

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Management Team
Climate Change Advisory Board

Date: 8 March 2022
27 April 2022

Reporting officer: Sarah Parfitt, Director (Corporate Services)

Subject: Council Climate Plan Scorecards

Purpose and summary of report:

To inform Members of the assessment of the council’s climate change plans, as conducted by Climate Emergency UK in September 2021.

To inform Members of the outcomes of self-assessment conducted by council officers in February 2022 against the assessment criteria used by Climate Emergency UK.

Recommendations:

Members note the outcomes of self-assessment conducted by council officers in February 2022 against the assessment criteria used by Climate Emergency UK.

Key Implications:

Item	Implications
Legal	In 2008 Government introduced the Climate Change Act 2008, which set out a legally binding target for 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels. As a result of signing the Paris Agreement, and recognising the need to do more, this target was revised in June 2019 to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050.
Finance and Value for Money	There are no financial implications from this report.
Corporate Plan	Objective #1 – People; Carbon Neutral Borough: in declaring a climate emergency, begin to take action to prepare Gravesham to become carbon neutral by 2030.
Climate Change	The Council Climate Change Scorecard provides an assessment of all UK councils’ written climate action plans and has been used to highlight opportunities to further develop and enhance the council’s plans to tackle Climate Change, as set out in the Climate Change Strategy and associated Delivery Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2021 Climate Emergency UK undertook, for the first time, an assessment of all UK councils' written climate action plans and created Climate Plan Scorecards for each authority. The assessment was based on climate action plans that were published online before 20 September 2021 (and written after 2015) and was conducted by a team of over 120 volunteers, trained and overseen by Climate Emergency UK.
- 1.2 Climate Emergency UK are a not-for-profit campaigning organisation which exists to support local authorities in delivering on their climate ambitions by providing accessible information about best practice and providing a network where local authorities, activists, NGOs, business and local communities can work together.
- 1.3 The assessment was conducted over nine sections, comprising 28 questions with 78 marks available. A summary of each section is set out below:
 - 1.3.1 Section 1 - Governance, Development and Funding – commitment and leadership of the plan, net-zero targets, funding and costing and monitoring, reviewing and updating the plan.
 - 1.3.2 Section 2 - Mitigation and Adaptation – how well the plan outlines the implications of climate change on the local area, and whether the plan has set out strategies for decarbonisation and adaptation within the key areas such as planning and land use, transport, business and industry, and energy generation and usage.
 - 1.3.3 Section 3 - Commitment and Integration - integration of the climate and ecological emergency into the council's existing policies and procedures, as well as the target dates set out by the plan.
 - 1.3.4 Section 4 - Community Engagement and Communications - who has been involved in the plan's development and how the council intends to keep the community involved in its delivery. What has been made to include under-represented groups, collaborative partnerships, accessibility of the plan and whether there is a clear communication strategy.
 - 1.3.5 Section 5 - Measuring and Setting Emissions Targets - concentrates on the emissions data and targets set out in the plan.
 - 1.3.6 Section 6 - Co-benefits - does the plan considers the co-benefits of climate action and the public health risks of climate change.
 - 1.3.7 Section 7 - Diversity and Social Inclusion - how does the plan identify the communities most effected by climate change and focus resources to support vulnerable communities, recognising that councils and residents have differing responsibilities for climate action.
 - 1.3.8 Section 8 - Education, Skills and Training - focuses on carbon literacy training for all staff and councillors, education for the public, and training/upskilling the workforce.
 - 1.3.9 Section 9 - Ecological Emergency – how the plan addresses the ecological emergency, alongside its focus on nature based solutions and the ecological impacts of climate change mitigation actions.

- 1.4 At a headline level, Climate Emergency UK found that:
- More than one in five of the UK's 409 local authorities have no published plan (84 in total);
 - 139 local authorities have not committed to reach net zero emissions by a specific date;
 - The average score for Scottish and English councils was 46% dropping to 31% for Wales and 25% for Northern Ireland. Within that, there is a wide variety of scores across all council types. In England, the highest scoring County Council was only 63% compared to 19 District Councils that scored between 63% and 92%.

2. Climate Plan Scorecard – Gravesham Borough Council

- 2.1 Gravesham Borough Council achieved a total score of 54%. Appendix One provides further information on how this score was achieved over the nine assessment areas and also sets out the scores achieved by other Kent district and borough council's alongside the highest scoring district council in the UK, Somerset West and Taunton Council.
- 2.2 It should be noted that the assessment was carried out before this council adopted its Climate Change Strategy and associated Delivery Plan in December 2022, and also introduced the Climate Change Advisory Board.
- 2.3 To take into account the actions of the council since the assessment was conducted, a self-assessment against the criteria has been conducted and is attached at Appendix Two for information. As summarised below this indicates that, based on current arrangements, a score of 75% would currently be achieved by the council which would place it 6th in the county and the best performing council in Kent. Appendix Two also sets out action to further develop the council's arrangements against the assessment criteria used for this assessment. These actions will be taken forward through the Climate Change Officer Group.

Section	CEUK Score		Self-Assessment Score	
	Raw Score	Weighted Score	Raw Score	Weighted Score
Governance, Development and Funding	12	9%	18	13%
Mitigation and Adaptation	11	9%	11	9%
Commitment and Integration	5	11%	6	13%
Community, Engagement and Communications	5	8%	7	12%
Measuring and Setting Targets	2	4%	4	8%
Co-Benefits	4	5%	4	5%
Diversity and Inclusion	1	2%	3	6%
Education, Skills and Training	2	4%	3	6%
Ecological Emergency	2	3%	3	4%
TOTAL (out of a maximum of 79)	44	54%	59	75%

3. Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix One: Scorecard Analysis – Kent Authorities
- 3.2 Appendix Two: Gravesham Self-Assessment – February 2022

4. Background Documents

4.1 The following background reference source was used:

<https://www.climateemergency.uk/council-climate-scorecard>

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	There are no specific risks associated with the detail contained within the self-assessment.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data ? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No
	b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A
	c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk . N/A
Equality Impact Assessment	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. N/A
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.
Digital and website implications	The recent assessment by Climate Emergency UK would have been based on information publicly available via the council website.
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications resulting from this report