

Test Valley Borough Council
Climate Emergency Action Plan

April 2022



Introduction

The Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and committed to *'investigate clear and effective options to become a carbon neutral organisation'*. In June 2020 we approved our [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), recognising that it would need to be reviewed over time to reflect changing circumstances and opportunities.

This document provides an update on some of our actions. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives formal updates twice a year and the papers are available on the [Council's website](#).



Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out our approach to calculating the Council's greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the energy (gas and electricity) used by the buildings we own and operate, as well as the fuel used in running our fleet vehicles and machinery (e.g. for managing green spaces). The Council's greenhouse gas reporting helps inform our approach to actions to work towards carbon neutrality.

We have published our [greenhouse gas emissions](#) report for 2020/21. This provides full details of the Council's emissions. Figure 1 provides a summary of the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions for the different categories. When looking at gross emissions data, the overall CO₂e emissions reduced by about 7% compared to 2019/20 and 4% relative to 2018/19. When we account for exporting electricity back to the grid from our solar panels, and the purchase of electricity from a green tariff (from October 2020), the emissions for 2020/21 reduced by about 16% relative to 2019/20, and 14% relative to 2018/19. The Council's greenhouse gas emissions for 2020/21 were significantly influenced by the coronavirus pandemic.

Figure 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the Council (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e))

Source	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Fleet fuel use	 947.3	 940	 870.1
Gas use	 251.3	 259.9	 236.3
Electricity use	 274.6	 386.8	 435.9
Total gross emissions	1,473.2	1,586.7	1,542.3
Green tariff	 -148.3	n/a	n/a
Solar PV export	 -6	 -7	 -8
Total net emissions	1,318.9	1,579.7	1,534.3

It is important to note that changes in the facilities and services we provide can influence overall emissions both positively and negatively. For example, we have increased the waste and recycling collections to accommodate new homes in our borough, this has led to an increase in our fleet related emissions.

Emissions within the Borough of Test Valley

The Government publishes figures on carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by local authority area. This does not cover all emissions but is a useful source of information. The most recent figures published are for 2019. This indicates 792.8 kilo tonnes of CO2 emissions within Test Valley in 2019, compared to 819.3 kilo tonnes in 2018. Figure 2 shows the emissions by the main categories that are reported on.

In order to compare the data to other areas, the emissions per person can be used. In 2019, the emissions in Test Valley were 6.3 tonnes per person, compared to 4.7 tonnes for Hampshire, and 4.9 tonnes for England.

Figure 2: Carbon dioxide emissions in Test Valley Borough (kilo tonnes of CO2)¹

Sector	2019	2018
Industry	 114.0	 116.4
Commercial	 55.8	 66.9
Public Sector	 20.4	 19.5
Domestic	 188.6	 194.8
Transport	 454.2	 461.8
Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry	 -40.1	 -40.2
Total	792.8	819.3

¹ UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2019, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2021 (using full dataset).

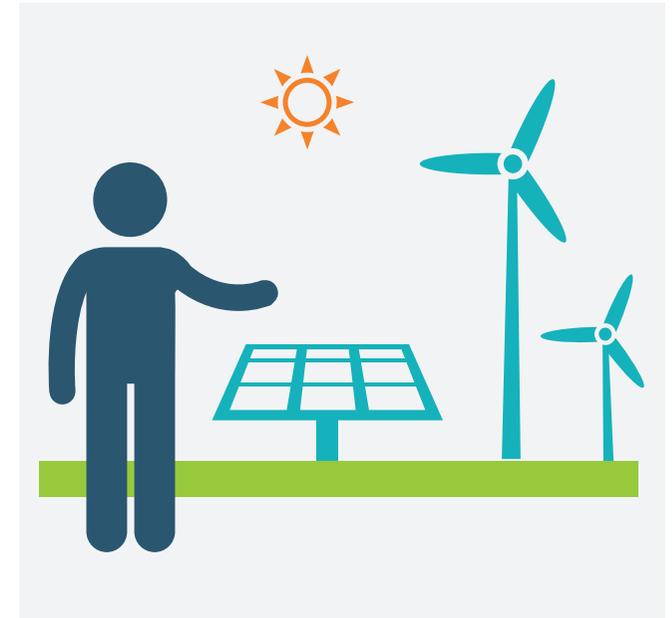
Updates on Actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Climate Emergency Action Plan includes seven themes to group the 57 actions together. Updates on some of these actions are set out below, along with additional items that were not identified within the Action Plan.



Corporate action

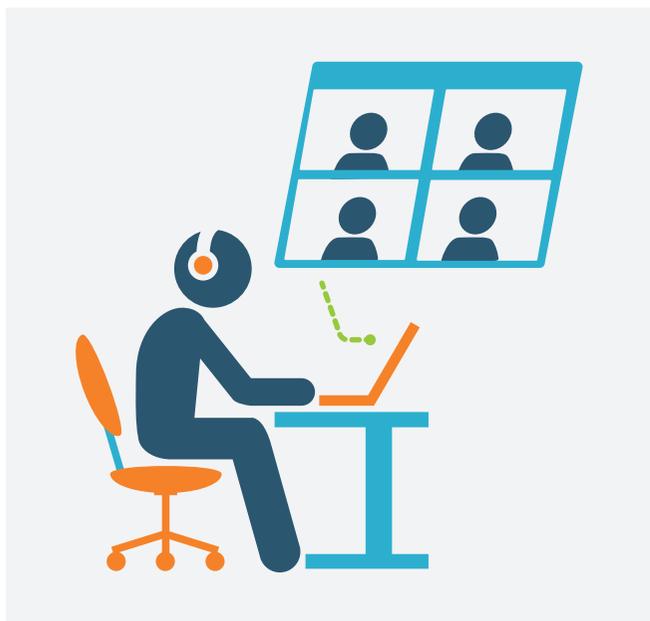
- A number of recent strategies have taken account of climate change, including our Asset Management Plan.
- Continuing to work with partners to share information and learning in relation to the climate emergency. This includes discussion at the Test Valley Partnership.



Property and energy

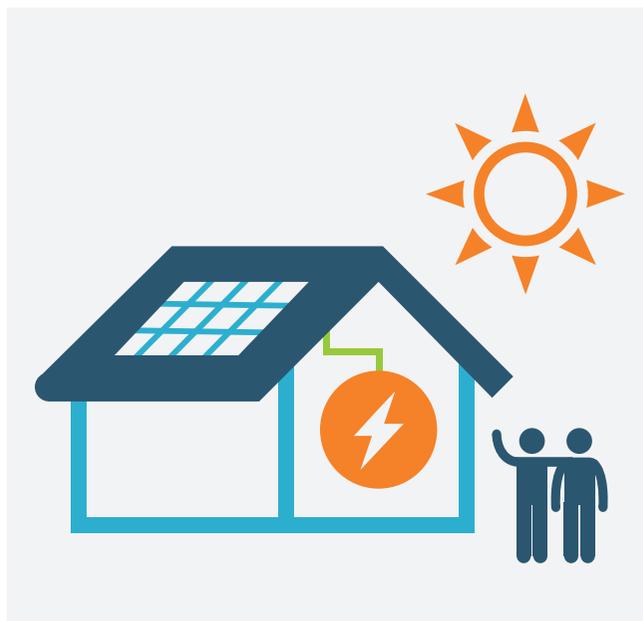
- Early analysis shows that LED lighting installed at the Chantry Centre car park in Andover has resulted in savings of about 30% in electricity use.
- The Council's electricity supply continues to be a green tariff bought from a Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origins (REGO)² backed scheme.

² More information is available at: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/rego/about-rego-scheme



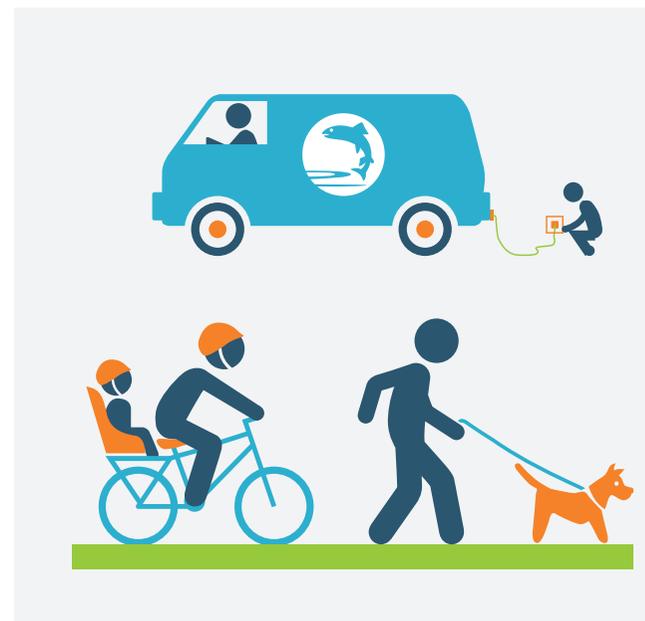
Smarter working and use of technology

- The potential to hold small hybrid meetings has been facilitated through the deployment of Bluetooth speakers to Services. This will help reduce the need to travel for meetings.
- More people are using e-billing for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates, with 22% and 39% using e-billing respectively. This is helping us to save paper.
- We are continuing to see about 50% of customer contacts via our online, self-serve methods.



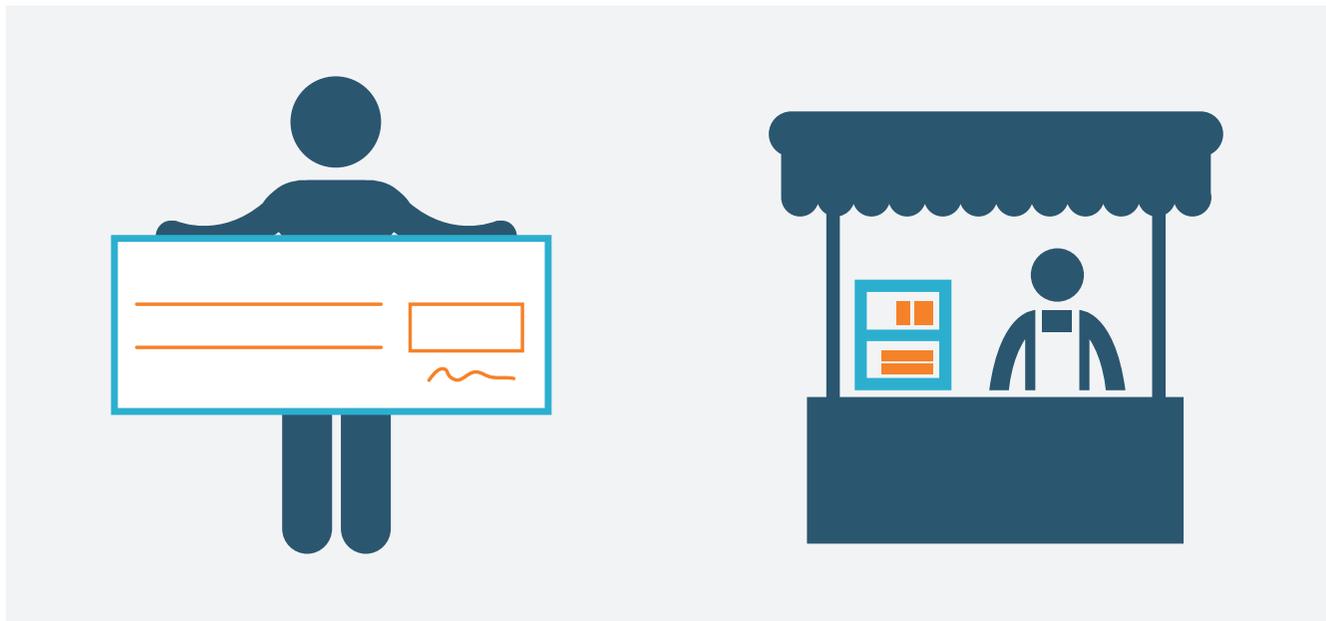
Housing, development and infrastructure

- We are working with the Greater South East Energy Hub to engage with residents who are in fuel poverty and living in homes with a low energy performance (EPC rating of E or lower) to access funding to help improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- We started a public consultation on the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18, Stage 1), to get views on matters including our draft objectives and policy on combatting climate change.



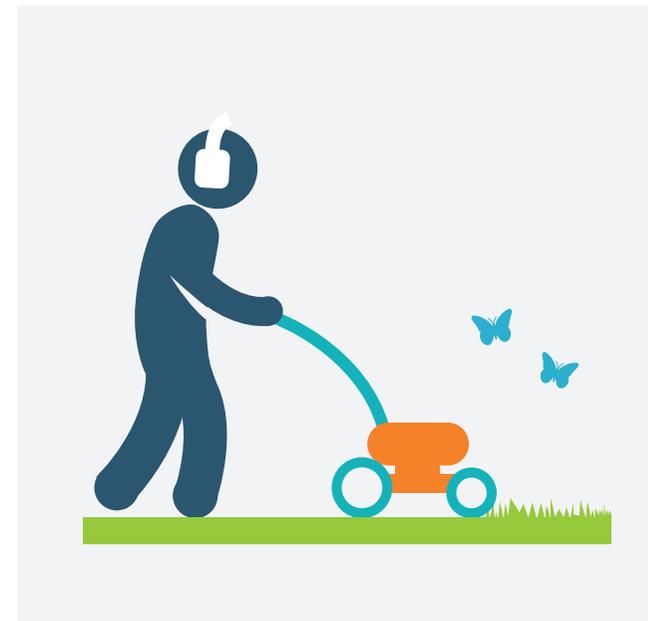
Transport, travel and plant

- Our fleet vehicles now includes 11 electric vehicles.
- We are continuing to move towards electrically operated equipment, like hedge trimmers, when existing kit needs to be replaced.
- Working with Hampshire County Council on their production of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.
- Continuing to work with the [Romsey Future Walking and Cycling work](#).



Supporting communities and businesses

- The Council is participating in [LoCASE](#), which is a 2 year scheme to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint through a combination of support and grants.
- We held a number of virtual green events:
 - planting and wilding event for parish and town councils;
 - a session on how [thermal imaging cameras](#) can be used to understand heat loss from buildings; and
 - a partnership event to help businesses find out about funding and support available to reduce their carbon emissions.
- Worked alongside partners through [Andover Vision](#), to support the Climate Day of Action in 2021 and are helping to plan the 2022 event.



Natural Environment

- We piloted changes to the mowing regimes for approximately 7 hectares of open spaces to enhance biodiversity and reduce operational carbon emissions. In 2022, the urban meadow scheme will be extended to cover a wider area.
- We have planted over 19,000 trees over the 2021/22 planting season, which is almost double our target. This includes over 10,000 trees planted to support the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Dormouse Group.
- Worked with a range of partners, such as TARCA, Friends of the Parks, and Tadburn Conservation Volunteers, to conduct conservation related tasks including general maintenance and litter picking.

