

Report title	Climate Change Update
Report author	Sarah Hides, Climate Change and Sustainability Lead
Department	Planning, Economy and Built Environment
Exempt?	No

Purpose of report:

For information

Synopsis of report:

This report seeks to update the Committee on the various activities which have been undertaken, are ongoing or are planned to help the Council and the Borough of Runnymede meet its net zero targets, by 2030 and 2050 respectively.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 The Council's Climate Change Strategy which was adopted in October 2022 contains the strategic objective to, 'Reduce Carbon emissions from Council operations to Net Zero by 2030'. More widely, the Council will be using its reasonable endeavours to help the Borough of Runnymede meet the national target of achieving net zero carbon by 2050.
- 1.2 Councillors have requested regular update reports from officers to detail the activities being carried out across the Council which are likely to impact on the Council's response to climate change and contribute to meeting the above-mentioned targets.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting of 9th March 2023, and Corporate Management Committee of 23rd March 2023, officers produced a climate change update report which sought to bring the Committee up to date in terms of the various activities being carried out across the Council to help the organisation respond to the challenges of climate change and meet local and national net zero targets. It was agreed at the March 2023 Corporate Management Committee meeting that the Climate Change Team would produce similar reports biannually. The fifth report was produced for April 2025's Corporate Management Committee and this sixth report follows on from that April version and provides updated information to reflect changes which have occurred in the intervening period.
- 2.2 In producing this latest update report, staff from all service areas within the Council have been approached for their input. Information is presented in a simple tabular format. A table has been produced for each service area, with additional tables also produced for the Chief Executive's Office and the Central Climate Change Team (the latter is part of the wider Planning, Economy and Built Environment service area, however, given the length of the table for this service area and the Climate Change team, officers have split it into two). These tables can be viewed at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Within Appendix 2 each service area table lists the name of the relevant activity, gives its action ID from the Corporate Business Plan and/or Climate Change Action Plan, provides a

brief description of the activity, lists any relevant committee report(s) and then provides any relevant update which has occurred since April 2025. A number of new activities are also captured. These are clearly annotated in the second column from the left.

2.4 Each Service Area table has up to three sections as follows:

Relevant activities completed since the April 2025 report: In the interest of keeping the update report as succinct as possible, the focus of this section is on recently completed activities. Therefore, any completed activities that were previously listed in prior update reports and which have had no change of status or update since the last report, have been removed from the table and transferred to a separate list of completed activities, presented at Appendix 3.

In Progress activities: Any activities that are now considered core activity have been removed from Appendix 2 and recorded in the Core Activities Table (Appendix 4).

Planned activities not yet started: This largely relates to activities due to be commenced in the 2025/26 financial year. These projects and defined smaller pieces of work/initiatives which flow from the Council's Corporate Business Plan and its supporting strategies. Many of these planned activities have been taken from the 2025/26 Service Area Plans.

In all sections described above activities that are new to being recorded in the Climate Change Update report are marked as 'NEW' and these are reflected in the summary report (Appendix 1). Some of these may be previously ongoing activities that have now been included after a recent six-monthly review of consistency between the Business Planning Tool and the Climate Change Update Report.

2.5 Due to the large size of Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4, in the interest of saving paper these appendices have not been printed and can be viewed online at the links given in paragraph 11 below. To enable Members to easily locate activity status changes and updates within these documents a condensed summary table has been created (Appendix 1). This summary table contains only the activities where there has been a change since the last update report. Within the summary table it has been highlighted if the activity is new, moved from planned to in progress, moved from in progress to completed, moved to core activity status or if there is a status update. The Service Area Section, Corporate Business Plan Action ID, page number where it can be found in Appendix 2 and activity title are given for each activity contained in the summary table to enable the specific activities to be located easily within Appendix 2.

2.6 As well as speaking to staff from each service area, other sources of information which have been reviewed in producing this report are:

- Information obtained from the Council's Project Management Office
- Published information on the Council's website
- The Forward Plan produced by Committee Services

2.7 In reviewing this report, Members are asked to remember that not all of the activities reported have/are being undertaken specifically in response to climate change. For example, the driver for undertaking a number of the projects/activities has been to make efficiencies in the Council's processes (for example, the Digitisation of Depot Ground Maintenance system), or to respond to statutory requirements (for example the review of the Borough Local Plan). Some of these activities do, however, have additional benefits of helping the Council deliver more environmentally friendly services/policies which will contribute to the Council's response to climate change. For completeness, these activities have been

reported. The report also sets out the activities which are being specifically undertaken to help the Council respond to climate change.

- 2.8 Officers will continue to work to refine the Climate Change updates provided to Members, working to fill gaps in information where they exist.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have been assessed for their wider policy implications. Future planned activity through the Service Area Plans across the Authority have been designed to ensure that the objectives of the Council's Corporate Business Plan and supporting corporate strategies can be delivered over their lifetime.

4 Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their resource and financial implications assessed. Activities beyond this current financial year would be set out in future Service Area Plans adopted by the Council.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their legal implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their legal implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their equality implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their equality implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 All of the projects/activities which have already been completed by the Council since 2019, or which are underway, would have had their environmental/ sustainability/ biodiversity implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their implications in terms of environment, sustainability and biodiversity considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

8. Other implications

- 8.1 Future activities listed in the report will be assessed for other implications as appropriate.

9. Timetable for Implementation

- 9.1 The various activities listed in this update report all have their own timetables. Further climate change update reports will seek to provide further information on the timescales for delivery for different projects where possible through discussion with the Council's Project Management Office and Service Area Heads.

10. Background papers

10.1 None

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change Service Area Updates October 2025 – Summary Table

Appendix 2: Climate Change Service Area Updates October 2025

Appendix 3: Climate Change Completed Activities October 2025

Appendix 4: Climate Change Core Activities October 2025