

## CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

### Executive Summary

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the Council's climate change activities, highlighting in particular work undertaken since it declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019.

To set this in context, this report begins by setting out the key milestones in the Council's climate change and sustainability timeline and the motions that set the declaration and subsequent activities in train.

The report then goes on to highlight work undertaken since July 2019 as well as outlining future projects and plans.

### Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

#### **RESOLVE That**

- (i) the activities undertaken to date and those planned in furtherance of the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration, be noted.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.
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**Background Papers:** None.

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**Date Published:** 12March 2021

## 1.0 Introduction, background and timeline

- 1.1 Woking Borough Council has long been committed to protecting the environment. Its first climate change strategy was adopted in 2002, although activities in this area began much earlier in 1990. A timeline of activities is available on the Council's website at [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-change-and-sustainability-timeline](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-change-and-sustainability-timeline) and is presented in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 There are two key strategy documents that underpin activities in this area. Woking 2050 is the borough's current climate change strategy, adopted in 2015. This sets out a vision guiding our collective efforts to create a sustainable borough by reducing our impact on the environment. The significance of the year 2050 used in the strategy's title is tied to the national legislation in place at the time of its adoption. The UK's Climate Change Act sought to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 on the 1990 baseline. This was adopted as a local target at the time of the last revision of the Climate Change Strategy (September 2015). This national target has now been superseded by a pledge to reach net zero by 2050, which has also been adopted locally as part of the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration. A future update of Woking 2050 will reflect this, as well as other actions that have been developed as part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which is outlined in section 2 of this report.
- 1.3 Complementing Woking 2050, is the Natural Woking strategy (adopted in 2016), which is the Council's equivalent strategy for biodiversity and green infrastructure strategy for the area. It sets out how we intend to enhance the provision and accessibility of green spaces, conserve existing biodiversity and habitats and create opportunities for species to return to the borough.
- 1.4 Natural Woking explores how we can all do things differently – individually and together – to make a difference to our places and people, habitats and the species which live here. It establishes seven guiding principles which the Council works to:
  - Living spaces - restore and expand habitats for priority species enhancing the links between these (reducing fragmentation).
  - Access - build a publicly accessible, ecologically sensitive, strategic network of open spaces, green and waterways, especially to and from our urban centres.
  - Urban life - adapt and increase biodiversity and green space in our urban centres and surrounds (as well as in villages and the countryside).
  - Productive places - make the most of our buildings, streets, watercourses and landscapes, taking opportunities for multifunctional use and capitalising on all funding sources.
  - Responsive - protect natural resources, proactively adapt to the direct and indirect changes in climate and population, ensure appropriate estate management and support new development.
  - Wild about Woking - promote knowledge of the value and beauty of all faces of Woking borough's natural environment (town and countryside) and the benefits of getting involved, as a responsible individual, a community group or a business (green economy).
  - Legacy - protect and strengthen the resilience of the green infrastructure network and biodiversity, now and for future generations to enjoy.

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1.5 Delivery against the Woking 2050 and Natural Woking strategies is monitored through regular reporting to the Climate Change Working Group whose members include representatives from the community, business, environmental organisations, councillors and council officers. The cross political party group was established in March 2003. It is a non-public meeting however notes of topics covered are published on the Council's website at [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-change-working-group](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-change-working-group). A wide range of projects have and are being delivered in implementation of the objectives of Woking 2050 and Natural Woking, by the Council, by partner organisations and groups. More information about these at [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability). This earlier work provides a strong foundation on which the Council is building as it takes additional steps in light of the urgency of the climate challenge for Woking borough as for local authorities everywhere.

### 2.0 Declaration and Climate Emergency Action Plan

2.1 On 25 July 2019, the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency. This cross-party declaration recognised the continued priority and commitment the borough gives to addressing climate change, both through mitigation and adaptation. The Council pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 across its own estate and operations.

2.2 By definition, the Council's own estate and operations covers all owned assets to reflect the responsibility and influence it has in terms of the carbon footprint associated with all buildings in its ownership. This includes:

- any Council owned properties that are outside of the borough
- buildings that are owned by the Council but are used by other organisations
- Council owned housing properties, managed by New Vision Homes.

2.3 A baseline year of 2018/2019 was adopted against which progress will be measured.

2.4 Further to the declaration, a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was drafted and approved by the Climate Change Working Group at its meeting on 3 December 2019 and by Council on 13 February 2020. This is available on the Council's website at [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan). The plan highlights and acknowledges this is a continuation of the long term commitment of the Council to protecting the environment and addressing climate change. It highlights activities that are already underway and introduces new actions.

2.5 Given the breadth of the pledge to reduce (and eventually eliminate) the Council's own impact and contribution to climate change, the plan is naturally broad ranging. Crucially, it acknowledges the need to accelerate existing Woking 2050 activities in order to meet the pledge. To initiate the plan it was agreed to progress a series of priority actions for implementation in 2020/21.

2.6 The plan has been categorised into target areas of action:

- our assets (council corporate and leased) – energy and waste
- transport
- policy, leadership and behaviour changes
- sustainable development
- adaptation, ecology and habitats.

2.7 At its meeting on 12 March 2020, the Climate Change Working Group received its first update on progress made against priority actions for 2020/21. This and subsequent updates are available on the Council's website under the climate change pages

([www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan)).

2.8 The latest published update of the CEAP is that taken to the Climate Change Working Group on 25 November 2020, available in Appendix 2. At the time of writing, a further update is tabled for discussion at the Working Group’s next meeting on 18 March 2021.

2.9 Each update shows the progress made against the priority actions and is a reflection of the cumulative work undertaken since the declaration. To reflect the ongoing nature and continuing importance of these actions, these priorities will be rolled forward for 2021/22 and the wider action plan will continue to be a live document that evolves, in consultation with the Climate Change Working Group as appropriate, as actions and priorities come forward.

**3.0 Activities undertaken to date (post July 2019)**

3.1 A number of key activities and projects have been progressed post-declaration. These activities build on a strong foundation of green initiatives that pre-date July 2019 which are recorded on the Council’s website here: [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/green-initiatives](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/green-initiatives).

3.2 As stated in section 2, each CEAP update shows progress against the priority actions. The nature of the declaration is such that many activities are cross-service and involve inter-departmental working. All Council activities and services have an important part to play in reducing its overall climate impact. This is reflected in the themes of Woking 2050 and the CEAP. However, for ease of reference a summary of Woking Borough Council (WBC) activities post July 2019 is included below (please refer to Appendix 2 for full details).

Theme	Activity
Our assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018/19 baseline adopted.</li> <li>• Greenhouse Gas reporting for 2019/20 shows 11% reduction on 2018/19 levels.</li> <li>• Display Energy Certificates renewed for Civic Offices and Monument Way.</li> <li>• Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) confirmed for the three largest buildings owned and leased out by WBC (Dukes Court, Export House and Orion Gate).</li> <li>• Large Scale Renewable Energy Plan drafted for consideration by the Climate Change Working Group at its meeting on 18 March 2021.</li> <li>• Boiler replacement at Woking Leisure Centre in November 2020.</li> <li>• Colleagues from Joint Waste Solutions are working to establish a process for monitoring emissions from Surrey councils’ waste services for the Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP). The monitoring will take account of energy and water consumption from buildings associated with waste collection activities as well as fuel consumption from waste collection vehicles. A proposed methodology was presented to the SEP Members’ Group Meeting at the end of February 2021.</li> </ul>

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<p>Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBC participating in an on-street electric vehicle charging project in partnership with SCC.</li> <li>• Chobham Road pedestrian/cycle bridge.</li> </ul>
<p>Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planet Woking launched (see section 5 of this report for details) including standalone website; social media communications; two online talks; and relaunch of Natural Woking newsletter to incorporate all climate change, sustainability and biodiversity news.</li> <li>• Over £9m awarded by the Government to <a href="#">Action Surrey</a> for the delivery of the Green Jump Surrey project to enhance household energy efficiency improvements across the county. As at the end of January 2021, 528 eligible households have been identified, of which 462 are proceeding to survey and installation; 124 pre-installation EPCs completed to confirm eligibility; 7 residents received 9 measures -1 park home installation, 1 Q-Bot underfloor insulation, 2 cavity wall insulations and 5 loft insulations completed.</li> <li>• Internal audit of energy management and utilities completed.</li> <li>• Single Use Plastics Policy adopted in July 2019 and WBC support confirmed for the Plastic Free Woking project coordinated through Woking Environment Action.</li> <li>• To mark the first anniversary of Refill Woking, Refill West Byfleet was launched in September 2019. The whole network has over 30 Town Centre and five village partners including local cafes, restaurants, shops and retail outlets, that offer a water bottle refill service free of charge (outside of lockdown restrictions). The scheme encourages the reduction of single use plastic bottles. Meanwhile, work is in hand to provide water bottle filling stations in key locations.</li> </ul>
<p>Sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping exercise of the Council's current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps might exist, has been undertaken by officers in Planning Policy and is being finalised. This piece of work will help identify any opportunities for further developing planning policy or guidance to help deliver the Council's declaration and how best they could be achieved, particularly for the next iteration of the <a href="#">Core Strategy</a>.</li> </ul>

<p>Adaptation, ecology and habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Great Crested Newt Project is now in its fourth year. Further habitat improvements were completed at Westfield Common in January and February 2020, in addition to the complementary conservation work of local volunteers, guided by Surrey Wildlife Trust, in line with the wider management plan for the Common.</li> <li>• Rain garden close to completion at Alpha Road – the second in a pilot of raingardens to assist in the alleviation of surface water flooding.</li> <li>• Sutton Green Flood Alleviation scheme.</li> <li>• Tree veteranisation at Woking Park in February 2020 to maintain the diversity of a small woodland by creating the habitat needed to sustain a number of important insects, fungi and wildlife.</li> <li>• Additional management works implemented in some of the Council’s most sensitive countryside greenspaces, including an uplift in conservation works for our rare heathland assets.</li> <li>• Ongoing support to Woking Peregrine Project, now in its fifth year.</li> <li>• Swift, bat and town twinning sign installed in Woking Town Centre (opened in August 2019), other habitat features also installed on nearby buildings.</li> <li>• Ivy wall installed in the High Street (April 2019) and Dukes Court living green wall (completed 2020).</li> <li>• Growing number of conservation volunteering and community gardening projects, led by local residents and supported by the Council and our environmental partner Serco.</li> </ul>
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**4.0 Partnership working and collaboration**

- 4.1 Many activities and projects continue to be made possible through working together with key stakeholders, commercial partners and volunteer organisations to meet our common environmental goals. These activities are key to achieving carbon neutrality both across the council estate and borough-wide.
- 4.2 Our continuing collaboration with ThamesWey and Action Surrey is highlighted in projects listed in section 3 and the CEAP updates. Such projects are central to decarbonising corporate energy supplies (e.g. Poole Road Energy Centre) and engaging residents in the take up of energy efficiency measures (e.g. Green Jump Surrey) and the reduction of the borough’s domestic carbon footprint. Action Surrey provides an impartial energy advice service through which Surrey residents can access a network of trusted, local and experienced installers for various energy saving measures, such as loft insulation, cavity and

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solid wall insulation, energy efficient boilers, LED lighting, solar panels and more. As well as improving household energy efficiency, their services assist in tackling local fuel poverty.

- 4.3 Another significant partner in progressing community focused climate and ecological activities is Woking Environment Action (WeAct). WeAct works to tackle global environmental concerns on a local scale, encouraging sustainable living and working in the Woking area, helping residents, businesses and organisations to make a positive difference to our local environment. The group's work also contributes towards delivery of the Woking 2050 and Natural Woking strategies. Woking Borough Council supports their projects and they are represented on its Climate Change Working Group to help progress our action plans and key objectives.
- 4.4 Organisations such as the Surrey Heathland Partnership and Surrey Wildlife Trust are also essential to the valuable management work being undertaken, in partnership with the Council, to protect our local habitats and species in furtherance of our ecological commitments.
- 4.5 Since March 2020, officers from all districts and boroughs in Surrey, plus the County Council, have convened monthly through virtual meetings of the Surrey Climate Change Officers' Group. This has now come to replace the previous grouping known as the Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership and has proven to be a useful way of sharing knowledge in order to advance our common climate change goals. All local authorities within this group have formally acknowledged the climate situation and need for urgent action.
- 4.6 Further examples of Woking Borough Council working collaboratively with authorities across Surrey on sustainability issues are listed in section 3 and the CEAP.

### 5.0 Planet Woking

- 5.1 As outlined in section 3, work continues on the Planet Woking programme. Its purpose is three-fold:
  - To share what the Council has been doing to date to address climate change and sustainability locally;
  - To raise awareness about what the Council is doing to meet its carbon neutral targets; and to
  - Inspire local people to get involved and make, or continue to make, changes to live a greener, more sustainable life and gather their feedback for new project ideas.
- 5.2 Key Planet Woking activities since its launch on 24 September 2020:
  - Standalone website launched at [www.planetwoking.co.uk](http://www.planetwoking.co.uk)
  - Communications through the dedicated Facebook and Instagram accounts.
  - Hosted two well-received online events as part of a programme of themed talks aimed at residents, schools and businesses. The first event was centred around what individuals can do to improve sustainability at home; the second celebrated the great outdoors and the need to balance access to and enjoyment of our natural habitats and wildlife, with a need to ensure we protect our local biodiversity for its own sake and so that future generations can enjoy it too. For both topics audiences enjoyed a series of presentations given by expert guest speakers. Each online talk is followed by an open discussion during which viewers have the opportunity to share their own experiences of living greener; to ask panellists and Council representatives questions. These discussion sessions have proved to be a great forum through which to gather ideas to

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later share through Planet Woking. Recordings of the webinars are available via the Planet Woking website for those that were not able to view the live event.

- First two of a series of informative video shorts highlighting local environmental work, available to view at [www.planetwoking.co.uk](http://www.planetwoking.co.uk).
- A growing set of community focused case studies inspired by local individuals and groups published to the Get Involved section of the Planet Woking website.
- In October 2020, the Natural Woking newsletter was relaunched as a Planet Woking newsletter which carries all the latest climate change, sustainability and biodiversity project updates. This now has a circulation of circa 600 readers. New subscribers can sign up to the newsletter at [www.planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/newsletters/](http://www.planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/newsletters/)
- The Council's website has been updated with a direct link to the Planet Woking website from the [climate change pages](#).
- Full page features in the winter 2020 and spring 2021 editions of the Woking Magazine. The Magazine is circulated to all households in the Borough and available online [here](#).

5.3 Section 6 details how Planet Woking will continue into 2021 plus further ideas for its future beyond July 2021 which marks the end of the initial funded project.

### 6.0 Future Plans

6.1 The CEAP provides a framework for identifying continuing and future actions. As discussed in section 2, many current priorities will continue into the next financial year to reflect their ongoing nature. Of these, key activities to highlight for 2021/22 include:

Activity	Outputs
Large scale renewable energy plan	At the time of writing the draft plan was tabled for discussion at a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group on 18 March 2021. The Plan suggests a range of actions to facilitate next steps towards achieving greater proportions of locally generated renewable energy. If supported the actions will be added to the wider CEAP. Governance and monitoring of this Plan will be conducted through the Climate Change Working Group.
Remainder of Planet Woking programme until July 2021	The current programme continues until July 2021 during which time communications and engagement will continue to further raise the profile of what the Council and its partners are doing locally to address the climate and ecological declaration. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two further themed webinars;</li> <li>• regular communications and engagement through social media;</li> <li>• possible Planet Woking sponsored community</li> </ul>



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	<p>engagement activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continued expansion of case studies and resources on the Planet Woking website.</li> </ul>
Future of Planet Woking	<p>At the time of writing a paper is tabled for discussion at a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group on 18 March 2021. The paper puts forward a plan for the future of Planet Woking beyond July 2021 when the initial funded project closes. Although Planet Woking will remain an established brand and framework through which the Council can continue to promote and share its climate change and sustainability projects, the paper explores possible options for its lasting profile and growth.</p>
Climate change e-learning	<p>SCC is working with online learning providers Learning Pool to create a new e-learning tool to facilitate learning around climate change and sustainability. The tool will be available for use by Councillors, officers and it may be possible to adapt it for use by the public. SCC has agreed to make it available for use by districts and boroughs. It is hoped that the tool can be incorporated into WBC's existing e-learning provision. WBC officers are also exploring another potential source for additional complementary sustainability training, provided by a third party.</p>
Engaging with the business community	<p>Officers from the Green Infrastructure team have joined the Woking Chamber of Commerce's Environment Committee. This will be a good opportunity to raise the profile of the climate and ecological emergency declaration and how the business community can assist and also continue to improve their own sustainability practices.</p> <p>Planet Woking is a sponsor of the CREST 21 awards, which promote the positive work by businesses based in the Woking area to protect the environment and promote more sustainable working and lifestyle habits. The awards will take place on 20 May 2021 and are being organised by Woking News and Mail in collaboration with the University of Surrey.</p>
Connection of Poole Road Energy Centre	<p>The energy centre is due to be completed in spring 2021. It will supply energy to the new Hilton Hotel, retail stores and residential towers at Victoria Square.</p> <p>ThamesWey is also planning to connect Export House and Midas House to the new district heating and cooling networks to further decarbonise local energy supplies. The connection will be supplemented with some internal retrofit works to the buildings to improve energy efficiency.</p>
Future engagement through the Residents Panel	<p>Further opportunities to raise awareness and strengthen community understanding and engagement with the borough's climate emergency declaration may be available through the Residents Panel which is to launch early in 2021. The Panel will provide people who live in the borough with ongoing opportunities to shape the borough's future, by acting as a</p>

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	sounding board for future initiatives.
SCC study into local delivery on climate change	SCC has contracted Leeds and Surrey Universities to identify priority actions for local delivery against climate targets. The study will consider sectoral emissions (e.g. transport, housing, commercial and industry), renewable energy generation opportunities. Importantly, it will help identify quantifiable carbon reductions and programmes and identify proxies for tangible measurement of projects across the county on baseline emissions. Outputs of the study are anticipated in March 2021 and will be shared with districts and boroughs. The outputs will have significant value in helping to measure progress against local climate and ecological commitments.
Water supplier procurement exercise	The objective is to streamline to a single water supplier for WBC by the beginning on the next financial year 1 April 2021. This will help improve monitoring of water consumption across the corporate estate.
Modelling of district heating networks	<p>In collaboration with consultants WSP, ThamesWey is conducting hydraulic and techno-economic modelling of the district heating networks in Woking Town Centre. The hydraulic modelling seeks to understand the size of network extension necessary to supply new Town Centre developments from Poole Road, with an added scenario of creating an interconnection between this new network and the existing network supplied from Victoria Way. This interconnection would significantly aid the decarbonisation of buildings connected to this network by reducing the network temperatures, leading to an increase in both the efficiency and range of renewable heating technologies that could be utilised.</p> <p>The techno-economic modelling will consider the different blends of heating technologies to use, which will deliver the best outcomes in terms of efficiency, emissions, diversity, cost and other variables over the next 25 years. This will inform ThamesWey's selection of plant equipment to bolster capacity at Poole Road, which will supply the new Town Centre developments as they come through.</p>
Woking Great Crested Newt Pilot	The Council has made a long-term commitment to the delivery and maintenance of habitat improvements to benefit this protected species, whilst at the same offering developers a more streamlined process for schemes that could impact great crested newts (GCN). Improved habitats will be maintained and further opportunities sought, informed by learning from the first five years of this pilot project and from that nationally gathered via project partner Natural England's wider roll out of the GCN 'district level licencing' approach.
Supporting biodiversity through day to day service and project delivery	The Council and its partners - including ThamesWey, New Vision Homes, and Serco – continue to expand practices that support biodiversity. For example new development schemes featuring swift bricks (supporting the Woking Swifts project), green walls and green roofs, SuDs ponds/rainwater gardens, and suitable tree and landscaping planting selections.

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	Also continuing support for the successful conservation of peregrine falcons in Woking Town Centre (the Woking Peregrine Project).
Wildflowers	Continuing work to expand the area of publicly owned/managed land used to grow wildflowers and/or allow grass to grow taller, whilst ensuring we maintain an attractive, cared for appearance throughout the Woking area. Residents' preferences on grass cutting vary, hence a balance is sought in our management regimes whilst still increase wildflowers/long grass year on year.
Wild About Woking	Every opportunity will continue to be taken to share news and inspire further efforts to support species and their habitats. For example through the Council's and others publications, social media, newsletters, events, responding to enquiries from the public, and through our ongoing support to community groups and individual residents undertaking conservation volunteering and wildlife friendly community gardening.
Environment Bill and other national changes	Officers are maintaining a watching brief as the Environment Bill reaches an advanced stage and the Council will take all steps necessary to meet the requirements of the Bill and to help others to do so.  The Bill will, at the earliest this autumn, bring into UK law environmental protections and recovery. Changes on the horizon include the proposed introduction of a mandatory 'biodiversity net gain' on new developments and conservation covenants.

6.2 These planned activities during the 2021/22 financial year will continue to help meet our goal. The most significant of which in terms of reducing carbon will be those linked to decarbonising energy supplies.

6.3 However, momentum against the CEAP will need to be maintained and further progressed in order to reach zero carbon within nine years. This will require continued collaborative working plus the identification of external and innovative funding mechanisms at a time of increasing financial pressures.

### 7.0 Implications

#### Financial

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this update report, however delivery of the CEAP will require an ongoing financial commitment by the Council.

#### Human Resource/Training and Development

7.2 There are no human resources or training implications associated with this update report, however future provision for sustainability training is being explored as referenced in section 6.

### Community Safety

- 7.3 There are no community safety implications associated with this update report. However, it is accepted that a changing climate will affect residents through more extreme weather events bringing impacts such as heightened flood risks and heat waves. The steps being taken to address the climate and ecological emergency will assist in mitigating and adapting to these impacts.

### Risk Management

- 7.4 There are no risk management implications associated with this update report. However, as recognised through the cross-party declaration, the climate and ecological emergency requires urgency and sustained action in order to address the inevitable impacts of climate change.

### Sustainability

- 7.5 The activities outlined in this update report progress the commitments the Council has made in respect of its climate and ecological declaration and zero carbon pledge.

### Equalities

- 7.6 There are no equalities implications associated with this update report.

### Safeguarding

- 7.7 There are no safeguarding implications associated with this update report.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 The Council has long been committed to protecting the environment. The climate and ecological emergency declaration made in July 2019 affirmed the Council's continuing commitment in this regard.
- 8.2 The foundations were already established in terms of Woking 2050, setting out a vision guiding our collective efforts to create a sustainable borough by reducing our impact on the environment and how as a Council we can lead by example. However, to achieve carbon neutrality, it was recognised that accelerated action is required to eliminate the Council's contribution to climate change completely.
- 8.3 Work has been undertaken to identify what the declaration means to the Council and more broadly across the borough in terms of establishing clear baselines and definitions.
- 8.4 The declaration requires carbon neutrality across the Council's estate and operations by 2030. The CEAP provides a framework for identifying, progressing and monitoring actions in furtherance of this commitment. Much work has been undertaken to date and examples have been highlighted in this report.
- 8.5 The planned activities for the 2021/22 financial year will continue to help us to meet our goal. The most significant of which are those linked to decarbonising energy supplies.
- 8.6 However, there is no doubt that zero carbon will be challenging within nine remaining years. Momentum against the CEAP will need to be maintained and further progressed. This will require continued collaborative working plus the identification of external innovative funding mechanisms at a time of increasing financial pressures.

REPORT ENDS

**Climate Change and Sustainability Timeline**

The list below highlights some key activities undertaken across WBC's estate since 1990/1991.

1990/1991	The Council embarks on programme of energy efficiency works across its own estate
1994	Woking Environment Action (formerly called <a href="#">Woking Local Action 21</a> ) established
1997/1998	Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and first phase of solar panels installed at Brockhill
February 1999	<a href="#">Thameswey Ltd</a> established
July 1999	<a href="#">Thameswey Energy Ltd</a> established
2001	Second phase of solar panels installed at Brockhill
2001	Awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise
March 2001	Woking CHP Energy Station officially opened
December 2002	Climate Change Strategy adopted
2003	Climate Neutral Development Guidance adopted
March 2003	Cross political party Climate Change Working Group established
June 2003	Woking Park Fuel Cell / CHP officially opened
June 2005	Updated Climate Change Strategy adopted
June 2005	First demonstration hybrolight commissioned

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March 2005	Awarded the Beacon Council Status for Sustainable Energy
December 2005	Awarded Low Carbon Leaders' Award
2006	First electric vehicle (EV) charging points installed in town centre car parks
March 2006	Energy Saving Trust fleet health check
Autumn 2006	Enterprise Rent A Car Ltd car club introduced for Council business mileage
March 2007	Awarded Beacon Status for Promoting Sustainable Communities through the Planning Process
2008	Revised Climate Change Strategy adopted
2008/2009	Beacon Council Status for Tackling Climate Change
2008/2009	The Council enters partnership with Enterprise Rent A Car Ltd to deliver a car club for business mileage reducing emissions and saving money on mileage claims
2008 to 2011	Cycle Woking programme delivered
2009	<a href="#">Action Surrey</a> created as part of the Thamesway Group to give impartial energy advice to households, schools and businesses helping them save money and reduce CO2 emissions
March 2012	Environmental audit conducted by Cap Gemini
2012/2013	Expansion of <a href="#">electric vehicle charging points</a> in town Centre car parks (ongoing)
December 2013	<a href="#">Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</a> adopted by Council.
March to August 2015	Electric vehicle pilot as part of the Council's car club arrangements

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September 2015	<a href="#">Woking 2050</a> , revised Climate Change Strategy adopted
January/February 2018	Air quality monitoring tubes installed on Victoria Way at the junction with Lockfield Drive (at the former Toys R Us building, and at Victoria Arch junction)
Spring 2018	Plastic water bottles removed from Council Chamber meetings, china cups and glasses replaced plastic and paper cups in all meeting rooms. Segregated waste bins, including food waste, introduced into staff kitchens in Civic Offices.
October 2018	Diesel vehicles banned from the Council's lease car fleet
2018/2019	New Vision Homes (NVH) invested £5.7m into the existing housing stock as part of the asset management programme. £500,000 of which was focused on improving the energy efficiency of blocks through external wall, cavity wall and loft insulation programmes.
February 2019	<a href="#">Electric vehicle position statement</a> adopted and published on website
April 2019	Thamesway's new energy centre on Poole Road received planning permission
July 2019	<a href="#">Single Use Plastics Policy</a> adopted
July 2019	<a href="#">Climate emergency declared</a>
September 2019	<a href="#">Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group</a> added to the Council's website to enhance awareness of its activities in this area.
November 2019	Five trees planted at Byfleet Primary School to mark National Tree Week. The planting was part of Surrey County Council's initiative to plant 1.2 million trees in the county by 2030.
December 2019	<a href="#">Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group</a> added to the Council's website to enhance awareness of its activities in this area.
February 2020	Carbon neutral definitions and baselines determined and adopted by Woking Borough Council along with the identification of priority carbon reduction activities for 2020 to 2021.
February 2020	Woking Borough confirmed as part of a Surrey County Council pilot to install on-street charging points. SCC was awarded £470,000 to install 80 fast on-street charging points for electric vehicles across Woking,

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Spelthorne, Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils during 2020 to 2021.

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March 2020	Seven trees planted on Surrey County Council highway land adjacent to Horsell Lodge to mark Surrey Tree Week.
March 2020	<a href="#">Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group</a> added to the Council's website to enhance awareness its activities in this area.
March 2020 onwards	Activities post March 2020 are captured within CEAP updates which are available on the Council's website at <a href="http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan">www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan</a> . The latest update is available in Appendix 2 for ease of reference.

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**Climate Emergency Action Plan – Update Report**  
**(Climate Change Working Group, 25 November 2020)**