

Climate Change – Stage 1 Update (Chief Executive's Office – Marcel Steward)

Synopsis of report:

The report responds to a request by Cllr D Whyte and Cllr J Olorenshaw under Standing Order 27 addressing Scope 1 target, achievement and investment value indicators relating to Runnymede Borough Councils action on climate change

Recommendation:

For information

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 Members requested that this report be prepared to consider ways of reporting annual emissions (Scope 1) of each service, the target level of reduction over the next year, the annual programs & investments which the service is doing, the expected reduction in emission (Scope 1) because of those investment, the average cost per ton of reduced scope 1 of any investment (a metric to measure priority schemes and value for money) and the previous 6 months expected emissions and whether reduction targets were met.

Timetable for implementation

- 1.2 Please refer to Section 9 below - Timetable for implementation
- 1.3 Report to Corporate Management Committee request for budget approval to tender the contract to establish the Carbon Baseline for Runnymede Borough Council Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as described in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP)

Corporate Business Plan (CBP) Incorporating Climate Change Strategy

- 1.4 The CBP was ratified by Full Council in October 2022. This includes the move to a Project based action management plan for 2022 / 23:
 - all projects will include climate change action/s within their business plan
 - finalisation of the projects which will be taken forward in 2022/23 will be discussed at the SLT/Members Away Day held on 4 November 2022

2. Report

- 2.1 The Carbon Baseline establishes the reference datum against which the Council will measure and track progress towards the 2030 net zero target for its own emissions and the 2050 national target.

The Councils progress towards its 2030 net zero target will be established

with respect to its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as described in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol 2001(GHGP)

- 2.2 The RBC Carbon Baseline will establish the Councils Greenhouse Gas emissions (normalised to Carbon emission equivalents) for the year 2019. By usage this is accepted as the common carbon baseline datum by many local authorities, including the Surrey County Council strategy which RBC supports, and other Surrey Districts and Boroughs
- 2.3 The Stage 1 RBC Carbon Baseline consultation will:
 - collate the baseline data across all business units against all current actions
 - model estimated carbon emission trajectories for various mitigation pathways (including 'business as usual') out to 2030 and 2050
 - determine a monitoring / measuring and reporting methodology, including key indicators, to track current and future activities over time to reduce carbon emissions related to the Carbon Baseline emission trajectories modelled by the consultation
- 2.4 The Stage 2 RBC Carbon Baseline consultation will:
 - establish 'High Level' baseline emission scenarios for incorporation within the Local Plan
 - establish Energy Standards and Sustainable Development Principles for new developments (over and above the national standards – if feasible / viable)
 - assess the potential for renewable and low-carbon energy generation capacity, including the potential for district heating
 - explore Climate Change Adaptation Measures – primarily those which can be delivered through the revised Local Plan for new development and redevelopment
- 2.5 The RBC Carbon Baseline consultation will incorporate data from all business units with the main contributors to carbon emission reduction expected to be:
 - Assets and Regeneration: energy and water consumption
 - Environmental Services: Fleet vehicles, fuel and refuse services
 - Community Services: Fleet vehicles and fuel
 - Financial Services: expenditure on purchased goods and services, capital goods, business mileage
 - Housing Services: energy consumption and water use
 - Customer, Digital and Collection Services: car parks (energy, EV charging)
 - Human Resources and Organisational Development: homeworking and commuting
- 2.6 The RBC Carbon Baseline consultation and the monitoring/measuring methodology will enable the measurement of carbon emissions across all Business Units and will be used to guide targeted investment to achieve best effect to meet the Council's climate change objective
- 2.7 Finalised projects to be carried forward in 2022/23 will be set project specific key performance indicators. These will provide a measure of progress and achievement of the individual project objectives

- 2.8 The Carbon Baseline and monitoring/measuring methodology will be utilised to measure the carbon emission impact and progress against the modelled carbon emission trajectories to track the Council's overall progress towards the Council's 2030 and 2050 objectives
- 2.9 It is anticipated that project KPI's will be reported to their relevant committees on a regular basis. It is expected that these will be project specific to accommodate individual project timelines
- 2.10 The outcome of the carbon emission baseline consultation methodology is designed facilitate progress of the summation of carbon emissions of all projects and Council operations against the Council's 2030 and 2050 objectives. This will be reported Council wide at a periodicity to be determined, advised by the findings of the carbon emission baseline consultation
- 3. **Policy framework implications**
 - 3.1 Not Applicable: this has been addressed in the CMC July 2022
- 4. **Resource implications/Value for Money**
 - 4.1 Not Applicable: this has been addressed in the CMC July 2022
- 5. **Legal implications**
 - 5.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1980 levels
 - 5.2 In June 2019, Parliament passed The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 requiring Government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050
 - 5.3 Most regulations around climate change are enshrined within planning law with specific reference to the Local Plan. RBC's Local Plan 2030 is compliant with these regulations
 - 5.4 The Council is mandated to report all current greenhouse gas emissions to the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
 - 5.5 There are no other regulatory requirements on local authorities specific to climate change
- 6. **Equality implications**
 - 6.1 This report addresses the Scope 1 target, achievement and investment value indicators relating Runnymede Borough Councils action on climate change and specifically how the Council will measure its progress against the 2030 and 2050 net zero targets by its actions relevant to the business-as-usual model
 - 6.2 There are no equality implications of stemming from this report. Equality implications of individual actions which the Council takes will be assessed and reported for individual actions / interventions taken pursuant to the Climate Change Strategy

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 The Carbon Baseline consultation relates to tracking the Councils progress towards its 2030 and 2050 targets. It does not address specific actions which the Council will undertake. There are no environmental / sustainability / biodiversity implications stemming from the actions described in this report.

8. Other implications

- 8.1 Corporate Business Plan: the Climate Change Strategy, including the subject of this report, is one of the five strategies enshrined within the Corporate Business Plan
- 8.2 Actions identified from the Carbon Baseline reference datum and the models generated to predict progress against the Councils 2030 and 2050 net zero targets will have implications for all Council Business Unit

9. Timetable for Implementation

9.1 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY Including Establishing RBC's Carbon Baseline

July '22: Report to CMC: request for budget approval to tender the contract to establish the Carbon Baseline for Runnymede Borough Council Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as described in the GHGP

July – Sept. '22 Tender issued:

78 expressions of interest

5 Shortlisted:

- Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC)
- Hydrogen East
- Love Design Studio Ltd
- Perform Green
- Over Arup & Partners

October '22 Award of Contract to LUC

31 October 2022: LUC Inception Meeting

March - April '23 Stage 1: Report to Working Groups / Committees

- RBC Baseline Emissions (2019)
- High level baseline for Local Plan
- Mitigation Scenarios
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting methodology

May – June '23 Stage 2 Report to Working Groups / Committees

- Feed in to 'Regulation 18' Local Plan requirement

(For Information)

Background papers

None stated