

# Report of the Strategic Director – Place to the meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

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## Subject:

Sustainability and Climate Action Update

## Summary statement:

This report provides an overview of progress on sustainable development and climate action by the Council. It provides key headlines and summarises the wider context for this work including West Yorkshire, national legislative and policy changes from Government.

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

*Environmental management and stewardship by Bradford Council is part of the legal and non-statutory basis for the authority. Many environmental issues, including climate challenges are undertaken in partnership and as non-statutory functions. Equality and Diversity challenges and opportunities are taken into account in formal plan making and service management. The wider sustainable development approach seeks to bring environmental, social, economic and cultural issues together as part of the longer term governance and stewardship of the organisation and district.*

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Jason Longhurst  
Strategic Director - Place

## Portfolio:

Healthy People, Healthy Places

Report Contact: Jamie Saunders Policy  
Officer  
Phone: (01274) 434123  
E-mail: [Jamie.saunders@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.saunders@bradford.gov.uk)

## Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Environment

## **1. SUMMARY**

- Members of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the report as an overview of the work on sustainable development and climate action. A Sustainable Development Action Plan was approved by Executive in March 2020 and this has subsequently been followed by the adoption of the Council Plan 2021-25 as well as the approval by the Wellbeing Board of the District Plan 2021-25.
- The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the disruption and prioritisation of the response by the Council has clearly altered the context and progress on managing many developmental challenges and opportunities. This is brought to members' attention as part of the context for this report.
- There is a substantial and significant amount of legislative, policy and operational change surrounding environmental management, climate action and sustainable development. This includes the government's Net Zero Strategy, the Budget and Spending Review 2021, the Integrated Rail Plan and the Environment Act which passed into Law on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (approved in October 2021) is also highlighted.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee last received a Climate Emergency Update report on these matters in February 2020.
- 2.2 Executive approved the Sustainable Development Action Plan in March 2020. The Council Plan 2021-25 was adopted by Full Council (and includes a dedicated Sustainable District Priority (Appendix 1). The District Plan was presented and approved by the Wellbeing Board in August 2021, this endorses sustainability and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as directing partnerships to work on climate and environmental priorities. The 2040 Vision as discussed at Committee in early 2020 did not progress as planned.
- 2.3 Full Council in October 2021 passed a resolution promoting Bradford District as the UK's leading clean growth city district and setting the mandate, following the Council Plan, to promote the ongoing transition towards a more sustainable future.

## **3. REPORT ISSUES**

- 3.1 Despite covid-19 disruptions since spring 2020, a significant amount of investment and delivery has continued both on the measures set out by the council that directly take forward climate action and across the whole organisation as enablers of a more sustainable District.
- 3.2 The headlines are reported through Council Plan reporting with the Half Year Performance report being presented to Executive on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021. These include some of the key initiatives and measures being taken by the Council. These were also presented to Full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> October by the Portfolio Holder – Healthy Places, Healthy People and the Executive Assistant for Climate Emergency.
- 3.3 Regular updates have also taken place via Council communications and social media,

including the Climate Action email bulletin that has over 3,000 subscribers. There was a dedicated COP26 edition and this was complemented by a dedicated version of Backing Bradford (which goes out to over 4,000 subscribers).

3.4 Of critical importance to climate action is the progress being made on the Clean Air Plan and preparations for the £50m clean air programme over the next seven years. This is expected to contribute to a reduction of 150,000t of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions through the life of the investment. Engagement with businesses in summer 2021 is already leading to clean air compliant, low-carbon vehicles and taxis securing air quality, health and economic benefits. This work was recognised by the LGC winning the Climate Response Awards 2021.

3.5 The North Sea Region BEGIN project (Blue green infrastructure through social innovation) focusing on climate adaptation/sustainability won in the Green Europe 'Green and Resilient Communities in Rural and Urban Settings' peoples choice but also the overall best project in the Regiostars awards. These have become Europe's label of excellence for EU-funded projects, which demonstrate innovative and inclusive approaches to regional development. Each year hundreds of projects compete in five categories: Smart Europe, Green Europe, Fair Europe, Urban Europe, and the topic of the year. The overall objective of BEGIN is to demonstrate at target sites – Shipley-Canal Road Corridor - how cities can improve climate resilience with Blue Green Infrastructure involving stakeholders

3.5 As part of deepening the Council's work on addressing climate action informed by science-based targets the authority signed up to Race to Zero (Details in Appendix 3) and joins over 1,000 other local authorities across the world in working and sharing progress. This will be reported on in future years through the Carbon Disclosure Project CDP Unified Reporting platform

3.6 Officers have utilised the CDP Unified Reporting Platform over the last four years to collate evidence and benchmark progress, The submission for 2021 was completed in July and an assessment and scoring was presented back to the authority in November (details in Appendix 4). For the first time, the submission will be made public from 2022 via the CDP Open Data Platform. It provides an internationally recognised, transparent benchmark, weighted on climate mitigation and adaptation. There are a small number of A grade authorities across the world and only 11 in the UK for 2021. Engagement with CDP and benchmarking against these UK Councils will form part of the preparations for the 2022 submission.

3.7 There has been significant progress by key partners across the District. This includes InCommunities developing and approving a sustainability plan and budget for the retrofit of their social housing stock; decarbonisation and adaptation planning by Yorkshire Water and the ongoing investment by Northern Powergrid and Northern Gas Networks in the district's critical infrastructure. The Hospitals and NHS partners are also delivering on the NHS Net Zero and green plans. There have also been a number of private sector partners contributing to this work including Bradford Live, Muse (One City Park) and Yorkshire Water/Keyland Developments bringing forward the Esholt eco-industrial and positive living development.

3.8 The Woodland Trust are working in partnership on 17 acres of land at Holme House Wood which will become Captain Tom’s Memorial Woodland, in tribute to the Keighley-born charity fundraising hero. Existing woods will be extended, with the planting of more than 3,000 hedgerow trees and shrubs – including hawthorn, hazel and field maple. The woodland falls within the White Rose Forest – part of the Northern Forest, where the trust and partners plan to plant over 50 million trees between Hull and Liverpool. Planting and other works at the site will begin in March and are expected to be complete by next autumn.

3.9 Work has continued across the key partnerships led by the Wellbeing Board, and through the pandemic the Economic Recovery Board has overseen a plan and investment that took key elements of the existing Economic Strategy including a focus on supporting the green economy and key initiatives.

3.10 The Sustainable Development Partnership, as a private sector led board has worked with key Bradford District businesses to shape and unlock investment proposals for sustainable development. These have included sustainable food supply systems, low-carbon infrastructure, low carbon fuels for fleet and lorries including EV and hydrogen, small business support, and critically support to business involved in advanced manufacturing.

3.11 The Council continues to work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and with the Mayor of West Yorkshire on regeneration, recovery and devolution, taking forward clean growth and environmental resilience. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan was approved in October 2021 as a joint framework for addressing decarbonisation, nature recovery, climate risk, jobs and skills, green finance, and supporting a fair, just and lasting transition to a sustainable region. Priorities for the next three years are set out in Appendix 5. A report on COP26 and the Plan was presented to WYCA on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

#### 4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 The Council allocated £1m to climate action in the 2020/21 Budget alongside over £20m in capital allocations. Due to the disruptions caused by the ongoing response to the pandemic, most of this was rolled over into 2021-22 with capital re-profiled over future years for delivery.

<p>£1m 2020-21 some rolled over into 2021-22</p>	
<p>Community Climate Action Fund  Tree for Every Child</p>	<p>Proportion of £360,000 spent. Reports will go to each Area Committee for the year end on their allocation and use of £50k. All areas spent all their allocation £300k. Project planning for the remaining £60,000 is underway.</p> <p>Linked to overall tree planting investment and Woodland Strategy <u>Tree for every child £250k</u> £27k spent last year, expectation £99k will be spent in</p>



- Transforming Cities Fund
- Shipley and Keighley Towns Funds
- Levelling Up Fund
- Flood defence – Water Management issues brought to Committee 2021-22.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 Cllr Ferriby Portfolio Holder Healthy People and Healthy Places has the responsibility for sustainability and addressing climate challenges. Sustainable development and regeneration rests with Cllr Ross-Shaw. There is a dedicated Executive Assistant who reports to both portfolio holders and also covers problem plastics and fairtrade issues. Jason Longhurst, Strategic Director – Place leads on this work for Council Management Team.

5.2 There are a wide range of strategic, tactical and practical risks incorporated within and across the Council's corporate risk register. Fundamental issues of fossil fuel availability and costs, 'carbon' regulation and legislation and market responsiveness and innovation clearly highlight key areas through which the authority, partners, suppliers and citizens are managing the complex and interconnected nature of sustainability.

5.3. The COP26 conference updated international agreements and national mechanisms and commitments for investment and action. This is expected to further develop into 2022 and shape the operating environment for the Council, organisations and residents of the district. The UK legal position is set in the Climate Change Act and subsequent amendments seeking to secure a 'net zero' UK by 2050. The Environment Act was passed through Parliament in November 2021. The Local Government Association is currently assessing the key issues and impacts of this far-reaching legislative regime for environmental regulation and for local government. LGA continue to call for the powers and resources to support delivering the Net Zero Strategy, reflecting on a lobbying programme across the key sectors such as buildings, transport, power and nature, and cross-sector themes such as community engagement, skills and finance. They are also calling on government to provide fair funding to local government to cover covid-costs in full, to support social care funding and ensure Councils have the financial stability and resources to enhance their work as place-shapers and enablers of long-term wellbeing, resilience and prosperity. LGA is working to strengthen the relationship between local and central government especially on an overall framework for delivering climate change adaptation and mitigation.

5.4 New guidance for local authorities on Climate Risk, adaptation literacy and resilience is expected shortly. This is being prepared by Local Partnerships with support from the Environment Agency and other bodies.

5.5 WYCA became a Mayoral Combined Authority in early 2021 and the WY Mayor was elected on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. There have been subsequent changes to the governance of WYCA including changes to the main committees. The Climate, Energy and Environment and CEE Committee, led by Cllr Swift (Calderdale, WY portfolio holder for CEE) has replaced the Green Economy Panel. Cllr Ferriby represents Bradford Council on the Committee. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan contributes to the Councils' work on sustainability. It is a cornerstone of joint work on decarbonisation,

nature recovery, climate risk and readiness, green finance, jobs and skills. Partnership working arrangements and co-delivery plans are under development.

The wider strategic work on clean growth and practical systems change comes through other strategies, programmes and services. These include the Bus Strategy, Mass Transit, Active Travel, urban regeneration and housing, Digital framework and other elements of the devolution deal itself. There is ongoing work and partnership development between the 5 Councils and WYCA to capture and present a whole systems view of investment, delivery and impact.

5.6 Yorkshire Leaders Board has prioritised climate action and has also supported the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission. The Commission has recently launched its action plan and is now working with stakeholders on how the identified actions play out in different sectors and different levels of government. Work is progressing to work with each Local Authority and with citizens and businesses to consider the challenges and proposals put forward for the region..

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

This overall coordination and development work falls under the general powers of the authority, it is not covered by any specific statutory duty and does not receive any additional funding or support from Central Government.

Clarification on the roles, responsibilities, resources for local government in supporting climate action was the subject of a recent National Audit Office report. The Government reply and position on local government was still awaited as this report was being prepared.

The Government's Net Zero Strategy acknowledges the recent assessment by the National Audit Office of the fragmented funding landscape that local authorities currently face. It recognises that longer-term and more coordinated funding streams can stimulate investment and deliver better value-for money and pledges to explore opportunities to consolidate funds to this end.

The Climate Change Committee CCC states that partnership working ought to promptly develop an agreed understanding of the role of local government in delivering Net Zero. Furthermore, Government are recommended to ensure that critical enabling processes, such as the planning system and appraisal methodologies, are properly aligned to these pathways. CCC states that coherent, predictable and long-term funding settlements will help realise effective local delivery that works across communities

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

The work to address the climate emergency acknowledges that in most cases the poorest and most vulnerable, globally and locally, will and are facing the adverse consequences of the crisis. As the response develops more detailed work to address equity, fairness and equality will progress – especially for investment and scheme design.

Work at the city-region level is also focussed on ensuring a fair and just transition,

especially for the many communities and businesses that are dependent upon or fundamentally connected to the existing fossil fuel economy.

Specific policy changes and initiatives undertake more detailed Equalities Impact Assessments as necessary

## 7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This report provides an overview of the work underway to progress and deliver on a more sustainable and inclusive district. The Clean Growth ambition will develop through the next six months to provide improved programming and reporting on initiatives, schemes, delivery and impact across all place-based investment.

2020 marked the beginning of the UN Decade of Delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Local Government Association endorsed the SDGs in Summer 2019. The shared mission to secure a sustainable and inclusive district that works for everyone is central to local efforts not only improving quality of life within the UK but also striving to play a positive role for other communities and environments across the world.

As endorsed in the District Plan and Council Plan this provides a wider systems view and context for emissions reduction, adaptation, integrated climate action and creating more prosperous, resilient and healthy places.

Critically, work is underway to reposition the response to climate and environmental challenges, social issues and economic prosperity within a more refined and integrated sustainability approach with the District being positioned and shaped as the UK's leading clean growth city district (Full Council October 2021).

There were a significant number of connected and parallel announcements to the recent COP26 process – for international, national and local levels of government and action. A sub-regional update on COP26 itself was presented to the Local Enterprise Partnership Board in November.

Alongside COP26, the Government along with many hundreds of organisations released materials relating to sustainability, climate action, adaptation, finance and more. There is no single curated summary of all of these and many will filter down and through to local authorities in the months ahead. One example launch in November includes HM Government Department for Education DfE draft Sustainability and Climate Change strategy for education and children's services systems, that as well as covering the schools sector, the draft strategy is currently proposed to apply to all actors in the education sector, including to further and higher education.

## 7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

This report reflects the overall progress on Council and District emissions

<b>Bradford Council</b>	<b>Bradford District</b>
<b>To update</b>	District Emissions (CO2 emissions per capita per year) are reported in public through the District Dashboard in line with



<p>Bradford Council's emissions <b>Council Buildings</b> 223,119 Tonnes, 2020/20213,119 Tonnes, 2020/2021</p> <p><b>Emissions from buildings reported as KPI in Council Plan Mid Year Performance Report</b></p> <p>Energy performance is reported through management, overview and scrutiny and to Government (BEIS) as well through to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)</p> <p><b>Scope 1&amp; 2 (1) and Scope 3 – as defined (1)</b></p> <p>On Scope 3 emissions a shared research project across the region has provided initial support to identify and work with embodied emissions in supply chains, products and goods. The LGA has recently published a Sustainable Procurement toolkit that features emissions management alongside other key environmental, social and economic issues and risks.</p>	<p>HM Government (Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, BEIS). This also features as one of the key measures for the District Economic Strategy and is reported through to the Economic Partnership.</p> <p>2019 – District 3.8 tonnes Co2e per head, compared to 6.3 tonnes for Yorkshire and Humber, and a UK average of 5.6 tonnes</p> <p>(based on emissions allocated on an 'end-user' basis, except for the energy industry emissions are allocated to where production takes place)</p> <p>Similar to the UK and regional position, emissions have continued to reduce – but all need to reduce further and faster in line with legislation, policy ambitions and real-world impact.</p>
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**This report does not try to reflect or report on a fully comprehensive emissions profile, modelling or reduction management.**

The Government Net Zero Strategy recognises that 30 percent of the emissions reductions that will be needed depend on actions that involve local authorities. It represents a positive first step in acknowledging the role local leaders can play in engaging their communities and delivering change that works within their local contexts, and in identifying steps to unlock effective local delivery.

WYCA (with the five WY LAs) continue to work on a carbon impact assessment methodology, toolkit and training for key transport and regeneration schemes. This will be ready for use by scheme promoters and WYCA in 2022.

#### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The ethos behind the practical scale work on addressing environmental challenges and creating sustainable communities is to support and enable local people and groups to be involved in the care and stewardship of the local environment. Continuing to take a proactive approach to local environmental action seeks to reduce and minimise the impact of antisocial behaviour and environmental crime and build pride in local places.

## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None related or arising directly from this report

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

Work on sustainability and clean growth is embedded across key statutory functions of the local authority as well as within locally funded approaches to better manage the environment, undertake effective place-making and maintenance activities that are required to support and enable prosperity, wellbeing and resilience.

The Clean Growth ambition seeks to develop a modern, viable and resilient economy that supports a just transition, supporting employees, workers, organisations and communities to have the skills and livelihoods necessary for the twenty first century.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The work on sustainability and clean growth affects all 30 wards. Area Committees and front-line ward members are directly involved in place-making and development to address immediate concerns as well as to support longer term positive place management. The Community Climate Action Fund 2020-22 provides one example where neighbourhood level community involvement and action has been supported by the authority.

Reports on the allocation of the Fund and the projects supported are to be taken to each Area Committee as part of the standard reporting processes.

The Parish and Town Councils and local community organisations active across the District : Service and Area teams are working to connect Ward Plans and community activity to the broader challenges of climate action, resilience and supporting sustainable communities..

## **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

None related or arising directly from this report.

## **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None related or arising directly from this report.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **9. OPTIONS**

This report is a general update and high level summary of key developments, investment and actions in support of sustainable development and the response to key climate and environmental challenges. Members questions and views on the matters presented will

inform and support work planning and coordination activities.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report and an update report be scheduled for Committee in 2022-23.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2021-2025 – Sustainable District

Appendix 2 - Sustainable Development Action Plan – Summary of Progress 2021

Appendix 3 – Bradford Council Race to Zero 2021

Appendix 4 – Bradford Council Carbon Disclosure Project Assessment 2021

Appendix 5 – Summary of WY Climate and Environment Plan Priorities to 2024

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

[1]

Scope I & II Emissions are broken down into three categories by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol in order to better understand the source.

Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from operational activities or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation/location. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation/place.

Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water.

WYCA – West Yorkshire Combined Authority

### **Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee REOSC**

SINGLE USE PLASTICS, PROBLEM PLASTICS AND PLASTIC WASTE – REOSC – November 2021

WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS - REOSC – October 2021 and November 2020

BRADFORD BECK PILOT STUDY REOSC October 2021 and March 2020

TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019-20, REOSC, September 2021

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN, REOSC, January 2021

CULTURAL STRATEGY 2020-30 , REOSC, January 2021

ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHOOL STREETS AND PLAY STREETS, REOSC, December 2020

BRADFORD CLEAN AIR PLAN - CLEAN AIR ZONE INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROCUREMENT, REOSC, November 2020

WASTE SERVICES - RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC TO DATE, REOSC,  
September 2020

ENERGY CONTRACTS PROCUREMENT, REOSC, August 2020

USE OF THE CROWN COMMERCIAL SERVICES (CCS) FRAMEWORK:  
CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES PROCUREMENT FOR THE  
TRANSFORMING CITIES PROGRAMME, REOSC, August 2020

SINGLE USE PLASTICS UPDATE, REOSC March 2020

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE HOUSING STANDARDS TEAM, REOSC, March 2020

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR IN THE BRADFORD  
DISTRICT, REOSC, March 2020

BIODIVERSITY SCRUTINY REVIEW: UPDATE ON BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN  
CONSULTATIONS, REOSC, March 2020

BRADFORD DISTRICT ECONOMIC STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS ,  
REOSC, March 2020

CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE, REOSC, February 2020

Sustainable Development Action Plan and Executive Report, Bradford Council, March  
2021

Council Plan 2021-25, Bradford Council, 2021

Council Plan Half Year Performance Report, 2021

Economic Recovery Plan, 2021

District Plan 2021-25, Wellbeing Board, 2021

Homes and Neighbourhoods - A Guide to Designing in Bradford Supplementary Planning  
Document (SPD), February 2020

Accelerating a Clean Growth City District, WSP, 2021

Member Question Time, Full Council, 2020-21, 2021-22

Quarter 2 Finance Position Statement for 2021-22 Executive 2/11/21

[Cross reference SR 06 ENV Environment and Sustainability]

Previous 2020/21 document Capital Investment Plan 2020-21 TO 2023-24

Independent Assessment: The UK's Net Zero Strategy Climate Change Committee CCC,  
2021

Progress in reducing emissions and Progress in adapting to climate change, CCC, 2021

Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, CCC, 2021

Sixth Carbon Budget, CCC, 2021

West Yorkshire, Mayor's Manifesto and Pledges, May 2021  
WYCA Corporate Plan, 2020-21, 2021-22  
WY Economic Recovery Plan, WYCA, 2021  
West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan, WYCA, October 2021  
COP26 Update, LEP, November 2021  
West Yorkshire Devolution Deal, 2020  
WY Climate, Environment and Energy Committee Terms of Reference and Membership, WYCA 2021

Strategic Economic Framework - also WY Transport Strategy 2040, Energy Strategy & Delivery Plan, Housing Vision, Digital Framework, Walking and Cycling Strategy, Green/Blue Infrastructure Plan, Skills plan and policy framework.

Transport Decarbonisation Activity , WYCA Transport Committee, September 2021  
Transport Decarbonisation Strategy, Transport for the North TfN, 2021

Net Zero Strategy, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2021  
Heat & Buildings Strategy BEIS, 2021  
Budget 2021 and Spending Review 2021, HM Treasury, 2021  
Net Zero Review, HM Treasury, 2021  
Integrated Rail Plan, Department for Transport, 2021  
Environment Act, UK Parliament (enacted 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021)  
Draft Sustainability and Climate Change strategy for education and children's services systems, DfE, 2021

COP26, Net Zero and Green Skills position papers, LGA,2021  
A councillor's workbook on the local pathway to net zero, LGA, 2021

Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, Action Plan, 2021.

BEGIN Project details via <https://northsearegion.eu/begin>

[Keighley woodland tribute to town's fundraising hero Captain Sir Tom Moore | Keighley News](#), December 2021

## **Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2021-2025 Sustainable District**

### **A sustainable district**

#### Our ambition

Effective climate action presents challenges but also offers opportunities to generate sustainable, clean and fair economic growth, and improve health and wellbeing and environmental quality. We want the Bradford District to be at the forefront in taking advantage of these opportunities.

We acknowledge we need to reduce our carbon emissions to tackle the climate emergency. This will require urgent and significant steps to limit our collective impact on the climate and ensure our residents, businesses and public sector partners can adapt to the challenges of the future.

We want to lead by example and become one of the best councils in the country for our record on reducing carbon emissions and become known for our proactive management on biodiversity, water management. We will make it easier for individuals, households and businesses to adapt, change and innovate to address the challenges presented by climate change.

We will develop a Single Use Plastics Policy and implementation plan to help the Council become a single use plastic-free organisation by 2024.

#### Our context

Bradford Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and we are members of the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition. We are also investing in a number of capital and community based projects – for example, through a capital programme to invest in energy efficient street lighting and in reducing the environmental footprint of our own buildings.

The Bradford District currently has relatively low levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but still need to do more in order to ensure we are sustainable in the medium to long term. In 2018, the last year where we have data, the district's emissions were 3.8 tonnes per head, compared to 6.5 tonnes for Yorkshire and Humber, and a UK average of 5.2 tonnes.

The district is home to around 10,000 environmental sector jobs and exemplar businesses including Texfelt, a manufacturer using recycled fibres and plastics, Yorkshire Water and the pioneering Ecology Building Society.

We have a strong research base in the district. The University of Bradford is a global leader in the circular economy and has a centre for sustainable environment which is

tackling civil engineering climate challenges. The Bradford Institute for Health Research is researching health and wellbeing and undertaking national evaluation work on air quality improvements.

Our business and research strengths offer growth potential in areas including food and non-food crops, renewable energy, flood alleviation, soil management and carbon capture. Research suggests that clean growth could add £11 billion to the Leeds City Region economy and create an additional 100,000 jobs across our wider region.

Our priorities

Living with COVID-19

We will:

- Encourage the use of digital technology to reduce carbon emissions, support business activities and maximise the environmental benefits of home and remote working.
- Improve active travel infrastructure and help people move around the district for business or leisure safely, quickly and sustainably, even with reduced public transport capacity. Ensure that the public are informed about how they can access support on how they can move around the district safely using sustainable forms of transport.

Building a Better Future

We will:

- Lead district partners to address the climate emergency through the Sustainable Development Partnership working at all levels from grassroots to large infrastructure projects.
- Work with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and national government to make the case for sustainable transport development, including Northern Powerhouse Rail.
- Improve green space with initiatives such as 'Tree for Every Child' to plant more than 55,000 new trees, one for each primary school pupil.
- Help businesses and households to be more sustainable and embrace the principles of the circular economy.
- Improve air quality through our Breathe Better Bradford clean air plan.
- Encourage more recycling by households and businesses and improve waste recycling rates.

- Help households access funding to improve energy efficiency.
- Support local food production and food security efforts.
- Expand the network of electric vehicle charging points and number of electric vehicles.
- Increase renewable energy usage and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction in the Council's business activities.
- Reduce energy use and emissions from the Council fleet and street lighting.
- Increase the efficiency of our buildings and operation and operational assets to reduce energy use and emissions.
- Deliver an Advanced Fuel Centre to allow conversion of the Council's vehicle fleet and support the Council's Clean Air Strategy.
- Identify risks from extreme weather events and work with local and national partners to strengthen infrastructure and buildings.
- Bradford Council is committed to supporting Fairtrade as it supports sustainable farming and production methods whilst also ensuring that farmers and producers receive a fair price for their produce and goods. We will continue to buy Fairtrade goods and produce in line with our commitment, encourage our partners and businesses to do so and consider how we can support Fairtrade further across the District.

#### How we will measure success

1. The Bradford Clean Air Plan will achieve compliance with UK limits by 2022 and maintain this performance in future years.
2. Increase the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting and close the gap with the national average.
3. Reduce CO2 emissions from Council buildings below the 2019 level.

The underpinning plans and strategies that will enable us to deliver on this priority include:

- Bradford Clean Air Plan
- Sustainable District Action Plan



## Appendix 2 – Sustainable Development Action Plan – Summary of Progress

November 2021

Bradford Councillors have stated their commitment to making the District the UK's leading location for clean growth. This means cutting carbon and other greenhouse gases, using renewable energy, reducing waste, adapting to climate change and using resources sustainably. The District's strategic partnerships have also committed to using sustainable development principles to guide investment and activity.

Action that the Council and its partners have undertaken or are progressing includes:

- Keyland Developments and Yorkshire Water developing an exemplar scheme for sustainable living and an eco-industrial park at Esholt offering a clean growth testbed of national significance.
- Major investment through West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). This includes the recent announcement of £830m to create a low-carbon, high quality, affordable mass transit system connecting Bradford District to Kirklees and Leeds.
- Lobbying for the Northern Powerhouse Rail route and new station for Bradford to underpin and unlock clean growth potential.
- Resetting of West Yorkshire bus services to provide low-carbon and affordable travel.
- Investment in and promotion of walking and cycling
- Electric Vehicle charging provision on all new developments. This is in addition to key charging infrastructure on council sites and public car parks.
- The new Darley Street Market will support sustainable food and local retailers –and be a clean growth demonstration building and operation.
- Colleges, schools, the University and the Council are working together to make sure that we have the skills and expertise available to make the transition to a clean growth economy.
- A Tree for Every Child is planting 55,000 trees – over the halfway mark with 26,000 trees planted and will plant 40 school orchards and run 40 in-school planting events over the next 12 months. This and other planting forms a major contribution from the District to the Queens Green Canopy.
- Climate Change Grant is delivering support for community based climate action – being report to each Area Committee
- The Sustainable Development Partnership, a business led collaboration, is supporting the sustainable food strategy, unlocking business decarbonisation and key commercial opportunities to deliver on clean growth.
- The Council continues to support businesses on Covid recovery and sustainability.

- The District's Cultural Strategy "Culture is our Plan" has set out how arts, cultural and creative organisations, events and practices are to support and deliver on sustainability and this is a key part of Bradford's City of Culture 2025 Bid.
- Bradford Council Electricity supply now comes from 100% renewable energy (as of April 2021)
- Mitre Court Central Processing Unit for Catering Services is nearing completion and is due to be operational in early 2022. This will see a fundamental shift in energy efficiency and carbon emissions from a key council facility.

### **Breather Better Bradford**

Bradford's work to cut emissions, improve health and reduce inequality through its Clean Air Plan has scooped a national award winning the Local Government Chronicle's top prize for Climate Response. The plan will include a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in the light of a Government requirement to reduce pollution. The zone will reduce air pollutants from traffic and cut dangerous greenhouse gases.

- The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) will reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide by up to 35% at key locations and slash carbon dioxide by 147,000 tonnes.
- Grant funding and exemption packages will help local businesses to adapt.
- Clean Air funding is ensuring that all scheduled and tendered bus services are meeting emissions standards and upgrading 20% of HGVs registered in the District.
- £3m of Council investment will develop an Advanced Fuel Centre in partnership with Northern Gas Networks and Yorkshire Water to help HGV operators upgrade to bio methane and hydrogen fuelling.
- Investments will be made in projects that improve air quality such as an electric bus route from Keighley to Bradford
- The Council will develop the anaerobic digestion of organic waste that could generate sufficient energy to power its heavy-duty vehicles.

A shared Climate and Environment Plan has been approved through WYCA with a core focus on de-carbonising buildings and housing, power, industry, land use and transportation. See appendix 5

[Climate Action News - November 2021 \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com/news/bradford-district)

[Backing Bradford District \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com/news/bradford-district)

## Appendix 3 – Bradford Council Race to Zero 2021

1. Publicly endorse the following Principles:

- We recognise the global climate emergency.
- We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
- We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
- We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.

2. Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius

3. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.

*\* Bradford Council resolution (October 2019) endorses the shared WY ambition for a net zero sub-region by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. Current modelling through WYCA highlights that to meet our shared target and to comply with the Paris Agreement means emissions must be reduced by 14.5% year-on-year with output levels being halved every five years.*

4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on [www.citiesracetozero.org](http://www.citiesracetozero.org) that will help to place your city on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022.

5. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to your usual or the recommended reporting platform. Your 1.5° Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through your regular channels of reporting. If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.

Once adopted I commit to share my target and action commitment(s) with:

**CDP - ICLEI Unified Reporting System**

Please enter other policy actions you would like to pledge as part of this commitment:

To continue and extend our commitment to sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals, with key initiatives and a regeneration portfolio that will drive clean growth, a more inclusive economy and significant progress on district decarbonisation by 2030.

## Appendix 4 – Bradford Council Carbon Disclosure Project Assessment 2021

The scoring is a private assessment between each CDP participant and CDP.

However, the submission will be in the public domain via [CDP Open Data Portal | CDP Open Data Portal](#)

This will support greater transparency and improvement in the content of the submission in future years (from the 2021 baseline)

CDP's scoring methodology has been developed to incentivize and better enable cities to measure and manage their environmental risks, impacts, and action. Responses are scored using the 2021 CDP Cities Scoring Methodology.

This report acts as a tool for gaining an overview of environmental performance and how the city's response can be improved in the future.

Scores are private to cities – unless with prior agreement, although CDP will recognize and reward the highest scoring cities.

95 cities (up from 88 cities in 2020) globally are named on this year's A List as bold leaders in environmental transparency and action, with almost half (46 cities) being new for 2021.

2021 A List cities in the UK are Bristol; Reading; Sunderland; Nottingham; Leicester, Southend on Sea; Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole BCP Council; Newcastle, Edinburgh Greater Manchester; Greater London Authority;

## **Appendix 5 – Summary of WY Climate and Environment Plan Priorities to 2024**

### **Leadership**

- Require funding under our control to show how it is addressing carbon emissions and environmental impacts.
- Require scheme promoters seeking Combined Authority funding to account for and mitigate their emissions, environmental impacts and tackle the climate emergency.
- Develop and deliver a plan to manage the environmental impact of the Combined Authority, decarbonise Combined Authority operations and become a net zero business by 2038 at the latest.
- Monitor and evaluate our organisational and regional progress to ensure we are on track to meet the targets that we have set and to accelerate action where progress is off-track.

### **Cross-cutting**

- Deliver communications and engagement with a focus on how partners, businesses and residents of West Yorkshire can work together to benefit from tackling the climate emergency.
- Build on existing relationships to develop programmes and partnerships that ensure the region has the workforce and jobs that it needs to enable a transition to a sustainable net-zero carbon economy.
- Bring together existing funding and leverage partner and private capital to release new green finance to accelerate delivery through the Net Zero Region Accelerator Programme.

### **Transport**

- Accelerate the delivery of the West Yorkshire Connectivity Infrastructure Plan to reduce private vehicle use, increase active travel and public transport use and decarbonise transport.
- Accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle charging points across the region through funding and partnerships and utilise the Mayor's devolved powers with a focus on ensuring equity in provision.
- Develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan which sets the ambition for the future of bus services regardless of the regulatory framework and includes activity such as the decarbonisation of the bus network and encouraging modal shift.
- Deliver neighbourhood programmes that change the infrastructure and support communities in favour of walking, cycling and high quality, green and climate ready public realm for people.

### **Homes**

- Establish a Better Homes Yorkshire Hub, chaired by the Mayor, and Standard for better, net zero neighbourhoods. Delivering a step change and scale up of new and existing home improvement solutions for healthy, affordable, efficient and net zero homes across all tenures.

### **Business and industry**

- Build on the success of our existing business support programmes supporting businesses to become sustainable, decarbonise and circular in the way they operate.

### **Energy**

- Develop, in partnership, Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) for the region that meet the needs of our communities, businesses and enable the transition to a clean and zero carbon energy system.
- Identify the locations and accelerate the deployment of low carbon energy solutions, for example heat pumps and heat networks, solar and smart flexible technologies, to decarbonise heat and power.

### **Natural environment**

- Work with partners to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Support partners including the White Rose Forest, Yorkshire Water, National Trust, Moors for the Future, South Pennines Park, local authorities and community groups to restore nature and landscapes, plant trees and improve biodiversity.
- Establish a grants programme for community led projects including greening and river conservation and improvement, and sustainable food growing.

### **Climate ready**

- Work with the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (YRFCC), the Environment Agency and other partners to deliver enhanced flood protection, incorporating natural flood management, and climate resilience to communities, homes and businesses.