



**Rochford District
Council**

REPORT TITLE:	Sustainability Strategy – Progress Report
REPORT OF:	Executive Lead Member for Resources, Climate Change and Economy Cllr Michael Hoy

REPORT SUMMARY

The report sets out the progress made against the five key targets for 2023/24, drawn from the Council's Sustainability Strategy, and set by the Climate Emergency Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1 - To approve the contents of the report for presentation to the next available Council meeting.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 In February 2023 the Executive approved the Sustainability Strategy which sets out the high-level approach as to the how Rochford District Council can achieve its declared aims of achieving carbon neutral within its own activity by 2030 and borough wide by 2040.
- 1.2 On Wednesday 28th June 2023, Rochford District Council officially declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. This declaration confirms the Council's commitment to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030 for its own estate, and by 2040 for the Rochford District area
- 1.3 It was agreed at Council, June 2023, that a regular update on progress of the Sustainability Strategy and the work of the Climate Emergency Committee would be reported back to Council. The key achievements to date are set out below.

2.0 Sustainability Strategy – Targets 2023/24

- 2.1 Five key targets were set out by the Climate Emergency Committee to achieve in the 2023/24 year. Each are discussed in turn.
- 2.2 Target 1 - To secure funding, and assist in the delivery of improvements for 50 park homes through the Sustainable Warmth Programme by the end of 2023/24;
- 2.3 Of the 66 park homes put forward by the Council to be surveyed, 48 have been improved for External Wall Insulation, and a further two are to receive underfloor insulation. The External Wall Insulation works have commenced and are planned to be completed in January.
- 2.4 Target 2 - To submit an application for the Phase II Swimming Pool Fund in October 2023 for improvements to Clements Hall Leisure Centre;
- 2.5 The Council were successful in Phase I (Revenue Support) and received £113,626 from Sport England to tackle increased energy costs at Clements Hall Leisure Centre.
- 2.6 A further bid has been submitted to Sport England for Phase II (Capital Measures) for a range of carbon reduction measures at Clements Hall Leisure Centre bid value £453,386 (notification of outcome January 2024)
- 2.7 Target 3 - To submit an application to the Phase 3c of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in November 2023;
- 2.8 The feasibility study established that due to the age of the boilers at Clements Hall LC (replaced in 2022) the Council are not able to apply for this scheme and there were no other sites suitable for this round.
- 2.9 Target 4 - To submit the fully costed business case for the replacement of diesel in the Council and Norse fleet with hydrogenated vegetable oil for consideration by the October Full Council meeting
- 2.10 A costed plan has been submitted to this Committee for consideration and potentially, presentation at the February Council.
- 2.11 Target 5 - To present to the December Full Council meeting a fully costed plan setting out the Council's path to carbon net zero.
- 2.12 A Full business case has been submitted to the Climate Emergency Committee for consideration and potentially, presentation at the February Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 This report is for noting. No alternatives have been considered.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There is a risk the targets set by the Committee will not be achieved. However, the progress set out above suggest that four key targets will be achieved, with Target 3 deemed not feasible to achieve at this time.

4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

4.1 There are not any relevant engagement or consultation implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There aren't any direct financial implications from this report.

6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There aren't any legal implications relating to this report.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are not considered to be any direct equality or health implications arising from this report.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This is covered within the body of the report.

9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are not considered to be direct economic implications arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

