

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 9th November 2022
Report of: Corporate Director, Place

Report Title

Carbon Neutral Action Plan Update

Summary

Since the launch of the Carbon Neutral action Plan in December 2020 considerable progress has been made against the actions of the Plan. In particular activity to reduce carbon emissions is now reaching into all Council functions and Services, reflecting the new corporate priority to address our Climate Crisis. There are also maturing partnerships and significantly more collaboration with private and public organisations to progress the Climate change agenda.

However, set against this, performance tracking of the current Carbon Neutral Action Plan has identified that the number of actions that are behind or at risk remains at 41%. The report identifies those actions at risk – and where further effort is required.

The current performance indicators are set out – along with a carbon trajectory – this also shows that considerable ongoing activity will be required to reduce carbon emissions.

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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For non-confidential reports add the following:

Background Papers: Climate Neutral Action Plan Dec 2020

Financial Impact:	No specific implications – report is for noting only
Legal Impact:	No specific implications – report is for noting only
Human Resources Impact:	These are addressed within the report – but there are no impacts arising from the recommendation
Asset Management Impact:	These are addressed within the report – but there are no impacts arising from the recommendation
E-Government Impact:	Not Applicable
Risk Management Impact:	This report summaries the Councils performance and risk of Addressing Our Climate Crisis priority delivery
Health and Safety Impact:	Not Applicable
Sustainability Impact:	This report summaries the Councils performance on Carbon Reduction, Resources use and Consumption.
Carbon Reduction: Impact	This report summaries the Councils performance on Carbon Reduction

1. Background

The Carbon Neutral Action Plan was launched in December 2020. The Action Plan is complementary to the Council's Corporate Objectives and the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan, it contains the following themes

- (i) Production and Consumption of Resource
- (ii) Governance, Engagement and Collaboration
- (iii) Production and Consumption of Resources
- (iv) Transport & Travel
- (v) Heat & Energy
- (vi) Natural Assets
- (vii) Skills and Green Growth
- (viii) Homes, Workplaces and Buildings

In order to meet our carbon neutrality target, the action plan covers short, medium, and long-term actions over the following timescales:

Short: Up to Spring 2022;
Medium: Spring 2022 – Autumn 2024;
Long: Beyond Autumn 2024

2. Progress so Far

The Council has made significant progress across a number of thematic areas:

- **Governance, Engagement and Collaboration**
 - ✓ Established the Trafford Climate Emergency & Air Quality Commission. This is a Trafford cross sector partnership charged with responsibility for developing, delivering and monitoring the Carbon Neutral Action Plan.
 - ✓ The Council has member representation on the [Green City Region Partnership Board](#), supporting Greater Manchester 5 year Environmental Plan.
 - ✓ Trafford Council held a Citizens Panel on 30th November 2021, this involved over 30 voluntary residents selected to match the Borough's demographic profile. The outcomes have been used to develop the Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

- ✓ We are working with [Trafford Community Collective](#) to strengthen the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector, enabling it to fulfil its potential in helping our communities Address the Climate Crisis.
 - ✓ Launched Carbon Literacy programme, providing Council staff and Councillors with the information needed to address the Climate Crisis and create individual action plans.
 - ✓ Council officers supported the Sale West Schools Climate Change Conference
 - ✓ Council reports now include specific considerations of carbon reduction, ensuring this is factored into the decision making process across all services and departments
- **Production and Consumption of Resources**
 - ✓ Improving household [Recycling & Composting](#) and launching a [Food for Thought Campaign](#) helping residents to reduce waste and make savings on household food bills.
 - ✓ “Recycling on the Go” on-street trio bins allowing recycling of litter in public spaces.
 - ✓ We have included environmental social value weighting in all procurement decisions.
- **Transport and Travel**
 - ✓ Working with Be.EV, we are installing [Electric Vehicle Charge Points](#) in our car parks with 6 locations and 20 chargers in Phase 1 and we are on track to install circa 90 charge points by the end of 2022.
 - ✓ The Council is delivering a range of Cycling and Walking Infrastructure
 - ✓ Improvements reducing the need to travel by car and promoting active lifestyles.
 - ✓ We have introduced 16 new [electric vehicles](#) to our fleet, cutting carbon and air quality emissions.
 - ✓ Adults Health & Social Care staff have adopted Electric Bikes for journeys where appropriate.
 - ✓ [Urmston Active Neighbourhood](#) is improving street lighting, restricting motor vehicles at various locations, creating school streets, maintaining cycle lanes, footpaths and much more.
 - ✓ Established a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in Longford
 - ✓ We have set up 6 [School Streets](#) that temporarily close roads outside schools to encourage families to travel actively whilst increasing safety and cutting carbon
 - ✓ Trafford Council is [enhancing spaces for pedestrians and cyclists](#) across the borough, to enable people to keep their distance for safe essential journeys and exercise during the coronavirus lockdown and through recovery.
 - ✓ We are key partners within the [Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan](#) cleaning up the air our residents breathe in a way that helps people to make the change to cleaner vehicles and does not put jobs, livelihoods and businesses at risk.
- **Heat and Energy**

- ✓ A Local Area Energy Plan has been carried out to define the extent of the transformation needed across Trafford as well as a focus on identifying first steps to progress. It provides a robust evidence base and plan to help engage businesses and citizens in accelerating towards the carbon neutral goal.
- ✓ Trafford Council has undertaken a Trafford Park Low Carbon study, creating a roadmap detailing how Trafford Park can transform into a net zero carbon business location and ensuring its continued attraction to jobs, industry and commerce.
- ✓ Heat Network studies have been undertaken to identify opportunities to distribute low carbon heat across Trafford Park and the Civic Quarter. The Council has been awarded £76K from BEIS to deliver the next stages of feasibility work for the Civic Quarter network

- **Natural Environment**

- ✓ We are working with The Friends of Longford Park, The Environment Partnership, City of Trees and a range of other partners to develop a vision and masterplan for [Longford Park](#) that will guide the restoration and improvement of the park's key assets and facilities; support our climate emergency response; reconnect people with heritage and nature and secure the park's long term sustainable management.
- ✓ Complimenting the Trafford Park Low Carbon work, Trafford Council has also explored where Green Infrastructure such as trees, edible plants and green roofs can be installed across the Trafford Park to improve air quality, sustainable urban drainage, encourage active travel and create space for recreation.
- ✓ We are also working with the [Greater Manchester Environment Fund](#) to deliver Greater Manchester's ambition for a "clean, carbon-neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment.
- ✓ We have eliminated the use of Glyphosphate from all but essential uses where alternative options are not possible.
- ✓ We have reduced the frequency of grass verge cuttings and increased the planting of wildflower meadows across borough to enhance biodiversity.
- ✓ The Council supports tree planting through its funding of City of Trees.

- **Skills and Green Growth**

- ✓ We are exploring opportunities with [Manchester Inward Investment Agency](#) to encourage green growth (e.g. investment via Green Growth Grant Scheme and Additional Restriction Scheme) as part of the Inclusive Recovery Plan.
- ✓ We are actively encouraging sign up to the Growth Hub's [Green Business Pledge](#) to give businesses ideas of actions they can take to reduce their environmental impact and grow their business.
- ✓ The Council is also using its apprenticeship levy to fund apprenticeships in the green growth sector in Trafford

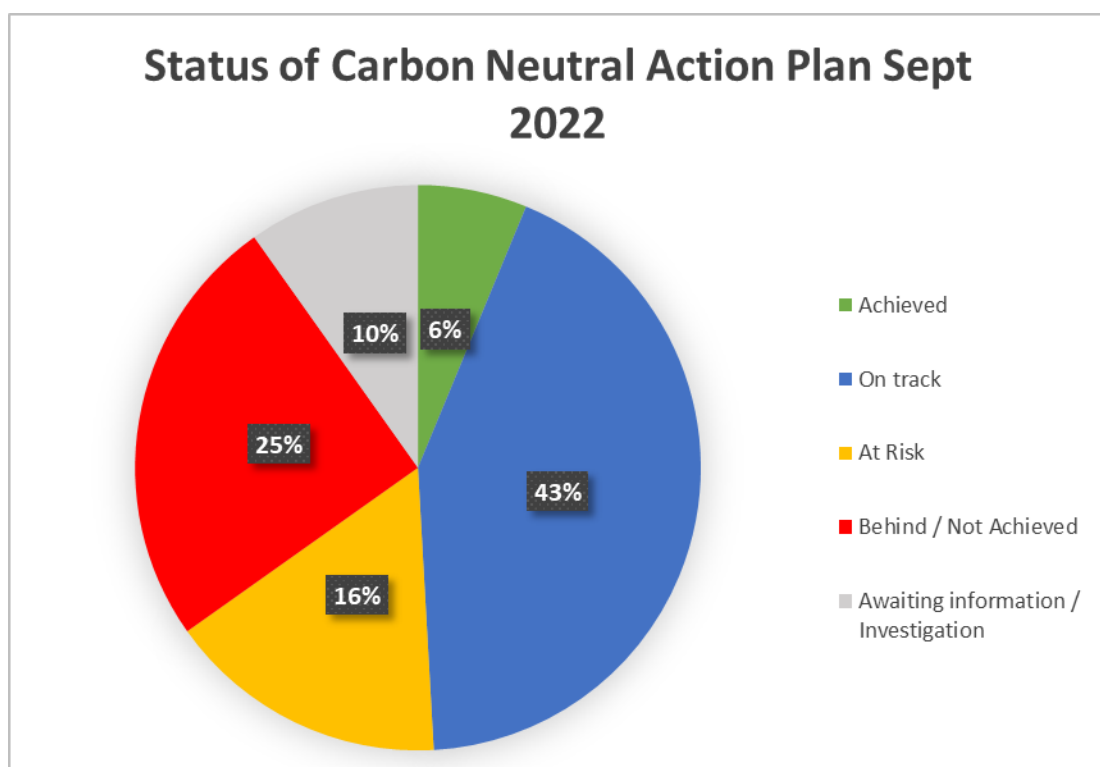
- **Homes, Workplaces and Buildings**

- ✓ Trafford Council is installing a range of low carbon energy improvements (Heat Pumps, Solar Panels & ultra-efficient Lighting) across Public Buildings, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 500 tonnes per year. £5.13m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funds secured for further work to cut emissions from leisure centres during 2023.
- ✓ We are working with GMCA and partners to support our residents in [Home Energy Efficiency](#) and Cutting Carbon. We have set up a [Local Energy Advice Programme](#) which is a free energy and money saving advice service to help households save money and to keep homes warm and cosy.
- ✓ In partnership with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority we have launched the [Your Home Better](#) service offering a whole house approach for residents wishing to install measures for a more energy efficient, healthier and comfortable home.
- ✓ We have enhanced existing planning requirements that will improve sustainability such as Electric Vehicle Charge Points and Cycle Storage on new build homes.
- ✓ We are developing new low carbon planning policies as part of the emerging Local Plan that will support the Borough's target of becoming a Net Zero Borough by 2038. within the Local Plan

However, despite significant achievements since the development of the action plan there remain areas of activity where concerted effort is required.

3. Dashboard

Progress against is summarised within an Action Plan dashboard, set out below. This is reported to the Climate Change Commission and other meetings



A more detailed breakdown is set out in the table below:

Status	Timescale				Total
	Short	Short/Med	Short/ Med/ Long	Med/ Long	
Achieved	5	2	0	0	7
	23%	3%	0%	0%	6%
On track	7	33	3	5	48
	32%	42%	75%	63%	43%
Behind	6	20	0	0	26
	27%	26%	0%	0%	23%
At Risk	4	12	1	1	18
	18%	15%	25%	13%	16%
Not achieved	0	2	0	0	2
	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Awaiting Information	0	6	0	2	8
	0%	8%	0%	25%	7%
Further Investigation Required	0	3	0	0	3
	0%	4%	0%	0%	3%
Total	22	78	4	8	112

The change in action tracker (total actions) Nov 2021 – June 2022 is set out below:

Status	Nov 2021	March 2022	June 2022	Sept 2022
Achieved	5	7	7	7
	4%	6%	6%	6%
On track	54	46	48	48
	48%	41%	43%	43%
Behind / Not Achieved	23	28	28	28
	20%	25%	25%	25%
At Risk	n/a	13	18	18
	n/a	12%	16%	16%
Awaiting Information / Further Investigation	30	18	11	11
	27%	16%	10%	10%
Total	112	112	112	112

4. Delivery Challenges

This section of the report considers those parts of the Action Plan where progress has been limited or is at risk.

There are a number of Key actions that are currently behind in terms of their delivery – these are summarised below:

Governance, Engagement and Collaboration	Comment
Establish appetite for a Council Business Alliance Model via existing forums and Climate Commission.	Business Forums need to be re-established following the long break over Covid.
Engage with identified sectoral partners to establish the appetite for Geographical Clusters.	Some engagement through Trafford Park Studies but a sustained wider approach needs to be identified
Climate Crisis Communication Strategy	Dedicated comms team member allocated, however strategy still needs to be developed, resourced and delivered
Work with the education sector and schools on climate change and sustainability	An event on Climate Change with Trafford College is proposed however wider work needs to be developed further
Establish Resident's Panel for Climate Change	An event was held in Nov 2022, it is not now proposed to progress a full Residents Panel, but to devote effort to other activities.
Transport and Travel	Comment
Focus on Scope 3 indirect emissions e.g. goods and services moving in and out of Trafford	Not currently developed, although the emerging TfGM freight strategy will assist in progressing this agenda
Skills and Green Growth	Comment
Review business rates to attract 'green' businesses to the borough.	This is unlikely to be progressed in the short term given the Council's financial constraints. It is also challenging to single out specific 'Green' businesses.
Gather skills intelligence and create retrofit / green skills action plan	The GM Growth company are active in this arena, but further work needed to engage with local employers to determine what Green Skills are needed and where opportunities are going to be.
Homes, Workplaces and Buildings	Comment
Enforcement and advice on Future Buildings / Homes through buildings regulations.	The new Building Safety Act will create greater rigour in this area – but the Building Control team are limited in capacity in the short term

Key Actions that are at risk of delivery

Governance, Engagement and Collaboration	Comment
Promote implications of Trafford Park Low Carbon study and deliver action plan	Promotion via Commission, wider work needs to be developed further; The Council is seeking partial resourcing from GMCA
Review the parking and expenses scheme to reward active travel and disincentivise car travel.	Scheme requires further investigation and development – cost of living implications to be explored.
Work with Amey Facilities Management to improve recycling facilities and food waste in the office	Plans to introduce food waste recycling prepared, requires Comms support.
Embed Climate Emergency in Local Plan,	The Current priority is to ensure Places for

Development Management, Place Shaping and Masterplanning	Everyone is adopted – and this will bring in significant improvements to planning policy Once in place concerted effort will be needed on the Local Plan to accelerate pace and ensure objective fully met. New SPDs will be required on retrofit.
Work in partnership with housing providers and GMCA to accelerate energy efficiency measures in Trafford’s housing stock.	Enforcement of safety is service priority with rising caseload of sub-standard properties. Housing providers are active in this agenda and partnership will be central to further progress.
Heat and Energy	Comment
Support and integrate Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP)	LAEPs delivered however Integration within policies and strategy will require dedicated planning and resource
Promote opportunities to improve home energy e.g. Green Homes Grant (GHG), Clean Homes Grant and GM Retrofit Accelerator	Potential for partnership working, but requires dedicated resource to fully deliver
Energy advice through referrals, LEAP programme and promotion of Govt Green Home Grants for residents and landlords	Activity via current cost of living work – and significant national publicity on energy saving – but requires further effort to fully deliver
Look at how this fits with a community asset transfer policy e.g. transferring buildings and ‘offloading carbon’	Policy needs updating and developing further
Homes, Workplaces and Buildings	Comment
Encourage the adoption of PASSIVHAUS and similar approaches through the planning system	Additional effort required to accelerate pace and ensure objective fully met.
Address energy efficiency in Private Rented Sector. Minimum EPCs	Enforcement of safety is service priority. EPC enforcement limited in the short term

5. Addressing Our Climate Crisis: Key Performance Indicators

5.1 A dashboard of the measures can be accessed on the Trafford Data Lab website: <https://trafforddatalab.shinyapps.io/corporate-plan/>.

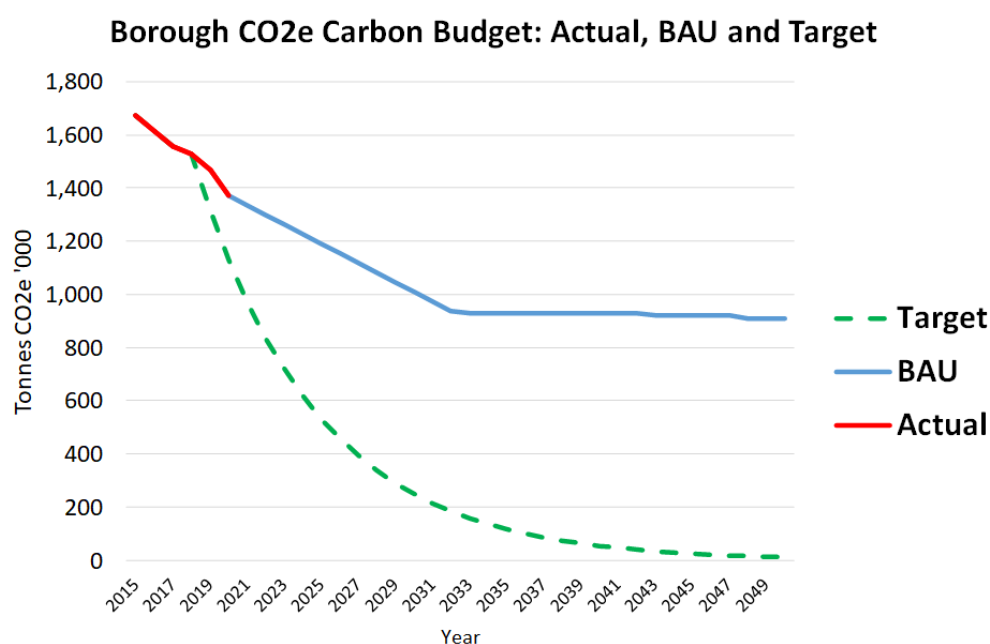
5.2 Current status of Indicators are listed below.

KPI		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
CO2e Emissions	Borough wide CO2e emissions (Kilo Tonnes Full set data)	1,507 (2018)	1,468 (2019)	1366 (2020)	Published Aug 2023
	Corporate CO2e emissions (Tonnes)	17,433	17,134	15,205	13,706
Transport	Number of electric charging points per 100,000 population	No data	21.6	19	32
	Vehicle miles travelled on roads in Trafford (millions)	1034.3	1084.7	886.6	No Data
	Number of licenced vehicles with Trafford addresses (to nearest hundred)	130,100	131,100	129,100	129,533

	Proportion of licenced Ultra Low Emission Vehicles with Trafford addresses (Number registered year-end)	0.37%	0.52%	0.81%	1.61%
	Increase proportion of adults who do any walking or cycling, for any purpose, five times per week	33.3	34.5	30%	No Data
Homes	Proportion of Energy Performance Certificates registered to Trafford addresses that are A,B or C	31.2%	31.4%	32.5%	34.2%
Waste	Tonnage of household waste which has not been sent for recycling	32,420	33,815	40,394	33,233
	Percentage of household waste which has been recycled or composted	57.30%	56.9%	53.3%	58.8%
Air Quality	A56 PM10 particulate matter	17.3	16.8	14.1	14.4
	A56 annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) µg/m3	29	30	21	23.1
Staff	Number of council staff trained in carbon literacy (Cumulative)	-	-	20	86

Analysis of CO2 emission KPIs

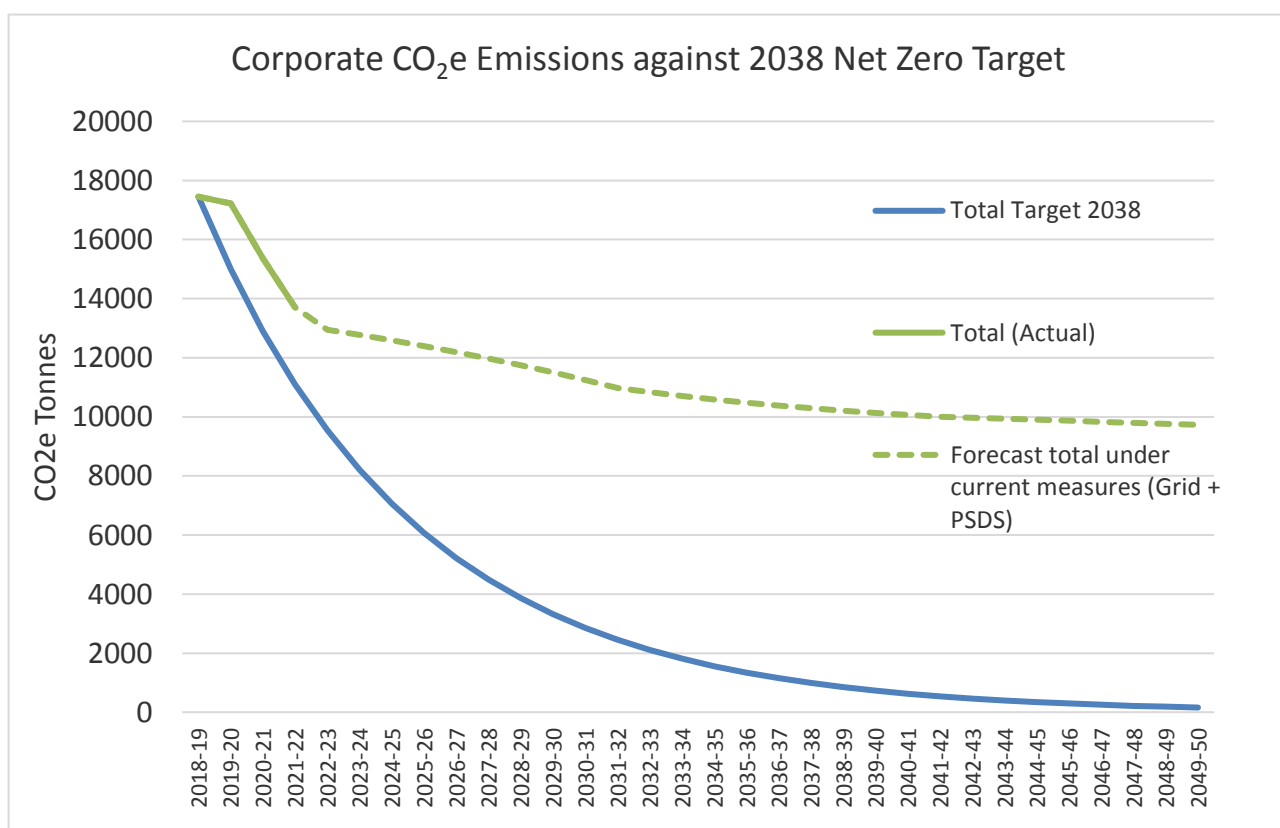
5.3 Borough wide CO2e emissions (Full set data):



Between 2015 – 2020 Borough Carbon Dioxide equivalent emission fell by an average of 4% per year. The 2038 Net zero target trajectory requires a reduction of 14% each year. Therefore it can be shown that although reductions are happening year on year they are not at the rate required to avoid global warming beyond 1.5°C as declared in Trafford Climate Emergency.

Future emissions reductions can be predicted from known policy and resourced measures such as national grid decarbonisation and electric vehicle uptake. This provide a Business As Usual (BAU) prediction, and indicates that unless deep cuts in carbon emissions are resourced and implemented at the local, regional and national level Borough emission will fail to reach net zero by some magnitude.

5.4 Corporate CO₂e emissions



The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS 1) has provided an opportunity to make significant cuts in the Council’s operational emissions. Coupled with the reductions made by the pandemic lock downs, Trafford council’s emissions have reduced by 11% between 2021 and 2022. Forecast emissions assume PSDS 3 is fully implemented, and the planned national grid decarbonisation measures are realised. It is clear that without further deep cuts in operational emissions Trafford Council will fail to meet its net zero 2038 target supporting the Borough ambition.

6. Conclusion

Good progress on Addressing Our Climate Crisis has been made in key areas with carbon reduction evidenced across the Borough and in Council Operations. In other areas proposed actions have been overtaken by events – and can be delivered by different means. However, performance tracking of the current Carbon Neutral Action Plan has identified that the number of actions that are behind or at risk remains at 41% and that Carbon emissions are not reducing at the rate required to meet the Council's Climate Emergency target of net zero by 2038.

The challenge is therefore to continue to work with partners on this agenda and to keep shifting resources within existing teams in order to reduce the numbers of actions that are currently at risk.

Consultation

This report has been prepared in consultation with key Council Services and the Climate Emergency & Air Quality Commission.