

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decarbonisation Plan 2021 - 2030



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1. FOREWORD

The climate emergency is one of the most important topics of our time and one we must address quickly. The Welsh Government has declared a climate Emergency in Wales and has set ambitious plans for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030

Wrexham County Borough will continue to look for ways to play our part in being a globally responsible Wales. We are confident that decisions we take in how we contribute to this will have the best interests of the County Borough at heart and will be in consultation with local people. We have already worked on a wealth of carbon reduction initiatives over the last decade, which have established our reputation as a leader in delivering carbon saving initiatives. Since declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in September 2019 we have formed a Carbon Project Board – the board has been tasked with developing this decarbonisation plan to target the decarbonisation of council operations and promote the protection and enhancement of our natural environment. The motion at full Council September 2019 set out the Agenda and programme of works for creating a ‘carbon positive’ organisation. Our goal is for the total carbon emitted by the Council minus the total carbon absorbed from Council owned and operated land and services to equal zero by 31st March 2030. In addition we will aim to reduce our supply chain emissions alongside our internal service delivery.

We will continue to work to look for ways to improve our services, whilst putting this commitment to become a ‘carbon positive’ council at the heart of all decisions. The Elected members and the Officers of the council will increasingly look to our communities and citizens to help us achieve this, and we know that the overwhelming majority of local people who are passionate about their communities will join us in our actions.

We continue to be faced with the ongoing challenge of doing more with less; and are working to improve the resilience and efficiency of our workforce and all our services. As we do this we must ensure that we are working in-line with our decarbonisation commitments and strategy. We have also been faced with the challenge of responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented emergency this has affected all aspects of the council and our plans. The impact of the pandemic has delayed our development of this Decarbonisation plan; however, the timing is now right to ensure that as we look to our recovery from Covid and to the future, we do so with the climate emergency and decarbonisation at the heart of our work.

Be under no illusion, the scale of this challenge is enormous and for us as a council to achieve a net carbon zero position will require a radically different approach to our existing custom and practise. We will continue to work with other public bodies both locally, regionally and nationally, to maximise the opportunities and benefits whilst minimising and sharing the risks. We will also work with businesses, the Third Sector and local communities to ensure that we are all working to achieve a sustainable and carbon-free future.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our local communities, the majority of whom are passionate in take responsibility to care for their local communities and environments. Every positive action, whether large or small, makes a positive contribution. We are committed to becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and to making our County Borough a better place.



Cllr. David Bithell

Lead Member for Environment & Transport

Wrexham County Borough Council



Ian Bancroft

Chief Executive

Wrexham County Borough Council

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

WCBC declared a climate and ecological emergency

The Climate Emergency is one of the most important topics of our time and one we must address quickly. The Welsh Government has declared a Climate Emergency in Wales, thereby setting ambitious plans for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Wrexham Council also declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in September 2019, committing to make Wrexham County Borough Council a net carbon free council by 2030. In line with this declaration, the Council committed to developing a Decarbonisation Plan, which will target the decarbonisation of Council operations and promote the protection and enhancement of its natural environment. The Plan will form the integral basis for the delivery of decarbonisation across the organisation for the next 10 years, and will be the basis for reporting and updating on progress on an annual basis.

WCBC's journey and progress so far

On the face of it, the council's current position in relation to reducing carbon emissions is positive. We have identified decarbonisation as a priority for the organisation, and through our recent declaration of a climate and ecological emergency, we will embed decarbonisation into council operations and procedures to ensure that we attain the goal of carbon neutrality.

Carbon reduction is not new to Wrexham County Borough Council as throughout the previous decade we have established ourselves as a leader in delivering carbon saving initiatives. This means that many of the 'quick wins' have already been attained, and so we need to seek more innovative and far-reaching solutions.

Examples of some of the successful projects we have implemented already are highlighted below:

- **Domestic Solar PV** In 2011/12 we installed solar panels on 2675 of our council properties. This saves each tenant money on their electricity bills and the Council receives a Feed in Tariff (FIT) payment from our utility company each quarter, for a total of 25 years. This income will go towards improving our properties further. The total carbon emissions saved by generating this power is 14,974,806 kg.
- **Non- Domestic Solar PV** - Following from the success of the domestic solar project we installed panels on fifteen of our schools, two offices and two of our resource centres.
- **Ruthin Road** – Large scale PV installation of 250 kWh – providing over 40% of energy use for our central housing office.

- **Legacy Solar Farm** – One of the Council showcase projects has been the installation of a large 2.6MW Solar Farm in legacy, where approximately 8800 panels are installed. Up until the end of last year the solar had generated 10,992,900 kwh. The Solar Farm was the first in Wales to be constructed, operated and maintained by a local authority. The income generation from this project, is reinvested in energy saving projects and renewable energy schemes. The income generation through the Feed in Tariffs, will form the basis of our ongoing carbon invest to save budget.
- **Street Lighting** - An ambitious project, which has seen the replacement of all street lighting across the County Borough to LED, generating significant carbon and financial savings.
- **LED Lighting Upgrades** - The continued replacement of old and inefficient lighting to LED has been rolled out across schools and offices. Immediate carbon and financial savings are derived from these projects and continue to be successful schemes to decarbonise our buildings.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** - One of the leading Welsh local authorities to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points in publically accessible car parks. We have installed charging points across fourteen of our publically car parks and seven points within our Council offices. We are now able to promote that we have installed the first 100kw Charger in North Wales, which has the capacity to charge a car to 80% in under 30 minutes. We have also established a charging hub in the town centre, with a rapid charging unit and three fast charging stations.
- **Renewable Heat** - The Council embarked on an project to install a large Biomass Boiler at Redwither Tower on the Wrexham industrial estate. This system to provides to low carbon heat to this large building and generates an income for the Council through the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- **Electric Fleet** - The Council owns a series of electric vehicles to be used by staff with an additional number currently awaiting delivery. These have been very successful and have provided a great alternative for staff to use whilst travelling to meetings.
- **Waste and recycling** – The Council has worked hard over the last 20 years to improve our recycling figures, from kerbside collections, and our Household Waste Recycling Centres. We have achieved all of our statutory targets since 2010, and have consistently been amongst the highest performing local authorities in Wales. Our recycling targets have been impacted by Covid-19, however we continue to work towards our 2025 target of 70% recycling.

The need to do more

In spite of the excellent work that has been undertaken so far, we are still currently emitting large volumes of CO2 every year; and as such we still require large-scale investment and resource capacity in order to reduce these emissions even further. The most significant of our emissions come from our Buildings (e.g. schools and offices) and Transport operations.

However, there are there areas we need to consider. In order to work towards being carbon-neutral by 2030, we also need to need to understand our emissions from our procurement activities, and identify opportunities to sequester our emissions (e.g. through our woodlands and open spaces). We are currently in the process of mapping these sectors, which will be a significant piece of work for the Council and hugely beneficial; as it will allow us to gain a fuller understanding in the scale of the Council's Carbon emissions, and thereby identify the most appropriate actions and investment opportunities.

Regional work and recovery

In developing this action-plan, we continue to work with partners on this shared, global priority. There are key work streams and projects of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB), North Wales Regional Leadership Board (NWRLB) and Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA) which are all seeking to make significant improvements in this area. We continue to work with these partners to ensure that our organisational objectives are reflected in regional priorities (and vice versa). We also continue to work closely with public sector partners through the both Wrexham and Flintshire joint Public Service Boards, and their ongoing community resilience work (which is primarily focussed on the theme of decarbonisation).

Carbon Reduction features significantly in the work programme of many regional work streams, for example:

- The NWEAB have priorities including: improving energy efficiency of housing stock and buildings; shifting to low carbon transport; and maximising the opportunities for low carbon energy technologies across the region.
- The NWRLB have established a task and finish group to consider how they can add value to the wealth of activity going on across the region to tackle climate change. They are supportive of the four themes identified above, and will play a key role in coordination, removing barriers and sharing knowledge/best practice in this area.
- The MDA have recently been working collaboratively to develop a number of ambitious proposals which would contribute significantly to decarbonisation across the region; including proposals around renewable energy projects and improved active-travel links. These proposals will be presented for potential investment from UK and Welsh Government.
- Wrexham and Flintshire PSB's have joined forces on work around 'community resilience' and 'recovery' following the Covid-19 pandemic. There are four main themes to this work:
 - children and young people;
 - poverty and inequality;
 - mental health; and
 - the environment.

Through working alongside our Regional and National partners, and close collaboration with partnership organisations we can make the biggest impact on climate change and work towards our ambition of a carbon-neutral public sector by 2030. Alongside key regional partners, we will call upon the Welsh Government and UK Government to provide assistance and resources to enable us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance biodiversity, and address the climate change emergency.

The Council Plan 2020-23 already contains a number of targets related to our decarbonisation work, and we will look to build on these in future years:

- Reduce Carbon Emissions from our buildings by 4% year-on-year.
- Increase our generation of energy from renewable sources from our assets by 5% each year.
- Increase the number of electric vehicles in our fleet by up to fifteen vehicles per year as we replace older fleet.

3. OUR PLAN

The Decarbonisation Action Plan will set a direction and high-level programme of works for creating a 'carbon positive' organisation over the next 10 years, with the overarching aim to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. This work will primarily come under the governance of the existing Carbon Board. Board members currently include Chief Officers for Housing and Economy; and Environment and Technical, and department leads from Assets, Environment, Finance, Planning, Procurement and Carbon Reduction, as well as elected Members. This Plan will contribute to the Council Plan priority of 'Improving the Environment', although it is acknowledged that this is a priority for the whole Council, and cannot be addressed by individual departments or services in isolation.

Four key themes and what they mean

As part of the initial development of the of the decarbonisation plan, four key themes have been identified. The reasoning for this is that, these areas have previously been highlighted by Welsh Government as being the key areas for which the public sector have the highest carbon emissions in Wales. Through declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency the decarbonisation plan will focus initially on the following categories headings however it should be noted that as the plan develops there are likely to be other areas, such as air pollution, education in schools and waste management, which will form part of the process. Our four themes are:-



Buildings

Under the theme of buildings, we will build on the carbon reduction works that have been undertaken for many years, and continue to work towards reducing our emissions year-on-year from our schools, offices, libraries, community centres etc., even further. In order to achieve this we will continue to focus on project such as LED Lighting upgrades, Building Management Systems (BMS), installation of heat pumps and renewable energy projects, such as photovoltaic (PV) panels. We hope that through investment on our building stock we will help to achieve low and zero carbon buildings for the future.

Transport and Mobility

Investing in our transport network and expanding our fleet of electric vehicles will also help in meeting the targets. At the same time, increasing the numbers of Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) points that are installed across the County Borough, will reduce our emissions from our fleet and business travel and encourage more people to invest in electric vehicles. These proposals, together with the improvement of sustainable green travel plans and improved active travel routes, should have a significant impact in helping to reduce our overall carbon emissions.

Land Use

This area of work will focus on utilising our assets for both renewable energy schemes, and also for investment in woodland and wildflower planting and carbon sequestration, and through using our assets to offset our carbon emissions from traditional sources. Working with our planning and ecology teams will be key in developing and progressing with these particular projects. Planning policy will also have a direct impact on reducing emissions across the county borough.

Procurement

This will be a critical area of work, as it has been forecasted by Welsh Government that over 60% of public sector carbon emissions are derived from our procurement of goods and services. We will require further guidance from Welsh Government and will need to work with our procurement officers to ensure we embed carbon targets into the procurement process and, wherever possible, support local and regional suppliers and businesses.

A full list of our Actions and key themes are contained in Appendix 1

In the process of establishing our actions and key priorities, a considerable amount of consultation has taken place on the draft decarbonisation plan. There was a survey conducted in November and December 2020, where over 500 responses were received. The public were asked for their views on our proposed actions under the four themes, as well as being asked for additional ideas for how the Council can achieve the goals. The vast majority of feedback was positive and supportive of the proposed actions within the draft plan.

In addition to this online survey, there has been engagement with elected Members, and a public engagement event was held (virtually) to gather further views, ideas and opinions.

The responses to the survey, Member engagement and event have been considered in the further development of the plan, and are key to ensuring that we are able to work with individuals and communities to deliver our plan. These engagement exercises should signify the start of an ongoing dialogue with the public throughout the life of this action plan and beyond; as we all work together to tackle climate change, and become a globally responsible Wales.

This plan will be an evolving and responsive action plan, which we will monitor and review in order to record progress, ensure effectiveness and re-double our efforts where we may need (in light of further evidence, regional/national developments or funding opportunities). It is important that we are ambitious enough to be innovative

in our efforts for improvement, and as such there may be projects or activities which we embark on, review and ultimately change or cease. It's also vitally important that we are accountable and transparent in our work and our progress, and as such an annual progress report will be published.

Key priorities for success

Appendix One details some of the high-level activities which we will undertake in order to progress this important work. However, there are a number of key priorities that will determine and underpin the overall success of the plan. These are:

- Understanding where we are

As we look into detail at the four key themes of the plan, we are clearly able to look in detail at what carbon we emit from our Buildings and our Transport sectors. However, we have never baselined our emissions from our land use and our supply chain emissions (i.e. procurement), and this will be critical for us in terms of setting the detailed agenda and targets for the next 10 years. We need to ensure that we have a robust system for measuring the baseline of our carbon emissions against each theme and that we can monitor these on an annual basis. This is not only important for the ongoing measurement of carbon emissions against our base line, it will also be critical in benchmarking against other Local authorities. Currently we are working on mapping these emissions and soon we will be able to present a clear and concise picture of Wrexham Council Carbon emissions and the importantly highlight the areas that emit the highest levels of carbon. This will further inform our action plan, and enable us to refine further our actions and timescales.

- Resources identified at all levels, as well as financial commitment

It is vital that all areas of council business and all council services are engaged in this decarbonisation agenda. It will therefore be important that there is a clearly defined and adequately resources corporate lead, and governance structure in place to ensure that the way we use our existing resources is in line with this agenda. In addition, we cannot shy away from the fact that there will need to be some significant investment in order to meet the ambitions of this plan. We will continue to lobby government for additional funding to support this work, seek out opportunities to apply for funding (either alone or with partners), and we will also seek to ensure that we begin to change the way we use our existing budgets to ensure we are contributing positively to this work.

- Mainstreaming in all that we do, and in all decision making.

Support the mainstreaming of decarbonisation by ensuring that all services areas are included in the process and that they have the resources in place to take ownership of delivering the key objectives and projects contained within the Decarbonisation

Action Plan. It is vitally important that we ensure that consideration of decarbonisation is accounted in all policy development and changes in service delivery. This will require a culture change throughout the organisation, as well as a consideration of how we amend existing decision-making processes to ensure that impact on carbon and climate change is a central consideration.

A full list of our Actions and key themes are contained in Appendix 1

APPENDIX ONE

Overarching Actions

Along with specific actions within each of the four identified themes, there will be a need for some key activities to support and drive progress with this work. These actions will be vital to underpin success in all areas of the plan.

Our actions will focus on:

- **Baselining of carbon emissions across all service areas** – utilising Welsh Government guidance, it is essential that we understand our current position, in order to identify key areas for change, and understand our progress.
- **Education and engagement** – working with partners to engage with schools, communities, businesses and staff to share ideas and raise understanding about decarbonisation.
- **Partnership working** – we will continue to be a key partner across North Wales and the Mersey Dee Alliance area; sharing good practice and seeking opportunities to work collaboratively to add value and increase the benefits of our work.
- **Lobbying** – it is vital that there is legislative support and significant financial support from UK and Welsh governments if real and lasting change is to be achieved.
- **Elevating the status of decarbonisation in decision-making process** – ensuring that carbon emissions and sequestration is a key consideration in all decision-making within WCBC will be important to ensure that we have a one-council approach, and are maximising all opportunities to improve. We will map-out key opportunities to refine our decision-making processes as a priority.
- **Identify opportunities to increase organisational capacity to support and contribute to this work** – ensuring that there is identified resource and capacity at the right level is important; as is the involvement of all departments.
- **Ensuring a robust programme of monitoring and evaluation** - this will be vital to ensure that we are monitoring the impact of projects and actions, and are able to be flexible and responsive as we progress towards the target of 2030.

Buildings

There is significant work to be undertaken in improving the buildings that Wrexham Council currently own and occupy; as well as work to consider our approach to new and future buildings.

Our actions will focus on:

- **Monitoring and targeting of buildings** - monitoring, analysing and reviewing energy consumption at regular intervals, to ensure appropriate mitigations
- **Behaviour change campaigns** - to education and inform staff, and influence positive behaviour in our buildings
- **Improving energy efficiency of buildings** - energy efficiency measures such as improved insulation, window replacement, LED lighting, etc. as part of major refurbishment schemes funded through the capital investment and through our Carbon Invest to save budget
- **Design & refurbish buildings for low energy in operation** - We need to ensure new buildings and major refurbishments are designed with a focus on low energy use in their operation, and provide the additional capital funding in order to achieve this.
- **Heat buildings with renewable energy** - We need to design new buildings with renewable energy heating systems from the outset, and develop a programme for retro-fitting our existing buildings with renewable energy heating.

Action	Link to Council Plan*	Potential measures of success	Target start date	Estimated duration	Key departments / Partners	Cost / Benefit
Develop detailed and coordinated project plan for upgrading of all schools and Council buildings, to include: LED lighting, Building management systems, EV charging points, smart metering and battery storage	EMRC IE	No. of buildings complete per year % of buildings complete per year	Year One (with work already underway)	Ongoing programme of approx. 8 years	Facilities management Education Schools Carbon Team	High cost / High benefit
Develop and introduce a new specification to reduce carbon emissions and increase the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for the Councils housing stock, including the exploration of new technologies.	EMRC IE ES	Specification developed and agreed No. of houses with increased rating % of houses with increased rating No of / % of houses reaching new specification	Year One	Ongoing programme of approx. 3 years	Housing WG Carbon team	High cost / High Benefit

Develop and introduce new specifications for new build and refurbishment projects to reduce carbon emissions; ensuring regular review to reflect new technology and improvements	EMRC IE	Specification developed and agreed % of new builds compliant with specification % of refurbishments compliant with specification	Year One	Ongoing programme effecting all future new builds and refurbishments	Assets Planning	Medium cost / medium benefit
Continue to deliver programmes across the county to help to eradicate fuel poverty by providing a range of energy efficiency measures such as insulation and high efficiency heating schemes (e.g. heat networks) to private households	IE ES	No. of homes improved	Year One (with work already underway)		Assets Housing Planning	High cost / high benefit

Mobility and Transport

A significant part of the plan will address the carbon emissions that we produce through transport. This includes the way our workforce travel; the way we transport goods and services; the vehicles we use to carry out our operational functions; and even the specific transport related services that we provide to the public.

Our actions will focus on:

- **Journeys made by our fleet vehicles** – this includes all vehicles which the Council own or lease in order to carry out its functions (e.g. vans, refuse collection vehicles).
- **Journeys made by the workforce for business reasons** – where officers are required to travel throughout the county in order to perform their roles, we will consider opportunities to reduce overall mileage, as well as ways to ensure the journeys made do not generate carbon emissions.
- **Transport services delivered to the public** – whilst WCBC does not provide public transport, we will seek to use our partnerships to influence positive change within the sector, and consider ways to reduce carbon emissions from those services that we commission (e.g. school transport)

- **Active Travel** – improving our active travel infrastructure, and increasing the opportunities for safe walking and cycling routes will be essential to reduce reliance on private motor vehicles. In addition, there will be work to change habits and behaviours, so that more people consider active travel as their primary method of transport for key journeys.
- **Street-lighting** – ensuring energy efficiency of street-lights, and other assets in our communities.

Action	Link to Council Plan	Potential measures of success	Target start date	Estimated duration	Key departments / Partners	Cost / Benefit
Review all Council vehicles, their current and potential usage – in order to determine opportunities for change, efficiency and changing to Ultra Low Emissions vehicles	EMRC IE	Development of phased plan % of Council vehicles which are Ultra-low emissions	Year 1	Ongoing programme of approx.. 6 years	All Council Departments	Medium Cost / Medium Benefit
Develop comprehensive plan for converting Council owned large vehicles to Ultra Low Emissions	EMRC IE	No. of vehicles converted % of large vehicles converted	Year 3	Ongoing programme of approx.. 5 years	Environment and technical department Housing	High cost / Medium benefit
Prepare a sustainable travel plan for business miles, including reduction in the need to travel; increase in active travel options; and increased use of electric pool vehicles for business	IE EMRC	Reduction in business miles Reduction in use of own vehicle	Year 1	Ongoing programme of approx.. 3 years	SLT HR All departments	Low cost / Medium benefit
Seek opportunities to work with partners to enable greater innovation in the public transport sector, and incentivise change to a greener fleet (including for those journeys contracts by WCBC e.g. school transport)	DE IE EMRC	Increased number of low emissions vehicles available for public transport	Year 1	Ongoing programme of approx.. 5 years	Environment and Technical Regional and national transport partners	High cost / High benefit
Develop a comprehensive plan for the improvement and increase of active travel infrastructure across the County Borough, to include suitable paths, storage, charging and hiring facilities	IE EMRC	No. of active travel schemes undertaken No. of active travel related assets available	Year 1	Ongoing throughout the lifetime of the plan	Environment and Technical	Medium Cost / High Benefit

Undertake review of all highways related lighting, remove lighting where appropriate to do so, or upgrade to LED	IE	% of highway related lighting which is LED	Year 1	Ongoing programme of approx. 3 years	Environment and technical	Medium cost / medium benefit
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Land Use

The way that the Council, its partners, tenants and the public use the land in the county borough has a considerable impact on our carbon emissions, and therefore changes in the way land is used and developed is a crucial element of our decarbonisation plan.

Our actions will focus on:

- **Changing the energy we use and generate** – including increasing our use of energy from renewable sources. In addition we will utilise our Renewable Energy Assessment to exploit the most beneficial opportunities utilising our land assets to generate renewable energy
- **Using our green open spaces** – our approach to how we use our council-owned open spaces needs to be refined to ensure that we are removing the potential for emitting carbon, and maximising the opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
- **Support opportunities for increased tree and woodland planting** – in order to sequester carbon emissions, investment is needed to increase our tree and woodland stock. This comes with added benefits for flood management, but also comes with additional responsibilities and liabilities, all of which will need to be resourced.
- **Ensuring appropriate land-use by developers through our planning responsibilities** – developing and promoting planning policy and guidance which supports our decarbonisation journey, and places responsibilities on land owners and developers to reduce emissions, and/or off-set with positive actions.

Action	Link to Council Plan	Potential measures of success	Target start date	Estimated duration	Key departments / Partners	Cost / Benefit
Develop a plan to increase the amount of energy we use from renewable sources; and also to increase the amount of energy we generate from a range of renewable sources	IE	% of energy supplied to WCBC from renewable sources Amount of energy generated from renewable sources	Year 1	Ongoing programme throughout the life of the plan	Carbon team	High cost / high benefit

Develop an open-space strategy that supports our decarbonisation commitments and ensures options for greater biodiversity in the county borough (for example through the creation of wildflower meadows)	IE	Strategy developed and agreed	Year 1	Approximately 1 year	Environment and technical Assets Housing Planning	Low cost / High benefit
Produce a Green Infrastructure Plan with guidance and support from NRW/WG, which will identify the most valuable multi-functional green spaces in the County Borough for protection and enhancement. This will follow adoption of the LDP.	IE	Plan developed and agreed	Year 1	Approximately 2 years	Planning Environment Assets NRW Welsh Government	Low cost / Medium benefit
Develop a plan for increasing tree planting, woodland development and wildflower meadow creation across the county borough; identifying appropriate resource to support	IE	Plan developed and agreed Resource identified	Year 2	Approximately 2 years	Environment and technical Planning Assets	Medium cost / High Benefit
Ensure that current and future planning policy and guidance is underpinned by commitments to decarbonisation; and that developers/applicants are aware of requirements, and monitored to ensure their compliance	IE	LDP Monitoring Indicators for renewable and low carbon development	Year 1	Ongoing programme of approx. 6 years	Planning	Medium cost / High Benefit

Procurement

The Council procures a significant amount of goods and services every year, and therefore it is essential that our commitment to decarbonisation is reflected in the purchasing and contracting arrangements we have in place.

Our activities will focus on:

- **Ensuring that all procurement processes appropriately consider the decarbonisation agenda** – through early market engagement, development of appropriate specifications, and the awarding of contracts.
- **Improving our contract management processes to actively monitor, manage, and report the performance of our supply chain decarbonisation activities** – develop, and monitor meaningful metrics and KPIs to enable the effective management of our supply chain in terms of climate change performance.

- **Improving the understanding of the decarbonisation agenda with our current and future supply chain** – through clear communication, working collaboratively to identify solutions and supporting others to improve their own decarbonisation performance.

Action	Link to Council Plan	Potential measures of success	Target start date	Estimated duration	Key departments / Partners	Cost / Benefit
Build into procurement processes, a set of standard carbon reduction questions/requirements for all contracts and suppliers	IE	Requirements developed and agreed No. of contracts awarded which comply with set decarbonisation requirements	Year 1	Ongoing throughout the life of the plan	Finance All departments	Low cost / Medium benefit
Review current contract management arrangements to ensure that contribution to decarbonisation is considered	IE		Year 1	Ongoing programme to ensure that this become custom and practice	Finance All departments	Low cost / Medium benefit
Develop a communication/engagement plan for disseminating our decarbonisation commitments to suppliers	IE	Communication plan developed and published	Year 1	Ongoing throughout the life of the plan	Finance	Low cost / low benefit
Review current contracts, procurement practices to identify some key principles which the Council commits to, and adheres to in all procurement decisions (e.g. no single use plastic)	IE	Key commitments developed and agreed	Year 1	Ongoing throughout the life of the plan	SLT Elected Members All council departments	Low cost / Medium benefit
Work in partnership with others (e.g. National Procurement Service and regional partners) to support joint arrangements for procurement where this will add value, and reduce carbon emissions	IE		Year 1 (with work already ongoing)	Ongoing throughout the life of the plan	Finance Regional partners NPS	Low cost / medium benefit