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Agenda

Meeting: Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Date: 23 June 2022

Time: **3.00 pm**

Place: Remote Meeting

To: Councillors Gary Fuller, Anthony Hills, Connor McConville,

Ian Meyers, Lesley Whybrow (Chair) and David Wimble

The committee will consider the matters, listed below, at the date and time shown above. The meeting will not be open to the press and

public.

Members of the committee, who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda, which is not fully covered in these papers, are requested to give notice, prior to the meeting, to the Chair

or appropriate officer.

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. **Declarations of Interest**
- Minutes

To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022.

- 4. Initial update on progress with new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
 - Introduction by David Whittington, Strategy & Policy Senior Specialist
 - Presentation by Kirsty Tolson, Senior Flood Risk Consultant, Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Date of Publication: 15 June 2022

5. Update to Council's Carbon footprint 2019/20 & 2020/21

This report sets out a summary of Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Carbon Footprint Update for the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21, following from the analysis provided by LASER for the base year 2018-19, for the Working Group's information and comments.

The report will be presented by Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon Senior Specialist.

6. Update on Inception Meeting of Carbon Innovation Lab (13 June 2022)

Update to be given by Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist.

7. Update on Carbon Action Plan

Update to be given by Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon Senior Specialist.



Minutes

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at: Remote Meeting

Date Wednesday, 20 April 2022

Present Councillors Anthony Hills, Ian Meyers, Lesley Whybrow

(Chair) and David Wimble

Apologies for Absence None

Officers Present: Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations),

Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Alastair Clifford (Chief Officer - Operations), James Farrar (Senior Planning Lead (Otterpool Park)), Olu Fatokun (Low Carbon Senior Specialist), Hazel Sargent (Planning Policy Specialist), Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy &

Performance Lead Specialist)

Others Present: Thomas Lefevre (Etude), Richard Haynes (White Cliffs

Partnership), Tom Henderson (Kent County Council), Sharon Bayne (Blackwood Bayne), Irene Seijo (Seijo

Associates)

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

10. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 were approved, the Chair's signature will be added.

The following comments were made with regard to various updates from the last meeting:

UK 100 Membership – Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy and Performance Lead Specialist advised that a welcome pack had been received. UK100 has asked

follow-up questions about the council's approach and Mr Tofts has replied to these questions. Mr Tofts said he would circulate the pack to members.

Proposed Green Business Grant Scheme – the Chair, Councillor Whybrow mentioned that this needs more prominence on the Council's website. Currently it is sitting under Folkestone Works website.

District Wide Strategy – Ms Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon Senior Specialist, advised she had started contacting possible participants to the steering group.

11. Draft Net Zero Toolkit

Mr James Farrar, Senior Planning Lead, initially opened this item and started by saying that match funding had been obtained from Homes England to enable this commission.. A steering group was established with input from other organisations including KCC and Homes England.

Feedback from members welcomed.

Mr Thomas Lefevre, Etude, gave a presentation and project update to members. He mentioned the four key deliverables; Decarbonising buildings – strategic objectives; New Build Net Zero Toolkit; Retrofit Net Zero Toolkit; Recommendations for planning policy.

Members asked questions:

- Ground source heat pumps, are they cost prohibitive? There are
 possible grants available and discussion as to whether long term gas use
 is compatible with climate emergency
- Retrofitting could homeowners use this toolkit? The toolkit could be a practical guide to homeowners as the same principles apply.
- Planning policies recommendations and best practices to inform the next version of the Local Plan.
- Heat stress, insulation, how do we manage this? Adaptation is as important as mitigation. Guidance available on overheating.
- When will the document be completed? Aiming for publication towards end of May following peer review. This will be followed by training sessions being made available to members and officers..

Members thanks Mr Lefevre for the update.

12. Joint working with White Cliffs Partnership

A presentation was given to members by Mr Richard Haynes, from the White Cliffs and Romney Marsh Partnership. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Haynes made the following comments as he went through the slides:

- White Cliffs Countryside Partnership was set up in 1989 and the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership was created in 1996.
- Reporting to a Steering Group.
- Membership has grown to include companies and charities.
- Successful in obtaining Lottery funding.
- The Partnership team are locals to the area.
- The Partnerships managed 13 nature reserves over two districts.
- Events take place; inspiring local communities; promoting the local area.
- Three sites within F&H district; Romney Warren; Greatstone Dunes and Folkestone Warren.
- Carbon reductions measures in place; increasing biodiversity and connectivity. Use of Aspen fuel.

The Chair asked about Aspen fuel. This is a cleaner fuel, less emissions, however more expensive than regular petrol.

Councillor Hills mentioned Dungeness Estate's parking problems. Mr Haynes is aware of the recurring parking problems. Although the Estate is owned by EDF, there are two regular wardens in the area at the weekend.

Mr Clifford advised the Council are very aware of the parking problems at Dungeness and Lade. Further signage will be in place; double yellow lines installed and leaflet drops to Kite Surfing Schools.

The Chair, Councillor Whybrow, thanked Mr Haynes for his presentation.

13. Kent and Medway Climate Adaption Programme

Mr Tom Henderson from Kent Council Council gave a presentation on the Climate Change Adaptation Programme for Kent and Medway. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Henderson gave background information to the programme. He asked that feedback is given on all aspects of the document and that guidance is provided on the final slide of the presentation.

The Chair clarified timescales for feedback which are the end of May 2022, however this date is flexible. A formal consultation will be actioned at the end of the year.

14. Green Infrastructure Strategy

The report introduced the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, its findings and recommendations. It is a local plan evidence document that will provide further detail to development plan policies as well as providing information for the consideration of planning applications. It could also form the basis for a future Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide additional clarity for decision-making.

A presentation was given to members by Sharon Bayne from Blackwood Bayne Consultants and Irene Seijo from Seijo Associates Ltd. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Within the presentation an overview was given to members along with the draft action plan culminating in the next steps for the Council to take. In this respect any comments would be welcomed.

Councillor Hills commented that there are updates needed in the Strategy, for example, amending that the Romney Marsh is not below sea level, however it is below high tide level.

The Chair also mentioned a couple of minor points which will be followed up by email.

15. Update on trial to reduce use of pesticides

Mr Alastair Clifford, Chief Officer – Operations gave a presentation. He reminded members that this subject was proposed as a Motion at Full Council in 2019. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Clifford took members through the reduction in usage of pesticides over the last six years including application types.

It was noted that regular invasive weed control techniques led to reductions in Glyphosate use, however the increased Glyphosate usage in 2021 was due to Giant Hogweed on the Princes Parade site.

Alternative options were explained to members along with trials and demos that had taken place.

16. Update on current consultations from Government and Kent County Council

The paper summarised three current consultations for the Working Group's information. Members were given a brief overview of the consultations along with the response deadline for each one.

Mr Tofts advised F&HDC would look to respond to the Plan Tree consultation and possibly to the Defra – Nature Recovery Green Paper: protected sites and species.

Members comments included:

- 'Right tree, right place' Romney Marsh in particular, as the right management needed for water conservation.
- The county council's pledge to plant an additional 1.5 million trees assurances needed that double counting would be avoided.
- Concerns about the biomass power plant in Sandwich and how this affects the loss of trees.

• Environmental and air quality targets will not meet worldwide targets.

Members thanked Mr Tofts for his report and update.

17. Update on Carbon Action Plan

Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon Senior Specialist, gave an update on the Council's Carbon Action Plan. The presentation shown is attached to these minutes.

Ms Fatokun highlighted some of the actions undertaken and progress so far. She reminded members there are 33 individual actions in the Action Plan.

Councillor Whybrow asked about emissions and was advised that although there is information for the 2019/20 monitoring year – there will be an update for the 2020/21 monitoring year that should be completed in May and this will be reported to the next working group meeting.



Agenda Item 5



To: Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Date: 23 June 2022

From: Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon & Sustainability Senior Specialist

SUBJECT: Update to Council's Carbon footprint 2019/20 & 2020/21

SUMMARY: This report sets out a summary of Folkestone & Hythe District Council's

Carbon Footprint Update for the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21, following from the analysis provided by LASER for the base year 2018-19,

for the Working Group's information and comments.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Climate Change Act (2008) as amended in 2019 commits the UK to achieving 'net zero' by 2050.

1.2. Folkestone & Hythe District Council along with many other councils declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and made a commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Since then, a baseline year 2018/19 was established, carbon footprint from the council's own operations and estate was calculated and the Carbon Action Plan (February 2021) was adopted setting out 33 actions to reduce our carbon emissions.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE YEAR AND OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES

- 2.1. In 2020, LASER Energy (a company wholly owned by Kent County Council) was contracted to identify emissions sources that were within the Council's organisational boundary (shown in Figure 1 below) and conduct a baseline carbon footprint analysis of our operations and estate. The total carbon emissions in the baseline year 2018/19 was 1,536 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e). This calculation was done using a methodology based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. In line with the protocol, scope 1 (direct), scope 2 (electricity indirect) and some scope 3 (other indirect) emissions were included in the operational carbon footprint.
- 2.2. This process involved considering a number of factors such as the influence the council had over the various parts of the organisation and how this aligns with financial accounting, management information and performance reporting to decide what parts of the organisation to include within the organisational boundary.
- 2.3. After the organisational boundary had been determined, the operational boundaries were defined thus distinguishing between the council's own emissions and those that are the responsibility of other organisations in the supporting supply chains that it may be closely linked to.

- 2.4. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard is one of the best recognised international standards for assessing what sources of carbon emissions should be included in an assessment and how this should be reported. A key purpose of the standard is to provide public sector organisations and businesses with a guidance on how to develop inventories that provide an accurate and complete picture of greenhouse gas emissions both from their direct emissions operations and those along the value chain.
- 2.5. The GHG Protocol divides emissions into three scopes:

Scope 1: Direct sources of emissions including:

- Council-owned or controlled mobile combustion sources (e.g., petrol and diesel fuel consumed in buses and cars).
- Combustion of fuels in stationary sources (e.g., natural gas, burning oil, gas oil and LPG consumed within Council buildings) is also included

Scope 2: Indirect sources of emissions including:

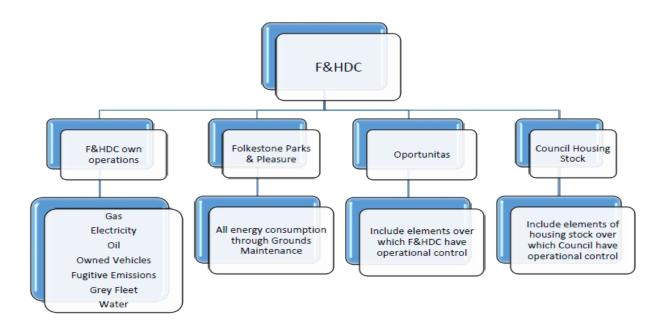
 Generation of purchased electricity, heat or steam that is consumed in the Council's own or controlled equipment or operations (e.g., buildings and street lighting).

Scope 3: Other sources of emissions including:

Emissions generated by business travel and water.

Note: No other Scope 3 emissions have been included in calculating the carbon footprint

Figure 1: Operational Boundaries



3. THE COUNCIL'S EMISSIONS IN 2019/20 AND 2020/21

- 3.1. The council's emissions data were collated from across relevant service areas including the council's owned and controlled combustion sources, combustion of fuels in stationary sources, generation of purchased energy as well as business travel and water. The council's individual housing stock, waste services (collection, street cleaning and disposal), coastal infrastructure and crematorium are excluded as we do not have direct control over these.
- 3.2. Rather than continuing to rely on consultancy services to calculate the annual carbon footprint, the Low Carbon and Sustainability Senior Specialist developed a spreadsheet that allows raw data on energy and fuel use to be entered and, by formulae, converted directly to carbon emissions equivalent. A sample of the calculations spreadsheet is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Screenshot of Carbon Footprint Calculations Spreadsheet

Emission Source	Scope	Emissic on l Source "	Miles 🕝	km 🔻	Consumption data	Units	Tonnes	Emission factor	Units	Emissions (tCO2e)	Comments
										, ,	
Own Natural Gas	1	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Own Gas Oil	1	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Own Estate Grid Electricity - Generation	2	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Own Estate Grid Electricity - Transmission and Distiruti	or 3	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Own Estate Grid Electricity (UMS)	2	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Opportunitias Grid Electricity	2	BEIS				kWh			kg CO2elm3	0.0	0
Water Supply	3	BEIS				m3			kg CO2elm3	0.0	0
Water Treatment	3	BEIS				m3			kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Council Sheltered Housing Gas	1	BEIS							kg CO2elkWh	0.0	0
Council Sheltered Housing Gedneration	2	BEIS							kg CO2akWh	0.0	0
Council Sheltered Housing _Transmission & Distribution		BEIS									
									Total	0.0	0
avel											
1 Own vehicles - Diesel	3	BEIS				litres			kg CO2ekm	0.0	0
2 Own vehicles - Petrol	3	BEIS				litres			kg CO2elkm	0.0	0
3 Grey Fleet - Petrol average	3	BEIS	1			litres			kg CO2el km	0.0	0
4 Grey Fleet-Diesel average	3	BEIS				litres			kg CO2el km	0.0	0
									Total	0.0	0
eet											
Ground Maintenance Red Diesel	1	BEIS				litres			kg CO2ellitre	0.0	0
Fuel tank Diesel	1	BEIS				litres			kg CO2ellitre	0.0	0
Fugitive Emissions	2	BEIS				litres			kg CO2elkm	0.0	0
EKH Fugutuve emissions	2	BEIS				litres			kg CO2elkm	0.0	0
									Total	0.0	0
									Total		
									ı otal		
									Overall total		
									Overall scope 1	0.0	0
									Overall scope 2		
									Overall scope 3	0.0	

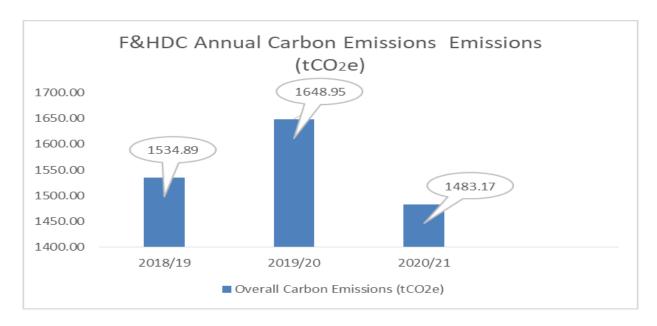
- 3.3. The results of this analysis are as follows:
 - Carbon emissions for 2019/20 were **1,649 tCO₂e.** This showed an increase of 113.95 tCO₂e when compared to that of the baseline year 2018/19.

 Carbon emissions for 2020/21 were 1,483 tCO2e. This shows a decrease in emissions of 165.78 tCO2e compared to 2019/20 and 51.72 tCO2e when compared with the baseline year 2018/19.

Table 1: Overall Carbon Emissions

Reporting Period	Overall Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)
2018/19	1, 535
2019/20	1, 649
2020/21	1,483

Figure 3: Overall Emissions 2018/19 – 2020/21



4. CHANGE IN CONSUMPTION

4.1. Table 2 shows how consumption changed over the reporting periods compared with the baseline year 2018/19

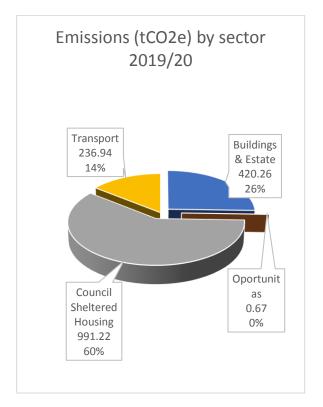
Emissions Source	Unit	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
F&HDC Gas	kWh	1,241,226.00	1,158,598.00	842, 556.00
F&HDC Grid Electricity	kWh	759,935.00	673,196.00	577, 670.00
Oportunitas Grid Electricity	KWh	2,431.00	2,431.00	2,431.00
F&HDC water	M^3	52,339.74	20,238.0	18,606

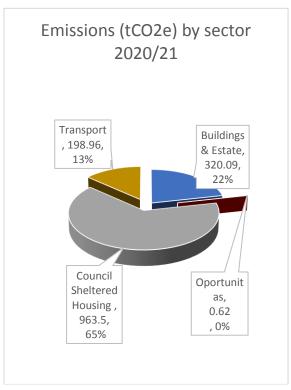
Council Sheltered Housing - Gas	kWh	3, 653,319.56	3,653,319.56	3,653,319.56 ¹	
Council Sheltered Housing - Electricity	kWh	1, 152,366.00	1, 152,368.00	1,152,368.00	
Grey Fleet - Petrol	Litres	83, 960.56	81, 166.67	59, 162.56	
Grey Fleet – Diesel	Litres	106,858.89	103, 305.14	75, 296.19	
Red Diesel	Litres	23,000.00	21,099.00	19.641.00	
White Diesel (Fuel Tank)	Litres	36,000.00	40,000.00	32,025.00	
Fuel Card - Diesel	Litres	10,426.91	11,025.31	11,001.74	
Fuel Card – Petrol	Litres	5, 965.40	6,657.40	6, 719.31	

5. EMISSIONS BY SECTOR AND SECTOR 2019/20 & 2020/21

5.1 Figure 4 below shows changes in the distribution of emissions by sector with transport decreasing by 1% and buildings and estate decreasing by 4% while Council Sheltered Housing (former East Kent Housing) increased by 5%.

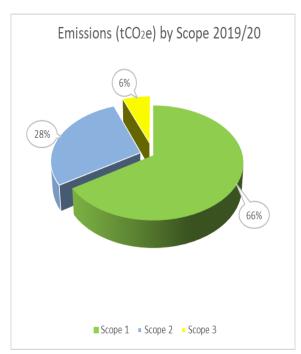
Figure 4: Emissions by Sector

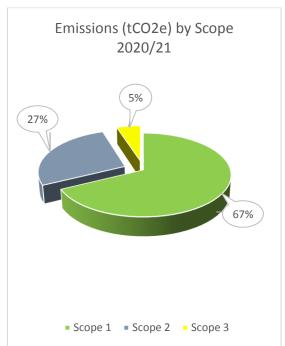




5.2 There is a slight change in the emissions by scope with scope 1 direct emissions increasing by 1% while scope 2 electricity indirect emissions decreased by 1% and scope 3 indirect emissions also decreased by 1% when comparing 2019/20 with 2020/21.

Figure 5: Emissions by Scope





6. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Results for the monitoring year 2019/20

For 2019/20, the increase of around 7 percent from the base year 2018/19 is as a result of:

6.1. Changes in the annual emissions factors - The original analysis undertaken by LASER used different factors to convert the raw data on energy and fuel use to carbon emissions. According to LASER, emission conversion factors were taken from both the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and HM Treasury "The Green Book". LASER explained that this was because BEIS initially did not provide forecast figures to take into account factors such as increasing renewable energy generation which might impact on the pathway to net zero. Therefore, where there were forecast factors available in the Green Book, it was used. Also, there was a time lag of two years between BEIS and the Green Book conversion factors data sets for specific years, meaning that the data did not align at the time of conducting the baseline analysis. LASER confirms that they now work with BEIS data sets which shows ongoing emissions factor changes. In the subsequent reporting years, only BEIS emissions factors are used for the calculations.

- 6.2. Annually, a new set of conversion factors is produced, together with a methodology paper explaining how the conversion factors are derived, and a paper explaining the major changes in the latest year's factors. For the reporting years in question, the conversion factors varied due to emissions from electricity generation by type of fuel/energy source and by type and efficiency of electric power plants. Note that the amount of CO₂ produced per kilowatt hour (kWh) during any given period of time will vary according to the sources of electricity supplied to the electric power grid during that time.
- 6.3. Increase in the use of fuel in fuel tanks and fuel cards In reviewing this work the Low Carbon Senior Specialist had discussions with officers from the service areas, and the discussions have highlighted the following reasons for the increase in the use of fuel.
- 6.4. An increase in fuel usage for diesel is as a result of operating all vehicles on a daily basis as well as an increase in fleet with the new housing service acquiring a lease vehicle, three enforcement vehicles and four area officer vehicles.
- 6.5. An increase in petrol usage is down to milder weather increasing the mowing season; the wetter summer has kept the grass growing so whilst normally the growth would slow down in July/August, due to the dry hot weather, this has not happened in the reporting year. More time has been spent mowing thus increasing petrol usage.

Results for the monitoring year 2020/21

- 6.6. For 2020/21, the decrease in emissions of approximately 10% when compared to the previous monitoring year (2019/20) and approximately 3.5% when compared to the base year (2018/19) is as a result of:
- 6.7. **Changes in emissions factors -** as explained section 6.1.above.
- 6.8. **Decrease in scope 1 and scope 2 consumption -** Consumption of electricity, gas, water, grey fleet (petrol and diesel), red diesel, white diesel and fuel card (diesel) were all lower than in 2019/20 due to the reduced use of buildings as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. Covid-19 is an unprecedented circumstance and it is anticipated that emissions will increase in subsequent reporting years as we transition into hybrid home and office working from a period when all staff were solely working from home.
- 6.9. **Increase in use of petrol from fuel cards -** as explained in section 6.3. above
- 6.10. Change in local temperature Several other external factors can influence emissions year-on-year, such as changes in the weather patterns. The warmer-than-normal spring period in 2020/21 reduced the heating demand and a return to a cooler 30-year average spring temperature will increase consumption in the council's estate.
- 6.11. In addition, due to Covid-19 restrictions, part of 2019/20 and most of 2020/21 reporting would not be a representative year for emissions due to reduced use of buildings and services during the pandemic. Covid-19 presents an unprecedented circumstance and it is anticipated that the actual impact on emissions would start to show when restrictions started to ease back to near normal services and activities started to resume later in 2021. Moreover, there are other external factors which can influence emissions year-on-year, such as changes in annual emissions factors,

changes in the weather pattern, and changes in estate size and/or increases in services delivered.

Other points to note

- 6.12. The results reported above show gas and electricity consumption for sheltered housing remaining constant across the monitoring years. It has proved very difficult to get detailed energy consumption figures for the period when the sheltered housing buildings were managed by the former East Kent housing. As the majority of the monitoring years reported above (2018/19 to 2020/21) fall within the period when East Kent housing managed the buildings with the buildings only returning to the direct management of the district council on 1 October 2020 the only option has been to use historic consumption data from the suppliers for electricity and gas over this period.
- 6.13. Now that these buildings are directly managed by the council, however, it will be possible to get detailed consumption figures to report in future monitoring years. Energy bills are currently logged manually, which means that collating these figures takes considerable time, but officers are examining whether this can be automated (see Next Steps below).

7. ADDITION TO COUNCIL'S ESTATE

- 7.1 Recent property acquisitions have been explored to understand if they need to be included in the operational boundaries going forward. The council housing stock which was brought in house in October 2020 was included (only areas of communal use) in these calculations. Former Debenhams (FOLCA) that was acquired in September 2021 is currently being leased to the National Health Service (NHS) while the Racecourse and surrounding buildings acquired July 2021 is part of the Otterpool development which is excluded from our operational boundaries and is currently being sublet.
- 7.2 It should be noted that the Greenhouse Gas Protocol allows organisations to review their original baseline position in light of subsequent changes to the organisation. The protocol is an internationally-accepted standard for assessing emissions that is used by organisations including large multi-national corporations which may regularly acquire or divest themselves of sites or subsidiaries; the protocol is designed to account for these organisational changes and avoid unfairly penalising or crediting companies as a result of changes to their structure, rather than the efforts they have made to reduce their emissions.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Subject to any minor amendments or corrections that may be necessary, the emissions figures for the monitoring years 2019/20 and 2020/21 set out in this report will be published on the council's website, on the same page as the adopted Carbon Action Plan which sets out the figures for the 2018/19 base year, with explanatory text, to inform the public about the council's progress in reaching net zero emissions. Assumptions and caveats affecting the results will be made clear.
- 8.2 Progress is being made on the 33 high level actions set out in the Carbon Action Plan which should have a positive impact on reducing emissions over the next few years. In addition changes to the carbon content of grid-supplied energy is also likely to reduce the emissions attributable to electricity use.

- 8.3 However, it is uncertain whether these changes will be enough in themselves for the council to reach net zero emissions by 2030. Officers are therefore looking to commission a review of the Carbon Action Plan to provide more detailed information on a number of questions, including:
 - Is the scope defined by LASER for the council's operational boundary still appropriate in light of recent council acquisitions or divestments?
 - Does a more detailed analysis of the 33 high level actions in the Carbon Action Plan indicate that these actions would by themselves reduce our emissions to net zero by the 2030 deadline?
 - If further actions are needed, what are the most effective actions to take and what are their likely impacts in terms of costs/savings, profile of emissions reduction, ease of implementation and effect on public services?
- 8.4 The Low Carbon and Sustainability Senior Specialist is working closely with specialists from the council's housing, operations and procurement teams to commission this work, and updates will be provided to future meetings of the Working Group.
- 8.5 As noted in paragraphs 6.12 and 6.13, work is underway to improve data collection in relation to the sheltered housing buildings. The Low Carbon & Sustainability Senior Specialist is working with the Case Management Lead officer to explore options to automate the process of collating data on energy use to ensure more accurate reporting in the future. This will minimise the time spent in manually inputting data into existing systems as well as allow for robust data monitoring and trend analysis.

Olu Fatokun

Low Carbon & Sustainability Senior Specialist

