
Climate Emergency Update

Committee considering report:	Operations Board
Date of Committee:	22 August 2019
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	28 August 2019
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Forward Plan Ref:	Information Item

1. Purpose of the Report

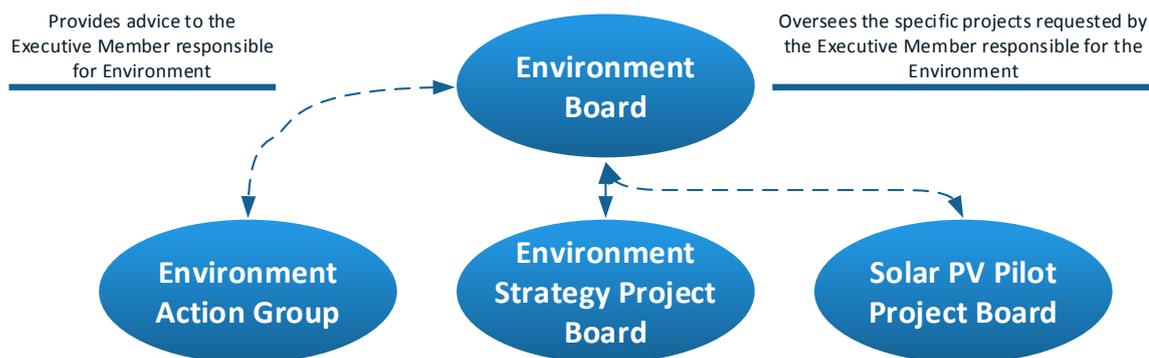
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the actions that have been taken since the Council formally made a Climate Emergency Declaration on 2nd July 2019, committing the Council to a carbon neutral district by 2030.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Council on 2nd July 2019 the Council requested the Environment Board provide an interim report with the progress made to date.

3. Work Undertaken Since the Declaration

- 3.1 Embedded suitable governance arrangements to ensure delivery. See **Appendix A** for governance schedules.



More project boards will be created as the workload of the Environment Board develops.

- 3.2 Initial summary review of Council activity which is considered to fall within the scope of the Environment Board. See **Appendix B** as a guide.
- 3.3 A review of the corporate report templates is currently underway and as part of that work an environmental implications section will be added to all reports.

- 3.4 Identification of potential partners to assist with the progression of projects overseen by the Environment Board. This includes colleagues from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) who are recognised in this field.
- 3.5 Timetable for delivery of an Environment Strategy by end of the calendar year 2019. This will describe how the Council and its partners will aim to work together to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Work will include an assessment of the evidence and data available to support the vision and objectives. This will be followed by an initial summary delivery plan to support the strategy.
- 3.6 Organisation of a Climate Conference to be held on 28th October 2019. This is currently being planned with the objective of gathering stakeholders to explore different ways in which residents, businesses, local organisations and the Council in West Berkshire (and potentially beyond) can work together and support the achievement of a carbon neutral district by 2030.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – GOVERNANCE SCHEDULES

Environment Board

- (1) Meeting every month. Chaired by the Executive Director for Place.
- (2) Created and convened first Environment Board on 18th July.
- (3) Terms of Reference have been agreed.
- (4) The identified role of the board is to oversee the development, implementation and overarching governance of the Council's Environment Strategy.

Environment Advisory Group

- (5) Chaired by the Executive Portfolio Holder responsible for Environment.
- (6) Created and convened first Environment Advisory Group on 23rd July.
- (7) Terms of Reference have been agreed.
- (8) There is cross party representation on the group.
- (9) The group has been established with the responsibility to provide advice, scrutiny and challenge to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment and to contribute to the development of the Environment Strategy and any associated documents.

Environment Strategy Project Board

- (10) Meeting every month. Sponsored by the Executive Director for Place and project managed by Head of Public Protection and Culture.
- (11) A Project Brief has been created and is in the process of being updated following the meeting on the 15th August.
- (12) A draft Project Plan has been outlined for the creation, stakeholder consultation and publication of the Environment Strategy by the end of the calendar year.

Solar PV Pilot Project Board

- (13) Meeting every month. Sponsored by the Head of Public Protection and Culture and project managed by the Senior Energy Efficiency Officer.
- (14) The Board was established earlier in the year and is currently in the process of awarding a contract.

APPENDIX B – PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

Transport

- (15) LEP funded Sustrans route for the West Berkshire stretch of the National Cycle Network route 422 which is a new route linking Newbury to Ascot in Windsor and Maidenhead (and then on into London). This is expected to be complete through Thatcham and Newbury this financial year;
- (16) Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys Cycle Improvements - improvements to the bridges on the section along the disused railway line. Construction has started on site with completion expected by October 2019;
- (17) Improved links to Theale Station;
- (18) Improvements to cycle facilities at four stations on the Newbury to Reading line;
- (19) Improvements to Newbury Railway station to improve drop off, bus and cycling facilities as well as other changes to the station's fabric to make it a greener building.
- (20) A West Berkshire EV and EV Infrastructure Strategy is currently being developed.
- (21) Funding was obtained for the Co-Wheels Car Club which includes an electric vehicle. Co-Wheels Car Club is a low emission, hybrid or electric car hourly hire in Newbury <http://www.co-wheels.org.uk/newbury> and WBC has provided Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in the Kennet Centre (for public and car club use) and in the Eight Bells car park (car club users only).
- (22) Earlier this year the Council secured a grant from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles for the delivery of on street residential EV charge points for properties without off street parking. 18 charge points have been installed in the Eastfields and Westfields areas of Newbury and further locations are being surveyed at present with a view to a further 18 being installed during the summer months. An EV Charging network for West Berkshire is in the process of being designed. An initial scoping report should be available by the end of August. This report will feed into and influence the draft West Berkshire EV and EV infrastructure Strategy.
- (23) Other non WBC funded EV charging points are located around West Berkshire, including in the Parkway Car Park (4 free points), and at Chieveley Service Station (4). For further sites visit: <https://www.zap-map.com/locations/newbury-charging-points/#> The Council continues to work with GWR to ensure that rail stations within West Berkshire will have charging points and for Newbury rail station these are proposed as part of the Market Street redevelopment.
- (24) The Council monitor local road networks to generate information and intelligence about air quality trends and publish content on the subject of air quality, further information is available via <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/airquality>

- (25) Route management signage has been placed on the A339 at the Swan roundabout to encourage HGV's to join the A34 to travel north rather than driving through Newbury.
- (26) The first stages of the 'Green Wave' intelligent traffic system, a demand responsive Traffic System linking the traffic signals through journey time, is being implemented. In the future this can be linked to air quality and journey time information to manage the flow of traffic along the A4. Further work to follow this financial year.
- (27) The Council support several schemes to promote early lifestyle learning, encouraging exercise when travelling to school, and cycle training:
 - (a) Walking and Cycling to School:
<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27870>
 - (b) Bikeability Training for young people
<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27869>
 - (c) Travel to School rewards schemes – Go Kinetic and Steposaurus:
<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=27870>

Energy

- (28) A feasibility pilot project to install solar PV on existing Council buildings which are currently using the Council's energy contract is in its latter stages and now looking to progress to implementation. This pilot is being used as a 'proof of concept' and has a number of potential business and environmental benefits for the Council sites currently chosen.
- (29) LED and control fittings for the Street Lighting replacement for West Berkshire was completed in 2016. 96.22% of our street lighting stock (12,471 units) are LED and 1048 LED sign lanterns (signs/bollards/zebra crossings) have been installed throughout the district, which includes LED retrofit lanterns.
- (30) A number of sections of street lights on the A4 are being switched off between midnight and 5.30am. Street lighting designs in estate streets have been identified as possible additional energy savings by dimming the existing lanterns.
- (31) Projects that have been implemented in previous years include:
 - (a) Smart metering programme for non-half hourly electricity meters;
 - (b) Corporate monitoring & targeting software for energy consumption within the Council's Central Energy Contract;
 - (c) LED light replacement in Multi-Storey Car Parks;
 - (d) Project support and/or advice to other areas e.g. Solar PV on Henwick Worthy Sports Field building; St George goes green (Church in Wash Common);

- (e) Voltage Optimisation in Multi-Story Car Parks;
- (f) Solar PV on Market Street, plus a number of schools;
- (g) Air source heat pumps in two buildings;
- (h) Ground Source Heat pumps in one primary school.

Planning Policy

- (32) All planning applications for new non - residential development must demonstrate that they will meet the BREEAM Excellent rating and, from 2019, Zero Carbon core strategy Policy CS15.

Parks & Countryside

- (33) Last year we appointed a new Grounds Maintenance contractor who has a commitment to assist the Council in meeting the government-set targets for local authorities and the wider public sector to phase out peat products. Suppliers to our contract will be instructed not to use peat-based growing media for any plants required for the contract.
- (34) We are working with our contractors to plant more trees than we lose as part of our carbon offsetting objectives; reduce chemical weed controls to the absolute minimum and explore non chemical technologies in some locations. We utilise selected battery powered plant and machinery on the grounds maintenance contract. We aim to recycle over 90% of our green waste through the contract.

General

- (35) Thatcham Dunstan Park and South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme. Sustainable drainage measures and extensive tree planting.
- (36) Sustainable Drainage Policy approved and being actively used to ensure sustainable drainage solutions on new developments.
- (37) As part of our work in Newbury town centre we are investigating and designing urban tree planting in Wharf Road and Bart Street North.