



Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy Update

Transport Environment & Climate Change Select Committee

12 November 2020



Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy

- Work is framed by the passing of the Climate Change Motion at Council on 15 July – this directs us to:
 - Produce proposal for Buckinghamshire as a whole to reach net zero by 2050
 - Evaluate reaching net zero for its own emissions no later than 2050, potentially by 2030 subject to resources
- We have combined this with the draft ‘Low Emissions Strategy’ which focused on air quality issues, for which actions strongly align with climate change
- Development timeline based on adoption of Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy by Cabinet in February 2021

Strategy Development Time Line



Future TECC Meeting Dates and Strategy Development Stages

14 January: Public Consultation complete - updated Strategy being approved

11 March: Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy adopted

Public Questionnaire Headline Results

- High levels of concern regarding climate change indicated amongst respondents – 95% concerned of which 79% very concerned.
 - This is higher than UK figures from 2019 of 85% concerned and 52% very concerned.
- Climate concern is influenced by both scientific evidence and personal experience of change (e.g. hotter, drier summers)
- Air quality concerns particularly focused on personal experience within town centres
- Respondents more aware of the council's physical measures to reduce emissions (e.g. LED street lighting, EV charge points and cycle routes) compared to policy or management actions (e.g. Council motion / Air Quality Management Area designation)

Development Activity

- Internal launch event followed 7 internal workshops involving nearly 100 staff to draft actions
- Separate briefing with Community Board Coordinators
- TECC Select Committee Working group has met twice
- Dialogue with local environmental groups
- Public questionnaire:
 - 1370 individual responses,
 - 42 organisations

TECC Select Committee Working Group

- Working Group reviewed an early draft of the document providing wide ranging feedback
- Particular areas of focus included:
 - Need for clarity and transparency over the data and figures referred to.
 - For example, whether consumption or generation based emissions figures are being used
 - Clarity of the scope of the Carbon Audit (council only) v Scope of the Strategy (Buckinghamshire wide, including the council)
 - Articulating the council's role and degree of control or influence over emission sources and 'type' of resulting action
 - Direct control (i.e. council emissions)
 - Influence via contracts / policy
 - Informing where no established mechanism

Consultation Summary

- Will be available from 16 November to 16 December
- Online only via a questionnaire
- Promotion via press release, social media and local radio
- We will also work with community boards and environmental groups to raise awareness of the consultation