

<b>Subject:</b>	Climate Change Strategy Update	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication		
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023		
<b>Report of:</b>	Public Protection Manager	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Environment		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
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### 1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That Council note the progress in year three of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Continued development and implementation of carbon reduction measures
- Installation of LED low energy lighting throughout Futures Park
- Completion and adoption of Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Established successful and innovative partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy
- Completion of Discovery phase of Net Zero Streets project
- Bid to fund Net Zero Streets Alpha phase submitted
- Energy and Carbon audits completed on Rossendale and RLT facilities
- Preparatory work undertaken to support funding bids for On Road Charging Scheme (ORCS) and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and committee to take action locally through a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2 The strategy and action plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past 3 years to deliver the agreed actions.

### 4. DETAILS

- 4.1 Years one and two showed considerable progress in setting out the direction of the Council on its journey towards a carbon net zero position by 2030 and produced some notable successes in reducing our carbon footprint. Details of these are contained in the Annual updates for year 1 and 2, copies of which can be found in the background documents.
- 4.2 The 10-year plan was always designed to be a marathon, not a sprint and year 3 has seen considerable progress in planning and developing measures to future proof Council owned assets, and to ensure that any carbon and energy saving initiatives provide both value for money and measurable and sustainable reductions in our carbon output.
- 4.3 Progress has also been made in developing policies and projects to ensure that the wider community, businesses and residents contribute to Rossendale's overall carbon reduction efforts.

#### 4.4 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

4.5 The adopted Local Plan committed the Council to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This provides developers with specific additional guidance on how to address issues relating to climate change in their development proposals, encouraging new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint both in construction and operation. A copy of the SPD can be found in the background documents.

4.6 The production of the SPD was overseen by a Steering Group of members (Cllrs Adshead, Lythgoe and Oakes) and officers from the Economic Development and Communities Directorates. It was formally adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

4.7 The key areas that the SPD focuses on are:

- Reducing the dominance of fossil-fuelled vehicles via encouraging sustainable and more active transport.
- Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables in the Borough
- Water interventions
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

4.8 The SPD was subject to a 6 week consultation period which took place between July and August 2022.

4.9 In total 22 comments were received from a number of stakeholders including statutory consultees, residents and developers.

4.10 These were considered and resulted in some amendments being made prior to adoption of the SPD.

4.11 Key themes raised included,

- concerns over the number, location and efficiency of on-shore wind turbines,
- acknowledgement of the importance of moorlands to provide multi-benefits such as carbon storage, recreational use and visual amenity,
- the ability of well-designed Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to create developments that can adapt well to climate change (e.g. reduce flood risk) and mitigate carbon emissions (e.g. tree planting, green roofs and walls).
- the importance of Active Travel not only to reduce carbon emissions but to enhance health and well-being
- more use to be made of renewable energy and electric vehicle charging points in new housing and by the Council
- concerns were raised regarding requiring a percentage of renewable schemes to be provided on major development sites in terms of viability, and duplication with Building Regulations.

4.12 Rossendale's SPD on Climate Change is one of only a few across the country to address specifically the issue of how development should adapt to and mitigate for climate change in a planning document and is only possible because Rossendale has an up-to-date Local Plan in place.

4.13 The SPD will guide proposals to ensure that future developments take into account and mitigate their impacts on the climate.

#### 4.14 **DECARBONISATION**

4.15 Decarbonisation of the Councils building stock is a long-term project with ever developing technology.

4.16 Work has continued to identify the most appropriate alternative to fossil fuel powered heating systems with consideration given to both ground and air sourced heat pumps, bio mass boilers and infra- red heating systems.

4.17 To support this work, a sub strategy to the main Climate Change Strategy was produced, a copy of which can be found in the background documents.

4.18 This Heat Decarbonisation Strategy is designed to deliver an overview of where the Council is at currently, in terms of heat use across our estates and how this translates into carbon emissions.

4.19 The strategy sets out or organisational boundaries, and thus presents a commitment to decarbonising the heat of these buildings.

4.20 To ensure that these boundaries are defined, and for the purposes of this strategy, it has been necessary to identify which buildings the Council can directly influence. This is referred to as scope 1-3 emissions, scope one being those buildings where we have a direct influence.

4.21 This includes buildings, which although occupied by other parties have their energy bills paid via our financial mechanisms.

4.22 Detailed analysis of each buildings energy usage, both expected and real and the total Co2 emissions over a three year period form the core of the strategy and identify those buildings which are thermally inefficient.

4.23 The basis of this approach, coupled with further analysis of specific buildings will aid the Council in seeking funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in replacing systems at the end of their working life with low carbon heating alternatives.

4.24 Practical measures implemented this year to reduce energy use and our carbon footprint have included fitting LED lights for the whole of Futures Park and the installation of replacement double glazed units and additional insulation at the A,B&D centre in Bacup.

#### 4.25 **NET ZERO TERRACED STREETS AND DECARBONISING ROSSENDALE**

4.26 Working in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) and other partners, Net Zero Terraced Streets is an innovative approach to addressing the complex problem of decarbonising communities which due to the nature of the housing stock, i.e. terraced streets are unsuitable for retro fitting of technology such as Air Sourced Heat Pumps (ASHP's).

4.27 As part of Innovate UK's £60 million Net Zero Living programme, which is helping drive the government's Levelling Up agenda, a successful joint bid between Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Valley Energy and the Centre for Energy Equality provided funding to investigate the barriers to achieving Net Zero in communities.

4.28 As a pilot scheme, an area of Bacup was chosen which has homes with mixed tenures, with some homes in a conservation area.

4.29 The project is being delivered in three stages; Discovery, Alpha and Beta.

4.30 The Discovery stage completed in June 2023, provided the initial scoping in overcoming the barriers to Net Zero and a bid to fund the Alpha stage is now progressing.

4.31 The Net Zero approach to an area of terraced streets is considering:

- Low carbon heat:
- Ground source bore holes (150m deep, placed in alley and highways) for clusters of terraced houses,
- Taking the ambient heat (10-15C) and circulating it via brine, through a shared loop network for each cluster of homes.
- Each home will have a small Heat pump within the home, which will upgrade this low temperature heat to useable heat (45C) for the central heating system.
- Radiators would need to be upgraded to larger ones with a larger surface area to enable adequate heat transfer.
- As the heat pumps will be operating on a source temperature of 10-15C, the scheme will offer better efficiencies for householders than ASHPs, which will ensure lower running costs and bills.
- Thermal batteries (Sunamp) will be used for hot water – with the potential flexibility for the local grid.
- The improved efficiencies mean that the pressure on the Electricity Grid at peak tea-time winter months will be less, with less requirements for expensive reinforcements.
- Low carbon transport – EV charging and/ or EV Car clubs
- Shared Solar PV across the Terraced street with shared battery storage and using Allume (sol-share) to ensure maximum generation is consumed across the terraced street.
- Potential for urban battery utilising Local Supply model and peak shaving
- Fabric retrofit – cost to benefit ratio– energy efficiency and flexibility, what pays off?
- Grid Constraints
- Engagement, including how to reach vulnerable households.

4.32 Many communities around the UK, similar to that of Bacup, are in areas of deprivation and risk being locked out of net-zero (NZ) carbon transition. Domestic household gas use emitted 22% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> in the Borough in 2022, so this project will be vital to finding a solution that makes sure that no one is left behind.

4.33 Of the 6.9 million terraced homes in the UK, many will not be suitable for ASHPs

4.34 A street by street, planned approach utilising shared heating sources offers economies of scale reducing overall upgrade costs and encouraging neighbourhood uptake of district heating schemes.

4.35 With the dramatic rise in the cost of energy being a significant impact on the cost of living and with domestic heating being responsible for 14% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, targeting scalable, investible solutions in areas of need should be a priority to Local Authorities.

4.36 A successful bid for the Alpha stage of the project will take Rossendale one-step further to achieving Net Zero streets.

4.37 A project summary, produced by Rossendale Valley Energy can be found in the background documents.

#### 4.38 CARBON REDUCTION GRANTS.

4.39 The carbon reduction grant programme has continued to provide funding to businesses and community groups to support them in reducing their carbon footprint.

4.40 A total of 11 applications have been successful to date and have provided financial assistance across a number of projects including LED lighting, replacement windows and improved insulation. The carbon reduction grant scheme is now currently under review, in order to focus on more strategic applications or demonstrator projects that have a high impact on carbon reduction.

#### 4.41 CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME OFFICER

4.42 In May 2023, the Climate Change Officer who had been in post since October 2021 moved to a position within Central Government. The post was initially a two year post. The post has now been made permanent and a new officer is due to start in September 2023.

4.43 This officer will provide the specialist knowledge and support to drive forward the existing good work already underway, and lead on our ambitious programme of measures to fulfil our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### 5. RISK

5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

A risk register has been developed for the strategy as part of the Council's programme management process and these risks are monitored regularly. A public commitment has been made by the Council to do what it can locally to tackle climate change. This report limits the risk of not delivering on that commitment by putting the resources in place to ensure delivery. This report identifies ways in which the risk of non-delivery can be mitigated

### 6. FINANCE

6.1 The Climate Change Officer post has now been added to the establishment. The post will be funded from reserves in 2023/24. From 2024/25 onwards the cost of the post will be factored into the MTFS.

6.2 Council approved a £1m capital Carbon Reduction Fund in February 2021, phased over 4 years commencing in 2021/22. To date c£165k of this fund has been spent as set out below:-

	£
RBC Buildings	117,210.23
Business Grants	20,497.25
Community Grants	27,888.33
	<u>165,595.81</u>

### 7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. Each project will be subject to its own considerations on a case by case basis.

### 8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are currently no additional policy or equalities implications arising from this update report

## 9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The subsequent 3 years have seen significant progress towards achieving this.
- 9.2 Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Annual Report year 1	<a href="#">Agendas, reports and minutes   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Annual Report year 2	<a href="#">Agendas, reports and minutes   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Supplementary Planning Document	<a href="#">Climate Change SPD   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Decarbonisation Strategy	<a href="#">Decarbonisation   Rossendale Borough Council</a>
Net Zero Streets Briefing Document	<a href="#">Decarbonisation   Rossendale Borough Council</a>