

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....15th October 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2019/20. The report detailed all direct and indirect emissions from Council activity, as well as performance against a voluntary emissions target of 30% reduction on a 2009/10 baseline, and was required for submission to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The issue of Climate Change continues to grow in prominence, both in the awareness of the general public and in the media as a result of government policy drivers such as the adoption of a statutory 'Net Zero' emissions target, and public campaigns such as the Climate Emergency. The Council had a strong track record in this regard and had demonstrated significant performance in contributing to tackling the issue and in reducing our net emissions of greenhouse gases since Local Authority reporting began in 2009. The Council's efforts had also been recognised nationally for our work on energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

The report highlighted that in 2019/20, the Council had performed extremely well once more, reducing our net emissions by 15.1% in the last 12 months to a total of 13,435 tonnes per annum. This is a reduction of 57.6% (or 18,256 tonnes) on the 2009/10 baseline and therefore the Council had significantly exceeded the challenging target set by BEIS. Since it had adopted its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in January 2016, the Council had helped reduce the emissions from sources that are owned or controlled directly by us by 49.2%, and this was now the seventh year in a row that our emissions activity had shown a decrease in a 12 month period.

In recent years, significant financial savings had also been made as a result, with combined financial savings / cost of avoidance in the last 3 years of over £1.1m. Projects such as the LED street lighting replacement programme and energy efficiency improvements in our

assets had continued to deliver real benefits and savings.

As the adopted Climate Change Strategy drew to its conclusion in January 2021, and as the Council were over half way on a path to Net Zero emissions from our own estate and operations, it was hoped to now develop a new Net Zero Plan to take us to zero emissions, and build on the emergence of more sustainable behaviours that had come to the fore during the Covid pandemic.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet note the positive performance in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases from Council activity in 2019/20, and associated financial savings.

2. Cabinet support continued efforts to reduce our emissions via a range of activities.

3. Reasons for the Decision

We have growing national recognition for our work to tackle climate change and fuel poverty, particularly around energy efficiency and carbon reduction from Council activity, and the positive impact our work on delivering affordable warmth schemes is having on residents and communities. This report documents another 12 months of positive performance on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a contributor to climate change) and subsequently financial savings to the Council, and as such is an item of interest for Members.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight-Friday 23rd October 2020

Proper Officer  
19 October 2020