



# Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy - Update

Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee

16 November 2021



# Adoption & Activity Update

- Cabinet adopted Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy on 19 October
- Current & Recent Activity
  - COP 26 Regional Roadshow – Green Wheels in Motion held 10 November
  - Bucks Climate Challenge campaign on social media
  - Tree Planting Programmes
    - Local Authority Treescapes Fund - funds awarded, partners progressing sites
    - Council Tree Planting Programme – site out to tenders
    - Queens Green Canopy
    - Roadside Tree Planting Process

# Council Wide Activity

- The Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy is a whole council strategy, covering all departments and portfolios.
- Following slides highlight activity areas from across the council to address climate change in their work – this is not an exhaustive list but provides an overview of range / type of activity.
- Due to the differing responsibilities covered, portfolios vary in the number and range of links to climate change activities, however all are considering climate change in their work

Portfolio	Activities aligned with addressing climate change
Leader	Housing Infrastructure Fund – Grid reinforcements to enable green growth in Aylesbury.
Health & Wellbeing	Supporting health benefits achieved through active travel and improved air quality; grants to adapt homes to let people stay in homes longer, including on heating systems; free tree offer as part of Queen Green Canopy work.
Planning & Regeneration	Policies relating to climate and energy & their enforcement; Aylesbury Garden Town delivery; new Buckinghamshire local plan.

# Council Wide Activity

Portfolio	Activities aligned with addressing climate change
Communities	Community Board priority for spend on Environment; 'menu' of project ideas for Community Boards to progress; Chiltern Crematorium replacement includes NOx abatement techniques & can be converted to run on biogas in the future.
Transport	Street lighting upgrades; EV charging infrastructure; active travel routes; fleet management support clients with zero emission vehicles; Bus Service Improvement Plan covers move to low emission vehicles; school bus provision prevents private car journeys, additional 14 commercial school routes created in September 2021.
Finance, Resource, Property & Assets	Energy efficiency and renewable generation in buildings; estate review and optimisation; off-site data centre efficiency; more efficient IT equipment; hybrid working practices reducing journeys.
Education & Children's Services	Environmental standards of new schools & extensions – maximising passive design, minimising active and incorporate Low Zero Carbon Technologies (LZCT); free tree offer as part of Queen Green Canopy work; curriculum content on climate issues.

# Council Wide Activity

Portfolio	Activities aligned with addressing climate change
Culture and Leisure	Country Parks & Parks operations moving away from fossil fuels for vehicles and machinery; onsite renewable generation; waste reduction measures with on-site caterers; management of natural assets and growing / planting of trees.
Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services	Housing standards enforcement; Affordable Warmth Network; Green Homes Grants Local Authority Delivery programme for domestic retrofit.
Climate Change & Environment	Support and coordination across portfolios; tree planting support and programme delivery; energy efficiency advice and project delivery; upcoming trials for electric refuse collection vehicles, bid for electric RCV funding; waste minimisation and recycling support; EfW avoids landfill methane emissions; High Heavens Waste Transfer Station saves over 130,000 delivery miles of waste transport; separation of food and green waste diverts waste from landfill / EfW.

# Climate Change & Environment - Portfolio

## Focus Areas

- Council spends £460m/year through third parties, suppliers and contractors.
- Recognition that those working on behalf of council need to support the delivery of our climate targets.
- Commissioning managers already required to consider climate change (amongst a range of factors) in the procurement of new contracts.
- However, need to ensure that services remain affordable, that provision is not jeopardised and that requirements are proportional.

### **Current Example – Highways Maintenance and Consultancy Term Contracts**

- Procurement process requires bidders to demonstrate effective environmental management practice; their commitment to achieving net zero and provide details of how they would assist the council in achieving its objectives.