

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date and Time - **Monday 20 November 2023 – 6:30pm**

Venue - **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea**

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### **Councillors appointed to the Committee:**

P.N. Osborne (Chair), Mrs V. Cook (Vice-Chair), J. Barnes (MBE),  
Mrs M.L. Barnes, S. Burton, C.A. Clark, B.J. Coupar, C.A. Creaser,  
T.M. Killeen (MBE), M.C. Legg, C.R. Maynard and S.B. McGurk.

**Substitute Members:** F.H. Chowdhury, N. Gordon, P.J. Gray, C. Pearce, J. Stanger

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## **AGENDA**

### **1. MINUTES**

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 October 2023 as a correct record of proceedings.

### **2. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES**

The Chair to ask if any Member present is substituting for another Member and, if so, to declare his/her name as substitute Member and the name of the absent Member.

### **3. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

To consider such other items as the Chair decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Head of Paid Service by 12 Noon on the day of the meeting.

### **4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

### **5. PERFORMANCE REPORT: FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS 2023/24 (Pages 3 - 14)**

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**For all enquiries – please contact [louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk](mailto:louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk)**  
**(Tel: 01424 787815)**  
**Rother District Council putting residents at the heart of everything we do.**

6. **REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AS AT QUARTER 2 - 2023/24** (Pages 15 - 28)
7. **CLIMATE STRATEGY 2023** (Pages 29 - 112)
8. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 113 - 114)

Lorna Ford  
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 10 November 2023

**Rother District Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Performance Report: First and Second Quarters 2023/24
<b>Report of:</b>	Corporate Programme, Risk and Improvement Manager
<b>Ward(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To monitor the delivery of the Council's Key Performance Indicators

**Officer**

**Recommendation(s):** It be **RESOLVED**: That:

- 1) Cabinet be requested to agree that the target for processing all types of planning applications be 80%; and
- 2) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider these findings and recommend any other actions to Cabinet, as necessary.

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**Background and Introduction**

1. In January 2023, this Committee selected a set of measurements in order to shift performance monitoring back towards corporate operations and service delivery. It is important that Members remain assured that the various departments of the Council providing core services are functioning effectively, have sufficient resources, and delivering within expected parameters.
2. As a result, this Committee recommended to Cabinet the selection of 26 KPIs, broken down into eight service areas as listed below:
  - Environmental Health
  - Housing
  - Customer Services
  - Neighbourhood Services
  - Estates
  - Corporate Core
  - Planning Development Management
  - Revenues and Benefits
3. In addition, Members will receive an annual report on the state of the district. This report will be wide ranging and will seek to ensure that Members are kept informed of changes to the profile, demographic, and housing and economic landscape of the district.

**Reporting by Exception**

4. This year, in order to focus on priorities, the intention is that the narrative concerning performance against target will be by exception. This means a

commentary from a Service Manager will be included when the performance is significantly above or below the target.

#### **Exception: Percentage of Scheduled Food Inspections that were Carried Out**

5. This measurement is the number of food safety inspections that were completed expressed as a percentage of the inspections scheduled to be completed in that quarter. The target is 90% completed; the result in the first quarter was 81% and in the second quarter it was 79%. By the end of quarter two, 2,128 food premises inspections had been carried out.
6. The introduction of Idox (software) greatly delayed the roll out of the alternative enforcement questionnaires this year. None were sent out in the first quarter because of the introduction of the new Quick Response (QR) code procedure; businesses can use the QR code to complete the on-line form. This is now in place and is working very successfully.
7. There were high numbers of applications for new food business registrations – 59 initial food inspections have been carried out in this time period. These inspections are not part of the planned programme. New business applications are very time intensive and must be done within 28 days of receipt and so slow down the programmed work.
8. Eighty-five complaints were received and investigated about food businesses in this time. Ten enforcement notices were served, and a voluntary closure undertaken.
9. There are the usual pressures of annual leave during the summer months. The Head of Service is confident that performance will get back on track by the end of the year if staffing levels are maintained.

#### **Exception: Percentage of Environmental Health Service Requests Completed on Time**

10. This measurement is the number of completed service requests that were completed within the required number of days, expressed as a percentage of all completed service requests. The target is 90%; the result for the first quarter was 88.2% and in the second quarter was 71.04%.
11. Quarter two is the busiest period for the number of pollution complaints. During the third quarter, officers should be able to resolve outstanding cases. Half of the cases that were not resolved within the target date, were resolved within 10 days of this date.

#### **Exception: Revenues and Benefits - Average calendar days to process a change to an existing Housing Benefit Claim**

12. Current performance is not within target and could continue to dip in quarter three due to being 2.5 officers down. This is being addressed, however, recruitment will take time and therefore performance is likely to continue to be affected in the meantime.

## **Performance Board**

13. A Senior Leadership Team led Performance Board was established in July as part of the new Governance arrangements. This sits alongside the (officer led) Risk and Programme Boards to improve performance management, risk management and accountability in the Council. This brings together Heads of Service and relevant Service Managers to discuss performance and service risks collectively and individually across the Council. The individual sessions allow for a detailed look at any issues impacting performance and the collective sessions allow for any cross-cutting issues to be identified.

## **Recommended Change of Target for Two Planning KPIs**

14. A change to the target for major planning applications determined is recommended. The current target is 95% and the proposal is to reduce this to 80%; this is higher than the national target. In this report, the overall target set has been revised for the service to operate at 80% for major development in 13 weeks, pending approval.
15. It is also proposed to change the target for minor housing development determined in eight weeks to 80%. On this basis, the service is currently operating above those set targets.

## **Office of Local Government's Local Authority Data Explorer**

16. The Government has created a new Office of Local Government as part of the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This new body is tasked with understanding and supporting local government performance. The intention is to improve data transparency in order to increase accountability.
17. Oflog, as it is commonly called, is in the process of creating the Local Authority Data Explorer. It is a dashboard or [online tool](#) with sets of key measurements selected by Oflog. However, more than half of the current set of measurements do not apply to district councils.
18. The sections for waste management and finance have measurements relevant to district councils. For Members' interest, we have supplied the published data for Rother District Council in Appendix B. Currently, what has been published is limited to the annual figures for 2021/22.
19. Oflog have pledged to add more service areas and expand existing areas 'as the metrics are developed'. Members may wish to consider if they want to monitor the data explorer's development and if they wish to monitor the data it reports. Options might be reporting to this Committee or through the Members' Bulletin.
20. If Members (or residents) are interested in seeing published local government figures as well as a lot of contextual data, there are other publicly available sources. The Local Government Association provides the LGINform website. As Members may be aware, in addition, East Sussex County Council has a data observatory called East Sussex in Figures. These websites have both local government performance and many demographic, economic and

environmental statistics relevant to providing services in wards, parishes, districts and county.

## Conclusion






21. This report sets our performance against the agreed key performance indicators for the first and second quarters of 2023/24. It includes an update on the Government's approach to council performance.
22. Members are requested to consider the Council's performance and recommend to Cabinet the proposed change to the Planning KPIs, together with any other recommendations for action to Cabinet for consideration.




Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

Chief Executive:	Lorna Ford
Report Contact Officer:	Joanne Wright
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Appendices:	A – Summary KPI Table B – OfLog Dashboard on Council performance
Relevant previous Minutes:	<a href="#">Cabinet 27th February 2023</a> <a href="#">Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5th June 2023, 4th Quarter Performance 2022/23</a>
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None





### Summary of All KPIs






A summary of the KPI performance is set out in the table below. Performance is compared to the previous quarter result and to the same quarter the previous year. Results that can be prepared monthly are included with the quarter's result.







	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
<b>Environmental Health</b>					
E1 - % of scheduled food inspections that were carried out		90%	51%	79%	See paragraph 5 of report.
E2 - % of service requests completed in the required timescale		90%	88.2%	71.04%	See paragraph 10 of report.
<b>Housing</b>					
H1 - Number of households either prevented (P) from homelessness or relieved (R) from homelessness		30 (quarter) 120 (year)	52: 26 P 26 R	49: 26 P 23 R	Q2 last year = 19(p) 10 (r) Total 29 The rise in number of homelessness cases, as well the complexity of cases, continues to create challenges for the Housing Service. The recent increase in investment into prevention services is having a positive effect and we have seen a 70% increase in homelessness preventions and reliefs compared to the same quarter last year. In particular, the increase in staff assigned to the Rother Tenant Finder Service and specialist Homelessness Prevention Officers doing more intense case work early on in homelessness journey.
H2 - Average cost of placing household in temporary accommodation (TA)		£1,200	£766	£1,154	The measure is a useful way of demonstrating the impact of the acquisition of TA on the average unit cost. In the same quarter last year, the average cost of TA was £1,130 per unit. The 2% reduction in average unit cost is positive, considering the impact of inflation on the cost of provision since Q2 2022. It is important to note that as this is still a relatively new metric, we are developing a means of adjusting how the figures are presented, as due to accounting processes, Q1 presents an artificially low average cost and Q4 an artificially high one.
H3 - Average weeks a household was in temporary accommodation before placement		Not set	23	16	While a reduction in the average number of weeks a household has stayed in TA is positive, the number of households in TA at the end of Q2 was 165, compared to 129 in the same quarter last year. The increase comes despite the positive impact of the recent improvements to the Prevention Service.



	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
<b>Customer Services</b>					
<p>C1 - Telephone calls answered by customer services (= sum of answered AND abandoned calls)</p> <p><i>Aim: channel shift towards digital</i></p>		Reduce (baseline year)	11,606	13,181	<p>Calls answered for Q1: 8,535 (74%), Calls Abandoned Q1:3,071 (26%), Calls answered for Q2:8,517 (65%), Calls Abandoned Q2:4,664 (35%).</p> <p>If you compare calls received for 2023/24 Q1 &amp; Q2 total 24787 to the previous year 2022/23 Q1 and Q2 of 35,464 we have received 30% less phone calls.</p> <p>However, our calls answered rate for 2023/24 is 30% higher than the previous Q1 &amp; Q2 of 2022/23 (17,052 compared to 13,032). The same trend is seen in abandonment rates when compared to the previous year 2022/23 Q1 and Q2 figures (17,222 compared to 7,735) and there were 55% less abandoned calls in 2023/24.</p> <p>This is due to better staffing levels than the previous year as sickness and vacant posts attributed to the 2022/23 performance level.</p> <p>More work will be done on the presentation of this data.</p>
C2 - Percentage of enquiries that are resolved on the first contact with customer services		85%	87.53%	85.82%	Our first contact resolution rate is performing as expected with customers receiving assistance when they call us rather than having their call referred to the department for assistance.
C3 - Average call waiting time for the contact centre		Reduce (baseline year)	00:11:57	00:06:33	The average answer time of 9 minutes 19 seconds for 2023/24 Q1 & Q2 compared to 2022/23 Q1 and Q2 of 16 minutes 45 seconds is 7 minutes and 26 seconds less. This indicates better performance. There are still calls that are having to wait an extended time to be answered as the maximum wait time is 50 minutes and 5 seconds for 2023/24 Q1 and Q2. The max wait time is 8 minutes and 50 seconds less than 2022/23 Q1 and Q2 results of 58 minutes and 55 seconds. April 2023 average answer time of 25 minutes and 7 seconds was higher and caused by a combination of sickness, vacant posts and peak council tax contact following annual billing.
C4 - Customers who say they were satisfied when surveyed (annual measurement)		85%	Not due	Not due	This data will be provided in quarter 3.





	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
<p>C5 - Total number of customer contacts to the Council</p> <p><i>Aim: channel shift towards digital</i></p>		Monitor (baseline year)	25,349	23,969	<p>The total contact indicator is a combination of phone calls, emails, face to face, web, self-service and our chat bot 'Aimee.'</p> <p>Below is a breakdown of each contact for Q1 and Q2.</p> <p><b>Total Contact Q1 25,349</b> Phone calls answered Q1:8535, Face to face contact Q1:1,765, Email Contact Q1: 1,775, Web self-service Q1:10,113, Aimee Chat bot Q1: 2,758, Other Contact Q1: 403</p> <p><b>Total Contact Q2 23,969</b> Phone calls answered Q2:8,517, Face to face contact Q2:2,257, email Contact Q2: 1,972, Web self-service Q2:8,551, Aimee Chat bot Q2: 2,367, Other Contact Q2: 305 (other contact includes letters, back office generated work and outreach contact.)</p> <p>Looking at the contact breakdown of digital methods versus traditional method, digital contact makes up of 56% of our contact compared to 44% traditional methods. Traditional methods of contact for Q1(10,703) and Q2 (11,079) total: 21,782 Online/digital contact for Q1 (14,646) and Q2 total (12890):27,536.</p>
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>					
N1 - Missed bins per 100,000 collections		62	24	30	The number of missed bin collections is a Biffa contractual requirement. Effective contract management supports the continued positive performance.
N2 - Percentage of public land found with unacceptable levels of litter when surveyed		2.5%	n/a	1%	The % level of litter visible on roads is a Biffa contractual requirement and is assessed on a triannual basis by an independent contractor – Q2 figure as of July 2023.
N3 - Percentage of public land found with unacceptable levels of detritus when surveyed		7%	n/a	8%	The % level of detritus visible on roads is a Biffa contractual requirement and is assessed on a triannual basis by an independent contractor – Q2 figure as of July 2023. The result for the 1st triannual is above target but an improvement on previous year of 9%.

	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
N4 - Fly tips recorded each month, cleared from public land (number)		69	62	57	Fly tips peaked at an average of 91 per month in 2021/2022 and have been reducing gradually ever since, helped more recently by the appointment of National Enforcement Solutions (NES) and the closure of bring sites.
N5 - Fly tip fines issued (number)		Monitor	17	7	The use of Fixed Penalty Notices appears to be working to prevent fly tips. NES had staff shortages at the beginning of the year, but this is improving.
<b>Estates</b>					
E1 - Income from all assets		£2,375,310  (original figure of £2,429,510 reduced by £54,200 as Amherst Rd reclassified as not investment property)	£2,408,642	£2,459,032	There is a positive variance overall at Q2 compared with the original budget of (£84k) and an improvement from Q1 of (£50k). While the Council has lost the income from the East Sussex County Council vacating the second floor of Amherst Road, the tenant at 35 Beeching Road is still in place as they have experienced delays in moving to a new site. These factors, coupled with some positive rent reviews, have resulted in the additional income.
<b>Corporate Core</b>					
CC1 - % of freedom of information requested answered in 20 days		95%	87%	96%	Q1 performance slightly dipped below the 20 working days due to several complex FOIs requiring a time extension to complete the requests (this was due to the amount of information required and the need for legal advice.) Whilst the 20 working day response time is a statutory requirement, we were able to seek additional time based on the type of request received. Therefore, we fully complied with our statutory duty in terms of response time.
<b>Planning Development Management</b>					
P1 - Percentage of major development applications determined in 13 weeks or agreed extension		80%  (original target 95% but recommend to change)	100%	100%	Exceeding national target. The service handled a total of 707 applications with 412 decisions issued; and 98% of the decisions at delegated level.

	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
P2 - Percentage of minor development applications determined in 8 weeks or agreed extension		80% (original target 95% but recommend to change)	81%	92%	Exceeding national target. Staff leaving and the inability to recruit into those positions in a timely manner has impacted performance. There is also the issue of outdated software which means more time is taken to complete tasks that can be automated using modern software, in particular to validating applications in timely manner and moving it along the process in timely successions.
P3 - Major development planning appeals allowed by the Planning Inspector		10%	Nil*	Nil*	Exceeding government target. The target is set at 10% of major and non-majors decisions overturned (i.e., refusals allowed) on appeal. Currently our figures are 27% allowed and 73% dismissed (where PINs upholds our refusal.)
P4 - Minor development planning appeals allowed by the Planning Inspector		30%	18%	23%	There is no separation for major or non-majors, the set target is a combination of both - see above.
P5 - Total number of PS1 and PS2 planning applications (live cases)		349	284	294	This is an upward trend although nationally there has been a decline in application numbers, due to external factors such as the cost-of-living crisis, economy, and cost of borrowing.
<b>Revenues and Benefits</b>					
RB1 - Percentage of council tax owed for the year that has been collected		Yr: 98.3%	30.02% (quarterly target 29.81)	57.1% (quarterly target 57.13)	Quarterly target based on previous year's results. (2022/23) Q1 29.81, Q2 57.13, Q3 81.13 Q4 98.30.  Collection is becoming more challenging, resulting in performance being slightly down as a percentage of collectable debit, compared to the same period in 2022/23. Although, in pure monetary terms, an additional £2.8m has been collected over Q1 and Q2 compared to the same period last year. Collection will continue to be closely monitored.
RB2 - Percentage of business rates owed for the year that have been collected		Yr: 98.3%	29.38% (quarterly target 29.71)	58.62% (quarterly target 59.17)	Quarterly target based on previous year's results. (2022/23) Q1 29.71, Q2 59.17, Q3 84.57 Q4 98.30.  The Business Rates collection is also challenging, resulting in collection being down as a percentage of collectable debit compared to the same period in 2022/23.

	Status	Target	Q1	Q2	Commentary
					However, with the number of different reliefs available to businesses over the past few years, it is difficult to compare collection year on year.
RB3 - Average calendar days to process a new housing benefit claim		20	20.29	19.06	Current performance is within target; however, performance could dip in Q3 due to being 2.5 FTEs (full time equivalent) down. This is being addressed; however, this will take time and therefore performance is likely to be affected in the meantime.
RB4 - Average calendar days to process a change to an existing housing benefit claim		14	9.18	16.65	See paragraph 12 of report.

Key:

Performance on target or better than target  Performance not on target and getting worse   
 Performance not on target but improving towards target 

n/a = not applicable, such as not measured at this frequency

\* There were no planning appeals for a major housing development from April to September. We cannot report any figures.

## Oflog Dashboard

	2021/22 Result	CIPFA* Nearest Neighbours Median	England Median
<b>Waste and Recycling</b>			
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling, composting as % of collected	46.5%	46.97%	41.9%
Residual households waste average kilograms collected per household	469.8	430.1	502.4
Household recycling contaminated rate	2.81%	3.83%	5.6%
<b>Finance</b>			
Reserves (unallocated or non-ringfenced) as a proportion of what the Council spends on services (net revenue expenditure)	67%	142.7%	150.9%
Non-ringfenced reserves as a proportion of service spend	70.3%	154%	131.5%
Total core spending power per dwelling	£233.88	£227.19	£242.49
Level of Band D Council Tax rates paid to local services (excluding parishes)	£207.10	£181.77	£192.04
Council Tax revenue per dwelling (average charge per dwelling)	£1,783.07	£1,688.33	£1,555.61
Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power	5.7%	6.6%	9.9%
Total debt as percentage of core spending power	218.6%	133.3%	500.4%

Note: only information published for Rother District Council has been included in this appendix.

\* CIPFA refers to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the professional body for people working in public finance.

CIPFA creates groups of similar local authorities termed 'nearest neighbours', based on a range of criteria, to help local authorities make reasonable comparisons. Relevant factors include being a borough or district council, similar population size, rural against urban and so on. Geographic location is not a factor and most of the authorities are from other regions in the country. The term neighbour does not refer to other authorities in Kent and Sussex, but how similar the district is to Rother.

Median is the figure that appears at the halfway point or the middle of any sequential list of figures. It is often a similar number to the average, but the figure is not calculated the same way. Using median removes the risk of an average being distorted by outliers in the data, especially extreme outliers. A good example is where using the average income for an area can be raised by just a few people having a multi-million income and disguising a more accurate portrait of the general population. Using median means a more accurate representation that half of the residents earn less and half of the residents earn more. For example, in Rother in 2021 the average gross annual earnings for all residents was £30,171 but the median gross annual earnings were £22,401.

**Rother District Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring as at Quarter 2 - 2023/24
<b>Report of:</b>	Duncan Ellis – Interim Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To note the estimated financial outturn for 2023/24 based on expenditure and income to the end of Quarter 2, 30 September 2023.
<b>Officer</b>	
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It be <b>RESOLVED</b> : That the report be noted.

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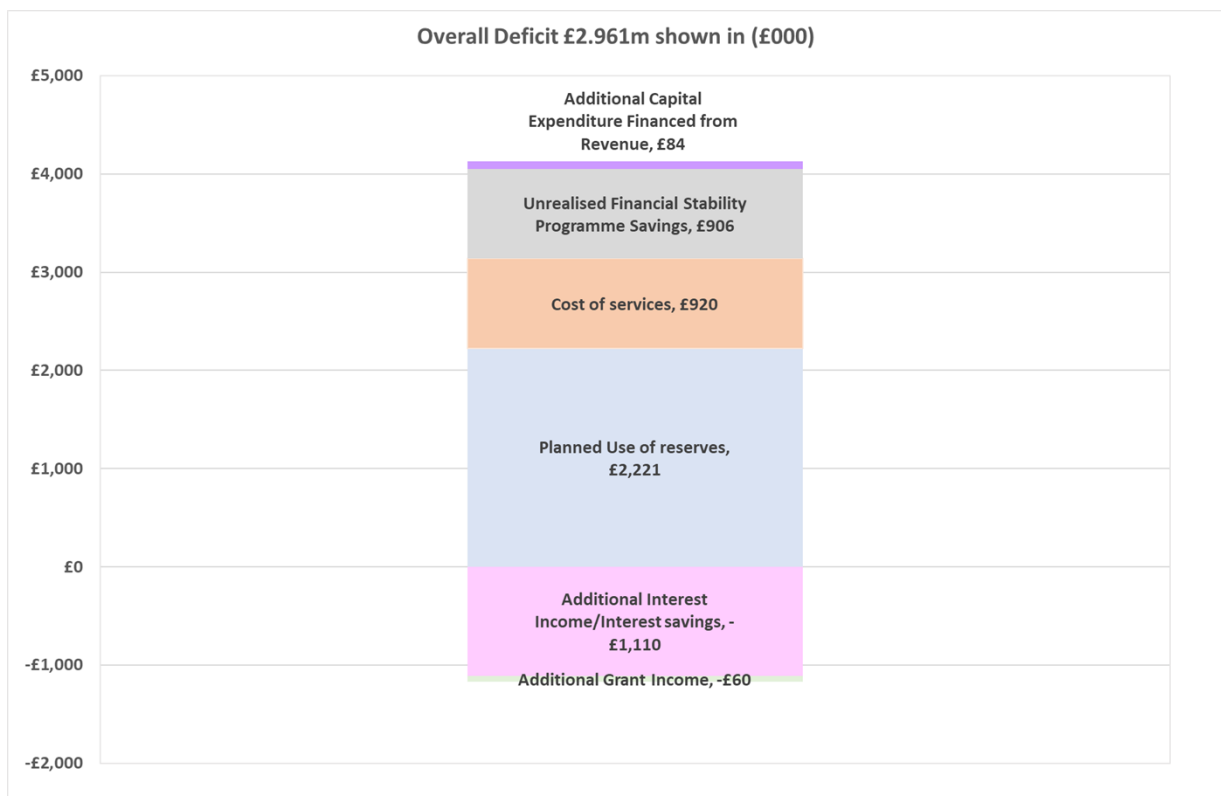
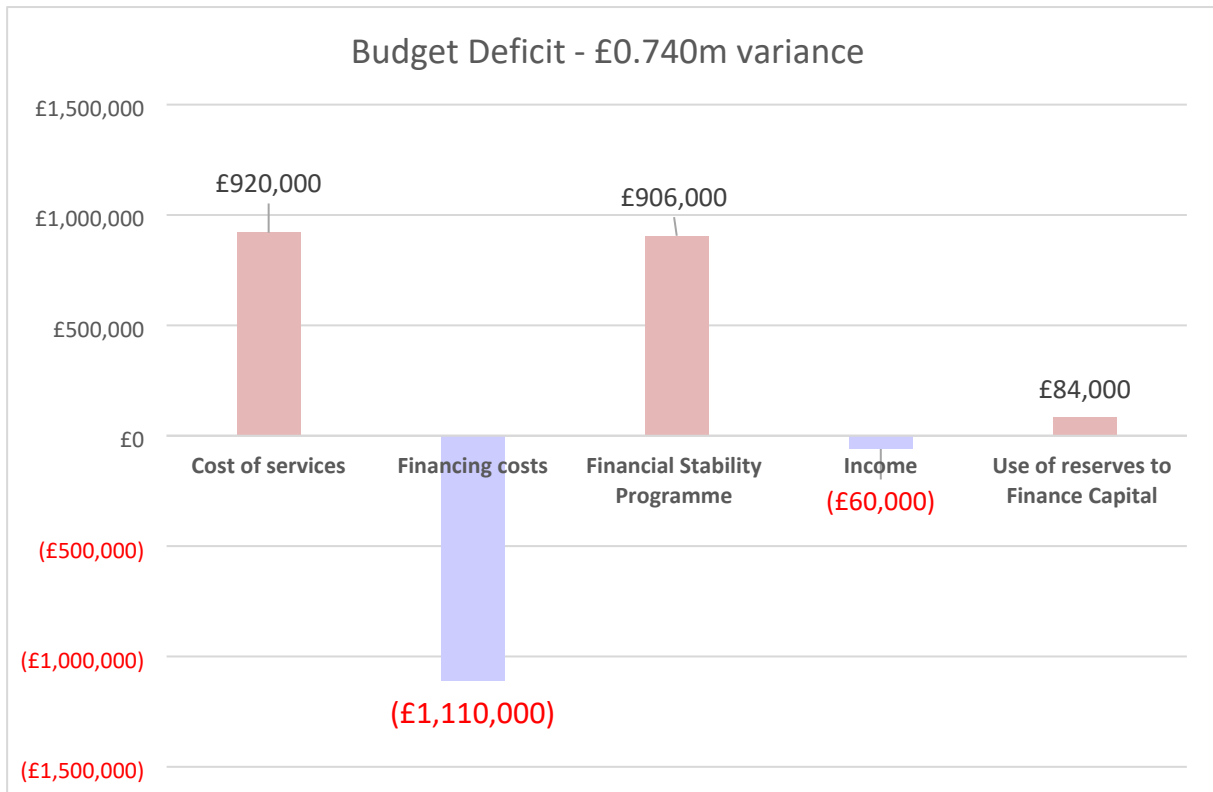
This report, considered by Cabinet on 6 November 2023, has been referred to this Committee for Members' information. The report has been reproduced as submitted to Cabinet.

**Introduction**

1. This report updates Members on the Council's financial position as at the 30 September 2023 and forecasts a provisional outturn for 2023/24. The revenue budget and capital programme statements are summarised in Appendices A and B respectively. The impact of the forecast on the Council's reserves is summarised in Appendix C. The report also includes a brief update on the Collection Fund performance.
2. The presentation of the revenue budget reflects the revised management reporting structure.

**Overall position**

3. The forecast outturn for the 2023/24 financial year is based on the position as at 30 September 2023 and indicates a forecast deficit position of £2.961m at 31 March 2024, against a budgeted deficit of £2.221m which is a variance of £0.74m. The updated MTFS is looking to address the financial position of the Council. The first graph, below, shows the breakdown of the forecast variance to budget and the second graph shows the breakdown of the overall deficit.



## Revenue Budget

- The revenue budget forecast as at the 30 September 2023 indicates a deficit of £0.656m against the approved budgeted drawdown from Reserves of £2.045m resulting in a forecast reserve drawdown of £2.701m. The position is detailed in Appendix A and the main variances are summarised in the paragraphs below.



**Cost of Services - £920,000 forecast deficit (£760,000 forecast deficit at Quarter 1). (Detailed below).**

**Chief Executive – forecast Deficit £569,000 (£334,000 forecast deficit at Quarter 1)**

5. **Chief Executive** - £160k deficit (£43k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). The forecast includes spend in respect of one-off severance and recruitment costs along with agency cover for statutory officer posts to be funded from reserves. This is partly offset by a vacancy saving.

**a. Chief Finance Officer** – £27k deficit ((£43k) surplus at Quarter 1). Audit fees for the year have risen by £54k, which was agreed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments body (PSAA). There is an underspend of £100k in relation to the unfunded element of the corporate pension costs which is funding agency expenditure of £69k to cover interim appointments in key posts. An amount of £4k of additional expenditure on computer software has also been incurred.

**b. Democratic Services and Elections** - £345k deficit (£313k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). The movement from the previous quarter relates mainly to training, systems and unbudgeted software inflation costs.

**c. Human Resources** - £36k forecast deficit (£20k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). £10k of the deficit relates to unrealised anticipated savings on NNDR for the Town Hall and £10k on premises related costs, in addition, £10k of rental income will not be realised. Net unrealised staff turnover £6k contribute further to the deficit.

**Deputy Chief Executive – forecast Surplus (£9,000) ((£62,000) forecast surplus at Quarter 1)**

6. **Deputy Chief Executive** – (£8k) forecast surplus ((£4k) forecast surplus at quarter 1). This is made up of additional income.

**a. Environmental Services, Licencing and Community Safety** – (£8k) forecast surplus ((£15k) forecast surplus at quarter 1). The surplus is due to additional income from fixed penalty notices (£33k) offset by a reduction of £3k on food export certificate income. In addition to unrealised salary turnover savings of £18k, which were reported in Quarter 1, in Quarter 2 backdated payments totalling £24k were made to officers in respect of car allowances.

**b. Revenues and Benefits** – (£62k) forecast surplus ((£73k) forecast surplus at Quarter 1). The surplus is due to an estimated net underspend on staff costs of (£76k) in respect of vacancies offset by backdated car allowances. In addition, increased IT costs are £23k.

**c. Internal Audit** – no forecast surplus/deficit (unchanged from Quarter 1).

**d. Digital and Customer Services** – (£15k) forecast surplus (£14k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). Forecast savings of £119k are partially offset by the £74k cost of a new post. Unbudgeted systems inflation costs of £5k will be incurred. Rother 2020 budgeted savings are £35k. These pressures have been offset by surplus income of (£13k) from printing services and the receipt of a grant of

(£6k) in relation to e-government, for the Council achieving the gold standard. Other net costs total £9k.

**e. Corporate Programme and Improvement** - £21k forecast deficit (unchanged from Quarter 1). This is due to additional staffing costs.

**f. Corporate Policy and Projects** – £63k forecast deficit ((£5k) forecast surplus at quarter 1). The deficit is due to additional staffing costs which will be subject to monitoring and a further review in Quarter 3.

**Director – Place and Climate Change – forecast Deficit £360,000 (£489,000 forecast deficit at Quarter 1)**

7. **Director - Place and Climate Change** - £2k forecast deficit (unchanged from Quarter 1). The deficit relates to additional costs of attendance at conferences.

8.

**a. Planning Development Management** - £123k forecast deficit (£79k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). The deficit is due to £161k of staff-relating costs, which are net of salary savings, the costs of agency staff and unrealised staff turnover savings. There is a forecast £53k of additional systems costs and planning appeal costs awarded against the Council of £22k as well as additional expenditure of £9k on planning advice from East Sussex County Council (ESCC). On the fees and charges side, cost pressures have been partially offset by unbudgeted surplus income of (£145k) from planning performance agreements and planning applications but are reduced by a forecast deficit of £23k on land charges income.

**b. Planning Policy** - £35k forecast deficit (£63k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). Additional net staffing costs of £61k are forecast, comprising of net additional staffing costs and unrealised staff turnover savings. This is offset by an anticipated grant of (£27k) in respect of biodiversity net gains in conservation and preservation.

**c. Neighbourhood Services** – (£205k) forecast surplus ((£102k) forecast surplus at Quarter 1). The surplus is made up of a number of elements where savings have been made or income is expected to exceed the budget: savings on the grounds maintenance contract (£150k), unbudgeted car park income (£230k), additional filming rights income of (£12k) and additional waste collection income and additional savings on core waste contract due to new pricing starting in Quarter 2 (£141k). These savings and income increases are offset by additional costs of car park resurfacing works of £55k, unrealised anticipated savings from devolvement of public conveniences to parishes of £155k, an outstanding shortfall on recycling property numbers of £50k, £17k of costs relating to new air pumps at Bexhill Leisure Centre, a loss of £10k on cemetery fees income and unbudgeted health and safety electrical works of £18k in museums. There is also forecast a net overspend of £23k on unrealised budgeted staff turnover savings and backdated car allowance payments offset by a reduction in seasonal staffing costs, due to adverse summer weather.

**d. Climate Change Strategy** - £1k forecast deficit (£8k forecast deficit at Quarter 2). The deficit is due to additional training costs.

**e. Housing** - £433k forecast deficit (£400k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). The deficit is primarily due to estimated costs of temporary accommodation amounting to £540k reduced by (£43k) through proposed mitigating measures,

which were reported in the Quarter 2 monitoring report, and net rental income of (£36k). Additionally, a housing benefit overpayment is forecast at £50k. Net staffing related costs of £78k are forecast which are mainly due to trying to manage the increasing demand led pressures and expectations of cost recovery changes in respect of time spent on disabled facilities grants and the housing company.

**f. Regeneration** - £29k surplus (£39k forecast deficit at Quarter 1). The surplus is due to unbudgeted income of (£53k) from PIS property rentals, lower than expected voids on properties, rent reviews, and saving on business rates where properties are leased. Savings on non-PIS properties are (£7k). Additional net income of (£21k) is forecast from maintenance services sold to third parties. Additional costs incurred at Beeching Road studios at £25k and £27k in respect of net additional staff costs and unrealised staff turnover savings partially offset the savings made.

### **Net Financing Costs – forecast Surplus (£1,110,000) (£1,090,000 forecast surplus at Quarter 1)**

9. As reported in the previous quarter, the budget was calculated on the assumption that the pace of the Council's capital programme would accelerate significantly after the pandemic. However, due to the significant increase in borrowing rates over the last year a number of schemes within the capital programme are being fundamentally reviewed to ensure that they can still deliver the anticipated outcomes and remain affordable to the Council. As a result of this pause, the anticipated borrowing has not been required. Consequently, interest due to be paid is lower than expected by (£471k). This is partially offset by the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which is forecast to be £291k higher than anticipated. Members should note that financing costs will be subject to a detailed review as part of assessing the affordability of the capital programme. The review will be crucial in determining future programme deliverability, particularly in view of historically high inflation and high interest rates.
10. Interest income from investments is expected to yield an additional (£730k), of which (£530k) is in respect of an increased focus on treasury management activity and higher interest rates since the budget was calculated, and (£200k) due in interest on loans to the housing company.
11. The budgeted contingency is shown as a surplus for the purposes of the report.

### **Financial Stability Programme – forecast Deficit £906,000 (unchanged from Quarter 1)**

12. Several small savings are being forecast by the end of the financial year, currently driven mainly by Neighbourhood Services and IT. However, more savings to the end of the year are not expected to be achieved in the current financial year. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members received the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on 16 October 2023. The updated MTFS removes the current FSP and replaces it with a new 'Fit for the Future' financial resilience programme, which is designed to close the budget gap over the medium-term period through making efficiencies, savings and increasing income to help support frontline services.

## Income – forecast Surplus (£60,000)

13. Since the budget was approved the Council have received several small grants totalling £60k from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The largest sum is a New Burdens grant of £34k.

## Capital Programme

14. The Capital Programme comprises a range of strategic projects that span more than one year and many operate for several years or have recurrent investments. Projects that have not spent all their allocation in the year of inception have the remaining funding carried forward into future financial years, profiled based on the anticipated expenditure for the project. The Interim S151 Officer is working with Heads of Service and elected Members to undertake a fundamental review of capital schemes which currently amount to more than £157m. The table below shows the profiling of the capital programme as forecast as at 30 September 2023:

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	28,409	68,699	23,553	8,694	28,183	<b>157,538</b>
Funded by:						
Capital Receipts	2,100	60	50	0	0	<b>2,210</b>
Grants & contributions	10,371	7,209	14,927	7,589	1,625	<b>41,721</b>
CIL	513	1,484	1,321	850	0	<b>4,168</b>
Borrowing	8,997	20,699	125	125	125	<b>30,071</b>
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	1,229	247	130	130	130	<b>1,866</b>
Borrowing & Loan for RDC Housing Company Ltd	5,000	39,000	7,000	0	26,303	<b>77,303</b>
Section 106	200	0	0	0	0	<b>200</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,409</b>	<b>68,699</b>	<b>23,553</b>	<b>8,694</b>	<b>28,183</b>	<b>157,538</b>

15. The revised 2023/24 budgets (see Appendix B) have been derived from reviewing the project cashflows and assessing the expected position at this time. Up to £19.9m is forecast to be spent in this financial year. During Quarter 2 the following budget increases/decreases were applied to the capital programme:

Scheme	Increase £ (000)	(Decrease) £ (000)	Revised overall budget £ (000)	Reason for change
Disabled Facilities Grant	381		<b>8,506</b>	Additional grant award and budget adjustment for capitalised salaries
Rural England Prosperity Fund	230		<b>604</b>	Funding agreement with DLUHC, as agreed at Cabinet meeting on 17 July 2023
LTA Tennis Court Refurbishment – Egerton Park	105		<b>105</b>	Capital investment in site
Boiler Replacement in admin buildings	95		<b>95</b>	Capital investment in site
UK Shared Prosperity Fund		(98)	<b>253</b>	Reprofiled budget to match revised funding agreement and capital / revenue split
Bexhill Leisure Centre and Rye Swimming Pool	110		<b>110</b>	Capital investment (2024/25 and 2025/26)
<b>Total Scheme increases/(decreases)</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>(98)</b>		

<b>Funding</b>		
Grants and contributions	716	(98)
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	95	
Borrowing		
Capital Receipts	110	
<b>Total Funding increases/(decreases)</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>(98)</b>

### Additions to the Capital Programme

16. A new capital scheme has been added to the capital programme to meet the unexpected cost of two replacement boilers at the Town Hall, Bexhill, at a forecast cost of £95k. This scheme has already commenced, given the urgency of the works and the need to ensure that the property is maintained and is available for use, and the scheme will be funded from a contribution from revenue reserves.
17. At the meeting of the Cabinet on 4 September 2023, it was agreed to accept a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to refurbish five tennis courts and for the installation of two controlled access gates at Egerton Park, Bexhill, at a total cost of £104k. This has been added to the 2023/24 capital programme.
18. A new capital scheme has provisionally been added to the capital programme in 2024/25 (£60k) and 2025/26 (£50k) to meet potential payments in respect of contributions towards dilapidations at Rye Swimming Pool and Bexhill Leisure Centre and Pool. This has provisionally been funded from capital receipts and Members are asked to consider this scheme and to make a recommendation to Full Council for approval of the scheme and the funding from capital receipts in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
19. On 7 September 2023, the Government (DLUHC) announced that there would be an additional grant allocation of £161k in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) in 2023/24. This has been added to the capital programme. In addition, a technical change to the reporting of salaries in respect of administering the DFG programme, which are charged to the capital scheme has also made, increasing the programme by £220,000. This is funded from the initial DFG allocation and is a presentational change only.
20. Approval has been granted by DLUHC for the grant funding in respect of the Changing Places Toilets (CPT) scheme at Pebsham toilets to be transferred to Egerton Park toilets. This is a scheme which will provide facilities to assist those with profound and multiple disabilities to use toilets safely and comfortably. A further request to transfer the approved CPT grant funding from the Camber Sands conveniences/Camber Sands Welcome Centre is awaiting approval from DLUHC. If approved, the budget from Camber Sands (as part of the Welcome Centre project) will be moved to a new scheme at Egerton Park toilets and the CPT scheme at Camber will be closed.

### Application for Revenue Grant funding

21. The Council has recently made an application for revenue grant funding for Bexhill leisure pool and Rye swimming pool, for a total grant of £128k. A request

is made for Cabinet to recommend approval of this application, and the acceptance of any resulting grant, to Council.

## Capital Programme - Forecast outturn 2023/24

22. The table at Appendix B notes a revised budget for the year of £28.4m. The forecast outturn for the year at Quarter 2 is £19.9m, a variance of (£8.5m) or 30% of the programme. Most of this forecast underspend is attributable to schemes which have progressed more slowly than expected or have been paused pending review, with only a small amount of savings forecast on schemes which have been completed. Forecast variances over £50k are shown in the table below:

Scheme	2023/24 capital programme budget	2023/24 forecast outturn	2023/24 forecast variance	Commentary
	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	
Corporate Document Image Processing System	87	1	(86)	When staffing resources allow, areas such as housing, planning and the estate will need to be progressed.
Rother Transformation ICT Investment	117	40	(77)	This scheme is mainly for the movement of the data centre. There is a requirement for additional hardware, which is not expected to be purchased until 2024/25.
Community Grants	260	130	(130)	The budget was increased by £130k in the 2022/23 outturn. There is a long lead time between a scheme being approved and works carried out. It is anticipated that £130k will be granted in the current financial year, with other approved grants likely to be advanced in 2024/25.
CIL Scheme 1 Village Hall Energy Project	342	200	(142)	There has been no spend to date on this scheme. Village halls have only just been asked to make a bid; they then have three months to bid and six months to complete the works. £200k is forecast for the remainder of the year, but this will be dependent upon the bids received, the time it takes to enter in agreements and when the work takes place (after which funding is advanced).
Beeching Road Hotel and Foodstore Development	104	30	(74)	This scheme is not going to go ahead in its current format, and alternatives are being reviewed by external consultants.
Barnhorn Green GP Surgery and Industrial Development	3,313	800	(2,513)	There has been slower progress than anticipated on this scheme. The scheme now has planning consent and has completed RIBA Stage 4. Construction is not expected until the second half of 2024/25.
RDC Housing Company Ltd Investment (RDC loans)	5,000	2,580	(2,420)	This is the funding from the Council to the RDC Housing Company. Drawdown of funds is only when required.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2023/24 capital programme budget</b>	<b>2023/24 forecast outturn</b>	<b>2023/24 forecast variance</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
	<b>£ (000)</b>	<b>£ (000)</b>	<b>£ (000)</b>	
Development of Council owned sites	213	0	<b>(213)</b>	This is a budget which is held to finance suitable sites, which will have their own scheme.
King Offa Residential Scheme	359	181	<b>(178)</b>	This scheme is largely complete, with some residual works to clear the site, and prepare for possible disposal.
Community Led Housing Schemes - Cemetery Lodge	200	0	<b>(200)</b>	Difficult operating conditions in the residential development sector have impacted on the proposed scheme, which will delay the Council's own costs and transfer of the lodge and development land into 2024/25.
Camber – Old Lydd Road	140	12	<b>(128)</b>	There are some uncertainties about when this site will be disposed of, and the remaining costs in 2023/24 relate to legal fees of approximately £10k.
Bexhill Leisure Centre – site development	78	0	<b>(78)</b>	This is linked to the King Offa site and the costs relating to this are under review.
Fairlight Coastal Protection	67	11	<b>(56)</b>	This scheme will be carried out in the spring when conditions are better.
Disabled Facilities Grants	2,006	1,949	<b>(57)</b>	An additional allocation of £161k for 2023//24 has been announced and is due to be received shortly. Expenditure on grants and payments in respect of occupational therapist advice, as well as a provision for administration costs means that the budget is forecast to be largely spent by the end of the financial year.
Housing – Temporary Accommodation Purchase	6,362	5,041	<b>(1,321)</b>	This scheme is progressing well, but there is a delay between identifying suitable properties and making and completing the purchase thereof.
Invest to Save Initiatives (Financial Stability Programme)	705	12	<b>(693)</b>	Limited schemes are in progress and will become part of the Fit for the Future initiative in the MTFFS from 2024/25.
Payments to Parishes - CIL	171	85	<b>(86)</b>	The last payments have been made in respect of a CIL-funded scheme at Ticehurst village hall. No other schemes are in the pipeline for this financial year.
Pebsham Toilets	54	0	<b>(54)</b>	Approval was initially granted through DLUHC's Changing Places Toilets (CPT) scheme. Approval has been given to move this funding to a scheme at Egerton Park. In addition, a further change request has been submitted to move the CPT element from Camber Sands to Egerton Park. If approved, £69k budget will be moved from Camber Sands and a new scheme, totalling £123k, will be established at Egerton Park.

Scheme	2023/24 capital programme budget	2023/24 forecast outturn	2023/24 forecast variance	Commentary
	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	
Camber Sands Welcome Centre	69	102	33	This scheme is progressing and is expected to spend more than its current allocation for the year, with reprofiling of future years' budget required to offset. An element of the existing budget relates to DLUHC funding in respect of a Changes Places Toilet facility for which authority is currently being sought to transfer this to a scheme at Egerton Park (see Pebsham Toilets, above).

### Impact on Reserves

23. The forecast impact on Reserves is a drawdown of £2.701m for revenue, which is £0.656m higher than the planned use of £2.045m, and £0.260m for capital which is £84k higher than the planned use of reserves.

### Collection Fund

24. The collection rate as at the 30 September 2023 for the Council Tax part of the Collection Fund was 57.10% of the collectable debit, which is 0.21% lower than the corresponding figure in 2022/23. The budgeted yield is 58.43%, which is 0.21% lower than the same period in 2022/23. Collection performance is shown below:

	2023/2024	Equivalent Period 2022/2023
Income Received	£91,707,931.88	£86,484,722.41
Income Received as a % of collectable debit	57.10%	57.31%
Budgeted yield (at 98.3% collection)	£89,626,816.94	£84,513,438.24
Income Received as a % of budgeted yield	58.43%	58.64%

25. The collection rate as at the 30 September 2023 for the Business Rates part of the Collection Fund was 58.62% of the collectable debit, which is 0.43% lower than the corresponding figure in 2022/23. Collection performance is shown below:

	2023/2024	Equivalent Period 2022/2023
Collectable debit	£16,928,968.18	£17,578,906.50
Income Received	£9,924,273.97	£10,397,735.53
Income Received as a % of collectable debit	58.62%	59.15%
Amount outstanding for year	£7,004,694.21	£7,181,170.97



26. Collection rates have held up well despite the squeeze on finances following the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. The current economic situation may well lead to a decline in future collection rates, which will have an adverse impact on the income that the Council receives from Council Tax and Business Rates.

## Conclusion

27. The forecast outturn on the revenue budget at Quarter 2 2023/24 is a deficit of £2.961 million, which is £0.740m greater than the approved planned use of Reserves. The Interim S151 Officer will work closely with Heads of Services and Members to reduce areas of overspend and the impact on reserves.
28. The Council's capital programme has a forecast outturn of £19.9m.

<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>	<b>Other Implications</b>	<b>Applies?</b>
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No
<hr/>			
Chief Executive	Lorna Ford		
Report Contact Officer:	Duncan Ellis		
e-mail address:	Duncan.Ellis@rother.gov.uk		
Appendices:	Appendix A	Revenue Budget Forecast	
	Appendix B	Capital Programme Forecast	
	Appendix C	Reserves	
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None.		
Background Papers:	None.		
Reference Documents:	None.		

## Revenue Budget 2023/24 Forecast as at 30 September 2023

Line	Rother District Council General Fund Summary	Revised Budget 2023/24 Q2 £ (000)	2023/24 Q2 Actual £ (000)	2023/24 Q2 Forecast £ (000)	2023/24 Q2 Variance £ (000)
1	Deputy Chief Executive	331	147	323	(8)
1a	Environmental Services, Licensing & Community Safety	676	490	668	(8)
1b	Revenues & Benefits	1,308	(2)	1,246	(62)
1c	Internal Audit	165	83	165	(0)
1d	Digital & Customer Services	1,899	662	1,884	(15)
1e	Corporate Programme & Improvement	94	51	115	21
1f	Corporate Policy & Projects	354	221	417	63
2	Chief Executive	354	231	514	160
2a	Chief Finance Officer	1,483	670	1,510	27
2b	Democratic Services	652	667	997	345
2c	Human Resources Services	512	270	548	36
3	Director Place and Climate Change	115	60	117	2
3a	Planning Development Management	658	270	781	123
3b	Planning Policy	471	413	506	35
3c	Neighbourhood Services	5,942	2,201	5,737	(205)
3d	Climate Change Strategy	120	26	121	1
3e	Housing	2,607	1,506	3,040	433
3f	Regeneration	(863)	(473)	(892)	(29)
<b>4</b>	<b>Total Cost of Services</b>	<b>16,877</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>17,797</b>	<b>920</b>
5	Interest from Investments	(586)	(381)	(1,316)	(730)
6	MRP	224	0	515	291
7	Interest payments	1,106	0	635	(471)
8	Budget Contingency	200	0	0	(200)
9	Salaries turnover	0	0	0	0
10	(i) Increase income - Property Investment Strategy				
11	(ii) Increase income (net) - other	(69)	0	0	69
12	(iii) Lean and Demand	(180)	0	0	180
13	(iv) Service Prioritisation	(762)	0	(200)	562
14	(v) Reduced Staffing Structure	(95)	0	0	95
<b>15</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>16,715</b>	<b>7,113</b>	<b>17,431</b>	<b>716</b>
	<b>Income</b>				
16	Special Expenses	(751)		(751)	0
17	Net Business Rates and Section 31 Grants	(4,699)		(4,699)	0
18	Non-specific Revenue Grants	(1,570)		(1,630)	(60)
19	Council Tax Requirement (Rother only)	(7,650)		(7,650)	0
20	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(14,670)</b>		<b>(14,730)</b>	<b>(60)</b>
21	<b>Total revenue budget Surplus (-)/ Deficit (+)</b>	<b>2,045</b>		<b>2,701</b>	<b>656</b>
22	Contribution from revenue to capital expenditure	176		260	84
23	<b>Funding gap/(Surplus) - Amounts to be drawn from reserves (+) or Amounts to be contributed to reserves (-) to balance the budget</b>	<b>2,221</b>		<b>2,961</b>	<b>740</b>

Impact on Reserves					
24	<b>Opening Balance</b>	12,828		12,828	0
	<b>less reserves movement in year:</b>				
25	Reserves funding for revenue purposes	(2,045)		(2,701)	(656)
26	Reserves funding for capital purposes	(176)		(260)	(84)
27	<b>Total Reserves Funding in year</b>	<b>(2,221)</b>		<b>(2,961)</b>	<b>(740)</b>
28	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>10,607</b>		<b>9,867</b>	<b>(740)</b>

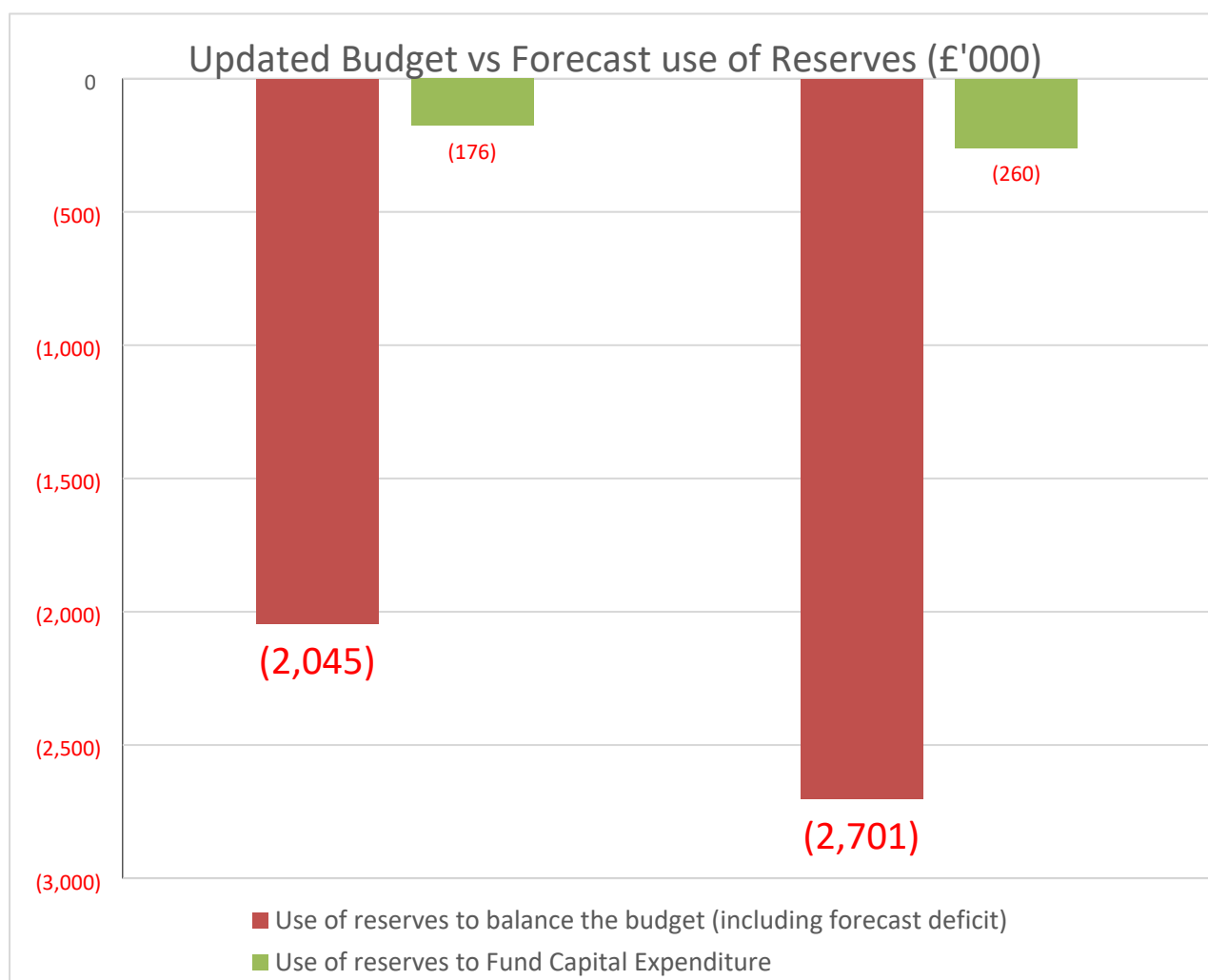
## Capital Programme 2023/24 Forecast as at the 30 September 2023

	2023/24 Budget Updated	2023/24 Q2 Actual	2023/24 Q2 Variance	2023/24 Q2 Forecast Outturn	2023/24 Q2 Forecast Outturn Variance
	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)	£ (000)
<b>Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration</b>					
<b>Other Schemes</b>					
Corporate Document Image Processing System	87	1	(86)	1	(86)
Rother Transformation ICT Investment	117	0	(117)	40	(77)
Community Grants	260	25	(235)	130	(130)
Development of Town Hall Bexhill	0	1	1	(0)	0
Rural England Prosperity Fund	230	0	(230)	230	0
Ravenside Roundabout	0	0	0	0	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	33	18	(16)	34	0
CIL Scheme 1 Village Hall Energy Project	342	0	(342)	200	(142)
<b>Property Investment Strategy</b>					
Beeching Road Hotel and Foodstore Development	104	15	(89)	30	(74)
PIS - Beeching Park Estate	428	428	(0)	428	(0)
Barnhorn Green GP Surgery and Industrial Development	3,313	263	(3,050)	800	(2,513)
<b>Housing Development Schemes</b>					
Blackfriars Housing Development - infrastructure only	5,084	2,551	(2,533)	5,084	0
RDC Housing Company Ltd Investment (RDC loans)	5,000	0	(5,000)	2,580	(2,420)
Development of council owned sites	213	4	(209)	0	(213)
King Offa Residential scheme	359	151	(208)	181	(178)
Community Led Housing Schemes - Cemetery Lodge	200	0	(200)	0	(200)
Camber, Old Lydd Road	140	3	(138)	13	(128)
<b>Housing and Community Services</b>					
De La Warr Pavilion - Capital Grant	56	44	(12)	58	2
Bexhill Leisure Centre - site development	78	0	(78)	0	(78)
Fairlight Coastal Protection	67	0	(67)	11	(56)
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,006	761	(1,245)	1,949	(57)
Sidley Sports and Recreation	0	-11	(11)	0	(0)
New bins	135	41	(94)	157	22
Housing - Temporary Accommodation Purchase	6,362	1,541	(4,821)	5,041	(1,321)
Bexhill Promenade - Outfall pipe	191	0	(191)	191	(0)
Bexhill Leisure Centre - refurbishment	30	17	(14)	17	(14)
Bexhill Leisure Centre and Rye Swimming Pool - delapidations	0	0	0	0	0
Capital - Sidley House Open Space Improvements - Parks LUF	71	45	(26)	71	(0)
Pebsham Toilets	54	0	(54)	0	(54)
Camber Sands Welcome Centre	69	60	(9)	102	33
LTA Tennis Court Refurbishment - Egerton Park	105	0	(105)	105	0
<b>Strategy &amp; Planning</b>					
Payments to Parishes - CIL	171	0	(171)	85	(86)
<b>Resources</b>					
New website development	8	3	(5)	8	(0)
Invest To Save initiatives (Financial Stability Prog)	705	12	(693)	12	(693)
LUF De La Warr Pavilion Project LUF Grant	2,021	99	(1,922)	2,021	0
Capital - LUF Programme	0	0	0	0	0
LUF Heart of Sidley Programme	271	29	(242)	271	0
Battle Train Station	0	0	0	0	0
Seddlescombe Traffic Calming Measured	0	0	0	0	0
Battle Sports Pavilion	0	0	0	0	0
Boiler replacements at admin buildings	95	0	(95)	80	(15)
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>28,409</b>	<b>6,101</b>	<b>(22,308)</b>	<b>19,930</b>	<b>(8,479)</b>
		21%		70%	30%
<b>Funded By:</b>					
Capital Receipts	2,100				
Grants and contributions	10,371				
CIL	513				
Borrowing	8,997				
Capital Expenditure Charged to Revenue	1,229				
Borrowing and Loan for Rother DC Housing Company Ltd	5,000				
Section 106	200				
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>28,409</b>				

Reserves

Reserves forecast	2023/24 Updated Budget	Q2 Forecast	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	12,828	12,828*	0
Use of reserves to balance the budget (including forecast deficit)	(2,045)	(2,701)	(656)
Use of reserves to Fund Capital Expenditure	(176)	(260)	(84)
Forecast balance	<b>10,607</b>	<b>9,867*</b>	<b>(740)</b>

\*As per draft 2022/23 Outturn (of which £3.7m relates to the Grants Reserve and £1m to the NNDR Volatility reserve)



**Rother District Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Climate Strategy 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Lucie Bolton, Environment Strategy Officer
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To summarise the work of the Climate Strategy refresh and provide the Climate Strategy
<b>Officer</b>	
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It be <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Cabinet be requested to consider that the draft Climate Strategy be recommended to Council for approval and adoption.

**Introduction**

1. To tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, the strategy to reduce emissions and create a cleaner, greener, more equitable district must evolve. The strategy review carried out in 2022/23 in partnership with stakeholders and the wider community, has resulted in the refreshed Climate Strategy (CS).
2. The CS sets out how the Council will use its powers and influence to make Rother District carbon neutral, and reduce the Council’s operational emissions to Net Zero, by 2030.
3. This report presents the findings of the Environment Strategy 2020 review, the additional evidence base required for the strategy refresh, stakeholder engagement, and the final copy for the CS (Appendix A).
4. The layout of the CS will be designed by a professional graphic designer and copy editor once the copy is agreed.

**Background**

5. On 16 September 2019, Rother District Council (RDC) formally declared a Climate Emergency at full Council and committed to:
 

*Pledge to do what is within our powers, to make Rother District carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.*
6. In 2020, the Council’s response to the Climate Emergency was developed in consultation with local partners and residents. On 21 September 2020, the Environment Strategy 2020 was adopted by the Council.

7. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the publication of the Action Plan, but significant steps have been taken by the Council to reduce emissions both across the district and operationally. The Council's progress on the Environment Strategy 2020 is published on the Climate Emergency web pages.
8. Climate awareness, Climate Emergency Declarations, and Local Authority Environment Strategies were relatively new in 2019/20. Climate science and public awareness have increased considerably in the relatively short time since. The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed our lives in many ways and the public response demonstrates how quickly behaviour can change when resourced and motivated.
9. Considering these changes, the Council agreed to refresh the Environment Strategy in 2022 and the CS has been produced.

### Environment Strategy Review

10. A review of the Environment Strategy 2020 highlighted the following areas for improvement:
  - Emissions evidence-based – District and Organisational.
  - Changes to national policy – Environment Act 2021.
  - Rother-specific climate risks and opportunities.
  - Climate Action Plan – to direct delivery.

### 2020 Consultation Review

11. The public consultation for the Environment Strategy ran from March – May 2020. The consultation received 108 individual responses and 14 organisations responded.
12. A summary of the responses is provided in the table below:

What could I do to reduce the impact my household and I have on the environment?	What support could the Council provide me to help me reduce my impact on the environment?	What should the Council be doing to reduce its impact on the environment?	Is there anything missing from the draft action plan that we should consider including?	Please let us know if you have any other comments regarding the proposed Environment Strategy
Energy efficiency	Waste – recycling, food waste, compost bins, go digital	Lead by example – buildings	Food waste	Positive comments
Transport – EV, bike, drive less	Transport – EV charging points, cycle routes, more busses	Lead by example – staff travel	Biodiversity	Get on with it

Renewable energy	Planning Permission	Planning permission	Planning permission – solar panels	Don't exclude those who can't afford to be green
Waste	Encourage community action	Reduce waste the council produces	Ban bonfires	Silly jargon

### Best Practice

- The following local authority climate strategies were reviewed for best practice.
- Hastings Borough Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, and Lewes District Council have all updated their strategies in the last year and Wealden District Council is about to embark on a strategy refresh.

Neighbouring Authorities	Climate Emergency UK – 2022 top rated	Similar – Emissions profile, deprivation, rural-urban population density	Others
Hastings BC	Somerset West and Taunton Council	Norfolk CC	Bristol One City
Wealden DC	Staffordshire Moorlands DC	Suffolk CC	North Norfolk DC
Eastbourne BC	East Devon DC	East Lindsey DC	Swale BC
Lewes DC			Horsham DC
East Sussex CC			Surrey CC
Folkestone and Hythe DC			Kent CC
Ashford BC			Winchester CC
Tunbridge Wells BC			

### Evidence Base

- Both Rother district and operational GHG emissions were included in the evidence base for the CS (Appendix B and C).
- Other RDC strategic documents including the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the emerging Local Plan, annual Air Quality Assessments, and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment have formed part of the evidence base for the CS.

### Stakeholder Engagement

- Extensive stakeholder engagement has been a core part of this strategy review. The CS Engagement Tracker in Appendix D lists the occasions when the Environment Strategy Officer has presented, discussed, or otherwise engaged with stakeholders on the refresh. The Tracker does not include discussions about the CS via email. This engagement is ongoing as stakeholders respond to the CS.

## Guiding Principles

18. The CS refresh identified the need for Guiding Principles which can be seen below. The Guiding Principles ensure the Council is using its position and influence to lead by example, work in partnership, and ensure no one is left behind.

Act now	Work in partnership	Continuously improve	Communicate impact	Be Fair
The Council recognises the urgency and will take action commensurate to the challenge.	The Council recognises its own limitations and the scale of the challenge. The Council will continue to work in partnership to achieve its goals.	The Council will measure, review, and update the Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan regularly to ensure it remains relevant and effective.	The Council will communicate its impact and climate action to encourage others.	The Council will ensure the transition is fair. This means ensuring the benefits of climate action are accessible to all and no one is excluded.

## Vision

19. The vision has been updated and aligns with the refreshed CS.
20. *A climate-resilient Rother where communities are well-equipped to deal with the challenges of climate change and are no longer contributing to global warming.*

## Aims and Objectives

21. The following aims and objectives have been proposed. They reflect the CS vision and the Council's 2019 pledge.

### Aim

The aim of this strategy is to enable, encourage, and accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across the district to net zero by 2030.

### Objectives

- The built environment will be low carbon and climate resilient.
- The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport, or in a low/zero carbon vehicle.
- The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy.
- Nature will be in recovery across the district.
- Renewable energy will be produced locally.



## The Climate Strategy

22. Each of the five action areas is addressed within the CS with details of both the challenge and the Council’s approach explained.
23. Each action area supports one of the CS Objectives and has two or three outcomes which are displayed in the table below:

Vision	A climate-resilient Rother where communities are well-equipped to deal with the changing climate and are no longer contributing to global warming				
Overall Impact Measure	Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduced to 10% of 2019 baseline and nature in recovery across the district				
Theme	Buildings and Energy Efficiency	Transport	Resource Consumption and Waste	Biodiversity and Land Use	Energy Generation
Strategic Goals (Outcomes)	1. The built environment will be low-carbon and climate-resilient	2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport, or EV	3. The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy	4. Nature will be in recovery across the district	5. Renewable energy will be produced locally
Measure of success - Objectives (Outputs)	<p>Mass retrofit of existing buildings</p> <p>New buildings are net zero or carbon negative</p>	<p>Sustainable forms of transport supported through the planning system</p> <p>Facilitate the transition to LZC vehicles across the district</p> <p>A programme of activities to promote active travel across the district</p>	<p>Reduced consumption of resources and waste</p> <p>Increased repair, reuse, and recycling of goods and materials</p>	<p>Halt land and marine species decline</p> <p>Increased biodiversity and carbon sequestration</p>	<p>Solar PV on all suitable roof space</p> <p>Support renewable energy generation</p>

## Climate Action Plan

24. A three-year Climate Action Plan has been produced to direct delivery of the CS (Appendix E). The Climate Action Plan is a working document.
25. The Climate Action Plan for 2027-2030 will be developed in 2026.

## Options

26. The Council considered continuing with the existing Environment Strategy, but the evidence base included in the CS refresh demonstrates the need to focus the Council’s resources on supporting emission reductions in the five action areas of Buildings and Energy Efficiency, Transport, Resource Consumption and Waste, Biodiversity and Land Use and Energy Generation.

## Conclusion

27. The CS is a well-researched, evidence-based document that will guide the Council's climate action and enable to Council to meet its pledge to do what is within its powers to make Rother a carbon-neutral district.
28. The Climate Action Plan will direct delivery and ensure the Council is doing what is within its powers to reduce emissions to net zero and make Rother climate resilient.

### Financial Implications

29. The Council has an Environment Strategy budget to coordinate and deliver operational and district-wide emission reduction, but it will need to secure alternative funding to deliver on the ambitious 2030 target.

### Environmental

30. The CS builds upon the work of the Environment Strategy 2020. It will guide the Council's climate action and enable to Council to meet its pledge to do what is within its powers to make Rother a carbon-neutral district.

### Equalities and Diversity

31. The impacts of climate change are not felt equally by residents in Rother. The CS recognises those inequalities and through the Guiding Principles, will ensure a just transition to a low-carbon society for all residents. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken (Appendix F).

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	Yes
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	A Climate Strategy B Rother District Emissions 2021 C RDC Annual Operational Carbon Emissions 22/23 D Climate Strategy Engagement Tracker E Climate Action Plan F Climate Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment
Relevant previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

# Climate Strategy

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## Forward

Rother District Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and pledged to do what was within its powers to make Rother a carbon-neutral district by 2030.

Since 2019 we have seen a global pandemic, a cost-of-living crisis, and spiralling energy costs. Global warming continues to cause havoc and the local impacts are increasing. Last year, 2022, was the warmest year on record in the UK with record-breaking temperatures exceeding 40C for the first time. There has been increased flooding and communities across the district have been affected.

We also face an Ecological Emergency. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries with 1 in 6 species at risk of being lost. We know restoring nature can help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It also has enormous benefits for people.

The way we live and work has changed and so must our approach to tackling the climate and ecological crises. We need to build climate-resilient communities that are no longer contributing to global warming and are prepared for the changes that are yet to come. We also need to restore nature at scale to protect biodiversity and encourage bioabundance.

The Climate Strategy focuses the Council's climate action on five key areas: Buildings and Energy Efficiency, Transport, Resource Consumption and Waste, Biodiversity and Land Use, and Energy Generation. We each have a role to play and this strategy outlines the actions the Council will take to reduce district-wide emissions as well as operational emissions. The strategy also promotes wider community action. This is an enormous challenge and we can all do our part to build climate resilience.

## Executive Summary

Rother District Council (RDC) declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019 and published the Environment Strategy 2020 in September 2020. Following a strategy review in 2022, the refreshed Climate Strategy has been produced. The Climate Strategy sets out how the Council will use its powers and influence to make the district climate-resilient, and reduce emissions to net zero, by 2030. This strategy will be delivered through the Climate Action Plan. Climate Action Plan 23-26 has been developed alongside the Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan 27-30 will be developed in 2026.

### Vision

A climate-resilient Rother where communities are well-equipped to deal with the challenges of climate change and are no longer contributing to global warming.

### Aim

The aim of this strategy is to enable, encourage, and accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across the district.

### Objectives

1. The built environment will be low carbon and climate resilient.
2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport, or in a low/zero carbon vehicle.
3. The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy.
4. Nature will be in recovery across the district.
5. Clean, renewable energy will be produced locally.

## Introduction

To tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, the strategy to reduce emissions and create a cleaner, greener, more equitable district must evolve. The strategy review, carried out in 2022/23 in partnership with stakeholders and the wider community, has resulted in the Climate Strategy. This document sets out how the Council will use its powers and influence to make the district climate-resilient and reduce emissions to net zero, by 2030.

## Background

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the 2023 [AR6 report](#) demonstrates global warming is likely to exceed 1.5°C well before 2050 with the existing policies and laws currently in place. The burning of fossil fuels and deforestation is causing an unprecedented increase in global temperatures.

The impacts of climate change can be seen all around us. Unlike the Covid-19 pandemic which had a devastating, sudden impact, the impact of climate change has been less visible however scientists predict we are nearing the tipping point. We are seeing an increase in flooding, droughts, and extremes in temperature. In 2022 the UK saw the warmest year on

record with temperatures reaching above 40 degrees and the average annual temperature passing 10 degrees for the first time.

In 2019, in response to the climate crisis, the UK Government passed legislation to achieve net zero by 2050. This aligned with the commitments of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. The Government committed to halting its contribution to global warming and lead the way in clean growth.

The Council shared the Government's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On 16th September 2019 RDC formally declared a Climate Emergency at Full Council and committed to:

*Pledge to do what is within our powers, to make Rother District carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.*

In 2020 the Council's response to the Climate Emergency was developed in consultation with local partners and residents. On 21st September 2020, the Environment Strategy 2020 was adopted by the Council. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the publication of the Action Plan, but significant steps have been taken by the Council to reduce emissions both across the district and operationally. Full details of these actions can be seen on the Council's Climate Emergency [webpage](#).

Climate Emergency declarations and Local Authority Environment Strategies were relatively new in 2019/20. Climate science and public awareness has increased considerably in the relatively short time since. The pandemic has also changed our lives in many ways and the public response demonstrates how quickly behaviour can change when resourced and motivated.

There has been a growing awareness of the Ecological Emergency we face with devastating biodiversity loss and species decline. The Climate and Ecological Emergencies are distinct but intrinsically linked. Restoring, protecting, and enhancing nature can remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it. Nature-based solutions such as natural flood management are highly effective ways to adapt to the changing climate and create a more sustainable landscape.

This Strategy will be reviewed at intervals and progress against the Climate Action Plan 2023-26 will be reported annually. The Climate Action Plan is a working document. Action planning for 2026-2030 will be presented in due course taking into consideration progress on the present Climate Action Plan 2023-26 and technological advancements.

Rother's carbon footprint is reported [annually](#) and a summary of the findings has been included in this document. This baseline data identifies key sources of emissions which need to be prioritised for decarbonisation. The evidence base has also been used to select action areas to improve biodiversity, opportunities to lock up carbon through sequestration and generate clean, local energy.

# Rother's Carbon Footprint

## District-wide emissions

In 2019, the district-wide carbon footprint for Rother was 448.87 kilotonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e). This is to be considered the baseline year, against which reductions are measured, as this is the year the Council made the Climate Emergency Declaration.

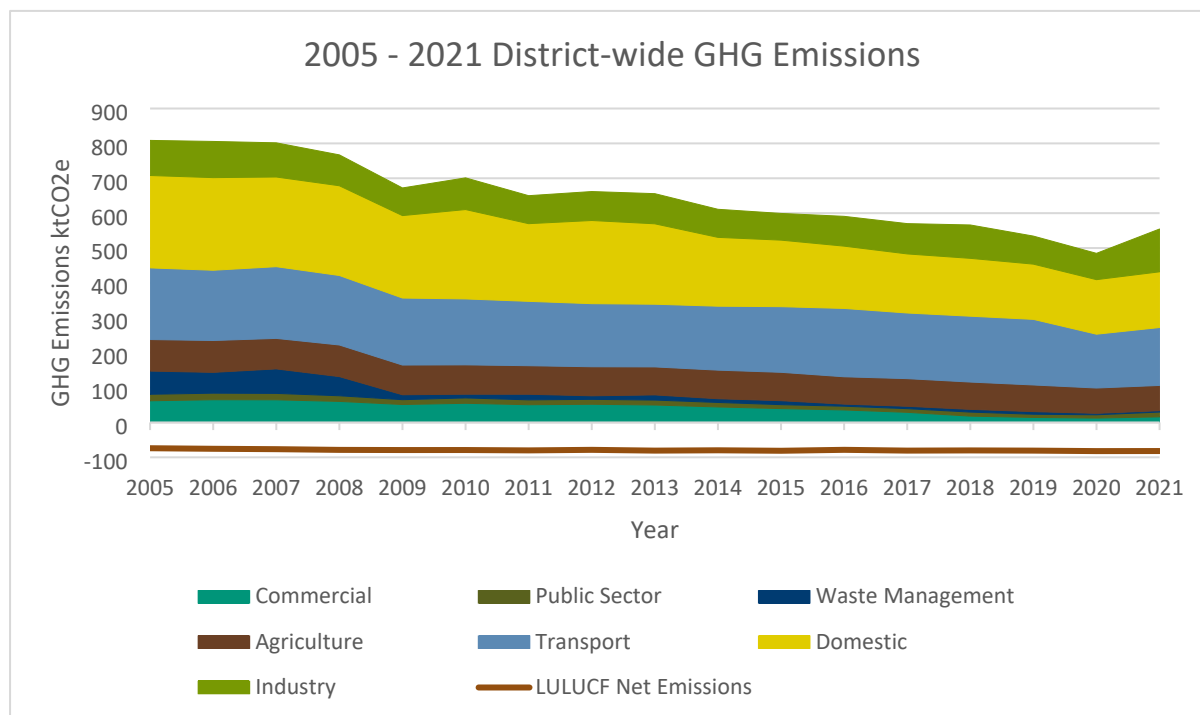


Figure 1: District-wide carbon emissions by sub-sector from 2005 - 2021 for Rother (Source: DESNZ 2023)

Emissions have been steadily decreasing across Rother since 2005. This is mostly due to the decarbonisation of the national grid. The government has set a 2035 target for the national grid to be fossil fuel free.

Each year the government publishes UK local authority and regional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions. The statistics use nationally available data sets going back to 2005 and cover territorial emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the breakdown of emissions by sector in Rother from 2005 – 2021.

In 2021, Rother had a carbon footprint of 472.6 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e, up 15% on 2020 and up 4% on 2019. Emissions have risen between 2020 and 2021 across all parts of the UK and Rother is no exception. This is mainly due to an increase in industrial emissions and post-COVID transport emissions which has been seen across the county and nationally. Transport emissions have however remained below pre-COVID levels.

Industrial emissions have seen a particular increase across the country with 85% of local authorities experiencing an increase. This increase is largely from industrial gas usage.

Transport, domestic, and industrial emissions are responsible for 90% of Rother's emissions. Tackling the emissions from where we live, work, and how we travel will be the focus of this Climate Strategy.

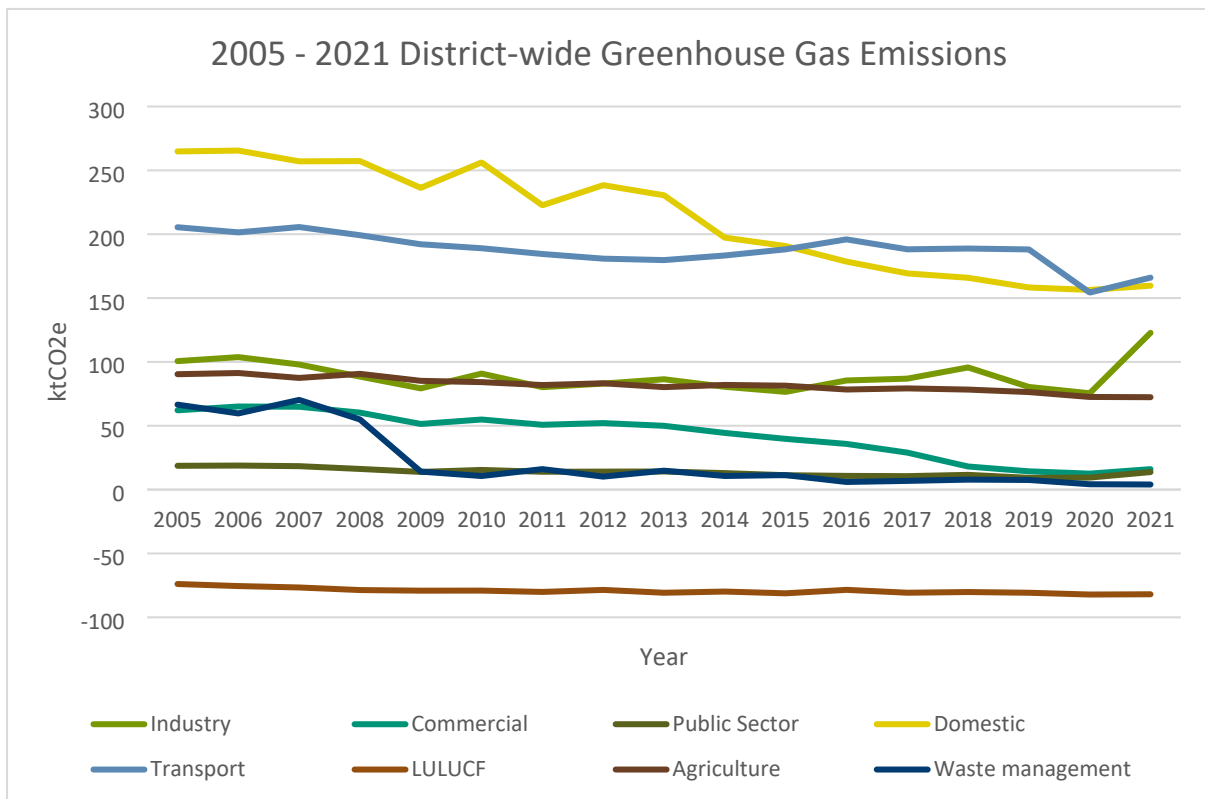


Figure 2: Rother's GHG emissions by sub-sector

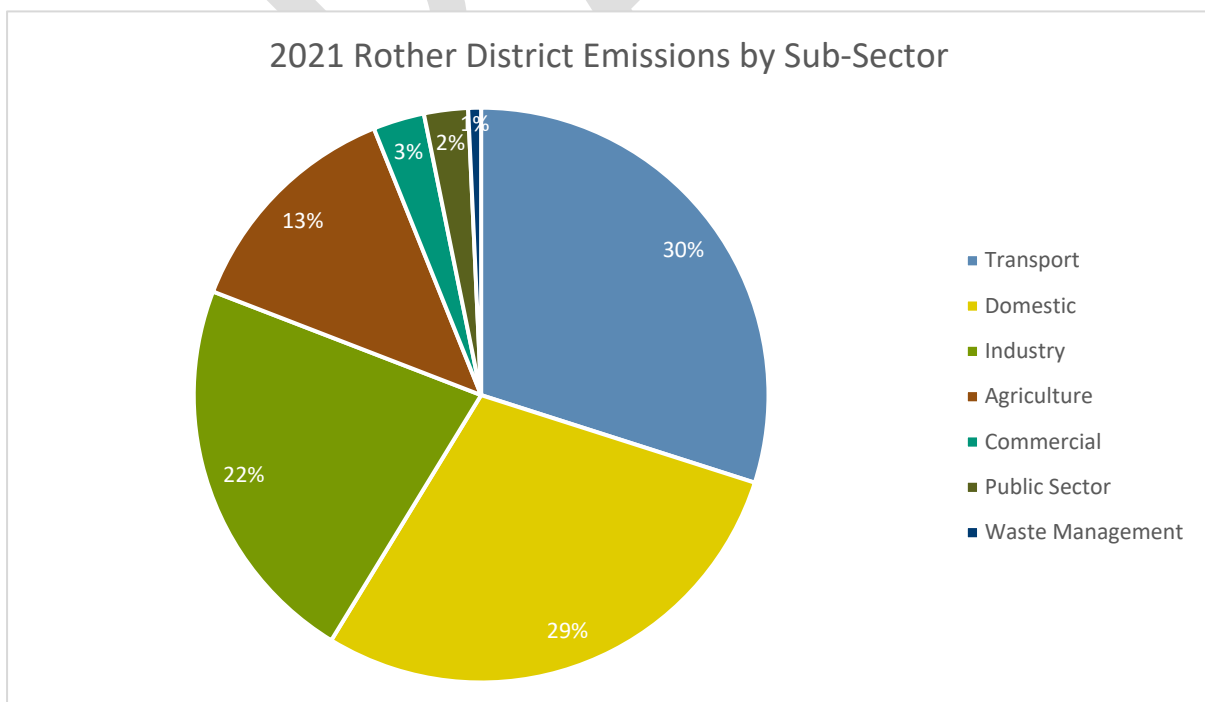


Figure 3: Rother District's 2021 Emissions shown by sub-sector



### Rother District Council operational emissions

The Council has published Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22. Scope 3 emissions from the waste contract, leisure centres, and indirect operational activities such as business mileage were included for the first time in the 22/23 reporting. The full 2022/23 annual report can be seen on the Council's Climate Emergency [webpages](#). The Council set its baseline accounting year as 2019/20. This aligns with the year the Council made the Climate Emergency Declaration and gives a pre-covid figure. Emissions dropped significantly in 2020 due to multiple lockdowns and a 2020/21 baseline would not be a true reflection of emissions without lockdowns.

Scope 1 – emissions released as a direct result of an activity such as fuel for heating boilers and the fuel burned in council-owned fleet vehicles.

Scope 2 – emissions released as an indirect consumption of energy. For a local authority, this is purchased grid electricity used in its operations.

Scope 3 – all other indirect emissions that occur from activities upstream or downstream of an organisation.

Scope 3 emission reporting is relatively new and methodologies for accurate calculations are still emerging. From 22/23, the Council reports on the Scope 3 emissions it can accurately obtain. This includes emissions from the waste fleet, leisure services, staff business mileage, and water consumption in council-operated buildings. Staff commuting will be included in Scope 3 emissions, but it should be noted these emissions will be estimates. The Council supports remote working. Staff are not required to formally record how often they travel to work and the method of transport. An employee commuting survey was carried out in spring 2023, the results of which have been used to calculate baseline emissions.

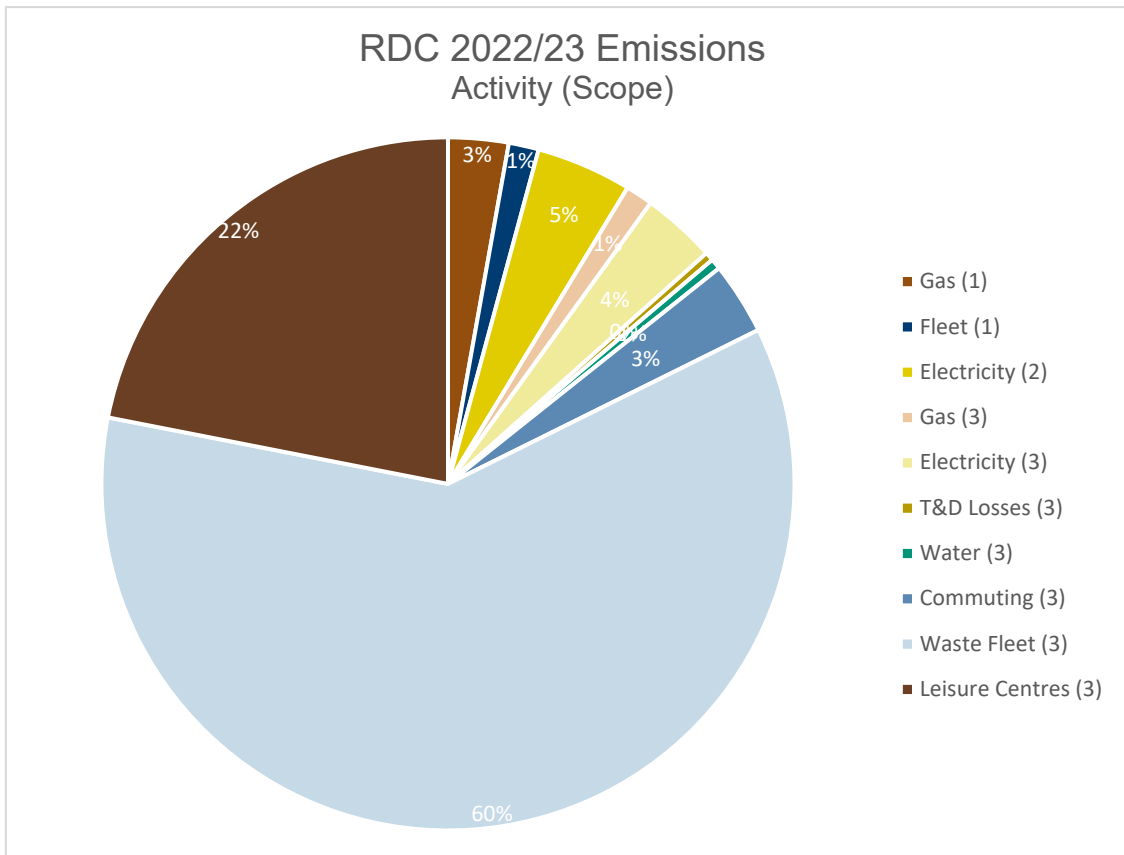


Figure 4 Rother District Council's 22/23 Emissions by Activity (Scope)

Scope 3 emissions account for over 90% of the Council's carbon footprint in 22/23. The Council does not have direct control over these emissions but can use its influence through policy and procurement to reduce these emissions. Most Scope 3 emissions are also district-wide emissions.

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has calculated the rate of emission reduction required by Local Authority areas to do their fair share in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The report presents a carbon budget for the district divided into five-year periods and recommends that district-wide emissions should be reduced by 13.8% annually to stay within the carbon budget.

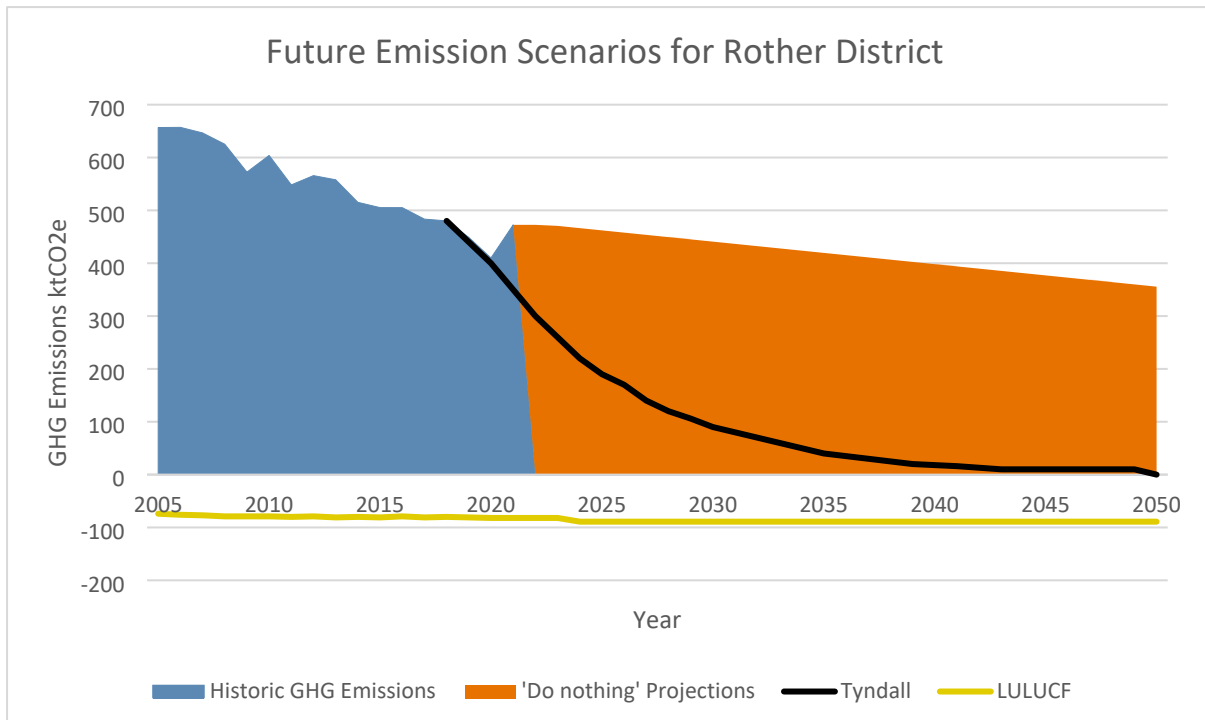


Figure 5 Future Emission Trajectories for Rother

To reduce emissions to net zero, RDC's operational emissions should be reduced by 50% annually. Organisational Scope 1 and 2 emissions are on track (Figure 6), but Scope 3 emissions are not currently (Figure 7). It should be noted that decarbonising Scope 3 emissions will happen in large steps and as such the decarbonisation trajectory is a long-term guide. Switching the refuse fleet from diesel to a low-carbon alternative will result in a reduction of almost 60% in Scope 3 emissions at 22/23 levels.

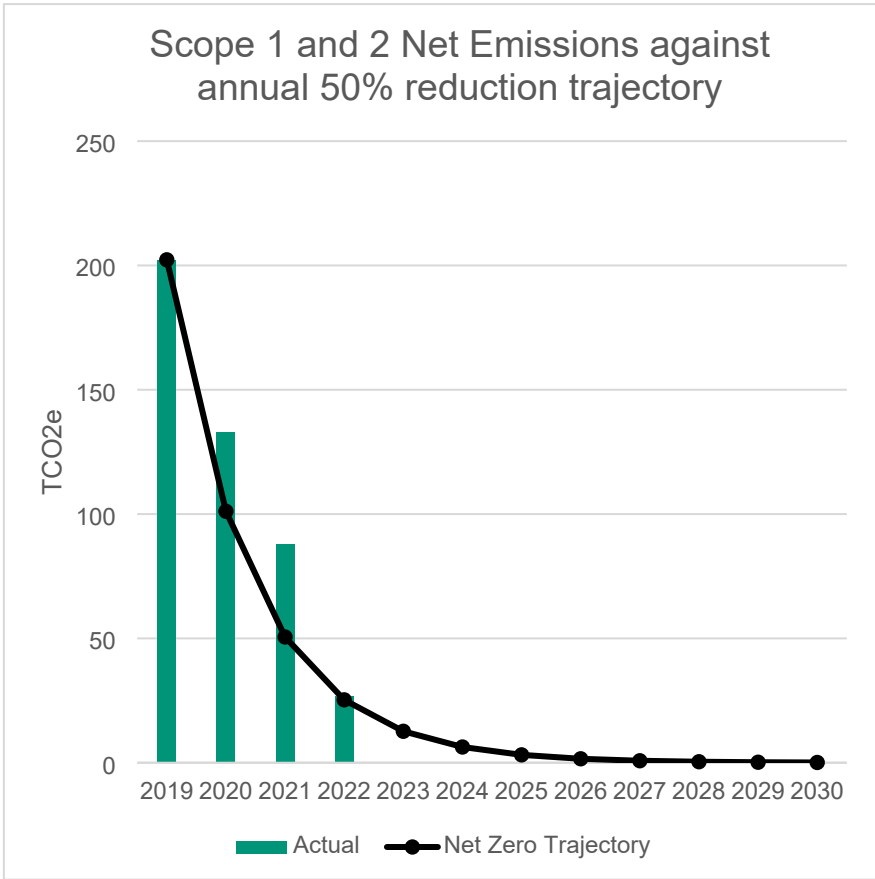


Figure 6 Organisational Scope 1&2 emissions against net zero trajectory

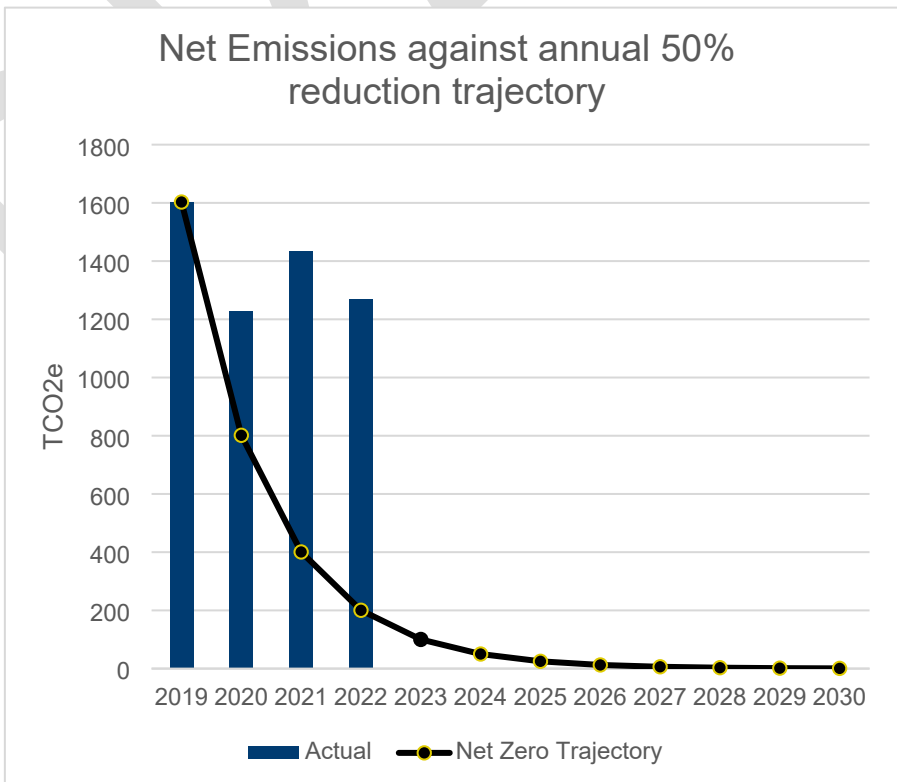


Figure 7 Organisational Scope 1,2 &3 emissions against net zero trajectory

## Climate Resilient Communities

The Council's vision of climate resilience stems from the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Climate-resilient communities are no longer contributing to global warming, and they are prepared for the changes yet to come from decades of past greenhouse gas emissions.

We each have a role to play and through mitigation, we will reduce the future impacts of climate change. By reducing the release of greenhouse gases into the earth's atmosphere, we can limit future global warming. Through climate adaptation, we can be prepared for the effects of climate change which are yet to come.

Climate-resilient communities are engaged and understand the power they have collectively and as individuals to bring about change. Research carried out by the IPCC in 2023 suggests 'society could deliver 40 – 70% of low carbon transformation through demand reduction and behavioural change'. In Rother, we are fortunate to have many experienced individuals and community groups already working towards building climate-resilient communities. The Council's Climate Strategy looks to build upon these foundations and drive further action.

## The Role of Local Authorities

Local authorities play a crucial role in achieving the UK's net zero greenhouse gas emissions target. Through policies and partnerships, local authorities have a strong influence on more than a third of emissions in the local area. Local authorities can also lead by example, decarbonising public buildings and reducing emissions across the area.

There are significant challenges ahead and the Skidmore review highlights the need for a 'step change in the government's approach'. There is, however, no time to delay and whilst the route to net zero will require all of us to take personal responsibility, local authorities have a particularly important role to play.

With only seven years left until 2030, the date by which the Council aims to be i as an organisation and as a district, the Council recognises the scale of the challenge. However, the pandemic response demonstrates how communities can dramatically change their behaviour when supported by the right policies.

## UK Policy Context

Since the adoption of the Environment Strategy (2020), there have been several key policy and legislative changes that support the Council's climate ambitions. These are presented below and should be included in addition to the policy context presented in the Environment Strategy (2020).

In December 2020 the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published the [Sixth Carbon Budget](#) which made recommendations to help the UK reach net zero emissions by 2050. One of the actions was to deliver a 78% reduction in emissions from 1990 to 2035.

The [Environment Act 2021](#) is the UK's framework for environmental protection. The Act offers new powers to set binding targets for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste

reduction. The Act sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services as well as new statutory duties on nature recovery.

At COP26 the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) was adopted. This package of decisions was agreed upon by all countries who signed the Paris Agreement and aims to turn the 2020s into a decade of climate action and support.

In 2021 the Government published the [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#). This is a 10-point plan for a green economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19. The plan includes the decarbonisation pathway to net zero by 2050, policies and proposals to reduce emissions in each sector, and cross-cutting action to support the transition.

[Nature Positive 2030](#) was published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 2021. The report highlights the critical role of nature recovery and the critical role the UK's nature conservation bodies can make in the recovery of the UK's nature.

The Climate Change Committee's [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk](#) provides advice to the Government for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3). The UK Government is required to publish a CCRA every five years under the 2008 Climate Change Act.

In 2022 the Government published the [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) which outlines the key climate change risks and opportunities the UK faces.

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Progress Report to Parliament](#) is a statutory report providing an overview of the UK Government's progress to date in reducing emissions. This report noted the risks to meeting the UK's net zero target and the national policy changes needed to mitigate those risks.

In January 2023, Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP published [Mission Zero: Independent Review of Net Zero](#) – The former Energy Minister led an independent review of the government's approach to delivering its net zero target. The review presented opportunities and benefits to individuals and the economy alongside recommendations to deliver on this target.

The [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) was also published in January 2023. This builds on the Government's 25 Year Environmental Plan from 2018 and sets out how the Government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to improve the environment in England.

The Government published the third [National Adaptation Programme](#) (NAP3) in July 2023. The report presents the Government's approach to protecting society from the impacts of climate change. Key elements of the programme include protecting the natural environment, supporting businesses in adapting to climate change, adapting infrastructure, protecting buildings and their surroundings, protecting public health and communities, and mitigating international impacts on the UK.

## Opportunities and Challenges for Rother

Building climate-resilient communities is a challenge and Rother is no exception. In the past three years, we have experienced a global pandemic, an energy crisis, an ongoing housing crisis, and a cost-of-living crisis all whilst coping with the increasing impacts of climate change.

As with the intertwined Climate and Ecological Emergencies, the impacts of climate change will continue to exacerbate the challenges society faces. As resources become scarcer and prices rise, it will be those who are less financially able to cope who will feel the effects the hardest. The Council is committed to ensuring an equitable transition to a low-carbon future and will ensure all future projects are assessed in terms of their social and climatic impact.

Alongside climate risks are the opportunities a transition to a low-carbon society will provide. Often referred to as co-benefits, these include enhanced health and wellbeing, economic and ecological benefits as well as greater energy security.

In 2022, the government published the latest CCRA3 which considered 61 climate risks and opportunities for the UK. All 61 risks and opportunities are applicable to Rother. The demography and character of the district make temperature increase, rising sea levels, increased flooding, energy security, and ecological collapse particularly relevant.

### Health and wellbeing

Hotter summers are a greater risk to health for the elderly and the very young. The 2021 census results show almost a third of Rother residents are age 65+ (32.3%), ranking second highest in the country. Rother also has the second highest proportion of over 85s in the country. By comparison, 20.7% of the Hastings population is aged 65+. East Sussex County Council estimates the population of Rother to increase by approximately 12.5% by 2035. The number of households aged 65+ is anticipated to increase by up to 37%. This means more households will be dependent on the working-age population.

An increasingly dependent population will have a knock-on effect on climate resilience as older people can be more adversely affected by climate change. The elderly are more likely to suffer from extremes in temperatures and an increase in single occupancy homes with low income are less likely to be able to afford to make the necessary changes to their homes.

The health and wellbeing co-benefits associated with climate action are numerous and well-documented. Changes to methods of transport will improve air quality, physical, and mental health. Better insulated and ventilated homes are also known to improve health and wellbeing.

### Economy and Energy Security

Climate change can have a financial impact on residents, businesses, and the Council. Risks including more intense, extreme weather events such as river and coastal flooding, higher temperatures, drought, or intense rainfall, are already causing disruptions. In 2022, the district saw businesses and school closures due to disruptions to the water supply following severe storms. Businesses were affected by the extreme heat and residents were put under

hosepipe bans to deal with water shortages. Flooding also adversely affects parts of the district with local businesses and residents feeling the impact.

The economic impacts of climate change could lead to further inequality as those most vulnerable are often the least able to make changes to their homes, enjoy access to nature, and enjoy a good quality of life. In 2022, Friends of the Earth identified 20 energy crisis hotspots in Rother. These communities are those most affected by soaring energy prices with high energy usage and lower than average household income.

Adapting to changes in the climate can build resilience, provide opportunities, and support long-term growth. The National Adaptation Program (NAP3) identifies supporting businesses to adapt to climate change as one of the top priorities and businesses of all sizes are realising the benefits of moving to a low-carbon economy.

The energy crisis has shown how vulnerable we are as a society to international energy pricing and supply. Huge increases in energy bills saw families fall into fuel poverty, businesses forced to close, and slowed economic growth. Locally produced renewable energy is an opportunity to reduce bills and build energy security across the district.

Other economic opportunities relating to the low-carbon transition include new green jobs in Rother. It is estimated over 700 new jobs will be required to meet renewable energy and decarbonisation demand in [Rother](#) by 2030. By 2050 this figure is estimated to rise to over 1,100 jobs.

## Flooding

There have been many recorded flood incidents across Rother in the last 10 years and increased flooding from rivers and surface water, as well as increased coastal flooding, are among the climate-related risks identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.

There are fluvial, tidal, fluvial/tidal, and coastal flood defences located along most of the coastline and main watercourses in the district. East Sussex County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, sets conditions to ensure surface water management and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is included in development proposals.

The Council enforces flooding-related policies to mitigate flooding. The policies are informed by the [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2021](#) which relates to both the current risk of flooding from rivers and surface water and where available the potential effects of future climate change.

## Our coastal community

Rother is a coastal district with half the population living in Bexhill-on-Sea. All future projections carried out by the Met Office in the [UK Climate Projections](#) (UKCP18) report (2023) show some degree of sea level rise and, as the Coastal Protection Authority, the Council is responsible for managing the District's coastline. The Environment Agency is the body responsible for carrying out works to prevent flooding of land that lies lower than the shoreline, which includes parts of the district. There is a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the area which sets out the strategy for managing the coastline. The SMP policy for the coastline which includes Rother is to Hold the Line in all areas except that of:



- a) Cliffe End to Fairlight Cove and Fairlight Cove West where there is a no intervention policy.
- b) Fairlight Cove East and Central where there is a managed realignment policy.

The discharging of sewage into the sea has been a problem nationally for many years and came under increasing public scrutiny in 2022. The health of our coast is not only important for nature and biodiversity, but it also plays an integral part in the local economy. The local economy is reliant on tourism, a sector which was hit particularly hard by the Covid response, and which is only just emerging. A decline in tourism due to a decrease in bathing water quality would be detrimental to a recovering sector.

## Ecology

The Ecological Emergency is closely linked to the Climate Emergency. Climate change is one of the top causes of habitat loss and habitat loss is further driving climate change. Nature, when given the space to do so, plays a key role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Our natural environment can lock up carbon, store water, provide cooling shelter and more.

Much of the district falls under environmental protection with 82% of the district covered by the High Weald AONB and a further 7% covered by other protected status including SSSI and European Protected Designations. The High Weald AONB Management Plan is a statutory guide for conserving the nationally important landscape and provides a framework for addressing the major issues faced including food and energy security, housing provision, biodiversity and climate change resilience, and the transition to the low carbon economy. The Council has formally adopted the High Weald AONB Management Plan and continues to collaborate with the High Weald AONB Partnership Team.

The High Weald AONB has some of the darkest skies in the Southeast but light pollution is a growing issue. Light pollution negatively impacts wildlife and affects people's health and wellbeing. Dark Skies policies will be integrated into the next High Weald AONB Management Plan and the Council's Local Plan.

Along the coast, the district is covered by a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Beachy Head East, and a Special Protected Area (SPA) with marine components which extends from Bexhill along the coast past Dungeness. The ecological status of the coastline from Beachy Head to Dungeness was classified as 'Moderate' in 2019.

The district includes two river catchments, the Rother and the Cuckmere. These rivers are fed by tributary rivers and streams across the area. Research carried out by The Rivers Trust in 2019 highlighted the condition of all rivers in the UK. Only two streams and one tributary in the district were categorised as 'good' with the remainder categorised as 'moderate', 'poor' or in 'bad' condition. Factors contributing to these results include sewage, pollution, chemical pollution, climate change, habitat loss, drought and water scarcity, and flooding.

Trees, hedgerows, healthy undisturbed soils, and grasslands naturally capture and store carbon dioxide, making them incredibly important tools in the fight against climate change. The right trees in the right places can help us to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon, but they can also help us to adapt to the changing climate. Trees help to reduce

flood risk, provide shade and UV protection, trees prevent soil erosion, and act as windbreaks and sound barriers. Access to trees and green spaces benefits health and wellbeing and trees provide habitats for nature.

In 2021 the Council published the Urban Tree Forest 1066 report on the structure and composition of its urban forest in Bexhill. The Council subsequently commissioned Treeconomics to produce a Tree Planting Strategy for Bexhill. The aim of the Tree Planting Strategy is to increase tree cover in the urban area and ensure equitable access to all in Bexhill.

## Transport

Emissions from transport equate to a third of Rother’s carbon footprint. This is not unusual for a rural district and the reduction of these emissions is a key priority for Rother. The district does not have any motorways, but most transport emissions come from A roads. A low-carbon Rother will require improved infrastructure for walking and wheeling, better public transport, and more electric vehicle (EV) charging points to support residents and encourage behavioural change. The number of EVs registered in Rother in 2022 was more than double the number registered in 2020 (Figure 8).

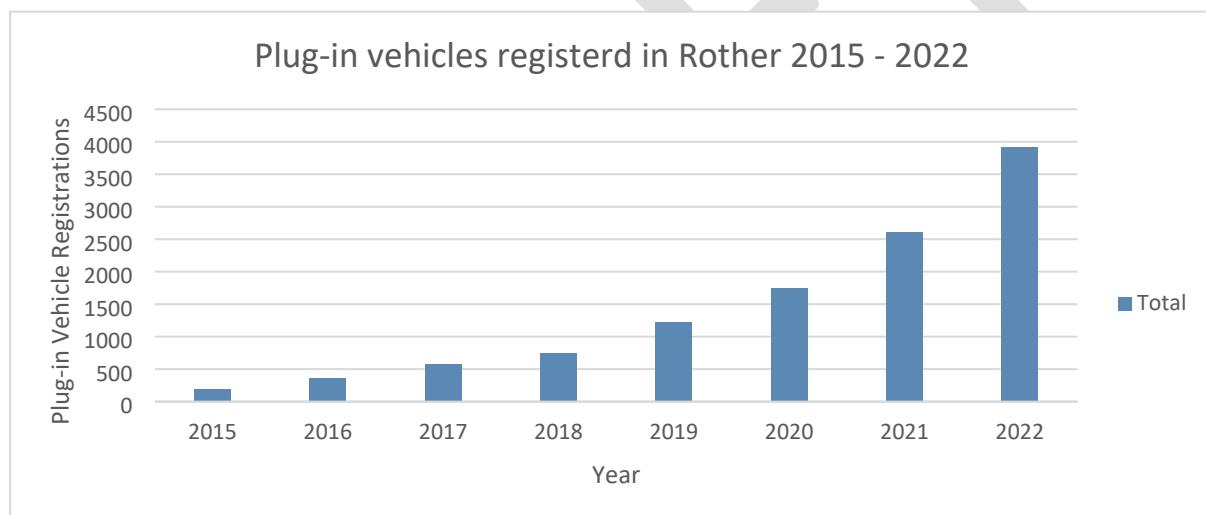


Figure 8 Plug-in vehicles registered in Rother (Source: DVLA)

The government has committed to reducing transport emissions to net zero by 2050. In response to this commitment, the government has published several key documents including [Decarbonising Transport: A better, greener Britain](#); [Transitioning to zero emission cars and vans: 2035 delivery plan](#); the [UK electric vehicle infrastructure strategy](#).

East Sussex County Council is the Local Transport Authority (LTA), responsible for the Local Transport Plan (LTP). The LTP is integral to the decarbonisation of transport in Rother as it establishes the transport policies and priorities for the County. Net zero carbon is a key priority of the developing LTP4 which will run from 2023 – 2050.

## Air Quality

The air quality in Rother is generally good. When there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of an air quality objective, local authorities are required to declare an Air

Quality Management Area (AQMA) and establish an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). There are no AQMAs within the district and no formal AQAPs. Full details about the Council’s air quality monitoring can be found in the annual [Rother Air Quality Reports](#).

The Council continues to focus on improving air quality across the district and the transition to a low-carbon society will accelerate this work. Cleaner air is a well-recognised co-benefit of decarbonising transport. Air quality in homes will also be improved through retrofitting and switching to low-carbon heating.

### Rother Climate Action

We are fortunate in Rother to have many community groups and individuals who have been taking climate action for decades. This Strategy recognises the opportunity to build upon this local action and engage all residents, businesses, and organisations. The impacts of climate change are being felt by everyone and we together we can have a greater impact.

Established groups such as Rother Environmental Group, Bexhill Environmental Group and Energise Sussex Coast have long been raising awareness and taking action. More recently we have seen increased interest from Parish and Town Councils, the forming of new environmental groups and new ‘Wild About’ groups appearing across the district.

### Local Offsetting

To meet the net zero ambitions of the Council, it is likely offsetting will be required for residual emissions. When considering offsetting it is important to consider the mitigation hierarchy of calculate, avoid, reduce, and finally offset. Without the hierarchy, offsetting can be seen as a license to emit with organisations relying on carbon credits instead of decarbonising.

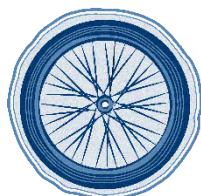
As such, the Council’s offsetting policy will be developed in the 2026-30 Climate Action Plan once organisational emissions have been reduced. The policy will prioritise local, nature-based solutions for the benefit of residents and the environment.

### Action Areas

The emissions data, along with the Rother-specific challenges and opportunities discussed above has identified five action areas for the refreshed Climate Strategy. Emissions from buildings, transport, and resource consumption need to be drastically reduced whilst biodiversity enhancements and clean energy generation provide opportunities for nature recovery, carbon sequestration and avoiding emissions. Each action area contains Rother-specific opportunities and challenges.



**BUILDINGS AND  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**



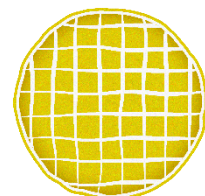
**TRANSPORT**



**RESOURCE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND WASTE**



**BIODIVERSITY  
AND LAND USE**



**ENERGY  
GENERATION**

## Guiding Principles

The Climate Strategy is ambitious, and the Council has developed the following Guiding Principles to direct the delivery. The Guiding Principles ensure the Council is using its position and influence to lead by example, work in partnership and ensure no one is left behind. The Council recognises the scale of the challenge and the role it plays in encouraging behavioural change across the district.

The impacts of climate change are not felt equally across society and the Council recognises it is often those who have contributed the least who are less able to afford the changes required. The [carbon footprint](#) of parishes varies across the district with more affluent areas responsible for greater emissions. Those least able to afford energy efficiency measures to their homes are often those most in need.

Act now	Work in partnership	Continuously improve	Communicate impact	Be Fair
The Council recognises the urgency and will take action commensurate to the challenge.	The Council recognises its own limitations and the scale of the challenge. The Council will continue to work in partnership to achieve its goals.	The Council will measure, review and update the Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan regularly to ensure it remains relevant and effective.	The Council will communicate its impact and climate action to encourage others.	The Council will ensure the transition is fair. This means ensuring the benefits of climate action are accessible to all and no one is excluded.

## Funding Rother Climate Action

Funding local authority climate action is a challenge. The Skidmore review and UK100's [Powers in Place](#) report alongside many others have highlighted the problems with the current funding mechanisms. Climate action is not a statutory requirement and funding thus far has been on a competition basis which favours those authorities who are more advanced with their net zero journey.

Like many local authorities, RDC is under financial pressure to deliver with increasing demand for services and rising inflation. The Council has an Environment Strategy budget to coordinate and deliver operational and district-wide emission reduction, but it will need to secure alternative funding to deliver on the ambitious 2030 target.

The Council has introduced the Climate Emergency Bonus Fund, ringfencing 20% of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for eligible projects that have distinct environmental benefits. Community groups and charitable organisations are able to apply to

the Rother Reduce, Re-use, Recycle Grants scheme to fund projects which reduce waste in the district.

Government grants, when they become available, are also sought by the Council to deliver climate action. Shared purchase schemes, private finance, and community crowd-funding initiatives will also be required to fund delivery.

## Our Climate Strategy

### Vision

A climate-resilient Rother where communities are well-equipped to deal with the challenges of climate change and are no longer contributing to global warming.

### Aim

The aim of this strategy is to enable, encourage, and accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across the district to net zero by 2030.

### Objectives

1. The built environment will be low carbon and climate resilient.
2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport, or in a low/zero carbon vehicle.
3. The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy.
4. Nature will be in recovery across the district.
5. Renewable energy will be produced locally.

Vision	A climate-resilient Rother where communities are well equipped to deal with the changing climate and are no longer contributing to global warming				
Overall Impact Measure	Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduced to net zero and nature in recovery across the district				
Action Area	Buildings and Energy Efficiency	Transport	Resource Consumption and Waste	Biodiversity and Land Use	Energy Generation
Objectives	1. Built environment will be low carbon and climate resilient	2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport or EV	3. The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy	4. Nature will be in recovery across the district	5. Renewable energy will be produced locally

## Buildings and Energy Efficiency

### The Challenge

Most buildings already in place will still be here in 2050 and almost all of them will require some degree of retrofitting to be net zero. There are over 42,000 homes in Rother and the way we heat and power our homes accounts for 32% of emissions in 2021. Added to this are

commercial, industrial, public sector and agricultural buildings. Decarbonising the built environment is an enormous challenge.

Rother has a highly valued historic environment with over 2,000 listed buildings and many non-designated historic buildings such as farmsteads. Listed buildings can present more challenges for decarbonisation, but guidance and case studies are available from Historic England.

The district has a much higher proportion of owner occupancy and much lower proportion of social housing compared to the regional, county, and national average. The 2021 census, in Rother district, shows 72.7% owner occupied - including mortgages, 10.2% social rented and 17.1% private rented including shared ownership. The tenure composition for the district will influence what funding mechanisms are available to support decarbonisation.

Over two-thirds of domestic properties in Rother have a gas central heating system with the remainder described as off-gas. The remaining 30% is broken down into properties with two or more fuel types, not including renewables (10%), electric heating, either storage heaters, heat pumps, underfloor heating, or electric boilers (10%), and almost 8% are fuelled by oil. Decarbonising off-gas properties is a priority as oil, LPG and gas are both high emitters of greenhouse gasses and they are expensive to run. Residents and businesses fuelled by these sources are more susceptible to volatile energy prices and the buildings are often less energy efficient due to their age.

The population of Rother is predicted to increase by 12.5% in the period between 2020 and 2035. A key challenge to becoming net zero will be managing this growth through the planning system. New housing and commercial buildings will need to be zero carbon and climate resilient. With the projected climate changes, buildings will need to be designed to prevent overheating and increased flood risk.

To meet the demands of decarbonising the built environment, we need to address the green skills gap. The workforce in Rother is not yet equipped to deal with the scale of the decarbonisation required. This is a nationwide challenge, and the government is being urged to develop a skills strategy.

The Council will focus on reducing emissions from existing buildings through retrofitting following the energy hierarchy, sometimes known as the 'fabric-first' approach. This entails reducing the demand for energy and increasing energy efficiency before considering a switch to a decarbonised form of heating.

## Our Approach

### Reducing District Emissions

We will ensure new domestic and non-domestic buildings are climate-resilient and policies in the emerging Local Plan positively plan for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The government regularly awards funding for decarbonisation projects which target low-income households and the public sector estate. Where applicable, the Council will bid for this funding and deliver projects across the district.

In 2021, The Climate Emergency Bonus Fund was introduced, setting aside a percentage of the Community Infrastructure Levy for eligible projects that have distinct environmental benefits. To date this fund has been used to improve the energy efficiency of community buildings across the district and improve the environmental credentials of other community assets. We will continue to use this fund to encourage further decarbonisation of community infrastructure.

### Reducing Council Emissions

The Council will continue to retrofit operational buildings to improve energy efficiency and where suitable, solar PV will be installed. Once the energy performance of the buildings has been improved, and at the end of existing plant life, gas boilers will be replaced for low carbon heating alternatives.

Responsibility for energy efficiency measures in leased buildings lies with the tenant however the Council will work with businesses to raise awareness and promote funding opportunities for businesses in Rother looking to take climate action.

A retrofit program will support local jobs and businesses addressing the current skills gap across the sector.

**Objective 1. The built environment will be low carbon and climate resilient.**

**Output 1.1 Mass retrofit of existing buildings**

**Output 1.2 New buildings are net zero or carbon negative**

## Transport

### The Challenge

Transport has been the largest-emitting sector in the UK since 2015, accounting for 26% of total UK emissions in 2021. In Rother, transport was responsible for 166 ktCO<sub>2</sub>, 30% of all emissions in 2021. As a council with a small fleet, 19.05 tCO<sub>2</sub>e were emitted as Scope 1 emissions in 22/23 and an estimated 45.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e commuter mileage in 22/23 and 41.04 tCO<sub>2</sub>e business mileage in 21/22. Business mileage data for 22/23 was not available at time of writing.

Rother is a rural district, with 50% of the population living in the main urban area of Bexhill. 84% of households in Rother have access to one or more vehicle with 12.7% of household with three or more vehicles and 16% with no vehicles. The coastal town is linked east-west to Hastings and Eastbourne via the A259 and to the north via the A21. By rail the East Coastway route provides links to Brighton and Kent and the Hastings line links to London. Bus services in Rother are provided by Stagecoach and several community bus partnerships that receive funding from East Sussex County Council (ESCC). ESCC recently received £41.4m to implement the [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#).

ESCC is the Local Transport Authority (LTA) responsible for developing the Local Transport Plans (LTP). [LTP4](#) is currently in production and will run from 2023 – 2050. LTP4 sets out how the County Council plan to improve transport across the county with net zero carbon, health, wellbeing, and social inclusion, and sustainable economic growth among the top



priorities. RDC is a Stakeholder in the LTP4 and officers actively engage in workshops to ensure the interests of Rother residents are best met.

Although RDC is not the LTA, the Council can use its influence to reduce transport emissions and support the transition to low-zero carbon (LZC) transport across the district.

## Our Approach

### Reducing District Emissions

Spatial policies in the Local Plan will ensure new domestic and non-domestic development is sustainably located to limit new transport emissions and reduce existing emissions. Policies will also be introduced to ensure active travel routes are available and accessible.

The Council will install EV charging points in RDC owned car parks where grid capacity allows. The Council will also provide charging facilities and incentivise EV uptake for staff.

Through grants and partnership working with businesses and community groups, the Council can encourage others to install EV chargers and promote active travel.

### Reducing Council Emissions

The Council leases a small fleet. These vehicles are predominately maintenance vehicles with one 4X4 for the Coastal Team and one Environmental Health vehicle. Switching to EVs upon lease renewal will reduce emissions by approximately 19tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

Whilst the Council cannot force staff to change their personal vehicle, it can incentivise and promote sustainable choices including active travel and public transport. Many local authorities have introduced pool vehicles and salary sacrifice schemes for EVs to reduce business mileage emissions.

Staff commuting habits have changed dramatically since the publication of the Environment Strategy (2020) due to the increase in remote working during the pandemic. Most staff work from Town hall when in the office. Town Hall is well located for public transport with the trainline providing links on the Hastings – Eastbourne line and to the north of the district via a change at St Leonards. Numerous bus services also operate from Bexhill. The 2023 staff commuting survey established 71% of respondents currently commute by private petrol or diesel vehicle. The measures mentioned to reduce business mileage will also reduce commuter mileage.

**Objective 2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do will be on foot, bike, public transport, or in a low/zero carbon vehicle.**

Output 2.1 Sustainable forms of transport supported through the planning system

Output 2.2 Facilitate the transition to LZC vehicles across the district

Output 2.3 A programme of activities to promote active travel across the district



## Resource Consumption and Waste Reduction

### The Challenge

Rother currently sends 0.11% of its waste to landfill with 22.95% composted, 26.18% recycled and 50.75% sent to the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility. Whilst Rother has above average recycling and composting rates, these actions alone are not enough to support a low-carbon transition.

Disposal is only the final part of the process when it comes to resource consumption and waste. To reduce emissions, we must also consider the products we are using, where they come from, the resources required for manufacture, maintenance, use, and the energy used to distribute them.

Resources to be considered include, but are not limited to, water, food, fuel, and building materials. Emissions from services we consume such as leisure, sports, entertainment, and social activities are also to be considered.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) identified climate risks relating to food and water supply. The CCC also identified risks to international supply chains relating to food, clothing, and electronic equipment.

The impact of over-consumption is often not visible in the UK. Many of the products we buy are made overseas and imported. Not only does this result in high emission rates for those countries responsible for the manufacture, but it can also result in deforestation which exacerbates climate change. There is a general public awareness of the role palm oil plays in the deforestation of tropical rainforests, but beef, soy and wood products are also driving deforestation. By supporting locally produced materials and food systems, we can all play our part in ending deforestation.

We need to reduce the volume of resources we consume and transition to a circular economy.

### Our Approach

#### Reducing District Emissions

In 2023, the Council introduced the Rother Reduce, Re-use, Recycle Grants which aims to encourage and fund the move towards a circular economy. Businesses, residents, and community groups can be encouraged to follow sustainable practices relating to resource consumption through a programme of corporate communications and engagement.

Local businesses will be encouraged to consider their own Scope 3 emissions and supported in reducing these wherever possible. A programme of decarbonising Rother's SMEs will be funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Funding allocation.

The Environment Act requires local authorities and residents to make significant changes in relation to waste and reusing resources. Food waste collections will reduce food waste across the district and preparations are underway to introduce this in Rother in line with the Environmental Improvement Plan.

Through the Planning System, the Council will reduce construction waste and encourage the reuse of materials from buildings at the end of life. The new Local Plan will include policies relating to resource use, including sourcing materials, waste, and water.

### Reducing Council Emissions

The introduction of an Environment Management System (EMS) will provide a framework for the Council to reduce its organisational resource consumption and waste. Through the reduction of operational emissions, sustainable procurement policies, supporting local food systems, and raising awareness through corporate communications, the Council can reduce resource-related emissions.

Objective 3. The district will produce less waste and support a thriving circular economy

Output 3.1 Reduced consumption of resources and waste

Output 3.2 Increased repair, reuse and recycling of goods and materials

## Land Use and Biodiversity

### The Challenge

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world having experienced major changes over the past few centuries and particularly the last 50 years according to the [2023 State of Nature Report](#). We know the role nature plays in tackling climate change as well as the broader benefits for people. We also know what is required to restore nature at scale.

As a predominately rural and coastal district, Rother has a heavily protected landscape. 82% falls within the High Weald AONB and a further 7 % is protected by national/international conservation designations. Ancient woodland covers >15% of the district, more than any district in the South East. Rother is also starting from a relatively high baseline in terms of carbon-sequestration due to the high levels of woodland. While there are opportunities for new woodland creation in urban areas, woodland creation within the AONB and designated areas would not necessarily be appropriate. Research carried out by ARUP on behalf of the Council for the new Local Plan evidence base suggests LULUCF will peak and remain stable at 2024 levels.

The Environment Act (2021) introduced a new locally driven approach to expand, improve, and connect places for wildlife across the country, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). East Sussex County Council is responsible for developing the LNRS for the county with support from the Local Planning Authorities which includes RDC. The formal process began in summer 2023 with the final strategy expected in 2025.

As a local planning authority RDC has a statutory 'Biodiversity Duty' which was introduced by the Environment Act, 2021. This means the Council must consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies and specific objectives based on the Council's consideration, and act to deliver the policies and achieve the Council's objectives.

## Our Approach

### Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration for the district

Land with high sequestration potential across the district will be protected and enhanced wherever possible. This will be done through corporate communications and engagement, grant-giving opportunities, and the planning system.

The new Local Plan will include policies which prioritise land use changes which favour GHG removals like new woodland and the sustainable management of existing woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, hedgerows, and arable lands.

The development of the LNRS for Sussex will be supported by the Council and decision-making relating to the LNRS will be strengthened in the Local Plan. If deemed feasible by the Planning Inspectorate, the Council will require 20% Biodiversity Net Gain, going beyond the 10% the legal requirement.

The Council will continue to work in partnership with local conservation organisations, government bodies and the wider community to fund and deliver projects across the district, including land management practices and water health.

### Nature Recovery and carbon sequestration on RDC Assets

The Council will assess RDC-owned green and blue assets and implement a programme to enhance these sites for nature recovery and carbon sequestration. This will include the designation of specific areas for wilding, natural flood management, and tree and hedge planting where appropriate.

Management conditions will be added to new leases of Council-owned land to ensure tenants are actively enhancing the sites for nature.

### Objective 4. Nature will be in recovery across the district

Output 4.1 Halt land and marine species decline

Output 4.2 Increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration

## Energy Generation

### The Challenge

The UK Government has set a target for the electricity system to be fully decarbonised by 2035. At the same time, it is expected electricity demand in the UK will at least double by 2050 compared to usage at 2018 levels. Whilst grid decarbonisation is not currently in line with the Council's 2030 target, it is now occurring rapidly due to the increase in renewable generation. To meet the future demand for electricity, renewable energy will need to be increased at pace.

Locally produced renewable energy and storage can support energy security and reduce exposure to volatile, international fossil fuel price fluctuations. There is the potential for the Council to generate income through renewable energy. The scale of installation will be dependent on grid capacity and network upgrades. UK Power Networks (UKPN) is the main

Distribution Network Operator (DNO) for Rother and the South East, responsible for maintaining and upgrading the electricity network.

The East Sussex Pension Fund, which RDC contributes towards, currently invests in fossil fuels. In 2022 the Council passed a motion to call on the East Sussex Pension Fund to immediately halt new investment in fossil fuels and withdraw its existing investments within the next five years.

The Council will encourage local generation of renewable energy to support future demand.

## Our Approach

### Renewable Energy Across the District

Rother can further support grid decarbonisation by participating in smart energy solutions, shifting, and reducing peak demand and storing excess production.

The Council will encourage domestic renewable energy generation throughout Rother through collective buying schemes such as Solar Together. Decarbonisation support and grant funding will also be provided to businesses.

The Emerging Local Plan will include policies which positively plan for renewable energy and district heat networks. There will also be policies to support community energy including generation.

UKPN are continuing to grow the support they offer local authorities. The Council will work closely with UKPN to ensure the needs of Rother residents and businesses are met.

### Renewable Energy on RDC Assets

The Council switched to a green energy provider in 2021 and has installed solar PV where economically viable on operational buildings as well as several commercially leased properties. The Council will continue to install renewable energy systems where viable on existing and future assets, including leased commercial and residential properties.

Council-owned open spaces such as car parks and agricultural land will be explored for solar potential alongside alternative investment opportunities for renewable energy generation and storage.

### Objective 5. Renewable energy will be produced locally

Output 5.1 Solar PV on all suitable roof space

Output 5.2 Support renewable energy generation

## Appendices

ARUP 2023 Report for the New Local Plan



## Rother District Emissions Report - 2021

### Summary

This report presents the latest data on district-wide, territorial greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for 2005 - 2021, issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNEZ) in June 2023.

In 2021, Rother's territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 472.6 kilotonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e), up 15% on 2020 and 4% on 2019.

Transport was the largest emitting sector, responsible for 30% of emissions in 2021.

The domestic sector was responsible for 29% of emissions and the industrial sector was responsible for 22%.

Most sectors saw a rise in emissions from 2020 to 2021, largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions easing and more heating use due to colder weather. This is consistent with the national picture.

Unlike the national picture, emissions from the industry, commercial, and public sectors have increased above 2019 levels. The increase in the domestic sector above 2019 levels is smaller than the national increase.

Emissions from industry saw the greatest increase above 2019 levels. This has been queried with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNEZ) data team as the reasons are unclear.

### Introduction

This report presents the latest data on district-wide, territorial GHG emissions for 2005 - 2021, issued by DESNEZ in June 2023.

This is the second time all GHG emissions have been reported with figures for carbon dioxide emissions only available prior to June 2022.

The data provided uses nationally available datasets and provides the most reliable and consistent breakdown of GHG emissions. They cover territorial emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Fluorinated gases are not included in regional breakdowns, though they are included in the [UK territorial GHG emissions national statistics](#). The [Technical Report](#) provides the full methodology and dataset.

### Background

In 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to do all that was within its powers to become carbon neutral in Council operations and as a district by 2030.

The government publishes data each year on GHG emissions for each [local authority](#) in the UK, from a range of sectors including Domestic, Transport, Industry, Commercial, Public Sector, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Agriculture, and Waste Management.

The data shows 'territorial' emissions, meaning emissions that occur within the UK's borders. The emissions are allocated on an 'end-user' basis, meaning emissions are distributed according to the point of energy consumption as opposed to where it is generated. Emissions from the production of goods are assigned to where the goods are produced rather than consumed. Emissions from the production of goods which are imported are excluded.

This report uses the 'full' DESNEZ dataset. This excludes the following types of emissions:

- aviation, offshore industry, shipping, and military transport, because they cannot be allocated to local areas in a practical way; and
- emissions from goods manufactured abroad but consumed in the UK, known as 'embedded' emissions, as there is currently no means to show this at a local authority level. The relative proportion of these emissions is probably increasing as the UK economy continues to transition from manufacturing to services.

The following types of emissions are included, even though they are not considered to be under the influence of local authorities: emissions from motorways, large industrial installations in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, diesel trains, and from land use, land use change, and forestry. In Rother, these emissions are minimal, due to the lack of any motorways.

There are some important limitations that users of these estimates should be aware of. These include:

- A proportion of national electricity sales cannot be successfully allocated to specific Local Authorities due to lack of information.
- Road transport emission estimates rely on national road traffic estimates, and the distribution of traffic on minor roads has had to be imputed at a local level from regional level data.
- The local distribution of emissions from sources other than gas, electricity generation, or transport is largely estimated from proxy information such as population or employment data.

The data issued in June 2023 for 2020 and earlier has been updated from the dataset issued last year; this is due to the re-calculation of the 2005 to 2020 estimates to reflect the methodological changes used in calculating the 2021 data. This year's data release does not explain all revisions to the historical data series or the year-on-year changes for each local authority, so the changes are taken at face value.

## **Overview of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Rother in 2021**

In 2021, Rother's district-wide emissions of all three GHGs totalled 472.6 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is an overall increase of 15% on 2020 and an increase of 4% on the baseline year of 2019, as seen in Table 1. Figure 1 shows the total 2021 emissions broken down by sector.

	Emissions ktCO2			CO2e % change from	
	2019	2020	2021	2019 to 2021	2020 to 2021
Rother District	453.5	403	472.6	+4%	+15%

Table 1 Total GHG Emissions (ktCO2e)

Year	Industry	Commercial	Public Sector	Domestic	Transport	LULUCF	Agriculture	Waste Management	Total (ktCO2e)	Per Capita (tCO2e)	Per km <sup>2</sup> (kt CO2e)
2019	80.4	14.3	9.2	158.3	188.1	-80.8	76.4	7.5	453.5	4.8	0.9
2020	75.4	12.5	9.4	156.4	154.3	-82.2	72.6	4.2	402.6	4.3	0.8
2021	122.8	16.0	13.7	159.7	166.0	-82.0	72.4	4.0	472.6	5.1	0.9

Table 2 GHG Emissions (ktCO2e) by Sector

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Research has developed a science-based approach for local authority area-wide carbon targets that align with meeting the UN’s Paris Agreement goal of “limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C”. The method is outlined in the Centre’s [carbon budget tool for local authorities](#). The tool sets an overall area-wide carbon emissions ‘budget’ for local authorities through to 2100 and divides these into a series of 5-year budgets. The Tyndall Centre carbon budget for Rother District sets out the annual carbon reduction required to keep within the respective carbon budgets. For Rother, this equates to a reduction of 13.8% year-on-year.

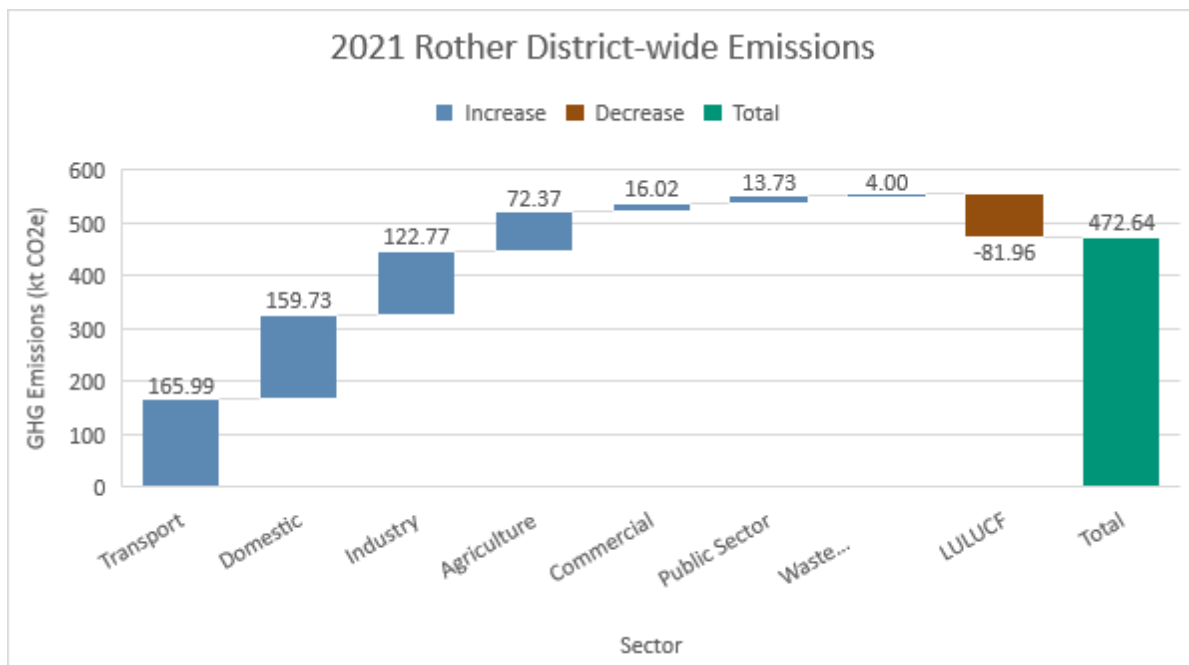


Figure 1 2021 Rother District-wide GHG Emissions by Sector

Since the baseline year of 2019, emissions from Transport, Agriculture and Waste Management have decreased, whereas emissions from Industry, Commercial, Public Sector and Domestic sectors have increased, See Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2. Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) shows an increase in the sequestration of emissions from the baseline year.



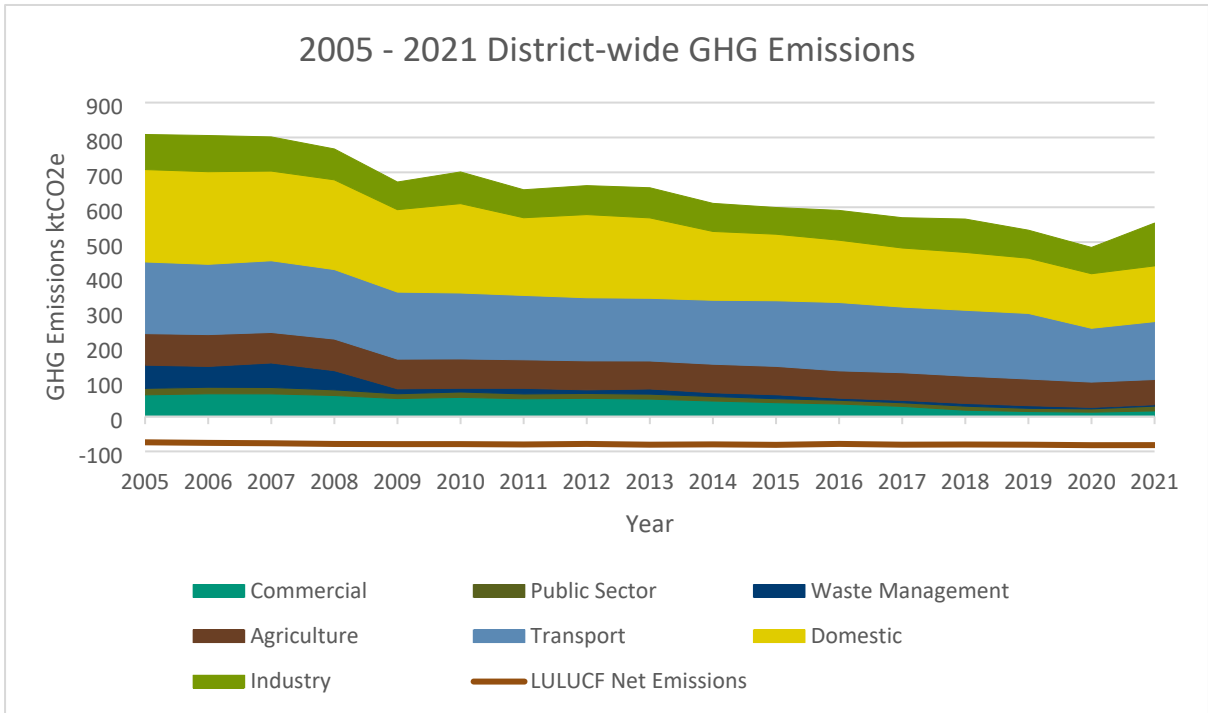


Figure 2 2005 - 2021 District-wide GHG Emissions by Sector

GHG emissions have risen between 2020 and 2021 across all parts of the UK, except for the northeast, and Rother is no exception. The dataset indicates a particularly significant increase in Rother between 2020 and 2021, mostly as a result of a large increase in industrial gas usage. A post-COVID rebound in transport emissions was seen in Rother, like all district and borough areas in East Sussex, though transport emissions remained below pre-COVID levels.

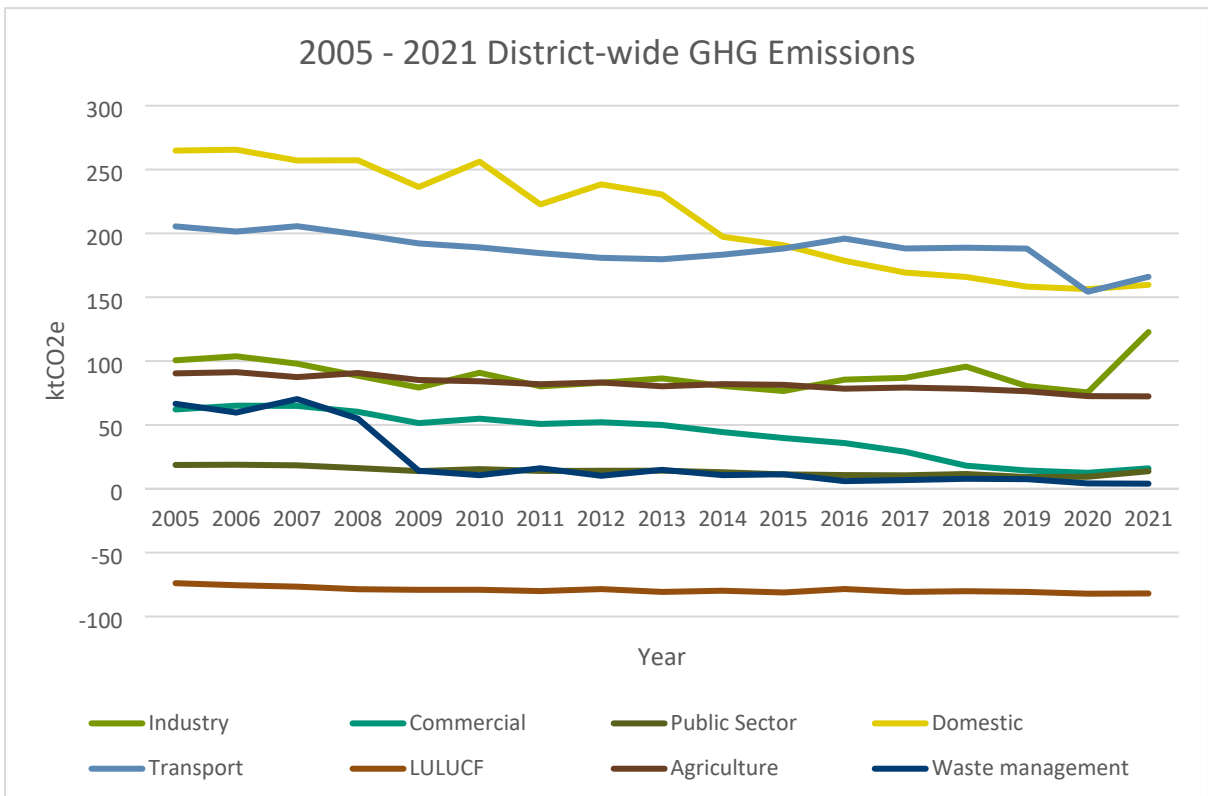


Figure 3 2005 - 2021 District-wide GHG Emissions



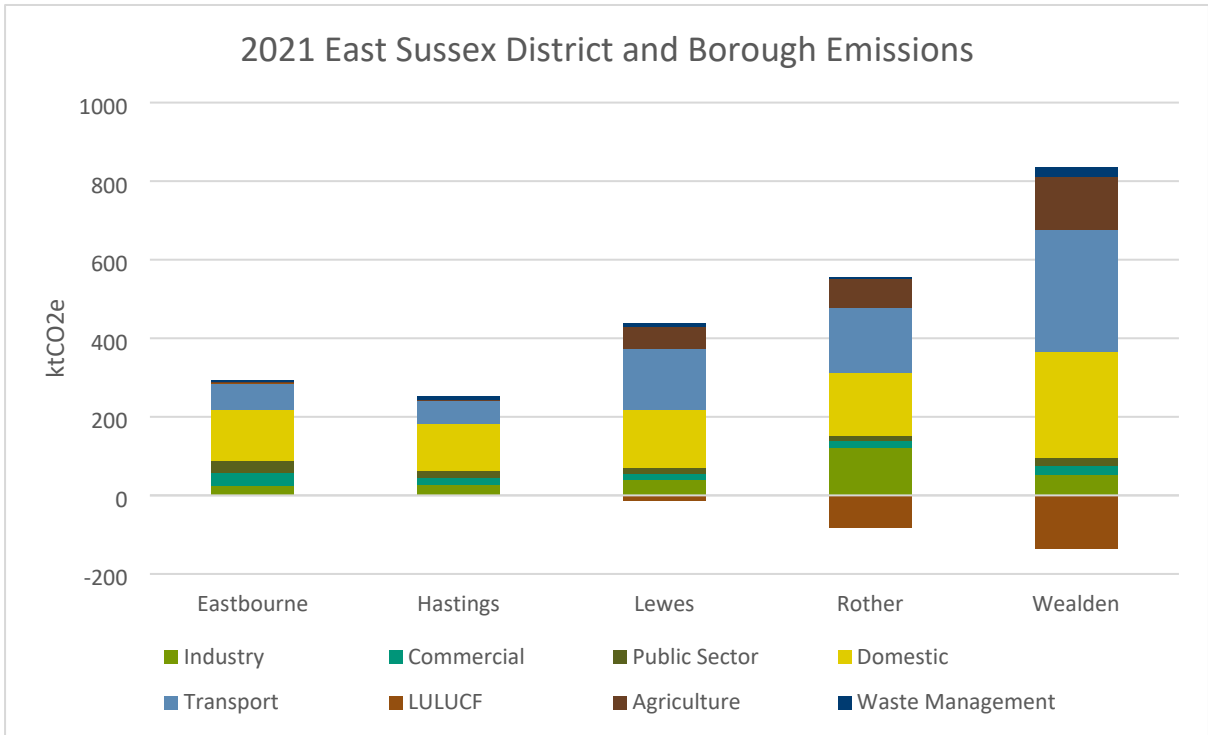


Figure 4 East Sussex District and Borough Emissions

East Sussex currently has one of the lowest per capita GHG emissions of counties in England, which is mainly due to the lack of motorways, the relative lack of heavy industry and relatively higher carbon removals from LULUCF. Rother has the highest per capita GHG emissions in East Sussex, see Figure 5. However, it is important to note that, whilst benchmarking on a per capita basis is a useful measure for domestic emissions, emissions from industry and transport are largely driven by national factors, so comparisons for these sectors should be treated with caution.

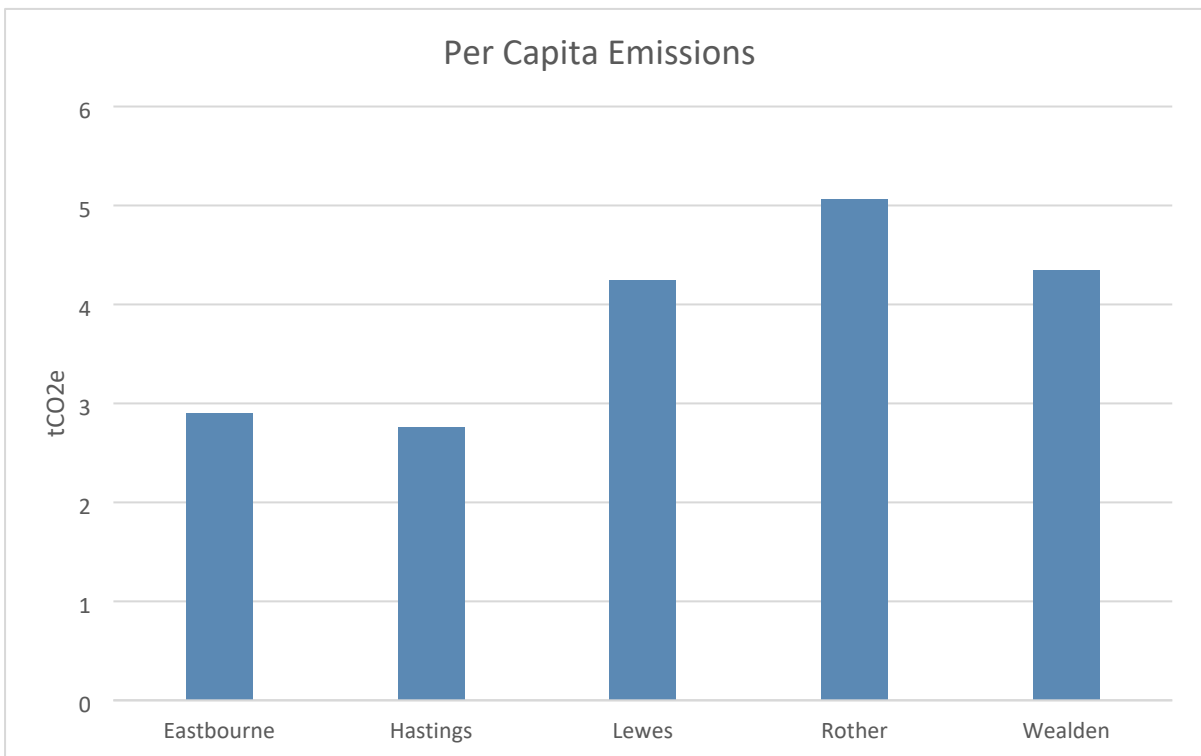


Figure 5 Per Capita Emissions in East Sussex

## Transport Emissions

Transport emissions include freight and passenger transport, both for private and business purposes. The DESNZ data is broken down into five categories: motorways, A roads, minor roads, diesel railways, and transport 'other'. The category of transport 'other' includes the combustion of lubricants, LPG vehicles, inland waterways, coal railways, and aircraft support vehicles. Note that transport emissions do not include electric railways.

At a national level, transport GHG emissions fell by 22% between 2005 and 2021 and in Rother, they fell by 24% over the same period. However, GHG emissions increased nationally between 2020 and 2021 by 9% and in Rother by 7%, though emissions remained significantly below the pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 6 shows the emissions split by different transport categories in Rother from 2019 - 2021.

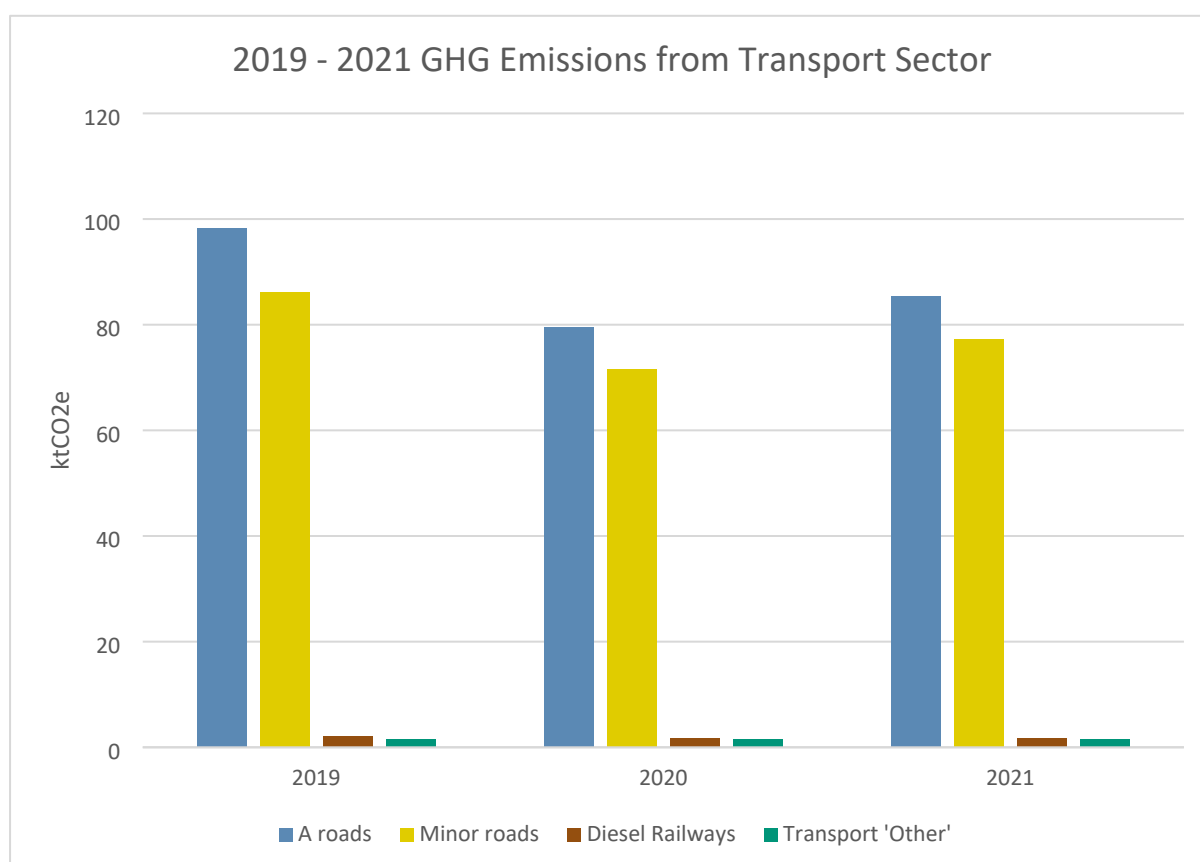


Figure 6 2021 GHG Emissions from Transport

## Domestic Emissions

Emissions from the domestic sector are influenced by the fuel types used, the type and condition of housing, the average temperature, average household size, type of household and the income and preferences of the occupiers. Emissions from urban areas tend to be lower than rural areas, due to smaller homes, a larger proportion of terraced houses and flats, and less reliance on high-carbon heating fuels such as oil and coal.

National emissions of GHGs from the domestic sector decreased between 2005 and 2021 by about 39% and in Rother by about 66%, despite an increase in population

and the number of homes. The main drivers for this have been the decarbonisation of grid electricity and a gradual improvement in the energy efficiency of homes.

Domestic GHG emissions have increased by 2% between 2020 and 2021 and an increase of 1% since 2019.

**Error! Reference source not found.** shows most domestic emissions relate to gas central heating systems. Gas emissions are relatively higher in urban areas, as more homes are connected to the gas grid than in rural areas.

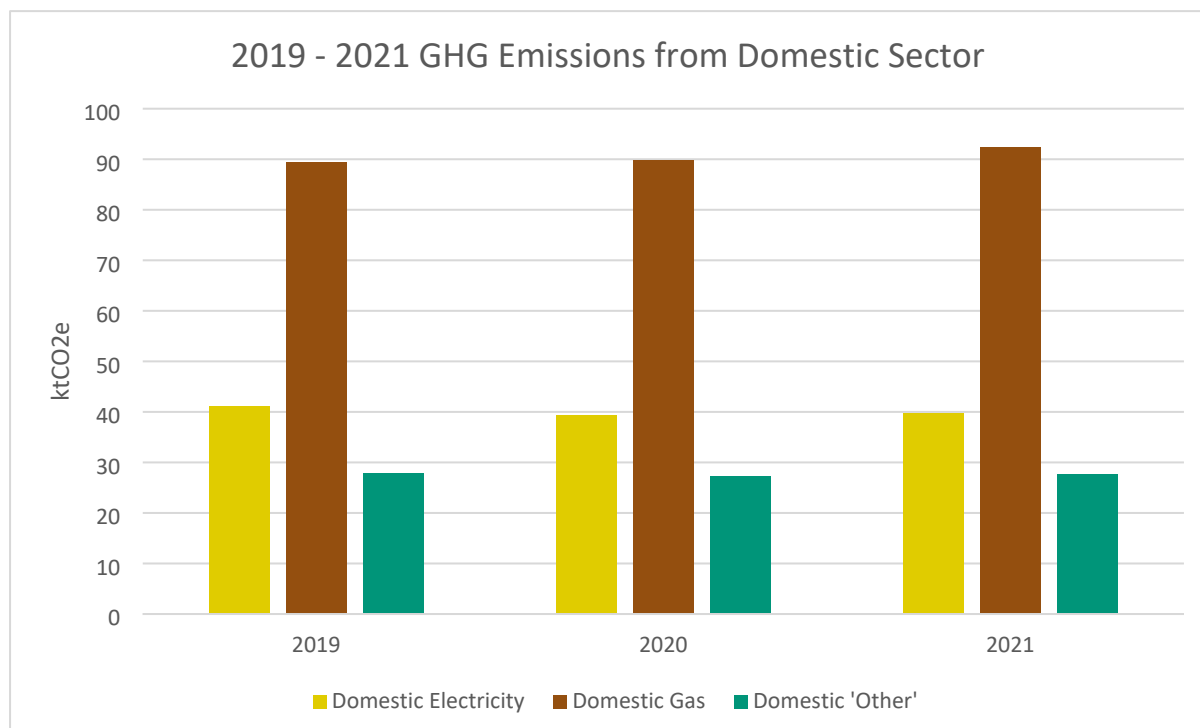


Figure 7 2019 - 2021 GHG Emissions from the Domestic Sector

## Industrial Emissions

Emissions from Industry are the third biggest contributor to GHG emissions in Rother. Industrial emissions are broken down into the following categories: electricity usage, gas usage, other fuels (e.g. oil) and large industrial installations.

There was an increase in industrial GHG emissions between 2020 and 2021, no doubt largely due to the gradual post-COVID economic recovery. There was a particularly large increase in industrial gas usage in Rother, of nearly 100%, which is shown in Figure 9. (This has been queried with the DESNZ data team as the reasons are unclear).

The government publishes data on [non-domestic gas consumption](#) at Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA). The 2021 data identifies three MSOA where total non-domestic gas consumption is over 10 GWh – Rother 006, Rother 008 and Rother 011, see Figure 9.

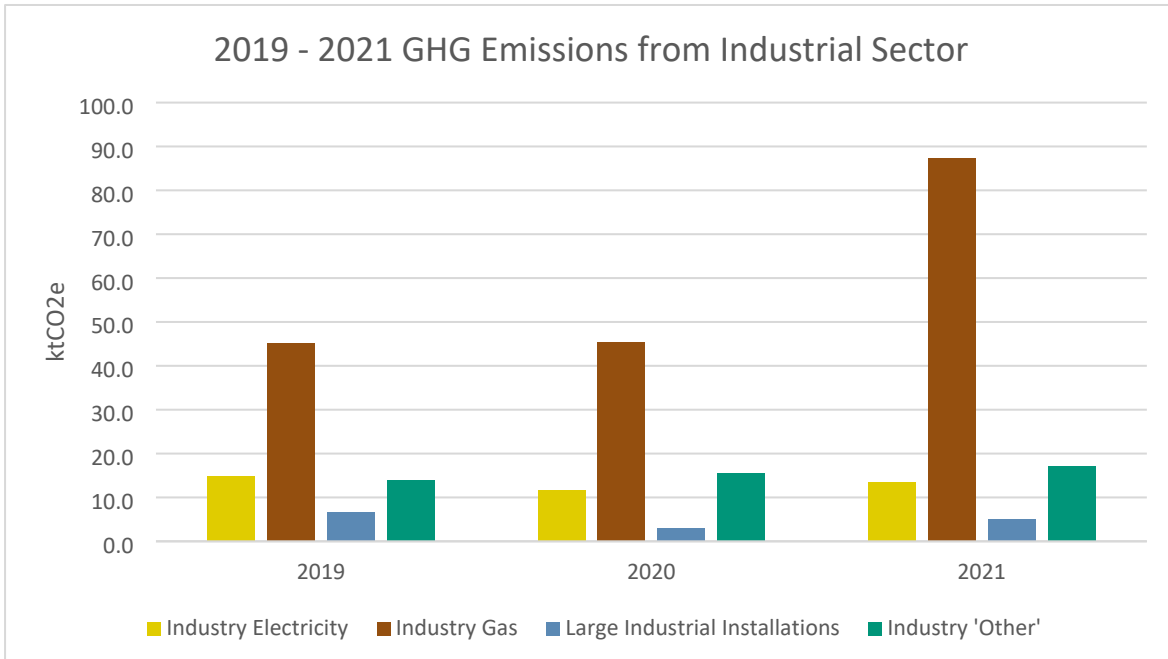


Figure 8 2019 - 2023 GHG Emissions from Industry

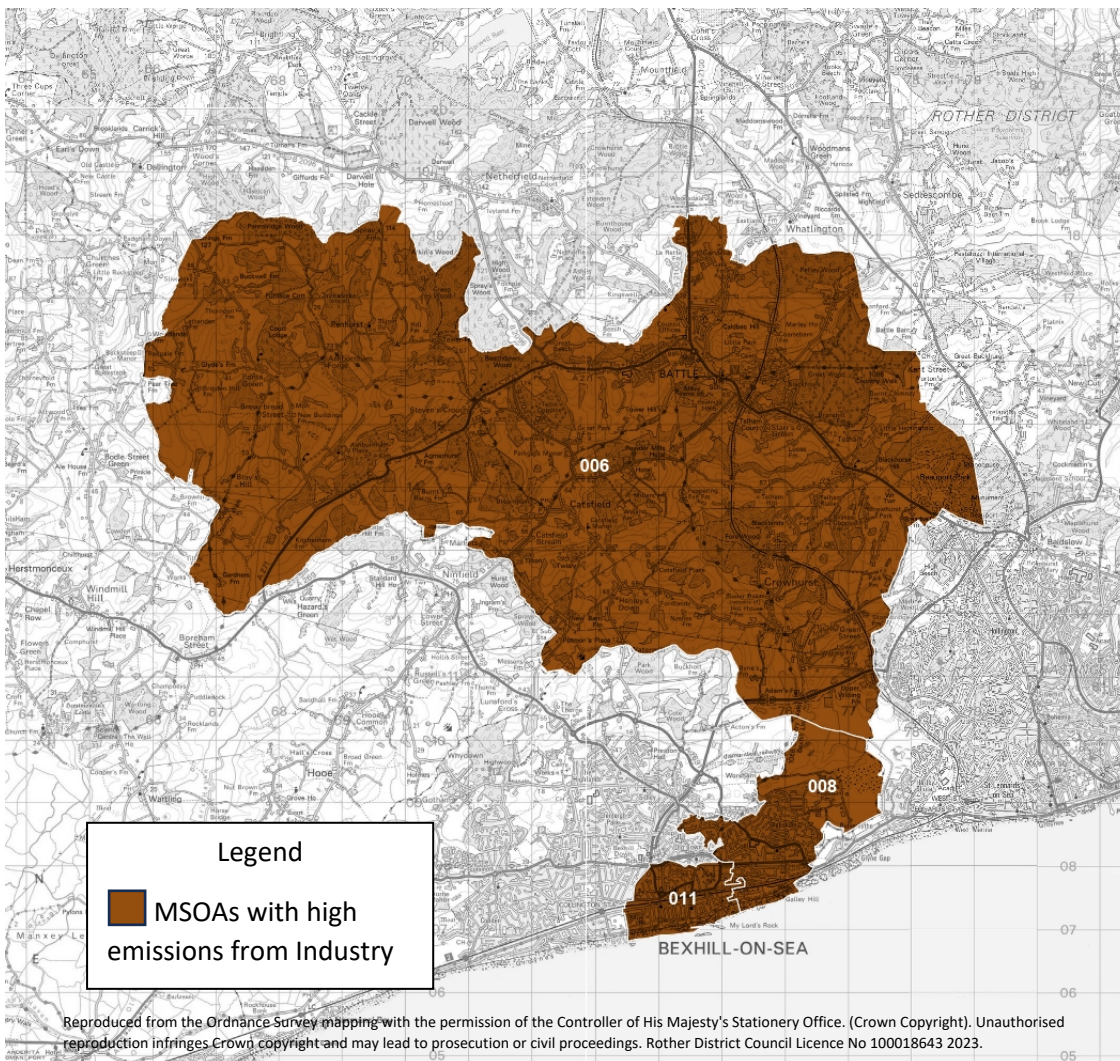


Figure 9 MSOAs in Rother with Industry gas emissions above 10GWh

## Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry

Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF) are activities such as liming, farming practices, afforestation/deforestation and changes in vegetative cover that can remove or produce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. For example, changing land from natural woodland (a net absorber of CO<sub>2</sub>) to urban development would mean that the land no longer acts as a carbon sink.

Emissions have remained relatively stable since 2019, with Forested Land and Grassland acting as carbon sinks, see Figure 10. Croplands continue to be the largest source of emissions.

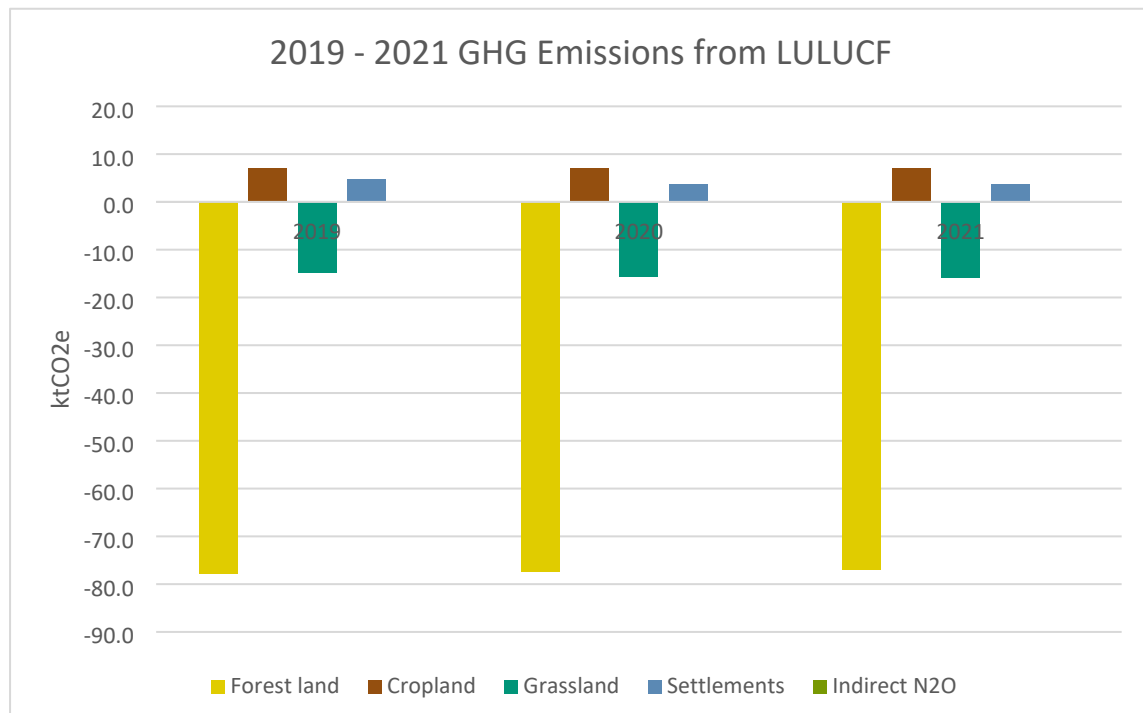


Figure 10 2019 - 2021 GHG Emissions from LULUCF

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## Rother District Council

# Annual Operational Emissions Report 2022/23

### Executive Summary

Rother District Council's Gross operational emissions for all currently reported activities have fallen by 15.4% since the baseline year of 2019/20, with Net emissions reduced by 20.8%.

Scopes 1 and 2 include the activities over which the Council has direct influence. In 2022/23, Net emissions for these activities were 86.7% lower than 2019/20. This is due to a significant reduction in consumption of electricity, particularly within our administrative buildings, coupled with the switch to a 100% renewable energy tariff in November 2021.

Over 90% of the Council's 2022/23 emissions arose from Scope 3, which includes operational activities that produce indirect emissions over which the Council has little control, such as those arising from water supply and treatment, commuting and business travel, as well as services outsourced to other providers. The largest single contributor to 2022/23 emissions is the fleet of the waste contract, at 821.45 TCO<sub>2</sub>e, followed by Leisure Centres at 298.18 TCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Introduction

In September 2019, Rother District Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to do what is within our power to become carbon neutral by 2030. This report sets out the Council’s annual operational emissions for 2022/23, to monitor progress against this pledge. (District-wide emissions are reported separately.)

## Methodology

The Council measures its emissions in line with DEFRA protocols, taking an operational control approach. A summary of the activities which contribute to the 2022/23 data is as follows:

Scope 1 (Direct emissions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gas (supplied to operational assets)</li><li>• Fleet</li></ul>
Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity (supplied to operational assets)</li></ul>
Internal Scope 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity losses from transmission and distribution (supplied to operational assets)</li><li>• Non-operational assets (gas and electricity supplied to any other asset where the Council pays the bill)</li><li>• Water supply and treatment (to operational assets)</li><li>• Business travel and commuting (by Council officers and elected Members)</li></ul>
Outsourced Scope 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste Contract Fleet</li><li>• Leisure Centres (gas and electricity)</li></ul>
Deductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Tariff (100% renewable electricity tariff)</li><li>• Solar energy exported to the grid</li></ul>

The baseline for all activities is 2019/20, except for activities where data from that year is unavailable. For these activities, the earliest annual dataset available is used as the baseline. It is expected that as reporting procedures advance, the range of Scope 3 activities included in the Council’s annual emissions reporting will expand.

Deductions contribute to the offsetting of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only, as these are made up of the activities over which the Council has direct influence.

Baseline year data (and that of subsequent years) was recalculated in 2023 to reflect the framework of activities outlined above, and therefore figures reported here may differ to those previously published.



## Emissions Summary

Table 1: RDC GHG Emissions in Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	BASELINE (2019/20)	Previous Year 2021/22	2022/23
Scope 1 - Gas (Operational)	48.03	44.09	38.31
Scope 1 - Fleet	16.44	16.25	19.05
Scope 2 - Electricity (Operational)	141.87	76.36	60.62
Scope 3 - Gas (non-operational)	9.58	14.67	17.31
Scope 3 - Electricity (non-operational)	57.55	41.98	46.95
Scope 3 - T&D Losses (on Scope 2 Electricity)	12.04	6.76	5.55
Scope 3 - Water (Operational)	15.16	6.50	6.75
Scope 3 - Business Miles	73.85	41.04	Not yet available
Scope 3 - Commuting	45.70*	Unavailable	45.70
Scope 3 - Waste Contract	699.87*	849.64	821.45
Scope 3 - Leisure Centres	486.80	385.05	298.18
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>	<b>1606.90</b>	<b>1482.33</b>	<b>1359.86</b>
Green tariff	0.00	45.52	88.11
Solar Energy exported to grid	4.08	3.27	2.99
<b>Total Net Emissions</b>	<b>1602.82</b>	<b>1433.54</b>	<b>1268.76</b>

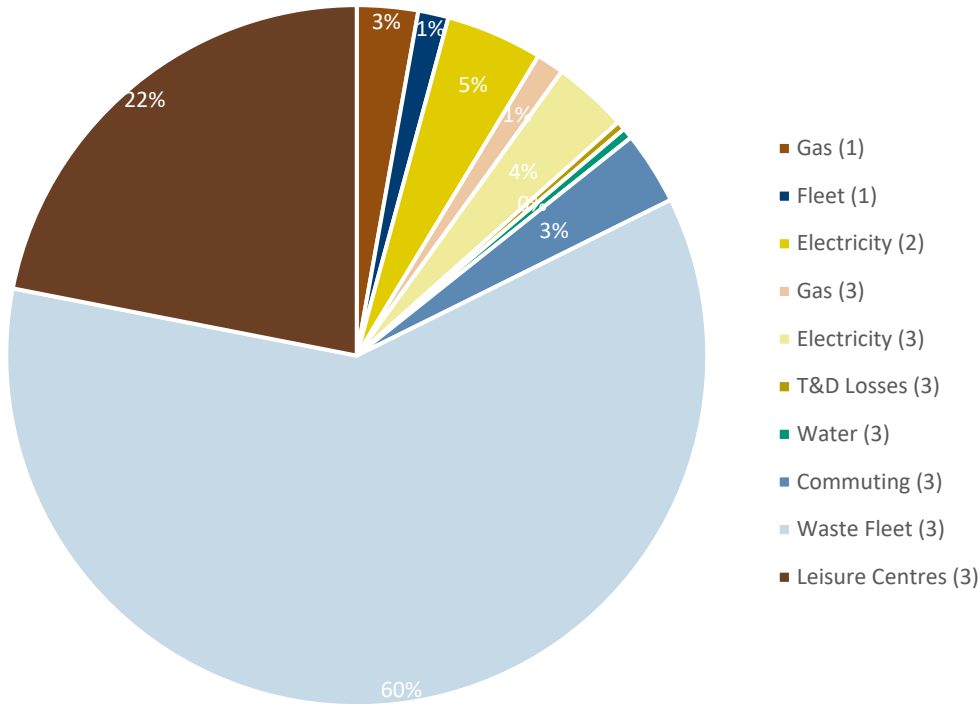
\*Baseline year for Commuting is 2022/23. Baseline year for Waste Contract is 2020/21.

Gross Emissions have fallen by 15.4%

Net emissions have fallen by 20.8%

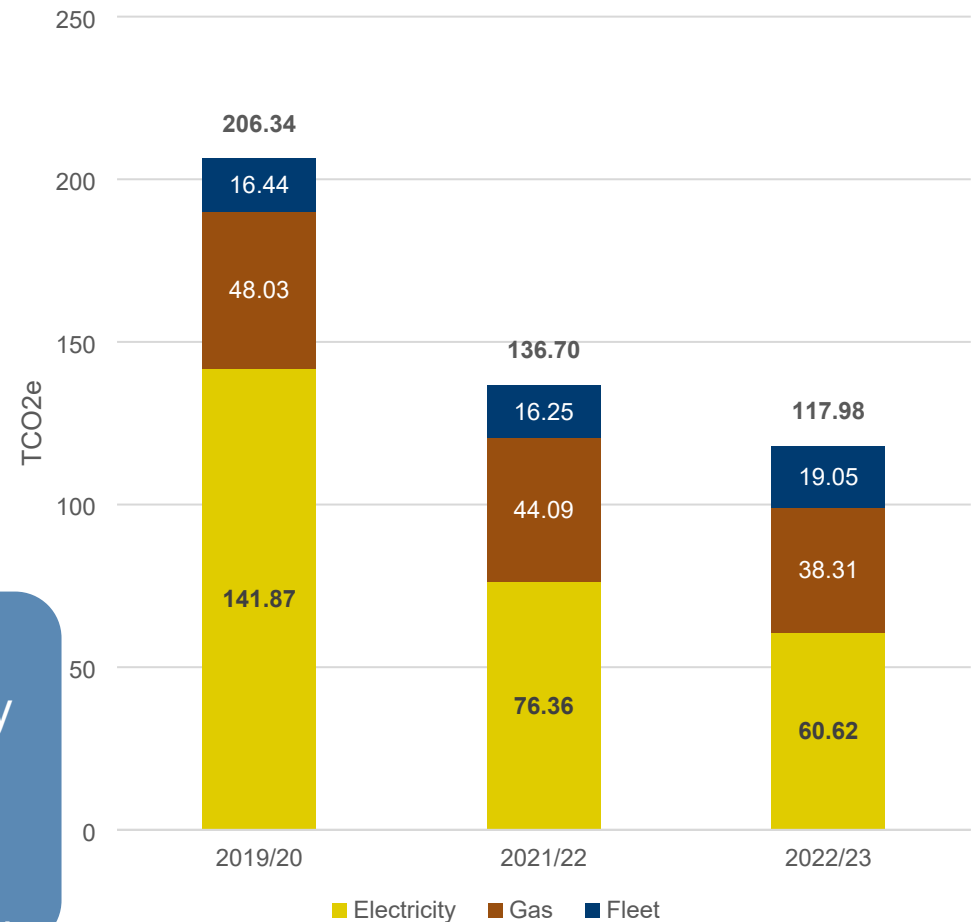
# Scope 1 and 2 Emissions Activities under the Council's direct influence

Fig 1: 2022/23 Emissions Activity (Scope)



Scopes 1 & 2 make up 8.7% of the Council's gross emissions.

Fig 2: Scope 1 & 2 Gross Emissions



Scope 1 & 2 Gross emissions have reduced by 42.8%.

After solar and renewable tariff deductions,

Scope 1 and 2 Net emissions have reduced by

**The Path to Net Zero** A 50% reduction year on year from 2019/20 will result in 0.0% emissions by 2030.

Fig. 3: Scope 1 and 2 Net Emissions against annual 50% reduction trajectory

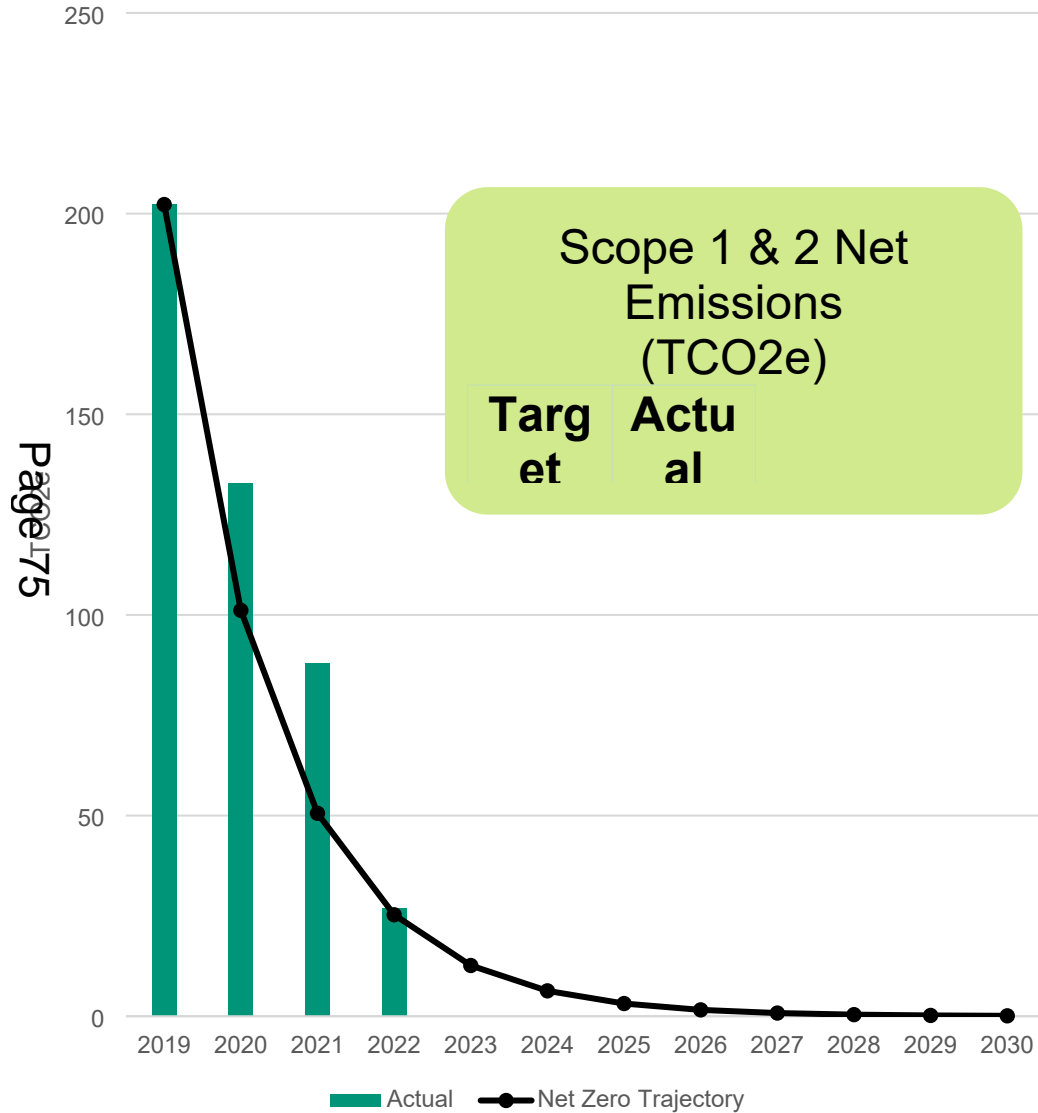
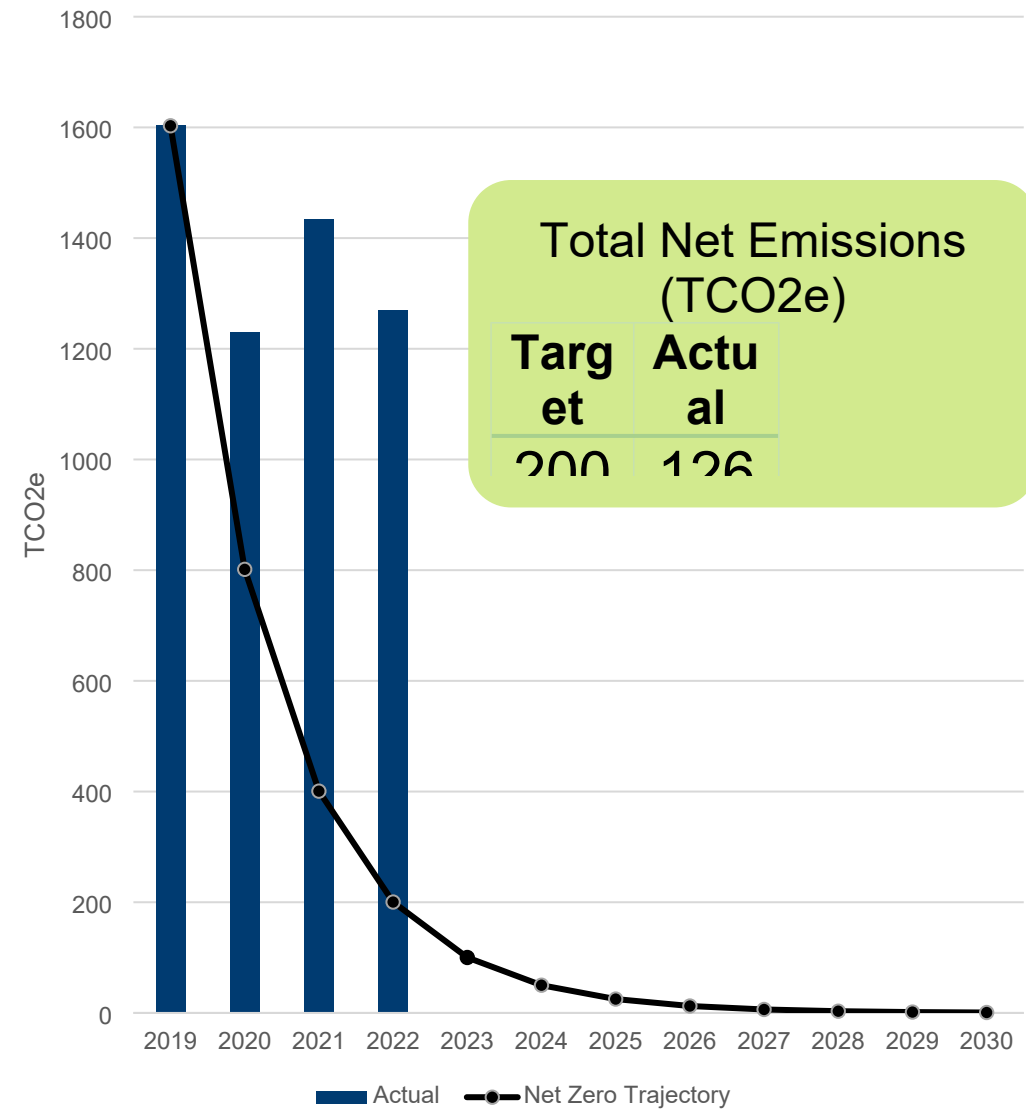


Fig. 4: Net Emissions against annual 50% reduction trajectory



## Gas (operational)

Three sites contribute to this data, which are all administrative Council buildings, namely Town Hall, Treasury and Print Room. Town Hall accounts for 83.7% of operational gas use.

Operational gas emissions in 2022/23 were 38.3 TCO<sub>2</sub>e, which is 20.2% lower than baseline year.

Gas consumption is affected by external temperature and boiler efficiency. The exact date boilers are switched on and off will also differ year to year impacting total usage. Generally, they are operational from September/October – April/May.

No significant fabric changes have been made to any of these buildings since baseline year.

Occupancy of the Treasury and Town Hall by RDC staff has varied, which has impacted on operational gas usage at these sites; In 2019/20, two floors of the Treasury building were occupied by RDC staff but were vacated during the pandemic of 2020 to make space for other public service staff. No further operational emissions are therefore reported at the Treasury until January 2023, when staff returned to occupy the first floor, due to the Villas of Town Hall being closed.

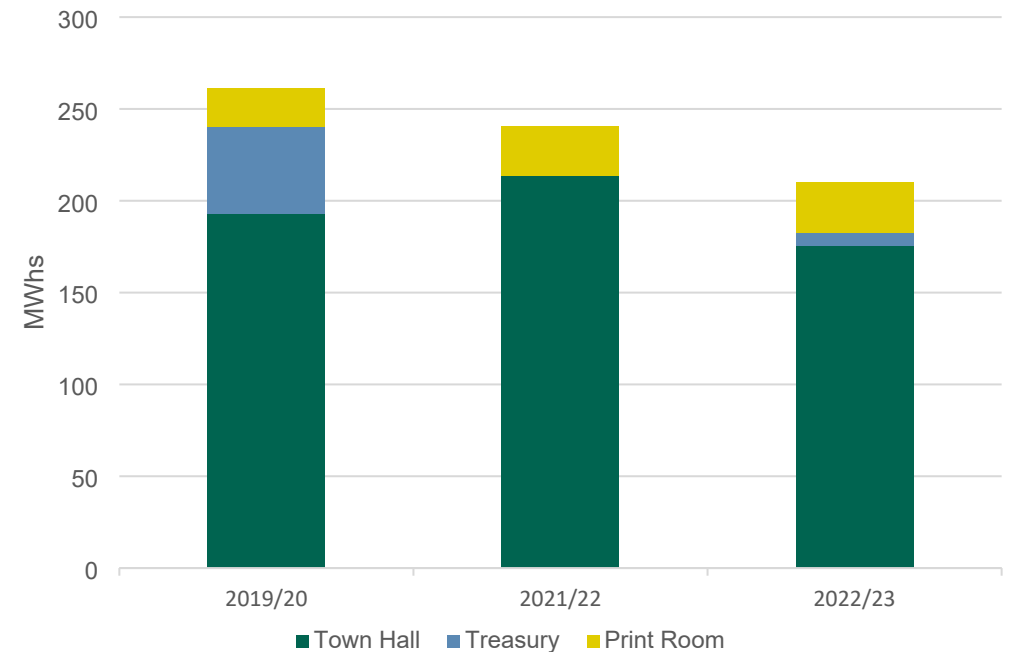
Despite radiators in the Villas being switched off on closing, hot water continued to circulate through the heating system in this part of Town Hall as it was not segregated from the operational side of the building. The un-used part of the system has since been isolated and therefore a reduction in gas consumption at Town Hall is expected to be evident in future years.

In September 2023, the Treasury's gas boilers reached the end of their operational life and were replaced with more efficient condensing gas boilers. The boilers at Town Hall are also due for replacement before Winter 2023. These replacements should result in a tangible reduction in gas consumption going forward.

## Fleet

Fleet emissions have increased by 15.9%, in line with increased fuel consumption. In 2021/22 fuel consumption was almost the same as 2019/20 (+1.6%) however due to improved fuel efficiency, the resulting emissions were just over 1% lower than baseline level. The number of fleet vehicles has remained constant. The vehicles are generally replaced every 3-5 years, therefore the exact vehicles contributing to data annually will change. Engine size, driving style, distance travelled, and weight/load of vehicles will affect fuel use. Regular replacement of the vehicles ensures the highest performance and efficiency possible.

Fig 5: Operational Gas use by building



## Electricity (Operational)

The National Grid has decarbonised by around 25% since 2019/20. Combined with a 241.6 MWh reduction in electricity consumption, the Council’s operational electricity emissions have reduced by 57.3%. The greatest reduction has been within administrative buildings, where emissions have dropped by 66.1%.

### Administrative Buildings

Fig. 6: Electricity use by administrative buildings

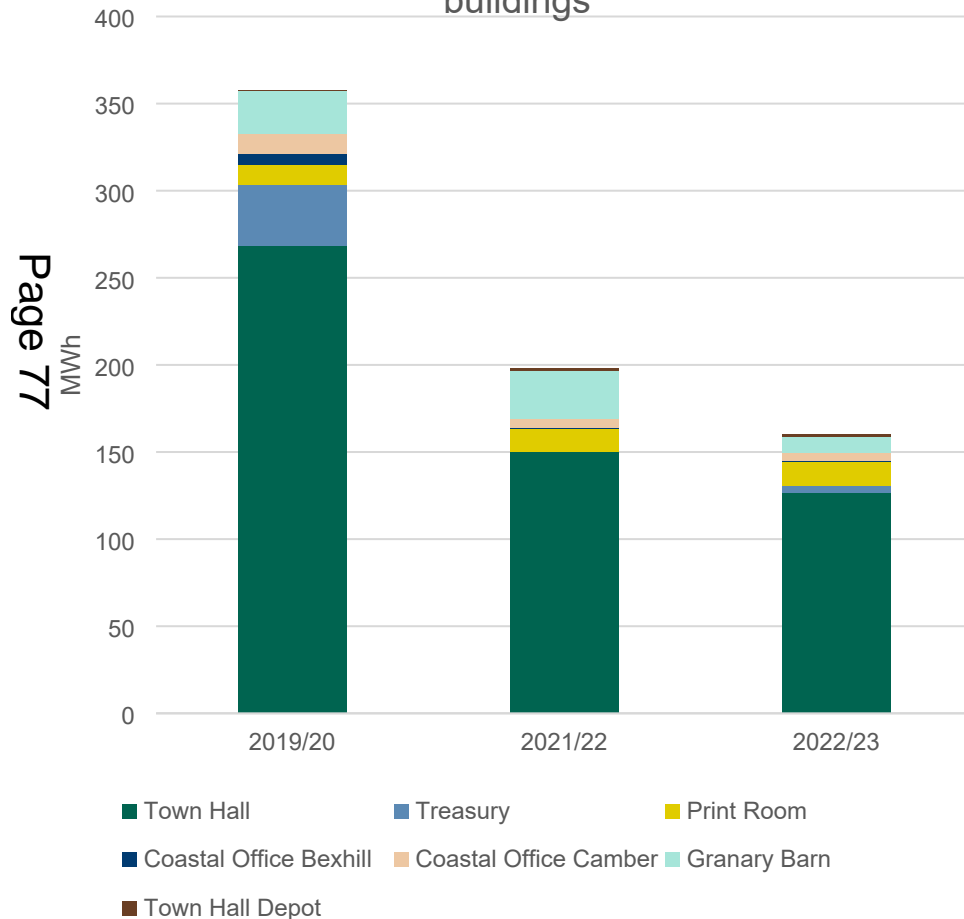


Table 2: Electricity Emissions by asset type (TCO2e)	2019/20	2022/23	%age change
Administrative Buildings (7)	91.48	31.02	-66.09
Public Conveniences (26)	17.19	11.20	-34.83
Other Operational (30/23)	33.21	18.40	-44.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141.88</b>	<b>60.62</b>	<b>-57.27</b>

Most administrative sites have seen emissions fall by between 64% and 88%, with the exceptions of the Print Room, which has seen only a modest reduction of 13%, and Town Hall Depot, where emissions, albeit still very low, rose from 0.11 TCO2e to 0.3 TCO2e.

Overall, electricity consumed for administrative purposes has decreased by 55.18% since 2019/20, from 357.9 MWh to 160.4 MWh.

The reduction can largely be attributed to staff working from home since the pandemic of 2020. According to a recent staff survey, on an average day in 2022/23, 46% of staff worked from home, whereas all staff were office based in the baseline year. The outsourcing of some energy intensive IT systems will have also contributed to reductions at Town Hall. These activities will still be producing emissions, but they are now defined as indirect and therefore not included in the Council’s Scope 2 activities. They cannot currently be quantified for inclusion in our Scope 3 reporting, but this may become possible in the future.

As detailed above, occupancy levels of the Treasury and Town Hall by RDC staff has varied over the reporting period, affecting the proportion of emissions arising from those sites annually.

Additionally, more efficient LED lighting was installed in the Treasury building prior to staff returning in January 2023, and a programme of behavioural change has recently been implemented by the maintenance team at Granary Barn to reduce energy costs and emissions.

## Public Conveniences (PCs)

Since 2019/20, water heating equipment has been removed from some PCs as general maintenance is carried out, which will have contributed to the 13.9% reduction in electricity consumption.

In the baseline year PCs accounted for 12.1% of the Council's operational electricity use. Although electricity used by PCs has decreased, this has occurred at a lesser rate than other assets. As a result, PCs now account for 19% of the Council's electricity use and emissions.

## Other Operational

For the purpose of this report 'Other Operational' assets are defined as any Council controlled assets not assigned as Administrative Buildings or Public Conveniences, i.e. car parks, parks, gardens and open spaces including the street lighting, sports pavilions, pumping apparatus etc. therein.

The Council's portfolio of such assets changes over time. 30 assets contributed to the 2019/20 data and 26 in 2022/23.

After Town Hall, the Compressor Station at Fairlight consumed more electricity than any other asset in the baseline year, making up 7.56% of total electricity usage (42 MWh). In 2021/22, this had reduced by 39.92% (to 25MWh), and in 2022/23 was 63.03% lower than the baseline (15.5 MWh).

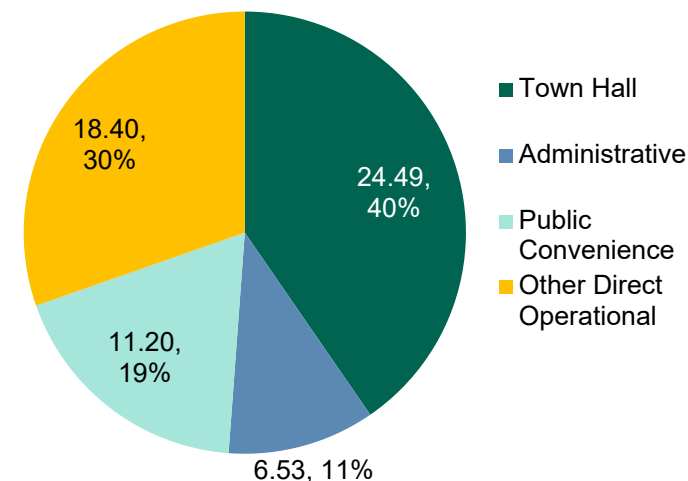
The reduction could be due to both a water leak (which has now been fixed) and recent droughts, which will have reduced demand on the pump. As such, it is likely usage could return to baseline levels; 42 MWh in 2022/23 would add 12% to operational electricity use and over 5 TCO<sub>2e</sub>.

The other high consumer of electricity in this category is Bexhill Museum, for which the electricity meter also covers the Egerton Park toilets and the kiosk. In 2019/20, this group of assets made up 6% of total operational electricity usage (33MW). Due to some gaps in available meter readings (where the account was transferred to the museum for a time), data spanning a two-year period was averaged to give annual estimates for 2021/22 and 2022/23, coming to 48.6 MWh per year. This makes it the second highest asset contributing to operational electricity emissions after Town Hall, at 15.5% of the total.

The museum has developed a forward plan which includes making sustainability improvements to the main building. To help them to achieve these ambitions, the electricity account is due to be transferred back into the ownership of the museum. This will take the main building out of the Council's Scope 2 emissions in the future. The museum will recharge the Council for electricity used by the toilets and kiosk, therefore these aspects will remain within the Scope 2 portfolio.

Electricity use by car parks was low in baseline year at around 3.5 MWh and has reduced by 30%. This may be due to streetlights in car parks being replaced with low-energy LED alternatives at end of life and the number of visitors who pay to park via the RingGo app having doubled from roughly 20% in 2019/20 to 40%. (Pay machines are dormant until activated by a user to make a payment, with card payments using more electricity than cash payments).

Fig. 7: 2022/23 Scope 2 Emissions by asset type (TCO<sub>2e</sub>)



## Deductions

A 100% renewable energy tariff was adopted in November 2021, supplying both operational and non-operational assets. In its first full year, this has saved 88.11 TCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Annual solar generation by the Treasury and Bexhill Museum arrays has been consistent, yet as the national grid decarbonises emissions savings from exported energy decreases. The 15.96 MW exported to the grid in 2019/20 resulted in a carbon saving of 4.08 TCO<sub>2</sub>e, whereas the 15.48 MW exported in 2022/23 saved only 2.99 TCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Gas (non-operational)

Treasury's leased office space is almost solely (99.7%) responsible for non-operational gas use, which has almost doubled since 2019/20. This is due to the building not being previously fully occupied as it was throughout 2022/23. As stated above, the boilers were replaced in September 2023, so future reductions in emissions are expected.

## Electricity (non-operational)

The Council's portfolio of assets that contribute to non-operational electricity emissions fluctuates. There were 14 assets included in the baseline data, of which five have been removed (as they have either been disposed of or accounts transferred from the Council to the tenant), and eight have been added (either newly acquired assets or accounts transferred from tenant to the Council).

Non-operational electricity usage has increased by 7.8%, however due to the decarbonisation of the grid, the resulting emissions are 18.4% lower.

## Water

The total amount of water consumed by the Council has stayed relatively constant, however emissions arising from water use have significantly decreased, resulting in an overall 55.5% reduction in emissions.

Table 3: Emissions relating to water consumption	2019/20		2022/23	
	Consumption (M <sup>3</sup> )	Emissions (TCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Consumption (M <sup>3</sup> )	Emissions (TCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Supply	18, 833	6.5	17, 640	2.6
Treatment	12, 262	8.7	15, 160	4.1
Total	31, 095	15.2	32, 800	6.7

## Waste Contract

The baseline figure of 699.87 TCO<sub>2</sub>e (2020/21) was provided by Biffa as a complete figure, whereas emissions for later years have been calculated from raw data. It is possible a different methodology was used for this first year, which may account for the +21.4% difference in 2021/22, yet only 3.3% difference the following year when reporting methodologies were certainly comparable.

## Leisure Centres

Emissions reductions have been realised by all three of Rother's Leisure Centres. Closure of the pool in 2022 has resulted in Rye achieving the greatest percentage reduction in emissions, yet Bexhill Leisure Pool has reduced its emissions by 83 TCO<sub>2</sub>e, compared to Rye's saving of 75.5 TCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Table 4: Emissions by Leisure Centre (TCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2019/20	2022/23	%age change
Bexhill Leisure Centre	68.31	38.39	-43.8
Bexhill Leisure Pool	270.61	187.65	-30.6
Rye Sports Centre & Pool	147.87	72.15	-51.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141.88</b>	<b>60.62</b>	<b>-57.27</b>

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<b>Name/ Organisation</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Summary</b>
ESHOG Climate Change and Sustainability Sub-group - Jim Aspdin	3.10.22	Update that Rother are starting the Environment Strategy (ES) Refresh.
Greg Minns	13.10.22	Intro to Air Quality in Rother and feedback form ES - Currently below the UK levels so no Air Quality Management Areas - Could align RDC with the WHO targets which are more in line with Rother's levels during the pandemic when travel dropped.
Rother Parish Conference	19.10.22	Parish and Town Councils told RDC are refreshing the ES.
Matthew Bird - Sussex Wildlife Trust	26.10.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There appears to be no baseline or evidence base of emissions; and subsequently no strategic prioritisations.</li> <li>• Vague pledges which require a more coherent approach linked to outcomes.</li> <li>• There appears to be no Action plan for greenhouse gas reductions.</li> <li>• Some vague language - for example we would not recommend the use of terms such as 'environmentally- friendly council'.</li> <li>• Does not seem to be a district context - we did not get a sense of wider engagement and the community leadership role in climate change.</li> </ul>
Be The Change	4.10.22	Discussed reusable nappy scheme - wider discussion about the ES and what is missing. Discussed enhancing the waste aspect.
Stuart Ramsbottom and Adrian Gaylon	7.10.22	Discussed Active Rother and the links with the ES.
Brian Griffiths	7.10.23	Intro to RDC Parks and Gardens - Relationship with local environmental groups.
Lindsay - Community Supporters	16.10.22	Intro to Climate Strategy (CS) and ES Refresh.
Sussex Wildlife Trust - Henri Brocklebank, Jess Price	18.11.22	Defend Nature Meeting - Intro to Jess and agreed to arrange a separate meeting to update on ES.
All Staff Event	21.11.22	Update on Climate Action so far and next steps for ES.

Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group	25.11.22	Update on Health and Wellbeing elements of ES refresh.
Jeff Pyrah	12.12.22	Local Plan climate evidence base discussion.
Combe Valley Countryside Park (CVCP) - Annie Brown	13.12.22	Discussed ES refresh, CVCP Strategy, Nature Recovery in Rother.
Wealden District Council (WDC) - Chantal Lass, Thomas Hood	19.12.22	Discussed ES Refresh and WDC's approach - similar timeline.
Sedlescombe Parish Council (SPC) meeting	20.12.22	Presentation to SPC on local Climate Action - SPC declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency.
East Sussex Climate Officers	11.01.23	Regular Climate Officers meeting.
WDC - Thomas Hood	13.01.23	Unlock Diplocks Project discussion - engaging businesses.
RDC Procurement - Charlotte Stephens	16.01.23	Climate Change and Procurement.
Rebecca Owen	18.01.23	RDC Green Spaces Management Plans.
Dean Morrison - High Weald AONB	19.01.23	CS refresh plans and Cuckmere & Pevensey Levels Catchment Partnership, Powdermill Catchment work - Sussex Flow initiative.
WDC - Chantal Lass	23.01.23	Climate Action Planning and Climate Awareness Training.
Richard Parker-Harding	26.01.23	Environmental Health and Climate Actions for the CS.
Ute Woodward - WDC Waste	27.01.23	Waste reductions initiatives for CS, specifically reusable nappies.
Venus Tam, UK Power Networks	27.01.23	Update for UKPN on RDC's CS, specifically relating to Local Area Energy Planning.
Graham Burgess - RDC Assets	02.02.23	Green Asset Management discussion - BNG potential and sequestration opportunities
Kerry Briffitt - Southern Housing	03.02.23	CS and Biodiversity ambitions.
Sam Stone	06.02.23	Rother Coastal opportunities for CS refresh
Nicola Mitchell	07.02.23	CS timeline and plan
Mel Powell	08.02.23	UKSPF and CS Action Planning
Sarah Brotherton - High Weald AONB	09.02.23	CS Refresh update and HW AONB Management Plan update.

Jess Price and Fran Southgate - Sussex wildlife Trust	10.02.23	CS - Actions to enhance both Strategy and Action Plan - Policy discussion for new Local Plan.
Andrew Wedmore - Brightling Environmental Group	10.02.23	New Environmental Group - update on CS Refresh including action areas - shared ideas for the new Environmental Group relating specifically to energy.
Cleo Alper - South East Rivers Trust	16.02.23	CS plan and opportunities with new Rother Catchment Partnership.
Love Our Rother Event	18.02.23	Public event – RDC had a stand at the event to discuss the Strategy refresh with members of the public.
Sam Phyll - Hastings BC	21.02.23	HBC Solar for Business discussion and opportunities to include in RDC CS.
Kate Davidson - Hastings Furniture Service	22.02.23	Introduction and RDC CS update - Resource Consumption and Buildings.
High Weald OSG meeting	28.02.23	Opportunity to update attendees on RDC CS update during round table officer updates.
Rother Environmental Group	28.02.23	Presentation given by Lucie Bolton and Elise Manning on RDC CS update. Lots of discussion about the Council's role, working with partners, grid capacity, grant funding, electric vehicle charging. Invited back to present again next year.
Urban Foresight Rother Rural Economy Workshop	03.03.23	Invited as a participant, but discussion came back to climate several times and gave an opportunity to update attendees about the CS.
Battle for our Planet	04.04.23	Public event – RDC had a stand at the event to discuss the Strategy refresh with members of the public.
Sussex Nature Partnership (SxNP) - Kate Cole and Julie Middleton	07.03.23	RDC provided an update for SxNP on the Local Plan development and the CS refresh.
Local Strategic Partnership	09.03.23	Presentation on the CS refresh progress, including evidence base.
Tracy Dighton and Mike Pelper - 1066 Citizens Advice (CA)	13.03.23	Meeting with 1066 CA to discuss CS and fuel poverty. Potential.
Bexhill Town Council (BTC) - Climate Committee	15.03.23	Presentation to BTC on the CS refresh - discussion around working together to achieve the same outcomes.
Dan Bontoft	23.03.23	CS - staff car usage.

Duncan Ellis	23.03.23	CS schemes and budget.
Battle Town Council (BaTC)- Climate sub-committee	23.03.23	First meeting of the BaTC Climate Sub-committee - RDC to provide support to BaTC in writing a climate action plan. Lucie Bolton provided an update on RDC CS and provided information on BaTC's carbon footprint.
Energy Systems Catapult - Michelle Chapunza-Mhindurwa	27.03.23	Discussed RDC plans for decarbonisation and Local Area Energy Plans.
Alice Webb - Marine Conservation Organisation	28.03.23	Discussed CS refresh and ways to make it more relevant for marine and coast.
Joshua Speer and Lee Furlong - Bexhill College	29.03.23	Discussed Bexhill Tree Planting Strategy and tree planting on college land. Also discussed CS update.
Brett Pearson - Locate East Sussex	31.03.23	CS update and ways to engage businesses in Net Zero in Rother.
RALC	12.04.23	Gave key note on RDC CS, including action areas and Parish & Town Council Climate Action.
Local Plan Climate Emergency Workshop	18.04.23	Climate Related Policy Workshop.
Anti-Poverty Steering Group	19.04.23	Round table update on CS.
Local Plan Environmental Management Workshop	21.04.23	Environmental Management Policy Workshop.
Green Team Workshop	24.04.23	CS development presentation to Green Team.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	24.04.23	Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) Progress report on the ES - included progress on refresh.
Hannah Martin - Lloyds Bank	25.04.23	Discussion with RDC's Banking Manager about opportunities to fund climate action - discussed emerging Climate Action Plan.
Cuckmere & Pevensey Levels CP Meeting	26.04.23	Opportunity to update partners on the Progress of CS refresh. Partners advised against formal consultation due to other statutory consultations they are working on and agreed to support RDC informally.
Roddy Crockett - Sustrans	26.04.23	Update on RDC climate priorities.
Rother Romney Catchment Partnership	03.05.23	First meeting of the partnership. Opportunity to update partners on the Progress of CS refresh.

Energise Sussex Coast	04.05.23	CS update and partnership opportunities.
Bexhill Unwrapped interview	11.05.23	Video interview on the progress of the CS refresh - published on FB.
Michael Courts and David Bishop - Retrofit Partnership and Strategy	12.05.23	Discussion about the need for a retrofit strategy for East Sussex. Retrofit is a key priority of revised CS.
BaTC Climate Sub-committee	15.05.23	Update for BaTC.
Ros Clayton - Bexhill Environmental Group	17.05.23	Discussed partnership opportunities - Action Planning.
East Sussex Housing Partnership Board	19.05.23	Update in round table.
Member Induction Programme	22.05.23	Introduction to the CS for Members.
Ollie Hunter - RDC tenant	26.05.23	Site visit and discuss about engaging tenants with nature recovery and the CS.
Terry Hume - Public Health	30.05.23	Multifunctional and inclusive green spaces.
BaTC Climate Sub-committee	05.06.23	Progress on Climate Action Plan.
Hastings and Roter Transport Action Group (HARTAG)	06.06.23	Attended meeting and general intro.
East Guldeford Parish Meeting	07.06.23	Presentation on RDC CS and Parish Climate Action - very enthusiastic.
UKSPF Local Partnership Meeting	08.06.23	General intro to CS.
Cabinet - UK100 report	12.06.23	UK100 pledge - reconfirm RDC's commitment to Net Zero.
East Sussex Energy Partnership	19.06.23	Round table update on CS.
Nick Hanna - Sussex Greenways	19.06.23	Discussion around funding and alignment with CS.
East Sussex Retrofit Strategy and Partnership Development	22.06.23	Role of CS in building decarbonisation.
Corporate Management Team (CMT)	28.06.23	CS Presentation.
Jo Cobby - East Sussex Energy Partnership follow up	28.06.23	Building decarbonisation in CS.

Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish Council (S&RPC) Meeting	10.07.23	Presentation on RDC CS and why S&RPC should declare a climate and ecological emergency - stayed for declaration.
Stewart Drew and Patricia Lochans - De La Warr Pavilion (DLWP)	11.07.23	Presentation on RDC CS and aligning DLWP Environment ambitions.
Cabinet Away Day	12.07.23	CS presentation.
Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council (A&PPC) Meeting	26.07.23	Presentation on RDC CS and why A&PPC should declare a climate and ecological emergency.
Rother Romney Catchment Partnership	24.08.2	Strategy update.
UK Power Network	25.08.23	Local Net Zero hub - opportunity to input RDC Climate Action Plan.
Planning Service Meeting	30.08.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
Housing and Regeneration Managers' Meeting	31.08.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
Anti-Poverty Steering Group	05.09.23	Round table update on CS.
BaTC Climate and Ecology Working Group	06.09.23	Round table update on CS.
East Sussex Climate Change officers' meeting	11.09.23	Round table update on CS.
Olivia Morton - Natural England	18.09.23	Tree Strategies and CS priorities.
Corporate Policy and Projects team meeting	19.09.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
RDC Carbon Literacy Training	21.09.23	Opportunity to discuss CS - Internal Engagement.
Finance Team	26.09.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
Brede Parish Council (BPC)	26.09.23	Presentation on RDC CS and why BPC should declare a climate and ecological emergency.
CCSG	28.09.23	Full CS presentation.
Full Housing Team	04.10.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
Regeneration Team	10.10.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
Environmental Health full service meeting	11.10.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.

Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services Managers	12.10.23	CS presentation - Internal Engagement.
AONB Management Team	18.10.23	Meeting to discuss the first full draft of the CS.
CCSG	26.10.23	Report on the copy of the CS.

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# Rother Climate Action Plan 23/24 – 26/27



## Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Outcome 1. The built environment will be net zero and climate resilient.

### Objective 1.1 Mass retrofit of existing buildings.

Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Access government funding to decarbonise private housing such as HUG2	Applications submitted either in partnership or standalone	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	Economy - improved household finances	Economy - job creation	£	High	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress
Fund energy efficiency measures in community assets through CIL, UKSPF	Carbon footprint reports and action plans for community assets produced. Interventions implemented.	Society - community brought together	Economy - money retained in local economy	Resilience - security in energy supply (less power cuts)	£££	High	Ongoing	Climate Team, Regeneration Team, Planning Team	In Progress
Use Environmental Health enforcement mechanisms to improve private sector rented accommodation	Minimum of 5 homes per year improved because of licensing or statutory notices being served	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	Economy - improved household finances	Society - reduced inequalities	£	Medium	Ongoing	Environmental Health	In Progress

Work with Parish and Town Councils and other Community groups to engage and educate residents	Minimum of five parish and town councils supported to create climate action plans per year	Society - community brought together	Environment - reduced greenhouse gas emissions	Economy - money retained in local economy	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress
Train Energy Champions to work with communities	10 Energy Champions trained	Economy - improved household finances	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	Society - community brought together	££	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team	In Progress
Fund businesses' decarbonisation plans with capital grants for net zero infrastructure	50 businesses supported to report their carbon footprint and create carbon reduction action plans	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - opportunities for local investment	£££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Regeneration Team	To Start
Support Retrofit Skills Partnership	Convene or actively participate in a local retrofit skills partnership	Economy - job creation	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - money retained in local economy	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate Team, Regeneration Team	In Progress
Run a series of community engagement events to raise awareness and demystify retrofitting	Host one retrofitting awareness event per year	Economy - improved household finances	Society - community brought together	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	££	Low	Ongoing	Climate Team	To Start
Retrofit Rother District Council operational assets to EPC C or above	Operational assets retrofitted to EPC C	Society - improved public sector finances	Economy - money retained in local economy	Environment - reduced greenhouse gas emissions	£££	High	Ongoing	Asset Management Team	In Progress
Replace gas boilers in Rother District Council operational assets for	No new gas boilers in operational assets from 26/27	Society - improved public	Economy - job creation	Economy - improved business efficiency	££	High	26/27	Asset Management Team	To Start

low-carbon heating sources at end of life		sector finances							
Retrofit Rother District Council-owned accommodation to EPC C or above	All RDC owned accommodation rated EPC C or above	Society - reduced inequalities	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - improved household finances	££	Medium	25/26	Housing Team	In Progress
Replace gas boilers in Rother District Council-owned accommodation for low-carbon heating sources at end-of-life	No new gas boilers in RDC accommodation from 2025 onwards	Society - reduced inequalities	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - improved household finances	££	Medium	25/26	Housing Team	In Progress
New Local Plan - refurbishment energy standards set through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - lower energy costs	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress
New Local Plan - reuse of buildings rather than demolition encouraged and supported through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - opportunities for local investment	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress

### Objective 1.2 New buildings are net zero or carbon negative.

Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
New Local Plan - best practice net zero standards for new buildings to be set through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Society - reduced inequalities	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress

Require Council-led developments to meet best practice net zero standards	Introduce Council-led Development Policy	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Environment - improved green spaces	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration Team, Policy and Projects Team	To Start
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Outcome 2. The need to travel will be reduced, those that do so will be on foot, bike, public transport, or EV.

Objective 2.1 Sustainable forms of transport are supported through the planning system.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Local Plan - Development Strategy to plan spatially to reduce reliance on personal vehicles through town and village networks and clusters	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Health & wellbeing - reduced noise pollution	Society - reduced inequalities	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress
Local Plan - Live Well Locally concept to be an Overall Priority, informing the spatial strategy, site selection and development design.	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Health & wellbeing - reduced noise pollution	Economy - opportunities for local investment	£	High	25/26	Climate Team and Planning Team	In Progress

Work with Local Transport Authority and Transport for the Southeast to ensure Rother's interests are met	Actively participate in partnership, corporate comms	Society - reduced inequalities	Society - community brought together	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity	£	High	Ongoing	Climate Team and Planning Team	In Progress
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### Objective 2.2 Facilitate the transition to low/ zero carbon vehicles.

Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Provide infrastructure to switch RDC fleet to EV	Staff home charging policy introduced, Access to EV charger confirmed	Economy - improved business efficiency	Society - improved public sector finances	Economy - opportunities for local investment	££	Low	25/26	Asset Management Team, HR Team	To Start
Switch RDC fleet to EV upon lease renewal	Fleet switched to electric	Economy - improved business efficiency	Society - improved public sector finances	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	£££	Medium	26/27	Asset Management Team	To Start
EV charging infrastructure installed at Council offices to support fleet and staff transition to EVs	Minimum of 3 EV chargers available to staff on site	Society - reduced inequalities	Economy - improved business efficiency	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	££	Medium	25/26	Asset Management Team	In Progress
Pool electric bicycles made available for staff use	Pool electric bikes purchased or hired	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Society - improved public sector finances	£	Low	25/26	HR Team, Climate Team	To Start

Pool EVs made available for staff use	Pool EV available for staff	Society - improved public sector finances	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Society - reduced inequalities	££	Low	25/26	HR Team, Climate Team	To Start
Refuse vehicles switched to low-carbon fuel	Refused vehicles switched to low-carbon fuel	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Economy - opportunities for local investment		£££	High	26/27	Joint Waste Management Team	To Start
Salary sacrifice scheme for EVs promoted to all Staff	Staff benefit introduced	Society - reduced inequalities	Economy - improved household finances	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	£	Medium	25/26	HR Team, Climate Team	To Start
Install EV charging infrastructure in RDC carparks	Six RDC car parks across the District with EV chargers installed	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Society - reduced inequalities	Society - community brought together	£	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Policy and Projects Team, Neighbourhood Services, Climate Team	In Progress
Encourage businesses to install EV charging	10 businesses installed EV charging on-site through Shared Prosperity Funding	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - job creation	Society - reduced inequalities	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
Support businesses to switch to LZC fleet	5 businesses transitioned to Low/Zero Carbon fleet	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - job creation	Society - reduced inequalities	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
Encourage homeowners to install EV charging points through collective buying	Annual collective buying scheme supported by the Council	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Economy - improved household finances	Society - reduced inequalities	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress

Objective 2.3 A programme of activities to promote active travel across the district.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Promote behaviour change to encourage active travel through corporate communications	Internal and External RDC Comms, participation in events	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Health & wellbeing - reduced noise pollution	£	Medium	Ongoing	Sports Team, Climate Team	In Progress
Climate Awareness Training introduced for all RDC staff	RDC Certified as Gold Level Carbon Literate Organisation	Society - community brought together	Economy - improved business efficiency	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity	££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress



## Resource Consumption and Waste

Outcome 3 The district will produce less waste and a thriving circular economy.

Objective 3.1 Reduced consumption of resources and waste.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
RDC Scope 1&2 emissions reduced by	Reduce RDC Scope 1&2 emissions by 50%	Economy - lower	Economy - improved	Economy - money retained in	£££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress

50% year-on-year from 19/20 baseline	year-on-year from 19/20 baseline	energy costs	business efficiency	local economy					
Introduce an Environmental Management System to provide a framework for Council resource consumption and waste	Environmental Management System introduced to provide a framework for Council resource consumption and waste	Economy - improved business efficiency	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Society - improved public sector finances	££	Medium	25/26	Climate Team	To Start
Introduce a decision-making tool that includes carbon impacts	Decision-making tool adopted by the Council	Society - reduced inequalities	Society - improved public sector finances	Economy - improved business efficiency	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Policy and Projects Team	In Progress
Promote behaviour change to reduce waste through corporate communications	Internal and External RDC Comms, participation in events	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - improved household finances	Health & wellbeing - improved dietary health	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress
Reduce paper usage at the Council by 50% on 2023 usage by 2026	Reduced paper usage at the Council by 50% on 2023 usage by 2026	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - improved business efficiency	Society - improved public sector finances	£	Low	25/26	Climate Team	To Start
Incorporating sustainable food principles in council catering and at Council-run events where possible	Policy Introduced	Economy - money retained in local economy	Health & wellbeing - improved dietary health	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Policy and Projects Team	To Start
Eliminate single-use plates and cutlery from council catering	Policy for reusable plates and cutlery introduced	Environment - reduced	Economy - improved		£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Policy and Projects	To Start



		waste going to landfill	business efficiency					Team, Facilities	
Improve procurement policies for operational resources	Policy Introduced	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - money retained in local economy	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Policy and Projects Team	In Progress
Encourage businesses to consider their Scope 3 emissions through decarbonising businesses project and UKSPF Grants	Decarbonising local businesses project established - 50 businesses with decarbonisation plans	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - money retained in local economy	Society - community brought together	£	High	Ongoing	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
Encouraging residents to choose sustainable, local food and to reduce meat consumption through corporate communications messages	Internal and External RDC Comms, host one annual event and participation in external events	Economy - money retained in local economy	Health & wellbeing - improved dietary health	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)	£	Medium	Ongoing	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
Work with local voluntary and community groups and other partners to promote sustainable food practices to local businesses	Create a network for B2B, visitors and residents	Health & wellbeing - improved dietary health	Economy - money retained in local economy	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)	£	Medium	Ongoing	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
New Local Plan - seek reuse and recycling of construction materials and waste	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Society - community brought together	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress

New Local Plan - water resources minimised. Rain & grey water recycling required through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - reduced flood risk	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - improved green spaces	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress
New Local Plan - require space for food-growing in new development through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)	Health & wellbeing - improved dietary health	Society - community brought together	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress

Objective 3.2 Increased repair, reuse and recycling of goods and materials.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Introduce residential food waste collections	Weekly food waste collections introduced	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - improved household finances	Society - reduced inequalities	£££	High	25/26	Joint Waste Management Team	To Start
Fund activities through the Council's RRR Grants Scheme to reduce consumption and increase repair, re-use and recycling	Rother Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Grant to fund initiatives	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Society - community brought together	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	££	Medium	Ongoing	Policy and Projects Team	In Progress
Work in partnership with local voluntary and community groups to reduce food waste	Participation in formal partnership with terms of reference	Resilience - food security (security in	Health & wellbeing - improved	Society - reduced inequalities	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	In Progress

		local food supply)	dietary health						
Promote greywater harvesting to residents, businesses and community organisations through corporate communications and events	Internal and External RDC Comms, host one annual event and participation in external events	Environment - reduced flood risk	Society - community brought together	Environment - improved green spaces	£	Low	Ongoing	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
Promote Office Swap Shop and related activities	Internal RDC Comms, participation in events	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Economy - improved household finances	Society - community brought together	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress
Introduce food waste collection from operational buildings	Food waste from operational buildings is recycled	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Society - community brought together		£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Facilities Team, Policy and Projects Team	To Start
Introduce glass collection from operational buildings	Glass waste from operational buildings is recycled	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill	Society - community brought together		£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Facilities Team, Policy and Projects Team	To Start



## Biodiversity and Land Use

Outcome 4 Nature will be in recovery across the district.

Objective 4.1 Halt land and marine species decline.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Host annual clean seas event to increase public awareness in PFAS, pollution, local action, partner showcasing	Annual community event	Environment - reduced flood risk	Society - community brought together	Environment - increased biodiversity	£	Low	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	To Start
Work in partnership with relevant organisations to improve the health of the water environments in the district	Convene or actively participate in a partnership to improve the health of the water environments in the district	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - reduced flood risk	Society - community brought together	££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	In Progress
Work in partnership with relevant organisations to improve land management practices across the district	Convene or actively participate in a partnership to improve land management practices in the district	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - improved green spaces	Society - community brought together	££	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	To Start
Support schemes to remove negative human influence from the	Rother Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Grant to fund initiatives	Environment - improved	Environment -	Society - community	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	To Start

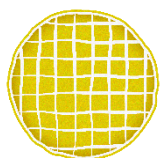
landscape i.e. plastic, tree tubes, litter, rubbish tipping, pollution sources etc.		green spaces	increased biodiversity	brought together					
Develop a Green Asset Management Plan	Green Asset Management Plan adopted by Council	Economy - improved business efficiency	Society - improved public sector finances	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	£	Medium	25/26	Asset Management Team, Climate Team, Policy and Projects Team, Parks Team	To Start
Introduce conditions to new lease agreements	All new lease agreements from 2024/25 have a Nature Recovery clause	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - increased biodiversity	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	£	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Asset Management Team	To Start
Eliminate use of pesticides, herbicides, and peat in council grounds maintenance	Policy Introduced	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - improved green spaces	Society - improved public sector finances	£	Low	23/24 - 24/25	Parks Team, Policy and Projects Team	To Start

### Objective 4.2 Increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Audit RDC green assets to provide a baseline for biodiversity	Biodiversity Audit Report	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces	££	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team	In Progress

Create a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the District	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted by Council	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - increased biodiversity	Society - improved public sector finances	££	High	25/26	Climate Team, Planning Team	To Start
Adopt the county-side Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - reduced flood risk	£	High	25/26	Climate Team and Planning Policy Team	In Progress
New Local Plan have regard to the LNRS in decision-making through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - improved green spaces	Environment - reduced flood risk	£	High	25/26	Planning Team	In Progress
New Local Plan - Require 20% Biodiversity Net Gain through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Environment - increased biodiversity	Economy - opportunities for local investment	Environment - improved green spaces	£	High	25/26	Planning Team	In Progress
Deliver on Bexhill Tree Planting Strategy	KPIs from Bexhill Tree Planting Strategy are met	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces	Environment - improved green spaces	££	Medium	Ongoing	Parks Team, Climate Team, Partner Organisations	In Progress
Develop District-wide Tree Strategy	Tree Strategy adopted by Council	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - reduced flood risk	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Planning Team, Parks Team	To Start
Work in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to carry out	50% of Town and Parish Councils enhancing their assets	Society - community	Economy - opportunity	Economy - opportunity	£	Medium	Ongoing	Climate Team, Partner Organisations	In Progress

biodiversity audits and create Management Plans to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration in parks and open spaces	for biodiversity and carbon sequestration	brought together	es for skills and training	es for local investment					
Designate a proportion of the RDC estate to 'wilding' and nature recovery	10% of RDC estate designated to 'wilding'	Environment - increased biodiversity	Environment - reduced flood risk	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	£	Medium	Ongoing	Estates Team, Parks Team, Climate Team	To Start
New Local Plan - use Natural England standards and guidelines to improve green infrastructure	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution	Economy - opportunities for local investment	Environment - improved green spaces	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress



## Energy Generation

Outcome 5 Renewable energy will be produced locally.

Objective 5.1 Solar PV on all suitable roof spaces.									
Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
Participate in collective buying schemes such as Solar Together	Collective buying scheme run annually	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - improved household finances	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on	£	High	Ongoing	Climate Team	In Progress

				international imports)					
Encourage businesses to install Solar PV	5 businesses installing solar PV through grant funding	Economy - improved business efficiency	Economy - lower energy costs	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	£	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start
New Local Plan - support community energy through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - money retained in local economy	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress
Support local community renewable energy creation	Formal partnership with terms of reference and corporate comms	Economy - money retained in local economy	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	£	High	Ongoing	Planning Team, Climate Team	In Progress
Install Solar PV on RDC commercial assets	Review of commercial assets for solar potential. Commercial solar business project established.	Society - improved public sector finances	Economy - lower energy costs	Economy - improved business efficiency	££	High	Ongoing	Asset Management Team, Climate Team	In Progress
Install Solar PV on council owned accommodation	Review of accommodation assets for solar suitability. Solar PV installed on a	Economy - improved household finances	Economy - lower energy costs	Society - reduced inequalities	££	Low	25/26	Housing Team, Climate Team	To Start



	minimum of 3 properties if suitable.								
Consider RDC investment opportunities for renewables	Review RDC assets for renewable potential. Business case for renewable investment produced.	Society - improved public sector finances	Economy - money retained in local economy	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	£££	High	25/26	Finance Team, Asset Management Team, Climate Team	To Start
Explore options for solar carports in RDC carparks	Report on solar carport potential of RDC car parks	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	Economy - money retained in local economy	Economy - opportunities for local investment	££	Medium	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team, Policy and Projects Team, Neighbourhood Services, Asset Management Team	To Start

### Objective 5.2 Support renewable energy generation.

Action	KPI	Co-benefit 1	Co-benefit 2	Co-benefit 3	Cost	Carbon impact	Delivery	Lead	Progress
New Local Plan - spatially plan for renewable energy through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Economy - money retained in local economy	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less power cuts)	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress
New Local Plan - support and require connection to district heat networks through policy	Policy Included in new Local Plan	Economy - improved household finances	Economy - job creation	Economy - opportunities for local investment	£	High	25/26	Planning Policy Team	In Progress

Explore district heating opportunities across the district	Report on district heating opportunity mapping	Economy - job creation	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - opportunities for local investment	££	High	25/26	Climate Team, Planning Policy Team, Regeneration Team	To Start
Support feasibility studies for geothermal heat networks	Report on geothermal heat networks potential	Economy - job creation	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - opportunities for local investment	££	High	26/27	Climate Team, Planning Policy Team, Regeneration Team	To Start
Carry out heat demand mapping	Heat mapping report produced	Economy - opportunities for skills and training	Economy - opportunities for local investment	Society - community brought together	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Climate Team	In Progress
Encourage businesses to install renewables	5 businesses received funding for renewable installations	Economy - lower energy costs	Resilience - security in energy supply (less power cuts)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)	££	High	23/24 - 24/25	Regeneration Team, Climate Team	To Start

## Cost

£ - £1,000 - £10,000

££ - £10,000 - £100,000

£££ - £100,000+

## Carbon impact (tCO2e)

Low - 10s

Medium - 100s

High - 1000s

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT Part 1



<b>Team</b>	Climate	<b>Assessment carried out by</b>	Lucie Bolton	<b>Is this a new or existing strategy/policy/service/procedure?</b>
<b>Service / Policy being assessed</b>	Climate Strategy	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	31.10.23	<b>EXISTING</b>

<b>Initial assessment</b>	
1) What is the aim/ objective of the strategy/policy/service/procedure being assessed?	The Climate Strategy aims to enable, encourage, and accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across the district.
2) Who is intended to benefit from it and how?	All residents, businesses, and communities across the district.
3) If your service uses contractors, do you ensure that they comply with the Council's equal opportunities policy and relevant legislation?	n/a
4) Do you know who your service users are by age/ race/ disability/gender etc?	All residents and businesses – LG Inform+ has been used to collate data on users.

<p>5)  a) How are service users' views gathered?  b) How do you use this information?  c) Do you publish the results, and where?</p>	<p>The Climate Strategy is the result of 12 months of engagement with Rother residents, businesses, and community organisations. This engagement has been in the form of presentations, public meetings, attending events, workshops, one-to-one meetings, and email correspondence.</p> <p>This information has been used to inform the Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan development.</p> <p>A summary of this process has been presented to the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) at a meeting that was open to the public. All in-person engagement has been captured in an Engagement Tracker which was also presented to CCSG in public.</p> <p>Results were also discussed throughout the engagement process.</p>
<p><b>Who will be affected?</b></p>	
<p>6) Will the impact on people due to their <b>racial group</b> be:  a) <b>Positive</b>  b) <b>Negative</b>  c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact.  If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>
<p>7) Will the impact on people due to their <b>gender</b> be:  a) <b>Positive</b>  b) <b>Negative</b>  c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact.  If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>
<p>8) Will the impact on people due to their <b>disability</b> be:  a) <b>Positive</b>  b) <b>Negative</b>  c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact.  If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Positive - The Climate Strategy encourages the Council to provide grants to community groups for low-carbon technology including electric vehicles. Adaptations to vehicles can be costly making LZC vehicles harder to access for people with disabilities. The Council's grants will make these vehicles more financially accessible. The Council requires Equalities Impact Assessments as part of the grants application process.</p>

<p>9) Will the impact on people due to their <b>sexual orientation</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>
<p>10) Will the impact on people due to their <b>age</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Positive - The Climate Strategy acknowledges the negative impact Climate Change can have on the young and very old who are more susceptible to extremes in temperature. The Climate Strategy is designed to ensure those at increased risk are not left behind.</p>
<p>11) Will the impact on people due to their <b>religious or other belief</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>
<p>12) Will the impact on people due to them having <b>dependants/ caring responsibilities</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>
<p>13) Will the impact on people due to them being <b>transgendered or transsexual</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Neutral - The Climate Strategy is designed to enable all residents, businesses, and communities to transition to a low-carbon society.</p>

<p><b>14)</b> Will the impact on people due to them <b>being socio-economically disadvantaged</b> be:</p> <p>a) <b>Positive</b> b) <b>Negative</b> c) <b>Neutral</b></p>	<p>If positive or neutral: please explain how/why that might be the impact. If negative: please explain how/why AND what steps you are taking to reduce the impact</p> <p>Positive – The Climate Strategy acknowledges the negative impact climate change is having on socio-economically disadvantaged people. The Climate Strategy is designed to ensure those at greatest risk are not left behind.</p>
<p><b>15)</b> Is there any evidence that people from different groups may have different expectations of the areas being assessed?</p> <p>a) <b>Yes</b> b) <b>No</b></p>	<p>Please explain and provide any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise):</p> <p>Yes - Results of the 2020 public consultation on the Environment Strategy have shown a range in expectations from the public on the Council's role in addressing the Climate Emergency. There will be members of the public for whom this Climate Strategy is not ambitious enough and there will be members of the public who think this is not the Council's responsibility and the Council should not be pursuing this. There is also a large proportion of the population who have more moderate views.</p>
<p><b>16)</b> Is the policy likely to affect relations between certain groups, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular group or denying opportunities to another?</p> <p>a) <b>Yes</b> b) <b>No</b></p>	<p>Please explain and provide any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise):</p> <p>No - There is a strong emphasis on ensuring the transition to a low-carbon society is accessible to all. There will be members of the public who do not agree with the Council's position to provide access to funding for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged.</p>
<p><b>17)</b> Is the policy likely to damage relations between any groups and the Council?</p> <p>a) <b>Yes</b> b) <b>No</b></p>	<p>Please explain and provide any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise):</p> <p>No - The Strategy is designed to ensure all residents and businesses are supported.</p>
<p><b>18)</b> Could the differential impact identified in 6-14 amount to there being the potential for negative impacts in this strategy/policy/service/procedure?</p>	<p>Please explain and provide any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise):</p> <p>No – differential impacts identified are all positive.</p>

<b>19)</b> Can this negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?	Please explain and provide any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise):  n/a
<b>20)</b> Does this initial assessment identify any negative impacts that you cannot overcome?	If yes, please complete Part 2, Full Assessment  No

Signed (Lead Officer): L Bolton

Date: 31.10.23

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## WORK PROGRAMME 2023 – 2024

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT – MAIN ITEM IN BOLD	Cabinet Portfolio Holder
20.11.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance Report: First and Second Quarters 2023/24</li> <li>Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring as at Quarter 2 - 2023/24</li> <li>Climate Strategy 2023</li> </ul>	Jeeawon Field
22.01.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Draft Revenue Budget Proposals 2024/25</b></li> <li>Key Performance Targets 2024/25</li> <li>Allocations Policy</li> </ul>	Jeeawon McCourt
19.02.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Local Plan Consultation (Reg 18)</li> </ul>	Prochak
18.03.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Crime and Disorder Committee: to receive a report from the Community Safety Partnership</b></li> <li>Performance Report: Third Quarter 2023/24</li> <li>Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring as at Quarter 3 - 2024/24</li> </ul>	Field Jeeawon
22.04.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call-in and Urgency Procedures</li> <li>Draft Annual Report to Council</li> <li>Review of progress against the recommendations of the Health and Well-Being Task and Finish Group</li> <li>Report of the Digital and Customer Services Task and Finish Group</li> <li>Impact of Airbnb and second homes in Rye / Winchelsea / Camber</li> </ul>	Coleman Byrne Timpe
<b>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regeneration inc. Leisure Centre, Fountains, Skate Park and Accessibility of Green Spaces across the district</li> <li>Review of the Economic Regeneration Strategy</li> <li>Litter Strategy</li> <li>Review of the Tourism Strategy and the impact of Airbnbs</li> <li>Review of the Financial Stability Programme</li> <li>Update report from the Local Strategic Partnership</li> <li>Update report from the Health and Well-Being Board</li> <li>Review of progress against the recommendations of the Health and Well-Being Task and Finish Group (Year 3)</li> <li>Development of new Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy</li> <li>Development of new Corporate Plan</li> </ul>		

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