, climate change means hotter, drier summers, milder, wetter winters, higher sea levels and a risk of coastal flooding. Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts, and flooding. There may be severe problems for regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather. Food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted.

Climate Change Act

The [Climate Change Act \(2008\)](#), as amended in June 2019, sets a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

The 2008 Climate Change Act, makes it the duty of the [Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#) (was [Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change](#)) to ensure that the net UK carbon account for all six Kyoto greenhouse gases for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline, in order to avoid dangerous climate change. The Act aims to enable the United Kingdom to become a low-carbon economy and gives ministers powers to introduce the measures necessary to achieve a range of greenhouse gas reduction targets.

It is clear that the duty does not fall to councils and therefore there is no additional “climate change” funding allocated to councils, in order to implement the act. That said, Government departments have and will continue, from time to time, make available grants and other one-

off funds for specific initiatives. Estimates on the total cost of transitioning to a zero-carbon economy is likely to be well in excess of £1tn., according to Phillip Hammond, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer (BBC News). The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy believes it will cost more, estimating £70bn a year.

In November 2020, the government published its [“Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution - Building back better, supporting green jobs, and accelerating our path to net zero”](#). This plan doesn't change the overall target of net zero by 2050 but details a path to net reductions by 2030 and 2050. The ten-point plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially 3 times as much from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs across the UK.

Bracknell Forest 2007-2019 Action plans

Addressing man-made climate change isn't a new policy area for the council, or the council's thinking and planning. The Council's approach in addressing climate change, is focused on making this agenda part of the core operating principles of the council, rather than a set of activities separate to the delivery of the council's mandated services.

Bracknell Forest Council first signed up to the [Nottingham Declaration](#)¹ on climate change in February 2007. In January 2013 the Council refreshed its commitment to action on climate change by becoming a signatory to [Climate Local](#), the [Local Government Association's](#) successor to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Council also issued a Climate Change Action Plan in 2013 reflecting our commitment under Climate Local which was revised and updated in 2016.

The Bracknell Forest Council 2013-2019 action plan had the following themes:

1. Taking the lead
2. Energy
3. Transport
4. Waste
5. Procurement
6. Adaptation
7. Raising awareness

A summary of the achievements under this strategy are attached as **appendix 1** to this strategy, as it is important to recognise the work undertaken thus far.

An evaluation of the 2013-19 plan has taken place. A number of key projects have been delivered making a demonstratable impact on the borough. That said, a key learning point to emerge from evaluating the 2013-19 plan, was the difficulty in measuring any progress against a benchmark / starting position, as nothing appeared to have been established. In addition, whilst several projects did have measurable targets to one degree or another, there were several other projects which were more aspirational initiatives or difficult to measure, crowd pleasing, “things to do”.

¹ The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This Declaration commits the Council[s] to tackling the causes and effects of climate change and to encouraging all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and make public their commitment to action.

Furthermore, the plan itself appeared to focus on what Bracknell Forest Council could do to address climate change, rather than how the wider community could be harnessed to have a more substantial impact on the whole borough.

Comparative performance data

In terms of comparing Bracknell Forest Council to other local authorities, there are a number of published benchmarks which feature Bracknell Forest Council. In reviewing these data sets, it has become clear that many are not pure reporting of data, but instead set out to prove a particular assertion, linked to an agenda that they are pursuing. Further, given that they are “metadata” analyses, they rely on published data which is up to 5 years old (the BEIS’s CO2 report for the borough is only published every two years and so most data in the public domain is 2017 or earlier) rather than on primary research, based upon up-to-date information. Therefore, the council has focused on its own primary data and that which is published by government agencies.

All benchmark reports suffer from the weaknesses that all benchmarking suffers from; are the comparisons “apples and apples or apples and pears?”. No two local authority areas are the same (population, geography, housing density, etc.), therefore comparing even unitary authorities, requires the findings to have many caveats. So, the council takes a pragmatic approach to findings, treating them as indicative rather than definitive.

The Friends of the Earth, published a league table on a metadata study in 2019 [League table England Wales](#), based on various governmental data sources. This compared Bracknell Forest Council to Similar local authorities as identified and grouped using the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Residential-Based Area classifications. The study determined our strengths and areas of improvement within this “peer group” (rural-urban fringe²) for various climate change performance measures. The summary headline results are detailed in the table below:

Good	Needs Improvement
% of trees in the borough	Local production of renewable energy
Air quality	Domestic eco-heating initiatives
Number of people sharing lifts when commuting	Levels of waste re-use / recycling and composting
Number of well-insulated homes	Number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points available
	High number of people commuting to work by car
	Number of people commuting by non-car means

This assessment is historical and therefore doesn’t reflect the projects undertaken in the last few years or the projects that have been commissioned recently under the Bracknell Forest Council Plan 2020-2023.

² The rural–urban fringe, also known as the outskirts, urban, peri-urban or the urban hinterland, can be described as the "landscape interface between town and country", or also as the transition zone where urban and rural uses mix. Alternatively, it can be viewed as a landscape type in its own right, one forged from an interaction of urban and rural land uses.

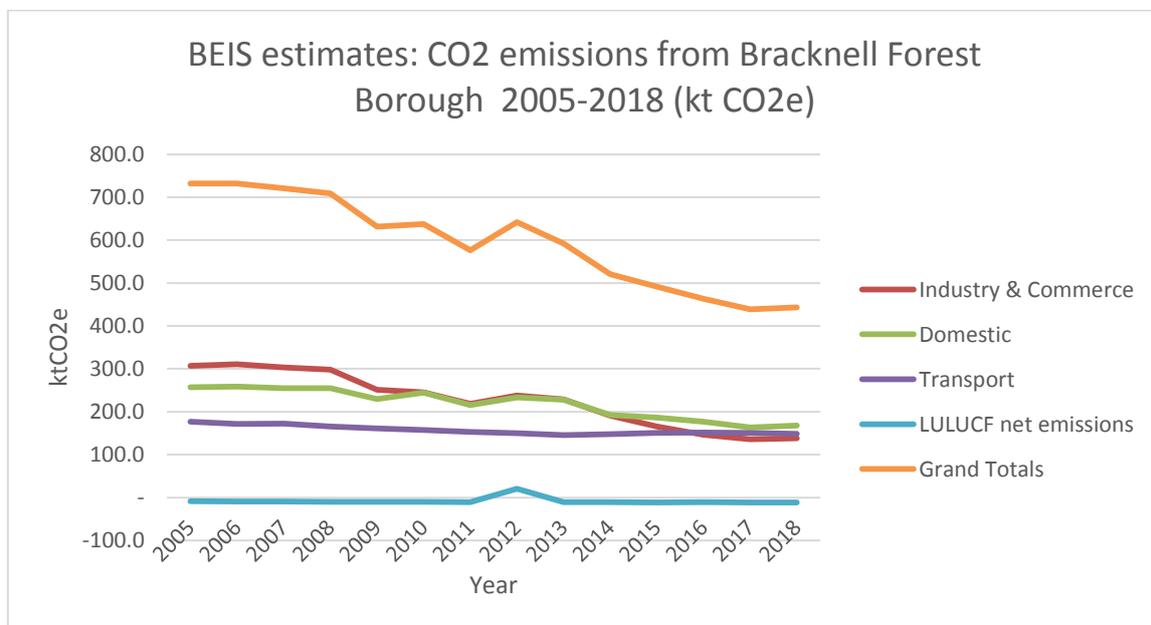
That said, the findings do align with the areas of work that the council is focusing on for the climate change agenda.

CO2 Emissions for the Bracknell Forest Council area 2005-2018

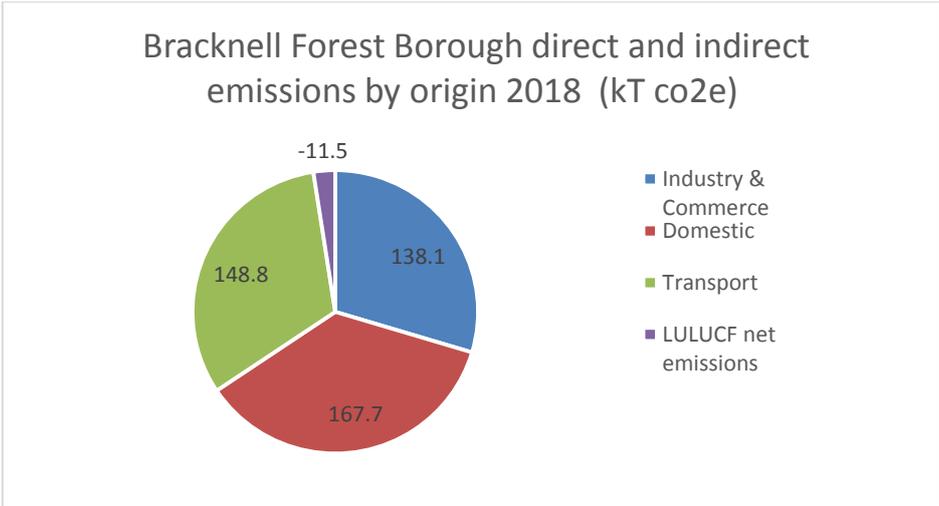
Since 2003, the [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) (DEFRA) has published experimental statistics of carbon dioxide emissions for local authority areas. In 2008, the experimental data set for 2005 was upgraded to full national statistics status and 2005 became the baseline year for future performance monitoring.

The department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) now publishes annual data sets on greenhouse gas emissions which enable us to show the overall trend in borough wide direct and indirect emissions.

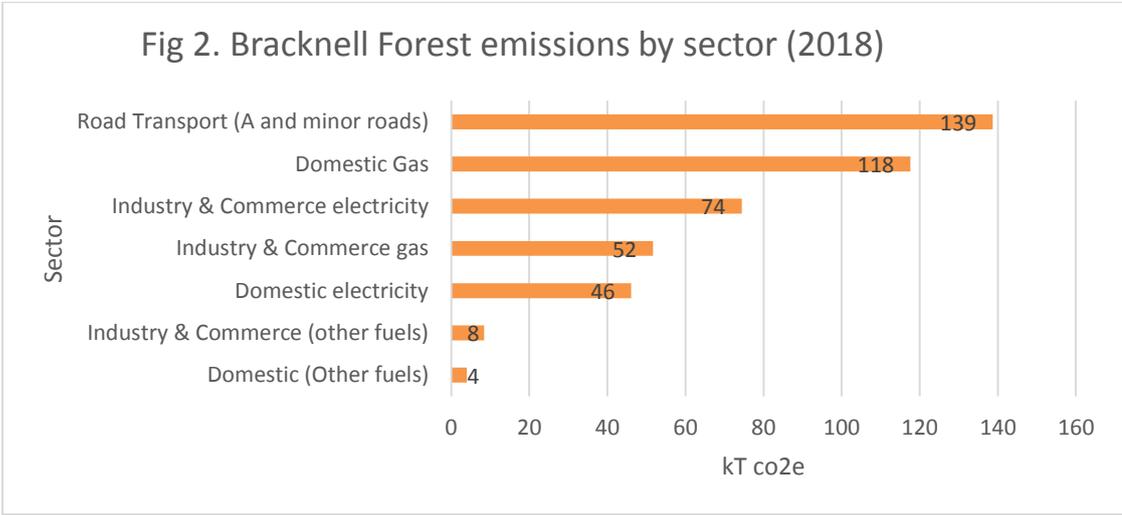
The total greenhouse gas emissions within the borough as a whole have decreased from 732 kt CO₂e in 2005 to 443 kt CO₂e in 2018 (an overall reduction of 40%). All of these emissions are very marginally counter-balanced by Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) net emissions which remove some emissions from the atmosphere.



The chart below represents estimated greenhouse gas emissions for the borough based on 2018 estimates. The figures are taken from the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) local emissions data. The data is updated 2 years behind the current year. The three main sub-emission groups (Industry & commerce, domestic and transport) currently contribute almost similar levels of CO₂ to one another within the BFC area.



Presented another way, we can quickly identify that emissions from road transport and domestic gas heating make up almost 60% of total emissions.



Coronavirus - COVID 19 Global Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020. As of 7 December 2020, more than 67.3 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 1.53 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.

The pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression, according to the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#).

“Influenza Type Disease”, was identified as a top risk on the Government Risk Register and is identified as a top risk on the Thames Valley Community Risk Register (CRR). Within the Thames Valley area (Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire) the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF), made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency in the Thames Valley (Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), come together and assess the likelihood of emergencies happening and the

impact on the community. This includes the impacts to people, their houses, the environment and local businesses. These risks are regularly reviewed and updated on the CRR as a living document.

Climate change is also identified as a key risk to the TVLRF area and therefore features on both the Thames Valley Community Risk Register and in the council's risk strategy key issues.

COVID Lockdown One – Global energy review

In a report from the International Energy Agency [Global Energy Review](#) [30 April 2020], the first climate change impacts of the pandemic were assessed, as the globe went into Lockdown one.

[Extract]

Global energy demand to plunge this year as a result of the biggest shock since the Second World War

The Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest shock to the global energy system in more than seven decades, with annual predicted decline in carbon emissions of almost 8% (energy demand will fall 6% in 2020).

“This is a historic shock to the entire energy world. Amid today’s unparalleled health and economic crises, the plunge in demand for nearly all major fuels is staggering, especially for coal, oil and gas. Only renewables are holding up during the previously unheard-of slump in electricity use,” said Dr Fatih Birol, the IEA Executive Director. “It is still too early to determine the longer-term impacts, but the energy industry that emerges from this crisis will be significantly different from the one that came before.” In absolute terms, the decline is the equivalent of losing the entire energy demand of India, the world’s third largest energy consumer. With economies like those within the European Union expected to see the biggest declines, of about 11%. The IEA found that each month of worldwide lockdown, reduces annual global energy demand by about 1.5%. Full lockdowns have pushed down electricity demand by 20% or more. At the same time, we are seeing a major shift towards low-carbon sources of electricity including wind, solar PV, hydropower and nuclear. Renewables are set to be the only energy source that will grow in 2020, with their share of global electricity generation projected to jump thanks to their priority access to grids and low operating costs.

“This crisis has underlined the deep reliance of modern societies on reliable electricity supplies for supporting healthcare systems, businesses and the basic amenities of daily life,” said Dr Birol. “But nobody should take any of this for granted – greater investments and smarter policies are needed to keep electricity supplies secure.”

As a result of these trends – mainly the declines in coal and oil use – global energy-related CO2 emissions are set to fall by almost 8% in 2020, reaching their lowest level since 2010. This would be the largest decrease in emissions ever recorded – nearly six times larger than the previous record drop of 400 million tonnes in 2009 that resulted from the global financial crisis.

“Resulting from premature deaths and economic trauma around the world, the historic decline in global emissions is absolutely nothing to cheer,” said Dr Birol. (International Energy Agency)

Yet the BBC reported in August 2020 that “the dramatic drop in greenhouse gases and air pollutants seen during the global lockdown will have little impact on our warming planet say scientists”

[Extract]

Climate change: Lockdown has 'negligible' effect on temperatures

Global daily emissions of CO₂ fell by 17% at the peak of the crisis. While other researchers, who calculated how 10 different greenhouse gases and air pollutants changed between February and June 2020 in 123 countries found that the drop off peaked in April, with CO₂, nitrogen oxides and other emissions falling between 10-30% globally, mainly due to declines in surface transport. But this new work shows that some of the declines in greenhouse gases actually cancelled each other out in terms of warming.

Nitrogen oxides from transport normally have a warming impact in the atmosphere. While they went down by 30%, they were matched by a drop in sulphur dioxide, which mainly comes from the burning of coal.

Emissions of this gas help aerosols to form, which reflect sunlight back into space and cool the planet.

This balancing out, combined with the temporary nature of the pandemic restrictions, mean the impact on warming by 2030 will hardly be felt. (McGrath)

The Climate Change Committee (CCC): Sixth Carbon Budget

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008.

The purpose of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In its [Sixth Carbon Budget](#), (December 2020) required under the Climate Change Act, it made the following recommendations:

[Extract]

Our recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035. In effect, bringing forward the UK’s previous 80% target by nearly 15 years. The Sixth Carbon Budget can be met through four key steps:

1. **Take up of low-carbon solutions.** People and businesses will choose to adopt low-carbon solutions, as high carbon options are progressively phased out. By the early 2030s all new cars and vans and all boiler replacements in homes and other buildings are low-carbon – largely electric. By 2040 all new trucks are low-carbon. UK industry shifts to using renewable electricity or hydrogen instead of fossil fuels, or captures its carbon emissions, storing them safely under the sea.
2. **Expansion of low-carbon energy supplies.** UK electricity production is zero carbon by 2035. Offshore wind becomes the backbone of the whole UK energy system, growing from the Prime Minister’s promised 40GW in 2030 to 100GW or more by 2050. New uses for this clean electricity are found in transport, heating and industry, pushing up electricity demand by a half over the next 15 years, and doubling or even

trebling demand by 2050. Low-carbon hydrogen scales-up to be almost as large, in 2050, as electricity production is today. Hydrogen is used as a shipping and transport fuel and in industry, and potentially in some buildings, as a replacement for natural gas for heating.

3. **Reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities.** The UK wastes fewer resources and reduces its reliance on high-carbon goods. Buildings lose less energy through a national programme to improve insulation across the UK. Diets change, reducing our consumption of high-carbon meat and dairy products by 20% by 2030, with further reductions in later years. There are fewer car miles travelled and demand for flights grows more slowly. These changes bring striking positive benefits for health and well-being.
4. **Land and greenhouse gas removals.** There is a transformation in agriculture and the use of farmland while maintaining the same levels of food per head produced today. By 2035, 460,000 hectares of new mixed woodland are planted to remove CO₂ and deliver wider environmental benefits. 260,000 hectares of farmland shifts to producing energy crops. Woodland rises from 13% of UK land today to 15% by 2035 and 18% by 2050. Peatlands are widely restored and managed sustainably.

Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget

Within the budget, the Committee detail sector by sector analyses. Their Committee make the following comments regarding Local Authorities:

[Extract]

Local authorities are increasingly ambitious in their plans to tackle climate change. As of October 2020, over 300 local authorities had declared climate emergencies, and many are now in the process of developing plans to deliver against ambitious Net Zero targets. Local authorities have a range of existing levers that can be used to deliver local action that reduces emissions and prepares local areas to a changing climate.

However, these levers alone are unlikely to be sufficient to deliver local authorities' Net Zero ambitions, due to gaps in powers, policy and funding barriers, and a lack of capacity and skills at a local level. Additionally, without some level of coordination from Government, the UK risks pursuing a fragmented strategy towards Net Zero.

Alongside our work on the Sixth Carbon Budget, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) are publishing an accompanying report on the role of local authorities in delivering the UK's Net Zero ambition. The report aims to provide a framework for aligning climate action at the local level with the CCC's pathways for the UK, as well as recommendations for local, regional and national Governments aiming to remove barriers to delivering local climate action in the UK.

Key recommendations:

- The UK Government and local authorities share a common goal to deliver Net Zero.
- The Sixth Carbon Budget can only be achieved if Government, regional agencies and local authorities work seamlessly together.
- More than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.

- Top-down policies go some way to delivering change, but can achieve a far greater impact if they are focused through local knowledge and networks.
- Four key things are needed to achieve this vision of collaborative delivery:
 - **Framework:** An agreed framework for delivery for Net Zero incorporating local and national climate action
 - **Financing:** Appropriate long-term financing to support local authorities in delivering Net Zero
 - **Flexibility:** Local operational flexibility around how local areas address climate change
 - **Facilitation:** coherent policy and powers for the facilitation of delivery.

Bracknell Forest: Borough context – the Story of place

Bracknell Forest comprises of both a 1950's first generation New Town which has seen several phases of subsequent growth, along with a number of older villages across a varied geographic area. The principal conurbation is Bracknell itself with secondary population centres built up around the historic towns and villages of Sandhurst & Crowthorne to the south, Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield to the north and North Ascot to the East.

Table 3: Historical population growth – Bracknell Forest Borough

Year	Total Population	Time Period	Percentage increase	Net Change
1951	23,408			
1961	43,192	1951-1961	85%	19,784
1971	64,135	1961-1971	48%	20,943
1981	81,225	1971-1981	27%	17,090
1991	95,949	1981-1991	18%	14,274
2001	109,617	1991-2001	14%	13,668
2011	113,205	2001-2011	3%	3,588
2018*	121,676	2011-2021*	7%	8,471

Population - The population of Bracknell Forest is 121,676 (ONS 2018 estimate*). The population is still younger than the national average (a mean of 37.4 compared to 39.3 in England) but there is an increasing proportion of older people in 45+ age categories. General levels of health are higher within the Borough than nationally across England.

Demographics - The majority (90.8%) are UK Nationals, with the remaining 9% being comprised largely of EU Citizens (5.9%), East Asian (0.8%), South Asian (0.8%) and Sub-Saharan African (0.8%). The most recent census (2011) showed the ethnic breakdown of Bracknell Forest is 84% white and 15.1% BAME. There is a sizeable and settled Nepali community in Sandhurst connected to the Gurkha regiment at The Royal Military Academy.

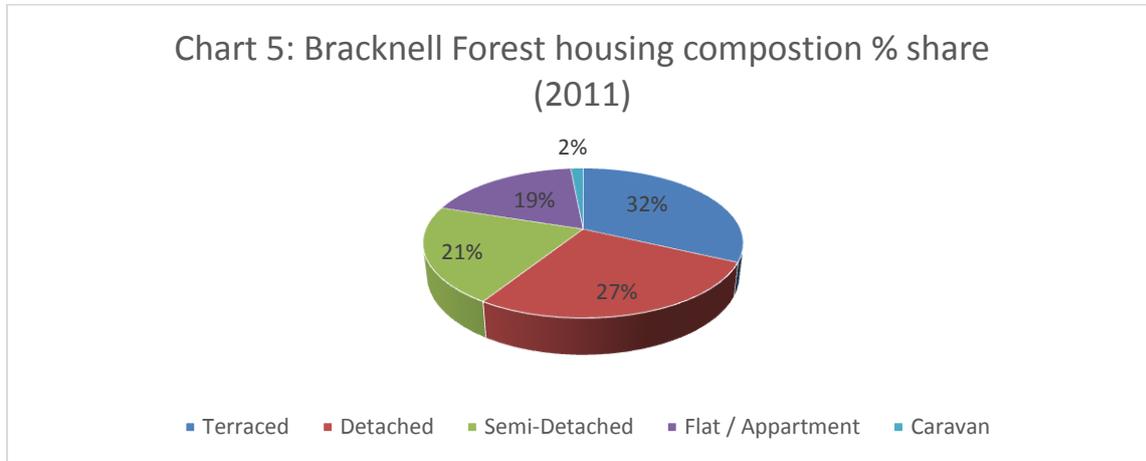
Socio Economics - Bracknell Forest is, in relative terms, a wealthy and affluent place to live with low levels of deprivation on average across the Borough. Specific pockets of deprivation (as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation) can be seen in several areas primarily centred in the Bracknell New Town area comparative to residents in the more affluent northern and southern areas of the Borough. The five most deprived areas in the Borough are all contained within Bracknell Town.

Bracknell Forest is one of the least deprived areas of the country (ranked 291 out of 326 local authorities in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010). Access to services, facilities, employment and open space/recreation is generally good.

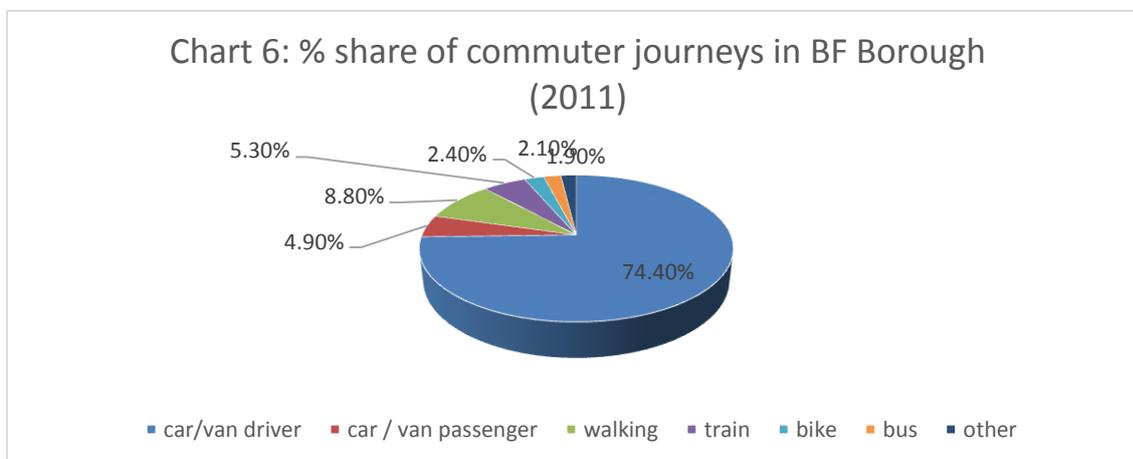
Employment - Unemployment rates (3.4%) are lower than in England (4.4%) as a whole and the levels of educational/technological qualifications are higher than those nationally. The borough has a higher than average number of managers, directors, senior officials and professional occupations and a lower than average proportion of elementary occupations and machine operators. Furthermore, there are far more jobs associated with information and communication than is the trend in England.

Dwellings - The total number of dwellings in the Borough at March 2019 was [50,225](#). Chart 5 below shows the types of housing distributed throughout the borough based on 2011

census data. Bracknell Forest has a greater proportion of detached, terraced and flats/apartments than is the case nationally. By contrast it has a lower proportion of semi-detached homes than elsewhere in England. Within this mix the greatest recent growth has been seen in flats/apartments. Only 1.2% of all homes had no central heating – much lower than the national average of 2.7%.



Travel and Commuting - Levels of car ownership is high in the borough across three main parameters. The number of households with at least one car is 86% (74% in England); whilst the number of households with 3 or more vehicles is 11% (7% nationally) and the average number of vehicles per household is 1.49 (1.16 in England). Dependence on the car is very high. Data from the 2011 census showed that 74.4% of all commuter journeys were made by single occupant cars/vans – see chart 6 below.



Air Quality - Air quality is generally good in Bracknell Forest. However, in 2011, two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) were designated in the Borough (a section of the A322 – Downshire Way, plus the B3348 Crowthorne High Street) and the Council continues to monitor and act in these areas in order to improve air quality. Both AQMAs are subject to a requirement to provide DEFRA with an [annual update report](#) with copies of those reports being accessible within the Environmental Health section of the Public Protection Partnership’s webpages at www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk

Energy - Domestic energy efficiency is slowly improving in the Borough, but this and the provision of renewable energy capacity are possibly not developing at a sufficiently fast rate

to fully address the need to reduce CO2 emissions. Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) offer a standard measure of a building's energy efficiency. An EPC contains a Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) calculated score from 1 to 100+ for the annual energy cost based on:

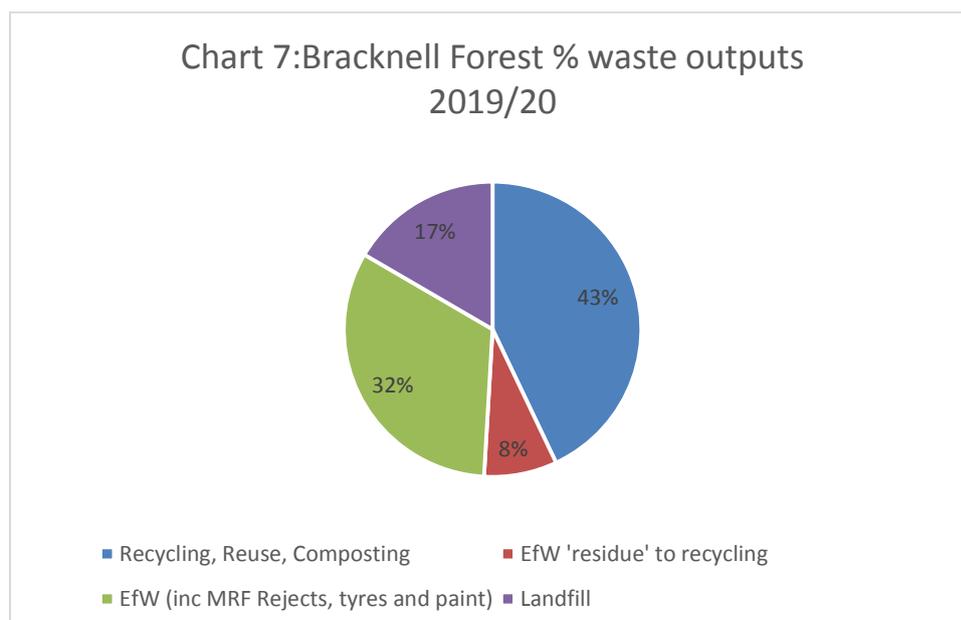
- The elements of structure
- The heating and hot water system
- The internal lighting
- The renewable technologies used in the home.

The higher the score the lower the running costs, with 100 representing zero energy cost. Dwellings with a rating in excess of 100 are net exporters of energy.

Standard Assessment Procedure calculations allow comparisons to be made of the energy running costs of dwellings anywhere in the UK. This is achieved because the calculations are predominantly location independent and are based upon a notional standard occupancy that overcomes variations associated with physical location and the differing ways in which people utilise their homes. The number of homes with a Standard Assessment Procedure rating of 50 or below (EPC rated E, F or G homes) is around 8% and continues to fall within Bracknell Forest.

Forestation / Greening - The Borough has one of the highest percentages of tree cover (40%) for any local authority and one of the highest ratios of publicly accessible open space to its population, with much of this open space being maintained at a high standard. 12% of the borough is within a designated Special Protection Area and there are nine designated sites of Specific Scientific Interest. (See Bracknell Forest Council [Tree Strategy](#) and [Bio-diversity Strategy](#))

Waste and Recycling - Chart 7 below indicates what currently happens to all waste collected within the borough. Levels of waste re-use, recycling and composting have remained static at around 43% for some time. The council's planned introduction of kerbside food waste collections in the Spring of 2021 should raise this to 50%, with a longer-term target of 65% by 2030. (See [the Re3 Waste Strategy](#))



Council Plan 2020-2023

[Extract] The [Council Plan](#) sets out the key objectives for the period 2019 to 2023 to deliver the commitments made to residents in the 2019 local election manifesto. It puts these election commitments into the current financial context to provide the organisation with a strategic direction and framework to meet the challenges ahead.

To deliver on all our objectives and make sure that Bracknell Forest stays prosperous and remains a good place to live, work and play, we have focused our Council Plan on 6 strategic themes:

- value for money
- economic resilience
- education and skills
- caring for you and your family
- **protecting and enhancing our environment**
- communities

Each theme is underpinned by a number of annual priorities that take the council towards the achievement of the 4-year key objectives. These annual priorities will be included in individual Department Service Plans which also contain key performance indicators reflecting the priorities and day to day operations.

Progress against the Council Plan will be reported by a quarterly overview report from the Chief Executive. At the end of the financial year an annual report will be published summarising progress made over the year.

[\(Protecting and enhancing our environment\)](#)

The council's corporate plan details the work programme that the council has set out to ensure the sustainable development of Bracknell Forest. The plan's overall objective is to ensure that the borough remains clean, green and continues to work towards becoming a low carbon environment with high rates of recycling.

Key objectives set in the plan are:

- protect our highly valued green spaces and strategic green gaps
- promote recycling and diverting waste from landfill, including introducing food waste recycling
- improve parking in residential areas
- protect green spaces, the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and maintain strategic gaps between communities
- enhance facilities and customer experience at Horseshoe Lake and maintain other council open spaces
- **address the impact of man-made climate change on our local communities by putting in place actions that work towards meeting the government target of eradication its net contribution to climate change by 2050**
- promote greater use of public transport and cycleways

Key performance indicators:

The plan has a set of key performance indicators, that allow the council to measure progress in delivering the Council Plan ambitions, key objectives and priorities. They are strategic indicators that are tracked over the long term and report on regularly, via the Corporate Performance Overview Report (CPOR).

The Plan's key performance indicators are:

- satisfaction with parks and open spaces
- percentage of successful planning appeals
- percentage of planning applications determined within timescales - Major and Minor
- percentage of planning applications determined within timescales
- number of homes given planning permission
- income from CIL receipts
- planning permissions granted for net additional dwellings not yet implemented
- percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered
- percentage of non-principal classified roads where maintenance should be considered
- percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
- percentage of municipal waste land filled
- reduction in customer visits to Time Square
- reduction in staff travel
- levels of CO2 emissions directly attributable to the Bracknell Forest Council estate

Strategy development approach – Our path to a new Climate Change Strategy

General

Since the publication of the IPCC special report in October 2018, there has been a pressure on local government to pass motions declaring a climate emergency, and then set themselves targets for being carbon neutral by 2030. To date, [300 of 404 \(74%\)](#) District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils have declared a Climate Emergency (4 of the 6 Berkshire authorities have made declarations). However, many others have seen this move to be counterproductive or meaningless slogan shouting, in order to demonstrate that these councils are doing something.

Bracknell Forest Council has been committed to addressing climate change since the Nottingham Declaration on climate change in February 2007. Therefore, in the spirit of, “deeds not words³”, the council re-stated its commitments towards planning for and mitigating man-made climate change via the council Motion (02/2019). In the light of the new information from the IPCC, the council undertook a review of its action plan outcomes to-date and what additional actions it needs to take to ensure that it is carbon neutral by 2050, in line with the Climate Change Act (2008).

Various tools and / or models exist which suggest ways by which the council could structure its approach to this issue. Both Members and the Corporate Management Team (CMT) are committed to having a strong climate change mitigation culture within the organisation. However, lessons learnt from the last phases of the work have also highlighted the importance of any proposed actions being quantifiable / measurable and from an established benchmark start position.

The Bracknell Forest Council, Motion (02/2019) passed at Full Council, acknowledges this learning and states:

“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”

Bracknell Forest Council baseline

To this end, to help establish the council’s carbon footprint baseline figures, the [Association for Public Service Excellence \(APSE\)](#) was engaged. APSE had already assisted several other UK local authorities with this work and their methodology follows the principles of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and the carbon conversion factors that they use are taken from the BEIS GHG Conversion Reporting publication. This allows a consistent approach to comparing emissions and using recognised techniques for future reporting. The data that APSE was asked to report on represented greenhouse gas emissions from the 2019 calendar year with the carbon footprint being categorised across two scopes:

³ Emmeline Pankhurst founder of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) coined the phrase

Scope 1 (direct) - emissions are from activities owned or controlled by the Council. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles.

Scope 2 (indirect) emissions are associated with purchased electricity. These indirect emissions are a consequence of energy use but, occur at sources that the Council do not own or control.

The headline findings (**Appendix 2**) were that the council was directly responsible for the output of 6,288 tonnes CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent). 3,427 t were generated by purchase of electricity (scope 2); 2,808 t were generated through the combustion of natural gas (scope 1); and 52 t were generated via emissions from council owned/leased fleet vehicles (scope 1). Roughly 25% of all our electricity outputs comes from the streetlighting infrastructure, 100% of which has already been converted to LED lanterns. At the time of the report the council was responsible for approximately 90 electric and 73 gas meters across its entire estate. Schools feature heavily in the top 5 emitters of both gas and electric, with Time Square (electric) and the Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium (gas) also featuring.

COVID 19 impact (Residents' Survey Results 2020) - BFC [Community Impact assessment](#)

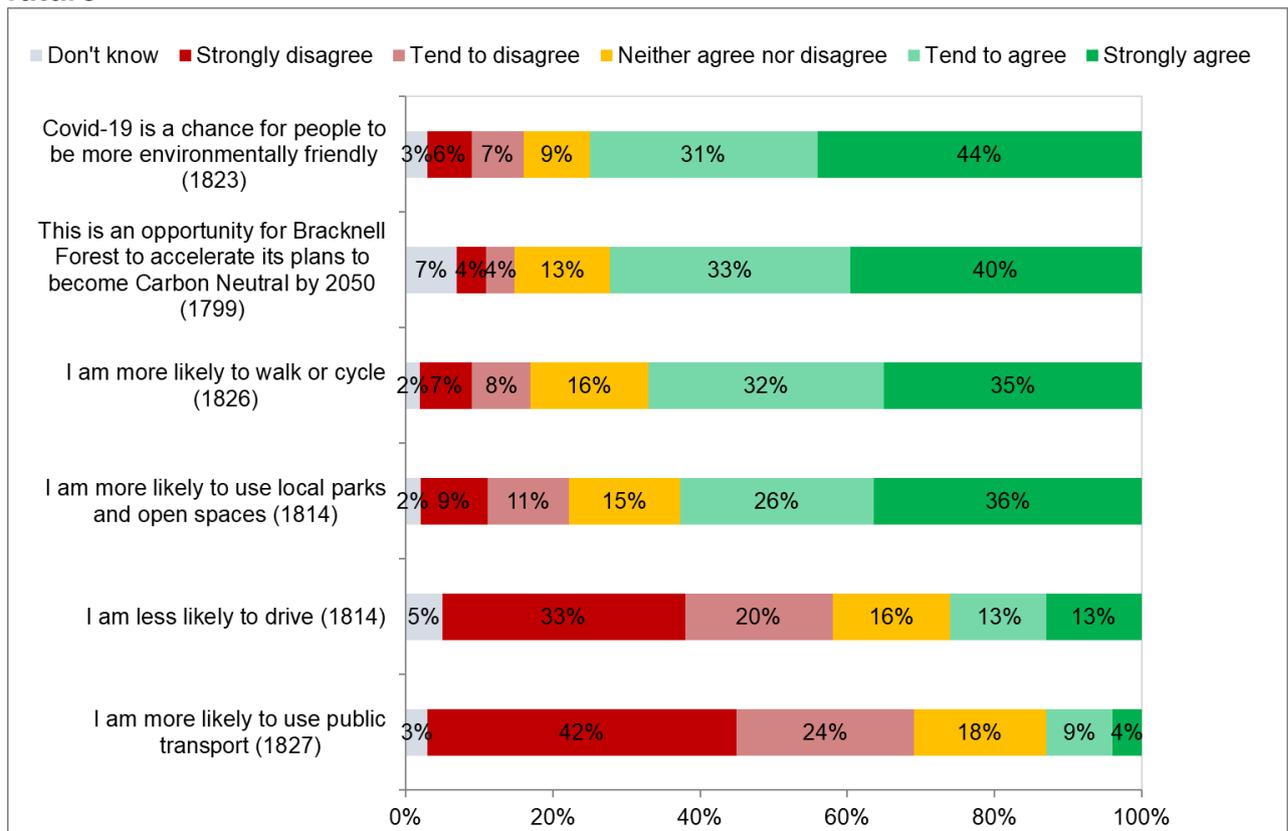
In terms of the impact of Lockdown one on Bracknell Forest, the Council undertook a community impact assessment. This report was considered by the Council's Executive in October 2020.

This research was conducted via a telephone survey of 1,826 residents living in Bracknell Forest (at least 100 in each of the 18 wards in the Local Authority area). The survey took place between the 14th July and 31st July 2020.

When questioned on resident's views on travel and the environment in the future, the majority of residents believe that Covid-19 is a chance for people to be more environmentally friendly and that this is an opportunity for Bracknell Forest to accelerate its plans to become Carbon Neutral by 2050

- 75% of residents said they agree that Covid-19 is a chance for people to be more environmentally friendly and 73% agreed that this is an opportunity for Bracknell Forest to accelerate its plans to become Carbon Neutral by 2050.
- 67% agreed that they are more likely to walk or cycle and 62% agreed they are more likely to use local parks and open spaces.
- 26% agreed they are less likely to drive, while 53% disagreed. However, it is worth noting that 41% of residents have already been driving less as shown in the following subsection.
- Just 13% said they are more likely to use public transport, whereas 66% disagreed.

Figure 5.1: The views of residents about travel and the environment in the future



Numbers in brackets are the number of respondents to each statement. Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about travel and the environment in the future, due to your experience of Covid-19?

The following demographic groups are less likely to agree with the mentioned statements:

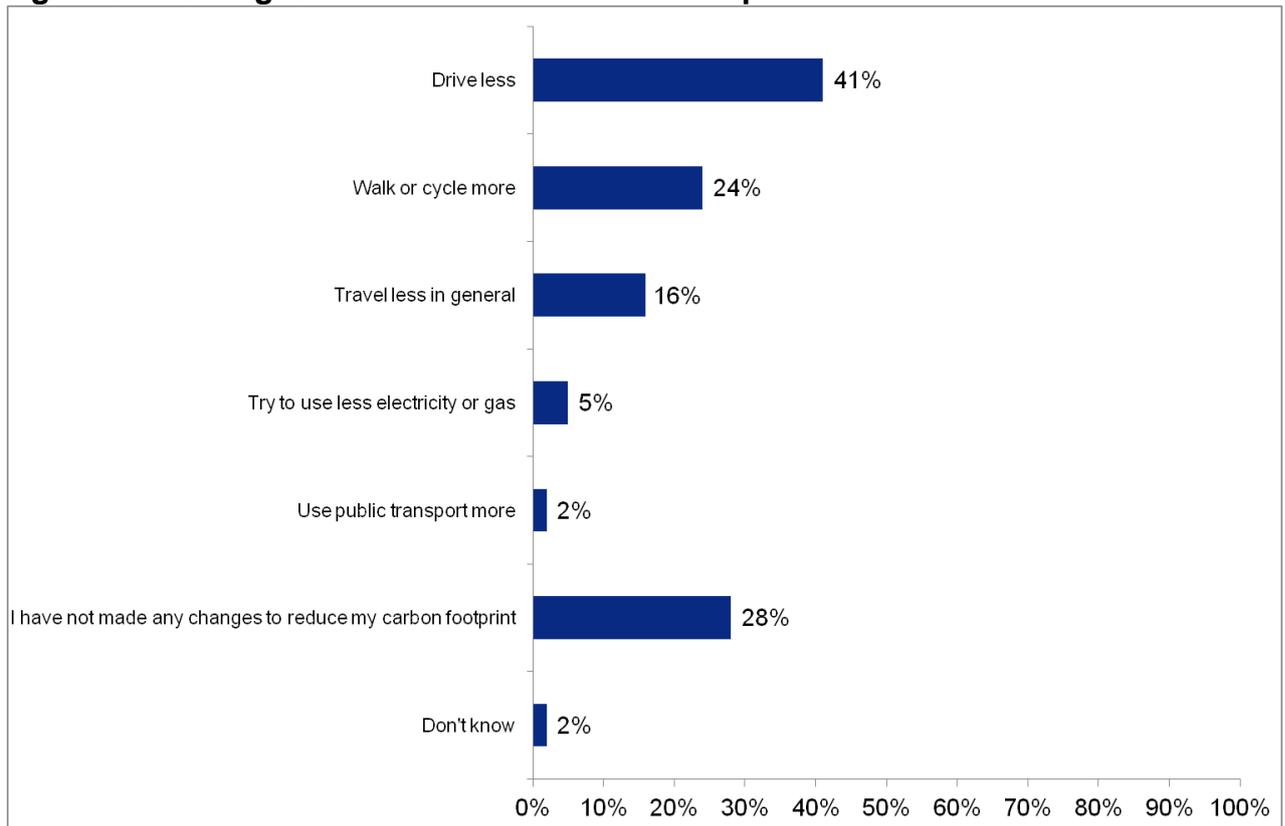
- **Men:** 62% are more likely to walk or cycle compared with 72% of women.
- **Residents aged 35 and above:** 70% of residents aged 35-54 and 73% of those aged 55 and above are likely to agree that Covid-19 is a chance for people to be more environmentally friendly compared with 87% of residents aged 18-34.
- **White British or Irish residents:** 10% are more likely to use public transport compared with 22% of Non-White British or Irish residents.
- **Disabled residents:** 52% are more likely to walk or cycle compared with 71% of non-disabled residents.

In terms of changes residents made to reduce carbon footprint, most residents made changes to reduce their carbon footprint during the pandemic

- Two-fifths of residents said they drive less (41%) and a quarter said they walk or cycle more (24%). 28% said they have not made any changes to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Younger residents are more likely than older residents to walk or cycle more. For example, 37% of residents aged 18-34 walk or cycle more compared with 13% of residents aged 55 and over.

- 49% of residents who look after family members, friends, neighbours or others for 35-49 hours a week said they have not made any changes to reduce their carbon footprint, compared with 28% of residents overall.
- 12% of disabled residents walk or cycle more, compared with 26% of non-disabled residents.
- 29% of residents in social housing and 25% of those who rent from a private landlord said they drive less.

Figure 5.2: Changes made to reduce carbon footprint



Number of respondents: 1824.

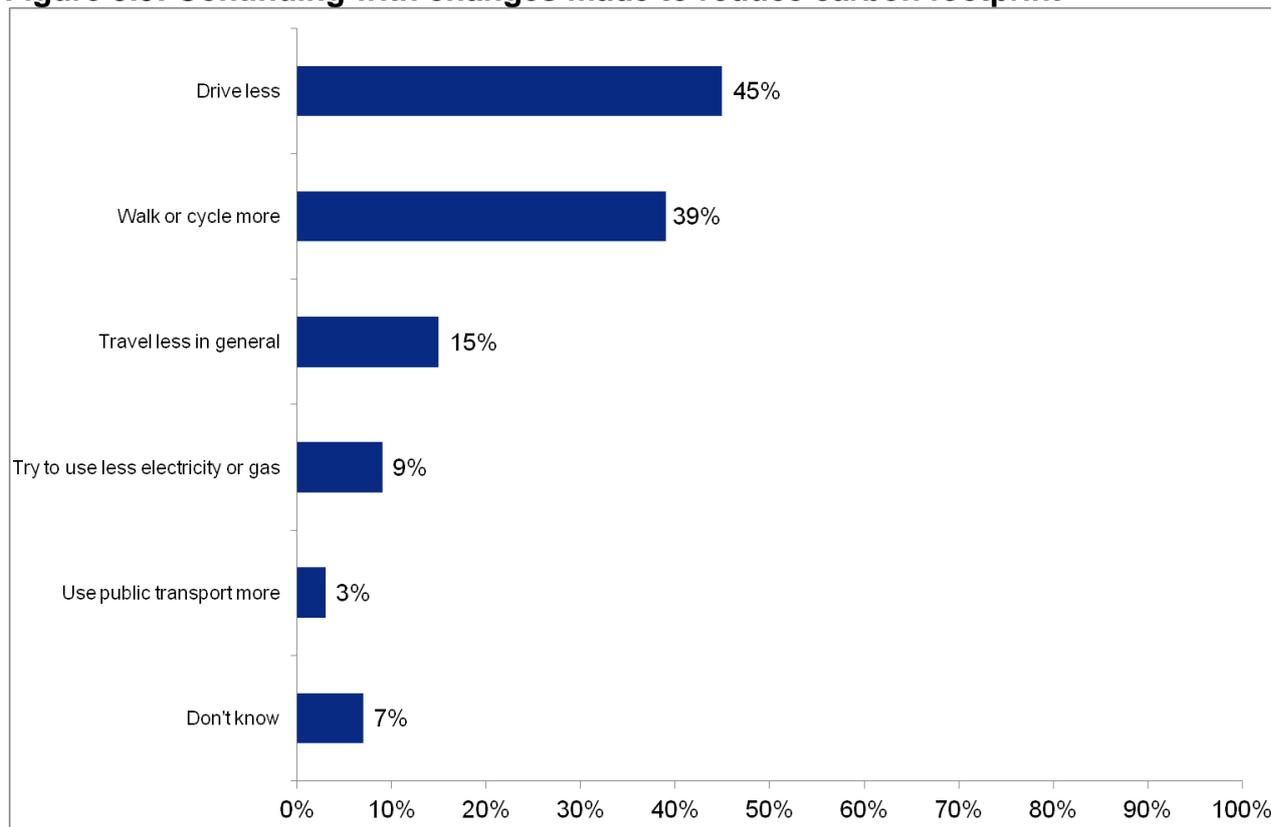
Question: What, if any, changes have you made to reduce your carbon footprint during the pandemic?

Note: Respondents could select more than one answer.

In terms of attitude to continuing with changes made to reduce carbon footprint, about two-fifths of residents who have made changes to reduce their carbon footprint during Lockdown one, will maintain these

- two-fifths of residents who have made changes to reduce their carbon footprint said they will continue to drive less (45%) and two-fifths said they will continue to walk or cycle more (39%). 15% said they will continue to travel less in general.

Figure 5.3: Continuing with changes made to reduce carbon footprint



Number of respondents: 1080 (excludes those that have not made any changes to reduce their carbon footprint).

Question: Of the change(s) you mentioned, which ones will you continue with?

Note: Respondents could select more than one answer.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission's engagement with climate change

Following the [5 November 2019 Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting](#), in setting the [Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2019 – 2023](#), the Commission took unto itself the role of being the [Scrutiny panel for Climate Change](#). Under this remit, the Commission has held two scrutiny panel meetings to support the development of the strategy and commissioned a “climate change marketplace”, so that all Members could familiarise themselves with the live projects that the council was undertaking and to speak directly to the departmental leads for the 2013-2019 action plan items.

The Commission's climate change marketplace - 10th March 2020

Overview and Scrutiny Commission's “climate change marketplace” event took place on 10th March 2020. The event provided both an insight into the scope and breadth of the current projects addressing climate change within the organisation but, also acted as a springboard for the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the council's activities in the round, before themselves generating topic headings which they would like the council to pursue.

The marketplace allowed three new strategic initiatives to be showcased as part of the projects roster. These being the [“Greening our waste”](#), “Vehicle idling enforcement” and “Greening our utilities”. These are the key new initiatives for the 2019/20 performance year.

By including within the marketplace event, the “Greening our waste” project, the Waste team were able to highlight the climate change benefits associated with the introduction of food waste collections, and more importantly from a climate change perspective, why reducing the residual waste collections is an important part of the programme. This is an important project, as it demonstrates clearly the council's approach, in that it meets the council's strategic direction, reduces the cost of the service and addresses climate change, by maximising the environmental benefit.

The council's Energy Manager presented a number of options for reducing our utilities costs, within projects like procurement / re-procurement of a new water and waste water contract, centralising energy controls, etc., thereby reducing the cost of the council's utilities and reducing the carbon generated in the process on the council's carbon account.

There is also an opportunity for the council to consider purchasing a Renewable Energies Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificate from its current energy provider (EDF). In so doing EDF would guarantee that all energy purchased by BFC would be certified as coming from renewable energy sources, thereby reducing the council's net carbon footprint from electricity to zero. This hasn't been pursued at this stage as this would just be an additional cost to the council, for an environmental badge which in reality wouldn't see a measurable reduction in CO2 emissions in the borough.

The Public Protection Partnership, were able to highlight to Members their role in pollution control and air monitoring, having already presented a report to the [Licensing and Safety Committee](#) on “[How Licensing could reduce air pollution](#)”. As a result of this report, the Licensing and Safety Committee agreed to adopt the powers available to the Council under the [Road Traffic \(Vehicle Emissions\) \(Fixed Penalty\) Regulations of 2002](#). These regulations granted powers to selected officers within the Council to issue fixed penalty notices to address drivers (including Taxis) who idle their engines in Air Quality Management Areas and around sensitive locations, like schools.

Feedback from staff and Members was very good and the case was made that doing something similar for the community would be a great opportunity to share the council's success so far under the current plan. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this action was put on hold.

[Overview and Scrutiny Commission agenda - 10 March 2020](#)

Following on from the marketplace event, the Commission held its meeting as a workshop on Climate Change. The marketplace event acted as a Member training event, to enable them to engage effectively with the workshop and to ensure that they didn't have to “reinvent the wheel”, in terms of ideas and points to take forward into the strategy.

The workshop had two objectives:

- Contribute to the development of the new Strategy
- Provide focus for a review of the community response ([Community Risk Register](#)) item

Subsequent to a presentation and having had an [evidence pack](#) containing an Officer report from the Executive Director: Delivery (lead for climate change) and a variety of background reports from other local authorities, local climate change conference outputs and national policy reports, the Commission undertook a workshop style review. This workshop discussed these written submissions and the Member's own ideas in two groups. A number of

members of the public, representing local climate change campaigning groups attended the meeting and the Chairman (the Vice Chairman was chairing the meeting) invited these attendees to participate in the workshops as full members.

The main talking points from the Commission’s review of these inputs and their own discussions are summarised below:

Group A	Group B
What is important to the Bracknell Forest residents?	
Reduce air pollution	Saving money and impact on environment, more broadly reducing waste Parents are concerned about their children’s ‘future’ and have a desire to protect them and do what is necessary to do so. Travel
Create more green spaces and protect them better	
Planning	
Recycling	
Procurement	
What community actions and initiatives could the council encourage?	
Marketing	Saving money and impact on environment, more broadly reducing waste Warm homes and energy bill minimisation Protecting children’s futures Other ideas suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Invest to save scheme • Generate energy ourselves • Install water fountains in the Borough
Education	
Reward systems	

Following on from this session, a number of additional written submissions were made directly to the strategy review team, by representatives of the community groups who attended this session. These were considered along with the other ideas generated in the workshop.

[Overview and Scrutiny Commission agenda – 4 December 2020](#)

This meeting took place over Zoom and was streamed live to [YouTube](#). This enabled a larger number of people to see the Commission’s review and also participate via the chat function on YouTube.

The Commission’s scrutiny of the draft strategy, also considered expert and community input, with presentations from:

[Professor Nigel Arnell](#) (Meteorology Department. University of Reading) who addressed the committee on the scientific evidence and effects of climate change.

[Professor Tim Dixon](#) (Chair of Sustainable Futures - University of Reading) and co-chair of the Reading Climate Change Partnership board ([ReadingCAN](#)) who addressed the

committee on the critical success factors for climate change strategies and updated the committee on the Reading Climate Change Partnership, a community leadership group for the borough.

Rebecca Murphy representing Campaign To Protect Rural England ([CPRE](#)) Berkshire, who addressed the committee on protection of the Green Belt and pointed the committee to the All Party Parliamentary Group for London's Green Belt's report, "[A positive vision for London's Green Belt](#)".

Kathryn O'Neal representing Bracknell Climate Change Action Group and represented [Extinction Rebellion \(XR\) Bracknell \(in the 10th March 2020 meeting\)](#), who addressed the committee on "how can Bracknell become a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet".

The Commission also undertook a number of fact-finding exercises, which were reported back to the meeting. The Commission's Climate Change Review Group focused on three areas: –

- reducing emissions in the community and improving air quality for all
- improving biodiversity in the borough
- engaging young people and facilitating their voices in setting our community

The group's report back to the Commission was split into two areas: Transport and the Environment.

Finally, the Commission also called the Executive Members for the Environment and for Planning and Transport to give evidence to the meeting, with a focus on reflecting on and commenting on the points presented at the meeting, as the owners of the council's climate change strategy.

Summary of Commission's work to date

The Commission has now held around 6 hours of public meetings, and considered over 200 pages of written evidence, plus reviewed 76 projects on the climate change work that the council has either undertaken or has been proposing to take forward. This being on top of private meetings and individual investigations and reviews. Public and private discussions have been had with a number of stakeholders and their views have been sought and presented.

The output from these two meetings and the considerable internal and external consultation has now been fed into the strategy. All suggested project areas or initiatives have been matched against the roster of current projects or have been added to the list of proposed projects that will be taken forward to a feasibility stage.

The Commission has agreed to continue this work, with a new objective for the Climate Change Review Group agreed at the 4th December 2020 meeting. In this meeting, the Commission agreeing to update its work programme and commission a review on "[Climate Change Review – harnessing a community call for action](#)".

Bracknell Forest Council

Climate Change Strategy (2020- 2024)

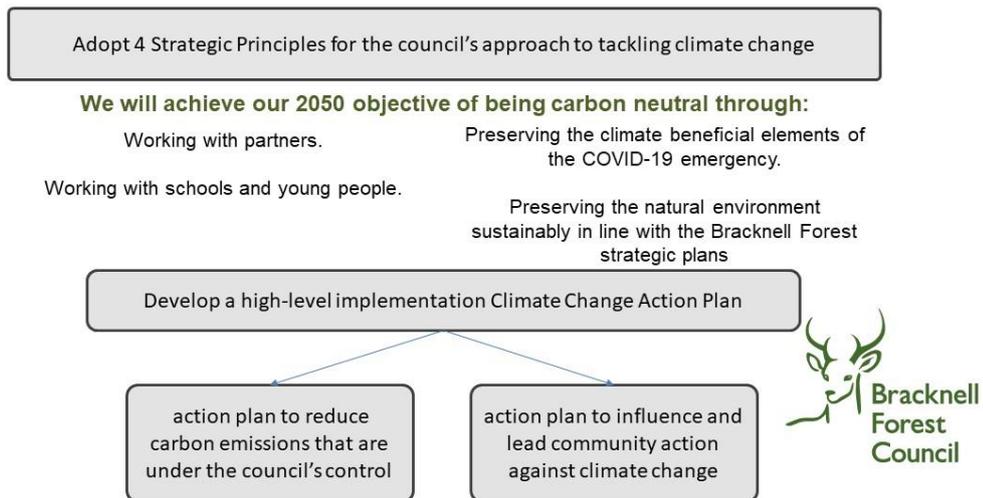
Climate change strategy - General

Bracknell Forest Council recognises that this strategy will rely on the engagement and support of our residents, communities, local town/parish councils, local action groups and local businesses. Such partners will not only help us to deliver but will take the responsibility for achieving targets to help close the greenhouse gas emissions gap we are all facing up to.

The Council is therefore committed both to actions to reduce carbon emissions that are under the council’s control and actions to influence and lead community action against climate change. As such we have simplified our intended approach and identified four principles we will use, through which we will achieve our objective. The Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Strategy is summarised in the graphic below.

BFC Climate Change Strategy (on a Page)

Bracknell Forest Council: 2020 – 2024



Effectively tackling man-made climate change can only be achieved through having a clear strategy. Having a clear focus ensures that our work has clear, achievable and measurable outcomes that reduce CO2 in the borough. This is important, as there are many things that could be done and are beneficial in their own rights to the local environment, but Bracknell Forest Council has a singular focus on bringing the emissions in the borough down through this strategy. There are many other plans and corporate strategies within which other objectives are achieved and these are best dealt with and measured there. What we won’t do is have our climate change strategy be all things to all people; it must be the hard edge to achieve its objective. So, in line with the best business principles, our strategy not only states what we will do; it defines our area of focus. So, it is clear what we will and won’t do in pursuit of our goal and gives a framework within which to focus our endeavours.

Climate change strategy - Strategic approach and focus

Our strategy brings together our management strategy, set in the council's corporate plan and our climate change mitigation, revised and refined goals. Our climate change strategy therefore has a focus on building upon the distinctive competences of the borough council, Town and Parish councils, the local private sector businesses, and the community itself to deliver. We must work to ensure the decisions we all make, have at their core, the best use of resources, building a more equal society through addressing inequalities, addressing public health across the whole life course, and addressing the need to reverse man-made climate change. This is therefore the objective of the strategy.

Climate change strategy – Implementation approach

The council's climate change strategy is a strategic framework, underpinned by annual action plans that are refreshed each year.

Our Objective

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

We will achieve this through 4 strategic principles:

**Working with partners
Preserving the climate beneficial elements of the COVID-19 pandemic
Working with schools and young people
Preserving the natural environment sustainably in line with the Bracknell Forest plans**

Action plan

Our action plan has 2 main strands:

**Reduce carbon emissions that are under the council's control
Influence and lead community action against climate change**

The ambition for the new action plan is twofold. We want to capture current climate change projects and align each to a strand of our climate change strategy. In order to ensure that projects can be monitored effectively and given corporate profile, these will be grouped by Executive Member's portfolio, and then directorate / section. Each project will have a clearly identified lead Officer who will take responsibility for the delivery and reporting on the project.

The Action Plan projects master sheet is attached as **appendix 3** to this strategy document. The table below explains the various headers we have now introduced moving forwards:

Column headings	Description
Name of Project	Project name
Description of Project	Brief description of project scope
Who the work primarily benefits	Will the work benefit the council's own emissions, the borough as a whole or a combination of both
Which pillar of the strategy the project supports	Either: working with partners; working with schools and young people; preserving climate beneficial elements of COVID19; managing the natural environment sustainably in line with policies within the local plan
Other linked strategies, plans or policies	Other strategies, plans or policies to which the project is directly linked
Lead directorate / service area	Indicates which section of the council manages the project
Lead Officer / Executive Member Portfolio	Indicates which Officer manages the project updates and which Executive Member oversees the project
Key means of measurement	Describes how progress plans to be measured (units / number of measurement)
Benchmark / start point	Indicates the start date (and level) from which progress is to be measured
Target /ambition	Indicates a target (improvement) to achieve
Target date	Indicates the target date
Indicative project costs	The indicative Officer hours expended on the project and any direct costs

The projects list will remain a live document. The project database at the launch of the strategy holds **41** projects, covering the breadth of council directorates. 5 of these projects reflect emissions that BFC has direct control over; 18 of these projects reflect emissions that the council can influence within the borough; and 18 of these projects are a combination of both of the above.

Officers responsible for each project / set of projects will be asked to provide quarterly updates utilising a standard template. These updates will be reflected within the action plan projects database and will form the basis for an annual progress report on climate change to Council.

Climate change strategy - Action plan Measures / targets

We recognise that as we transition current projects to the new strategy, not all projects in the action plan database have measures / targets that tie back to a standard measure that links back to greenhouse gas emissions. This is a developing piece of work, but subject to available staffing resources our longer-term aim will be to convert these targets / measurables back to tonnes of co2 equivalent for ease of comparison purposes.

However, it is now important to provide a greater understanding of a start point (benchmark) to refer back to and a more targeted means by which we can more easily measure progress made (in line with the council motion 02/2019, which requires the action plan to have, "measurable ambitious annual targets").

Current Bracknell Forest Council direct emissions profile:

Scope 1 & 2 BFC emissions for the 2019 calendar year are shown below. Scope 1 (direct) emissions are from activities owned or controlled by the Council. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles. Scope 2 (indirect) emissions are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These indirect emissions are a consequence of energy use but occur at sources that the Council does not own or control.

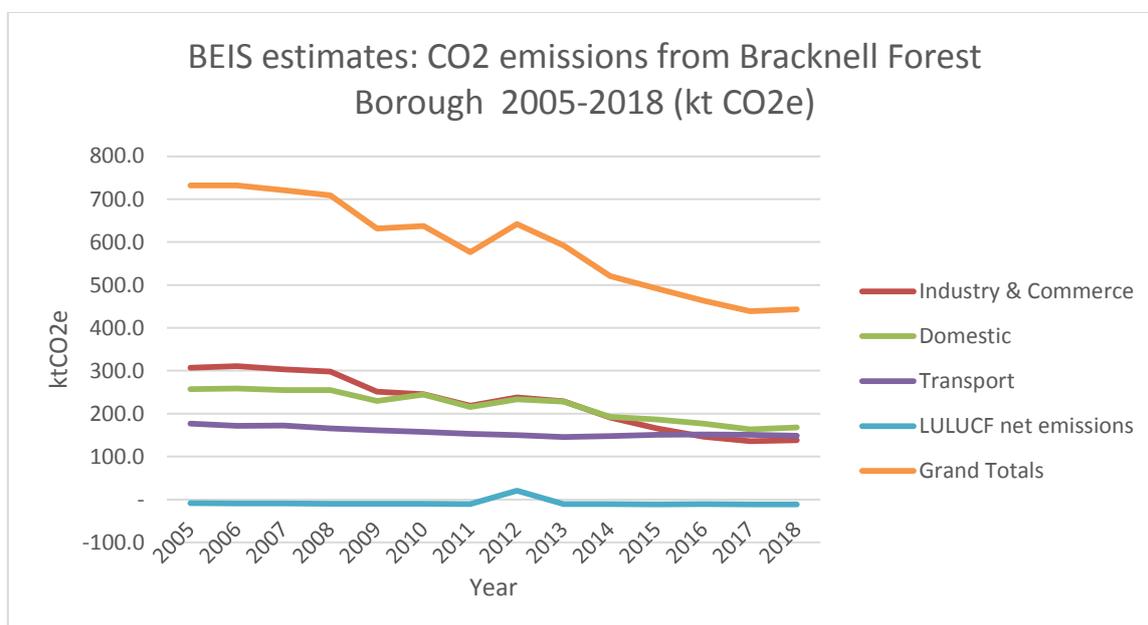
As table 2 below shows BFC’s scope 1 & 2 outputs were 6,388T Co2e. That represents around 1.5% of total emissions within the borough.

Table 2: Scope 1 and 2 direct emissions – Bracknell Forest Council (2019)

Emissions Source	Scope	% Split	TonnesCO ₂ e
Natural Gas	1	45%	2,808
Council Vehicles	1	1%	52
Electricity	2	55%	3,427
TOTALS		100%	6,288

Current Bracknell Forest Borough area emissions profile:

The total greenhouse gas emissions within the borough are 443 kt CO₂e (based on 2018 the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy local emissions data).



The chart above represents estimated greenhouse gas emissions for the borough based on 2018 estimates. The data is updated 2 years behind the current year.

Strategy Conclusions - Reaching carbon net-zero by 2050

Bracknell Forest Council has been committed to addressing climate change since the Nottingham Declaration on climate change in February 2007. This strategy is the third refresh of this work, with the council motion being the latest and most definitive public declaration on this important agenda.

Although various tools and / or models exist for addressing climate change, the council has chosen to have this strategy with this supporting action plan. Strategies are choices, choices that set priorities and focus activity. Without these priorities, change doesn't happen. Within these priorities and areas of focus, the strategy and the action plan are designed to change and adapt to new thinking and new opportunities that will present themselves over the life-cycle of the strategy.

There is a strong commitment from the council to this agenda and this has been put into the DNA of all our work. So that our commitment is clear to our partners, stakeholders and the community at large, our strategy has been drafted to pull together a snapshot of the detailed and comprehensive work that we have been undertaking over the last decade. This strategy document also provides a snapshot of the key council "place" data and baselines. It highlights the context that the strategy must operate within. It reflects the voice of our local citizens, our Bracknell Forest communities and Bracknell Forest Council elected Members. It demonstrates that the council's key decision makers have heard as many voices as possible in setting out its next steps, having instilled a strong climate change mitigation culture within the organisation. That said, this is the start of a conversation and not the end of one.

We continue to be a learning organisation, and our stated corporate values are:

- Forward thinking and focus. We are forward thinking. ...
- Open-minded. We are open-minded. ...
- Resourceful. We are resourceful. ...
- Working together. We work together as one council with partners and customers.
- Adaptable. We are adaptable. ...
- Resilient. We are resilient in our response to challenging circumstances.
- Determined

We deliver our work, through our values and are a learning organisation. Through our Scrutiny function, in public, we have shared our successes and used this Member process to identify improvements for this next action plan. A plan that has now taken on board the need to be clear as to what success looks like, how it is measured and how we know that we are having an impact. So, this strategy sets out clearly quantifiable and measurable targets. It also publishes the baselines that we are working from, in order to ensure that our 2050 target of net zero, is achieved in line with the Climate Change Act (2008).

Under the council's priority action areas, projects are being developed and implemented. The key to success is to undertake an action, review its effect on the baseline, and then either move to a new priority or try something else. Only by taking on bold and innovative projects will we, as the council, enable our communities, to achieve their goals.

Priority actions	
Local production of renewable energy	Westmoreland Park Solar photovoltaic (PV) and EV charging - 48 Solar panels installed on pavilion building plus a twin 22kW EV charge point in the car park. Plus looking for testing of alternative “green” financing.
Domestic eco-heating initiatives	Warm Homes Grant up to £2.8M (converting Bracknell Forest homes to gas supplied heating). To provide grants/funds for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy at home
Increasing levels of waste re-use / recycling and composting by implementing a food waste collection and minimising waste going to landfill	Greening our waste project - We already recycle 43% of all waste but we know with food waste collection that could go up to around 50% by 2021 and 65% by 2030. We currently landfill 7,800 tonnes a year. Through food waste recycling we aim to reduce that by 50%.
Increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points available	Pan-Berkshire EV project – We will be working with the other 6 Berkshire authorities to implement a comprehensive and strategic EV charging infrastructure ready for the end of new sales of petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030
Address the high number of people commuting to work by car	Increase the use of sustainable modes of transport in targeted areas - Get more people in residential and business areas walking and cycling or using public transport, particularly where census or public health data suggests uptake is low but could be higher. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans and Emergency Active Travel Fund Measures, plus our continued work with the Bracknell BID to promote and increase sustainable modes of travel in Business Areas are all examples of our plans in action
Increase the number of people commuting by non-car means	

Above are just a few highlights from the initial 41 projects, covering the breadth of council directorates, that are working towards reducing CO2 in the borough and therefore addressing man-made climate change.

These initial projects are things that we have committed to and have the corporate backing to make them happen. They are all things that will have climate change impacts. However, they are not the only things we are doing, as every decision that the council now makes, takes into account, the financial costs of the endeavour, the impact on the communities of the borough (equalities), the impact on public health (across the whole life course) and the impact on our objective to address man-made climate change by being net zero by 2050.

Bracknell Forest Council is successful because we do what is right and what is practical. When asked, why is Bracknell Forest Council approaching this objective in this way, it is simple,

“because we are Bracknell Forest”.

End note

Addressing the challenges of climate change is a key priority for the council. The main challenge is bringing together the different views, approaches and potential solutions. In picking one option over another, the current false, “us versus them” narrative, can all too easily have us miss the point of the work. There is a danger of *“letting the prefect be the enemy of the good”*. **Richard Benyon MP (Newbury 2019)** stated at the West Berkshire Climate Change Conference that, *“...this agenda has a “Hopey/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, and everyone has a role in this, from parliament down on the political side, to every community and community group”*.

Yet, within the climate change narrative, some communities aren’t represented in either campaigning groups, or community action groups. Unless all communities, regardless of social-economic group, community affinity or employment status, are part of the discussion, we would have failed. Local authorities, with their Public Sector Equalities Duty, under the Equalities Act (2010) are key to bringing hidden groups into this work and ensuring that everyone has an equal voice in the decisions we take.

Climate action is as much about biodiversity and the natural environment, as it is to do with emissions. All communities need to work to protect the environment in order to harness and manage the “nature capital”, which has social value, on top of practical aspects like flood protection.

The need for adaptive change

That said, [Tom Heap](#), Countryfile presenter, remarked at the same conference that *“...our current industrial society is built on fire / the burning of fossil fuels and this needs to be “snuffed out”. That is why it is a wicked problem”*.

He went on to say; *“...are we ready to radically change our lifestyles? The answer is mostly no. People understand the issues but only government changes are really effective in large scale adaptive change”*. However, the COVID 19 Pandemic has shown that when communities understand the issues, they will take radical action and Bracknell Forest Council’s climate change strategy is focused on making this happen.

What is driving our climate changing behaviour?

Positive outcomes

- UK. Co2 emissions today are lower due to using less coal (the great Satan). But as there is less manufacturing in the UK, are we just exporting the Co2 emissions to producing countries? We must continue the journey.
- Renewable energy – now a major part of the energy use mix. There are now full days, when the UK is powered using only renewables.
- Car emissions & engineering – combustion engines are getting cleaner and there is a move toward zero emission vehicles. This work is going well.

Failures

- Cars emissions – while each vehicle has gotten cleaner, fashion has changed the types of vehicles being purchased. With more SUVs and more powerful cars taking a

large segment of the market. EV vehicles are having a perverse effect, as the cost per mile drops, people have more money and therefore are driving more (consuming more energy).

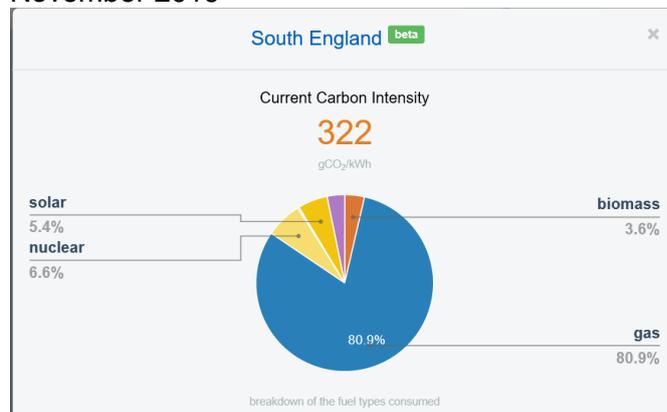
- Fast fashion – low cost, high turnover of clothes and other fashion items mean that more materials are being consumed and the waste is having to be dealt with.
- Food, food waste – although less BOGOFs, waste from food is increasing.
- Energy use increases in more affluent homes.

things that have worked haven't required individuals to change, the systems that they have used have changed (structural change and not individual change)

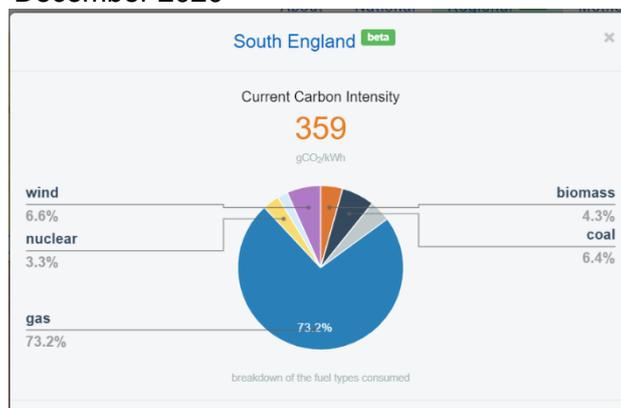
Tom Heap made the case that it is difficult “to give up stuff”. Simply stating that people need to give up something that they like, hasn't worked. Therefore, turning up the volume on this (protest groups) won't have an effect, and more adaptive/ behavioural change is required.

In real time you can see the use of energy across the UK at carbonintensity.org.uk. This now allows everyone to have real time information on energy generation in their areas and the mix used.

November 2019



December 2020



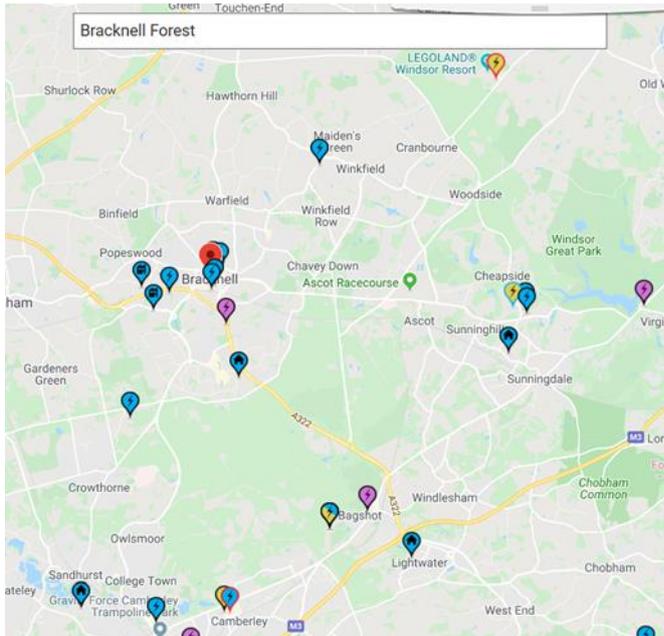
There needs to be a new definition of a “good life”, away from having stuff and consumption. The current measure of UK success is GDP and a good life needs not to be based on GDP.

Future Mobility and Air Quality

[extract from conference speech by Giles Perkin]

Department of Transport - [Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy](#) has a number of strands. However, at the heart of these is “Data and connectivity”. There is an opportunity to change how people use cars as 90% of vehicles are now leased. Rural transportation remains a big issue, although on-demand buses and other data driven shared options are now possible. These now just need to be planned, rather than invented.

[Zap Map](#), now allows Electric Vehicles (EV) owners to see where charging points are and more importantly, which ones are free in real time. That said, the Government provides financial support for EV buyers to install a charge point at their home through the [Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme \(EVHS\)](#), which covers up to 75% of the total costs. The grant brings the cost of a standard 3 kW unit plus installation to around £300 whilst a faster 7 kW unit would be in the region of £400.



The role of the Local Authority

[Extract from presentation by Steve Cirell - Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) - APSE Energy]

APSE Energy was established to promote the vision of the municipalisation of energy and a greater role for the local authority in the energy agenda within their area. The municipalisation of energy is an approach available to local authorities to contribute to tackling climate change, as well as many other outcomes. They produced a report titled "[Local authority climate emergency declarations](#)".

An emergency declaration deserves the appropriate response for an emergency. If your house is on fire you can safely call it an emergency. There is an immediate reaction, substantial resources are employed to put the fire out and there is insurance in place to cover the losses that occur from such an event. **The local authority is in a different position as it cannot drop everything to tackle climate change. It has other legal duties and responsibilities to fulfil.** So, the meaning of emergency, in the local government context, is different in terms of the pace of action. Action plans should:

1. Recognise its importance - that it will impact on demand and supply of services so it must be given a high profile.
2. Allocate Finance – all problems require resources and that includes financial resources. The local authority needs to find funds to tackle climate change. This could be internally or externally sourced.
3. Training – it is vital that those who carry out the Council’s services (the van drivers, those advising benefit claimants to switch energy suppliers, the person operating heating systems) understand the context they are working in and the potential impact they might have. This means putting a training plan in place.
4. Engagement – local authorities are able to bring public and private sector bodies together to act as a group.
5. Advocacy – as the only democratically elected organisation in the area the Council has a duty to take a lead on matters as serious as climate change.

In any Motion, the focus should be both the council itself, and a commitment to the whole authority area. Councils generally only contribute about 1% of an areas carbon.

So, how should councils address their climate change declarations?

- Need to create the baseline
- Establish the Data (sources, how measured, etc.)
- Establish What's in and out of scope
- Monitoring arrangements for the next 10-12 years
- Communications strategy
- How you will report on progress
- Funding

The three places where a local authority can have an impact are:

- Its own estate
- In its community leadership role
- Its management of "place"

In terms of energy management, generation is ok as a strategy but transport is the big area to have an impact upon.

Energy reduction strategies should:

1. Use less (cost nothing)
2. Be energy efficient (cost something)
3. Find new sources (procurement)

Therefore, approach should be fabric first, before greening a building; make sure that it is efficient and has as low an energy rating as possible.

The Carbon footprint measure has three scopes:

Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water. (these can only ever be estimates and therefore shouldn't be the focus of the council's plan.)

Finally, the council should be mindful that targets that are not achievable, won't be clear and measurable. Therefore, it needs to get into the DNA of its governance and decision making.

END

Glossary of Terms

	Definition
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	An area identified by a local authority as a potential risk in ensuring national air quality objectives are met
APSE	The Association for Public Service Excellence is a networking community that assists local authorities who are striving to improve their frontline services.
BBC	The British Broadcasting Company
BEIS	Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life within a particular habitat
BCCAG	The Bracknell Climate Change Action Group are a group of local residents campaigning for a range of environmental measures for the good of their local communities
BFC	Bracknell Forest Council
Bracknell BID	The Bracknell Business Improvement District represents a range of businesses within the Southern and Western industrial estates
Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e)	A comparative measure of the global warming potential of all greenhouse gas emissions expressed as the equivalent number of metric tons of CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide)
Carbon footprint -	A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product. It is usually measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Carbon net zero -	Achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon dioxide emissions with carbon removal
Climate Local	An LGA initiative, launched in 2012 and supported by the Environment Agency Climate Ready service, to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change.
Climate Change Act (2008)	An Act to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions
COVID-19	The WHO Coronavirus pandemic as declared in March 2020
CPRE	The Campaign to Protect Rural England is a charity in England which campaigns for a "sustainable future" for the English countryside.
EATF	The Emergency Active Travel Fund helps councils reallocate road space for cyclists and pedestrians.
EPC	Energy Performance Certificates offer a standard measure of a building's energy efficiency
Extinction Rebellion	Extinction Rebellion is a global environmental movement with the stated aim of using nonviolent civil disobedience to compel government action to avoid tipping points in the climate system, biodiversity loss, and the risk of social and ecological collapse.
EV	Electric Vehicles are vehicles that are either partially or fully powered on electric power.
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product is the sum total of the UK's economic

	outputs.
GHG emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions are any gaseous compounds in the atmosphere that are capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere.
GHG Protocol	The Greenhouse gas protocol establishes comprehensive global standardized frameworks to measure and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from private and public sector operations.
IEA	The International Energy Agency is an international membership group committed to shaping a secure and sustainable energy future for the planet
IMD	The Index of Multiple Deprivation
IMF	The International Monetary Fund
Invest to Save scheme	A financial cost/benefit analysis considering the balance of capital and revenue expenditures against potential income and / or savings generated.
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kWh	A kilowatt-hour is a composite unit of energy equal to one kilowatt (kW) of power sustained for one hour.
LED	Light emitting diodes. LED lighting products produce light up to 90% more efficiently than incandescent light bulbs
LGA	Local Government Association
Lockdown	A period of time during which the UK government introduced controls on permitted activities by its businesses and residents during COVID-19
LULUCF	Land use, land use change and forestry
Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change	A voluntary commitment for all local authorities to adopt to actively tackle climate change in their area
ONS	The Office for National Statistics
O&S Commission	The Overview and Scrutiny commission reviews the council and its partners' work in public. This makes sure that we are transparent in our decision making and holds decision makers to account.
PPP	The Public Protection Partnership is a shared service delivering Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards on behalf of Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Wokingham Borough Councils.
Re3 partnership	The shared waste and recycling partnership between the Bracknell, Reading and Wokingham councils
SAP	A Standard Assessment Procedure is a calculated score from 1 to 100+ for the annual energy cost of a building. The higher the score the lower the running costs.
Sequestration	Processes by which carbon dioxide emissions are stored/removed from the atmosphere
Solar PV	Solar Photovoltaics is the generation of electricity using energy from the sun.
SPA	A Special Protection Area is a designation under the European Union (EU) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under the Directive, Member States of the EU have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.
SSSI	A Site of Special Scientific Interest is a conservation designation

	denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom.
Sustainable Modes of Transport	Refers to any means of transportation that is 'green' and has low impact on the environment.
Thames Valley	The area comprising the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
TVCRR	The Thames Valley Community Risk register providing information on the biggest emergencies that could happen in the Thames Valley area
WHO	World Health Organisation

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