

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

05 July 2022

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN: YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT & PROPOSED YEAR 3 ACTIONS

To report on progress against the Climate Change Action Plan Year 2 and to seek endorsement for the Year 3 Action Plan.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 TMBC's Climate Change Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan was approved by the Street Scene and Environment Advisory Board in 2020, with the Year 2 Action Plan being approved in June 2021.
- 1.1.2 This update highlights progress against the current actions from year 2 to tackle climate change and meet TMBC's 2030 net zero target. This update also proposed further actions for year 3 to take place over the forthcoming year, whilst starting to suggest some longer-term actions.
- 1.1.3 Our proposed year 3 actions are mainly for the 2022/2023 financial year. However, the council will begin to review longer term actions and pathways to reach its corporate net zero target of 2030.

1.2 Year 2 Update: 2021/2022

- 1.2.1 The attached annex 1 to this report is the Climate Change Action Plan 2021/2022 Year 2 Progress Report.
- 1.2.2 Good progress has been made across all 32 actions, with all actions either being completed or ongoing. Where actions have changed, an explanation has been provided in the update. An overview of some key actions from 2021/2022 are provided below.

- 1.2.3 Climate change and biodiversity are included as “Policy Considerations” on all report templates for Council Advisory Boards and Committees. Consequently, many reports have reflected on the climate change and biodiversity impacts of decisions made by the Council.
- 1.2.4 TMBC appointed a dedicated Climate Change Officer in February 2022.
- 1.2.5 Phase 1 of TMBCs EV charger installation is being completed, with 32 EV chargers being installed across 6 council car parks.
- 1.2.6 TMBC was successful with a DEFRA grant bid, providing £36k for a further anti-idling project focused on T&M schools, which includes sensors and more anti-idling signs.
- 1.2.7 The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator scheme has successfully identified lessons learned for scaling up retrofit for future SHDF waves.
- 1.2.8 47 hard to treat Wimpey No Fines constructed homes in Tonbridge have been retrofitted with energy efficiency measures including: external wall insulation, new doors and windows and PV panels to date. Works are in progress on a further 13 homes to be completed by end of June 2022.
- 1.2.9 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) compliance and enforcement project was completed successfully and MEES work has been embedded into housing improvement team’s processes. Over 70 private rented sector (PRS) homes have become MEES compliant since the project began with over 100 PRS owners contacted. General MEES awareness in the landlord community has increased.
- 1.2.10 The green business grant scheme was launched, with 18 initiatives being funded in round 1 and 17 being allocated in round 2. £150,000 has been allocated towards this.
- 1.2.11 The new lakeside facility at Leybourne Lakes Country Park is due for completion in early summer.

1.3 Year 3 Update: 2022/2023

- 1.3.1 The attached annex 2 to this report is the Climate Change Action Plan Year 3 - 2022/2023.
- 1.3.2 51 actions are being proposed for year 3, with a number of previous ‘ongoing’ actions being rolled over to this year.

1.3.3 TMBC have now employed a climate change officer on a 2-year fixed term contract. This post will allow for wider work on the council's strategy and action plan, to help achieve its 2030 net zero target. Initial work will include further TMBC emissions monitoring through annual carbon audits (and a backdated one for 2020/2021), monitoring and reporting of borough wide emissions and the development a TMBC emissions reduction pathway.

1.4. Legal Implications

1.4.1. None.

1.5. Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1. TMBC initially dedicated a £250,000 reserve in 2021 to help forward climate change actions. This has been topped up with a further £500,000 to be used for energy efficiency measures. However, this fund alone is likely not enough to implement all key actions required to decarbonise.

1.5.2. Part of the initial £250,000 fund is allocated to funding the climate change officer post. The remainder will be used to fund smaller projects as and when required, with the £500,000 dedicated towards energy work.

1.5.3. Wider climate change actions are embedded into the work of lead service areas. Therefore, future actions and work need central council funding and such work needs to be considered as part of individual service area budgets.

1.6. Risk Assessment

1.6.1. None.

1.7. Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1. The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8. Policy Considerations

1.8.1. Biodiversity & Sustainability: Actions highlighted in annex 2 evidence future work to improve biodiversity in the borough. This work is also covered by the tree charter, of which an update is provided under habitats and biodiversity in annex 1.

1.8.2. Climate Change: Annex 1 highlights the councils progress towards meeting its 2030 net zero target. Annex 2 highlights the future work the council must embark on to further its work and achieve its ambitious target. Meeting the Climate Change Act 2008 is legally binding for the UK to reach net zero for 2030. TMBC are aiming to meet this target for its corporate emissions by 2030.

1.9. Recommendations

- 1.9.1. That the Climate Change Action Plan Year 2 Progress Report as set out in annex 1 of this report **BE ENDORSED**.
- 1.9.2. That the Climate Change Action Plan Year 3 - 2022/2023 as set out in annex 2 of this report **BE ADOPTED**.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers: Annexes 1&2

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