

Decision Maker: Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 22 November 2022

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Key

Title: LBB's Net Zero Carbon Action Plan – Reporting Year 3

Contact Officer: Lee Gullick, Carbon Programme Manager
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Chief Officer: Colin Brand, Director of Environment & Public Protection

Ward: n/a

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report details the changes in LBB's organisational emissions for year three of the Council's net zero action plan and provides an update on progress made towards achieving the Council's 2027 net zero carbon target.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The ECS PDS is asked to:

- 2.1 Review and provide comments on the progress made to reduce the Council's organisational emissions to net zero by 2027.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Reducing the impacts of climate change will have a positive impact on the quality of life enjoyed by all members of the community.
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Year 3 update on progress made towards LBB's 2027 net zero carbon target.
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
 - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean, and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposals: n/a
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Carbon Management Team
 4. Total current budget for this head: £150k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget for staffing costs, energy management software and project expenses. Various internal and external funding options for net zero carbon initiatives.
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory – Government guidance
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Following the outcome of the Operational Property Review, the proposals will seek to bring forward options to reduce building related carbon emissions.
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: The purpose of the Council's net zero action plan is to reduce the Council's direct carbon emissions.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The reduction of carbon emissions will benefit all those who live, work, or visit the borough.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 On 15th July 2019 the Council unanimously agreed to achieve net zero carbon emissions within 10 years (2029). The motion referred to the Council's Scope 1 and 2 direct organisational emissions only (i.e., those emissions directly within the Council's operational control).
- 3.2 On 29th January 2020, the Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny (ECS PDS) Committee reviewed and approved a 2029 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, with the Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) subsequently reviewed by the same committee on 17th November 2020.
- 3.3 At a Full Council meeting on 28th February 2022, it was agreed that the Council would revise their target for net zero (scopes 1 and 2¹) emissions from 2029 to 2027.
- 3.4 On 6th October 2022, the Executive Committee agreed to the prioritisation of four key initiatives to achieve the delivery of the revised net zero target date of 2027: i) All street lighting upgraded to LED; ii) Buildings – continued energy efficiency upgrades; iii) Procure 100% renewable energy via a Power Purchase Agreement; iv) Various offsetting measures to remove residual emissions.
- 3.5 The majority of the Council's direct emissions are generated from its buildings (55%) and street lighting (41%), hence why these naturally form focus areas for action.
- 3.6 Progress against the NZAP is reported annually and published on the Council's website: [Net Zero Action Plan performance reports](#)
- 3.7 Performance is measured in three different ways: against the 2018/19 baseline year; on an annual basis; against the net zero target.

Measuring the Council's Organisational Emissions

- 3.8 Guided by the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, LBB measures carbon emissions for the activities shown below:

Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building heating: gas & oil consumption (LBB estate)• Council owned fleet: petrol/diesel consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchased electricity (LBB estate / borough street lighting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business travel• Staff commuting• Electricity (transmission & distribution)• Waste (Civic Centre)• Water (LBB estate)• Paper (Civic Centre)

- 3.9 However, the Council's net zero target applies to all those emissions that it **directly controls**, namely, all scope 1 and 2 emissions, plus scope 3 emissions for business travel, water and paper usage, office waste and electricity (transmission & distribution).

¹ The GHG Protocol categorises emissions into three different scopes, which helps define operational boundaries: **Scope 1:** Direct GHG emissions occurring from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation, such as the emissions from burning gas to heat a building, and the emissions directly entering the atmosphere from using company vehicles. **Scope 2:** Electricity indirect GHG emissions produced from the generation of purchased electricity. **Scope 3:** An optional reporting category that allows for the accounting of other relevant indirect emissions (i.e., emissions resulting from the consequence of an organisation's activities, occurring from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation).

3.10 The Council does not directly control scope 3 emissions arising from staff commuting and procured services, which are therefore excluded from its net zero scope of emissions.

3.11 The Council's net zero emissions for 2021/22 totalled **3,646 tCO₂e**.

Activity	Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	%
Buildings (electricity & gas)	1,999.6	54.8%
Street lighting	1,487.2	40.8%
Fleet	18	0.5%
Waste	0.8	0.02%
Water	3	0.1%
Paper	10.7	0.3%
Business travel	127	3.5%
Total (tCO₂e/yr)	3,646	100%

3.12 In year 1 (2019/20) of the Net Zero Action Plan our net zero emissions totalled **6,584 tCO₂e** (i.e., an 8.5% annual reduction against the baseline).

3.13 In year 2 (2020/21) of the Net Zero Action Plan our net zero emissions totalled **3,985 tCO₂e**, equivalent to a 39% reduction in emissions against year 1.

3.14 In year 3 (2021/22) of the Net Zero Action Plan our net zero emissions totalled **3,646 tCO₂e**, a 9% reduction against year 2 and a 51% reduction against the baseline.

3.15 The table below illustrates these reductions:

	NZAP Progress					
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
	Baseline Year Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Year 1 Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Year 2 Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Year 3 Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Annual Tonnage Change	Annual Percentage change
Buildings (electricity & gas)	3,954	3,822	1,942.5	1,999.6	57.1	3%
Street lighting	2,888	2,451	1,889.2	1,487.2	-402	-21%
Fleet	60.9	33.8	48.2	18	-30.1	-62%
Waste	3.4	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.47	157%
Water	54.6	54.6	7	3	-4.19	-60%
Paper	44.4	35.1	10.7	10.7	-0.03	-0.3%
Business travel	190.7	184	87.3	127	39.8	46%
Total (tCO₂e/yr)	7,196	6,584	3,985	3,646	-339	-9%

2021/22 Net Zero Carbon Performance Commentary

3.16 Year 3 activity indicates that there are still at least 3,646 tonnes of CO₂ for the Council to mitigate in order to achieve its 2027 net zero target. However, the large reduction in emissions visible in years 2 and 3 are not representative of a 'normal' year. This is largely due to the impacts of coronavirus on council operations.

3.17 Noticeably, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the majority of Council staff working from home for a prolonged period. Although no lockdown periods took place in 2021/22, social distancing restrictions still applied, and most staff continued to work from home. This resulted in staff occupancy rates at LBB offices remaining at around 10% of pre-covid levels.

- 3.18 **Buildings:** Towards the end of 2021/22 more staff returned to work on a hybrid basis and the modest increase in building and civic centre waste emissions is the result of this partial return of the workforce.
- 3.19 Staff occupancy at LBB office buildings is expected to reach and remain between 25% and 50% for the foreseeable future. Some emissions mentioned above will therefore remain low, although a gradual rise in emissions is anticipated as more staff return to the office.
- 3.20 **Waste:** The large percentage increase in the waste category is slightly misleading as the previous year was so low that any modest tCO₂e increase translates into a significant percentage increase.
- 3.21 **Water** usage is an outlier as actual consumption of water did not significantly change from the previous year. However, the emission factor for water, which is used to calculate the carbon arising from water usage, has more than halved. This is most likely due to the decarbonisation of the supply and treatment of water processes across the country, rather than any measure that the Council has implemented.
- 3.22 **Business travel** emissions increased in 2021/22 due to the return of site visits by those staff required to travel around the borough.
- 3.23 **Street Lighting LED Upgrade:** The continued upgrade of the Council's streetlights continues to reap significant energy and carbon savings, as evidenced by a 21% annual reduction. The phased upgrade is now nearing completion with further reductions anticipated for 2022/23.
- 3.24 **LBB fleet** emissions reduced in 2021/22 due to a reduction in gritter activity during the winter months.
- 3.25 Council emissions and trends: electricity emission factors are expected to continue to decrease over time as more national grid electricity is generated from renewables and fossil fuels are phased out (as can be seen with the water emissions factors). This will help lower LBB's emissions from electricity consumption. However, there remains significant uncertainty over the rate of this change, hence why strong action to implement energy efficiency measures will remain imperative for achieving net zero emissions by 2027.
- 3.26 The Council's approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2027 is detailed in the report presented to the Executive Committee on 6th October 2022, which is published on the Council's website.

4. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Net Zero Action Plan primarily delivers against ambition four of the Council's Corporate Strategy (making Bromley Even Better); 'For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.'
- 4.2 Actions taken to achieve net zero emissions will support the delivery of the Transforming Bromley aims:
- **Responsible Financial Management Strategy:** reduced future costs to the council through lower energy bills.
 - **Effective Resident Engagement:** Demonstrates the Council's environmental commitments to the wider public.
 - **Improving the Public Realm, maintaining our Green Spaces and Promoting Economic Growth:** Safeguarding the environment and promoting a green recovery.

5. STRATEGIC PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Projects to reduce emissions through buildings and their energy efficiency will be informed by the recommendations arising out of the forthcoming Operational Property Review.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The final phase of the street lighting LED programme was approved in September 2021 which together with the previous replacement programme are projected to lead to annual energy and carbon savings of at least c£0.6m, which are reflected in the Council's financial forecast.
- 6.2 Projects to reduce emissions through buildings and their energy efficiency will be informed by the recommendations arising out of the forthcoming Operational Property Review and subject to appropriate business case appraisals.
- 6.3 Further initiatives to achieve the Council's net zero target will continue to be assessed through a detailed business case process, taking into account available funding and revenue budget savings alongside the impact to the Council's net carbon emissions.

7. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Reducing the Council's direct emissions contributes towards national and regional carbon reduction targets.
- 7.2 Reducing the impacts of climate change will have a positive impact on the quality of life enjoyed by all members of the community.

Non-Applicable Sections:	IT and GDPR Considerations, Procurement Considerations, Personnel Considerations, Legal Considerations, Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	ES19094 – 2029 Net Zero Carbon Strategy ES20047 – Net Zero Carbon Action Plan ES20201 – Carbon Management Programme Update Net Zero Action Plan Reports

