

To: Council  
13 September 2023

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## Climate Change Progress Report Executive Director of Delivery

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a report to the council on the progress made in 2022/23 toward the council's climate change targets, as reported in the council's annual progress report.
- 1.2 To outline the Administration's new objectives for addressing the climate change emergency and the work necessary to taking forward the climate change mitigation agenda.
- 1.3 To provide a summary for the outcome from the Leader's July climate change summit.

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **To note the progress made by the Council in relation to its climate change strategy and detailed in the Annual Report.**

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council has stated that it will be net zero by 2050. The motion agreed at Council in 2020 formalised the need for an annual progress report that would be presented on progress made. This is the report for 22/23.

### 4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 None.

### 5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Labour Party manifesto 2023 sets out the objective of the new administration. That being:

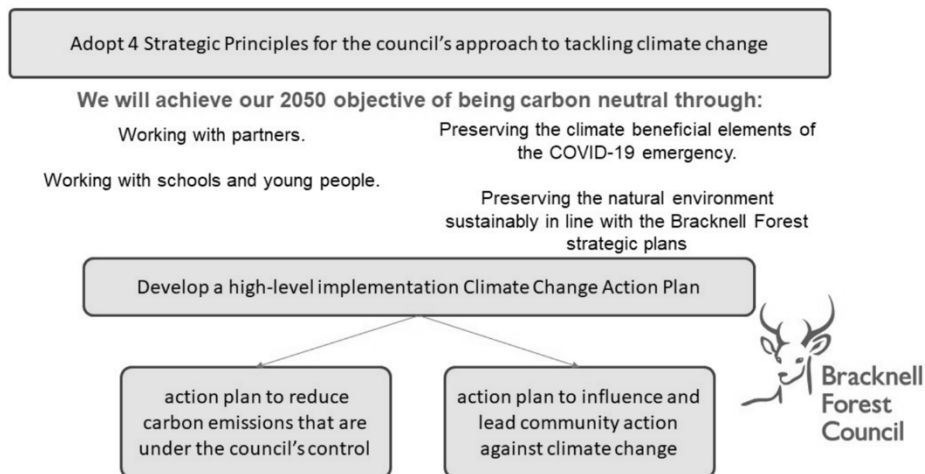
**"...Labour accepts that this is a Climate Change Emergency and believes that reducing the Carbon footprint to net zero by at least 2050 is essential. In order to achieve this Labour will work with the whole community to promote good practice and will ensure that reductions achieved each year are carefully monitored and reported. A Labour Council will show leadership to support residents and businesses to achieve the necessary changes, including working with partners to provide on street charging for electric vehicles, not just in car parks..."**

- 5.2 To this end, at the Annual Council meeting of the 24 May 2023, within the Leader's report on Appointments and Delegations by the Leader of the Council for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year *"...responsibility for Climate Change will be transferred from the Environment portfolio to the Leader's portfolio"*.

5.3 The Borough's first Climate Change Summit took place in July 2024. This summit hosted, over two sessions, representatives from all sections and all sectors of the communities of Bracknell Forest. The summit provided a market place of ideas and

## BFC Climate Change Strategy (on a Page)

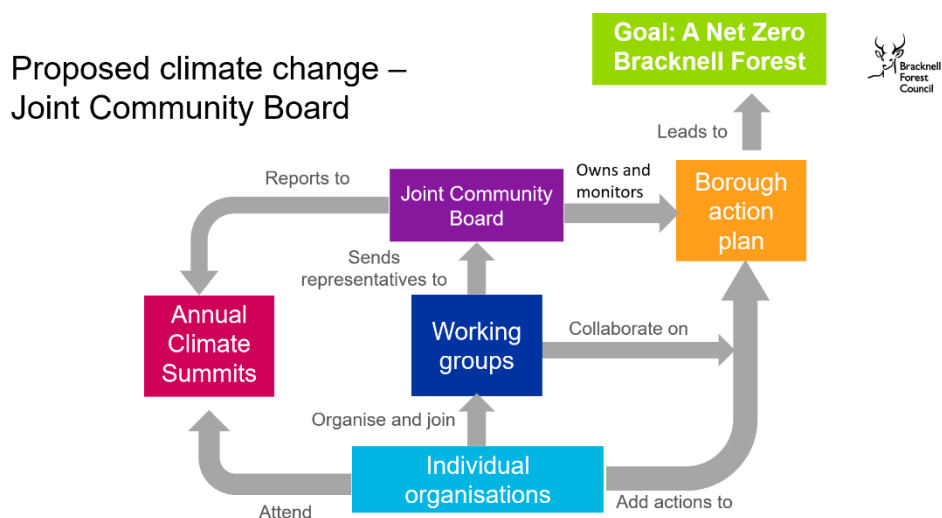
### Bracknell Forest Council: 2020 – 2024



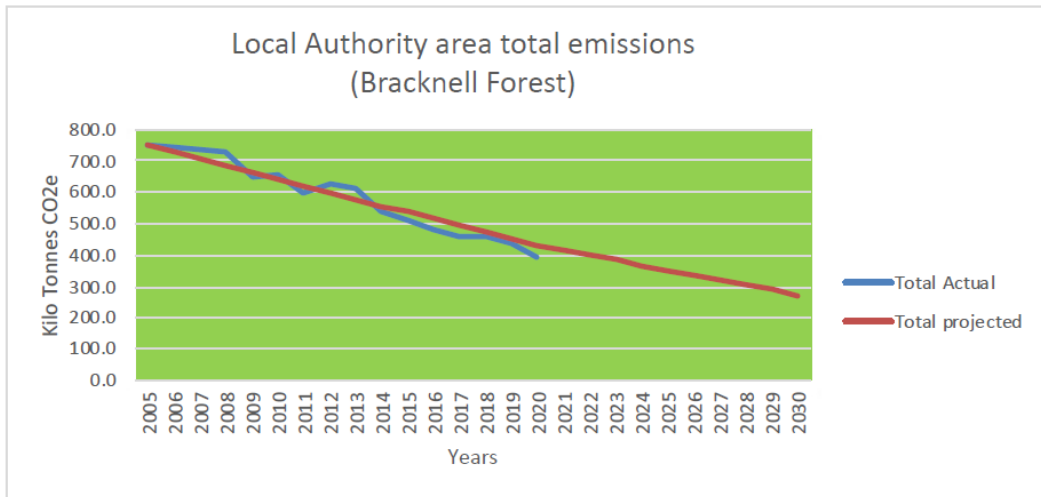
information exchange. This in line with the strategy, that being for the council to take the role of leading the community's collective action against climate change.

5.4 The summit output is currently being analysed, however it is clear that there is a desire from all sectors, and all sections of the community, to work together to accelerate the pace of change necessary to achieve our 2050 target. To this end, following consultation at the summit, the Leader will be creating two new groups, that will replace the Climate Change Advisory Panel (CCAP). The Leader will chair a cross party working group of Members. This working group will be part of a number of new working groups, set up in the community, by sector convenors.

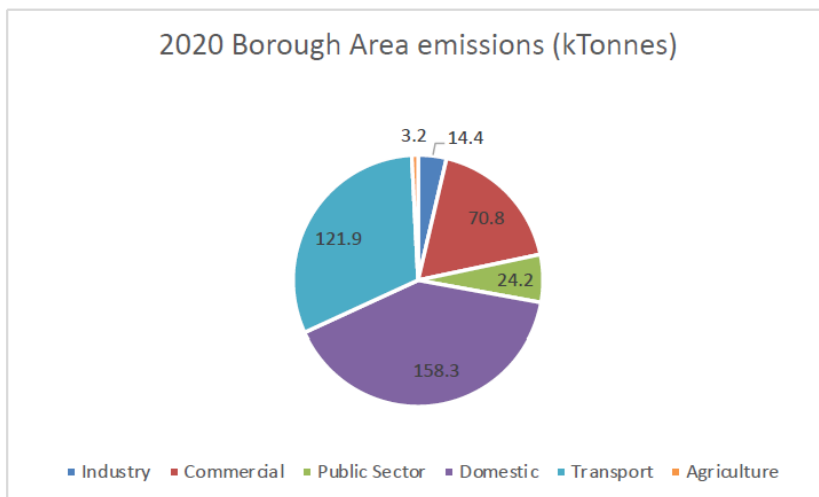
5.5 Representatives from these new working groups, will form a new Joint Community Board. The Joint Community Board will have representatives of each sector and each community. The Board will generate ideas but also ensure that learning from each of the working groups is shared and action coordinated. The actions and outcomes will feed into the Executive's annual report to council. Terms of reference are to be drafted for these groups under the Leader's delegation.



- 5.6 The Council has passed two motions on climate change. 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”.**
- 5.7 A new motion was passed at Council in January 2023. In Motion 01/2023, the following was stated:
- “This Council strongly believes in the need to continue its work to address the impact of man- made Climate Change on our local communities. To this end, this Council asks the Executive to continue its detailed action plans with measurable ambitious annual targets and an annual report to address the climate emergency to ensure that the Council meets the government target of eradicating its net contribution to climate change by 2050”.**
- 5.8 To provide council with an update on progress under these motions, at **Appendix 1** of this report is the council’s annual progress report for 2022/23. A one-page summary of key climate change progress is attached as appendix 3. This summary has been used to communicate the work undertaken so far and achievement to date.
- 5.9 As the annual progress report for 2022/23 is being presented to council later than originally scheduled, there is an addendum to the report. Appendix 2 provides an addendum to the Climate Change report, bringing the data up to date until the end of Q4.
- 5.10 In summarising the progress made, thus far under the strategy, the following highlights are reported to council. There is a reduction in the council’s direct greenhouse gas emissions. There have been improvements to the energy efficiency of both the council’s own estate and our residents’ homes. The council has hosted an inaugural schools’ climate change conference, including initial seed funding for in-school projects. There has been a successful expansion of kerbside food waste collections to flats. Improvements have been made to web page content. There has been improved engagement with local businesses, Parish, and Town Councils. Finally, there have been successful Highways initiatives aimed at improving electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increasing active travel.
- 5.11 The key performance measure for the borough is the total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by local authority area. For the Bracknell Forest borough area, the 2020 figure was 392.8kT CO<sub>2</sub>e which is down by 43kT from 435.8 in 2019. This is quite a significant reduction, but a cautionary position should be taken given the likely impacts of COVID-related lockdowns. The overall reduction trend from 2005 to 2020 is shown as the blue line in the chart below. The red line shows a projected reduction based on the UK target of achieving a 68% reduction against a 1990 baseline by the year 2030 (\* see *Annexe A for explanation of target methodology*). The Bracknell Forest area is therefore approximately 38kT below our projected position as of 2020. Whilst this is good news, as above, there should be a note of caution that 2021 statistics are anticipated to show an increase in overall emissions reflecting the country’s economic recovery from the COVID pandemic.



5.12 In terms of area wide emissions: Domestic emissions (primarily gas and electric consumption remain the highest contributor (40%), closely followed by emissions from transport (31%), with commerce/industry/public sector representing 28%.



5.13 Areas requiring a stronger focus over the coming year include continuing our efforts to make all climate change targets SMARTer; initiating further feasibility work to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from estates in the council area; investigating ways to record the council’s indirect (scope 3) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; promoting and supporting the further de-carbonisation of domestic housing stock; and continuing to build on our collaboration with businesses, councils, community groups and schools alike.

5.14 The council’s current climate change strategy will come to an end in March 2024. It is envisioned that these new governance structures and greater community engagement will enable a co-produced new strategy to be developed for the period up to 2028. This strategy to have new objectives to be set and accelerate the borough’s path to Net Zero. To this end, there will be a greater focus on tighter, better defined and more measurable climate change related targets. To ensure that for every new project the council engages in, the measures are clear.

## 6 Consultation and Other Considerations

### Legal Advice

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Financial Advice

- 6.2 The financial implications are contained within the report. The intention is for the project costs to be offset by utility cost savings where applicable.

### Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 N/A

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 Specific EIA's are completed by Officers for their individual projects within the Action Plan.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 The Council is committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. All actions that the council undertakes should be assessed for their environmental impacts prior to receiving executive approval.

### Climate Change Implications

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to:

Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. The Council believes that this will reduce emissions because having readied and completed feasibility studies places the Council in a stronger position for bidding and securing any public authority funding offered by the Government.

### Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 Climate Change and health and wellbeing have strong and developing links. The promotion of active commuting, supporting green and active volunteering and improving the warmth of vulnerable residents' homes are all such examples. Officers from both the climate change and health and wellbeing teams continue to collaborate on developing an integrated impact assessment tool to assist with future council decision making processes.

### Background Papers

Appendix 1: Climate Change Annual Progress Report 2022-2023

Appendix 2: Annual Climate Change Report – Addendum

Appendix 3: (one page summary) Our action towards net zero 2050\_2022/23 actions

Appendix 4: Climate Change Action Plan

Appendix 5: Committee references

Annexe A: BFC area wide 1990 GHG baseline methodology

### Contact for further information

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