

To **Overview and Scrutiny Commission**
2 December 2020

Climate Change Action Plan
Executive Director of Delivery

1. Introduction

Bracknell Forest Council has had a climate change action plan in place since 2013. The plan which was subject to updates at specific points in time is now being re-designed to capture existing climate change related work streams. This brief paper outlines the content and the future approach that the council intends to take in monitoring its response to tackling climate change.

2. Background

2.1 Bracknell Forest Council initially created a climate change action plan in 2013. The plan originally included plenty of aspirational aims to create a climate change culture and over time it developed to reflect work projects that would or had already delivered outcomes which would help reduce the borough's greenhouse gas emissions.

2.2 The plan itself was subject to specific reviews in 2016 and again in 2019 at which points in time finished projects or discontinued work streams were removed. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission were presented with a version of that plan (updated to the end of 2019) at their March 2020 session on climate change. That document is available as **appendix 1** to this report.

2.3 One of the key learning points to emerge from trying to update the plan was the difficulty in measuring any progress against a benchmark / starting position as nothing appeared to have been established. In addition, whilst several actions did have potentially measurable targets to one degree or another, there were several which were more aspirational or difficult to measure in any realistic way.

3. BFC Climate Change Action Plan (looking back)

3.1 Over the period of time that the original action plan was in place Members of the Commission may recall some of the bigger outcomes that climate change initiatives delivered. These included:

- All 14,500 borough-wide streetlamps being converted to LED's accounting for energy savings of 55% between April 2016 and April 2019;
- £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;
- Altering the A329(M) / A322 traffic corridor to improve traffic flows and reduce emissions from stationary / queuing traffic;
- Installing solar photovoltaic panels, combined heat & power units, biomass boilers and LED lighting in or on a number of council buildings;
- Promotional / marketing campaigns targeting walking, cycling and the use of public transport which each resulted in increased levels of use;
- Securing funding to help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes;

- Installing EV charge points in town centre car parks;
- Projects that have planted 1,000's of new trees within the borough

3.2 There are many more examples that could be cited, demonstrating the council's commitment and actions taken over a number of years.

BFC Climate Change Action Plan (looking forwards)

3.3 The ambition for a revised action plan is twofold. We want to capture current climate change projects and align each to the pillars that our climate change strategy will be built around; and give each project a sense of identity in terms of which directorate / section they reside within and lead Officer and to which Executive Member's portfolio the project relates.

3.4 In addition it was 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") .

3.5 The strategy projects master sheet is attached as **appendix 2** to this report. 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

3.6 The strategy projects sheet is a live document which currently has a total of **41** projects covering a 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 19 of these projects are a combination of both of the above.

3.7 Officers responsible for each project / set of projects will be asked to provide quarterly updates utilising a standard template (**appendix 3**). These updates will be

reflected within the strategy projects sheet and will form the basis for an intended annual progress report on climate change.

- 3.8 Some of the ideas suggested at the previous O&S Commission session on climate change plus areas they have continued to explore since link to the existing projects. For example, measures to promote non-car use, ambitions to increase EV charging points and green the council's vehicle fleet, plans to tighten up on planning policies and steps to increase recycling rates are all reflected within current plans.
- 3.9 Possible projects are being added towards the bottom of the sheet. These are forward looking possibilities which are not committed / adopted projects yet.
- 3.10 Measures / targets – we recognise that our current measures / targets are diverse and wide ranging and recognise the need to tie these down to a standard measure that links back to impacts on greenhouse gas emissions. This is a developing piece of work and our longer-term aim will be to convert these targets / measurables back to tonnes of co2 equivalent for ease of comparison purposes.

Background papers

Appendix 1 BFC Climate Change Action Plan 2019

Appendix 2 BFC Climate Change strategy projects master sheet

Appendix 3 BFC Climate Change strategy projects update template

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