

Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
Theme 1. Strategy			
1.1 Establish effective governance for the #WalsallZero2050 Programme & identify dedicated resource.	a) Formalised internal governance structure with the establishment of an internal Climate Action Taskforce meeting every 4 weeks with regular online communication via 'office teams'.	Short	Ongoing – Task force of those delivering measures in the action plan has started meeting every 4 weeks with cross-directorate membership.
	b) Climate Change Programme Manager (CCPM) recruited as a priority to 3 year fixed term post to lead on programme planning & monitoring & to populate carbon savings per action measure.	Short	Cabinet approved the integration of a fixed term Climate Change Officer into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformation Programme. The restructure is in progress.
	c) Council to establish an internal project team identifying Officer 'champions' within each service area for cross-departmental engagement & aligned to change management process.	Short	This will be picked up by the Councils cross-directorate Change Champions, chaired by Director of Place & Environment.
	e) Annual performance review for Cabinet and full Council.	Short	This is the first annual update report.
1.2. Climate Change embedded within decision-making.	a) Climate Change integrated into Council Reset Strategy.	Short	The blended working approach will allow a rationalisation of property assets, with associated reductions in direct CO2 emissions. It should be noted that disposal of building assets that continue to be used by another party may help achieve the Council's current objective of being carbon neutral by 2050, but may not contribute to the national objective without action by the new owner.
	c) Climate Change reflected within committee reporting process i.e. sustainability appraisal.	Short	Ongoing - All Council reports now include a statement referencing Climate Change implications.
1.6 Promote Sustainable Procurement.	a) Review Procurement Policy & consider extent to which Social Value Act can be used to help achieve Council's Climate Change Strategy	Medium	The Council's procurement social value policy includes the following: promoting environmental sustainability by reducing wastage and climate impacts, limiting energy consumption, improving and procuring materials from renewable and sustainable sources.
1.7 As part of a longer-term vision of a net zero carbon borough, to encourage environmental education and promote climate action amongst residents, schools, businesses and communities.	b) Encourage a low carbon economy by supporting local businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and signposting to relevant services and funding opportunities.	Short	We continue to work with partners like the University of Wolverhampton to promote their programmes, including EnTress and the Brownfield Research Innovation Centre. We also signpost to the Black Country Growth Hub energy efficiency resources and are well linked into the 'Repowering the Black Country' programme and have actually lined them up with some of our local businesses
	c) Support green jobs recovery in the borough.	Short	We are aligned with the Manufacturing Technology Centre and the catapult system, as well as working with Innovate UK and our local Growth Hub to buy new pieces of kit/ machinery, as well as delivering our own AIM for Gold programme which supports local businesses in their endeavours to innovate.
	e) Work in partnership with local businesses to reduce litter through promotion and sign up to Walsall's Litter Charter and development of 'Green' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes.	Short	Walsall Council's innovative Community Litter Watch initiative won this year's Keep Britain Tidy community engagement award and has been shortlisted for Local Government Chronicle award. The impact of the programme includes:

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	f) Implementation of a Green Community Engagement Programme including Volunteer Litter Picker Leader Training, Community Group Workshops & Events to promote behavioural change.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 750% increase in the number of new litter picker volunteers, from 70 to 596 • 111 community litter picking events since its inception, removing 3,525 bags of litter • 1,263 total attendances lasting 4,939 hours • Active litter picking groups doubled from 16 to 32 • 10 litter picking stations have been created across the borough • Active Facebook group with 890 active members and sustained engagement • 169 businesses/shops have expressed an interest in signing up to the Litter Charter
Theme 2. Energy			
2.1 Estates Strategy aligned with climate action plan	a) Review usage of Council properties & consider removal (by disposal, sale or demolition) of the most energy efficient buildings.	Long	<p>An interim Strategic Asset Plan for 2021 to 2025 has been drafted, which references the climate change action plan. One of the principles of the plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To align the Corporate Estate with the Council's Strategic Plan as well as the Carbon Neutral target.
	b) Align climate action closely with refreshed Estate Strategy	Long	
2.2 Implement and review a Council wide Energy Savings Campaign Programme (gas/electricity) across Council buildings and schools where practical.	a) Ongoing review of the Council's energy purchasing strategy and the potential for green supplies.	Short	<p>The plan includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 31 March 2022 have in place an Energy Strategy to minimise energy demand, supply remaining requirements efficiently and reduce carbon emissions. <p>The plan includes an environmental, green energy and carbon policy which states: The environmental impact of everything that we do is becoming more significant as time goes by. There are multiple opportunities to reduce this impact when it comes to owning and managing property. The council will do everything that it can to take advantage of these opportunities. The council will as part of the Asset Management process continue to monitor and improve where possible, council owned / occupied buildings environmental impact and it will work with partners to ensure the use of the most environmentally friendly systems of energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Emissions • Water Management • Water Management • Sustainability • Travel & Transport • Biodiversity and Ecosystems <p>The Council is committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050.</p>
	b) Dependent on 2.1.a. - New heating and ventilation system for the Civic Centre & Council House designed with A rated boilers and more manageable heating controllers to improve efficiency (Estimate 2 year programme)	Medium	
	c) Dependent on 2.1.a - Installation of LED lighting within buildings and light dimming technology expanded from Civic Centre to Council House (Estimate 19 month programme)	Medium	
	d) Continue purchase of white goods - A or A* rated electrical equipment only.	Short	
	e) Dependent on 2.a - Replacement of windows to energy efficient units (A+) in the Civic Centre and Council House as part of a 2 year programme.	Medium	
	f) Review Civic Centre air conditioning systems including staff feedback survey on civic centre ventilation.	Medium	
	g) Implement Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections)	Short	
	h) Support Walsall schools to implement a schools energy policy & investigate Invest-to-Save and Salix for Schools funds to implement energy/carbon efficiency measures.	Medium	
	i) Review energy usage of Active Living Centres, Crematoria, and Streetly Cemetery and implement any cost effective improvements as a matter of priority.	Medium	

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2.3 Encourage and enable energy saving behaviour by all Council staff.	a) Improve individual accountability. Energy savings achieved through awareness campaigns aimed at Council staff will cut energy bills and reduce carbon emissions each year.	Short	<p>The Council will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and will operate within the framework established by the UK Parliament. • Ensure that direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, are reduced. • Ensure that indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation are reduced. • Engage staff and stakeholders in actions that will enable us to meet our target. • Introduce offsetting initiatives including solar energy and solar farm(s). • Review its maintenance policies to specify highly efficient plant and services, rather than replacing like-for-like. • Reduce energy use and improve building efficiency within the Council's Estate. • Carry out feasibility studies on cost effective improvements for 'high energy users' such as Active Living Centres and Crematoria. • Undertake energy savings campaigns and integration of low carbon and renewable energy options where feasible. • Explore a wide range of external funding options including the Government's £3billion Green Investment Package which includes £1billion for public retrofit to reduce emissions and invest in green heating technology.
2.4 Replace streetlights with energy efficiency lighting systems by 2023.	a) 22,856 LED street light bulbs will be installed across Walsall by September 2023 (ERDF funded).	Medium	On 16/06/21 Cabinet approved a £10.5 LED street lighting invest to save programme that will upgrade 23,000 street lights across Walsall to LED from December 2021 with completion due by December 2024.
	b) Application of multi-use sockets across the 22,856 street lamps, with 22,856 light sensors and 250 temperature sensors, for improved localised environmental and traffic monitoring leading to more efficient public services. Sensors attached to street lamp columns allow for 'remote controlling' and 'targeting' of public services and more localised use of gritting in bad weather for energy efficiency savings.	Medium	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.
	c) Installation of 5,000 transmission nodes for 4G/5G internet network capability.	Medium	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.
2.5 Conduct a viability study on Council sites to integrate low carbon and renewable energy options such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps.	a) Conduct feasibility study, obtain quotes & submit CMT/cabinet report for use of solar panels / PV across Council sites.	Medium	See 2.1 – Estates Strategy
	b) Monitor impact of 49.8KW solar panel system on Civic Centre for possible replication on Town Hall.	Long	
	c) Investigate low carbon & renewable energy options for leisure centres.	Medium	

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	d) Deliver the heat mapping and master planning programme.	Long	Progress will be monitored when each area masterplan is developed and the accompanying energy work is carried out
	f) Investigate use of wasteland for solar farm development.	Long	Work yet to be carried out to identify possible locations and delivery models. Initial scoping to be complete by year end.
2.6 Tackle fuel poverty and improve home energy as part of the Council's long term vision of a net zero borough.	a) Implementation of the Council's HECA Plan to tackle fuel poverty, excessive winter deaths, residential carbon emissions, and poor health resulting from cold / damp homes.	Medium	Progress against the plan is reported in the latest HECA report (July 2021) which can be found using the link below: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/Uploads/Housing/Housing%20and%20welfare/heca%20update%20July%202021%20Final%20.pdf?ver=MRg2ls331qhSVuXkx6BILA%3d%3d
	b) Continue promotion of the Council's home energy saving initiatives and collective energy switching schemes to residents (From autumn 2020 the fuel switches will require all bidding companies to use 100% renewable power).	Medium	
	c) Work with our partners (including energy companies, Registered Social Landlords, NHS Walsall, Private Landlords) to reduce fuel poverty by targeting any discretionary assistance (capital investment, advice and support) and seeking external funding /advice to help residents of these properties.	Medium	
	d) Continue to ensure that landlords, agents and those selling or letting their homes are aware of their legal obligation to provide and make available Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and take appropriate action against those who fail in this obligation.	Medium	
Theme 3. Waste & Consumption			
3.1 Reduce the total volume of waste and associated costs through technological and behavioural change.	a) Develop an action plan to reduce waste arisings and increase reuse & recycling across council premises and operations.	Medium	New government legislation is expected in 2022 which will require the Council to refresh its current waste strategy. Greater emphasis will be placed on waste prevention including new duties on waste producers to increase % recycling content in packaging. A new waste strategy will be prepared and presented to Cabinet setting out a detailed action plan to meet the requirements of the expected Environment Act.
	b) Develop a communication strategy which engages residents, schools, communities and businesses with measures to reduce the volume of waste they produce and increase participation / quality of reuse & recycling. Explore incentive schemes via external funding.	Medium	
	c) Continue to support and promote community initiatives to reduce waste & fly-tipping e.g. Walsall Litter Charter, Green CSR Programmes, ACT Initiative, and WASSUP 2022 Litter Challenge.	Medium	
	d) Increase the amount of waste composted from council and school premises. Waste from parks / green spaces is composted / biomass and sold for power.	Medium	
3.3 Reduce the Council's paper waste.	a) Explore feasibility of moving to mandatory E-payslips.	Medium	Implemented.
	b) Implement a print reduction campaign e.g. reduced printer availability, limit colour printing, MFD removal, staff awareness campaigns, promote use of Office 365.	Short	On 16/06/21 Cabinet approved a reset action plan aligned to the Walsall Proud Promises and Corporate Plan outcomes that builds on the new ways working expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic and guides the work of the council over the coming months. The reset action plan recognises that printing has been significantly reduced. The appended action plan includes a review of the impact of blended working on all support services including printing.

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3.4 New HWRC sites - Middlemore Lane & Fryers Road	a) Introduce reuse shops at both sites. - Residents can take unwanted items which can be upcycled or repaired. - Residents can buy pre-owned, repaired and refurbished items cheaply. b) Introduce a facility for local small businesses. c) Generate renewable energy by installing solar panels on both sites. d) Reduce the amount of Walsall's waste going to landfill and improve Walsall recycling rates.	Long	Planning application for Middlemore Lane due to be submitted to Council early 2022. Provisional design includes new reuse shop and solar farm.
Theme 4. Transport			
4.1 Development and implementation of a Staff Green Travel Plan.	a) Corporate Staff Travel Survey conducted, which provides baseline for a new Council Staff Green Travel Plan. Integrate planning into Culture & Behaviours workstream as part of the Thrive Workplace Health Programme.	Medium	The response to COVID has transformed staff travel patterns. An employee survey was undertaken in June 2020 and repeated again during May 2021, which fed into to reset action plan approved by Cabinet on 16/06/21.
	b) Development of smarter working initiatives including permanent agile / home working arrangements and use of technology to reduce employee travel to workplace.	Short	The reset action plan included a number of principles of blended working, including: 'staff currently working from home will continue to do so and will only meet in buildings for the purposes of collaboration, team building, on boarding and development opportunities'.
4.2 Develop public transport initiatives which enable a rapid shift towards active and sustainable travel modes.	a) Explore and develop digital wayfinding measures and provide real time travel updates via e-totems (ERDF funded).	Medium	Enhanced wayfinding options for Bloxwich Station are being drawn up as part of the Bloxwich Towns Fund programme; these include provision of a new totem information board outside the station and more signage to provide better connectivity between the rail station and Bloxwich High Street. Walsall Station is being improved by the FHSF Connected Gateway project.
	b) Implement the Emergency Active Travel Fund Grant to encourage more / safer cycling and walking in the borough including temporary traffic management measures, a new 'pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone' in Walsall Town Centre, installing additional cycle parking on council owned land, as well as remarking and resigning existing cycle routes/infrastructure.	Short	The Emergency Active Travel Tranche 1 Grant was fully utilised in Summer/Autumn 2020 to implement measures to encourage more/safer cycling and walking in the borough. Measures include: a new pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone on Wolverhampton St in Walsall Town Centre, 4 additional 'Cyclehoop' cycle planters being installed on council owned land, School Streets being implemented on a trial basis at 5 locations across the borough, as well as re-marking and re-signing existing cycle routes and infrastructure. Walsall Council are currently using Active Travel Tranche 2 funding to deliver two additional cycling and walking projects. These are: Connecting Bentley Phase II and School Streets Phase II.
	c) Implement LCWIP Cycling and Walking Measures to make significant improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure (subject to funding) including: 1) LCWIP Corridor: Rushall to Brownhills via B4152 2) LCWIP Corridor: Darlaston to Walsall town centre via A4038 3) LCWIP Corridor: Wolverhampton City Centre to Walsall 4) LCWIP Corridor: A34 Perry Barr Extension through to Walsall 5) Core Walking Zone: Walsall to Willenhall.	Long	Ongoing design work in progress - improvements implemented to NCN 5 in 2021
	d) Review potential railway station developments,	Long	New stations in development at Darlaston and Willenhall (fully funded by WMCA and DfT/GRIP Stage 5 in progress); proposal for Aldridge Station in development (currently unfunded/GRIP2 completed); improvements to Walsall Station in development (funded from FHSF/Basic Asset Protection Agreement currently being negotiated with Network Rail).

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	e) Review electric bus feasibility options.	Long	TfWM are leading work to electrify the West Midlands bus fleet via a current ZEBRA bid and the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP), with project funding via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for the West Midlands covering the period 2022-27.
4.3 Promote and encourage ultra-low and low emission vehicles in Walsall and sustainable transport options in accordance with the Transport in Walsall Strategy 2017-22 and the West Midlands / Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.	a) To accelerate and amplifying the EV transition in anticipation of a 2035 ban on the sale of conventional vehicles, including coordinating with TfWM to support installation of additional rapid and ultra-rapid chargers.	Long	Work is underway to refresh the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (to be adopted by 2022) and develop a complementary Black Country Transport Strategy/Local Transport Plan Area-Based Strategy for the Black Country, plus the Black Country Plan refresh, all of which have decarbonisation and net zero targets at their core.
	b) Publishing a local public transport decarbonisation action plan;	Long	
	c) Review off-street electric vehicle charging in Council owned car parks.	Long	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.
	e) Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Short	<p>As part of upgrading and future-proofing of its air quality monitoring network The council has now deployed 4 continuous real –time particle samplers in place of older, gravimetric units, which cater for multiple PM size fractions. A fifth sampler is scheduled to be deployed in October 2021.</p> <p>A predictive nitrogen dioxide (NO2) rad traffic model has been completed and is published on the council's web site for 2020. This is the first wholly predictive borough-wide model to be produced, and details areas and locations of known or likely exceedance and concern in regard to the National Air Quality Objective. This informs planning development proposals and highway/road scheme interventions and improvement works.</p> <p>Work is now commencing on the borough-wide 2022 NO2 model.</p> <p>On account of the influence of neighbouring councils, work has also been completed on a 2021 Black Country NO2 model which will in due course be published following consultation with BC authorities.</p> <p>Review of air quality monitoring requirements is on-going which will take into account in due course requirements of the forthcoming Environment Act</p>
4.4 Explore and deliver a transition of the council's own fleet to electric	a) Development of a fully costed 'Green Fleet Proposal' to manage and reduce the environmental impact of Council fleet on emissions.	Medium	A review of the electric RCV concluded that significant additional charging infrastructure will be required to ensure a successful pilot. A draft investment proposal identified need for <i>c20k investment to upgrade electrical power system at Pelsall depot.</i>
	b) Reduce unnecessary miles/trips and fuel costs by investigating optimum routes and maximising performance of the vehicles making use of Quartix telematics system currently installed on all vehicles.	Long	Alloy ICT upgrade went live in June 2021 - routes on domestic rounds already optimised. Development work in progress for trade waste and bulky waste collections

Theme 5. Nature

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
5.1 Enhancing the borough's parks and green spaces to increase meadow, wetland, and green areas in Walsall.	c) Secure external funding for the development of a 'Love Exploring App' which using augmented reality, mapping and trails, engages people with nature and encourages walking and active travel.	Short	Completed - App launched in 2020 and now includes seasonal themes e.g Halloween AR
5.3 Conduct a viability study on parks and green spaces to integrate renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps and LED technology.	b) Review equipment and replace with more efficient or battery operated technology.	Medium	Led by H&S team on a risk assessment basis - replacement of operational equipment with new electric / battery powered tools continues to roll out across Clean & Green services.
5.4 Renewal of the Green Space Strategy to raise additional parks to Green Flag standard.	a) Green Space Strategy renewal in 2022 to consider an increase of parks to Green Flag status.	Medium	Two parks (King George V and Pleck Park) have been submitted for judging and results will be known by end of 2021.
Theme 6. Resilience & Adaptation			
6.1 Ensure all Council services and operations are adaptable to a changing climate.	a) Review of Walsall Resilience Strategy ensuring plans are updated to reflect the changing climate risk.	Short	Business Continuity plans are being reviewed in partnership with a range of council services including Environmental Health, Pollution Control, Legal Services etc. The plans ensure that in the advent of a incident/climate change event such as flooding we are prepared and can continue services.
	b) A. Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding and review plans with West Midlands Local Resilience Forum & Black Country Local Resilience Forum.	Short	This work is ongoing on forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022.
	c) The development of Walsall Resilience Risk Register.	Medium	Formation of a Walsall specific risk register is under way. However, the risk registrar for the region covers Walsall as a part of the LRF risk planning Group.
	d) We will ensure business continuity planning at the council is resilient to climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans.	Medium	Business Continuity plans are due to refreshed by December 2021. The process has been made more fluid and adapted to changes brought about by Proud changes and the Covid-19 pandemic.
6.2 Integrate climate change into regeneration and planning to enable economic prosperity and promotion of sustainability.	a) Review of the Black Country Plan with further regard to sustainable development and the governments emerging proposals in the Environment Bill and other planning regulations.	Medium	The draft Black Country Plan has been published for consultation (link below): https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/t2/p5/
	b) Promote sustainable design in buildings & review planning policies to reflect changes in national planning inc support for new homes built to net zero carbon standards.	Medium	A sustainability appraisal has been completed, which can be found here: https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/18501/bcp-reg18-sa_appendices-july-2021-vol-2of2.pdf
	c) Determine planning applications requiring approval for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) systems.	Medium	Ongoing – the current Black Country Plan states: Policy in the Black Country Core Strategy Policy ENV5 (adopted 2011) states that all developments should “Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), unless it would be impractical to do so, in order to significantly reduce surface water run-off and improve water quality.

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	d) Promote sustainable modes of travel for new developments by securing Travel Plans as part of planning decisions	Medium	Ongoing – current planning policy requires, where appropriate, the submission of Green Travel Plans to demonstrate how access to developments by more sustainable forms of transport will be maximised.
6.3 Reduce risk of flooding to estate, properties and infrastructure	a) Review and update of Walsall Flood Management Plan 2020-23.	Short	The Flood plan is currently being reviewed.
	b) Annual training and exercise (multi agency every 3 years)	Short	Ongoing - The Resilience Unit and other teams take part in exercising and training across the LRF and within Walsall Council.
6.4 Plans in place for emergencies - Issuing alerts in the events of severe weather, increased temperatures and flooding	a) To review and update ' Warning & Informing Policy' to reflect climate change risk.	Medium	In place. Undertaken by Highways, supported with Environment Agency and Met Office, with direct updates to the Resilience Unit. Severe weather reports are submitted to CMT, detailing the actions taken to mitigate the impacts.
	b) We will work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate including the development of an engagement programme (briefing events / toolkit) to support Walsall businesses and community groups with continuity planning.	Medium	This work is ongoing and forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022. In addition to this, consultation with highways and comms will be needed to address engagement with communities and the public.