

Report to:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	26 November 2021
By:	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport & Chief Operating Officer
Title:	Progress report on Scrutiny's recommendations following the review of becoming a carbon neutral council
Purpose:	To consider the progress report.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) consider the progress report.**
 - 2) note the agreed additional spend on climate change of £3.867m up to 2023-24.**
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1 Background

1.1 In October 2019 the County Council declared a climate emergency, setting a target of achieving carbon neutrality from its activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050. In June 2020 Cabinet adopted a climate emergency action plan and in November 2020 the Place Scrutiny Committee completed a review of the County Council Becoming a Carbon Neutral Council. The Committee's 37 recommendations were agreed by full Council in February 2021. This report sets out progress to date against these recommendations.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The County Council first developed a carbon reduction plan in 2009. Since then, it has reduced its operational carbon emissions by about 66%, the details of which are in appendix 1. The Climate Change Action Plan adopted in 2020 set a target to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 13% per year, which is a science-based target, and set out a delivery plan for 2020-22. In 2020-21 the County Council met this target. The Place Scrutiny Committee carried out a review in 2020, both of the County Council's progress to date in reducing its carbon emissions and its plans to reduce emissions further to get to net zero.

2.2 The County Council has a large and complex carbon footprint which is larger than that of all the East Sussex District and Borough Councils combined. The majority of carbon emissions generated by the Council's activities are from sources which it has influence over but limited direct control. These are school buildings and emissions from the procurement of goods, works and services to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory functions. This includes major services such as highways maintenance, waste disposal, and education, as well as social care provision commissioned from a myriad of relatively small independent providers. Addressing the emissions from our large and diverse supply chain is a complex and significant task which will take time.

2.3 The review which the Place Scrutiny Committee undertook in 2020/21 made a number of recommendations, which were accepted by Full Council and are being implemented alongside the agreed climate emergency action plan. Appendix 2 includes a summary of progress to date against the agreed recommendations and the Climate Emergency Action

Plan. Of the 37 actions, 5 (13%) have been completed, 28 (76%) are on-going and 4 (11%) have not yet started. Progress with some actions require additional resource and many actions, such as behavioural change work, will require long-term delivery programmes.

2.4 Proposals for significant additional resource to address the County Council's carbon footprint were agreed by Cabinet in October 2021. An additional £3.867m has been agreed to be spent up to 2023-24, to be met primarily from the £8.855m reserve that has been established for one-off investment detailed in appendix 3. Investment will include the following areas:

1. Modelling of options to get to net zero, in order to better understand the potential costs and timescales
2. Recruitment of an additional officer in Property to enable the development, delivery and monitoring of a greater number of carbon reduction projects
3. Additional match funding to enable the full value of external grants to be drawn down for carbon reduction projects
4. Installation of additional low energy lighting schemes and solar PV schemes
5. Investment in a programme to decarbonise the heating systems at sites that are already scheduled in the planned maintenance programme for boiler replacements during 2022-24

2.5 Oversight of the investment set out above will be by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change working closely with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, and advised by the existing Climate Change Officer Board, which includes representatives from all departments and is co-chaired by the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport. This will include developing a dashboard to make the County Council's measurable progress in cutting its carbon emissions more visible.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Council has recognised the severity of the climate crisis by declaring a climate emergency and setting a clear science-based target to get to net zero from its activities. Significant work has already been undertaken to reduce emissions and good progress has been made against the actions recommended by Place Scrutiny Committee. The additional investment agreed by Cabinet in October 2021 of £3.867m will enable the scale and pace of carbon reduction activity to increase. Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the progress report and additional resources now available to implement the recommendations.

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LOCAL MEMBERS:
ALL

BACKGROUND PAPERS:
None

Appendix 1 – What ESCC has achieved so far and next steps (October 2021)

What ESCC has achieved so far

Between 2008-09 and 2020-21 the County Council has reduced its scope 1 and 2 emissions by 66%. This has been achieved through a number of measures, including:

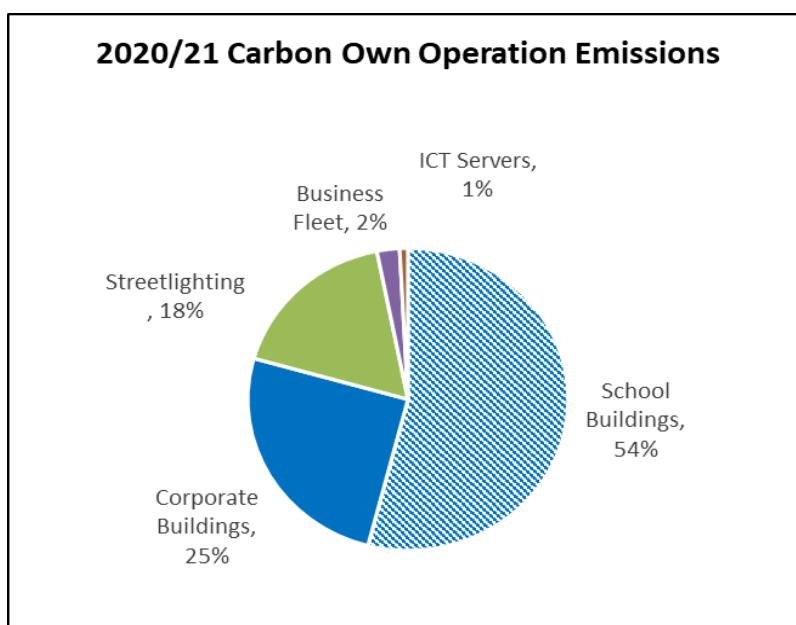
1. Changes to the way we work, for example through the Agile and SPACES (“Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex”) programmes. The Agile programme has enabled staff to work flexibly from a range of sites, including home. This allows a reduced number, and more efficient use of, buildings and a reduction in travel through staff being able to be connected whilst working remotely. The SPACES programme is a partnership of public bodies and third sector organisations established in 2013 to seek better use of the public sector estate.
2. Improved and more energy efficient connectivity, for instance through moving to the Surrey Data Centre.
3. Encouraging behaviour change, for example by providing the ICT equipment, tools and support to enable Members and staff to work digitally and providing discounted bus travel and season-ticket loans to encourage the use of public transport.
4. Installing a number of energy efficiency measures in East Sussex County Council (ESCC) buildings and street lighting through the £1.025m Salix invest-to-save fund and County Council maintenance budgets, including replacing all the windows at County Hall. Salix has funded nearly 300 projects worth £3.8m, generating annual savings of over £850,000.
5. Installing 1.4MW of renewable energy generation on buildings, mostly on schools.
6. Requiring energy efficiency improvements in key contracts, for example including performance indicators for street lighting and business mileage within the current highways contract.
7. Changing our approach to procurement to enable more goods and services to be delivered by local businesses, which reduces the transport impact of our supply chain.
8. The Council has recently procured a new framework for the provision of electricity for corporate buildings, schools and street lighting. This allows electricity to be supplied from renewable sources, independently certified through the Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin scheme (REGOs). This started from 1 April 2021 for an initial period of at least 12 months and is likely to continue, subject to availability and price. This applies to corporate sites and has been offered to schools. Please note that the purchase of green electricity is not counted towards ESCC's carbon reduction target, on the basis that it is recognised good practice to work to reduce energy usage first, followed by improving energy efficiency, then investing in renewable energy, and finally to procure green electricity.
9. Case study example: Buxted Primary School, energy efficient lighting:
 - Fluorescent lamps were replaced with energy efficient LED lamps, improved controls and emergency lighting across the school estate.
 - The changes cost £15,000 and led to a 17% reduction in electricity use, which saved £1,500 and 5 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

- Feedback from the school: "We undertook the new lighting project throughout our school building and the results have been very good...overall we are very pleased with our new lighting." Bursar at Buxted C of E Primary, May 2020.

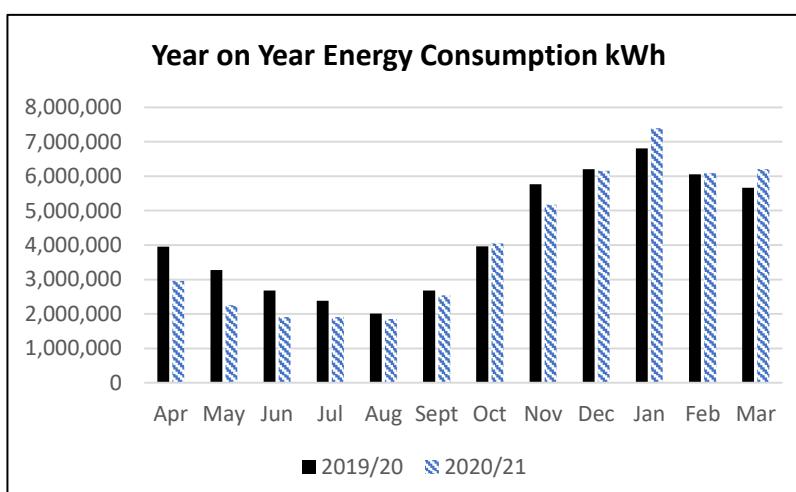
Carbon reduction in 2020/21

In 2020/21:

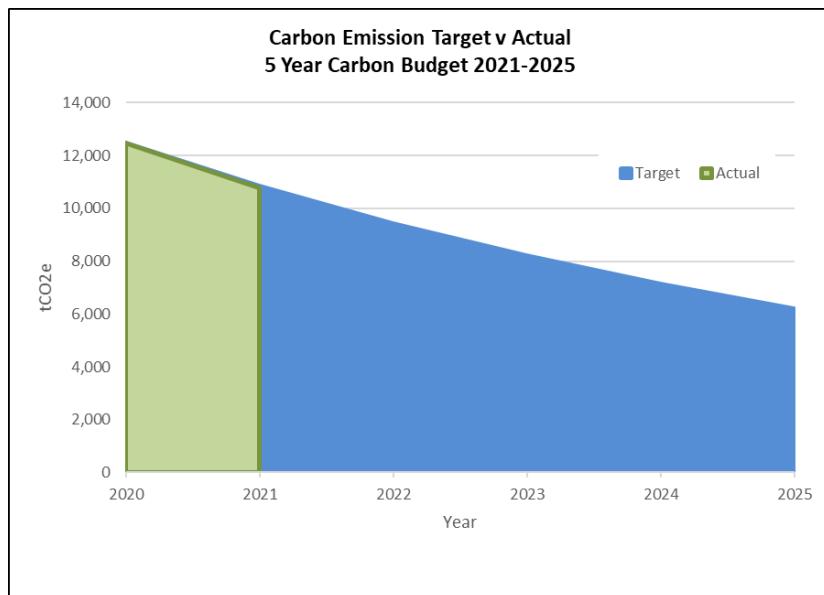
- Buildings accounted for 79% of scope 1 and 2 emissions, with schools being the largest share. Corporate buildings include all non-school buildings.
- Heating made up 60% of building emissions.
- ESCC's fleet CO₂ emissions were down 19% compared with 2019-20 due to reduced mileage.



- Covid 19 impact: April to September 2020 saw a 25% reduction in energy use compared with the previous year. October 2020 to March 2021 saw energy use increase by 3%, as schools re-opened and buildings were heated but required increased ventilation, in line with central government guidance, to provide Covid secure building environments. Overall total energy use was down 6%.



- Scope 1 & 2 CO₂ emissions: fell 13% in 2020-21 compared with 2019-20 (by 1,672 tonnes), keeping ESCC within its carbon budget.



Looking forward

As schools and staff gradually return to normal, we anticipate an increase in energy usage and carbon emissions compared with last year.

Projects underway in 2021-22 to reduce ESCC's carbon emissions include:

- Conversion of 14,000 streetlights to low energy LEDs.
- Completion of the delivery of the £480K of government-funded energy efficiency projects in 2022, including a whole building retrofit and pilot installation of heat pumps in a primary school.
- Installation of low energy LED lighting and solar panels in at least 6 sites.
- Implementation of the Council's Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- Continue to deliver the communications plan to Members and staff.
- Continue to embed carbon reduction into appropriate procurement contracts, for example the new highways contract.

Monitoring and reporting of progress

The target is to reduce emissions by an average of 13% per year. Until we are able to measure and report on our scope 3 emissions more accurately, and therefore know where and how to better influence these emissions, we are measuring and reporting on our performance against a 13% p.a. reduction target for scope 1 and 2 emissions. This is monitored and reported quarterly to the Officer Climate Emergency Board, which has representatives from every department and is co-chaired by the Chief Operating Officer and the Director for Communities, Economy and Transport. Progress is also reported quarterly in the County Council's strategic risk register and annually to Full Council.

Appendix 2 – Progress against the Action Plan and Scrutiny Review recommendations

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
Framework (governance, leadership, communications, data, policy & partnership working):				
1	Set up robust governance: Establish a senior Officer board to oversee delivery of this plan.	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	Complete	Officer board set up in July 2020. Co-chaired by Chief Operating Officer and Director of CET, with representatives from every department.
2	Develop a communications plan: Set out clear messages and comms routes, Member and staff engagement, & integrate public engagement via the Environment Strategy	15 a) Develop an interactive communication/information platform, which includes details on what the Council itself is doing on climate change and to discuss opportunities where residents may take an active role in lowering community carbon emissions	Complete	A climate change communications plan was agreed by CMT in March 2021 and is being implemented (e.g. press releases, Yammer articles, staff newsletter, website updates, promotion of Solar Sussex Together to residents). This work is now part of business as usual.
3	Improve greenhouse gas (GHG) baseline data: a) Update ESCC's GHG data management plan and improve transparency by explaining the methods, data, processes, assumptions, estimates, changes and quality checks used. b) Obtain more accurate GHG data for staff commuting, priority suppliers and renewables already installed at schools.	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	In progress	a) The Orbis Energy Team have developed a documented process on what detailed annual GHG data is collated, how and from where. b) Covid and the work on Future Work Styles has altered staff commuting, so data will be collated once a new 'normal' has become established. c) More accurate data is being requested from some large suppliers, notably as contracts are re-procured, and better quality data is in the process of being collected on renewable energy installations and to capture energy generation and export data.
4	Review ESCC's policies, strategies, programmes, projects and practice to align with the climate emergency: policy should provide clear and stable direction and a simple set of rules that	16a) Business case evaluation and procurement decisions should include an assessment of the carbon impact of the proposal.	In progress	Discussions have been had with other local authorities to see whether there are tried and tested examples of good practice that ESCC could learn from, including via South East 7. The outcome of this work will inform updated corporate report writing guidance to provide appropriate advice to report authors.

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
5	supports corporate climate change mitigation and adaptation	16 b) Reports that go to the Executive and Council should include an assessment or statement of the carbon emissions impact of the proposals/decision in the report where relevant and material.	In progress	As above
6	Work in partnership with other organisations to share resources & good practice: continue to work with all Sussex local authorities on developing organisational and area-wide carbon plans.	15b) The Council to use its convening power to co-ordinate the actions it is taking on climate change with its partners, and in particular with the District and Borough Councils in East Sussex.	In progress	The Council hosts the East Sussex Environment Board, which is one of the sub boards to Team East Sussex and leads on delivering the East Sussex Environment Strategy. The Strategy includes a commitment to develop a road map to net zero for the county, which is being developed with a range of partners, including through regular meetings with the District and Borough Councils.
7	Work with SE7 partners on climate change.	17) The Council lobbies Government at a national level via ADEPT and the South East 7 partnership, to amend the planning system and building regulations so that the carbon performance of new buildings, including school buildings, can be taken into account in planning decisions.	In progress	The Building Regulations are a separate regulatory framework to the planning system. The planning system allows local planning authorities to require energy efficiency standards that exceeds the minimum requirements of the Building Regulations where there are Local Plan policies in place to do so. Both the planning system and Building regulations are being reviewed by government. In October 2020 the Council responded to the Planning for the Future White Paper expressing the need for the planning reforms to complement climate change targets, and we continue to work with networks such as ADEPT to lobby government for change. New school project designs now reflect increased focus on climate change priorities and how this is informing the new 10 year capital programme.
8	Produce an annual progress report: report to County Council each September on progress and identify additional resources that may be required	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	In progress	This is the first annual report to the Council on progress against the climate emergency declaration

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
	Emissions from buildings:			
9	Behaviour change programme – corporate: develop an engagement plan to create an energy-aware culture amongst staff and Members & develop a network of climate emergency champions to accelerate change	15 a) Develop an interactive communication/information platform, which includes details on what the Council itself is doing on climate change and to discuss opportunities where residents may take an active role in lowering community carbon emissions	In progress	A climate change communications plan was agreed by CMT in March 2021 and is being implemented (e.g. press releases, Yammer articles, staff newsletter, website updates, promotion of Solar Sussex Together to residents). This work is now part of business as usual.
10	Behaviour change programme - schools: update & disseminate the energy saving guide for schools.	4 a) The Council, in conjunction with maintained schools, should publish comparative data on energy efficiency (e.g. league tables and energy performance), set a carbon reduction target and encourage engagement with pupils in learning projects and activities to reduce carbon emissions	In progress	The Council holds the relevant energy data, however the energy performance of schools varies for a number of reasons, which means that it would not be possible to compare schools on a like-for-like basis. It would also be complex and costly to try to set school-specific carbon reduction targets, therefore it's recommended that schools should be encouraged to aim for a 13% per year carbon reduction target, in line with the Council's overall target and the target for the county. There's long been engagement with schools on energy reduction, energy efficiency and renewables, for instance through the promotion of ESCC's energy fund and working with the Youth Cabinet to develop a school energy auditing tool.
11	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	3) a) The Council to consider through the RPPR process opportunities for capital funding within the core capital programme to carry out carbon reduction projects in its corporate buildings, notably building fabric improvements, and lobbies Government for additional funding in this area.	In progress	The Council has invested capital in carbon reduction projects for a number of years and in October 2021 Cabinet agreed an additional £3.867m for corporate carbon reduction work up to 2023-24. The Council has also engaged with, and been encouraged to provide feedback to, BEIS and MHCLG on the need for consistent and long-term funding from government to enable local authorities to take further action. Salix are proposing to revise the changes to one of their funds in light of feedback from ESCC.
12	Planned Maintenance & Capital programmes: 1) Establish a robust process for identifying, prioritising and delivering projects.	3b) In developing energy efficiency projects, the Council should take a whole building approach, which is based on whole life costings.	In progress	Updates to the County Council's Capital Strategy in February 2021 included the emerging relevance of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations. The Strategy will now be further updated to support the County Council's climate emergency

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
13	2) Prepare an annual programme of energy efficiency projects linked to the maintenance and capital programmes. 3) deliver a pipeline of whole-building energy efficiency projects.	6) The Council to review the payback periods used for major building refurbishment projects and adjusts the provision of capital funding for carbon reduction projects to enable more work in this area to be carried out based on whole life costings.	In progress	declaration. Work to tackle climate change has become a part of the Council's core business due to national legislation and is a key priority for the Council, therefore opportunities for investment will be considered as a basic need.
14	Install low carbon heating in buildings to replace gas and oil boilers: review boiler replacement programme and assess options for replacing with heat pumps	1) Priority consideration should be given to the implementation of low carbon heating systems, e.g. the use of ground source and air source heat pumps, in all newly commissioned buildings and when renewing systems in existing buildings. The most energy efficient type of heat pump currently available should be used where possible (e.g. ground source, then air source heat pumps).	In progress	To ensure that the costs and benefits of any potential project is balanced with the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) implications of carbon reduction initiatives, the following will be considered as part of the Council's Capital Strategy: 1) Energy efficiency measures at the start of any capital project and included in the whole project costs when establishing a business case. 2) Where possible, ESG schemes to be integrated within existing funded programmes, e.g. boiler replacement programme with low carbon replacements as part of the capital building maintenance programme. 3) The specific technology to be deployed (e.g. heat pumps etc) will be dependent on a range of factors including the age, type of building and its levels of insulation/heat retention. 4) A whole building approach to include whole life costings which will range from shorter to longer term pay back periods. It may be possible to use short term savings to subsidise longer term improvements. This will include building fabric improvements and also greater awareness of energy efficient use of buildings by end users.
15		4 b) The Council consider through the RPPR process providing capital funding for a pilot project to install heat pump technology in one of the County's maintained schools as a best practice case study.	In progress	Funding from the national Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund was secured in 2021 to carry out a whole-building energy retrofit to Ninfield primary school, including the installation of heat pumps, and to carry out feasibility studies to decarbonise heating in a number of other buildings. This work will be completed by summer 2022.

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
16		2) The Council should keep the use of hydrogen gas heating technology under review and ensure all new or replacement boilers are capable of being 'hydrogen ready'.	In progress	Currently, it is not possible to source "hydrogen ready" boilers. The government is due to publish a heat decarbonisation plan in the near future, which may help ESCC to plan for a transition to hydrogen boilers. In the meantime, ESCC is an active member of Hydrogen Sussex, which works with a range of partner organisations to understand and prepare for the emerging hydrogen economy.
17	New build: ensure the 2008 ESCC sustainable buildings policy is being implemented and report on its effectiveness.	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	Not started	During 2020/21 there was no staff capacity to take this forward. However, given the policy and carbon incentives to decarbonise heat and, following a successful bid to the government's Low Carbon Skills fund, a consultant was appointed to produce a corporate decarbonisation of heat plan, including desktop studies for 24 sites to extrapolate and give estimated costs for our building portfolio to reach net zero.
18	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	5) The Council lobbies the Department for Education to provide sufficient funding for new schools to be built to a carbon neutral standard and provide funding for major improvements to retrofit energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures to all school buildings.	In progress	The Council has engaged with, and been encouraged to provide feedback to, BEIS and MHCLG on the need for consistent and long-term funding from government to enable local authorities to take further action.

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
	<i>Emissions from street lighting:</i>			
19	Improve energy efficiency – street lighting: a) Install energy efficient LED lights. b) Review dimming and switch-off policy.	7) The Council should: a) Explore the scope for further energy savings by reducing the amount of time street lights are on through ongoing maintenance and replacement programmes. b) Explore the use of alternative technologies such as solar and wind turbines for less essential lit signs and other street furniture. c) Keep the use of intelligent lighting systems for street lighting under review and install intelligent lighting in the car parks and campus at the County Hall campus as an example of best practice.	In progress	a) The Council is in an 18 month programme to replace the remaining 16,000 sodium lamps with very low energy LED lamps, which will reduce carbon emissions by a further 600 tonnes per year. We will continue to explore further reductions through part night lighting and we will work with communities to apply this where appropriate, though this needs to be balanced with public safety. b) The Council has installed a number of solar powered signs in the past but they have not proved to be reliable. However, as technology and reliability improve, we will continue to explore the use of these technologies for use across our lit network. c) A review of intelligent street lighting systems was undertaken by a consultant in summer 2020 and concluded that they would not provide carbon savings or a financial return. Savings were better achieved by programming the new lighting units to switch off at night as they are installed and where this is approved. As intelligent lighting technology matures so the costs are likely to decrease, so the use of intelligent lighting systems will be reviewed again in 2022-23. County Hall campus lighting was upgraded in 2016. The lamps have in-built daylight sensors and the main car park lights have lamps that are programmed to dim overnight between midnight and 5am. A data logger was used in November 2020 to confirm that dimming is taking place, which brings a saving of about 45%.
	<i>Emissions from transport, including commuting:</i>			
20	Grey fleet review: commission review by the Energy Savings Trust.	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	Complete	A grey fleet review was completed by the Energy Savings Trust in 2020 and is being used to inform the development of the staff travel plan (see below).

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
21	Develop and implement a staff travel plan: to cover both business mileage and commuting.	8 a) explore more varied patterns of working to determine what is the best level of remote working from a staff perspective and for the Council to meet its business needs and reduce carbon emissions. b) Work is undertaken to support cultural change to embed changes in working practices that reduce the need to travel, or encourages less travel, such as the use of technology to hold meetings remotely and provide training using remote meeting technology. c) The Council explores the provision of more capacity for drop-in centres / hot desking and collaboration space in regional offices so staff do not always need to travel into the main office buildings, including County Hall, as part of the future workplace planning arrangements. d) The Council investigate the introduction of hybrid committee meetings where councillors can either attend remotely or in person.	In progress	The development of a staff travel plan will be commissioned from a specialist consultancy. This will be informed by the roll-out of Future Workstyles. The staff travel plan work will review the policies and incentives currently in place (e.g. existing flexible working arrangements) and put forward costed recommendations for addressing the points raised in the Scrutiny review, alongside other staff travel items (e.g. electric vehicles).
22		9 a) The Staff Travel Plan is revised to encourage, and where appropriate consideration is given to the potential for incentivising, the use of other travel modes (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport) and the uptake of Electric Vehicles to reduce carbon emissions.	In progress	
23	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	9 b) The Council considers lobbying the Department for Transport to make changes to season tickets for train and bus travel so they can be used flexibly by staff commuting to work	Complete	The Flexi Season ticket was introduced nationally in June 2021. It offers 8 days of travel in 28 days, any time, between two stations. However, it cannot be used in conjunction with other ESCC discount offers, such as the Easit travel card.

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24	Install EV charge points: Identify where to locate which types & number of chargers, and delivery mechanism, for staff & visitor use	10) Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points are installed at the main office buildings, or at least County Hall, with a plan agreed by the end of March 2021.	In progress	In March 2021 Cabinet agreed for the Council to explore options for procuring EV charge points on the corporate estate and the highway network. An internal team has been established to take this forward, including looking at our own fleet and the car lease scheme, and a new post of EV officer has been agreed and the recruitment has started. The Council is part of a network of transport authorities (KCC, BHCC, WSCC and SCC) that share information on their respective approaches to EVs. Partner organisations will be engaged via SPACES.
25		11a) Smaller own fleet vehicles should be replaced by EVs in the short term when the leases expire. 11b) Review the car lease scheme to encourage staff to select low emission or zero emission vehicles.	In progress	
26	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	12) The Council should keep the market for larger hydrogen powered vehicles under review, with a view to undertaking early pilot schemes and eventually phasing out the diesel-powered larger vehicles in its fleet in line with Government policy.	In progress	The Council is an active member of Hydrogen Sussex, which works with a range of partner organisations to understand and prepare for the emerging hydrogen economy. The Council submitted a joint bid for £12.8m to DfT's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Scheme to help purchase 37 hydrogen buses with BHCC and Brighton & Hove Buses but was unsuccessful.
	<i>Emissions from water & waste:</i>			
27	Reduce waste: consider requiring all sites to sign up to the same waste contract & set up food waste collections from all kitchen areas.	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	In progress	These actions will deliver relatively modest carbon savings and there is currently limited staff capacity to take these forward. The Property Contracts team have made some progress, working with waste contractors to widen provision of recycling and food waste services to schools.
28	Reduce water usage: Install water efficient fittings in all appropriate toilets, urinals, taps & showers	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	Not started	These actions will deliver relatively modest carbon savings and there is currently not the staff capacity to take these forward. Scope has been identified for awareness raising amongst Property FM managers and controllers of premises to enable low/no cost actions.

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
	<i>Emissions from procurement:</i>			
29	Engage priority suppliers: a) obtain scope 1 & 2 GHG footprints of transport & construction contracts above >£1m p.a. b) embed low carbon outcomes into new contracts including low/zero emission vehicles.	11 c) The Council to consider specifying the early use of low emission vehicles in the procurement of major contracts (e.g. the Highways maintenance contract), where feasible	In progress	The Council is working with a few suppliers to gauge the ability of different markets to measure their greenhouse gas footprints and is working on requiring low carbon outcomes from high value contracts with large carbon footprints (e.g. from the new highways contract). This includes considering whether to specify the early use of low emission vehicles.
30	Offer practical support to all other suppliers: Provide energy audits and grants to local SMEs in the supply chain (e.g. via LoCASE) and eco-driver training for transport providers	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	Complete	The Council has promoted take up of the LoCASE offer of free energy audits and access to grant funding to SMEs within its supply chain. This is targeted at those suppliers that don't have the capacity or in-house skills to take forward carbon reduction measures within their business (eg. many of the social care providers).
	<i>Renewables:</i>			
31	Identify opportunities to install PV and other renewables plus battery storage on buildings & land: commission viability assessment of renewables on buildings & land	3c) The Council should explore installing solar panels on its buildings and energy storage where this is possible. In particular, the Council should explore the feasibility of installing solar panel canopies over the car parks at County Hall and use the resultant energy in the building and to power Electric Vehicle/electric bike charge points in the car parks.	In progress	The Council secured funding in 2021 from the national Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to install solar PV and storage batteries at 6 sites. The installation of solar panel canopies in the car parks at County Hall will be considered as part of the work on staff travel, for which consultancy support will be procured.
	<i>Off-setting:</i>			
32	Explore carbon off-setting: work with the Sussex Local Nature Partnership to explore options and costs for offsetting with natural capital benefits	13) The Council to keep opportunities for investing in natural habitats under review for inclusion in a carbon off-setting plan at the	In progress	The Council hosts the Sussex Local Nature Partnership, which has developed a Natural Capital Investment Strategy, which identifies carbon storage and sequestration as a key area for natural capital investment. The LNP has secured funding from Natural England to

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		appropriate time when the science has been developed.		map where in Rother, Wealden and Eastbourne carbon sequestration could take place, for instance through habitat management and/or tree planting. The Council is also leading a SELEP-funded project to better understand the potential scale of supply and demand in the voluntary carbon off-set market and to determine how it could encourage the development of the market.
33		14a) The Council to develop a carbon off-setting plan which includes investment in woodland creation, natural habitats and renewable energy generation.	Not started	A plan will be developed once it's clear, for example from the action above, what the local market is able to deliver and at what cost, so that the costs, benefits and risks can be assessed with greater certainty.
34		14 b) Review the Property Asset Disposal and Investment Strategy to identify land availability and opportunities for carbon off-setting habitats and investment in the development of solar farms.	Not started	The Council has a database of land holdings already used to identify key sites for investment. This can be used to complete a systematic review of sites to determine whether they might be viable for investment in off-setting, though ESCC is not a large landowner. A set of criteria will need to be developed to sieve sites in line with Council priorities. 14b) In addition to the response to 14 a), the Council's asset management plan 2020- 2025 will consider land sites availability and suitability for solar farms. A business case will need to be formulated to understand the capital investment and ongoing management/expenditure requirements.
35	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	18 a) ESCC to build on the existing Dutch Elm Disease Strategy to develop a Strategic Tree Policy and action plan to manage Ash Dieback, Dutch Elm Disease and other tree diseases/pests which includes a programme to replace lost trees where possible (subject to safety issues) to mitigate the impact on carbon absorption.	In progress	East Sussex Highways have a tree inspection policy which forms part of the current Highways contract. This is supported by a Tree Inspection Manual, which deals with how inspections and remedial work are prioritised on a risk-based approach. Schools and Property are creating a strategy via Orbis in conjunction with Surrey County Council. In May 2021, the Council successfully applied for £300,000 from Defra's Treescapes fund to replace highway trees lost to disease in Seaford.
36	(no similar recommendation from the climate emergency action plan)	18 b) Both County and District/Borough Planning teams should be encouraged to attend the master class training provided by	In progress	Discussions are being held with the Forestry Commission to determine what appropriate training they could deliver to planners. This will then be raised through the East Sussex Planning Liaison

No.	Climate Action Plan 2020-22	Scrutiny Review recommendations 2021	Status	Progress update
		the Forestry Commission on the retention and protection of woodlands and trees.	On track	Group (attended by Heads of Planning), the Local Plan Managers Group and the development Management Forum.
	<i>Grid flexibility:</i>			
37	Assist integration of low carbon technologies into the national grid: Review ESCC estate for opportunities to provide Grid Flexibility services such as Demand Side Response and Battery Storage	(no similar recommendation from the Scrutiny review)	In progress	The Council secured funding in 2021 from the national Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to install solar PV and storage batteries at 6 sites. This work will be completed in 2022.

Appendix 3 – Funding proposals

Priority	Measure	Investment	2021/22	2022/23	Notes	On-going
1	Modelling of net zero scenarios	Commission modelling of different options to get to net zero in order to understand the potential costs, benefits, risks and timescales.	£25,000	£0	Based on estimate from Kent County Council's LASER energy team.	n/a
2	Reduce energy consumption	Recruit an additional officer to Property (LMG1)	£14,000	£56,000	Cost for LMG1 including on-costs. Assumes officer in post from Q4 2021/22.	£56,000*
		Bridging of the funding gap to allow full delivery of the Council's Public Sector Decarbonisation projects. This enables the drawdown of £262,000 of BEIS funding.	£130,000	£0	Costs based on tendered prices.	n/a
		Low energy lighting schemes in 1 additional school in 2021/22 and in 11 schools and Milton Grange in 2022/23	£35,000	£141,000	Costs are based on actual priced surveys or averages of other projects. They include contingencies but not enabling works (e.g., asbestos removal).	n/a
		Solar PV: survey of 6 corporate sites and installation on 2 sites in 2021/22. Survey and installation of a further 10 sites in 2022/23.	£88,000	£369,000	Costs include consultant fees, planning fees and contingencies and are based on Greater South East Energy Hub estimates multiplied by the relevant floor areas.	n/a
		Solar PV on The Keep	£5,000	£125,000	£5K for feasibility and £125K for install, if viable.	n/a

Priority	Measure	Investment	2021/22	2022/23	Notes	On-going
3	Reduce scope emissions 3	Feasibility studies to develop a pipeline of projects and maximise grant income opportunities	£130,000	£78,000	£13K per site, based on feasibility study cost for Ninfield school in 2021.	n/a
		Heat decarbonisation: £2,563,500 is requested for a planned programme to decarbonise heating in sites that are already scheduled in the planned maintenance programme for boiler replacements in 2022-24	£380,000	£2,183,500	Costs in 2022-23 = £1.0635m. Costs in 2023-24 = £1.12m.	n/a
		Deliver carbon literacy training for Members, senior managers and staff	£5,000	£21,500	Costs based on quotes from CSE (£3K for 50 Members & senior managers, £80/staff, assuming 500 staff take part per year)	n/a
		Provide the internal capacity and expertise to address by far the largest part of ESCC's carbon footprint.	£0	£56,000	Place-holder sum pending development of proposal for review by Climate Change Officer Board.	£56,000*
4	Communications external -	Commission a communications agency to work on targeted campaigns with key partners	£0	£25,000	Estimate, from the corporate communications team, to deliver one reasonable-scale communications programme per year.	£25,000*
Annual totals:			£812,000	£3,055,000		£137,000
Total:			£3,867,000			

* Note that ongoing costs for these items would be considered within the Medium Term Financial Plan after the investment period via the RPPR process