



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 JANUARY 2025
Subject	CLIMATE PROGRAMME UPDATE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Mike McKeown - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability Email: mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Olivia McGregor, Climate lead Email: olivia.mcgregor@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Olivia McGregor, Climate lead Email: olivia.mcgregor@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To provide an update on actions
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That the Committee resolves to: note the actions to-date and the ongoing activity to further embed climate action across all the Council's activities.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding to the Climate Emergency• Delivering Good Services• Supporting Communities• Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive Cabinet Service leads across CDC and Publica including Business Managers, Assistant Directors and specialists CLG members Cotswold residents



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Council's Climate Emergency Strategy of September 2020 contained a target to make emissions from the Council's own operations net-zero carbon as soon as possible, aiming for an 80% reduction by 2030 against a 1990 baseline, and a 100% reduction by 2045. A new need to comply with the GHG Protocol standards for emissions reporting has prompted a carbon emissions accounting review, and once this has been completed an updated report of progress against the net zero target will be carried out.

2. MAIN POINTS – EMBEDDING CLIMATE ACTION

2.1 'Direct Control' actions

The Council's Climate Emergency Strategy of September 2020 identified the Council's different spheres of influence over carbon emissions. These range from emissions under the council's control (for example emissions produced from its own operations) through to those it can have an influence over by enabling District-wide climate mitigation action.

- 2.2** A number of activities to reduce council carbon emissions are being carried out. Solar PV has been installed on CDC Council offices at Trinity Road. A business case has been agreed and an offer has been made to New Brewery Arts for the provision of solar PV too. Works will proceed swiftly if they agree to the proposal. Eight electric vehicle charge points installed in both the Trinity Road car park and Rissington Road car park are fully operational, providing accessible charging facilities for staff and the wider public. UK government grant funding is being sought to enable decarbonisation works across the CDC built estate and Ubico have been instructed to produce a profile of costs associated with waste fleet decarbonisation.

2.3 'Place Shaping' actions

Work is progressing with preparing the climate change policies of the partial update of the adopted Local Plan for a final stage of public consultation, ahead of submitting the updated policies to the Secretary of State for examination in public. This work has included consideration of feedback to the previous public consultation on the draft Local Plan, and taking on-board the findings of evidence base studies that inform the policy updates.



2.4 'District-wide enabling' actions

The Council has been successful in securing government grant funding to cover 50% of costs to provide residents without off-street parking with EV charging facilities, to enable the uptake of EVs across the District. Plans to install electric vehicle charge points in Council-owned carparks have progressed. The Council have now entered into a contract with Connected Kerb for delivery of EVCPs in 4 Council owned car parks in Tetbury, Cirencester, Stow on the Wold and Moreton in Marsh respectively. The Portfolio Holder and officers also met with Government representatives to make a case for extending EVCP delivery and funding into 2025/26 to enable more EVCPs to be delivered on sites that have constraints and cannot be delivered in the current March 2025 grant timeframe. We await confirmation from Government representatives regarding the outcome of those discussions.

2.5 The Council is also working to enable residents to install solar PV by helping them to understand their options, find a reliable installer and secure a fair price through the Cotswold Home Solar scheme. The scheme continues to be promoted and delivered. As a result of the scheme 17 homes have already installed solar panels, 20 have paid a deposit and residents are on track to save nearly £450,000 across the district.

2.6 Low carbon retrofit of the District's domestic building stock is an essential component of national emissions reduction but remains a huge challenge. The Council has reached a significant milestone however having recruited a Retrofit Engagement Officer to tackle this challenge. External funding for this post has been secured for 1 year until September 2025 (£75k was secured as part a Climate Leadership Gloucestershire partnership bid). The Retrofit Officer is tasked with engaging circa 300 households with EPC D or below to retrofit their homes to lower both running costs and carbon emissions. This forms part of a Gloucestershire wide programme of work on retrofit. Cotswold District Council is contributing to the development of a Gloucestershire-wide retrofit support offer through the Climate Leadership Gloucestershire (CLG) partnership. A contractor has now been procured to carry out this work.

2.7 The Council is working in partnership with other Gloucestershire-based councils to create a Local Area Energy Plan which is vital to enabling net zero within Cotswold



District since it is needed to build the case to District Network Operators for investment and expansion in electricity grid infrastructure.

- 2.8** Work also continues through Climate Leadership Gloucestershire on delivering the Statement of Shared Intent (SoSI) in which all seven local authorities expressed an ambition to reduce surface transport emissions by 80% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050. A policy workshop was held recently regarding development of an EV taxi policy.
- 2.9** Cotswold District Council have directed Rural England Prosperity Funding towards community infrastructure and cultural buildings decarbonisation. For example earlier in 2024 Charlton Rovers AFC and Bowmoor Sailing Club received funding for solar panel and battery solution installation.

2.10 'Engaging' actions

This remains a very important part of the Council's overall climate crisis response, and there is much work to do to help build confidence and momentum among all District-wide stakeholders, from staff to residents and from businesses to public sector bodies.

A web resource communicating the full suite of Cotswold Climate Initiatives and Future Plans has been created to ensure stakeholders can keep up to date with the wide range of on-going initiatives

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/frequently-asked-questions-cotswold-s-climate-initiatives-and-future-plans/>

We regularly run communication engagement campaigns to encourage behaviour change amongst District stakeholders. For example, we have run a wear-not-waste campaign to reduce clothing waste.

We continue to provide funding for a business net zero engagement support programme. We have also relaunched Crowdfund Cotswolds which supports and enables local communities to invest in carbon reduction technology and activity. Carbon literacy training continues to be rolled out to staff and councillors. We have



also developed a web resource to communicate to all stakeholders on the work of the council regards climate change.

A District-wide network of individuals and organisations has been created called Cotswold Climate Action Network. This is a citizen group motivated by the climate challenge and researching user needs in order to provide real value. The aim is to replicate the success of West Oxfordshire District Council's 'Green Light' communications platform.

Finally, Mike McKeown of Cotswold District Council has chaired and vice-chaired Climate Leadership Gloucestershire in 2024 which is an important role in securing engagement and buy-in for tackling climate change at scale.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** Solar panels installed at the Trinity Road office is expected to save circa £42,000 per year in energy bills.
- 3.2** No further financial implications are associated with this report. Individual climate projects will be subject to business cases where this is necessary.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** None relevant to this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1** If the Council does not take action to embed climate action across all services and does not effectively assess its performance in reducing its carbon emissions it will fail to deliver against its climate targets.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1** None associated with this report.

7. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Covered within the main body of the report.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1** The Council could decide to reduce its climate activities but will then fail to deliver against its Climate priority.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS



COTSWOLD

District Council

9.1 None.

(END)