



Report to Cabinet

Date:	11 th October 2022
Title:	Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Contact officer:	Alexander Beckett
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	1. To note the progress made in 2021-2022 against the aims, objectives and actions in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy
Reason for decision:	Action 9 in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy commits the Council to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions'. Addressing climate change and poor air quality is relevant to all Council Corporate Plan 2020-2025 priorities.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report provides an update on the significant progress made against the aims, objectives, and actions set out in our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy within the year following its adoption on 19th October 2021. Details of 51 activities are provided, many of which address several actions in the Strategy. These have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) decreasing by 10.61% from 2019 to 2020 and nitrogen dioxide concentrations staying within the annual mean value in the last two calendar years in Buckinghamshire; and, the Council's GHG emissions being 70% lower in '21/'22 compared to its emissions from 1990.

- 1.2 The Council was responsible for 6,095 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (TCO₂e) in '21/'22. We have kept comfortably within the Council's carbon budget for '21/'22 (7,407 TCO₂e) and are on track to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by at least 75% by 2030.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Action 9 in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy commits the Council to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions' and addressing climate change and poor air quality is relevant to all Council Corporate Plan 2020-2025 priorities. The Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report (please see Appendix A) provides an update on the significant progress made against the aims, objectives, and actions set out in our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy within the year following its adoption on 19th October 2021.
- 2.2 Following approval of the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report at Cabinet the Report will be published online and promoted as part of the Bucks Climate Challenge communications campaign.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 The option to not produce Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report was considered as not being viable due to the commitment to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions' (action 9 in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy).

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 It's considered that there are no legal or financial implications associated with the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 Due to their negative impacts on health, natural and built environments, and the economy addressing climate change and poor air quality is relevant to all corporate plan priorities:

- Increasing prosperity
- Strengthening our communities
- Improving our environment
- Protecting the vulnerable

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 Consultation with local councillors and community boards was deemed unnecessary regarding the production of the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 Further consultation was deemed unnecessary regarding the production of the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report.
- 7.2 All Council activity detailed in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report has been supported by the Bucks Climate Challenge communications campaign.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 Following approval of the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report at Cabinet the Report and the Action Plan will be published online and promoted as part of the Bucks Climate Challenge communications campaign.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 [Buckinghamshire Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Action Plan 2022-27](#) (approved by Cabinet on 7th June 2022)
- 9.2 [Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy](#) (approved by Cabinet on 19th October 2021)
- 9.3 [Large Scale Tree Planting on Buckinghamshire Council Land Holding](#) (approved by Cabinet on 16th February 2021)
- 9.4 [Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050 Motion](#) (at Full Council on 15th July 2020)