Report title	Climate Change Update Report
Report author	Georgina Pacey, Planning Policy and Climate Change Manager
Department	Planning, Economy and Built Environment
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	Not applicable
Reasons for exemption	Not applicable

Purpose of report:

For information

Synopsis of report:

This report seeks to update the Committee on the various activities which have been undertaken, are ongoing or are planned to help the Council and the Borough of Runnymede meet its net zero targets, by 2030 and 2050 respectively.

Recommendation(s):

Corporate Management Committee is requested to:

1: NOTE the Climate Change updates provided in this report;

1. **Context and background of report**

1.1   The Council's Climate Change Strategy which was adopted in October 2022 contains the strategic objective to, 'Reduce Carbon emissions from Council operations to Net Zero by 2030'. More widely, the Council will be working to help ensure that the Borough of Runnymede meets the national target of achieving net zero carbon by 2050.

1.2   Councillors have requested regular update reports from officers to detail the activities being carried out across the Council which are likely to impact on the Council's response to climate change and contribute to meeting the above mentioned targets.

2. **Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended**

2.1   At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting of 9th March, and Corporate Management Committee of 23rd March, officers produced a climate change update report which sought to bring the Committee up to date in terms of the various activities being carried out across the Council to help the organisation respond to the challenges of climate change and meet local and national net zero

targets. This report follows on from the March version, and provides updated information to reflect changes which have occurred in the intervening period.

2.2   In producing this latest update report, staff from all service areas within the Council have been approached for their input. Information is now presented in a simple tabular format. A table has been produced for each service area, with additional tables also produced for the Chief Executive's Office and the Central Climate Change Team (the latter is part of the wider Planning, Economy and Built Environment service area, however, given the length of the table for this service area and the Climate Change team, officers have split it into two). These tables can be viewed at Appendix 1. Each table lists the name of the relevant activity, gives a brief description of it, lists any relevant committee report(s) and then provides any relevant update which has occurred since March. A number of new activities are also captured. These are clearly annotated in the first column. It should be noted that some of these activities are genuinely new, in that they have only been initiated since the March update. This 'new' categorisation also captures activities from Service Area Plans which were known about in March 2023 but were not captured in the previous update report.

2.3   Each Service Area table has up to three sections as follows:
        -Relevant activities completed since 2019. 2019 is the date taken as this will tie in with the base date for calculating the Council's carbon emissions in the Runnymede Carbon Baseline report which is currently being produced.
        -Current/ongoing activities
        -Planned activities: This largely relates to activities due to be commenced in the 2023/24 financial year. These projects and defined smaller pieces of work/initiatives which flow from the Council's Corporate Business Plan and its supporting strategies.

2.4   As well as speaking to staff from each service area, other sources of information which have been reviewed in producing this report are:
        • Published information on the Council's website;
        • Information obtained from the Council's Project Management Office;
        • The Forward Plan produced by Committee Services.

2.5   In reviewing this report, Members are asked to remember that not all of the activities reported have/are being undertaken specifically in response to climate change. For example, the driver for undertaking a number of the projects/activities has been to make efficiencies in the Council's processes (for example, the introduction of Hybrid Mail), or to respond to statutory requirements (for example the production of the Borough Local Plan). Some of these activities do however have additional benefits of helping the Council deliver more environmentally friendly services/policies which will contribute to the Council's response to climate change. For completeness, these activities have been reported.

2.6   The report also sets out the activities which are being specifically undertaken to help the Council respond to climate change, for example, the production of the Council's Carbon Baseline Study, the final outputs of which are reported elsewhere on this agenda, and which establish the baseline carbon emissions for the Council and the Borough as at 2019.

2.7   Since the production of the March update report, the Project Management Office and Climate Change Team have been working to develop a high level project and activity report in a dashboard format to provide Members with an overview of the progress of Council activities with climate change impacts. This has been made possible

following updates made to the business case template, project charter template and launch of the Business Planning Tool. Project leads are now required to provide more information in both cases on climate change impacts including any direct or indirect impacts of the proposal on climate change, whether the activity is expected to result in a decrease or increase in carbon emissions and any environmental benefits. The first climate change specific dashboard is appended with this Climate Change Update Report. Moving forward it is proposed that, following discussions with the Leader, future detailed Climate Change update reports will be produced alongside the Q2 and Q4 Project Portfolio Reports in October and April respectively (and reported to CMC at the next available meetings factoring in committee lead in times). For the quarters in between (Q1 and Q3), a climate change dashboard in line with the format shown in Appendix 2 will be produced in July and January respectively and shared with Members via the Members Teams channel to provide a high level update of the ongoing activities across the Council with a climate change impact.

2.8   It should be noted that the climate change dashboard provides details of all projects and other activities from Service Area Plans. The more detailed tables seen at Appendix 1 seek to be consistent with information held by the PMO, but in addition, report on the Business as Usual activity which may not be captured by the PMO, but which officers consider is relevant, for example, development of climate change planning guidance is not captured by the PMO but is nevertheless referred to in the Planning, Economy and Built Environment table.

2.9   Officers will continue to work to refine the Climate Change updates provided to Members, working to fill gaps in information where they exist. For example, Members will note that additional information on carbon emission impacts associated with a range of activities is now presented in this latest update report.

2.10   Members are requested to note when reviewing this report that a number of the planned future activities/initiatives described will require growth bids/supplementary estimates if they are to be delivered. Where it is agreed that business cases and growth bids cannot be supported, certain activities will not be able to proceed. It should also be noted that new initiatives not currently listed in this report may be identified in the future, which may help the Council respond to the challenges of climate change.

3.   Policy framework implications

3.1   All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have been assessed for their wider policy implications. Future planned activity through the Service Area Plans across the Authority have been designed to ensure that the objectives of the Council's Corporate Business Plan and supporting corporate strategies can be delivered over their lifetime.

4   Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1   All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their resource and financial implications assessed. Activities beyond this current financial year would be set out in future Service Area Plans adopted by the Council.

5.   Legal implications

5.1   All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their legal implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their legal implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

6.   Equality implications

6.1   All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their equality implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their equality implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

7.   Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1   All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their environmental/ sustainability/ biodiversity implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their implications in terms of environment, sustainability and biodiversity considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

8.   Other implications

8.1   Future activities listed in the report will be assessed for other implications as appropriate.

9.   Timetable for Implementation

9.1   The various activities listed in this update report all have their own timetables. Further climate change update reports will seek to provide further information on the timescales for delivery for different projects where possible through discussion with the Council's Project Management Office and Service Heads.

10.   Background papers

10.1   None-relevant committee reports are hyperlinked as appropriate in the Service Area updates.

11.   Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change updates by Service Area
Appendix 2: Climate Change dashboard