

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ON 14 OCTOBER 2021

**SUBJECT: CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** William Page, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager  
**DATE:** October 2021  
**EXTN:** 01903 737982  
**AREA:** Community Wellbeing Service

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 15 January 2020 and set an objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. A carbon audit has been undertaken by consultants to analyse the Council's carbon emissions and propose a strategy to achieve this objective. This strategy will help steer the Council in the direction to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee:

- a) Adopt the Carbon Reduction Strategy;
- b) Endorse inclusion of £200,000 in the 2022/23 budget to support carbon reduction projects;
- c) Support the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager to develop a plan to deliver the Carbon Reduction Strategy with appropriate targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030;
- d) Request the Corporate Support Committee review the Council's Procurement Policy to ensure that carbon reduction is given appropriate consideration in the purchasing of all goods and services;
- e) Request the Interim Group Head for Corporate Support review the Council's investment portfolio to determine the cost benefits of environmentally friendly funds;
- f) Support the commissioning of specialist consultants to undertake detailed audits of the Council's estate and prepare a programme of energy efficiency improvement projects; and
- g) Endorse the strategic approach to the Council's housing stock by improving the energy performance of the buildings by 2030 and achieving Net Zero for the portfolio by 2050.

## **1. BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 In November 2019 the Environment and Leisure Working Party received a report on climate change and global warming. Cabinet supported the recommendation of the Working Group to declare a Climate Emergency and the aim for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030 (Decision Notice C/029/091219). Full Council resolved to support these recommendations on 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.
- 1.2 A Climate Change and Sustainability Manager was appointed in February 2021 to oversee and commission a carbon audit and to produce a strategy and action plan to achieve the Councils 2030 carbon neutral target.
- 1.3 Consultants CO<sub>2</sub> Analysis (CO<sub>2</sub>A) were appointed in May 2021 to undertake an analysis of the Councils carbon emissions. This included a detailed assessment of the Councils Scope 1 (emissions directly attributed to burning of fuels), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity and directly controlled by the Council) and Scope 3 emissions (from the activities of the Council but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the Council); and audits of the corporate buildings and housing stock (with data provided by Parity Projects) to calculate the Councils carbon footprint.
- 1.4 In assessing the Councils carbon emissions CO<sub>2</sub>A has considered what is required to meet the target of carbon neutrality by 2030. This is a significant challenge for the Council and CO<sub>2</sub>A has proposed a high level action plan to achieve the 2030 target.
- 1.5 The Carbon Reduction strategy can be found at Appendix 1. The significance of the challenge is stated in the strategy:

*'Climate change is perhaps the biggest challenge collectively that we face, with its impacts being felt globally'.*

## **2 BIGGEST CARBON EMITTERS**

- 2.1 CO<sub>2</sub>A used the Councils finance data and energy consumption to calculate the Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. This provided a better understanding of the largest emitters in the Council's carbon footprint. Scope 3 activities make up the majority of the Councils carbon emissions, sitting at 98.10%, with Scope 1 and 2 making up the remaining 1.90%.
- 2.2 Scope 1 and 2 emissions are controlled directly by Council activities. For example, Scope 1 can be addressed by activities such as changing the Councils vehicle fleet to electric or low emission vehicles and improving heating systems to be more efficient. Scope 2 can be addressed by ensuring purchased electricity is generated from renewable sources.
- 2.3 Scope 3 emissions are not directly controlled by the Council and are therefore harder to reduce. The supply chain makes up 86.88% of these emissions and is the largest single emitter by far, followed by Leisure Centres (5.09%), investments (3.39%) and employee commute (1.92%).
- 2.4 Supply chain emissions can be reduced by ensuring that sustainability is in the forefront of the procurement policy and favouring companies who are working towards becoming Net Zero.

- 2.5 Emissions associated with the leisure centres (5.09%) can be addressed in the same way the Council is addressing its own emissions and the Council will work with Freedom Leisure to achieve this.
- 2.6 The Council's financial investments make up 3.39% of Scope 3 emissions. The fund is managed by CCLA Investment Management LTD, who have a net zero carbon target of 2050.
- 2.7 Making up only 1.92% of the Council's emissions, employee commute is the fourth largest Scope 3 emitter. This has seen a sharp decline due to the pandemic, though as more staff return to the office this will increase. To mitigate this, staff returning to the office will be encouraged to consider active travel, public transport or car sharing to help control emissions.

### **3 EXCLUSIONS TO THE 2030 TARGET**

- 3.1 A high-level desk top assessment of the Council's housing stock has been undertaken in respect to the 2030 EPC target and the 2050 net zero carbon target. Over the coming months more detailed analysis will be undertaken to help inform the Council's strategic approach and provide a roadmap on how these targets will be achieved. Therefore, no emissions generated from the Housing portfolio have been included within the audit.

### **4 RESOURCES**

- 4.1 The Council's concern for the environment can be seen in its ambitious target to become Carbon Neutral by 2030; 20 years ahead of the HM Government legal requirement. It is proposed that a budget of £200,000 is available in 2022/23 financial year to ensure that the Council can adequately resource projects and seek additional grant funding to deliver the interventions required to reduce carbon emissions at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.2 Biodiversity is also a key component in the fight against climate change and will play an increasingly important role; through direct actions such as offsetting and rewilding or identifying other nature-based solutions to help reduce the impact of flooding and coastal erosion. As with many projects, officer capacity will be key to implement proposals and ensure biodiversity can fulfil its important role.

### **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Members will be aware of that the Council has a proven record on delivering energy efficiencies and environmental projects across all service areas. These projects will continue to be delivered and the Climate Change and Sustainability officer will work with officers to capture this work and ensure it contributes to the carbon reduction action plan.
- 5.2 By formally adopting a climate change strategy that covers Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions the Council will demonstrate a real commitment to tackling this important issue and provide demonstrable leadership whilst making a valuable contribution towards the fight against global warming.

**2. PROPOSAL(S):**

It is proposed that the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee:

- a) Adopt the Carbon Reduction Strategy;
- b) Endorse inclusion of £200,000 in the 2022/23 budget to support carbon reduction projects;
- c) Support the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager to develop a plan to deliver the Carbon Reduction Strategy with appropriate targets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030;
- d) Request the Corporate Support Committee review the Council's Procurement Policy to ensure that carbon reduction is given appropriate consideration in the purchasing of all goods and services;
- e) Request the Interim Group Head for Corporate Support review the Council's investment portfolio to determine the cost benefits of environmentally friendly funds;
- f) Support the commissioning of specialist consultants to undertake detailed audits of the Council's estate and prepare a programme of energy efficiency improvement projects; and
- g) Endorse the strategic approach to the Council's housing stock by improving the energy performance of the buildings by 2030 and achieving Net Zero for the portfolio by 2050.

**3. OPTIONS:**

- a) To approve the recommendations as set out within the strategy to achieve the 2030 carbon neutral target.
- b) To consider further recommendations.

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Members of the Corporate Policies and Performance Committee.

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓

Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)	✓	

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

**FINANCIAL:** investment in consultancy and technology.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT:** improvements and investments will be required.

**PROCUREMENT:** revisions will be required for the procurement policy to ensure our supply chain is environmentally aware.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To achieve the Councils objective of being carbon neutral by 2030

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Environment and Leisure Working Group minutes (November 2019)

<https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g661/Printed%20minutes%2007th-Nov-2019%2018.00%20Environment%20Leisure%20Working%20Group.pdf?T=1>

Environment and Leisure Working Group Paper (December 2020)

<https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g1340/Public%20reports%20pack%2010th-Dec-2020%2018.00%20Environment%20Leisure%20Working%20Group.pdf?T=10>

[Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy \(2020 to 2025\)](#)