



Council Briefing Note 17th July 2024

CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PORTFOLIO – COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ALLEN

The CEE programme consists of a range of projects and activities being delivered across the Council to help us deliver our objectives set out in our Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy.

Decarbonise Social Homes

- The first phase of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) saw investment of over £1m into 24 homes. This project involved delivering energy efficiency improvements that enabled us to achieve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) A for all the homes concerned.
- Phase 2 is currently under way and has involved decarbonising a further 30 homes - 8 at Blackwell Road Kings Langley & 22 at Curtis Road Berkhamsted (Curtis Road due for completion in July due to adverse weather).
- Work includes energy efficiency measures such as external wall insulation, loft insulation, draught proofing, heating controls, improved ventilation and solar PV installations. Government funding is being used where possible, but it often comes with constraints which limit its effect in widening the benefits.
- Confirmed additional 45 homes will be delivered and goal completion date in 2025.
- £22.4M has been allocated in the approved HRA business plan to achieve EPC C by 2035 in all social homes, prioritising those in fuel poverty for 2030. This is in line with governments milestones.
- A high level £1m costed plan has been put together for year 1 (24/25) with a focus on additional EPC's and a focus on new roofing, Solar PV, improved cavity and loft insulation.
- 4 Sheltered housing schemes have been identified for hybrid boilers for the next financial year. We have developed designs and submitted applications for planning permissions for all 4 schemes.

Decarbonising our core assets

- The council are working with the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH) to develop an updated, prioritised and financed Net Zero programme to decarbonise our built assets by 2030.
- We have submitted a funding application to Low Carbon Skills Fund to undertake work on developing a strategy for alternatives to gas consuming assets. Our application focuses on Berkhamsted Civic Centre, Victoria Hall, Maylands Business Centre as their boilers are older than 10 years (key criteria).
- We have been successful with our grant application for £630k from Sport England which will enable us to install approximately 720 solar panels at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre. Once installed the solar panels are estimated to generate 360kWh of renewal energy, which will help reduce the carbon footprint of the facility and enable an estimated 324,120 kWh reduction in electricity consumption per year.

Sustainable Transport

- Dacorum is currently developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to encourage residents to cycle and walk more.

- Draft walking and cycling maps have been developed.
- Route audits have taken place to assess the current conditions and assess what interventions (projects) will need to be made.
- The Council is exploring the feasibility of the provision of shared bikes in the borough. The project is going through various internal approvals at the moment.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) in council car parks

- The installation of EVCPs across car parks in Dacorum is progressing well. Osprey rapid charge points are now live at 5 sites - The Forge, Hicks Road, The High St, Leverstock Green and Wood Lane End.
- Connected Kerb fast EVCP installation is now complete at 15 of 16 sites.

We are working closely with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to identify additional on street locations throughout Dacorum that would be suitable for EVCP's. HCC have been allocated £6m of funding through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. The LEVI fund prioritises off street locations, as such the list is comprised of locations in car parks at community centres or shopping areas, with a few of on street chargers where there was no off-street option available nearby to suit residents. The idea is that this fund will be used to distribute charge points much more closely to residents' homes, ensuring they're within a walkable distance and prioritising areas where residents do not have off street parking.