



Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	23 June 2020
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
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 set out the feedback from the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Appendix One to this report, on the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That, with the inclusion of any changes and additions that Cabinet are minded to accept following the feedback from the June Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, on the housing elements, the June Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Climate Emergency and Action Plan be approved. 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 the Climate Emergency Statement in Appendix 4 be approved 4. That Cabinet recommend Council create a budget for the Climate Emergency of £75,000 in 2020/21 and authority be delegated for its expenditure be made to the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration and the Assistant Director Corporate and Contracted Services in consultation with the Leader be approved

	<p>5. That an annual review of the progress of the Strategy and Action Plan be made to Cabinet each year and an update be provided to Cabinet in September 2020 on initial progress</p> <p>6. That a training and development programme for both staff and Members be delivered in 2020/21</p> <p>7. That a 'Climate Emergency impact statement' be incorporated into Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny reports</p>
<p>Period for post policy/project review</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Corporate objectives:</p>	<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, 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</p>

	<p>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>Other than the salary costs of the Climate Change Officer there is currently no specific budget for the Climate Emergency and this report recommends that a budget be established to cover the initial costs of putting the Strategy and Action plan, together with establishing a credible and informative site on the Council's website.</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 in the next three months and reviewed as part of the annual review
Community Impact Assessment	A full community impact assessment will be carried in the next three months as the Strategy and Action Plan develop further.
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	<p>The Strategy and Action Plan will require continual review against the baseline data in order to measure the effectiveness of the agreed actions.</p> <p>S151 Officer</p> <p>The recommended £75k budget can be funded through draw down from the Climate Change and Sustainability Reserve.</p> <p>Whilst the Council remains ambitious in the delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan, it should be acknowledged that there may be occasions when financial restrictions prevent the implementation of desirable service changes in the future.</p> <p>Future recommendations to Members will need to be presented within the context of the Council's broader</p>

	financial position in order to support evidence-based decision-making.
Consultees:	The Association for Public Service Excellence Bill Buckley Interim Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3/6/20 Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16/6/20
Background papers:	Cabinet Report Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action plan 19/5/20
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 Green and Safe 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

Feedback on Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan Report

Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3/6/20

- All Members welcomed the report and the overall direction of the developing Strategy and Action Plan, and that action would be evidenced based
- A strong desire to see early community engagement and for this to include interest groups, residents groups and the community generally and for this not to be restricted to web based activity. This could also include community action such as in tree planting.
- That we should lobby the MPs and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government for additional resources to achieve achieving zero carbon in the Council's Housing Stock
- That we ensure that we achieve the highest possible standards for low/zero carbon homes in new developments through the Local Plan

- That we take advantage of the increase in walking, running and cycling during lockdown to provide better and additional cycling and walking routes.
- That we make progress as early as possible rather than wait for the optimum solution to arrive.
- That all services incorporate action on climate emergency mitigation where this is relevant but recognising that service delivery will need to be maintained alongside this.
- That we ensure that we are ahead of the game in terms of being aware of the developments of new and improved solutions to carbon reduction.
- That early action be taken to increase EV charging points in the Borough.

**Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
16/6/20**

The Committee agreed the following recommendations:

ITEM 12 CONCLUSIONS

The Committee;

1. Welcomes the report as the basis for a climate change strategy action plan.
2. Approves of the proposed £75K budget in para 4.6 page 85 and of those to whom it is proposed that expenditure from this budget should be delegated.
3. Suggests that further work needs to be done to identify land for tree planting and possibly solar panel installations.
4. Urges DBC to lobby central government to allow requisite work on the housing stock to be at least partly offset by rent increases.

The discussion on the item was wide reaching and the importance of community engagement and involvement was stressed.

For ease of reference, the original report is set out below together with Appendix 4, which is referred to in the recommendations.

Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	19 May 2020
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
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 set out the approach and direction of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan to work to deliver the Council's pledge to ensure that the Council is carbon neutral in its impact through its services and assets by 2030.
Recommendations	<p>8. That the approach to the development and delivery of the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action plan as set out in the report be provisionally approved subject to consideration of the comments and feedback from the June Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, on the housing elements, the June Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. That a further report be made to Cabinet in June 2020 to formally consider the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>9. That the Climate Emergency Statement in Appendix 4 be approved</p> <p>10. That Cabinet recommend Council create a budget for the Climate Emergency of £75,000 in 2020/21 and authority be delegated for its expenditure be made to the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration and the Assistant Director Corporate and Contracted Services in consultation with the Leader be approved</p> <p>11. That an annual review of the progress of the Strategy and Action Plan be made to Cabinet each year and an update be provided to Cabinet in September 2020 on initial progress</p> <p>12. That a training and development programme for both staff and Members be delivered in 2020/21</p> <p>13. That a 'Climate Emergency impact statement' be incorporated into Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny reports</p>

<p>Period for post policy/project review</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Corporate objectives:</p>	<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, opportunities for cycling and walking as well as major economic potential for 'green' businesses.
<p>Implications: '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>Other than the salary costs of the Climate Change Officer there is currently no specific budget for the Climate Emergency and this report recommends that a budget be established to cover the initial costs of putting the Strategy and Action plan, together with establishing a credible and informative site on the Council's website.</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 in the next three months and reviewed as part of the annual review
Community Impact Assessment	A full community impact assessment will be carried in the next three months as the Strategy and Action Plan develop further.
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	<p>The Strategy and Action Plan will require continual review against the baseline data in order to measure the effectiveness of the agreed actions.</p> <p>S151 Officer</p> <p>The recommended £75k budget can be funded through draw down from the Climate Change and Sustainability Reserve.</p> <p>Whilst the Council remains ambitious in the delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan, it should be acknowledged that there may be occasions when financial restrictions prevent the implementation of desirable service changes in the future.</p> <p>Future recommendations to Members will need to be presented within the context of the Council's broader financial position in order to support evidence-based decision-making.</p>
Consultees:	The Association for Public Service Excellence Bill Buckley Interim Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery
Background papers:	N/A
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p>CO2 Carbon Dioxide</p> <p>APSE Association for Public Service Excellence</p> <p>HRA Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>CSG Clean Green and Safe</p>

	<p>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</p>
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Climate Change Emergency

Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed approach for the Council to meet the challenge of the pledge to ensure that the Council, through its assets, services, procurement, investment and policies is zero carbon by 2030. It sets out how the strategy will operate – based on evidence and analysis of what works and what doesn't – and the broad shape of a preliminary action plan. It needs to be clear that this will evolve and adapt over time and take account of both the outcome of our interventions and external changes, for example in government policy. Consequently it will be important to monitor how it is progressing including an annual review.

The report also stress that the Council has been working on resource efficiency measures for many years and that we are not starting from scratch and examples are set out in the report. Notwithstanding this the challenge will take the full focus of the Council and recognition that this is among its' top priorities for the forthcoming future.

We are working together with the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) and their specialist energy consultancy to help guide and develop the Council's approach which will include training and development for both staff and Members. We will have access to best practice and what has been proven to work.

This report provides a platform for both ongoing and future work and proposes an approach which ensures that is capable of changing as the challenges themselves evolve. It is a fairly lengthy report but its intention is to set out as complete a picture of challenges and potential actions as possible on the Climate Emergency.

There are three categories under which emissions are grouped of which Scopes 1 and 2 are under the direct control of the Council:

Scope One is where the emissions are directly as a result of the councils' assets or service delivery which are completely under its control

Scope Two are emissions the result from the purchase of elements such as gas and electricity where there is limited or no control that the Council can employ

Scope Three are the emissions that are not under the Council's direct control. These result from the activities of the tenants and lessees of Council owned facilities (Council housing, sports centres, commercial assets). As the Council owns over 10,000 Council houses and flats it is unsurprising that this form the vast majority of emissions.

Many local authorities only include scopes one and two as being applicable to the pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030 (on the grounds that these are under the direct control of the Council), and accept that scope three may take longer to be carbon neutral as the solutions to moving away from gas heating are not yet available and that the Council cannot direct the actions of the users. It is recommended that this definition be adopted but that action to reduce emissions from scope three continue to be aggressively pursued and achieved in line with the national target of 2050.

As the report had been promised for the May Cabinet Committee. Due to the receipt of the APSE carbon footprint report not being available in time to allow prior scrutiny it is recommended that, prior to approval of the Strategy and Action Plan approach, that the report is referred, for comments and feedback, to the Strategic Planning and Environment OSC and, for the housing elements, to the Housing and Communities OSC both of which are prior to June Cabinet.

1 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the approach and direction of the Council's Strategy and Action Plan to work to deliver the Council's pledge to ensure that the Council is carbon neutral in its impact through its services and assets by 2030. Alongside this will be the contribution the Council can make to help deliver the government's policy commitment to the whole United Kingdom is carbon neutral by 2050. It should be stressed that both these targets will be difficult to achieve but are essential in order to reduce the possible impact arising from a warming planet and the life-threatening climate, ecological and physical changes this will bring. **The Council's pledge, attached as Appendix Two**, will require the actions required to be a high priority over the next ten years and beyond and a range of key changes from central government will be required to achieve the national target of zero carbon as a nation by 2050.
- 1.2 Whilst the Council's pledge has a focus on the impact of the Council itself as the body that we have the ability to deliver change directly the overall aim is to work towards the whole Borough is carbon neutral by 2050 as part of the government's strategic aim. Consequently many actions will, quite rightly, be geared towards this goal though over a longer period. There is no 'quick fix' to tackling the Climate Emergency and we are in for the long haul.

- 1.3 The local community will inevitably see the position as relating to the whole Borough and the progress being made Boroughwide as hugely important. This will be part of a longer term strategy, linked to the national target, which will require both local and national action. It is suggested that this is treated as an integral part of the Strategy.
- 1.4 The whole country is currently in the middle of a health crisis not seen for generations and there is a danger that economic priorities will overshadow the essential actions desperately needed to meet the Climate Emergency. There is an opportunity to link economic recovery in a way that has a focus on the degree to which it takes advantage of the market potential in sustainable development. There is also the probability that people will have begun to appreciate the importance of changing our priorities to be more focused on the quality of the living and working environment in which we live.

2 The Climate Emergency

- 2.1 It is now widely accepted, and backed up by incontrovertible scientific evidence, that human activities – in particular the use of fossil fuels – is leading to climate and ecological change that threaten human life. This report does not detail the science – **a summary from the United Nations is can be found at <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>** – and accepts that, worldwide, temperature rises must be limited to 1.5C. This will require radical action by national and local governments, businesses, communities and individuals across the world.
- 2.2 The Council recognises that the quality of a local environment is a vital ingredient in contributing to the quality of life for residents and visitors to our Borough. It also recognises that by improving the local environment this will make a contribution to related goals, such as improved health, better social cohesion and economic prosperity. The Council accepts that to adjust this footprint to a sustainable level will require a considerable effort not only by its and environmentally conscious organisations, but also by people and organisations not yet engaged with this challenge.

3 The Challenge for the Council

- 3.1 The Council has agreed that it ‘Join other councils at all levels of Local Government in declaring a climate emergency that requires urgent planning and action’. It commits to work towards reducing carbon emissions across the full range of council activities to net zero by the end of budget year 2029/30. This will include the production of a strategy and action plan to make the activities of Dacorum Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030 in accordance with the recommendation’.
- 3.2 This is an extremely challenging target and in some areas. For example ensuring our Council Housing stock becomes carbon neutral carries an estimated cost of £200M (figures drawn from an industry average assessment of costs per property for zero carbon to be achieved). It would be of assistance if the government allowed Council’s to fund Climate Emergency action through modest increases in rent above the current

formula to reflect the improvements. The Council could choose to reappropriate its capital investment away from new build but it would not be possible to deliver this scale of major works to over 1000 properties per year to deliver zero carbon by 2030 - firstly because the solutions to move away from gas based heating in an efficient way are not available and unlikely to be for many years, and secondly the logistics of this scale of work would be hugely problematic from a labour and supply chain perspective.

- 3.3 As noted above there will be a strong desire from our communities that the Council takes a lead in focusing and supporting local action in changing behaviours and contributing to the achievement of a zero carbon Borough by 2050 in line with the national target.

4 Delivering the Strategy, Action Plan and results.

- 4.1 It is very important to state that the work on acting to challenge the causes of Climate Change did not start with this declaration and the Council has been active for many years. The Council has been working on action to improve the sustainability and resource efficiency of its services and assets for some time and examples are set out at **Appendix Three** In drawing up a Strategy and Action Plan it is essential to establish the areas in which the Council can act and then determine the areas to focus on and when. These include:
- 4.2 The Council's possible areas for action are very wide and include (but are not limited to):
- As a service provider
 - As a procurer of goods and services
 - As a policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute
 - As the prime Community Leader for the Borough using powers of communication and information provision and leading by example through direct action and as a conduit for the community to access support and funding from government projects and agencies for resource efficiency improvements
 - As a creator and participant in the creation of partnerships capable of working more effectively together to make practical progress
 - As a landowner and potential investor
 - As a lobbyist for change at national level and from the private sector.
- 4.3 These areas will all feature in the Action Plan. It will be important, however, not to overpromise as it will be crucial that the Council is seen to deliver on its commitments.
- 4.4 The following actions have already been taken (in addition to the **progress already made, set out in Appendix Three**):
- We have commissioned the Association of Public Excellence (APSE) through its specialist energy team to carry out a baseline assessment of the Council's carbon footprint. The initial results are set out below. This baseline is essential to help direct future action and priorities.

APSE are also in the process of carrying out the equivalent assessment on the Council Housing stock.

- Whilst the motion agreed at Council in the summer is a clear statement of intent it is not the most user friendly for public consumption. **A shorter statement is proposed and set out as Appendix Four.**
- The Climate Emergency response is led at Officer level by the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration. The Corporate Sustainability Working Group has been reshaped into the Corporate Climate Emergency and Sustainability Working Group This is composed largely of the Group Managers of the services that will be most active in the action required plus the Climate Change and Sustainability Officer (once appointed – see below) and staff with specialist skills. The previous working group will continue with changed terms of reference.
- Interviews for the Climate Change and Sustainability officer post will take place next week.
- The Housing Service commissioned Dr Peter Rickaby (Energy and Sustainability Consultant) to facilitate a workshop for Housing and Planning staff on moving to zero carbon housing (both new build and retrofit). This is assisting in delivering the action to be taken in both areas Staff have been working on a draft action plan which will be refined to take account of the detail of the carbon footprint and subject to feasibility.
- A tree planting programme will be delivered in 2020 onwards with an initial target of 4200. The aim is to complement this through requiring tree planting where new homes are built, and achievement of the required sustainability and environment improvement through the Local Plan.
- Work is underway regarding the installation of additional Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in Council Car Parks.

4.4 It will be important that the Council ensures that the Climate Emergency is considered in all that it does. It will feature in the Service Plan for each service and it is recommended that all reports to Cabinet and those to Overview and Scrutiny setting out draft policies/strategies, service proposals and significant change have to be accompanied by a section setting out the Climate Emergency Implications. On this latter point, it is clear that this will affect some services more than others and there will be instances where there are no climate emergency implications though this will have to be justified.

4.5 Whilst action on the Climate Emergency will continue and move forward through the initial Action Plan (below) it is important that the overall Strategy is developed taking account of best practice. We have commissioned APSE Energy to work with us on developing and refining the Strategy as we move forward. This has included:

- Completion of our carbon footprint and ability to monitor this moving forward (there are still elements such as our Council Housing stock to be completely finished) and a means to measure the likely impacts of interventions going forward

- A training and development programme for staff and Members over the next few months which will include interviews and workshops
- Assisting us to be aware of best practice and interventions which have already been tried and tested that may be applicable to us
- Advising us on effective partnership working which is still relatively undeveloped with respect of

It is recommended that a training and development programme is put in place as quickly as conditions allow taking account of the Covid 19 emergency.

- 4.6 There is currently is no specific budget for dealing with Climate Change other than the salary budget for the Climate Change and Sustainability Officer. Moving forward, the Climate Emergency will be an integral part of service planning in terms of identifying the most appropriate means of service delivery. Although in many cases this may be delivered without a direct financial impact to the Council, there is likely to be a budgetary impact in future years. In 2020/21 it is anticipated that there will be expenditure on the support received from APSE Energy, on developing ongoing monitoring capacity, technical studies required to support the Strategy and the creation of a credible and informative web presence for the community and businesses. There may also be expenditure on encouraging community action. It is proposed that a budget of £75,000 be made available in 2020/21 to fund such one-off actions that are required. It is further recommended that authority is delegated to the Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration or the Assistant Director Corporate and Contracted Services in consultation with the Leader to authorise expenditure from this proposed budget.

5 Developing the Strategy and Action Plan

- 5.1 The approach is to collect the appropriate evidence to ensure that the solutions that are adopted are addressing the areas of major CO2 emissions resulting from Council activity.
- 5.2 It is vital in drawing up a strategy and action plan to deliver it that we ensure that actions are evidence based. It will be important that we collect all of the evidence we need in the first instance. This requires an approach that is sequential:
- Obtain a clear baseline of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint from its service activity, its buildings, its contractors and a means to accurately monitor this going forward. We have commissioned APSE Energy to carry out this exercise for all three Scopes (Scope 1 and 2 being what the Council produces directly (e.g. Buildings and fleet) and Scope 3 emissions from 3rd parties where the Council are not fully in control but have influence such as contractors). Initial results are set out below. This does not yet include the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) stock where the information is still being collected.
 - Implement an interactive training and development programme for key staff and Members to help shape the Strategy and influence the action plan.

- From here we can further develop the action plan to accompany the overall Strategy (the essence of which is described in this update)
- The areas of intervention which are more of a regulatory, procurement, information or community based are not so dependent on the footprint and these can be progressed immediately (indeed many are already well developed such as in the Local Plan).
- It is apparent from the draft action plan (see below) that many potential direct interventions will require further work to determine what needs to be done, the capacity issues and in most cases resource identification. The plan set out below is not, therefore, the definitive action plan but an indication of the areas most likely to appear. It will need a guidance from Cabinet as to the pace and scale of investment we are prepared to make. Dealing with the Scope 3 emissions (Contractors and outside operators of Council owned facilities etc.) will have to be achieved through procurement and by negotiation.
- The delivery will in parts be complex - an example being the desire to act quickly to retro-fit our council housing to improve energy efficiency. The approach must be 'fabric first' and solutions tailored to the specific construction type and action commenced on the lowest performing stock. This is particularly the case with the numerous different 'non-traditional' construction stock. The exercise to determine the CO2 emissions in the stock will almost certainly highlight the use of gas boiler central heating as the No1 cause of emissions. There is currently no effective/affordable alternative that could be quickly put in place. Clean Safe and Green (CSG) have a comparable challenge into moving the fleet to non-fossil fuel based.
- When it comes to the 'Business Case' consideration of potential actions we will need a fresh approach in that the purpose of the intervention – to reduce greenhouse gas and CO2 emissions – may not have a financial benefit (in fact probably won't). Logically it will have to be more of a Value (i.e. carbon reduction impact) for Money assessment.

5.2 For our built assets (which will almost certainly form the bulk of the Councils emissions) the approach being taken is 'fabric first' where the retrofitting solution will be dependent on the property type. There is no 'one size fits all'. For our Council Housing (other than the new build programme which will ensure the highest achievable standards) Either way it will require the most comprehensive improvement programme the Council has ever undertaken and would take much longer than 10 years. A similar exercise will need to be carried out on our General Fund assets though the lease conditions on these are very different from HRA tenancies in that more repair responsibilities often fall to the lessees.

5.3 Other areas will not require this level of complexity and some, such as the Local Plan, are already underway.

5.4 **Set out below is a schedule of possible action areas that are being be further** developed and evaluated many of which will be part of the long term action plan. This has been based on current knowledge and in anticipation of the detail of our carbon footprint and the action plan will be refined accordingly.

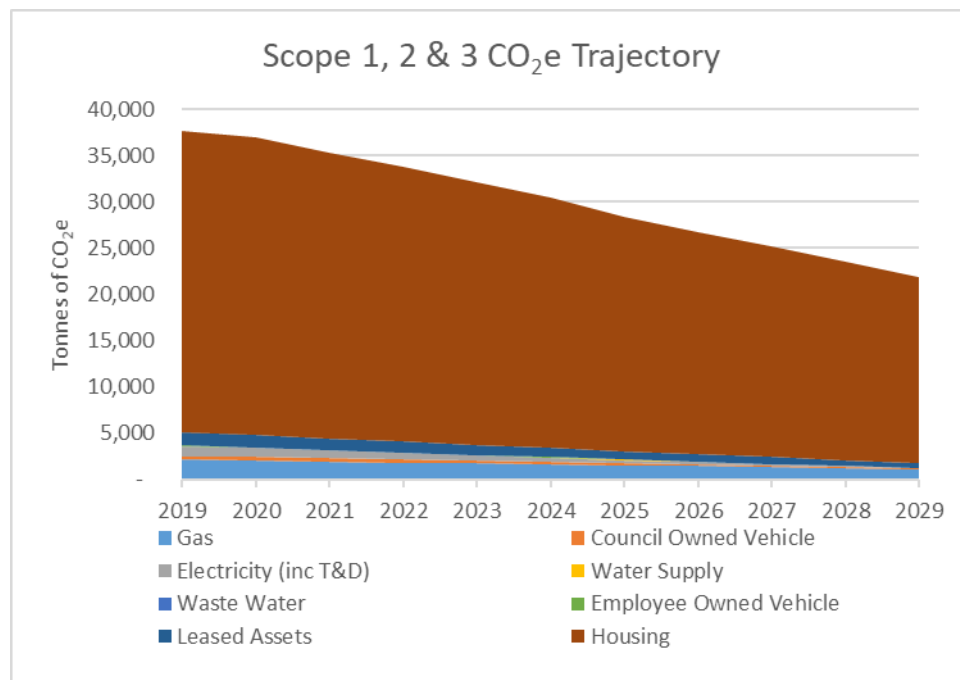
- 5.5 The Council will have, in addition to funding the Climate Change Officer, included a £300K reserve in the 2020/21 budget which can be used to fund the £75k budget within the recommendation of this report, as well to assist feasibility and any projects that become ready to go during the year. In addition, climate change will be a fundamental consideration within future service plans with the financial implications reflected in future iterations of the MTFS.
- 5.6 The Strategy and Action Plan will be refined and more fully developed following the training and development for staff and Members together with the completed footprint analysis – this is almost complete but there are some areas where information is still to be finalised and analysed.

6 The Council’s Carbon Footprint APSE Report.

Executive Summary

The 2019 baseline carbon emissions from Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions within Dacorum Borough Council’s own operations are 37,625 tCO₂e. It is estimated that a financial budget of £13.9 million is required to reach net zero carbon for Scope 1 and 2 emissions (as currently calculated) by being more energy efficient in buildings, generating power and moving towards electric vehicles. It is estimated that these initiatives will financially benefit the Council by £788.5k annually by 2030. It is estimated that there will be 21,919 tCO₂e from hard to reduce sources from Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions that will be unavoidable by 2030 that will need to be offset.

Chart 1. Chart showing projection of carbon emissions of the Councils Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions



However, it should be noted that this does not account for all emissions released through Council operations as issues arose with the collection of data. As an

example, data was not available to calculate emissions from sectors such as waste and purchased goods in the supply chain. This is not surprising, as no local authorities have been required to collect and keep this extent of data previously. However the Council should aspire to collect as much data as it can on the principle that 'what is measured, can be managed.' The Council has indicated that it will focus on data moving forwards and so the picture will become more comprehensive and it is also expected that total emissions will increase as access to this data improves.

It is important to understand that this exercise is based on data which may not be comprehensive and so will have an impact on the results. It is to be expected that there will be a margin of error in the calculations. The appendices provide a significant amount of information about the Council's entire estate. Detailed feasibility studies will highlight actual emissions reductions and savings which can be made and we suggest this is part of the Council's ongoing approach.

The full report is at Appendix One

7 Commitment required from Government and Business

7.1 The ability of the Council to deliver its Climate Emergency objectives will be impacted by a number of factors which need to be borne in mind but ultimately are beyond its control. All of these can be overcome but this will take an unprecedented commitment from central government and a huge shift in the businesses involved in providing the new solutions. Two of these are set out below:

7.2 Electricity Supply.

The move away from petrol and diesel vehicles currently presumes that they will be replaced by electric powered ones. There are various estimates as to the impact on demand on the grid but most agree that it would need to double its capacity. Many other solutions will require additional electricity (e.g. heat pumps, ventilation of homes that are retrofitted). This will be an enormous task. Other solutions will be needed such as the use of hydrogen to replace the current gas powered energy. The government is piloting schemes already but it will take time to fully develop to meet demand in this way. There are further resource issues arising from the requirement for rare and finite metals in current battery provision for vehicles and storage. It seems logical that there is a shift to walking, cycling and sustainable public transport to drastically reduce car usage and current policy aims for this. This too will require major public investment.

7.3 Business and Skills capacity

The current capacity of the installers and manufacturers is set around existing demand. Consequently some 1.7M boilers are replaced each year. There are 23M homes connected to the gas grid. Achieving the switchover as quickly as needed will need a workable solution (again hydrogen gas is the most likely) and expansion of supply chains. Heat pumps are also seen as a credible alternative but currently the national

capacity of installers is around 21,000 per year. Both production and installation capacity will quickly have to increase. The same will apply to retrofitting existing homes. The labour and skills needed will require proper investment from both government and businesses.

- Appendix 1 APSE report on Carbon footprint (with appendices A and B)
- Appendix 2 Council Climate Emergency Declaration
- Appendix 3 Progress made by DBC to date
- Appendix 4 Climate Emergency Statement

DRAFT ACTION PLAN: CLIMATE EMERGENCY

KEY: **U/I** Underway
S Short Term 6-12 months
M Medium Term 1-3 years
L Long Term 3+ years
O Ongoing

Theme: Service Delivery – Built assets					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
New Build homes – establish clear standards to achieve excellent levels of resource efficiency and as close to zero carbon as possible	I/S	O	Housing	Cost, Availability of skilled labour	This work is already underway
Retrofit existing Council stock to reach Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B where practicable and remove reliance on fossil fuels. To use a 'fabric first' approach to ensure that the improvements are what is required. Establish clear programme and specification(s) dependent on property type.	MT	LT	Housing	Cost (initial estimate £200 - 250M), alternative heat source availability, capacity of construction industry, skilled labour	Will commence once carbon footprint complete and matched with stock condition information.
Conduct business case on the installation of Solar Photovoltaics (PV) on Council properties	ST	LT	Housing, Estates	Resolving complications in Housing as a result of Right to Buy.	
Retrofit General Fund buildings (dwellings, community buildings, commercial property) and work with Everyone Active on Sports Centres	MT	LT	Estates	Cost alternative heat source availability, capacity of construction industry, skilled labour	Will commence once carbon footprint complete and matched with stock condition information and feasibility study done
Focusing on constructing for the future ensure the use of more reliable and environmentally	I/S	O	Housing, Estates	Marginal cost increase	This is already the case in new build council housing

Theme: Service Delivery – Built assets					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
friendly materials and by improving understanding of embedded carbon and the ability of materials to be recycled.					
New building construction projects to meet BREEAM Excellent or equivalent	MT	○	Appropriate service	Marginal cost increase	
Continue to refer qualifying private households for Energy Company funded energy efficiency measures with the aim of all fuel poor households having a minimum of an EPC energy rating of “C” by 2030.	I	○	Housing PSH	Will require a new Green Deal from the government to be of sufficient scale.	Would require some additional staff resource if new Green Deal put in place
Ensure Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards are met in the Private Rented Sector. The current Minimum EPC rating is an “E” and this is likely to rise to a “D” by 2025 and a “C” by 2030.	M	○	Housing PSH/PRS	Will be met with some resistance from some landlords,	Will require additional staff resource if this is to extend beyond HMOs

Theme: Service Delivery – Environment					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Increase number of trees, plants and flowers throughout the borough in line with suggestions and actions from the government's 25 environmental year plan.	S/T	○	CSG		Tree planting already planned and to start in Autumn 2020 Tree planting could involve the local community in due course

Theme: Service Delivery – Environment					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Create more woodland and plant an ambitious number of trees – ensure species chosen are suitable for biodiversity as well as mitigating climate change. (Roll out of planting 4200 trees over next 5 years in parks across the Borough)					
Identify land and create more community orchards and gardens (planting trees, providing local seasonal food, more volunteer and health and wellbeing opportunities, opportunities for wildlife). Identify whether any land can be provided for more allotments	M/T	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CSG, Planning, Estates	Availability of suitable sites	Elements are encouraged and in respect of trees already in existing local plan and strengthened in developing local plan
Identify tree survey software (tree survey & CAVAT survey) for the assessment of carbon storage, sequestration, replacement value, and air pollution removal is possible, allowing the benchmarking	S/T		CSG		Work in progress and underway. Work on the overall carbon dioxide reduction and carbon sequestration impact of trees in the Borough will need an external study

Theme: Service Delivery – Environment					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
of existing tree populations, the planning of tree management and planting to meet future targets.					
A programme of bio-diversity initiatives: Review the grass cutting regime and identify areas which can be left to grow longer to increase wildlife biodiversity; Ensure that Clean Safe Green use only peat-free or peat reduced compost; and Consider making available subsidised seeds for residents to grow in their gardens for species which would be good for increasing biodiversity and reducing food miles.	S and M/T	○	CSG	Modest increase in cost	
Encourage all businesses and large organisations in Dacorum to recycle their food waste and work to reduce food waste. Improve and increase the	M/T	○	CSG	Will require business case to be developed (Hemel Ambassadors). May require site for anaerobic digestion waste to power unit.	Hemel Ambassadors Green Forum working to sign up businesses on Maylands to join in a waste food collection and waste to power

Theme: Service Delivery – Environment					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
commercial waste recycling and roll out to more businesses.					initiative.
Pilot and evaluate the operation of electric / hybrid small car/van on the Council's fleet and the operation of electric / hybrid refuse freighters, when available, on the Council's waste collection fleet.	S/T M/T	M	CSG	Cost of vehicles will substantially increase. The effectiveness of refuse freighters far from proven.	Pilot 20/21 smaller vehicles (van) Pilot freighter as soon as available (2022/23)?
Seek approval and sign off for the Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2024 and monitor progress by direct action or influencing Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). (Actions are covered within other section of this plan relating to AQAP.) Investigate and evaluate the feasibility for a Clean Air Zone for Hemel Hempstead study specifically the two waters area to include AQMA London road and AQMA	S/T S/T	○	Environmental Health Environmental Health/Strategic Planning	Success of the AQAP hugely dependent on government action on reducing transport CO2 emissions and provision of sustainable transport alternatives.	Work already underway to commence once ongoing studies evaluated. Work underway

Theme: Service Delivery – Environment					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Lawn lane.					

Theme: Service Delivery					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Enable more remote working in the field with mobile connectivity and simplified reporting procedures, reducing the need for officer travel to and from the office.	ST	ST	Improvement. ICT		Underway
Raise awareness and understanding of Climate Change with Members and Officers within the Authority and how the Council can make a difference	I/ST	○	Climate Change Officer, Members Support		Can be achieved with APSE Energy
Develop and upskill mangers and officers through learning opportunities for environmental management training, leadership and delivery. Introduce courses and qualifications within the corporate development plans.	I/ST	○	All relevant services		Can be achieved with APSE Energy
Promoting sustainable travel and discouraging the use of single car journeys by employees through development of green travel plans for main buildings (AQAP)	ST	○	Corporate and contracted services		Plan for the Forum underway

Theme: Procurement of goods and services					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Update procurement policy which includes service purchases/items which places more emphasis on: i) the environmental aspects and	ST		Corporate Procurement Services	Cost	Policy already includes some consideration of these requirements

Theme: Procurement of goods and services					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
<p>potential of the Social Value Act.</p> <p>ii) those which are delivered using a significant percentage of recycled materials – e.g. sacks, bins, etc.</p> <p>including criteria for evaluating bids which include whole life costs</p>					
Switch to renewable energy suppliers for the Authority	S/T	S/T	Corporate Procurement, Services	Possible cost increase	Underway on conclusion of existing contracts.
Focusing on constructing for the future ensure the use of more reliable and environmentally friendly materials and by improving understanding of embedded carbon and the ability of materials to be recycled.	ST		Corporate Procurement. Services	Cost increase	

Theme: Policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Ensure Climate change is a key objective of the new Local Plan for the Borough to 2036.	I	As per LDS	Strategic Planning	National Policy	Already being incorporated
Ensure new planning policies to guide and shape the content of major new developments shall incorporate requirements for: i. energy performance in	I	AS per LDS	Strategic Planning	National Policy	Already being incorporated but limited by national policy

Theme: Policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
<p>new homes and buildings beyond Building Regulation requirements and</p> <p>ii. provide for local energy generation.</p>					
<p>The Authority through Hemel Garden Communities, plans to achieve a substantial modal shift in transport use away from the car, working with the programme's partners. This will include :</p> <p>i. priority on the transport network for public transport</p> <p>ii. a network of high quality and attractive walking and cycling routes</p> <p>iii. enabling new and emerging forms of sustainable transport to be accommodated such as demand responsive services.</p>	I	M/LT	Strategic Planning	Will require substantial infrastructure investment - part of the County Growth bid and strong partnership locally and with national agencies	Already underway in terms of technical studies and partnership working.
<p>Enable the provision of community gardens and allotments through major new</p>	I	O	Strategic Planning	National Policy	Insofar as national policy allows

Theme: Policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
developments to promote local food production and reduced food miles.					
Require high quality wildlife corridors through new development sites.	I	○	Strategic Planning		Included already
Ensure planning conditions require the replacement of any trees lost through development with at least three new trees, either on site or in a new location.	I	As per LDS	Strategic Planning		Included already
Explore with major developers the potential for local energy generation through combined heat and power and/or district heating schemes.	I	○	Strategic Planning	Willingness of developers to co-operate	Included already
Improve cycle routes throughout the borough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	I	○	Strategic Planning		Included already
Develop planning guidance to mitigate the individual and cumulative impact of air quality from new development to sustain and contribute towards compliance with objectives for air pollutants (link to AQAP)	I	M	Strategic Planning Environmental Health		Will require an area specific SPD
Develop and introduce climate change awareness training for Taxis licenced drivers as	S	○	Licensing		

Theme: Policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
part of criteria/conditions of obtaining a taxis license.					
Investigate policy development to require all newly licensed vehicles (taxis) to be electric.	S		Licensing	This would have to be phased in over time as considerable investment will have already been made by individual drivers. Will be a national requirement for new vehicles post 2025	Would face resistance if brought in too quickly
Consider and develop a taxis licensing condition that drivers must not leave their car idling for longer than a minute. (Introduced by other LAs).	S	○	Licensing	Very difficult to enforce	
Consider a reduced vehicle license fees for more environmentally friendly vehicles.	S		Licensing	Legislation prevents a higher charge for vehicles that are not environmentally friendly so there would be a cost to the Council	
Promote green events to licensed event organisers as part of the licensing policy. Dacorum encourages event organisers to consider the impact of their events on climate change, and that the council supports the idea of 'green' events. (Although this condition cannot have an impact on	S	○	Licensing Promoting Service		

Theme: Policy maker and enforcer of regulation and statute					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
any decision to grant or refuse a licence).					
Finalise required studies and seek approval for the Air Quality Action Plan. Work with HCC on implementation.	S	○	Environmental Health	DBC has very limited direct powers on Air Quality – these rest with national government and HCC	
Carry out a feasibility study for a Workplace parking levy	M		Environmental Health Strategic Planning	This is not currently specified within HCC's LTP4 and is not feasible for implementation at this point. Would meet resistance from businesses	This is already highlighted as potential action in the AQAP.
Review Authority car parking charges and on-street parking and incentivise with lower tariffs for electric or low emission vehicles (AQAP)	S		Parking Services		
Develop a EV charging infrastructure study / strategy (AQAP) including provision on authority owned sites car parks and cupid green	I	S	Parking Services		Underway

Theme: Working with the community					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Develop a prominent on-line resource on Climate Change via the Council's website for the public, with a focus on what actions local people can take, with links to appropriate sites	S	O	Climate Change Officer/working group/Comms	The work in all parts of this theme are staff intensive and considerably over and above current resources. Some elements will require one	Would require additional ongoing funding

Theme: Working with the community					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
giving advice and information.				off specialist assistance but additional capacity will be required to fulfil the community outreach work. Possibly up to 2 FTE.	
Create Climate Change FAQ's on the Councils website and develop interactive initiatives with residents e.g. donate a tree, public message board promotional campaigns etc.	S	O	Climate Change Officer/working group/Comms		
Develop a Communications Plan or campaign, based on the "be lean, be clean, be green" principles to provide education and support to encourage all residents and contractors to play their part in preventing Climate Change	S	O	Climate Change Officer/working group/Comms		
Create an information pack to inform all residents (not just DBC owned properties) how to make their homes more energy efficient.	S	M	Climate Change Officer/working group/Comms		
Consider facilitating a 'Climate Emergency Forum' bringing together local environmental groups and other interested parties	S	O	Climate Change Officer/working group/Comms		
Work alongside Herts Sustainability Forum and other	S	O	Climate Change Officer/working		Already underway

Theme: Working with the community					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
local groups to raise awareness about what residents can do in their personal lives to reduce their impact on the environment			group/Comms		
Consider establishing a Climate Emergency Grant scheme to provide local groups with small grants to establish local initiatives	S	O	Climate Change Officer		

Theme: Creator and participant in partnerships to tackle the climate emergency[
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Work with the Hemel Ambassadors 'Going Green Forum'	I	O	Climate Change Officer, Services as projects arise		Already underway
Work with the Countywide Climate Change Group			Climate Change Officer, Services as projects arise		
Work with the Herts Sustainability Forum	I	O	Climate Change Officer, Services as projects arise		Already underway
Continue working with Herts IQ and the LEP on attracting environmental businesses to the Enterprise Zone	I	O	Corporate Director Housing & Regeneration		Already underway
Consider the feasibility of working jointly with businesses once government establishes a new 'Green Deal'.	M/LT	O	Likely to be Housing and Finance		May require additional staff capacity (possibly externally funded)

Theme: As investor and landowner					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
Create a strategy for effective carbon offsetting for any shortfall in becoming zero carbon	M	O	Finance, Strategic Planning, Carbon Change		It will be important that the options selected can be monitored

Theme: As investor and landowner					
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment
			Officer		to ensure delivery
Identify whether any land can be provided for more allotments		O	CSG/Estates		
Identify land and create more community orchards and gardens (planting trees, providing local seasonal food, more volunteer and health and wellbeing opportunities, opportunities for wildlife).		O	CSG/Estates		
Consider the feasibility of investing in/developing sustainable local energy and the use of such investment as part of any carbon off-setting required	M		Carbon Change Officer, Finance, Strategic Planning		This would require a thoroughly prepared business case
Consider the purchase of agricultural land if required for additional tree planting	M		Estates		
Review Treasury Management Policy to ensure there is no direct or indirect funding in fossil fuels insofar as is possible	S		Finance		

Theme: As a lobbyist for change at national level and with the private sector						
Action	Start	Finish	Service(s)	Constraints	Comment	
Working both individually and collectively with other Councils (including through LGA and DCN) and business for change at national government level on the key causes and involving our MPs in key issues.	I	O	COG			

KEY: U/I Underway
S Short Term 6-12 months
M Medium Term 1-3 years
L Long Term 3+ years
O Ongoing

APPENDIX FOUR – CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY STATEMENT

Draft

Climate Change Emergency -Vision/Statement of intent

‘A Borough that takes robust action to tackle the local and worldwide threat of climate change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution’.

Dacorum Borough Council is determined to play its part in helping to tackle the Climate Emergency. We have committed to ensuring that the operations, activities, and impact of our built assets will be net carbon neutral by 2030. This will be achieved through a combination of specific new projects, use of our policy making and regulatory powers and incorporating climate change and sustainability a part of business as usual. In doing so, we will adhere to the highest standards of quality in our efforts to provide services that add value to our residents, partners, and employees - and to protect the earths’ vital resources for the future.

We will demonstrate leadership through ensuring that Dacorum Borough Council, its operations and activities will be net carbon neutral by 2030 and promise/pledge to:

- Lead by example in reducing carbon emissions year on year
- Use our powers, such as Town Planning, to require all new development to be as low carbon as is possible
- Work with government, business, community groups and other partners to maximize our impact on decarbonisation
- Encourage and support residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their emissions across the borough
- Prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and their mitigation in our own services together with residents, community groups, businesses and partners.
- Keep residents and businesses as fully informed as possible about what action can be taken