SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL	**REPORT TO THE PLACES AND FUTURES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **TO BE HELD ON 15 JUNE 2022**
	Topic **Climate Change** **Task Group (if applicable)** **N/A**
Corporate Aims **Better Lives, Better Homes, Better Places, Brighter Futures, Better Council**	**Cabinet Portfolio Holder** **Cllr Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff**

REPORT OF: Interim Director (PT) (Reference 22/139)

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE

REASON(S) REPORT REQUESTED:
To review progress on the Climate Change Strategy.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:
To provide an update on the progress of the Council's climate change activities as set out in the Climate Change Strategy

RISK ISSUES:
None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In a meeting of the Council in January 2019, a motion to declare a 'Climate Emergency' was passed. This motion resolved the Council to pledge to do everything within its power to make the Borough of Scarborough carbon neutral by 2030.

1.2. In October 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Board resolved to establish the Climate Change Task and Finish Group to focus on how the Council can deliver the climate change aspirations set out in the January 2019 motion (Report 19/224). The cross-party Task and Finish Group comprised

Councillors Phil Trumper (Chair), Will Forbes, Clive Pearson, Paul Riley, Neil Robinson, Michael Stonehouse and Sue Tucker, with additional support from Councillor Theresa Norton.

1.3. The Climate Change Task and Finish Group met several times to discuss the Council's climate change activity with support from Officers. From these discussions, a Climate Change Strategy was produced with nine strategic objectives identified and a series of priority actions for the next three years outlined.

1.4. The Climate Change Task and Finish Group's final report was presented to the Places and Futures Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2021 (Report 21/104), which endorsed the Climate Change Strategy and resolved that it be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

1.5. In July 2021, the Climate Change Strategy was presented to Cabinet (Report 21/116). Subject to minor amendments, Cabinet approved the strategy.

1.6. In the meeting of the Places and Futures Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2022 it was agreed that Officers provide a review of progress on the Climate Change Strategy.

2. CORPORATE AIMS

2.1 Tackling climate change is supporting all of the Council's corporate aims.

- Better Lives – reducing environmental harms, promoting and enabling green and healthy lifestyles
- Better Homes – supporting the retrofit of homes
- Better Places – developing a green environment
- Brighter Futures – growing a strong green and circular economy
- Better Council – a more joined-up approach to tackling issues

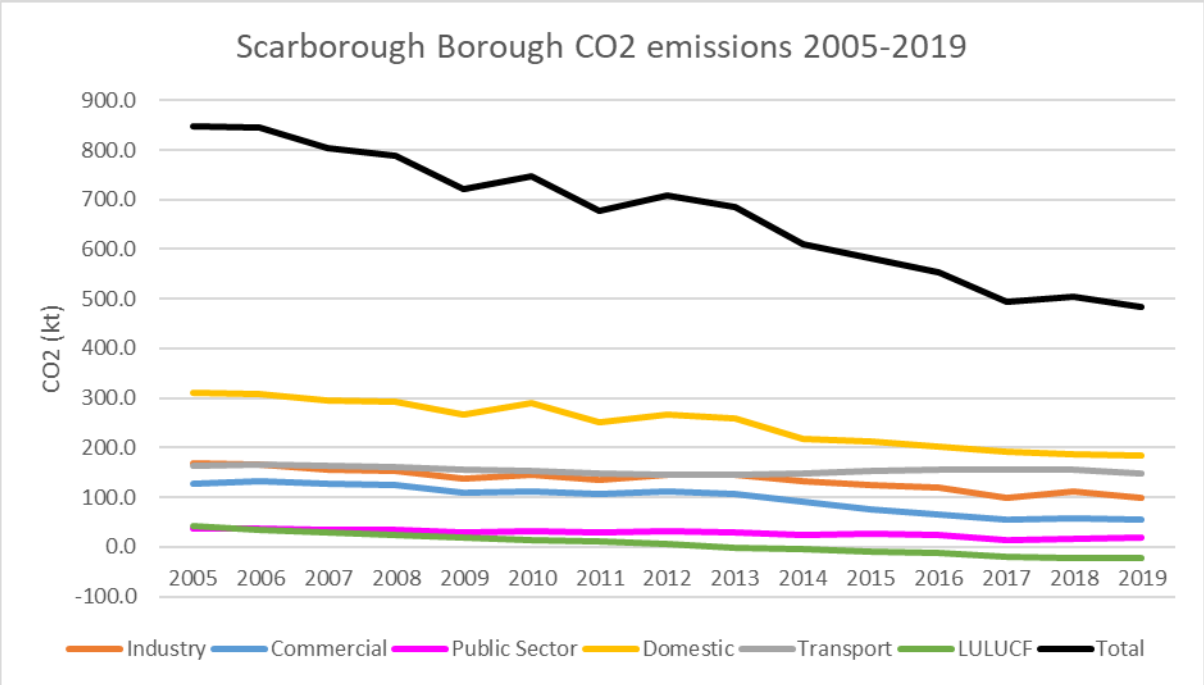
3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

3.1. The last year has seen substantial increases in climate change interest and activity. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced three reports detailing the latest science on the causes, impacts, and mitigations of climate change. The UK Government announced a number of climate change policies, including their Net Zero Strategy. The UK was host to the global climate summit COP26, which saw communities, businesses, and governments across the world pledge further climate action and solidify the target of limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5°C.

3.2. Carbon dioxide emissions in Scarborough in 2019 fell to 4.4t per capita. This continues a trend of decreased emissions over the past 15 years, as shown below. The large scale trends remain that electricity emissions are seeing the greatest reduction, while transport emissions remain slow to fall. A recalculation of land use emissions in the national assessment show that land use in the borough has transitioned from being a source of carbon dioxide in

2005 to a carbon sink in 2019. The largest single contribution to Scarborough's carbon emissions remains gas use in domestic properties.

3.3. Scarborough's carbon dioxide emissions per capita remain the lowest in North Yorkshire, which has a regional average of 6.0t per capita, and below the national average of 5.9t per capita.



4. ASSESSMENT

4.1. The carbon footprint of Scarborough Borough Council is displayed below. Great uncertainty exists for water emissions and estimation has been used for this factor. The carbon footprint declined in 2020/21 as a result of whole-scale reductions in Council activity. In 2021/22 the carbon footprint rose substantially, largely due to taking on the operation of Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion. Excluding these buildings and portraying a more like-for-like carbon footprint for 2021/22 has a gross footprint of 2485.80tCO2e and a net footprint of 1667.48tCO2e, bringing the footprint more in line with 2020/21.

Scope	Emission Source	18/19 tCO2e	19/20 tCO2e	20/21 tCO2e	21/22 tCO2e
Scope 1	Council Fleet	1,151.13	1,208.90	1079.40	1156.78
	Gas Heating	540.85	516.02	500.67	821.27
Scope 2	Electricity	879.28	674.02	626.04	929.61
Scope 3	Business Travel	64.28	65.25	27.56	34.52
	Electricity Losses	74.95	57.22	53.84	82.27
	Water	91.26	62.07	32.85	14.58
Gross Emissions		**2,801.73**	**2,583.48**	**2,320.34**	**3,039.02**
Carbon Offsets		0	0	0	0
Green Tariff		954.22	731.25	679.87	1,011.88
Net Emissions		**1,847.51**	**1,852.23**	**1,640.47**	**2,027.14**

Decarbonise the Council's fleet and equipment through a planned electric and hydrogen transition.

4.2. Good progress has been made in decarbonising the Council's fleet and equipment. The Council currently has three electric vehicles (EVs), which have seen positive feedback from drivers, with another set for forthcoming delivery. A range of electric equipment has been trialled by the Parks, Countryside, and Operations team. While some equipment has shown limitations in longevity of use per charge and length of charging times, electrical hand machinery in the tree team has been positively reviewed and around 80% of that equipment is planned to be switched to electric.

4.3. Following a successful initial trial, around 65% of the fleet have now been transitioned to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel, with ride-on mowers transitioning in the coming weeks. HVO is a sustainable biofuel that can be used in existing diesel vehicles with no change required and cuts the carbon footprint of those vehicles by approximately 90%.

Decarbonise the Council estate through energy efficiency measures and utilising green energy.

4.4. Work is ongoing to assess the opportunities to decarbonise Council buildings, ranging from continuing the transition to LED lighting across the estate, to developing full heating decarbonisation plans for major properties. A significant first step in achieving the plans has been the use of £160,000 of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funds to install a number of new energy efficient windows at the Scarborough Town Hall. Since the last assessment, the Council has taken over the running of Scarborough Spa and Whitby Pavilion, which are energy-intensive building.

Promote zero emission transport in staff business travel and commuting.

4.5. Virtual meetings have continued to be a key element of Council work as new patterns of work are established following the pandemic. The Council travel plan is under review to assess how it can best promote clean green travel, such as through cycle to work and the Green Car Scheme.

Minimise emissions embedded in the procurement and consumption of goods and services.

4.6. A draft sustainable procurement strategy has been developed, alongside a suit of toolkits, and is being reviewed. The Council continues to work to eliminate single-use plastics at every opportunity.

Embed net zero thinking into every aspect of the Council's culture.

4.7. Climate change communications between Officers have been significantly upscaled to embed net zero thinking and improve knowledge across the Council. A climate change training module is being rolled out to all staff as

part of mandatory training and heads of service have received training on the new climate change impact assessment for Cabinet reports. The 'Green Champions' group has been established with volunteers from eleven service areas meeting quarterly to share best practice and discuss areas for improvement across the Council.

Minimise and decarbonise the energy use in properties within the Borough.

4.8. Work is ongoing through the Home Improvement Agency and in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council to deliver the latest phase of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. This scheme is set to deliver 113 measures to improve local properties as part of Scarborough's £980,000 allocation. In Whitby, the Towns Deal is supporting Broomfields Carbon Neutral Village, an exemplar project creating 60 carbon neutral affordable homes.

4.9. Energy decarbonisation work is being supported by a range of projects in the Community Renewal Fund programme in partnership with the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the other Councils in our area. The programme is developing a Local Area Energy Plan for the region and an action plan for tackling hard-to-decarbonise homes that will help better plan future energy projects.

Encourage active and public transport to be the primary modes of movement in the Borough and promote the use of EVs where car use is necessary.

4.10. The Council are working on an application to the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme to deliver 102 EV charging bays into Council car parks over the coming months, to drive the take-up of EVs in the area. Through the Scarborough Towns Deal, the Council are progressing to deliver the Station Gateway, which together with the Cinder Track Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure project, will promote holistic sustainable travel in the Borough.

Grow a greener Borough with more land used for carbon sequestration.

4.11. The Council continue to work closely with the North York Moors National Park Authority to support the greening of our Borough in rural areas. Large community support was gathered for the improvement works at Scarborough Mere, which saw that area of land rejuvenated with the planting of new trees and plants. In addition, the Parks and Countryside team have begun trialling species rich grassland areas by reducing the mowing frequency in a number of locations around the Borough, improving both biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Develop a strong green and circular economy that builds upon a community that understands and cares about climate change.

4.12. Climate change has been a key consideration of the extensive community consultation that has been undertaken by the Council over the past year,

ensuring that social and economic growth in the Borough is centred on sustainability. Projects such as the Green Construction Skills Village are helping to strengthen the local skill base in upcoming green industries, with three full time jobs created and 15 learners engaged in its first two months.

4.13. Scarborough Borough Council is playing a key role in supporting the Circular Scarborough group made up of local community groups and SMEs. As part of the Circular Yorkshire programme, the group are pioneering ideas to enable and celebrate circular economy practices in the Borough, including through identifying Circular Champions in local business and piloting a Repair Café.

Local Government Reorganisation

4.14. Scarborough Borough Council are involved in the Climate Change Working Group in the Corporate Governance workstream of local government reorganisation (LGR). The group is providing support to other workstreams to embed the LGR climate change design principle and help identify climate change opportunities and impacts in their portfolios; working to collate climate change information and activity across the region ahead of vesting day and to identify quick wins; and supporting the development of a Climate Change Policy and Delivery Plan for the new Council.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Policy Implications

There are no policy implications from this report.

5.2. Legal and Financial Implications

There are no legal and financial implications from this report.

5.3. Equalities and Diversity Implications

There are no equalities and financial implications from this report.

5.4 Local Government Reorganisation Implications

There are no statutory obligations regarding climate change in the LGR process. The non-statutory role of climate change in LGR and the actions of Scarborough Borough Council in relation to this are outlined in paragraph 4.14.

5.4. Communications Implications

There are no communications implications from this report.

5.5. I have considered whether the following implications arise from this report and am satisfied that there is no identified implication that will arise from this decision: Staffing Implications, Planning Implications, Crime and Disorder Implications, Health and Safety implications, Environmental implications

Paul Thompson
Director

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Background Papers:
All background papers are outlined in the report.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR.