



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>20 April 2021</b>
<b>Part:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Climate and Ecological Emergency Progress Update</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	Councillor Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Contracted Services  Author/Responsible Officer – Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Council's work to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency, to indicate next steps and approve key actions.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agrees that the Council's Green Community Grants scheme be doubled to £20,000 for 2021/22 (funded from the Climate Emergency Budget)</li> <li>2. Agrees that the Council no longer maintain the ISO140001 Energy Management accreditation given the shift to the more comprehensive action being taken on carbon reduction across all services and actions in the Council.</li> <li>3. Notes the progress and actions set out in the report..</li> <li>4. Agrees that the draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy be presented to Cabinet in July.</li> <li>5. Agrees that the Council makes an application to the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme and initially uses the Climate Emergency Budget to match-fund.</li> </ol>
<b>Period for post policy/project review</b>	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>Corporate objectives:</p>	<p>The Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan will help to support all 5 corporate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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;</li> <li>• <i>Community Capacity:</i> e.g. provide a framework for local communities to be better informed and involved in climate emergency mitigation;</li> <li>• <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;</li> <li>• <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;</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <i>Climate and Ecological Emergency:</i> the strategy and action plan is focused on meeting the Council's pledge to be zero carbon on its own emissions by 2030 for Scopes 1 and 2, and 2050 for Scope 3</li> </ul>
<p>Implications:</p> <p>'Value for money' implications</p>	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>All expenditure on tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency is currently drawn from the £100,000 budget for 2021/22 or from existing service budgets. It is likely that the corporate budget will need topping up from the existing reserve as actions move forward.</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>In the longer term the bulk of expenditure will be identified for consideration within the Service and Budget Plans for each service in future financial years though a central budget will still be required.</p> <p><u>Value for money</u></p>

	<p>The aim of the Climate and Ecological 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 gas emissions.</p>
Risk implications	<p>A Risk Assessment will be completed and added to the Council's Strategic Risk Register though this will be in conjunction with the completion of the Strategy. The larger individual projects will incorporate risk factor assessment in the project management delivery plan. It is proposed that inclusion of the Climate and Ecological Emergency be incorporated into the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.</p>
Community Impact Assessment	<p>As a whole the work on the Climate and Ecological Emergency is very demonstrably aimed at protecting the future of all residents. It will be proposed to incorporate a full community consultation process once the Strategy and Action plan is approved.</p> <p>A Community Impact Assessment will be required for any significant actions which impact on service delivery arising from the service specific changes which will emerge.</p>
Health and safety Implications	<p>Failure to act on the climate and ecological 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</p>
Monitoring Officer Comments:	<p>The report provides a comprehensive update on the measures being taken or considered by the Council to tackle climate change and other ecological issues. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report but these will continue to be monitored as individual projects and proposals are considered for approval.</p>
Deputy S.151 Officer Comments:	<p>The proposed increase in the Green Community grants allocations to £20k and the proposal for applications to the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme will be funded through the existing climate and ecological budgets.</p> <p>If these schemes escalate or if future climate proposals exceed the approved budget levels additional member requests for funding will be required.</p>
Consultees:	<p>Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23 March 2021</p>
Background papers:	<p>Cabinet Report Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action plan 19/5/20, and 23/6/20, 20/10/20</p>
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations	<p>CO2 Carbon Dioxide APSE Association for Public Service Excellence HRA Housing Revenue Account</p>

used in this report:	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
----------------------	---

## Executive Summary

The report sets out the progress being made and actions taken to work towards the Council's stated objectives to be net-zero carbon as a Council for Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and Scope 3 (largely emissions from our Council housing) by 2050. The report covers:

- **The governments planned approach**
- **The work of the sub-groups**
  - **Housing and Built Environment** with a particular focus on the approach that will be taken in retrofitting the housing stock. The report also covers new build and work on and use of grants
  - **Community and communications.** The report details the outcome and use of the findings of the lockdown survey, the success of the Green Community Grant scheme, the plans for a Dacorum Climate Action Network and the intention to work with Parishes and Town Councils, some of which already have established groups to work with. It recommends that the Green Community Grant Scheme budget for 2021/22 be doubled to £20,000 to reflect the interest shown.
  - **Sustainable transport.** This includes work on establishing an electric vehicle chargepoint plan, working with specialists Field Dynamics and Energy Savings Trust, and an application being made for the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme which can deliver works for 25% match funding. It also looks at the potential for rapid charging service stations.
  - **Planning** where the focus is on the inclusion of a Carbon and Biodiversity offset fund in the Local Plan (via an SPD) whereby developers that cannot meet their required level of carbon have to pay the cost to DBC.
  - **Environmental Services** – detailing progress on tree planting, biodiversity improvements such as wildflower meadows and research on the best approach to future tree planting and biodiversity improvements.
  - **Corporate work.** The draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy be presented to Cabinet in July for approval. There is a recommendation to cease the use of ISO14001 reporting and accreditation as this has been overtaken by climate change action and data collection.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet received and approved a report on the draft strategy and action plan on 20 October 2020. 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 its cost, current budgets, financial restrictions and the absence at this point of reliable and affordable alternatives to gas this will be a longer process.

## **2 United Kingdom – The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**

Of direct importance is the government's new plan for carbon reduction and promotion of sustainability and associated business opportunities. There is a link below for the full document. The plan has been broadly welcomed though the level of investment committed at £12B is felt to be a start only and not adequate to deliver the promises made in the plan. The reports can be viewed via :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>

The headlines of the plan are set out below and Appendix One provides the government's intended approach.

### **1 Offshore wind**

Producing enough offshore wind to power every home and supporting up to 60,000 related jobs.

### **2 Hydrogen**

Working with industry to aim to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes.

### **3 Nuclear**

Advancing nuclear as a clean energy source and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors.

### **4 Electric Vehicles**

A ban on new cars and vans powered wholly by petrol and diesel being sold in the UK from 2030 and an acceleration of the infrastructure required to transition to electric vehicles.

### **5 Public Transport**

Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero-emissions public transport.

### **6 Greener maritime**

Supporting maritime and airline industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships.

### **7 Homes and public buildings**

Making UK homes, schools and hospitals greener and more energy efficient, including a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028.

### **8 Carbon capture**

Becoming a world-leader in technology to capture and store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide by 2030.

### **9 Nature**

Protecting and restoring the UK's natural environment, including by planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year.

### **10 Innovation and Finance**

Developing the technologies needed to turn the UK into the world's number one centre for green technology and finance, creating the foundations for years of economic growth.

Unfortunately there was very little new investment for tackling the climate emergency announced in the recent budget which seems like an opportunity missed.

## **3 Officer Climate Groups: Progress Report**

### **3.1 Housing and Built assets**

#### **3.1.1 New Build**

Current work includes:

- Reviewing previous projects and capture lessons learnt.
- Capturing benefits / performance of our current schemes. See updates on Bingham Mews and Coniston Road below
- Work to establish a DBC standard for new builds going forward. - this includes delivering projects at a higher performance level than Building Regulations and targeting Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B.
- Reviewing our Design Guide and Employers Requirement to identify possible improvements including materials specified.
- Reviewing current Energy & Sustainability Strategy with a view to update it to reflect the increase in sustainability required and reviewing the Project Management Handbook to further embed carbon reduction and sustainability.

Improvements coming through Building Regulations are tracked – we are currently reviewing the forthcoming changes to Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and the outcome of the second consultation of the Future Homes Standard.

Reviewing Building Research Establishment Environmental assessment Method (BREEAM) standard to see how we can adopt. Improvements coming through Building Regulations are tracked – we are currently

reviewing the forthcoming changes to Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and the outcome of the second consultation of the Future Homes Standard.



Built by our team, the homes back onto open fields and are designed to complement the neighbouring council properties to the side. New residents have recently moved into a small development of three two-bedroom homes for social rent in West Dene, Gaddesden Row designed to complement the neighbouring properties. They are also highly energy efficient - these super-insulated homes come with photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps to deliver an off-gas heating system using renewable energy.



#### **4.1.1a Coniston Road development update**

Work has started on this village development of ten 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom homes, including a fully compliant wheelchair house, all for social rent in Kings Langley.

Project managed by our team, the homes back onto open fields and are designed to complement the neighbouring council properties to the side. They are also energy efficient - these highly-insulated homes come with photovoltaic panels and increased insulation to the fabric above the current building regulation requirements, in addition each home will have an external 32amp power supply to the front or side of the house to allow the connection of up to 7kw wall chargers for an electric vehicle.

Our contractor, Bugler Developments Ltd is registered with the Considerate Contractors Scheme and provides a monthly newsletter to the surrounding

residents, keeping them updated on progress during the construction period.

The homes should be ready for letting in the summer of 2022.

#### **4.1.2 Existing homes**

##### **4.1.2a Green Homes Grant Vouchers**

Green Homes Grant vouchers can subsidise energy saving measures such as insulation and renewable energy technologies across all tenures of housing. The Government scheme has now been ended having only spent c.5% of the initial budget.

- We have responded to over 25 Green Homes Grant enquiries from private residents via email and telephone.
- We have promoted the Green Homes Grants scheme via social media, our website, newsletters and the Dacorum Digest.
- Green Homes Grant vouchers will contribute to the cost of loft insulation in 50 council tenants' homes

##### **4.1.2b Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1 and 2**

The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding is for local authorities to directly control the roll out of Green Homes Grants for low-income households across all tenures of housing.

- We applied for Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery 1a funding as part of a consortium led by Watford Council. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful.
- Dacorum has been allocated approximately £0.4 million via the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2, which needs to be spent by December 2021.

##### **4.1.2c Energy Company Obligation Funding**

We support vulnerable private residents in applying for Energy Company Obligation funded measures such as boiler replacements and provide match funding where applicable via a Disabled Facilities Grant.

- In July 2020 we signed a Service Level Agreement with Yorkshire Energy Solutions. Since then, nine households have received heating repairs/replacement and/or insulation with works in progress at a further eight properties.
- In January 2021, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Energy Foundation, which will allow a network of installers to provide energy company funded grants and scale up the work being completed.

##### **4.1.2d Social Housing Technical Assistance Pilot**

The Social Housing Technical Assistance pilot, funded by the Greater South East Energy Hub, aims to create a detailed assessment of the current energy performance of Dacorum's Council Housing stock and make recommendations to set it on a path to net zero. Our application to take part



in the Pilot was successful. The data is currently being analysed and report expected after 31 March 2021.

#### **4.1.2e Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2021**

Every two years we are required to provide a progress report to the department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on the progress we have made under the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995). New guidance for local authorities was issued by BEIS in February and the next report will be required by 31 May 2021.

#### **4.1.2f Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) was launched in autumn 2020 and offered £1bn grant funding to decarbonise Public Sector buildings. In order to help access this funding, running alongside this there was also a Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF).

The LCSF essentially would pay for any survey work that needed doing which would then provide evidence to access the PSDS. We submitted an application for the LCSF which proposed the surveying of Cupid Green Depot and the near-by Grovehill/Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground. However, due to high demand we were unsuccessful in this round. The delayed response from the LCSF application consequently meant that there was no opportunity to apply for the PSDS.

A second phase of the PSDS has recently been announced and officers will be investigating to see if we will meet the new criteria to put an application in.

#### **4.1.2g Energy Saving Trust**

Using housing data, the Energy Savings Trust (EST) are in the process of running a variety of scenarios in order to develop a Home Analytics Report and a Portfolio Energy Assessment Tool (PEAT). The data and reports supplied by EST will provide a wide range of information for every household in the borough, such as the actual and predicted EPC ratings.

The PEAT scenarios can accurately forecast a range of outputs, for example;

- the work that is needed to raise each household's energy efficiency levels;
- how much the retrofit work is expected to cost per household;
- the EPC rating the household could achieve;
- how much it could reduce the household bills by;
- whether the property is likely to be suitable for solar panels;
- what the CO2 emission savings will be per household.

The final report, which is due in April 2021 will present a stock overview of the carbon impact of the current building stock, including regional and national benchmarks. It will also provide a series of decarbonisation

recommendations that Dacorum can use to work towards its EPC goals and carbon reduction targets.

This knowledge will be crucial not only to help plan future housing retrofit schemes but also to use as evidence when applying for government funding. Part of the work has been specifically tailored to fit with the government's Green Homes Grant eligibility criteria.

Using this data will also feed into the communications plan – as part of this we will work to target private households and landlords and signpost them to funding that will be able to support them make their homes more energy efficient.

#### **4.1.2h Retrofitting**

Planning and ultimately delivering net zero council housing will not, and currently cannot, happen quickly. There are various reasons for this:

- The scale of the challenge and the finance required to deliver
- The absence of affordable alternative energy sources that don't at this point have a reliability on fossil fuels
- The lack of capacity in the construction sector to deliver at scale existing alternatives such as heat pumps (delivery nationally in 2020 was 35,673 homes). At this rate it would take 85 years to deliver on to every home in the UK.
- The expectation, and need, of significant technical advances in alternative energy provision such as hydrogen, continued greening of the grid and so on. This will take time.

Consequently, the approach we are taking is referred to as 'fabric first'. Making homes more energy efficient and fitting additional changes as they become available.

As indicated above Housing and Regeneration are currently working with the Energy Savings Trust (EST) to develop a number of scenarios or suggested joinery maps to address the climate emergency agenda. These scenarios cover the whole Dacorum regardless of tenure and ownership, however the scenarios will also be broken down to highlight the Dacorum Housing Revenue Account (HRA) portfolio.

Housing will use these scenarios, compelled with some existing data and knowledge, to map and develop a business model/programme to help achieve net-zero aspirations. Consideration is being given at breaking this down further into a phased approach as technology and the energy related industry is changing daily with improved methodology, ie with time more sustainable and logical options will come into the market place with potential addition funding options from central Government. The first phase being considered is a 5 year programme to tackle low performing dwellings within the HRA portfolio with a fabric first approach, this would concentrate on roofs, insulation, windows and ventilation (with the potential of some type of solar intervention). Further phases would hopefully widen the scope as industry and technology moves forward to consider areas such as heating.

Housing are also about to develop a model/specification for a separate more traditional stock condition survey of the HRA portfolio, this would be used in conjunction with the EST data to develop a capital investment model, at this time decisions would need to be made about what can realistically be delivered within a said time frame, hence agreed development of a 30 year business plan for investment.

The 2021/22 financial year in terms of capital investment will concentrate on catching up with delayed projects from 2020/21 due to the Pandemic, however this relies on no further lock downs within the UK. The phased approach to tackle the climate emergency would commence financial year 2022/23.

Some bespoke pre-agreed carbon savings projects will commence earlier as planned on the HRA portfolio, with the possibility of some pilot electric vehicle charging point projects. The stock condition survey exercise, EST data and capital investment programme will go a long way to improving the energy efficiency of the HRA stock. In tandem with this we will develop a robust tenant engagement and behaviour change programme. Our tenants will play a crucial role in achieving our climate change targets and we need to be able to influence factors beyond our direct control, such as energy usage. We will also encourage the (free) installation of Smart Meters. Understanding how a building performs and how an individual's actions can reduce carbon emissions, whilst potentially saving money, is equally important as investing in our stock.

In the private rented sector, we are working with private landlords to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the finances of both tenants and landlords. Targeting external funding for this sector will help make the costs of compliance more manageable for landlords.

Over the next 10 years, sustained funding will be required to meet the goal of net zero carbon emissions from private sector housing. Additional staff resources will be required if large scale funding schemes are to be directly managed by Dacorum.

## **5. Community and Communications**

### **5.1 Learning from Lockdown – Results and Recommendations**

During July and August 2020, we ran a six week sustainability survey to help understand how certain behaviours within Dacorum changed as a result of the safety measures brought about by COVID-19.

Several of the lifestyle changes that people made are also essential for helping to tackle the Climate Emergency. We wanted to understand how we can positively embrace these changes within Dacorum, so that instead of going 'back to normal', we move forwards to a better, greener future.

1500 residents took part. The survey was broken down into several key areas; Transport, Cycling, Commuting, Food, Waste and Resources, Energy and Water Use. The survey delivered a number of key findings, for example:

- 9 out of 10 people would like to see fewer cars on the road

- The number of people working from home after lockdown is expected to increase by a third, rather than 'return to normal'. With an increase in flexible working.
- Over a third of people stated that the barrier to them cycling more was road safety concerns.
- Approximately 1 in 5 more residents will be growing food locally compared to 'before lockdown'
- Half of participants told us they would volunteer at a community garden, with 9 out of 10 saying that they would want to buy food from one.
- Half of participants would be interested in using a community fridge.

The report was made available online in November to residents. The Recommendations Report (Appendix Three) has been circulated to staff for input and presented to the Leadership Team. There are a number of actions from the back of this research that will be able to feed into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan as well as a Communications Plan.

The survey results have also been used by local community groups to provide evidence to support grant applications. One group have been awarded £4000 from an NHS charities grant and credited the survey results for helping to achieve this. Several of applicants for the Green Community Grant also referred to these results to support their projects.

## **5.2 Communications Plan**

As an organisation, the Council is responsible for just 1% of the total emissions within Dacorum as a borough, and we have limited control over the remaining 99%. For this reason, connecting with the local community is crucial so that we can lower the borough's emissions as quickly as possible.

To help with this, we will plan to use the Council's 'spheres of influence' to educate, enable and engage with residents and local organisations. A range of resources, initiatives and campaigns will be put together in a comprehensive Communications Plan. This will incorporate both internal activities as well as local and national campaigns.

One of the immediate key focuses of this plan will be overhauling the content on our website and providing much more information for residents to help them learn more about the Climate and Ecological Emergency and what they can do to help at home.

The Learning from Lockdown survey results provided a great deal of local insight and statistics that can be used when shaping these ideas. Lockdown showed us all the value of social interaction and developing a communications work plan that is full of events, training, presentations and promoting volunteering with community groups will be a significant part of the sustainability work – when it is safe to roll these initiatives out. For example – hosting Repair Café events, supporting the establishment of Community Fridges, a 'Library of Thing's, as well as creating Community Gardens and Orchards too.

Another element of the communications plan would be looking at engaging with staff and residents through surveys. For example, having an annual transport survey would be very useful to help us understand whether active travel campaigns are having an impact.

### 5.3 Green Community Grants scheme

Providing funding is another method of enabling the local community to reduce their emissions. Several of the initiatives that are highlighted in the Learning from Lockdown survey would involve high levels of officer resources if we were to deliver them internally – e.g. managing a community fridge. However, by encouraging local groups to take on these types of projects, and providing support, funding and resources where possible, these initiatives are able to be delivered more effectively.

In November we launched the first Green Community Grant scheme. This allowed community groups to apply for pots of up to £2000 to help with their environmental projects, with a total pot of £10,000.

The scheme was specifically set up to support projects in our community which benefit the environment, as well as Dacorum's residents. The purpose is to encourage and enable local groups to '*think global and act local*' whilst tackling environmental challenges. In order to apply for funding, proposed Green Community Grant projects needed to demonstrate that they would actively help towards the mitigation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency locally. Projects were required to fit at least one Key Environmental Theme:

- Energy and emissions
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Waste and consumption

The projects with the greatest environmental impacts scored more highly. Projects also needed to demonstrate that they would be working with local residents on these sustainability issues to engage, enable and/or educate. Projects scored more highly if they could demonstrate that they would meet the following Community Benefits:

**Making new connections** – such as engaging with people who would not normally be involved in sustainability issues

**Being more active** – such as encouraging people to get more active than they normally would be, or try a new activity.

**Learning** – such as developing new skills or delivering a programme of education.

**Volunteering** – giving people an opportunity to engage with their local community through volunteering

The application window ran from 1 December 2020 – 31 January 2021. In total there were 17 applications and of these, seven were successful. These were (further details set out in Appendix One):

1. **Community Garden and Bike Project, Apex**
2. **Mixed Meadow Grazing Project, Sunnyside Rural Trust**
3. **Allotment wilding project, Chaulden Allotments**
4. **Community Fridge, Viking Fitness**
5. **Planters and local active travel engagement, Boho Boxmoor**
6. **Wildflower verge, Northchurch Parish Council (NPC)**
7. **'56 Club' - Gardening Club, Wigginton Parish Council**

We plan to work closely with the successful groups and help them to promote their projects in order to raise their project's profile, as well as inspire others.

As this initial scheme was a success in terms of attracting interest and some excellent projects, we plan to run the grants annually moving forwards – keeping as £2,000 maximum per group. The current budget of £10,000 is currently provided from the Climate and Ecological Emergency budget. It is proposed to ask Cabinet to consider that for 2021/22 that the budget be doubled (to be funded through the existing budget). A report will be brought to Cabinet in time to consider within the budget setting process 2022/23 whether it wishes there to be a separate budget for this in future years or a corresponding increase to the corporate Climate and Ecological Emergency budget .

#### **5.4 Dacorum Climate Action Network**

The development of Dacorum's Climate Action Network (Dacorum CAN) has not been able to move forward due to the pandemic affecting public interaction. However, we are planning to host a launch event in November to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change Conference which is taking place in Glasgow (COP26).

The event would be a presentation and networking opportunity for members of the public to learn about what Dacorum are doing and find out about how they can get involved. We would invite various local environmental groups to have stalls. We will ask that the community groups who have received Green Community Grant funding each do a short presentation about their project, how the funding has helped them, and how people can get involved with them.

As part of this network we also plan to engage with town and parish councils to work together with them on reaching environmental targets.

## **6. Sustainable Transport**

In Dacorum, transport is responsible for 43% of the borough's total greenhouse gas emissions. Focussing on transport will be a key part of the Climate Emergency work. This will involve reducing car use and increasing active travel (such as walking and cycling).

A Sustainable Transport group has been established in order to focus on projects and initiatives that fall under this area. This group will meet quarterly and has two sub-groups – one dedicated to Behavioural Initiatives and another dedicated to Electric Vehicles.

### **6.1 Behavioural Initiatives workstream**

The Behavioural Initiatives theme will focus on researching and developing initiatives which will increase active travel (such as walking and cycling) and decrease car use. There are a variety of initiatives to explore both internally for staff, as well as externally to promote to residents and organisations.

Research and recommendations from the Learning from Lockdown survey will help to shape the work plan for this group. A range of cycling initiatives will be explored, including supporting bike confidence classes, rewards-based initiatives and bike-hire schemes. Discussions are underway with an organisation that is interested in using Dacorum for an e-scooter hiring trial, which is backed by the Department of Transport.

### **6.2 Green Transport Policy**

One of the first key objectives for this group will be the creation of a Green Transport Policy for staff. This will aim to enable and encourage staff to reduce their carbon emissions. Various initiatives will be explored, such as car sharing and cycling schemes.

This work will involve relaunching the bike pool scheme. A policy for relaunching this has been drafted and will be reviewed by the Behavioural sub-group.

### **6.3 Electric Vehicle (EV) Work stream**

The Electric Vehicle (EV) theme will focus on the creation of an Electric Vehicle Strategy. The objective for the creation and development of this strategy will be to help guide us in terms of how many chargepoints we need to expect to be putting in, where they need to go, what types we should have, how to manage them, etc.

The government recently brought forward the end date for the sale of petrol and diesel engines to 2030, which adds to the pressure of rolling out sufficient infrastructure now.

Around two thirds of the borough have 'off-street' parking available to them, such as driveways, which means that they can charge EVs at home overnight. However, for 39% of Dacorum's households (approximately 25,000 homes) this is not an option to them - we will need to ensure that there are sufficient plans in place to cope with this rising demand.

The number of ultra low-emission vehicles (ULEVs) registered in Dacorum rose 31% from 2019 to 2020.

#### **6.4 On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) Funding**

The government is providing funding for the installation of EV chargepoints through the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS), which we will be intending to apply to in 2021-22.

The scheme supports local authorities with capital costs of procurement and installation of on-street electric vehicle charging points for residential use in areas without off-street parking. This can include council-owned public car parks.

We are liaising with the Energy Savings Trust (EST) who administer the scheme and are able to offer support and advice regarding the creation of both ORCS applications, as well as the EV strategy.

The maximum funding available is for 75% of the capital costs of procuring and installing a chargepoint and this funding previously was limited to £100,000 however this cap has recently been removed. The remaining 25% must be secured via sources other than OLEV funding. Sourcing this 25% of project costs can be delivered through the existing budget though this will leave a relatively small remaining budget.

BP Chargemaster, the organisation that currently manage our existing charge points have offered to pay for this 25% funding if we adhere to their conditions. Their priority is installing charge points in car parks. The maximum amount OLEV will fund per single or double headed chargepoint is £6,500.

Demonstrating value for money in the application is key to securing approval.

Funding will be broadly awarded on a first come first served basis and the project, including installations, should be complete by March 2022. For this reason, this application work will be a priority for the EV sub-group to work on.

Cabinet is asked to consider if a bid should be submitted based on the installation of charge points in Council car parks, which would require 25% match funding for the grant.



## **6.5 Electric Vehicle Residents Survey**

An online Electric Vehicle Residents Survey was launched in February to help us understand the short-term and future needs for residents. The survey takes five minutes to complete and all residents are encouraged to take part, regardless of whether they have an EV already or not.

The creation of a survey such as this was advised by the EST as one of the first steps to take when planning an ORCS application. This is required in order to develop an understanding of where there is a need for EV chargepoints, both now and in the future, as well as provide evidence to support the application to justify that the chargepoints are required.

The survey is live on our website and there is no end date, it will remain a permanent fixture so that we have a consistent method for collecting this type of information from residents. It has been running for over a month and to date there have been over 1600 responses.

## **6.6 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

### **6.6.1 Field Dynamics - Jumpstart**

In order to support the development of the EV strategy, we are working with a specialist net-zero consultancy called Field Dynamics. They have a new service called 'Jumpstart' which is specifically aimed at supporting local authorities with developing their EV chargepoint plans.

JumpStart is a structured, data-led approach that will build an evidence foundation specifically for Dacorum. This structure will utilise our local knowledge and key national data sets and then be processed through a series of objective analysis sessions. It will give us all the information we need to deliver on these EV challenges to the point of operational hand-off. It will be a constant resource for us to reference to whenever we need objective, data based, accurate evidence to back up our approach.

The information will provide a useful baseline to help guide all future EV work, regardless of whether the chargepoints will be managed by Dacorum BC, Herts CC or external companies.

This information will also be useful for supporting ORCS applications.

### **6.6.2 Street lights and bollard EV chargepoints**

We are currently liaising with EV chargepoint companies that specialise in working with local authorities in order to retrofit street lights or install bollards. This method significantly reduces the capital costs associated with installing EV infrastructure.

Dacorum own over 800 street lights - the majority of the street lights are allocated to estate footpaths, alleyways, garage areas and car parks. Approximately 50 may be suitable for EV residential charging locations – officers are currently assessing this and mapping potentially useful lights.

Through the ORCS funding scheme, council-owned car parks that have public access 24 hours a day are permitted to be used for EV chargepoint installations. 19 of the 28 council-owned car parks could therefore be potential EV chargepoint locations. 5 of these car parks already have EV chargepoints.

We are currently liaising with Hertfordshire County Council to determine whether they would give permission for their street lights to be used in this way.

### **6.6.3 Plough Roundabout Car Wash**

The Council are liaising with a number of organisations who are interested in providing an 'electric forecourt' in the Borough – this would effectively be a rapid charging station. These organisations already have a track record in installation. One has plans for over 100 electric forecourts being built by them over the next five years. and are keen to work within Dacorum and offer at least one, if not two electric forecourts.

The area which is most attractive commercially would be to have a large hub near Maylands so that it is in close proximity to the M1 junction as well as being close by to all of the businesses in the industrial estate who are likely to be switching to EVs faster than residents uptake. Interest has also been shown by the companies with regard to the former petrol garage at the Magic Roundabout (currently a carwash). We continue conversations with these companies.

## **7 Planning**

Officers are undertaking feasibility work that will underpin a new Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund for the Council. Once established it will allow the Council to secure funds from developers which will be invested in carbon and biodiversity projects across the Borough.

### **7.1 Carbon Offset**

Carbon offset funds arise when development fails to achieve the required targets for reducing carbon emissions on site, and local authorities are able to use planning policy to collect contributions towards compensatory offsite measures. Typically these are calculated as a set sum for each tonne of carbon the new building will emit. The funds are then used to finance carbon reduction projects within the local authority area. Milton Keynes Council was an early leader in sustainable planning policy scheme and introduced the first carbon-offset local plan policy in 2008, to help achieve its ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and mitigate for future greenfield development. Within the first 10 years, the scheme achieved carbon savings totalling over 6,600 tonnes and generated more than £1 million, funding energy-saving projects for local residents. A similar scheme for Dacorum could generate funds to help deliver the priorities of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

Officers are now examining several options for setting up the Offset fund, reviewing carbon pricing options and fund administration options and will report to Members in due course.

## **7.2 Biodiversity Offset**

National planning guidance and the forthcoming Environment Bill require development to create a net gain for biodiversity, to be set at 10% above the baseline biodiversity for a site. Where these measures are not achieved onsite, payments can be made to a biodiversity net gain fund equivalent to the cost of achieving the required number of biodiversity units elsewhere.

Officers are considering options for setting up and administering this fund, including whether the fund is separate or joined with the Carbon Offset Fund.

Officers are also considering options to develop a Biodiversity net gain Supplementary Planning Document and we're working with The Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to utilise the work they have been doing with other authorities in Hertfordshire.

Herts County Council is also leading a baseline biodiversity evaluation of land across Hertfordshire and separately providing advice on opportunities for increasing biodiversity on Dacorum managed green space. Officers have commissioned a local tree assessment and tree planting strategy. This background work will inform the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and identify priorities for allocating biodiversity net gain contributions. Bunkers Park has been identified as a future biodiversity enhancement project.

Officers will continue to develop options for progressing both including further feasibility studies into each.

## **7.3 Renewable Energy Map**

In order to understand the potential for future renewable energy initiatives in the borough, we will be sourcing a consultant to survey the borough and create a report on this for us.

This information will put us in a good position ready for when we are able to establish to the Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund and create projects that feed into this.

## **7.4 Biodiversity**

Central government policy developments are beginning to open up new opportunities for increasing biodiversity. The Environment Bill, once passed, will likely mandate a 10% biodiversity net gain from developments. It will be possible to deliver these gains both on the site of the development as well as on off-site locations.

In November, the Agriculture Bill 2020 passed into law. The Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) set out in the bill lays out how farmers

and land managers will in future be rewarded with public money when they provide 'public goods'. These goods could include better air or water quality, improved soil health, or thriving wildlife. The scheme is thus designed to help achieve the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan and the net zero emissions by 2050 commitment. Trials and tests have already begun ahead of a national pilot to commence in late 2021, and the scheme will be fully rolled out in 2024.

Both of these policy developments represent opportunities for biodiversity improvement, and thought of in conjunction, they open up particular possibilities around ways in which local authorities could work with farmers to enhance biodiversity on farmland (which is not currently defined as a habitat of principle importance in the Biodiversity 2020 **Strategy**).

## **8. Environmental Services**

### **8.1 Clean, Safe and Green workstream**

#### Climate Emergency Sub-Group – Environmental Services – update

CSG Summary of current projects and progress:

1. Tree planting (Three-year plan): a more detailed update is provided below. This is going to plan with the first batch of mass tree planting in the form of mature whips taken place in Gadebridge Park. This is in addition to specimen trees, which have already been planted as part of the scheme.
2. Northend Orchard: Unfortunately, this project is on hold due to COVID. With the Lock Down planned to be relaxed we will be able to progress this and start to look into the possibility of setting up a community group.
3. Allotments: CSG has completed the clearance works at Windmill Road Allotments and the site is now with the Estates Team. They are now looking to make plots available for the community.
4. Grass cutting of verges: With is underway on a project to map all these areas and to upload this data onto Cadcorp maps. A set of maps has been created showing all the areas we left uncut through the summer. This information now needs to be captured on a new mapping layer on Cadcorp. Work is underway with IT to create the layer, and capture the data/information. Once this has been completed enable us to plan better and resource accordingly. Once this has been completed it will we can look at the possibility of establishing more areas and trying to link them all up to create corridors.
5. Wildflower Areas/Meadows: The update for this is much the same as above with us mapping these and trying to create corridors rather than just having loads of isolated pockets which individual while nice are not practical. Once they are all linked up, we are hopefully that this will create wildlife corridors across the urban landscape.
6. Other projects:
  - Solitary bee project-  
For the last 4 years, we have been part of <https://www.masonbees.co.uk/> a project that intends on

increasing numbers of mason bees, as well as other solitary bees (Leaf cutter bees). We will be expanding this project to Tring and Berkhamsted. With houses planning to be installed in Canal Fields Park in Berkhamsted and in the Memorial Garden in Tring and the possible installation of one in Douglas Gardens EPD in Berkhamsted.

- Pollinator friendly planting-More areas being planted (Douglas Gardens, Tring Memorial garden, Gadebridge Park). More housing areas (especially new housing projects) directed towards pollinator friendly planting. A reduction in annual bedding to be replaced with more sustainable, pollinator friendly planting.

## 8.2 Tree Planting

Throughout January and February over 1300 trees have been planted as part of the Tree Planting Strategy, as well as separate projects. Of the trees planted, 915 were whips (2-3 year old trees) - these were all mixed native species including Hazel, Holly, Cherry, Hornbeam, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Apple. A fence will be erected to protect the whips from unwanted attention, which can be removed after 5 -7 years. 210 trees were 'small' and 188 were 'standard' (2-3 metres tall).

- Gadebridge Park
  - 500 whips
  - 15 standard Cherry trees
- Keens Field
  - 415 whips
- Coronation Fields,
  - 30 standard trees – mixed species (Maple, Birch, Cherry, Lime, Rowan)
- Leys Road open space
  - 210 small fruit trees - to extend the area of existing trees within the space that already included some Apple and Cherry species. We've added further Apple and Cherry varieties and included Pear, Greengage and Plum. This will also be fenced in the short term. When available, the fruit can be picked as required by local residents.
- New Bunkers Park cemetery
  - 26 native standard trees
- Verge hardening schemes
  - 12 Standard trees
- Northchurch - funded by Nash Mills Parish Council
  - 3 Willows by the canal
  - 2 replacement trees
- Highway and Housing locations across the borough
  - Over 100 standard trees.

Between now and 2025 another 1000 native whips will be planted in Gadebridge Park combined with 30 more Standard trees, and 2000 whips in Bunkers Park. Highway and Housing tree planting will continue, subject to funding. Informal fruit tree planting will be progressed at Bunkers Park, close to the existing Hazel woodland.

This tree planting has been publicised through a press release. Signage is also in the process of being created which ultimately will be put by tree planting sites to signpost to our website, which will explain the progress being made and the borough's plans in more detail.

### **8.3 New Trees and Woodlands Policy**

The new Trees and Woodlands Policy was recommended for approval by Members at the Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny committee in February. The policy contains information about the management of public trees and also guidance for residents as to how they can manage their own trees.

The previous policy was published in 2015. The new policy recognises the role that tree management will play within the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. It also introduces the CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) valuation system, which enables a monetary value to be placed on a tree. Where damage or destruction of public trees occurs, we will seek full compensation from those involved to the full CAVAT value. Residents are therefore advised to check with our Trees and Woodlands team before undertaking any planned tree works.

In addition to the full policy document, a shorter summary document which contains policy statements and answers to common tree issues is also available on the website for residents in the hope that they refer to this before submitting an enquiry to the Trees and Woodlands department.

## **9. External Workstream**

### **9.1 Biodiversity Baseline**

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) subgroup on Biodiversity, identified that there is a need to develop the next steps that the group can take together in order to increase biodiversity across the county.

With habitats and wildlife remaining under pressure from pollution, pesticides, and loss of suitable land (amongst other things), there is a clear need to establish where we are as a County with regards to biodiversity.

A county-wide biodiversity baseline is the HCCSP's first step in forming an understanding of where we could develop strategic sites for biodiversity and ensure that gains from developments are maintained within Hertfordshire and as close to the development site as possible. This baseline will act as the foundation of our exploration into maximising these opportunities.

The objectives of the baseline are:

- To establish a county-wide biodiversity baseline to understand the state of biodiversity in Hertfordshire. All land will be surveyed during this baseline assessment, not just council land.

- For areas of land to receive a biodiversity unit score, to allow us to easily illustrate future increases or decreases in biodiversity in the future
- Production of a detailed report from the contractor that carries out the auditing and access to all data collected

Once this work is completed and we have a county-wide baseline and a consistent measuring tool, we can then look towards mapping specific opportunities for increasing biodiversity. Whether we do this work together through the HCCSP on a county-wide basis, or on a more localised basis will be determined in the future.

The cost to each local authority is £4000 and has already been agreed through all members of the HCCSP. The contract is out for tender and should be awarded by the end of June. The finalised reports are expected to be provided within the 2021/22 financial year.

## **10. Hertfordshire County Council - Green Spaces Audit**

Hertfordshire County Council will be using the company CMS to carry out an audit of all the council-owned green spaces in Hertfordshire. We will be able to request that any of our green spaces are included in this, not just large sites, and the information will be provided to us for free. The Sustainable Hertfordshire team are funding this work.

A dedicated team will visit the sites to survey them and suggest ecological improvements that could improve the areas biodiversity. It is expected that most changes will be suggested at the boundaries of existing sites so that recreational activities will not be affected. Suggested changes could include mowing changes, woodland planting, hedgerow planting, pollinator friendly changes, etc. This work will complement the baseline audit that HCCSP are working on. The surveys are expected to be carried out over the summer. It is expected that the information will be ready by autumn/ winter 2021.

### **10.1 Hertfordshire Tree Canopy Information**

Hertfordshire County Council are working alongside volunteers on a desk-based GIS project to map the percentage of tree canopy cover for each ward. They will be providing this information to us for free.

This information will help us to set goals and standards – for example, we could state that we want each ward to have a minimum of 20% tree cover and use this with our tree planting targets.

### **10.2 External Tree Reports**

We have appointed Treeconomics, the biggest urban tree specialists in the sector, to carry out two pieces of work for us. This work will be carried out in 2021-22 Quarter 1.

### **10.3 Biodiversity Strategy**

In order to fully utilise the forthcoming ecological information from the HCCSP biodiversity baseline, the HCC biodiversity audit and canopy cover data, the external tree reports and our internal wildflower mapping work, we will be creating a Biodiversity strategy.

The creation of a dedicated strategy will help us to plan future work and how this could be funded via the Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund and the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) income.

It has been highlighted by officers that land availability is a concern and so part of the strategy may be to look at purchasing areas of land. This will be possible through the BNG income.

We will be liaising with Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) in order to create an effective strategy.

As part of the development of this strategy we will be exploring how we can engage with the public on this topic. This could involve community initiatives, working with schools, hosting events, establishing community groups, providing resources, running campaigns, etc. This public engagement work could also include surveying residents to gauge public opinions for activities such as grass cutting.

We will also explore providing additional training and resources to Clean, Safe and Green team members who carry out grounds maintenance but may not be aware of key plant species not to mow – such as orchids.

#### **10.4 iTree Eco Inventory Report**

Using a software model called iTree, Treeconomics are able to measure the structure and composition of Dacorum's council-owned trees and urban forests. They then calculate the benefits and ecosystem services they provide, and value them in monetary terms. This inventory will provide estimates of the ecosystem services provided by our trees, including air quality improvement, avoided stormwater run-off and most significantly to our Climate Emergency work, carbon storage. The carbon storage figure will be used to offset part of the borough's carbon footprint and is an important piece of our work to get us to net-zero emissions as an organisation by 2030.

Detailed information on species composition, and pest and disease resilience will also be detailed. The inventory report incorporates CAVAT information, and will help us to have clean data moving forwards. All of which will help to provide an evidence based approach in the development of informed urban forestry programs, management plans and projects.

Hertfordshire County Council have worked with Treeconomics to obtain this data for all of their highways land.

#### **10.5 Tree Planting Strategy - Opportunity Mapping Report**



Treeconomics will use a variety of data, including GIS, to identify hotspots for potential new tree planting. Hotspots are typically areas with low tree canopy cover, high levels of pollution, high social deprivation, or with an increased risk of flooding. They will work with us to generate a map, showing those areas most desirable for planting. This report will help us to focus future tree planting in the areas where there is the most need and least tree cover.

The outcome will be a detailed ward by ward report detailing potential and actual plantable space on public and private land and an indexed heatmap of tree planting opportunity. A set of all the GIS layers used to build up the map will be provided.

This information will be highly important, not only to help plan future tree planting work, but also to use as evidence in the event of applying for external funding or working with other organisations, local councils, community groups, etc.

## **11. Internal Corporate progress**

The focus has been on commencing recruitment to the Sustainability Officer agreed by Cabinet and Council in the 2021/22 budget and in providing training and information to staff and also to members in the near future. Further detail is set out in Appendix Two.

### **11.1 Sustainability Officer**

Approval has been provided for the recruitment of a Sustainability Officer who will report to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer. The new role will provide support for the delivery of all future CEE projects and work-streams.

### **11.2 Staff Update Session**

In November, during a virtual staff update session, a presentation was delivered to give all staff members an overview of the Climate and Ecological Emergency work stream. It is envisioned that this update will happen several times a year to increase staff engagement with the work being carried out.

### **11.3 Carbon Literacy Training (CLT)**

Local authority specific Carbon Literacy Training sessions were offered to the Corporate Officers Group, all members of the CEE sub-groups and any other members of staff put forward by COG. This training was to ensure that our key decision makers are sufficiently equipped with an understanding around the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as solutions from a local authority perspective.

The Carbon Literacy Project was recognised by the UN at COP21, in Paris, where it was awarded as a TAP100, one of 100 worldwide Transformative

Action Programs. The training is a certificated 8 hour all-day course split into four units. It was delivered via APSE virtually using Teams.

**Unit 1** - The science behind climate change

**Unit 2** - Global Climate Change Impacts: Understand policies globally, nationally and locally: the scientific consensus; the role of Local Councils; the policy position.

**Unit 3** - Climate Change Action

**Unit 4** - Influence from the frontline

In December, over 40 members of staff took on the training, including Dacorum's new CEO. Claire is the first CEO from a local borough council to have received this training. Due to high demand a third date has also been added for April which will bring us up to over 60 staff members trained. As a substantial percentage of the workforce will have been trained, this means we can explore getting the accreditation of a 'carbon literate organisation'.

The Carbon Literacy Project are currently developing a Councillor tailored version of this training and once this is developed we will work with APSE to offer these sessions to Members.

#### **11.4 Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEE Strategy)**

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEE Strategy) is currently being drafted, ready for submission for consideration by the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2021 and for approval by Cabinet on 20 July 2021.

The intention would be for the CEE Strategy to be publicised, with a programme of community engagement taking place from September. This release date is purposefully scheduled to be ahead of the climate change COP26 talks which are taking place in the UK in November - it is anticipated that leading up to these talks there will be a great deal of public interest in the Climate Emergency and the Council's environmental plans.

## ISO 14001 Accreditation Addendum

In order to help manage its Environmental Management System (EMS), Dacorum Borough Council decided to work to gain ISO 14001 accreditation, which it first achieved in 2013.

ISO 14001 accreditation specifies the requirements for an EMS that an organization can use to enhance its environmental performance. ISO 14001 is intended for use by an organization seeking to manage its environmental responsibilities in a systematic manner that contributes to the environmental pillar of sustainability.

Due to the level of internal and external auditing required to meet this standard, maintaining ISO 14001 accreditation is highly time-consuming. It is predicted that this takes up nearly 60 officer days annually. Historically the Environmental Sustainability Officer was responsible for managing the ISO 14001 accreditation, however this officer left Dacorum in 2018 and was not replaced.

<b>ISO14001 Annual Cost.</b>						
	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Unit cost (per hour)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Saving</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Paperwork and Core EMS Documents.	AD	70	£50	£3,500	Non cashable	
Internal Audits	Various	91	£30	£2,730	Non cashable	Two officers conducting 13 audits a year. Half day audit, half day write up.
External Audit Preparation	AD/Site managers	91	£35	£3,185	Non cashable	
External Audits	Various	98	£40	£3,920	Non cashable	7 audit days a year. EMS lead and site manager attend, so 2 officers at all times.
EMS Mgt meeting/Scrutiny session	EMS officer and others	56	£40	£2,240	Non cashable	OSC yearly, Mgt session annually, Meetings every 2 months
		<b>Days</b>	<b>Unit cost (Per day)</b>			
External Audit Fees		7	£1,020	£7,140	Not budgeted for	
				£22,715		

In 2019, Members supported the declaration of a Climate Emergency - as part of this declaration, Dacorum pledged to become net-zero as an organisation by 2030, as well as support the borough to lower its overall emissions. The Climate and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer was hired in 2020 in order to help work on this ambitious declaration.

In order to guide the delivery of the declaration and pledges, a comprehensive Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan was created which spans through a variety of departments and lists a wide range of actions. This document will be monitored and updated regularly as work progresses. The action plan effectively replaces and greatly supersedes the objectives of the ISO 14001 – which is a small set of around six objectives. The action plan will aim to go further and faster, and would be regularly monitored and updated throughout the year, rather than being reviewed once a year.

Due to the shifting emphasis to carbon emissions, there needs to be an increased focus on measurement of emissions and improving energy efficiency in order to ensure the progressive reduction of emissions. This will need to be monitored and reported on. This is not accounted for under ISO 14001, which renders this accreditation out of date and as such means that it delivers relatively little.

Due to ISO 14001 being so time-consuming and labour-intensive, this drain on officer resources prohibits more meaningful action taking place. Although these are not cashable savings, the savings to officer time, would result in more time that could be allocated to sustainability work. Due to the urgent work of the Climate Emergency, and the need for officer time to be used wisely, it is proposed that we ask Cabinet to consider dropping ISO 14001 accreditation, effective immediately. To confirm, Dacorum's EMS would still be in place, as this is independent of ISO 14001 accreditation.

ISO 14001 is a generic standard that can fit any business or organisation - it is not tailored for local government and very few local authorities in the UK have ISO accreditation. No other Hertfordshire local authorities work to this standard.

APSE have been consulted on this and their advice was as follows:

*“It is up to each individual council to manage their own environmental targets in whichever way is more appropriate for them, ISO 14001 accreditation can act as a useful tool and reporting mechanism, however isn't a requirement. We do generally make the point that while data gathering and reporting is important, it shouldn't be overdone at the expense of further action..”*