



Strategic Planning & Environment

Overview & Scrutiny

Agenda

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

Microsoft Teams

***This meeting will be held remotely via the Microsoft Teams application. Should any members of the public wish to join this meeting, please contact member.support@dacorum.gov.uk by 5pm on Tuesday 29th September.**

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Barrett
Councillor Beauchamp
Councillor Birnie (Chairman)
Councillor P Hearn
Councillor Hobson
Councillor McDowell
Councillor Ransley

Councillor Riddick
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Silwal (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Timmis

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support or 01442 228209

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5. **CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO CALL-IN**
6. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL PLAN**
7. **BUDGET MONITORING Q1** (Pages 3 - 9)
8. **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 10 - 16)
9. **PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
Report to follow.
10. **ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
(Pages 17 - 21)
11. **CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY PROGRESS UPDATE** (Pages 22 - 40)
12. **WORK PROGRAMME**
Report to follow



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	30 September 2020
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2020/21
Contact:	Cllr Graeme Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources Nigel Howcutt, Assistant Director (Finance & Resources) Caroline Souto, Team Leader Financial Planning & Analysis
Purpose of report:	To provide details of the financial outturn position for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Fund • Capital Programme
Recommendations	That Committee note the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 as at Quarter 1.
Corporate objectives:	Delivering an efficient and modern council.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> This report outlines the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 and so summarises the financial implications for service decisions for the financial year. <u>Value for Money</u> Regular budget monitoring and reporting supports the effective use of the financial resources available to the Council.
Risk Implications	This reports outlines the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 and in so doing quantifies the financial risk associated with service decisions for the financial year.
Community Impact Assessment	The content of this report does not require a Community Impact Assessment to be undertaken.
Health And Safety Implications	There are no Health and Safety implications arising from this report.

Consultees	The position reported within this report has been reviewed and discussed with relevant Council Officers.
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	GF – General Fund HRA – Housing Revenue Account

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 General Fund revenue outturn – the Council is facing significant financial pressures as a result of the coronavirus. Overall in the General Fund a pressure of £5.8m is forecast, of which £5.5m results from the implications of coronavirus.

At this relatively early stage in the financial year, the majority of the forecast pressures are estimates of how budgets might be affected over the longer-term. As a result, the forecasts are subject to potentially significant change during the course of the financial year.

The forecasts do not include potential funding of income shortages announced by the government on 2nd July to fund 75% of income losses over 5% of budget. Further details on this funding are expected shortly, but it is estimated that circa £1.4m could be reimbursed to the Council under this scheme.

- 1.2 Strategic Planning and Environment Capital budgets – increased expenditure of £0.5m is forecast.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's forecast outturn for 2020/21 as at the 30 June 2020. The report covers the following budgets with associated appendices:

- General Fund - Appendix A. A pressure against budget of £5.8m is forecast.
- Capital Programme - Appendix C. An overspend of £0.5m is forecast, for which supplementary capital budgets have been requested at Cabinet.

3. General Fund Revenue Account

- 3.1 The General Fund revenue account records the income and expenditure associated with all Council functions, except the management of the Council's own housing stock, which is accounted for within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

- 3.2 Appendix A provides an overview of the General Fund forecast outturn position.

- 3.3 The table below provides an overview by Scrutiny area of the current forecast outturn for controllable budgets within the General Fund.

Table 1	Current Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance	
			£000	%
Finance & Resources	11,988	14,545	2,557	21.3%
Housing & Community	1,686	2,670	984	58.4%
Strategic Planning and Environment	11,098	12,753	1,655	14.9%
Total Operating Cost	24,772	29,968	5,196	21.0%
Investment Property	(4,374)	(1,674)	2,700	(61.7%)
Core Funding	(20,399)	(22,480)	(2,081)	10.2%
Contribution (to)/ from General Fund Working Balance	(1)	5,814	5,815	

3.4 Core Funding - £2m additional funding

Additional government grant income has been received as follows:

- £1.8m of Covid-19 support grant has been received from MHCLG. There is currently no indication that further funding will be received, other than reimbursement of 75% of sales, fees and charges income as mentioned in paragraph 1.1.
- New burdens funding of £170k, to support administration of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grants and Small Business Grants.
- £72k of new burdens funding relating to the Revenues and Benefits service.

3.5 The following sections provide an analysis of the projected outturn and major budget variances shown by Scrutiny area.

4. Strategic Planning and Environment

Table 2 Strategic Planning and Environment	Current Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance	
			£000	%
Employees	10,300	10,864	564	5.5%
Premises	990	990	0	0.0%
Transport	1,240	1,370	130	10.5%
Supplies & Services	2,100	2,339	239	11.4%
Third-Parties	113	113	0	0.0%
Income	(5,397)	(4,675)	723	(13.4%)
Capital Charges	1,571	1,571	0	0.0%
Earmarked Reserves	181	181	0	0.0%
Total	11,098	12,753	1,655	14.9%

4.1 Employees - £564k pressure against budget

A pressure of £545k relates to Waste services employees' costs from additional agency requirements. This is due to over 20 staff self-isolated for 12 weeks at the start of the lockdown period and more recently during July, a rolling 6 or 7 in self-isolation.

4.2 Transport - £130k pressure against budget

A pressure of £100k relates to the maintenance of ageing fleet vehicles in Waste Services. This pressure is expected to continue until the full fleet of waste vehicles is received later in the financial year.

A pressure of £40k relates to hire of waste vehicles to support social distancing requirements.

4.3 Supplies and Services - £239k pressure against budget

A pressure of £185k is expected in Waste Services from the increased cost of disposal of comingled recycling. This is as a result of 3 factors: firstly, tonnages of recyclable waste have increased by 30% as a result of households being at home during lockdown and continuing to work from home; secondly the contractor has charged additional processing fees to fund the costs of safe working conditions under Covid; and thirdly the global market for recyclables has declined leading to a reduction in income for recyclables.

4.4 Income – £723k pressure against budget

The forecast pressures in income budgets are all Covid-19 related:

- Pressure of £300k in Planning Income. This income stream is down 20% on profiled budget as at the end of June. Significant reductions are anticipated for the remainder of the year due to impact on household incomes and developer nervousness over longer-term implications for the housing market.
- Pressure of £240k in Commercial Waste Income. This variance arises from the anticipated pressure on income from businesses no longer operating and increase in bad debtors. This will be recession-dependent and will be monitored through the broader economic recovery.
- Pressure of £120k in Land Charges. The Housing market is likely to stagnate for a period as households await a more clearly emerging economic picture.
- Pressure of £65k in Maylands Business Centre income. A pressure is expected in rental income, dependent upon how businesses are affected by the potential economic recession.

5. Capital Programme

5.1 Appendix B shows the projected capital outturn in detail by scheme.

The table below summarises the overall capital outturn position by Scrutiny committee area.

The current budget is the original budget approved by Cabinet in February 2020, plus approved amendments.

The 'rephasing' column refers to projects where expenditure is still expected to be incurred, but will now be in 2021/22 rather than 2020/21 ('slippage'), or conversely, where expenditure planned initially for 2021/22 has been incurred in 2020/21 ('accelerated spend').

The 'Variance' column refers to projects which are expected to come in under or over budget and projects which are no longer required.

Table 3	Current Budget	Rephasing	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Strategic Planning and Environment	2,677	0	2,677	3,170	493	18.44%

5.2 General Fund Major Variances

There is a forecast overspend of £0.5m in General Fund capital budgets.

- Line 143: additional expenditure of £0.1m on Waste Services wheeled bins. New bins have an estimated useful life of greater than a year and have therefore been treated as capital expenditure. An increased budget will be requested as part of the budget setting process going forward. A supplementary capital budget has been requested in the Q1 Cabinet report.
- Line 149: additional spend of £0.4m on Fleet Replacement Programme. In order to reduce the cost of hiring vehicles, additional waste vehicles will be purchased in this financial year at a cost of £350k. This includes one 26 tonne vehicle to add to the existing fleet of vehicles and two 7.5 tonne food waste trucks which were secured at a discounted price. Vehicles are also required for the Housing Cleaning service at additional cost of £50k. A supplementary capital budget has been requested in the Q1 Cabinet report.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.1 As at Quarter 1 2020/21, there is a forecast pressure of £5.8m against General Fund budgets.
- 6.2 As at Quarter 1 2020/21, against Strategic Planning and Environment capital budgets there is forecast budget pressure of £0.5m.
- 6.3 Members are asked to note the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 as at Quarter 1



Dacorum Borough Council

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for June 2020 (Cost of Services Analysis By Scrutiny Committee)

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Year-to-Date</i>			<i>Full Year</i>		
	Budget £000	Actuals £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Actuals £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000
Cost of Services									
Finance and Resources	4,863	(967)	(5,830)	6,502	4,005	(2,497)	11,988	14,545	2,557
Housing and Community	198	78	(120)	519	201	(318)	1,686	2,670	984
Strategic Planning and Environment	604	(49)	(653)	2,263	2,428	165	11,098	12,753	1,655
Net Cost of Services	5,665	(938)	(6,603)	9,284	6,634	(2,650)	24,772	29,968	5,196
Other Items									
Investment Property	(166)	(139)	27	(2,059)	(2,157)	(98)	(4,374)	(1,674)	2,700
Investment Income	(25)	(42)	(17)	(75)	64	139	(300)	(300)	0
Interest Payments and MRP	76	0	(76)	229	0	(229)	916	916	0
Parish Precept Payments	0	0	0	972	972	0	972	972	0
Government Grants	(148)	(1,098)	(950)	(445)	(6,542)	(6,097)	(1,779)	(3,860)	(2,081)
Taxation (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(1,319)	2,061	3,380	(3,956)	6,183	10,139	(15,824)	(15,824)	0
Surplus / Deficit on Provision of Services	(1,553)	782	2,335	(5,246)	(1,480)	3,766	(20,389)	(19,770)	619
Transfers between Reserves / Funds									
Net Recharge to the HRA	(365)	(36)	329	(1,096)	243	1,339	(4,384)	(4,384)	0
Net Movement on General Fund Working Balance	3,759	(192)	(3,951)	2,977	5,397	2,420	(1)	5,814	5,815

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR JUNE 2020

Scheme	Budget Holder	Original Budget	Prior Year Slippage	Adj's, Supps, Virements	In-Year Adjustments	Current Budget	YTD Spend	Projected Outturn	Forecast Slippage	Projected Over / (Under)
General Fund										
Strategic Planning and Environment										
Commercial Assets and Property Development										
139 Allotment Improvement Programme	Richard Rice	40,000	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0
		40,000	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0
Environmental Services										
143 Wheeled Bins & Boxes for New Properties	Craig Thorpe	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	59,786	100,000	0	90,000
144 Waste & Recycling Service Improvements	Craig Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	3,005	0	0	0
146 Gadebridge Park - Renovation of White Bridge	Craig Thorpe	0	370,000	0	0	370,000	4,656	370,000	0	0
147 Upgrade of Hand Arm Vibration Monitoring System	Craig Thorpe	17,000	(20,052)	0	0	(3,052)	0	0	0	3,052
148 Resurfacing Works and Building Improvement to Depot	Craig Thorpe	60,000	0	0	0	60,000	0	60,000	0	0
149 Fleet Replacement Programme	Craig Thorpe	2,311,130	(300,398)	0	0	2,010,732	(14,172)	2,411,130	0	400,398
150 Fleet Services Renew Plant & Equipment	Craig Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	(2,022)	0	0	0
		2,398,130	49,550	0	0	2,447,680	51,254	2,941,130	0	493,450
Strategic Planning and Regeneration										
155 Urban Park/Education Centre (Durrants Lakes)	Chris Taylor	0	134,015	0	0	134,015	0	134,015	0	0
157 The Bury - Conversion into Museum and Gallery	Chris Taylor	0	55,000	0	0	55,000	0	55,000	0	0
		0	189,015	0	0	189,015	0	189,015	0	0
Totals		2,438,130	238,565	0	0	2,676,695	51,254	3,170,145	0	493,450



Agenda Item 8

Report for:	SPAE Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 September 2020
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Quarter 1 Performance 2020/21
Contact:	Councillor John Birnie, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services Craig Thorpe, Group Manager, Environmental Services
Purpose of report:	1.To report on Quarter 1 performance
Recommendations	1.That the report be noted
Corporate objectives:	To provide a clean, safe and green environment
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None as a result of this report
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> None as a result of this report.
Risk Implications	None as result of this report
Equalities Implications	N/A
Health and Safety Implications	None as a result of this report
Consultees:	Officers within Environmental Services
Background papers:	Corvu Report on Performance – Appendix
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	This report has been produced to provide an update to Members on performance against key objectives and an overview of progress on a number of ongoing projects

Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p>CSG – Clean, Safe and Green</p> <p>T's and W's – Trees and Woodlands</p> <p>Fleet Services</p>
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Environmental Services Overview and Scrutiny Quarter 4 – Performance Review

Introduction

Environmental Services consists of the following:

Refuse and Recycling – Domestic and Commercial Waste Collections.

- Providing scheduled collections of waste and recycling materials from over 64,000 domestic properties and 800 commercial waste customers
- Collection of over 5000 “paid for” bulky collections per annum upon request
- Collection of cess waste from private dwellings

- **Waste Transfer Site – ISO 14001 compliant**
 - Storage and bulking of over 24,000 tonnes of recycling materials for onward processing
 - Separation, storage and disposal of hazardous waste including asbestos, dead animals, paints, light bulbs, electrical equipment and other flammables.

- **Clean, Safe and Green (CSG)**
 - Scheduled grass cutting on behalf of Herts County, Housing Landlord and on Dacorum owned land
 - Maintenance of hedges, shrub beds and some roundabouts
 - Maintenance of parks and open spaces including play equipment
 - Maintenance of sports pitches
 - Weed spraying
 - Clearance of fly tips
 - Removal of graffiti
 - Removal and disposal of road kill
 - Management of Trees on behalf of Herts County, Housing, Dacorum owned land, parks and open spaces and woodlands
 - Management of Rights of Way and Countryside access

- **Educational Awareness**

- Initiating campaigns to promote the waste hierarchy through school talks and other initiatives. Also undertakes anti littering campaigns with local residents and businesses.
- Produces all artwork and literature for corporate articles and designs for vehicles
- **Fleet Management (Vehicle Repair Shop)**
 - Servicing and maintenance of all the Councils fleet of vehicles to ensure legal compliance with Road Transport Law and effective running of front line services.
- **Resources**
 - Recording and producing of key performance data such tonnages, reports from public and complaints.

Service Updates

- **Waste Services Operations**
 - Have continued to maintain a full waste collection service during the period of the pandemic. Specific difficulties have been;
 - Reduced number of full time staff
 - Increased numbers of agency and temporary staff leading to increased number of missed bins and a general dip in performance etc.
 - Difficulty in accessing a number of roads due to the increased numbers of cars parked in local streets as more residents work from home. This has led to significant increase in missed bins
 - Increase in waste collected for reason listed above
 - Social distancing of refuse staff – we have, wherever possible, ensured that no more than two members of staff travel together in a refuse vehicle. This has meant that crew members have been permitted to use their own vehicles to meet their colleagues at the first point of collection and to go home following completion of the round. Start times have also been staggered to avoid congestion.
- **Clean, Safe and Green**
 - All summer bedding was planted in the first quarter of the year
 - Berkhamsted hanging baskets were converted to troughs due to wear and tear on brackets
 - Gadebridge Park play area re-barked with 30 tonne of bark chippings.
 - A41 laybys framed bins have been replaced with new larger 3 bin frames.

- Again specific difficulties have been around ensuring social distancing of staff. When bearing in mind crews are, by and large made up of up to seven members of staff, reducing the numbers travelling in any one vehicle to two has meant sourcing additional vehicles through various means.
- In all services compliance to PHE guidance has been the focus of attention and services have been adapted to ensure that all updated guidance has been implemented.
- **Parks, Open Spaces, Trees and Woodlands**
 - Extended the watering period for newly planted trees due to the hot, dry weather
 - Progressing the survey project with Housing team for trees within tenanted property
 - Secured stock for street tree planting autumn 2020 and trees for wider DBC planting project. Fixed site access at Stubbings Wood, Tring following damage by 4x4 vehicles
 - Completed our woodland work programme, and continuing with woodland surveys to develop the coming winter work programme
 - Attended virtual Herts Tree Officers meeting and discussed new National Tree Strategy project
 - Attended webinar for tree canopy survey project
- **Fleet Services**
 - Fleet Services has been spending time on recalibrating all the on-board weighing systems on the vehicles to ensure that the fleet remains legal and compliant.
 - Tranman, the administrative/management system, has been overhauled, again to ensure that the fleet remains compliant and that there is a full service and maintenance record during the lifetime of the vehicle
 - Although MOT's timescales had been relaxed Fleet are now planning how vehicles are going to be presented for test bearing in mind the "knock on effect" of having the majority of the fleet requiring an annual test in such a short period of time. All other vehicle operators will be in a similar position and we are working with the DVSA to resolve this problem.
 - The banners on the sides of the refuse vehicles have all been changed to show a NHS message to help prevent a further spike in Covid.

- All members of staff have now returned to work however some have been redeployed onto alternative duties to ensure that they are able to social distance.
- Staff showing symptoms are required to book a Covid test and, if negative, they can return to work
- Shift times have been modified to ensure social distancing at the depot during busier times
- All staff are required to undertake a temperature check when attending work.

End

Quarterly Indicators to Update		Jun-2020				
Indicator Name	Report To	Indicator Owner	Updater & Secondary updater	Results Jun-20	Last Quarters Results Mar-20	Last Years Results Jun-19
Multiple updater link		Performance Measures				
TW03: Percentage of Trees and Woodlands works instructions completed in the required timescale	TEAM	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Camille McCawley	100% 1/1 Info Only	No Data Info Only	100% 23/23 Target: 100
TW04: Trees and Woodlands - Contractor Quality Performance	TEAM	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	100% Info Only	No Data Info Only	100% Info Only
CSG01: Percentage of dog fouling reports actioned within the set timescale of 7 days	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	97.3% 36/37 Target: 95	98.75% 79/80 Target: 95	100% 52/52 Target: 95
CSG02: Percentage of fly tips collected within the set timescale of 7 days	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	97.25% 354/364 Target: 95	97.41% 339/348 Target: 95	96.23% 281/292 Target: 95
CSG04a: % of litter area inspections graded A or B - Litter	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	No Data Info Only	No Data Info Only	100% 120/120 Info Only
CSG05: Graffiti Removal - Percentage removed from Dacorum Structures within 7 days	TEAM	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	100% 28/28 Target: 95	93.1% 27/29 Target: 95	100% 33/33 Target: 95
WR01a: Justified Missed collections (Excluding Assisted Collections)	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	1187 Bins Target: 750	438 Bins Target: 750	587 Bins Target: 750
WR03: Number of justified missed assisted collections	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	214 Collections Target: 120	86 Collections Target: 120	196 Collections Target: 120
WR06: Total tonnage of garden waste collected	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	4340.24 Tonnes Info Only	706.65 Tonnes Info Only	3700 Tonnes Info Only

See over

WR07: Tonnage of food waste.	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	1382.96 Tonnes Target: 1020	1373.34 Tonnes Target: 1020	1192.02 Tonnes Target: 1020
WR05: Dry recycling Collected	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	4331.24, Tonnes Target: 3600	3944.27, Tonnes Target: 3600	3456.47, Tonnes Target: 3600
CSG01a: Number of dog fouling reports actioned within the set timescale of 7 days	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	36 Info Only	79 Info Only	52 Info Only
CSG02a: Number of fly tips collected within the set timescale of 7 days	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	354 Info Only	339 Info Only	281 Info Only
CSG05a: Number of Graffiti removed from Dacorum Structures within 7 days	CMT	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Melanie Parr	28 Info Only	27 Info Only	33 Info Only
WR08: % change in commercial waste customers in the quarter	CMT AND OSC-SPE	Craig Thorpe	Shirley Hermitage Vacant	No Data Info Only	No Data Info Only	No Data Info Only



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	30th September 2020
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Q4- Performance Report for Environmental and Community Protection
Contact:	Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer Emma Walker, Group Manager (Environmental and Community Protection) Bill Buckley, Interim Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)
Purpose of report:	To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 1 in relation to Environmental and Community Protection.
Recommendations	For Information only.
Corporate objectives:	Resources and Value For Money; Optimise Resources and Implement Best Practice.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> Monitoring Performance supports the Council in achieving Value for Money for its citizens.
Risk implications	Risk Assessment completed for each service area as part of Service planning and reviewed quarterly. Key risks are recorded on the Council's Risk Register which has been Updated recently. The key risks relate to not achieving statutory targets and failing to protect the public/businesses from Environmental Health Risks : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If statutory targets are not achieved the service can be Taken over and managed by the Government. • Potentially the public & businesses put at risk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal action taken against the Council • Reputational damage to Council
Equality Impact Assessment	
Health and safety Implications	None
Consultees:	
Background papers:	Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 1 (attached).
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. Background

1.1 For the purpose of this report, ‘Environmental and Community Protection’ includes the following services:

- Environmental Health Team (Food Safety, Health and Safety, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management, High Hedges)
- Operations Team (Public Health, Pest Control, Dog Warden Services, Environmental Enforcement)
- Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team (Internal Health and Safety Advice, Technical Support, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity).

2. Environmental and Community Protection – Q4 Performance Indicators

2.1 In Q1, the KPI was 0%. Proactive food inspections were suspended on the 23rd March due to Covid19 at the request of the Food Standards Agency. We have written to all 0, 1 and 2 rated premises to remind them of their duties throughout this period and have been responding to complaints. The food hygiene inspection programme was restarted on the 1st September so we have to catch up on Q1 and 2. There has at the time of writing been no further correspondence from the FSA on suspension of the programme.

- 2.2 90.63% (58/64) of Noise cases were closed within 60 days. The team have worked hard to ensure that the cases are dealt with as swiftly as possible, although this has been difficult to do during the pandemic, the team's resources are incredibly stretched.
- 2.3 79.15% (1325/1674) of Food Premises are 4 or 5 rated in Dacorum.
- 2.4 90.46% (882/975) of Service requests are acknowledged within 3 working days. The number of requests are increasing for the service area, along with the vast amount of resource that the Covid 19 response has taken.
- 2.5 64.02% (507/792) of Fly-Tips were visited by an Enforcement Officer within 3 working days. During the initial stages of the pandemic whilst we risk assessed the Enforcement Officers Activity the service was suspended and straight to collection. The service was reinstated in a covid secure manner and full service is currently in place.
- 2.6 99.66% (291/292) of Development Control Consultations with Environmental and Community Protection have a formal response within 20 working days. Significant work has been put into responding to planning enquiries.
- 2.7 38 accidents occurred associated with DBC work activities in Q1.
- 2.8 There was 1 accident associated with DBC work activity that were reported to the HSE in Q1.

3. Environmental Health Team

- 3.1 We have been working on the implementation Covid-19 Restrictions for businesses which are now on the 7th draft plus umpteen sets of guidance have been issued. A steady number of complaints all of which have been resolved, we have had Daily reporting to the Office Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) on enforcement and advice activities.
- 3.2 In terms of Business Continuity the department have been on 5x Week Incident Management Team Meetings providing feedback from the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) and various cells that sit underneath including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Swabbing Cell, and Environmental Health Advisory Cell.
- 3.3 Representation on the COVID19 Shadow Health Protection Officer Board. Opening meeting held on 23rd June. Main points for discussion, High Risk Premises, Vulnerable people, local contact tracing and workplaces.

3.4 Food Service Plan and Annual Air Quality Status Report taken to OSC in June.

3.5 Trainee EHO's all progressed to the next stage of their training. Projected completion dates are 2020, 2022, 2024.

3.6 Recruitment has taken place to support the EH team in its expanding role, 2 permanent staff are expected to join the team in Q3. 3 temporary staff have been appointed to assist with the backlog of food inspections and the increased workload for Covid 19. In addition we have some pay per inspection staff.

4. Corporate, Health, Safety and Resilience Team

4.1 Council wide Covid 19 risk assessment drafted and met with unions to discuss. This has been finalised and published on the DBC website. CHS team has reviewed and provide feedback on departmental Covid 19 risk assessments, this has included challenge and are now looking at audit of departments to ensure that risk assessments are working as expected on the ground.

4.2 The team act as a conduit between the Local Resilience Forum Response and the Councils Incident Management Team, to ensure that the Councils Covid response is tied in with our Local Resilience Forum Partners. .

4.3 Following consultation with relevant staff and the Health Safety and Resilience Committee, CMT approved the following updated policies/plan:

- COSHH policy
- Hand arm vibration
- H&S policy statement
- Resilience policy
- Reception centre plan
- Accident reporting policy
- Corporate Covid Risk Assessment
- Forum Opening Plans

4.4 Final Audit report submitted to the CCG for their consideration. Also working with the CCG to support a potential return to working in the forum.

4.5 Working with HCC to prepare business continuity exercise at September Leadership Event.

4.6 Business Impact Analysis document and process approved through Health and Safety Committee and Corporate Management Team. Environmental & Community Protections Department and Commercial Assets have rolled this out

as pilot areas. Other areas will be supported by the team to implement these in their areas. Learning from Covid-19 will be incorporated into these documents.

4.7 The Health, Safety and Resilience Team carried out an audit of the CCG Health and Safety arrangements and have advised the organisations of the outcomes.

4.8 Strategic Liaison Officer training as part of the Emergency Plan has been provided to COG by Hertfordshire County Council.

4.9 Team supported the Fire Service in terms of Emergency Planning roles in relation to a house fire in Berkhamsted. Council Teams were mobilised to support the emergency services,

5. Operations Team

5.1 Rachel Smith has been appointed into the position of Lead Animal Welfare and Public Health Officer. Rachel joins us from the RSPCA with a wealth of knowledge.

5.2 A successful prosecution against Mr Witney S34 EPA 1990 (Duty of care fly tipping) 22/7/2020 St Albans Mags Court Order; Fine £533, Costs: £1,000, Victim surcharge: £53 & Criminal Behaviour Order for two years in the terms sought due to repeat offender. The Defendant must not:

- Carry any form of waste material at any time anywhere in Dacorum without a valid waste management licence registered with the waste regulation authority.
- Leave objects in a road or a footway anywhere in Dacorum that could cause obstruction to vehicles or pedestrians and/or an accident.
- Transfer any waste he imports, produces, carries, keeps or disposes of to a person unless he has taken all such measures applicable in his capacity and reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that person from making an unlawful deposit of that waste anywhere in Dacorum.
- Transfer any waste unless he has taken all such measures available to him and reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the transfer is made to an authorised person in accordance with section 34(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, where applicable.

5.3 Town centre **PSPO** joint operation with police on 26th August. 4 PSPO fixed penalty notices were issued and 3 warnings for cycling/skateboarding in the prohibited area.

5.4 A large increase in the number of Filthy and Verminous properties has been seen throughout the pandemic, this increase has been seen nationally and there are some links to the mental health of those suffering in these types of premises. We prioritise these cases and work with residents where possible to address the issues. Although action has been required in several case to protect the health of both residents and risks to health of near neighbours.

Agenda Item 11



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	30 September 2020
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Climate Change Emergency Progress Update
Contact:	Councillor Andrew Williams, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency Author/Responsible Officer – Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Council’s work to tackle the climate emergency and to seek the feedback from the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Recommendations to Cabinet 20 October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approach set out in the report be approved and actioned with the inclusion of any changes and additions that Cabinet are minded to accept following the feedback from the September 29 Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny meeting. 2. That any changes to the text resulting from recommendation one be delegated to the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council to approve 3. That a further progress report be submitted to Cabinet in the new year 4. That the proposal to establish a Green Community Grant scheme, as set out in paragraph 6.3.3 of the report, be approved funded from the £75,000 Climate budget already established.
Period for post policy/project review	The Strategy and Action Plan will ultimately be reviewed in 2030 but it is proposed that there should be an annual ‘state of the environment’ report made to Cabinet and Council setting out the progress made in the previous 12 months and measured against the baseline carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas position together with the specific targets and actions for the forthcoming year. In addition there will be periodic reporting to both Cabinet and the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate objectives:	<p>The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will help to support all 5 corporate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safe and clean environment:</i> e.g. contains actions relating to the quality of existing environments and design and layout of new development that promote security and safe access; • <i>Community Capacity:</i> e.g. provide a framework for local communities to be better informed and involved in climate emergency mitigation; • <i>New and Affordable housing:</i> through both direct delivery and setting improved sustainability requirements in new homes would help to reduce both the cost of energy and water and the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions the homes would produce; • <i>Dacorum delivers:</i> fulfilling the zero carbon pledge will make a huge contribution to local sustainability and assist in the national target to reach zero carbon as a nation by 2050; • <i>Regeneration:</i> the strategy and action plan will provide improvements to air quality, biodiversity, and opportunities for cycling and walking as well as major economic potential for 'green' businesses.
<p>Implications:</p> <p>'Value for money' implications</p>	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The financial implications of achieving the strategy are not as yet fully costed but will be factored in to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and subsequent budgeting. Some areas will procure and use alternative products, materials and services which may be more expensive, others adapt ways of operating, and for others such as the regulatory services the cost will fall to the private sector. One clear factor is that failure to act will have both financial and societal impacts which will be far more damaging and expensive.</p> <p>There is budget for the Climate Change Emergency Officer and a further £75,000 available for 2020/21 together with an earmarked reserve.</p> <p><u>Value for money</u></p> <p>The aim of the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan is to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's activities and whilst in procurement the Council will seek value for money through intelligent procurement and tendering a critical part of the value for money assessment must be the degree to which the expenditure acts to reduce net CO2 and other greenhouse emissions</p>
Risk implications	A Risk Assessment will be completed and added to the Council's Strategic Risk Register
Community Impact	A full community impact assessment will be carried out

Assessment	following Cabinet’s consideration of this report.
Health and safety Implications	Failure to act on the climate emergency would be damaging to the health and safety of all who work and live in the Borough. Action is required to mitigate the impact of our changing climate and day to day weather – flooding, drought, excessive temperatures and so on. There would also be severe impacts on air quality, ecological well-being and overall quality of life
Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments	Monitoring Officer To be added for Cabinet report S151 Officer To be added for Cabinet report
Consultees:	Association of Public Service Excellence Corporate Management Team Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29/9/20
Background papers:	Cabinet Report Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action plan 19/5/20, and 23/6/20
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	CO2 Carbon Dioxide APSE Association for Public Service Excellence HRA Housing Revenue Account CSG Clean Safe and Green MTFS Medium Term Financial Strategy EPC Energy Performance Certificate PV Solar Photovoltaics BREEAM Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method PSH Private Sector Housing PRS Private Rented Sector HMO House in Multiple Occupation CAVAT Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees AQAP Air Quality Action Plan AQMA Air Quality Management Area LDS Local Development Scheme (Local Plan) LGA Local Government Association DCN District Council Network

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet received and approved a report on the draft strategy and action plan on 23 June following consideration by the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This confirmed the Council’s commitment to achieving net zero carbon for the Scope 1 and 2 emissions resulting from its service delivery and operations by the end of 2030. It also agreed a net zero position on the Scope 3 emissions arising from the 10,250 Council homes it provides by 2050 recognising that given current budgets, financial restrictions and the absence at this point of reliable and affordable alternatives to gas this will be a longer process.

1.2 This report sets out the progress made to date and the shorter term actions that officers will be taking along with the preparation for the implementation of the overall action plan. The Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider this report and forward its comments on to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 20 October. It is important to note that the intention is to deliver many of these changes across every service and that the delivery will be through the service plans and via the MTFs and annual budgeting process. There will be cross service actions and corporate ambitions that will also be delivered. Tackling the climate emergency is everyone's business and must not be seen as an 'add on'. Whilst there will be some 'quick wins' much of the work will be medium and longer term where progress will inevitably be more gradual.

1.3 This report sets out:

- The officer arrangements for bringing forward the actions required
- Continued work on finalising the Strategy and Action Plan (though the latter will be continuously reviewed and updated)
- Progress made on the key areas to date and future actions being progressed
- Key actions that are of a more immediate nature.

1.4 Key actions required and being followed up

- It is recommended that tackling the Climate Change Emergency should be added to the Council's other five corporate priorities but that it be recognised that it will be delivered across the whole Council and involve all services rather than a stand-alone matter;
- It is essential that the data collection processes are adapted and enhanced to be fit for the new purposes of delivering on the climate emergency;
- Work is being completed on the initial Action Plan, which will be to the point and effective, and embarking on the work associated with its delivery;
- Develop a programme of energy efficiency works in relation to its General Fund buildings, part funded by Salix or other available grant, that will deliver reduced emissions and capture savings on the running costs of the Council's buildings;
- Developing a clear approach to carbon offsetting – the baseline work by APSE Energy confirmed that some level of offsetting will be necessary to achieve zero carbon by 2030. This could be delivered in a variety of ways which may include substantial tree planting in the Borough or, more immediately, through embarking on and investing in a renewable energy project of commercial size that would put the Council in a workable and commanding position regarding offsetting, as well as earning it vital income into the future;
- Put in place community arrangements to start moving the outward facing part of the climate emergency declaration forwards i.e. the persuasion of the partners representing the local community to act likewise
- Continuing to work with the County Council, and other key partners, for a pan Hertfordshire approach to climate change and the climate emergency

2. Progress Report

2.1 Updated Strategy Paper

We are currently working with an APSE consultant to provide an updated strategy paper which will suggest further actions that will help guide us to reach the commitments laid out in the Climate Emergency declaration. This strategy work is in progress and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

2.2 Data collection and analysis

Having received the carbon footprint report from APSE energy it is crucial that the Council commit to overhauling the data collection processes in place in the Council and ensuring that these are fit for the new purposes of delivering on the climate emergency. This is vital to monitor the impact on the interventions that the Council implements through its Climate emergency work and to assist in the process of assessing the options most likely to deliver the best results. Whilst the Council does collect data required for ISO14001 it needs a more thorough and sophisticated process of monitoring going forward. It is only through thorough data collection and analysis that assurance can be made on the progress made. This will need to extend to the emissions that are produced by our contractors.

This will require services to ensure that this data is required in new contracts and in areas where there are any gaps in data collection in our own services. This will require an increase in staff resource working to the Climate Emergency Officer for the next financial year 2021/22.

2.3 Sustainability Impact Assessment development

A Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) document is currently being drafted, which will ultimately be implemented into existing project development policy and in all reports to Cabinet. The SIA will explore how a proposed project will have an impact on the environment and use a criteria to give a rating. The report will explore elements such as carbon emissions and the affect this will have on our net-zero targets. All SIAs will need to be sent for internal approval before the project can be approved to progress. It might be that a project will need to reconsider a greener alternative to reduce its impact on the environment before it is given approval.

This method is currently already in use by many other local authorities.

Once the SIA has been developed throughout Quarter 3, there will be a soft launch alongside both staff and member training which will take place in Quarter 4. Feedback will be collated and any adjustments that need to be made will be taken into account with the expectation that a finalised SIA would be ready for use ready by Quarter 1 2021/22.

2.4 Member and Officer Climate Emergency Training

A full day of Carbon Literacy Training will be taking place for the certain staff who are heavily involved in climate change work, such as chairs and vice-chairs of the Climate Emergency sub-groups and other key staff who will be selected by the Assistant Directors.

Half day training courses on the Climate Emergency and Dacorum's strategy will be created and delivered by the new Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer. These will be available for other key members of staff to be determined by Assistant Directors and Group Managers and also available for Members. This training will be delivered in Quarter 4. We will aim to run internal training concurrently with SIA training.

2.5 Officer Climate Groups

The main actions to combat the Climate Emergency will take place across the Council but will have a focus on the areas which either have the greatest carbon emissions outputs to reduce or the greatest potential to deliver a more sustainable future. With this in mind, one core climate group, four sub-groups and a co-ordinating group have been established:

- **Housing and Built Assets**
This will incorporate new build Council Homes, action to improve the energy efficiency and carbon output from our existing Council Homes, and similar improvements to our General Fund built assets.
- **Planning**
This will focus on the Climate Change Mitigation requirements of new development through the Local Plan. It will also take responsibility for biodiversity, green energy and environmental requirements in the Local Plan.
- **Environmental Services**
Work here will be split between the Waste and the biodiversity/land management elements.
- **Community and Communications**
This will involve a transformation of our web facility on Climate Emergency and Sustainability, the running of any campaigns and initiatives, as well as achieving community outreach with interested groups and residents.

The co-ordinating group will meet a week before the meeting of the Core Group and will be made up of the Chairs of the sub-groups, the Climate Emergency Officer and the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration. It is important to stress that while the four sub-groups will pursue their action plan there are interconnections between all of these actions not least in terms of timing and finance.

All of the sub-groups have been established and had their first meetings with actions already getting underway.

3. Housing and Built Assets

3.1 In Housing **Property and Place** are exploring/considering actions in relation to carbon reductions to help the climate emergency objectives:

- Health Check of our current stock condition data (our asset management data base), potential new survey required which can be tailored to suit our need to encompass energy, renewables and landscaping measures on the tenure,
- Purchase software (IT system) to map Energy Performance Certificate data and energy consumption – options are being considered from the Building Research Establishment and the Energy Savings Trust. This in turn will give us options on ways to best tackle carbon reductions with a number of said interventions with envisaged capital cost, whilst considering future energy bills to the end users, this is really exciting stuff
- Identifying a small pilot scheme to monitor the impact of carbon reduction measures with a supplier, this is at its infancy,
- Formally commissioning the architectural and Mechanical and Engineering Design work for the potential expansion of the existing bio mass boiler system at Summer Court to extend over the road to the flats on Church Street, basically this will be a phase two of that original refurbishment project,
- Properties which were down for external cladding refurbishment over the next 18 months will now be considered for external wall insulation, new roofs (possible solar inclusion) and windows with enhanced ventilation,
- Consideration following an options appraisal on a *re-think* refurbishment solution to large complexes of flats which have numerous problems to include:
 - Carbon reduction measures
 - Fuel poverty
 - Communal heating source
 - Substructure refurb, various elements
 - Measures to tackle anti-social behaviour
 - Landscaping options
- Currently exploring a trial estate for a domestic landscaping survey on trees within HRA tenure

3.2 **Energy grant applications:**

Two have been made - the first is for financial support, the second for support on effective options.

The Green Homes Grant Local Authorities Delivery Scheme (GHG LAD). The grants are available for upgrading lower EPC rated properties, those in E, F, and G bandings and are targeted at households with incomes below £30K. The funding is available capped at £5K per property, and with a minimum anticipated expenditure of the grant funding or £500K, which has to be spent by 31 March 2020. DBC have applied as part of a consortium bid with Watford and hope to secure £50K funding towards the external wall insulation scheme, which is being delivered this year.

The second is the Expression of Interest for Public Sector Estate – Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Support, Greater South East Energy Hub.

The Greater South East Hub is arranging for support and modelling tools to be made available on a prioritised basis to help public sector organisations identify energy efficiency/clean heat/renewable generation measures across their own estate. The Energy Hub aims to support public sector organisations to be 'bid ready' to access the UK government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund in due course. The expression of interest is focused on Council owned community buildings, a waste depot and General Fund housing being used for Temporary Accommodation. We have also included a number of HRA sheltered schemes which may possibly be eligible due to the nature of the needs of the households living there.

The Council has recently become a member of the UK Green Building Council which is an industry led network committed to radically improve the sustainability of the built environment.

3.3 Housing Development

The Council's new build programme already ensures a high level of energy efficiency is achieved above the former Sustainable Housing Code Level 4. We have developed to Passivhaus standard on one scheme and the focus is on developing a revised standard which will be considerably higher than Code level 4 and potentially higher than the proposed Future Homes Standard. As with all such improvements in standards there will be a balance between the ideal standard and that which can be reasonably afforded.

3.4 New Build Climate Change Action Plan

The current work programme includes the following actions:

- A review of previous projects and capture of lessons learnt.
- Capture benefits / performance of our current schemes.
- Establish a minimum DBC standard for new builds going forward with the aim of exceeding this where practicable.
- Review our Design Guide and Employers Requirement to identify possible improvements including materials specified. This will include advantages in CO2 reductions in the manufacturing and completion of homes produced via off site manufacturing.
- A Review and update of the current Energy & Sustainability Strategy
- Update the Project Management Handbook to the improved requirements are embedded
- Review BREEAM standard to see how this can best be adopted
- Track improvements coming through Building Regulations and revise requirements accordingly
- Resolve the issue of a lack of interest by private EV operators in being prepared to manage charging points for flatted developments due to the lack of commercial return given the very low number of social housing tenants with electric vehicles. We already install the capacity to introduce charging points in such developments and provide charging facilities in houses with off road parking.
- Understand how we capture evidence of in use performance and resident experience / awareness and, where non gas based heating solutions are used such as Air/Ground source heat pumps, to provide Training and support to tenants to maximise the potential.

4. Strategic Planning and Environment

- 4.1 This work stream is largely focused on the Local Plan which is nearing its completion for public consultation. The Local Plan is key to being able to ensure that future development is a low carbon as it can be and promotes energy and resource efficiency. The aims within the plan are ambitious and once approved will make a big impact on reducing the Borough's carbon footprint.
- 4.2 The Local Plan is bound by the requirements of Planning Law and government guidance which attempts to create a balance between achieving a net zero carbon UK by 2050 and developer viability, the latter causing a potential restriction the levels of carbon efficiency to be required. There are a number of parallel developments in government policy which will have a bearing on how far we can increase the standards above the current levels specifically the Future Homes Standard. This will be delivered as a Building Control requirements at levels considerably higher than the old Code Level 4 and should be in force relatively quickly. One proposal in the Future Homes Standard is to prevent Local Planning Authorities from imposing higher requirements than the new standard through their Local Plans. As this seems contrary to national target of zero carbon by 2050 it is hoped that MHCLG drop this and allow the highest energy efficiency standards and low/zero carbon development to be incorporated into Local Plans and ongoing development management.
- 4.3 The government has also issued a Planning White Paper which will recommend major changes to the planning system which may add further complications to the completion of the Local Plan.
- 4.4 In view of this uncertainty, and to provide additional detail to the Council's ongoing Local Plan, we will produce a Supplementary Planning Document specifically on Climate Emergency Mitigation where the standards can be more specific and to the maximum permitted in reducing carbon emissions both in the construction and ongoing habitation.

5. Current position of Climate Change and Emergency mitigation in the draft Local Plan

- 5.1 Set out below in Table One are the key elements of the future planning position in the Local Plan which, as indicated, will be augmented by a Supplementary Planning Document where greater detail can be included.

5.2 Table One

Climate change policy	Purpose	Comments/action
SP Climate Change Mitigation	Overarching strategic policy setting out range of measures in the Plan that contribute to climate change and emissions reductions for new development up to 2030 and net zero from 2030	Carbon emission targets may be superseded by Future Homes Standard and White Paper 2025 requirements

Sustainable Design and Construction	Requirement for majors to submit sustainability statement demonstrating that the Plan's mitigation and adaptation principles have been satisfied. For non-res, this is waived for BREEAM excellent including ongoing commitment to BREEAM certification	To be expanded within Climate Change and Sustainability SPD
Energy and Carbon Emissions Reductions in New Development	Submit evidence that energy efficiency standards in new development up to 2030 are as a minimum 19% below target plus major residential to contribute towards a further 20%, and non-residential BREEAM excellent, and support for retrofitting	May be superseded by Future Homes Standard and White Paper 2025 requirements
Low carbon community heat and energy networks	Major proposals to either create a site-wide community heat or energy network or connect to an existing decentralised network (or better alternative) We have also commissioned an energy mapping study by BEIS, which shows areas of high energy usage which could benefit from district heating or other decarbonisation measures	Requires further and up to date evidence, including full range of electricity generation options and battery storage
Stand-alone Renewable or Low Carbon Energy	Protects AONB, landscape, wildlife and residential amenity from impact of these measures and ensure community led schemes genuinely benefit communities	Further guidance to follow within Climate Change and Sustainability SPD
Carbon offsetting	Development to contribute to carbon off-setting fund if it can't meet the Plans greenhouse gas reduction requirements, other schemes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be accepted, subject to meeting criteria.	Further guidance on collection and operation of carbon off-set fund to be provided

5.3 Climate Change mitigation in the draft Local Plan is also supported by policies in

- Environment and biodiversity
- Healthy communities
- Transport
- Delivering great places (design and heritage)

5.4 In addition the following initiatives are being developed:

- Working on a Business Plan for the 'Beryl Bike' scheme – an initiative to provide bicycle and E bicycle options to travel from Hemel Station to Maylands to reduce reliance on cars - following instruction from CMT to look at longer term funding (rather than a 12 month pilot)
- Continue working with the Go Travel sustainable transport work for the Maylands area
- Finalised a feasibility study for Working Place Parking Levy to help provide long term funding for sustainable transport which Members will be able to consider in due course
- Completed work on sustainable transport for Tring and Berkhamsted to support the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Commissioned the same work for Hemel Hempstead
- The Herts Growth Board bid includes bids for funding for feasibility on local energy production and improved connectivity within Hemel Garden Communities

6. Communications and Community

6.1 Engaging with the community will be an imperative part of the Climate Emergency work in order to educate, encourage and enable our residents as well as local organisations and businesses to reduce their impact on the environment. A range of different projects, activities and events will be required in order to help reduce the carbon emissions of the borough which are outside of Dacorum's control.

6.2 A comprehensive communications strategy will be created once Dacorum's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action plan has been finalised though preparatory work has already started. Some of these activities, such as marketing campaigns will need to be in response to external triggers and timelines – for example, the Green Homes Grant scheme which has been recently launched by central Government. Other activities can work alongside our own strategies and plans – such as tree planting events.

6.3 Set out below are some of the projects we propose that we have been, or will be, working on in the coming months.

6.3.1 Learning from Lockdown – Sustainability Survey

We have been running a short online sustainability survey throughout July and August to understand how lockdown has affected people's habits, hobbies and daily routines. The aim is to identify how DBC can embrace any positive changes that could help to benefit the environment as well as our communities. The results of this survey – which attracted nearly 1500 responders - will be made available by the end of September 2020 and will be passed on to teams internally that will be able to make use of this information to help guide their

future work in the community. The main findings are still being analysed but will be made available in the next few weeks.

6.3.2 Energy Efficiency Campaigns

The intention here is to make it easier for residents to be aware of and take advantage of the schemes which are already available, and those which follow. The level of Council involvement will depend on the aims and rules of the schemes. For most it will be information provision, for others there may be the need for more direct advice and where the Council itself is eligible for financial support we will evaluate then make use of it as effectively as we can. Existing examples include:

- **Green Homes Grant voucher scheme.**
 - This [scheme](#) allows home-owners and landlords to claim up to £5000 (or £10,000 for low-income homes) of vouchers for energy efficiency improvements in their homes. The vouchers need to be used by March 2021.
- **ECO Scheme**
 - This [scheme](#) allows certain eligible residents to be able to have efficiency improvements in their homes. There is no end date.
 - Generic and targeted marketing campaigns aimed at both residents and landlords will be rolled out highlighting both schemes throughout Autumn and Winter 2020.
 - Loaning out **thermal cameras** to residents (*scheme to be approved and established. E.g. <https://sustainablestalbans.org/thermal-imaging/>*)

6.3.3 Direct Council involvement

- **Green Community Grants**

It is proposed that £10,000 worth of community grant funding will be made available (from the £75,000 budget for 2020/21) to environmental groups (or groups proposing an initiative with a clear Climate Change mitigation impact) within Dacorum before March 2021. If judged to be successful this could be repeated in subsequent years budget allowing. A maximum of £2000 will be awarded per group.

 - This scheme is to be developed and launched in Q3 with the funding being provided in Q4.
 - If it continues it is proposed that this becomes a regular grant with several application rounds throughout the year Please note this is not the same scheme as the existing community grants that are available.
- **Climate Emergency - Public Consultation**

The public are more likely to be engaged in a strategy that they have been able to give feedback into. Once Dacorum's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action plan has been finalised we would like to open up a public consultation and potentially host an online or physical event in order to get feedback help shape potential actions. Attendees could be a mix of residents, businesses, organisations, councillors and council staff in a format aimed at asking the group to give views on ways to make proposed initiatives to be best delivered. It would not be a standing group

and it would be clear that this was to improve delivery and not to make the final decisions on what the Council will do – that is for Members to decide. It could include:

- Producing a short marketing and information video in order to help promote the consultation and increase engagement available on the Council's website for any individuals or groups who may be interested.
- Delivering a presentation on the feedback from this as part of the consultation event referred to above. The information will be used to help guide future initiatives and campaigns.
- **Establish a “Dacorum’s Climate Action Network” (DacorumCAN)**
Such a network would encourage individuals and members of various environmental community groups to work together to share experiences and best practice, have common goals, avoid repetition of effort and act as a volunteer hub.
 - Those who wish to be involved could sign up to a mailing list so that we can contact them regarding future initiatives, projects, activities and events.
- **Annual Climate Emergency evening:**
 - Yearly face-to-face element of DacorumCAN.
 - Opportunity to give a presentation to attendees updating on what has been achieved in the past year by DBC and what is on the agenda for the year ahead
 - Other key community groups can give updates on what they have done – share best practise and experiences.
 - Awards ceremony for Green Community Grant
 - Networking opportunity for local groups
 - Guest speakers and presentations
- **Training**
Climate Emergency training will be made available to staff and members before the end of March 2021.
- **Environmental events and training**
 - Events such as Community Tree Planting, Community Talks and Training, Clothes Swaps, Repair Cafés, Educational film nights can be planned and delivered once it is safe to do so without the threat of COVID-19 having an impact.
 - Research the potential of environmental courses - potentially subsidised by DBC – could be delivered as webinars or physically.
- **Annual Surveys**
In order to capture information on the behaviour of our residents, a short annual survey would help us monitor and report on community progress. To facilitate this we could:
 - Make available a quick carbon footprint monitoring tool (we could partner with a company that has one of these designed already – e.g. Leeds partnered with WWF to have access to their [footprint](#)

- [calculator](#) data and used this in their public consultation work by asking for a postcode in order to use the local data)
 - Follow this up with ideas to assist in the reduction of household carbon footprints
 - Carry out a specific School Transport Survey – work with schools to ask students how they travelled to school (Leeds carry out an annual [survey](#) for this – this would help us focus future campaign work and monitor success of walking / cycling to school initiatives)
- **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Website**
 Having a credible, vibrant, informative and interactive website will one of the most important aspects of improving community understanding and involvement. This will be a very visible and important part of community engagement aimed at establishing the Council as a trusted source of information on the Climate Emergency and action to tackle it. This will either be in the shape of a new separate website or new pages integrated into the existing DBC website. Webpages examples would include:
 - **FAQs and Information on the Climate Emergency and Dacorum's place in it**
 - Links to more information about climate emergency, informative videos. for example on the benefits of use of Solar Panels, accessing government and energy company sustainability grants and ideas to reduce the household carbon footprint.
 - **Dacorum's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan** – plus information on progress made.
 - **Latest news** – press releases and links to external trusted websites
 - **New initiatives and promotional campaigns**
 - **'What you can do?'** (info and links)
 - Sections tailored for businesses, schools, residents and organisations
 (e.g. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-emergency/what-can-i-do/>)
 - ❖ Making homes more energy efficient
 - ❖ Link to a Carbon Footprint calculator –for residents / businesses
 - ❖ Making gardens more environmentally friendly
 - ❖ Encourage businesses to also sign up to be net-zero carbon by 2030.
 - ❖ Signpost to support available for businesses
 - **'How you can get involved'**
 - Directory, details and links for all sorts of local 'green' community projects
 - ❖ Volunteering opportunities
 - Upcoming events and calendar
 - Map with layers to provide info about local projects, events and activities that people can get involved in, e.g.:
 - ❖ Environmental Community Groups
 - ❖ Community orchards, gardens and allotments
 - ❖ Community fridges (*if sufficient interest is demonstrated*)
 - ❖ Refill shops

- ❖ Repair centres
- ❖ Biodiversity strategy spots
- Providing access and an explanation of our **Biodiversity strategy** and all other green initiatives such as:
 - ❖ How this relates to grass cutting – next year have signs up in the areas we are not cutting as regularly to enable more wildflowers to grow and native insects, reptiles and small mammals to benefit and so that residents understand that they are part of a biodiversity plan and that their area has not been ‘forgotten’ (or we couldn’t be bothered to cut the grass).
 - ❖ Actions to protect endangered species such as ‘Bug hotels’, and how to make gardens more friendly towards bees and hedgehogs for example
- How to book a **Community Climate Emergency Talk**
- **Green Community Grants** and other available funding
 - ❖ E.g. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/grow-nature/funding/>
- o In 2021/22 – create and launch a marketing campaign to communicate the Climate Emergency action plan and direct residents to our new website. Have informative videos, information packs to send to each resident, presentations to deliver to community groups.

7. Clean Safe and Green

7.1 Tree Planting

In order to increase the number of trees for biodiversity purposes and to act as a carbon sink, 4200 trees are to be planted by the Council over the next 5 years. Of these, 1170 are to be planted throughout this autumn and winter. This will include 45 large trees, 210 smaller sized trees and 915 whips for mass planting – subject to supplier availability.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the decision has been made not to plant whips as a community event this year.

- The number of fruiting trees being planted across the borough is increasing, except in highway locations. It is envisaged that the 210 smaller sized trees being planted this year will in the majority be fruit or nut species.
- The above planting numbers are in addition to our annual street tree planting programme, which averages about 70 specimens per year.
- Additional tree planting on DBC land opposite the new cemetery at Bunkers Park has also been agreed and 26 trees will be planted there this autumn.
- Trees for following years will be procured when stock becomes available.
- During the coming 5 year period, specific areas of Bunkers Park will be allowed to re-wild (develop naturally using existing seed within the soil), so increasing tree cover on that site. An informal orchard is planned within the existing Bunkers Park site which could potentially be made formal with a volunteer group helping to manage this.

Trees and Woodlands Officers are also working with Herts County Council and Herts Tree Officers to develop a list of tree species that are suited to this region and its changing climate, as well as tackling new pests and diseases in a co-ordinated, cost effective way.

Work on the overall carbon dioxide reduction and carbon sequestration impact of trees in the Borough will require an external study. Trees and Woodlands are investigating an external provision of tree canopy cover survey that can provide data for carbon storage, sequestration, etc.

A tree survey methodology, i-Tree is being investigated by the Trees and Woodlands Officers for suitability. Trees and Woodlands are liaising with local authorities across Herts about the provision of such surveys. Welwyn Hatfield have already had an i-Tree survey carried out, HCC are looking at running the same project.

Trees and Woodlands are developing a tree survey project with DBC Housing team for gardens within tenanted control, to evaluate the amenity benefit of this tree stock to DBC and also understand its financial benefit and liability. Following the completion of this survey, data could be shared with i-Tree.

7.2 CSG Summary of current projects and progress:

1. Tree planting project 5-year plan. This will start in the autumn 2020, and will involve the planting of 500 smaller woodland trees as well as 15 bigger specimen trees. This will take place within Gadebridge Park between Galley Hill Road and Gadebridge Lane (see above).

Once this phase of the project is completed, we will be looking to plant 1000 trees per year in Bunkers Park in the Long Saunders Field.

2. In addition to the above, we will also be planting number of tree as one off schemes this year. This will be a mixture of woodland saplings and specimen trees. This is broken down as follows:
 - Keens Field 400 saplings and 20 specimen.
 - Lime walk 210 Saplings.
 - Bennetts End 30 specimen.
3. Northend Orchard - We are also looking at the potential to a form friends/community group for the Northend Orchard Site.

This Orchard site was developed by CSG working with Housing a few years back with the idea that tenants in the area would look after it with CSG and Housing support. Unfortunately, there was no up take from the local tenants at the time. As a result, CSG now has to pick up on the maintenance, at a cost to housing.

Hopefully, with there being more emphasis on the environment now, there will be more interest this time round, and a group could be formed as a pilot. This would be used as a blue print for further Orchards projects across the Borough. The first step is to visit the site with the Climate Emergency Officer and assess its suitability.

4. Allotments – CSG is working with the Estates Team in support of a project to clear the allotment site at Windmill Road, which has become overgrown with only two sites being active. The Estates team is leading this project. If this project is successful, the scheme will be rolled out to other allotment sites across the Borough, which have low occupancy, and are overgrown.
5. Grass cutting of verges – CSG leave a number of verges uncut through the summer months to promote natural wild meadow type growth and thereby increasing Biodiversity, as well as creating habitats for insect and small mammals. These all have to be cut back and the end of the season and there is insufficient capacity at this moment to expand the programme. CSG has therefore held off on creating any more such areas until such time as the current areas can be mapped so as to determine how much is being left and what the costs are to cut and collect these areas. To be able to increase the number of area, which are left uncut, CSG will require additional equipment and the resources to do this. Once the mapping has been completed, we will have a better idea of what this additional resource will be and what the costs will be. This can then be considered as part of the annual budget process.
6. Wildflower Areas - In addition to the above, a number of Wildflower areas have been created within our Open Spaces in addition to those, which already exist. These are areas, which are have left to grow through the summer. In addition, they are also actively planted up with native perennials or over seeded.

Once again, these types of areas have to have an annual cut and collect which as mentioned above is an issue from a resource capacity. We are holding off doing any more until we have clearer picture of what resources are required if more area are to be created, and the costs.

7. Another project is a joint scheme with the Butterfly Association. A pilot of this scheme has been undertaken already at Keens Fields, which has been very successful with a number of Butterfly Species being found. Discussions are now taking place with the Butterfly Association and looking at rolling this out and creating more such habitats for Butterfly's within the Borough. A number of 'Bee friendly' areas have been created, and work with the Bee Society continues with bee breeding program for endangered Bees species.

Waste Services Current and future potential projects:

8. Flats Food Waste project. Waste Services is currently rolling out the additional recycling service to all flats for the occupiers to recycle their food waste, which they could not do previously.

Waste services has invested in a dedicated vehicle for this, and crew. So far, this has been very well received, with a very positive uptake from residents in the flats. To date 90% of all flats have been completed with the remainder due to be completed this month.

8. Energy Procurement

8.1 The Council have signed up for the supply of 'renewable energy' via Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) backed electricity and Renewable Gas Guarantees of Origin (RGGO) backed gas. These schemes are available to the Council through the supply contracts that the Council have with Npower for the supply of electricity and with Total Gas & Power for the supply of gas. The REGO scheme is administered by Ofgem and the RGGO scheme is administered by the Green Gas Certification Scheme. We initially looked at purchasing 'renewable energy' for all of the Council's sites, but this would increase the expenditure for the Council by a six figure sum, so a decision was made to just purchase 'renewable energy' for the following four main sites:

- The Forum
- Berkhamsted Civic Centre
- Victoria Hall
- Cupid Green Depot

8.3 The cost of the 'renewable energy' is based upon the usage per site and by using last year's usage it is expected to cost an additional £2,500 for electricity and £11,500 for gas. The schemes do not guarantee that you will be provided with 100% renewable energy, but they do issue out certificates for the generation of eligible 'renewable energy' (one REGO certificate per megawatt hour for electricity and one RGGO certificate per kilowatt hour of gas) and evidence that this element of your supply has been generated from a renewable source.

8.4 Electricity

Many organisations are keen to demonstrate sustainable credentials by purchasing 'renewable energy'. But, if you do not generate yourself or have a direct contract for your supply with a renewable generator, a simpler way is to match the power you consume with the equivalent volume of renewable power supplied to the grid. From October 2020, Npower will arrange this on behalf of the Council by securing REGO certificates (UK generated) for the equivalent electricity volume the Council consume.

Npower will match the equivalent number of REGO certificates that are valid within a Fuel Mix Disclosure period (Apr-Mar) to our consumption that also falls within that same period. The Council are likely to use 3,500 MW/H of electricity over the 4 sites. Most REGOs come from wind farms or solar parks, others from hydroelectric sources (that use water to produce electricity). The REGO scheme provides transparency to consumers about the proportion of electricity that suppliers source from renewable generation rather than the generation from fossil fuels. Further information is available at the following website <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/rego/about-rego-scheme>

8.5 Gas

From October 2020 Total Gas & Power will provide RGGO certificates from UK-based renewable generation ranging from anaerobic digestion to biomass plants. The Council are likely to use 1,350 MW/H of gas over the 4 sites.

What's the difference between green gas and natural gas?

It's the way they're made. Natural gas comes from material that decomposed naturally millions of years ago, while green gas comes from material that's been produced and decomposed more recently. Green gas can renew itself quickly, over and over again, and unlike natural gas, it will never run out. Since it doesn't add more CO₂ to the earth's atmosphere it is a carbon neutral option. When a gas consumer buys an RGGO they are matching the gas that they have withdrawn from a Distribution Network to a unit of green gas that was produced and injected into the same network. Further information is available at the following website <https://www.greengas.org.uk/certificates>