

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

19 July 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN YEAR 4 AND CARBON AUDIT 2022/23

To seek approval for publication of the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 (2023/24) and Carbon Audit for year 3 (2022/23).

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 TMBC has committed to producing annual climate change action plans and publishing our greenhouse gas emissions (Carbon Audits). A draft Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 (2023/24) and Carbon Audit for year 3 (2022/23) have been produced and are attached as **Annexes 1 and 2** respectively.
- 1.1.2 This report summarises actions in the new action plan and trends in emissions produced by the Council's estate and operations. These are presented alongside each other in this report to give a sense of progress and current commitments to emissions reduction.

1.2 Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 2023/24

- 1.2.1 There are 44 actions in the draft 2023/24 action plan, 68% of which are ongoing from previous years or continuations of next phases or rounds of existing projects. This includes the next rounds of Solar Together and Green Business Grants, for example.
- 1.2.2 New actions include planned renewables and decarbonisation works at Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool, as well as a new action on preparations to meet Biodiversity Net Gain requirements that will be in effect from the end of this year.
- 1.2.3 Key actions this year will tackle our most significant source (Leisure Centres) as well as helping residents and businesses to tackle emissions, and support with the cost-of-living crisis (e.g. Home Upgrade Grant). The full list of actions is given in **Annex 1** and includes:
- Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool energy efficiency, renewables and decarbonisation

- Installation of further EV chargers in TMBC car parks
- Support for low income low energy efficient housing, warm homes, continuing to press landlords on energy efficiency, the next phase of Solar Together
- Green Business Grants
- Development of the Local Plan.

1.2.4 The full draft Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 is provided in **Annex 1**.

1.3 Carbon Audit 2022/23

- 1.3.1 The 2022/23 carbon audit shows that good progress has been made on emissions under TMBC's direct control, listed under Scopes 1 and 2. These are emissions from buildings that the Council owns and manages and from the vehicle fleet. As shown in the table below, Scope 1 and 2 emissions are falling, mainly due to measures on building rationalisation, energy efficiency, and prioritising use of the BMW i3 vehicle by Civil Enforcement Officers.
- 1.3.2 Emissions that are under the Council's indirect control or from the supply chain are listed under Scope 3. These are emissions from the Leisure Trust, contracts (Refuse Collection, Grounds Maintenance), and staff travel for both business and commuting. Emissions from Scope 3 are now higher than the baseline.
- 1.3.3 Reductions in emissions from reduced business travel and increased home-working have now been consolidated, with little change in these emissions from 2021 to 2023. This data is set out in more detail in **Annex 2**. Further action would be needed to address these sources.
- 1.3.4 Larger contributors to Scope 3 emissions include the Leisure Centres, with work already planned for this year for further efficiency and renewable measures.
- 1.3.5 Refuse collection vehicles are part of an ongoing contract, so the opportunity to address these will be at a contractually appropriate point moving towards 2030.
- 1.3.6 Furthermore, elements of Scope 3 that we have not yet calculated (such as supply chain emissions for IT contracts and home-working emissions) would increase the emissions total. Although these sources should not be included in assessments against the baseline, this suggests that the Council's actual emissions are even higher.
- 1.3.7 The complete Carbon Audit for 2022/23 is provided in **Annex 2**.

TMBC Emissions (tCO_{2e})				
Emissions Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Scope 1	139.0	148.7	143.6	127.8
Scope 2	198.0	145.6	131.0	99.9
Scope 3	3,042.4	2,084.0	3,049.0	3,169.3
Total Gross Emissions	3,379.4	2,378.3	3,323.6	3,3397.0
Renewable Generation	0.0	0.0	133.5	100.9
Total Net Emissions	3,379.4	2,378.3	3,190.1	3,269.2

1.3.8 Although progress on emissions reductions has been steady in some areas, there are significant remaining areas of emissions where further or more ambitious action will be needed ahead of 2030. A report will be brought to a future Committee ahead of the preparation of the 2024/25 Climate Change Action Plan.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 Funding for the actions identified in the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 has been identified and value for money assessed by the relevant service. There is a Climate Change Reserve of £236,000 for the current financial year. However, this amount is likely to be needed for planned heat decarbonisation at Leisure Trust sites with swimming pools, for which scoping work is underway.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 TMBC has committed to aiming for carbon neutral in 2030 and to annual reporting on action plan progress and monitoring emissions. There is a reputational risk of non-publication of the reports discussed in this paper.

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 Climate Change

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 That the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 set out in **Annex 1** of this report BE ENDORSED.

1.9.2 That the Carbon Audit (2022/23) set out in **Annex 2** of this report BE ENDORSED.

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:

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Annexes 1 and 2.

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive