

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Full Council

Date: 5th December 2023

Reporting officer: Sarah Parfitt, Director (Corporate Services)

Subject: Climate Change Annual Report

Purpose and summary of report:

This report provides Members with the draft Climate Change Annual Report 2023 for consideration.

Recommendations:

1. Members are asked to note the progress of the council during 2023 in developing its activity to deliver the Climate Change motion.
2. Members are asked to approve the Annual Report set out at appendix two and give delegated authority for any final amendments to be made by the Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Leader of the Executive.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	The Council is committed to working towards achieving the overall Government carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.
Finance and Value for Money	A specific Climate Change Reserve has been established to provide seed funding for activities relating to the council's Climate Change agenda. The balance available currently stands at just under £446k. Climate Change activity will also be funded from existing revenue and capital budgets, with external grant funding and support sought as it becomes available.
Corporate Plan	One Council: a well-run and innovative authority, defined by its skilled and valued workforce, committed to developing its local social impact. Climate Action: as a socially responsible and carbon literate council, deliver on our corporate climate pledge for net zero by 2030.

	<p>One Community: an active, engaged, and culturally enriched population, built on the foundations of an affordable and quality local housing offer.</p> <p>Ambitious building: tackle the housing challenge by developing a diverse build programme that increases the supply of high-standard and energy-efficient market and affordable housing.</p>
Climate Change	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the specific actions the council has and will be taking to address its responsibilities concerning Climate Change.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its Full Council meeting on 25 June 2019, Gravesham Borough Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency and, accordingly, committed to Gravesham Borough Council taking a lead in achieving Carbon Net Zero status.
- 1.2 In the global context of long-term climate change, this motion represents a small step. As a local authority, however, we have a social responsibility to improve the lives of local residents wherever possible and should therefore take a lead in the borough; taking action to reduce carbon emissions will also help make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term.
- 1.3 The full Motion as adopted was:
Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon net zero by 2030.
- 1.4 In response to the Climate Change motion passed in June 2019, Full Council was presented with the Council’s planned activity and future reporting procedures at its meeting in December 2019. As agreed at this meeting, a report on the council’s activities would be prepared and presented back to Full Council on an annual basis; the first annual report was presented and approved by Full Council at its meeting on 1 December 2020.

2. Climate Change Annual Report 2023

- 2.1 The draft Climate Change Annual Report 2023 is provided at appendix two for Member review.

The report sets out:

- Borough and Council Emissions Baseline
Providing an update on the borough-wide emissions using data provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), formerly the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and incorporating updated details of the emissions from council operations using the LGA Accounting Tool for Greenhouse Gas Emissions provided by Local Partnerships.
- Carbon Reduction Actions during 2023
An overview of the proactive work that has been undertaken by the council over the past 12 months, since December 2022, in response to the three strategic priorities identified:

- Gravesham Borough Council – the organisation
- Gravesham Borough Council – the housing provider
- Gravesham Borough Council – the community leader

- Future Carbon Pressure
Identification of the future projects and/or initiatives that will create added pressure for the borough in tackling climate change and specifically, the levels of carbon emissions.
- Areas of Focus for 2024
Identification of the key areas that will be considered in 2024, including identification of key deliverables for this period, taken from the council's proposed Climate Change Strategy.

3. Next steps

- 3.1 Subject to approval of the draft annual report by Full Council, the document will be formatted in line with the council's agreed branding and published on the council's website.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:

Appendix Two – DRAFT Climate Change Annual Report 2023

5. Background Documents

- 5.1 Background papers pertaining to this report are held by the Director (Corporate Services). Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, liaise with the Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	There are no specific risks associated with the detail contained within the draft Annual Report. It will be necessary, however, for both officers and Members to consider any risks that may be associated with proposed climate change actions to ensure these are fully considered prior to implementation.
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. No
	<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	N/A
Digital and website implications	Once approved, there will be a requirement for the Climate Change Annual Report to be published on the council's website.
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	N/A