

NET ZERO 2030 UPDATE - OCTOBER 2022

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 18 October 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Information

Also considered by:

N/A

Key Decision: No

This reports support the Key Aim of The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officer(s): Helen French, Ext. 7357; Margaret Carr, Ext. 7341;

Recommendation to Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee:

To note this update report for information.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Achieving Net Zero carbon emissions is a top priority that encompasses all aspects of the Council. It incorporates energy efficiency and generation, sustainable transport and active travel, air quality, health and wellbeing, habitats and biodiversity, flooding, water supply and consumption, and more.
- 2 We have made a commitment to work towards achieving net zero carbon emissions for the Council and its assets by 2030 (Council emissions). We also have an ambition to assist the District to become net zero by working closely with local communities (District emissions) and to improve the resilience of the District to a changing climate (Climate resilience). This is collectively known as our Net Zero 2030 commitment.
- 3 This report provides a short update on progress on delivering the Net Zero Agenda during Spring/Summer 2022.

Sustainable Transport

- 4 The first **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)** covering Sevenoaks Urban Area is continuing to progress well. There have been two rounds of consultation with communities, users and other stakeholders. There was a high level of engagement and the feedback has been incorporated into the final Plan. Sustrans, the consultants, are continuing to compile the report which should be ready later this Autumn.
- 5 The Department for Transport released the list of successful applicants for the **Active Travel Fund** in May 2022. Sevenoaks District Council's bid, in partnership with Kent County Council (KCC), for a Sevenoaks East-West cycle route was successful and was awarded £1.2 million.
- 6 KCC have begun some initial work on the East-West draft route and have carried out an initial walk through. Discussions are being held with private land owners regarding the potential route. We will be meeting with KCC in the upcoming weeks to discuss the work so far and will continue to work with KCC to progress this further.
- 7 We have appointed consultants to undertake a feasibility study for the possibility of an **electric bike scheme** for Sevenoaks District. The findings of this study will be presented to this committee in December 2022.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

- 8 Field Dynamics has been appointed to undertake an **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study** for the District.
- 9 The findings of the study will be used to:
 - Identify suitable and priority locations for new charging points;
 - Work with partners, landowners and businesses to deliver new charging points or increase the offer provided by existing installations (i.e. increase number/ type/ access);
 - Help demonstrate/ establish business cases for the installation of new charging points or the upgrade of existing infrastructure;
 - Apply for funding to deliver charging points;
 - Fulfil actions of the Council's Net Zero Commitment, Air Quality Action Plan and Movement Strategy;
 - Provide evidence for Local Plan policy and assist in Development Management decisions.
- 10 Charging points for both the SDC fleet and the general public are being installed at Argyle Road. We are also planning to install more charging points in SDC owned car parks as set out in a previous report to this committee.
- 11 The first charging point exclusively for taxi charging has been installed in Sevenoaks Town in conjunction with KCC.

Energy Efficiency

- 12 Following the successful application to the **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Home Upgrade Grant**, we have received £402,500 up to March 23 to help tackle fuel poverty for low income families by providing energy efficiency upgrades, insulation and low-carbon heating to low-income households in the Sevenoaks District. This project is being led by a newly appointed Energy Efficiency Project Officer to work with communities to identify suitable households.
- 13 Alongside partner councils in Kent, and led by KCC, we were successful in our application for the **Local Government Association Behavioural Insights Programme 2022**. The purpose of the project is to encourage and empower lower to middle income households to make low or no-cost behaviour changes that will reduce their domestic energy consumption. Focusing on those that can't access the advice or support that is targeted at the fuel poor.
- 14 The behaviour change initiative will be published during Autumn 2022 with results published in early 2023. The Energy Efficiency Project Officer is leading on this project with assistance from the communications team.

SDC Emissions Report

- 15 As part of our commitment to be Net Zero by 2030, we are reporting annually on our carbon emissions, so that we can measure our progress and the impact our actions are having on reducing these emissions. We began to do this in 2019/2020; the Council had issued its last Greenhouse Gas Report in 2011.
- 16 We use the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy reporting guidance, which identifies Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as defined by the [Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol](#).
- 17 The calculations for the previous two years have focused on the Council's Argyle Road offices and our depot at Dunbrik, including the fleet. This year we have also started to look at the emissions from our leisure centres in Edenbridge and Sevenoaks. Our third leisure centre in White Oak, Swanley, is a new building and has only been open for two months of the 2021/2 reporting year; for this reason we have not included it this year, but will do in future years. The Energy Performance Certificate for the new building rates it as A, which means it is highly energy efficient.
- 18 The table below provides a summary of the Council's carbon emissions for 2021/2.

Summary table of Council emissions 2021/22

Dunbrik and Argyle Road only (buildings and fleet)			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Tonnes (t) of CO ₂ emissions	Tonnes (t) of CO ₂ emissions	Tonnes (t) of CO ₂ emissions
Scope 1	1,209.36	1,367.51	703.74
Scope 2	151.18	128.79	116.16
Scope 3	33.57	27.64	33.54
Total emissions	1,394.11	1,523.96	853.44

Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres	
	2021/22
	Tonnes (t) of CO ₂ emissions
Scope 1	613.23
Scope 2	116.73
Scope 3	15.86
Total emissions	745.82

19 During the past year we have reduced our carbon emissions. This is due to the replacement of some of our Class 1 diesel vehicles with electric ones, and the reduction in journeys by the waste and recycling team which for several weeks in the previous year had to go to the site at North Farm in Tunbridge Wells to deposit waste and recycling due to a fire at Dunbrik.

20 Although not as many residents are working from home full time now, we are still collecting the same volume of waste and recycling as in the previous two years.

Community Engagement

- 21 We continue to engage with the community to publicise how we are working to meet our Net Zero 2030 commitment and also how others can reduce their own carbon emissions.
- 22 Throughout the summer holidays we ran free **eco trails** in locations across the District. Together with the North West Kent Countryside Partnership, we created eco-trails for the whole family to enjoy. We promoted the trails on social media as well as directly emailing town and parish councils, members and all the schools in the District and included the information in InShape.
- 23 We have continued to have at least one **Net Zero social media** post each week including making residents aware of new electric vans, promoting green schemes and opportunities for businesses, promoting Cycle to Work day and Zero Waste Week. In July we marked National Net Zero week by posting on social media each day setting out what the Council has done to contribute towards net zero commitment.
- 24 In May, Cllr Fleming and Helen French (Net Zero Project Co-ordinator) were invited to give a presentation during assembly at **Russell House School** in Otford. This was very well received and we are looking to ways we can engage with other schools and work together to address climate change in the District.
- 25 At the beginning of September, Cllr Fleming and Holly Harris (Air Quality Promotions Officer) attended the **Eynsford Eco Fair** representing Sevenoaks District Council. The event was an opportunity for Sevenoaks District Council to share progress on their Net Zero achievements and engage with residents on improvements they can make within their households. This included discussions with residents on thermal imagery devices to detect energy gaps in their homes, home installation improvements and refuse collection alternatives.

Carbon Reduction Plan

- 26 We have appointed LASER to undertake a study for our Net Zero work. This will cover:
 - Heat decarbonisation plans for Argyle Road, Dunbrik, Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, Edenbridge Leisure Centre (White Oak is too new to be included at this stage)
 - Carbon Reduction Plan to set out what we will need to do to reach our target
 - District Emissions report
- 27 The findings of the study will be incorporated into future action plans and other Council projects and proposals. Work should be complete in Winter 22/23 and will be included in future Net Zero Update reports.
- 28 It is highly likely that the Council will need to offset some carbon emissions in order to reach net zero in 2030. The plan will set out the level of emissions

likely to need offsetting as well as potential opportunities for renewable energy generation to further reduce the remaining carbon emissions.

Next Steps

- 29 Officers will continue to make progress to achieve the Net Zero 2030 actions. We will also continue to identify new opportunities and projects to deliver the Net Zero 2030 commitment.
- 30 Regular update reports on the Net Zero 2030 work will be provided for members via the Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030.

Key Implications

Financial

Funding for the Net Zero 2030 commitment will be met from existing budgets.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. This report is to inform members of the ongoing work to meet the commitment.

Conclusions

The Council have committed to Net Zero 2030 and have identified actions to help achieve this goal. We are currently making good progress to achieve the actions within the agreed timescales.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Richard Morris

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services