

Date 09.10.24	Classification Public	Committee Not applicable
From Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability		Title Of Report Climate Change Annual Report 2024

THIS REPORT IS OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In response to increasing public concern and extensive scientific evidence on climate change, Redbridge Council developed and launched the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021 to guide the organisation on reducing its carbon footprint and promote sustainability locally.
- 1.2. The document contains 114 commitments which key services aimed to deliver by the end of 2024. The commitments primarily focused on actions that would reduce the direct and indirect carbon emissions associated with the Council's operations which fall within the organisation's control.
- 1.3. The Council also outlined its ambitions to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and net zero organisation by 2050 which aligned with both regional and national carbon targets. The latest emissions calculation for all 3 scopes for the 2023 reporting year equalled 29,977 tCO₂e which when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate represents a significant reduction of 11,286 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 27.4 percent.
- 1.4. In the Action Plan, the Council recognised its important role as a community leader on climate change and several commitments focused on influencing the community to adopt more sustainable practices to encourage borough wide emission reductions. This aspiration will be explored in further detail when a new Climate Change Strategy is developed for Redbridge.
- 1.5. When publishing the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council committed to providing an annual report and the Climate Change Annual report will be published online.
- 1.6. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the Council's performance in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan following completion of the third delivery year.
- 1.7. This report also includes analysis of the latest data on the Council's direct and indirect emissions, details of community led activities delivered over the past year and high-level summaries of the latest climate focused programmes, policies or strategies which further support the organisation's objectives on carbon reduction and sustainability.

**THE DECISIONS PROPOSED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS REPORT
MAY BE CALLED IN**

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2. CLIMATE CHANGE IN REDBRIDGE:

- 2.1. Tackling the climate emergency is one of the most important issues of our time and the decisions made now will impact future generations for years to come. The overwhelming amount of scientific evidence from climate experts from around the world has highlighted the irreversible impacts on the environment, human health, economies, and global stability.
- 2.2. Climate action should be a priority at all levels and local government has a key role to play in supporting carbon reduction and promoting sustainability locally. Councils across the country have been leading the way by greening their operations, adapting their estates, enhancing green spaces and installing measures to ensure that residents are protected from the changing climate.
- 2.3. Redbridge Council recognises the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation, which is why the organisation declared a climate emergency in 2019 and later launched the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021. The Action Plan contains 114 commitments which aim to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and forms the foundation of the Council's long-term ambitions in addressing the wider implications on our environment over the next decade.
- 2.4. Embedding the climate change agenda into the fabric of the organisation has been a priority for the Council and the Corporate Strategy features a significant programme of work to address climate change and biodiversity in Redbridge. The Council also established new governance systems to ensure that services from across the organisation were held accountable for their performance and a high-level officer working group was also created to foster collaboration and champion innovation to ensure the climate emergency is tackled in a creative yet efficient manner.
- 2.5. Since the launch of the Action Plan, Redbridge Council has started to decarbonise its buildings, made the switch over to green electricity, enhanced the local cycling network, achieved bold targets in increasing recycling rates and reducing household waste, promoted sustainable development through planning policy and supported the most vulnerable residents with retrofitting their homes. A summary of the Council's performance in delivering the Action Plan is provided in section 4 of this report.
- 2.6. In addition, the Council's efforts to meet the challenge of the climate emergency extend beyond the Climate Change Action Plan. Services have been developing innovative strategies, policies and programmes which further support the green objectives of the organisation and contribute towards important outcomes such as promoting biodiversity, improving air quality, and tackling the impacts of climate change. A summary of the recently developed climate focused strategies is provided in section 7 of this report.
- 2.7. Although significant progress has been made, the Council is only at the start of its transformational journey to become a net zero organisation. The current Action Plan is due to be refreshed and this will provide the Council with the opportunity to go above and beyond the progress that has already been achieved and broaden the scope of its activities to further develop its role as a community leader on climate change and influence emission reductions across the highest emitting sectors in Redbridge.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR:

- 3.1. Over the past year the Council has continued to secure greater outcomes for its residents and deliver the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan. The following paragraphs highlight some of the key progress achieved in the third delivery year of the Action Plan.

Property and Energy

Supporting low-income households through retrofit activities

- 3.2. To date the Council has received a total of 111 applications from low-income households for support with retrofit activities which have been reviewed and assessed by the Community Protection and Licencing team.
- 3.3. Following the review, the Community Protection and Licencing team approved 56 of the applications as they met the eligibility criteria. Subsequently, 50 retrofit surveys have been organised and delivered at properties across the borough.
- 3.4. The Community Protection and Licencing team have organised quotations from contractors for the specified works and 7 installations have been successfully completed and 8 installations are currently being delivered. The Council will continue to support further installations as this work programme progresses.
- 3.5. It is important to note that since the launch of the Action Plan, the Council has also supported over 100 properties in the borough to be retrofitted to EPC C through various green energy efficiency grants from central government.

Improving the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock

- 3.6. The Council has been undertaking stock condition surveys for its housing stock so that officers can understand the energy performance rating of every residential property which is owned or managed by the Council. The stock condition surveys are continuing to be delivered and currently 86.35 percent of all buildings have been assessed.
- 3.7. The updated information is currently being used by the Housing Asset's team to ensure that homes with low energy efficiency will be supported with retrofit upgrades such as external fabric installations which will improve the EPC rating of each building and save residents money on their energy bills.
- 3.8. The Council is currently delivering a pilot project in Hainault which will focus on improving the energy efficiency of 12 homes by April 2025. The insights and learning gained from this project will inform a funding bid to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero's (DESNZ) Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) which will see the Council apply for funding to deliver a retrofit programme that will benefit over 200 properties in Redbridge. You can find out more on this exciting development in section 7 of this report.

- 3.9. In addition, the Council is continuing to invest in maintaining and upgrading the Council's housing stock through a multitude of measures which cumulatively will improve the EPC ratings of the Council's housing stock.
- 3.10. Finally, a separate analysis piece is also underway which looks to focus on how options for heating and hot water system upgrades can be used and what potential benefits and impact this will have on overall EPC improvement.

Cleaner Journeys

Improving cycling infrastructure across the borough

- 3.11. The Council has installed numerous cycle lanes over the past few years at locations such as Lake House Road, Centre Road, Aldersbrook Road, and Blake Hall Road. These routes have connected up the Wanstead area and provided a holistic lightly segregated cycle network. The Council has also installed a lightly segregated cycle lane on Woodford New Road which extends the cycle route from the London Borough of Waltham Forest's network and has also upgraded the Ilford to Barking route. The total length of the schemes installed is approximately 12.5km of new and upgraded cycle routes.
- 3.12. The Council also undertook analysis of the cycle routes installed between 2022-2023 and recorded an excellent uptake in cycling in the area with the average percentage of cyclists compared to total traffic volume across the schemes was around 3.2%. The largest volume of cyclists as a percentage of total traffic volume was recorded on the Ilford to Barking route at over 16% in April 2024.
- 3.13. In 2023, Transport for London's travel data recorded that 1% of residents in Redbridge travelled by cycling and the recent analysis demonstrates that the Council is installing cycle schemes where they are most needed based on increasing demand.
- 3.14. In 2024, the Council installed two local routes that link up existing cycle routes and three major transport hubs. The two schemes link cyclists from Gants Hill to Redbridge, and Ilford to Gants Hill, and they take cyclists through quieter roads whilst also introducing measures to reduce speeding on those roads.
- 3.15. The Council is on track to fulfil the organisation's commitment to install 200 cycle storage units in the borough. So far just under 200 cycle hangars and stands have successfully been installed and a further 13 cycle hangars will be installed later this year.

Implementing School Street schemes

- 3.16. The Council currently has 19 School Street schemes in operation which covers a total of 21 schools which aim to reduce air pollution around our schools, protect children from the dangers of traffic and encourage families to use active travel methods to get to school each day.
- 3.17. The Council has secured consultancy support to assist with upscaling the roll-out of School Streets across the borough. The Council is currently consulting

on an additional 18 schemes with the aim of them commencing in early 2025, subject to public consultation.

Installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the borough:

- 3.18. The Council is continuing to plan, design and roll out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Redbridge and the Council is expected to have installed a total of 548 electric vehicle charge points by the end of March 2025.
- 3.19. The Council has also secured funding from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles' (OZEV) Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund which will enable the Council to procure an estimated 850 electric vehicle charge points. The installation of these additional charge points is expected to commence in 2026 following an in-depth procurement process in 2025.

A new Electric Vehicle Strategy for Redbridge:

- 3.20. The Council adopted its first Electric Vehicle Strategy following Cabinet approval in May 2024. The strategy will guide the Council over the next decade to support a smooth transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) across the borough.
- 3.21. In the new strategy, the Council has outlined its ambitions to ensure that every resident is within a 5-minute walk from an electric vehicle charge point by 2026 and within a 3-minute walk from an electric vehicle charge point by 2030.
- 3.22. The core objectives of the new strategy centre around encouraging and enabling walking, wheeling, and cycling in the borough, and the strategy will contribute towards the organisation's ambitions to become carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

Waste

A new commercial waste offer for Redbridge:

- 3.23. In addition, the Council has transferred its commercial waste service to a private sector company to ensure that a more comprehensive recycling offer is available to businesses across the borough. The transfer began on 14th August 2024 and the Council will be able to provide information on how many businesses have switched their contracts to the First Mile provider at a later date.

Procurement and Investments

Upskilling officers and elected members to secure greater green outcomes:

- 3.24. A bespoke training course has been developed which enables contract managers, commissioners, and procurers to speak more confidently on the policies, green objectives, and strategies in place at Redbridge. The training course is currently being rolled out and will enable officers to secure greater green outcomes from contractors and suppliers when carrying out procurement exercises. Contract managers will also carry out regular contract

monitoring meetings to ensure contractors continue to innovate and adopt more sustainable practices.

- 3.25. In February 2024, carbon literacy training was delivered to over 30 elected members at the Council. This course aimed to enable elected members to navigate opportunities and talk with confidence to the local community on the science, policies, opportunities and benefits of climate action.

Enabling residents to access the green economy

- 3.26. This year Redbridge Council supported the Redbridge Institute to launch a Green Skills Hub which has enabled residents to access green skills courses that will provide them with knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of sustainability and environmental impacts.
- 3.27. The green skills courses enable residents to use the latest technology to specialise in a variety of disciplines including sustainability, cycle mechanics and waste management.
- 3.28. In addition, Redbridge Institute and Work Redbridge hosted the borough's first ever Green Skills Summit this year which saw over 40 local employers, supply chain partners and skills providers come together to discuss how green skills could be supported in Redbridge.
- 3.29. The summit was held in June and those in attendance were provided with the opportunity to discuss how we can collaborate to address the skills needs within the emerging green economy. Attendees heard presentations from Newham College's Green Skills lead about the Greater London Authority's (GLA) priorities for supporting employers to have a highly skilled workforce and from Local London's Skills Improvement Plan lead on how employers can have a voice in designing skills curriculums that meet their current and emerging needs.
- 3.30. The event also facilitated a series of roundtable discussions which identified a clear ambition for everyone to work together to identify the skills pipeline across various sectors including construction/retrofit, highways and civil engineering and electric vehicle charging and maintenance.
- 3.31. Following the meeting, the Council and local training providers plan to work together to develop clear pathways for residents to access the skills required at all levels from CSCS construction cards to Level 5 Retrofit Assessor qualifications. Attendees were also encouraged to continue to engage with the Council's Work Redbridge service to share workforce requirements so that we can better prepare local residents for the opportunities available.
- 3.32. Since the launch of the Green Skills Hub and the Summit, Redbridge Institute has launched Redbridge's Passport to Careers in the Green Economy looking specifically at pathways into domestic retrofitting, with a number of sign-ups already. The Redbridge Institute have also recently launched their carbon literacy curriculum.

Enabling Others

Encouraging Community Projects through NCIL

- 3.33. This year the Council consulted residents on the Redbridge Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding programme. As part of the consultation members of the community were asked to vote for their top priorities for funding NCIL projects in their local area and multiple climate related priorities were selected. These priorities included:
- **Greening the borough** – projects that improve local public gardens and open spaces through planting projects or provide support for existing greening projects.
 - **Environmental Sustainability** – projects that support the Council's Climate Change Action Plan through local initiatives and encourage carbon reduction locally.
 - **Sustainable Transport** – support for projects relating to walking and cycling, or those which improve infrastructure for sustainable transport.
- 3.34. The Council then launched a funding round which is due to close in September 2024 and projects will be awarded funding by the end of the year.

Tackling the climate emergency with a child friendly approach:

- 3.35. The Council continues to work towards UNICEF Child Friendly recognition and part of this important workstream is to ensure that the voice of children and young people is at the centre of the decision-making process at Redbridge.
- 3.36. Children and young people selected the 'Place' badge as one of their priority areas which includes climate change adaptation and mitigation and input from young people forms part of a wider body of engagement activities informing the new Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.37. Officers have continued to work with children and young people over the past year and recently a climate change focused session was held with the Child Friendly Redbridge Ambassadors. In the session, officers presented climate change data to the group of young people and then held an open conversation which provided young people the opportunity to share their perceptions around recycling at school, discuss their experience of cycling in Redbridge, share their concerns around access to cycling, and discuss the availability of public transport options.
- 3.38. In addition, the Neighbourhood Engagement and Education team are hosting a 'Youth Eco Skills Festival' this year following the success of last year's event. This year the event will include an increased amount of practical workshops which will enable young people to learn Eco Skills to share with friends, family, and peers. These skills will be broad ranging and will increase young people's ability to take eco actions themselves, to pass these skills on at home, school or to shape their future careers.

Supporting schools with climate change adaptation and mitigation:

- 3.39. The Council has continued to support schools in the borough with reducing their carbon footprint. A solar panel system has now been installed at Churchfields school and feedback from the site operators states that the

system is working efficiently with the panels producing 140kW per hour on average. The amount of electricity generated is sufficient to fully power the school and the excess electricity is exported to the main grid. Following the success of Churchfields, the Council's Energy Advisory service is now planning to work with more schools to expand this programme in collaboration with Solar for Schools who helped deliver the scheme at Churchfields school.

- 3.40. In parallel to this, the Council is also assessing the possibility of installing solar panels on the Vision estate on buildings such as leisure centres and libraries. The Council intends to identify the best possible offer for Vision to ensure that the solar panel systems are economically viable.

4. EXCEPTIONS REPORT:

End of year summary

- 4.1. The Council has established various strategic governance boards which meet monthly to discuss the Council's progress on all high priority projects and programmes.
- 4.2. The Project Management Office (PMO) requests progress reports from key officers across the organisation for all the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan on a quarterly basis. The progress reports are then reviewed by senior managers at the Corporate Performance Group (CPG) to ensure that services are held accountable for their performance and mitigations are put in place where appropriate.
- 4.3. The following table provides the latest summary on the progress of all of the commitments by Action Plan theme:

Theme	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	Grey	Total
Property and Energy	-	7	11	25	6	49
Cleaner Journeys	-	8	7	7	5	27
Waste	-	1	1	13	-	15
Procurement and Investment	-	1	2	8	-	11
Enabling Others	-	-	8	4	-	12
Total	0	17	29	57	11	114

- 4.4. The RAG rating system is as follows:
- **Blue** – all actions relating to the commitment have been completed.
 - **Green** – actions to deliver the commitment are progressing on schedule.
 - **Amber** – the service area is experiencing minor challenges in delivering the commitment and may not meet the agreed deadline.
 - **Red** – the service area is experiencing major challenges in delivering the commitment and the agreed deadline will need to be adjusted and further mitigations planned.
 - **Grey** - the commitment either cannot be graded as the actions are long-term ambitions or the commitments have been cancelled due to alternative projects being pursued which deliver similar impacts or best practice dictating other systems to be followed.

- 4.5. The Council has either delivered or is on track to deliver 86 commitments (75.4 percent) in line with the agreed deadlines of the Action Plan despite the added pressures of the current financial climate.
- 4.6. The organisation has delivered a total of 57 commitments following the completion of the third year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan which amounts to 50 percent of all commitments made.
- 4.7. The organisation has achieved progress on key projects that have significantly contributed towards the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.8. It is important to note that there are 17 commitments in the Action Plan which face minor challenges in their delivery and as such may require deadlines to be adjusted.

5. CARBON EMISSIONS PROGRESS

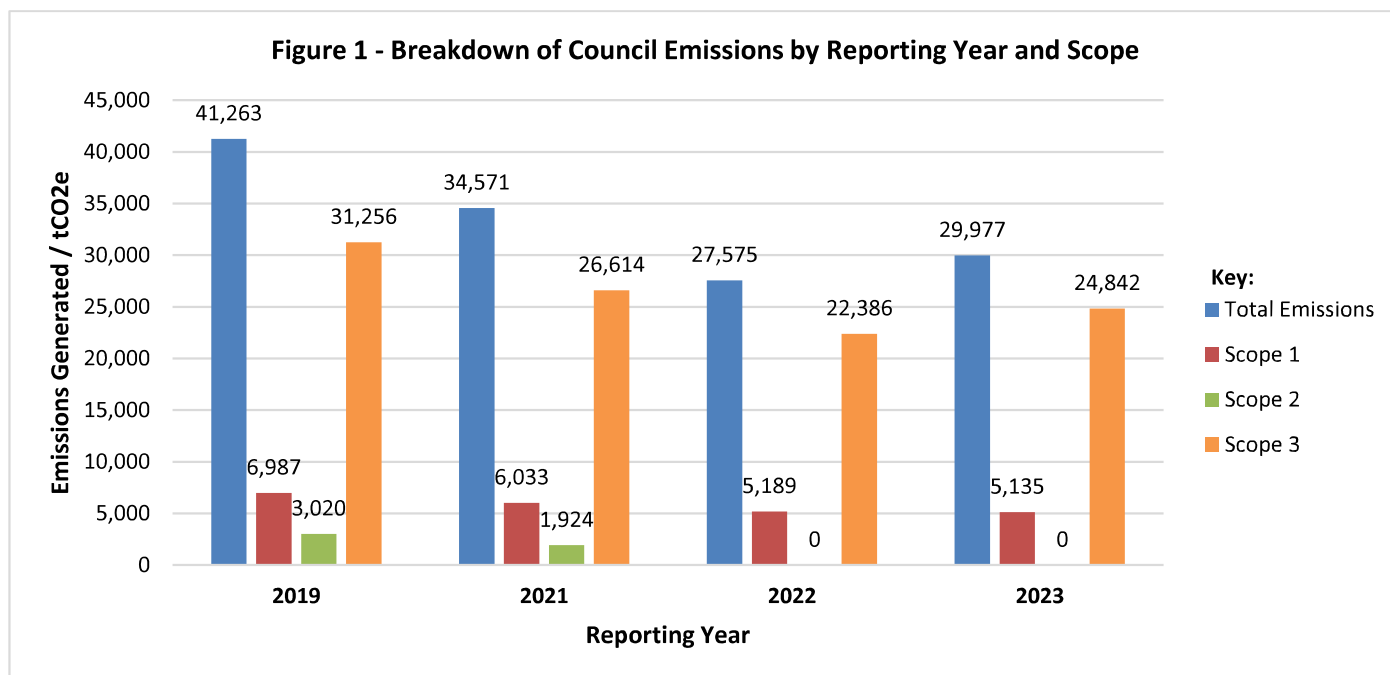
- 5.1. The Council is committed to producing annual reports for the Climate Change Action Plan and this includes providing annual emission estimates for the organisation.
- 5.2. The Council commissioned Eunomia to carry out a green audit of the Council's operations to understand the scale and source of the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions. The Council was provided with a baseline emissions estimate which was split across three scopes, and officers were also provided with a monitoring tool to enable officers to generate emission estimates each year.
- 5.3. The monitoring tool provides estimates for the Council's carbon emissions over the following three scopes:
 - **Scope 1** - Emissions generated directly via Redbridge's owned and operated assets. This includes fuel used by the Redbridge vehicle feet (petrol and diesel), and fuel used to heat the Corporate Estate and Vision Estate buildings.
 - **Scope 2*** – Emissions associated with electricity consumed in the Corporate Estate, communal areas of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings, and street lighting.

**The energy consumption data for Council owned buildings that are operated by Vision are no longer included in the scope 2 emission estimates for the Council.*

- **Scope 3** – Other indirect carbon emissions associated with Redbridge's operations such as the emissions associated with the organisation's procurement activities.

Full breakdown of emissions by reporting year

5.4. Figure 1 below provides a breakdown of the Council's emission estimates by reporting year and scope.



Scope 1 emissions

5.5. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 1 was estimated to be 6,987 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 954 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 13.7 percent.

5.6. Overall, when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, the latest 2023 emissions calculation has demonstrated a total reduction in scope 1 emissions of 1,852 tCO₂e which is a significant reduction of 26.5 percent.

Scope 2 emissions

5.7. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 2 was estimated to be 3,020 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 1,096 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 36.3 percent.

5.8. In October 2021, the Council established a partnership with the energy procurement company called LASER Energy. This partnership meant that the Council could switch over from brown electricity to a green electricity tariff that is sourced from REGO-backed renewable energy programmes such as wind farms and hydroelectric projects.

5.9. This switch means that all of the electricity consumed by buildings within the corporate estate, street lighting in the borough and controlled elements of the Council's housing stock uses green electricity.

- 5.10. Eunomia adapted the Council's monitoring tool to ensure that the carbon savings from this major switch could be measured accurately. Therefore, the scope 2 emissions estimates from the second delivery year and in the future will be 0 tCO₂e. When compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, this demonstrates a total reduction of 3,020 tCO₂e which is a 100 percent reduction.
- 5.11. However, the Council does still track the organisation's electricity consumption data to ensure that all of the buildings and street lighting use the most efficient systems possible. By taking this approach the Council can accurately measure the carbon savings associated with switching over to a green electricity tariff.
- 5.12. If the Council remained on a brown electricity tariff over the past two reporting years, then this would have generated a scope 2 emissions estimate of 1,520 tCO₂e for the 2022 reporting year and 1,729 tCO₂e for the latest 2023 reporting year. Therefore, the Council can report that a total of 3,249 tCO₂e has been mitigated over the past two reporting years which is the equivalent of an average car driving 23,223,731.2 km which is just under 580 times the world's circumference.
- 5.13. Finally, it is important to note that since October 2021, Vision assumed the responsibility of managing the energy contracts of the buildings that they lease from the Council. Vision requested that the energy consumption data for their buildings is no longer included in the Council's calculations and Vision are currently developing an Environmental and Sustainability Plan which aims to address this important area.

Scope 3 emissions

- 5.14. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 3 was estimated to be 31,256 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 4,642 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 14.9 percent.
- 5.15. Following the calculation for the 2022 calendar year the organisation measured a further reduction of 4,067 tCO₂e which was an additional 15.3 percent year on year reduction.
- 5.16. The latest scope 3 emissions calculation for the 2023 reporting year demonstrates that the Council generated an emissions estimate of 24,842 tCO₂e. When we compare the 2023 calculation to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, there has been a total reduction of 6,414 tCO₂e which represents 20.5 percent.
- 5.17. However, when the 2023 emissions estimate is compared to the 2022 emissions estimate, a year-on-year increase of 2,456 tCO₂e can be demonstrated which represents an 11.0 percent increase. There are several factors as to why the scope 3 emissions estimate for the Council has increased over the past reporting year and the primary reason is due to the organisation

securing a substantial amount of additional funding for highways maintenance programmes in Redbridge.

- 5.18. In the 2022 reporting year, the Council spent an estimated £5.4m on highways maintenance programmes which generated a scope 3 contribution of 2,636 tCO₂e. However, in the 2023 reporting year the Council spent an estimated £10.4m on highways maintenance programmes in the borough which generated a scope 3 contribution of 5,102 tCO₂e which resulted in an additional 2,466 tCO₂e being included in the latest calculation.
- 5.19. In 2023 the Highways service was able to secure additional funding for highways maintenance programmes through a combination of internal and external sources. The Council was able to secure additional grant funding from central government departments and national bodies such as the Department for Transport, the Department for Education and the Environment Agency, and the Highways service was also able to successfully submit growth bids within the organisation. Therefore, a greater amount of highways maintenance projects were able to be funded in the past year which explains why the scope 3 emissions estimate for the organisation slightly increased when compared to the previous year.
- 5.20. In addition, the Council has been working in partnership with the highway's contractor, Kenson Highways, to pilot a groundbreaking greener asphalt mix as part of the Council's highways maintenance programme. This innovative approach was used recently in a project in Ilford and the carbon emissions of the project was reduced by an impressive 68 percent. Unfortunately, at this time the monitoring tool which is used to calculate the scope 3 emissions estimate for the Council's activities currently does not factor in the methods and processes used in each highway's maintenance project and so the carbon savings associated with this innovation are not fully reflected within the Council's calculations. However, this sustainable practice will be rolled out further in future highways maintenance programmes and you can find out more information on this innovation in section 7 of this report.
- 5.21. Finally, the Council also acquired an additional 56 properties as part of the organisation's social housing stock in order to support residents in the borough with housing security. This action alone generated an additional 169 tCO₂e under the scope 3 emissions estimate for the 2023 reporting year when compared to the 2022 reporting year and is also another reason as to why the Council's scope 3 emissions have increased slightly over the past year.

Total emissions

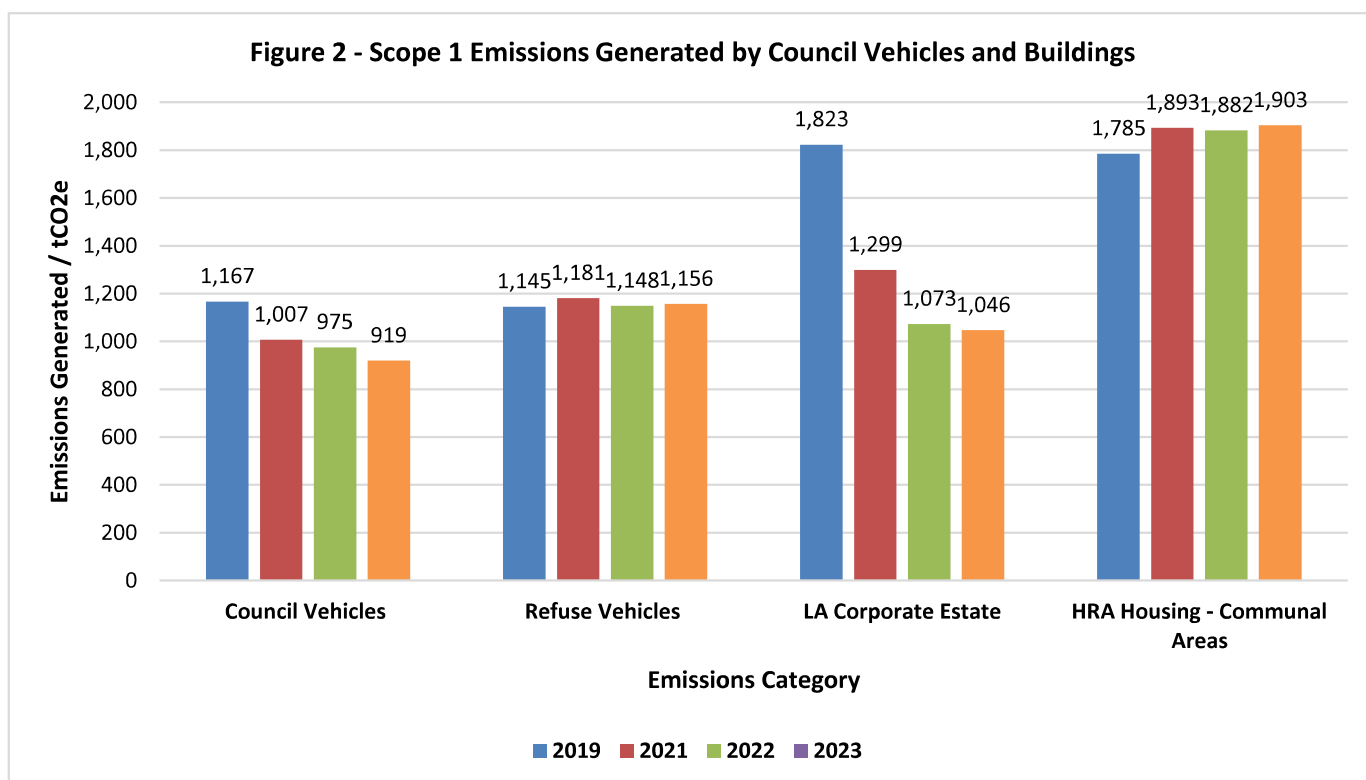
- 5.22. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions estimate for all 3 scopes totalled 41,263 tCO₂e and the calculation for the 2021 reporting year totalled 34,571 tCO₂e. Following the first year of the Council delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council measured a reduction of 6,692 tCO₂e which represented a reduction of 16.2 percent.
- 5.23. Following the Council's switch to a green electricity tariff in October 2021, the carbon savings associated with this switch and other efficiencies which

services enacted resulted in a total emissions estimate of 27,575 tCO₂e for the 2022 reporting year which was a further year on year reduction of 6,996 tCO₂e which represented an additional 17.0 percent reduction.

- 5.24. The latest emissions calculation for all 3 scopes for the 2023 reporting year equalled 29,977 tCO₂e which when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate represents a significant reduction of 11,286 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 27.4 percent.
- 5.25. However, when the 2023 total is compared to the 2022 reporting year, the Council has measured an increase in year-on-year emissions of 2,402 tCO₂e which represents 8.7 percent increase. However, as stated in the scope 3 emissions analysis above, this increase is a result of the delivery of additional highways maintenance programmes which resulted in an extra 2,466 tCO₂e contribution in the 2023 scope 3 emissions estimate.

Breakdown of scope 1 emissions generated by Council vehicles and buildings

- 5.26. The bar chart below, Figure 2, provides a full breakdown of the scope 1 emissions generated by Council vehicles and buildings.



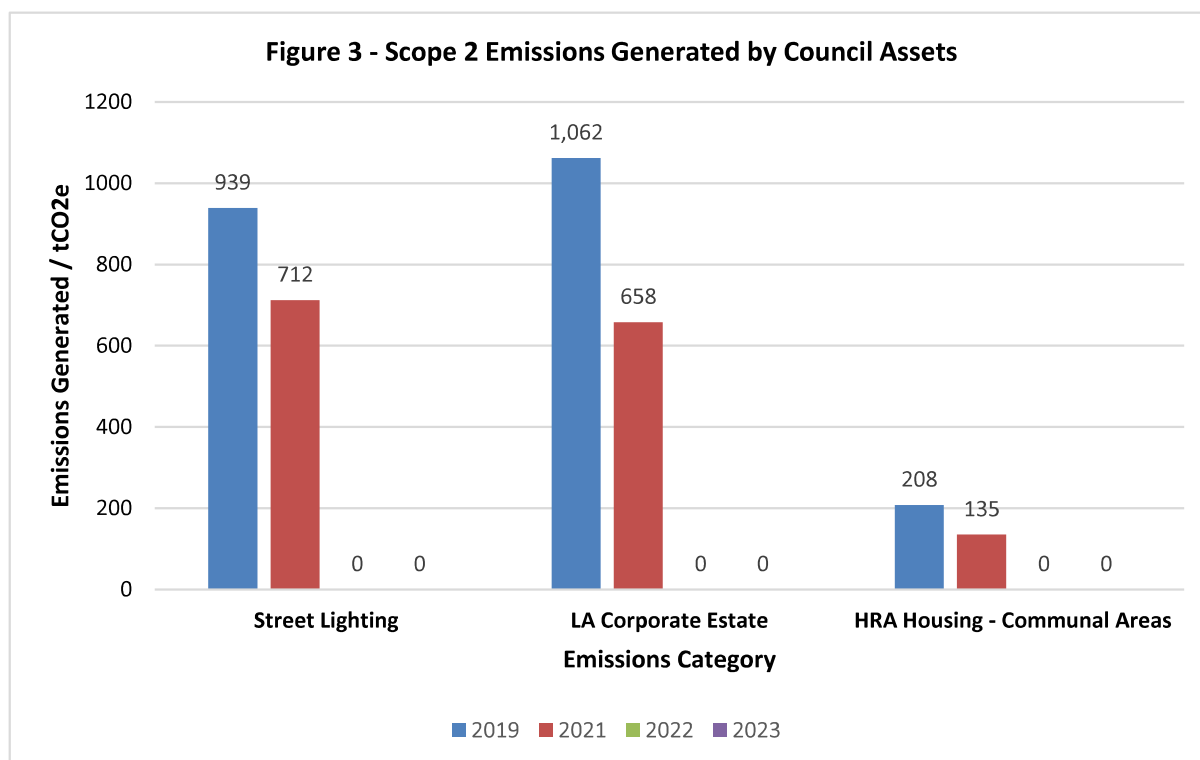
- 5.27. As illustrated in figure 2 the Council has measured year on year reductions in scope 1 emissions for Council vehicles with the latest 2023 reporting year demonstrating a total reduction of 248 tCO₂e which represents a 22.3 percent reduction.
- 5.28. In figure 2 we can also see that the scope 1 emissions estimates for the Council's refuse vehicles have remained fairly stable over the past few reporting years. When we compare the latest 2023 emissions estimate with the

2019 baseline emissions estimate, there has only been an increase in emissions of 11 t CO₂e which is roughly 1.0 percent.

- 5.29. The Council continues to work towards reducing the emissions generated by these particular vehicle categories and the new Electric Vehicle Strategy features a significant programme of work to electrify the Council's vehicle fleet and ensure that staff travel choices are environmentally friendly.
- 5.30. In addition, the Council has recently completed developing a Green Fleet Strategy which will guide the organisation on replacing refuse vehicles with electric vehicle options. The Council has allocated capital funding in the region of £5m to procure the initial vehicle replacements however work is underway to confirm the refuse collection vehicle specification. The Council anticipates that the procurement processes will commence shortly, and a Fleet Project Board has been established to steer the direction of this programme.
- 5.31. As illustrated in figure 2 the Council has measured year on year reductions in scope 1 emissions for the buildings within the corporate estate with the latest 2023 reporting year demonstrating a total reduction of 777 tCO₂e which represents a 42.6 percent reduction.
- 5.32. The buildings within the corporate estate have experienced emission reductions due to the Facilities Management team reducing the standard temperature which all buildings in the corporate estate are heated to which has reduced the gas consumption of the buildings to save on carbon emissions. Also, the shift to remote working has resulted in buildings being heated less frequently as offices across the borough are used less frequently.
- 5.33. As mentioned in the Climate Change Annual Report 2022, Building Management Systems (BMS) have been installed at 35 corporate sites which will enable the Council to further monitor energy consumption and carry out measures to further reduce this figure in subsequent years. The Council also plans to carry out a portfolio-wide building survey to provide the data needed to inform the development of long-term decarbonisation plans for all Council buildings.
- 5.34. Finally, in figure 2 we can also see that the scope 1 emissions estimates for the communal areas of the Council's housing stock have remained fairly stable over the past few reporting years. When we compare the latest 2023 emissions estimate with the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, there has been an increase of 118 t CO₂e which is roughly 6.6 percent. The Council aim to explore options to further improve the energy efficiency of these particular common areas which will result in emission reductions in future years to come.

Breakdown of scope 2 emissions generated by Council Assets

5.35. The following bar chart, Figure 3, provides a full breakdown of the scope 2 emissions generated by Council assets.



5.36. Figure 3 shows the scope 2 emissions estimates for the electricity used for street lighting, the buildings in the corporate estate and the communal areas of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings.

5.37. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 2 was estimated to be 3,020 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the 2021 emissions estimate for scope 2 emissions was 1,924 tCO₂e which resulted in a reduction of 1,096 tCO₂e which represented a 36.3 percent reduction. This initial reduction was due to how Council services located across the borough adapted their working patterns following the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in non-essential Council offices being used less frequently.

5.38. The scope 2 emissions estimates for the 2022 and the latest 2023 reporting years reported a complete reduction to 0 tCO₂e as the Council switched over the Corporate Estate, communal areas of HRA buildings, and street lighting to a green electricity tariff in October 2021. The Council formed a partnership with the energy procurement company LASER Energy which enabled the organisation to source all of its current and future electricity from REGO-backed renewable energy programmes.

5.39. Finally, it is important to note since October 2021, Vision assumed the responsibility of managing the energy contracts for the buildings that they lease from the Council and the energy consumption data should not be included in the Council's calculations which is why 'Vision Buildings' are not included as an emissions category in Figure 3.

6. CLIMATE FOCUSED ACTIVITIES WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- 6.1. To meet the challenge of the climate emergency, climate action is essential at all levels and the Council recognises that the community will play a vital role in supporting the transition to net zero.
- 6.2. Officers in the Neighbourhood Engagement and Education team have been working in partnership with the community to deliver climate focused activities in the borough and the following paragraphs provide a summary of the key activities that were delivered in 2023:
- Over 432 households received valuable advice on reducing waste to save money and carbon emissions.
 - 27 registered Play Street schemes were active in closing their streets to cars on a regular monthly basis.
 - 22 community gardens were in operation across the borough which community gardening groups support and manage.
 - 2 regular community led repair cafes are now operating and funded in the borough. The Repair Cafés support residents with repairing electrical items, household items and clothes which further promotes circular economy principles in Redbridge.
 - Following last year's successful trial, 89 nappy packs were distributed to parents in the borough to support parents with the switch away from disposable nappies. This simple switch can save up to 40 percent of the carbon emissions associated with the use of mainstream disposable nappies.
 - 2 in-person meetings were delivered for the Redbridge Climate Forum which saw 120 residents, businesses and community group members meet to support the Council with climate focused projects and programmes and to connect with like-minded individuals in the borough. The local public green network is open to everyone so please do find out more details online if you wish to join and support further community action on climate change.
 - 8 schools participated in tree planting projects in their school grounds.
 - 8 in-person composting workshops were delivered, and effective home composting methods can reduce residual waste by up to 40 percent.
 - The Our Streets Newsletter reached over a record 15,000 total subscribers. The newsletter enables residents to hear about stories and actions which have been taken by the community so please do subscribe if you haven't already.
 - 1,251 children in schools received Bikeability Cycle training from the Smarter Travel Team and 2,070 children also received pedestrian skills training.

7. FUTURE PLANS AND AMBITIONS:

- 7.1. The Council recognises that innovative and creative solutions will be needed to ensure that the organisation's approach to tackling the climate emergency is efficient, engaging and tailored to the needs of the local community. By continuing to carve a path to net zero, the Council aims to inspire broader societal change and lead Redbridge to a more sustainable future.
- 7.2. Building on the foundations laid by the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council has been developing new climate focused projects, programmes, initiatives, policies, and strategies to guide the organisation towards securing greater cleaner, greener outcomes for residents. The following paragraphs highlight some of the new approaches which have been adopted by services across the organisation:
- 7.3. **Redbridge Pilot A Groundbreaking Asphalt Mix**
 - 7.3.1. Redbridge has continued to challenge our contractors to deliver services using only the most sustainable practices possible. Redbridge has been working in partnership with the Highways contractor, Kenson Highways, and has recently piloted a groundbreaking greener asphalt mix as part of the Council's highways maintenance programme.
 - 7.3.2. Redbridge is the first borough in the capital to trial this unique, new asphalt mix which can significantly reduce the carbon emissions associated with road resurfacing works. Kenson's Highways recently used the innovative asphalt mix for a road resurfacing project at Lodge Hill in Ilford.
 - 7.3.3. The asphalt mix, supplied by Tarmac, significantly reduced the carbon emissions from the road resurfacing process through the use of a carbon negative product in the asphalt mix called ACLA. It is estimated that this revolutionary compound has permanently removed 784 kgCO₂e from the atmosphere which is the equivalent of an average UK car driving 17,400 miles.
 - 7.3.4. By using ACLA, the carbon footprint of the Lodge Hill project was reduced by a staggering 68 percent, and innovations like this embodies the Council's commitment to promoting sustainability in everything that we do.
- 7.4. **A Retrofit Route Map For Council homes (2024-2030)**
 - 7.4.1. The Housing Assets team have developed a Retrofit Route Map which sets out how the investment in maintaining and improving tenanted homes will be prioritised and sequenced over the next 25 years to achieve the Government's net zero target of 2050.
 - 7.4.2. The new strategy will start by improving the homes with the lowest energy efficiency rating in areas where tenants are most likely to be in fuel poverty. This will involve adding more insulation to the walls and roof, replacing windows and doors and making sure that homes are ventilated effectively. The Council's target is to improve the energy efficiency of these homes to an energy efficiency rating of C by 2030.

7.4.3. This approach has been integrated into the Council's Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for the next 5 years and the programme will also support a funding bid to wave 3 of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's (DESNZ)

7.4.4. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund which is expected to take place in November 2024.

7.4.5. Housing Assets are currently delivering a small-scale pilot project of 10 – 12 properties in Hainault to gather evidence, learning and insights which will further inform any funding bids to the SHDF.

7.4.6. Housing Assets are aiming to apply for SHDF funding for between 150 – 200 properties and the team aim to receive funding in the region of £1.35m - £2m of external funding for this initial project.

7.4.7. It is important to note that the funding is only for additional works and not work that is already planned. Housing Assets will be installing measures such as improving windows, doors, and loft insulation as part of the Decent Homes Standards, but the additional SHDF funding will be used to fund external wall insulation.

7.4.8. The details of the strategy are still being finalised and the final version will be published in due course.

7.5. **A New Sustainable Transport Strategy For Redbridge**

7.5.1. The Council's Highways service have been developing a new Sustainable Transport Strategy which will ensure that residents, businesses, and visitors have a transport system that serves their needs now and in the future. In the new strategy officers have taken a holistic view of all of the different elements that comprise the local transport network and designed a document that is based on the vision of keeping Redbridge moving.

7.5.2. To deliver on the Council's vision, the strategy has been split over four key themes which centre around concepts such as: promoting active travel, improving the accessibility of the local transport network, supporting local economic objectives, and enhancing efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Each of the key themes contains long-term targets that the Council plans to achieve over the next decade up until 2041.

7.5.3. The strategy also includes 9 key priorities which outline how the Council aims to secure greater outcomes for residents. The strategy aims to improve areas such as road safety and air quality in Redbridge, transport accessibility, the quality of the public realm and enhance the local environment and biodiversity.

7.5.4. The strategy is currently in draft form and a public consultation and engagement exercise will be carried out in October 2024. The Highways service will then look to incorporate the views, thoughts, and general feedback from the public to adapt the strategy with the aim of having a final version approved and published in Spring 2025.

8. CONCLUSION:

- 8.1. To conclude, services from across the Council have been diligently working to fulfil the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan. An additional 17 commitments have been implemented over the past year which now means that a total of 50 percent of the 114 commitments have been successfully delivered. Also, a further 29 commitments are progressing as expected despite the current financial pressures on the local authority which represents a further 25.4 percent of the total commitments in the Action Plan.
- 8.2. Although the latest emission estimates highlight that there has been an 8.7 percent increase in the organisation's emissions over the past reporting year, this increase was predicted as the Council was able to secure a significant amount of additional funding in 2023 to fund major highways maintenance programmes in the borough. You can find out more information in section 5 of this report.
- 8.3. Since the launch of the Climate Change Action Plan the Council has recorded an impressive cumulative carbon saving of 31,666 tCO₂e when we compare the past three reporting years to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate. To put this cumulative carbon saving into perspective, 31,666 TCO₂e is equivalent to the carbon cost of heating 14,393 households in the UK for an entire year!
- 8.4. In addition, the Council continues to work hard to address the challenge of the climate emergency by implementing innovative, community-driven solutions. Despite limited resources, the Council is currently developing new climate focused strategies such as the Sustainable Transport Strategy and Electric Vehicle Strategy to further demonstrate leadership in carbon reduction and sustainability. These key strategic documents further support the Council's vision of building more resilient, low-carbon communities.
- 8.5. The Council has further embedded the climate change agenda into the values and principles of the organisation by ensuring that the Council's Procurement Strategy includes sustainable purchasing principles. Contract Managers also continue to secure greater green outcomes for residents by challenging the companies they commission to green their operations and adopt the most sustainable practices possible. A prime example of this in action is how the Council's highway's contractor was challenged to reduce the carbon footprint of road resurfacing works in Redbridge. Kenson Highways piloted a revolutionary greener asphalt recently in Ilford which resulted in the carbon footprint of the project being reduced by 68 percent.
- 8.6. Despite the progress already achieved, the Council is only at the start of its transformational journey to become a net zero organisation. The current Action Plan is due to be refreshed and officers will look to broaden the scope of its activities to develop a robust Climate Change Strategy that will enable the organisation to influence and encourage emission reductions across all sectors in Redbridge.

9. FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 9.1. In summary, section 149 of the 2010 Act requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act (which includes conduct prohibited under section 29).
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't share it.
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding).
- 9.2. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, the relevant protected characteristics are:
- a) Age
 - b) Disability
 - c) Gender Reassignment
 - d) Pregnancy & Maternity
 - e) Race
 - f) Religion
 - g) Sex
 - h) Sexual Orientation
- 9.3. In respect of the first aim only i.e., reducing discrimination, the protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership is also relevant.
- 9.4. Having due regard to the need to 'advance equality of opportunity' between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not includes having due regard, in particular, to the needs to:
- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
 - Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic where those needs are different from the needs of persons who do not share that characteristic.
 - Encourage those who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 9.5. Further, section 149 provides that the steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 9.6. Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others, but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited under the Act (which includes breach of an equality clause or rule, or of a non-discrimination rule).
- 9.7. Regular performance monitoring of the Climate Change Action Plan allows the Council to measure how successful it is being in achieving its aims and objectives, including those around fairness, equality, and diversity.

10. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

11. CHILD FRIENDLY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. The UNICEF Child Friendly Action Plan for the next three years includes a focus on Place, which includes the climate crisis. This will ensure that the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the borough's response in tackling the climate emergency.
- 11.2. Officers have continued to work with children and young people over the past year and input from young people forms part of a wider body of engagement activities informing the new Climate Change Strategy.
- 11.3. In addition, the Neighbourhood Engagement and Education team will be hosting a 'Youth Eco Skills Festival' again this year following the success of last year's event which will enable young people to learn new eco skills, take part in green workshops and hear from keynote speakers from key climate focused organisations.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. There is no separate budget identified for Climate Change. To date, the initiatives set out in the Annual Report have been funded from existing revenue and capital budgets and from external grants.
- 12.2. As future initiatives are developed a feasibility assessment will be carried out to ensure that any additional resources needed to implement these initiatives will be identified. These initiatives will be fully considered and only approved as part of the Council's future budget setting arrangements.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Council understands that the organisation will need the active support, innovation, and shared ownership from all who live and work in the borough to reduce both the organisations and borough's emissions over the coming years.
- 13.2. To address this issue, the Council continues to carry out extensive engagement activities with residents, community groups and schools to collect a well-rounded view from all age groups and demographics in the borough on what local efforts are being made to tackle the impacts of climate change and in what ways can residents get involved and collaborate.
- 13.3. The Council will continue to engage with residents and partners on the climate agenda and will be an active member of regional green bodies to lobby and influence government policy to provide local authorities with the necessary funding and legislative framework to make accelerated progress on climate change.
- 13.4. There is no legal impediment to the recommendations contained at paragraph 2 of this report as these are in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act"). Part 1 of the 2008 Act as amended by section 2 of The

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 sets the target for the reduction of climate emissions of carbon dioxide and the duty to prepare proposals and policies and budgets necessary with a view to meeting those targets.

- 13.5. To support the green agenda and sustainable purchasing into the Council's updated Procurement Strategy, Business cases for any new procurements or extensions to existing contracts with third parties for good, services and works for the Council brought forward to the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board already include a section to incorporate a section to cover any implications of the Social Value Act 2012 which could be used as a platform to include the recommendations outlined in this report and in Appendix A to promote the value of sustainable purchasing, to check how smaller suppliers can assist the Council's efforts to be carbon neutral, to evaluate opportunities within existing contracts to track supply chain emissions and if necessary require suppliers to provide climate impact assessments.
- 13.6. Any action taken by the Council must conform to its requirements to protect its residents under s149 of the Equality Act 2010A whereby the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the requirements as outlined in Paragraph 9 above.