

Evidence Pack: Climate Emergency UK Scorecard

Climate Emergency Scorecard 2021/22

In 2021 [Climate Emergency UK](#) undertook the first nationwide assessment of its kind of climate action. In this assessment, Solihull Council was rated as one of the nation's highest performing local councils when it comes to having a strong and robust climate action plan in place. Solihull Council ranked 5th out of all 409 local authorities in the UK, and 2nd amongst single tier local authorities.

All of the UK's local council climate action plans published online before 20 September 2021 (and written after 2015) were assessed by a team of over 120 volunteers, trained and overseen by Climate Emergency UK. The independent organisation exists to support local authorities by providing accessible information about best practice and providing a network where local authorities, activists, NGOs, business and local communities can work together.

As part of the comprehensive assessment, each council was asked 28 questions which included whether local residents are being engaged with, if the actions have clear goals, and whether the plans go beyond cutting down the Council's own emissions. Amongst a wide-ranging suite of strategies, assessors scrutinised Solihull's recently adopted Net Zero Action Plan, which outlines how the borough aims to meet the ambitious goal of becoming 'net zero' by 2041. The Council's plan to ensure its own operations are net zero by 2030 was also one of the reasons behind such a favourable score.

Scoring 85%, the Council's score is almost double the average in the UK which stands at 46%. With impressive scores

across the board, Solihull scored maximum marks on communications and engagement; commitment and integration as well as providing the education, skills and training to enable measurable climate action.

Climate Scorecard 2023

The Council value this exercise and for the 2023 assessment have proactively engaged with the Scorecard Methodology, using it to assess the Council's activity and identify areas of strength and, more importantly, weakness. The Council wanted to release this information publicly to aid transparency of our actions and to make ranking the Council as easy as possible for Climate Emergency UK's volunteers.

This document lists all the questions that are in the Climate Emergency draft methodology for the Council Climate Action Scorecards and highlights the actions that Solihull Council is taking in each section. We wanted to compile this information in one place to ensure a robust response to Climate Emergency UK for the "right of reply" that they provide Council's with to enable their ranking.

More on the Scoring

The full scorecard methodology can be viewed at [Climate Emergency Scorecards](#). This sets out how Climate Emergency will be marking and scoring all UK councils on the actions they're taking towards net zero. The Council Climate Action Scorecard results will be released in Autumn 2023.

Buildings & Heating

Question	Comment/link
<p>Council Only Actions Council buildings - retrofit</p> <p>Has the council completed extensive retrofit work on any of its significant buildings to make them low carbon?</p>	<p>The Council was successful in securing and spending £1.3m of Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund funding to complete preparatory works to enable a leisure centre and library to be ready for connection to a heat network, this work compliments the Council's work developing a town centre energy network.</p> <p>As part of the continuing investment in our properties, The Council has changed the heating in Balsall Common Library from gas fired to an electric boiler (small scheme). We have completed retrofit enhancements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olton library in the form of triple glazed windows, - Windows and loft insulation to one of our day centres. - Complete window replacement in our main council offices in Solihull town centre.
<p>Council Only Actions Council buildings - renewable energy tariff</p> <p>Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?</p>	<p>The Council's street lighting has been on a 100% renewable electricity tariff since 2021. This accounts for around half the Council's electricity consumption.</p>
<p>Council Only Actions Council – homes – EPC ratings</p> <p>Are the homes owned and managed by the council energy efficient?</p>	<p>Solihull Community Housing's (Solihull Council's housing organization) portfolio of houses have 71% at 'C' or above (based on properties with a valid EPC).</p> <p>Significant strides have been taken to make the housing stock more energy efficient. This includes installing biomass heating in over half of the high rise homes they manage. SCH also proudly oversaw the exemplar development on Faulkner Road, which saw new properties fitted with air-source heat pumps to provide renewable low emission heating.</p> <p>Going forwards, SCH plan to explore the potential benefits of using new building materials and construction techniques to further enhance their sustainability offer, with all new council homes built by SCH will be net zero.</p> <p>In 2021, SCH was awarded the 'Regional Housing Association or Landlord of the Year' in the prestigious West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards.</p>
<p>Council Only Actions Council- homes - target to retrofit</p> <p>Does the council have a target to retrofit all council owned and managed homes and has this been costed?</p>	<p>Target for all Solihull Community Housing (SCH) managed homes to be at 'C' or above by 2030</p> <p>SCH Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2032 SCH Asset Management Strategy Page 293</p>
<p>Retrofit partnerships</p> <p>Is the council part of a programme or partnership to support home retrofitting, through providing the skills and training needed or in other ways?</p>	<p>The Council is working on a number of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With WMCA – Elmton Sustainable Warmth project WMCA Elmton Project - Working with MNZH – consortium bids ('Sustainable Warmth'; 'HUG 2') Midlands Net Zero Hub - Partnership with EON Council decision: EON - Partnership with Act On Energy Act on Energy <p>Training & skills:</p> <p>Commitment to this in Housing Strategy & Economic Strategy (both 2023 – 2032)</p>
<p>Staff working on retrofit</p> <p>Does the council have a staff member employed to work on retrofitting across the council area?</p>	<p>There are staff working across both Solihull Council and SCH covering council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.</p> <p>Domestic: (owned and private rented), there is an officer dedicated to deliver funded programmes such as 'HUG 2', and other officers with responsibilities that cover domestic retrofit.</p> <p>Non Domestic: There are 2 new project managers who work on the council's buildings and schools, completing all projects including lifecycle replacement. Although not specifically employed for the purpose of retrofit, these project managers manage all retrofit schemes identified and have completed all the works outlined in question 1.</p>
<p>EPC ratings - whole area</p> <p>Are the homes and buildings in the council area energy efficient?</p>	<p>In the borough 44% of homes do not have an EPC, and for those with, 32% are 'C' or above.</p> <p>Note: EPC database is inaccurate. The Council is finding historic EPC data can be lower than current performance</p>

Housing Efficiency Standards Enforcement Is the council actively enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes in the private rented sector?	Solihull Council doesn't currently enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), however there is a requirement to and there are plans to develop a policy to determine the penalties for breaches of the MEES.
Homeowner support - retrofit Does the council provide a service to support private homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient?	The Council provides the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solihull Council commissions Act On Energy to deliver support. https://actonenergy.org.uk They also support Warmer Homes West Midlands (funded by EST) Solihull - Warmer Homes West Midlands (warmerhomeswm.org.uk) - Your Future Solihull Your future Solihull - Our policies solihull.gov.uk - Focus on advice, guidance & grants & delivery - The Council has approved a Retrofit Enabling Policy to provide enabling assistance to support domestic retrofit programmes.
Homeowner funding - retrofit Does the council offer funding to private renters or homeowners to retrofit their homes?	The Council delivers the government grant programmes 'Sustainable Warmth' & 'HUG 2' : Your Future Solihull - Energy Efficiency
Renewable Energy purchasing schemes Does the council have a scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying?	Switch and Save though iChoosr - . Energy suppliers must supply renewable electricity to be eligible to take part and bid in the auctions
Community Renewable Energy Has the council supported local community renewable energy creation?	<p>Not currently but as a council we are in the process of undertaking a renewable energy feasibility study, which will help us identify a potential roadmap for supporting community energy in Solihull</p> <p>The Council will support community energy scheme but it should be noted that there is a barrier to using the grid and private wire is expensive. The Council is considering a private wire as part of our heat network in the town centre</p>

Transport

Question	
Council Only Action Council Fleet What percentage of the council's fleet are electric vehicles?	<p>The council has a procurement strategy for transitioning to electric vehicles, starting from the smaller vehicles where there are suitable available vehicles. Several EVs are to be delivered throughout this year and will have 14 EVs and 1 Plug-in hybrid-electric vehicle by the end of this year.</p> <p>The council has a wider EV Strategy that encompasses its vehicles.</p> <p>Solihull Council has retained the ownership of the Strategic Environment Contract (refuse collection and environmental maintenance) fleet and therefore have the flexibility to transition to low carbon vehicles at the optimal time. Currently there are few options for the refuse collection vehicles (RCV) due to the nature of the service, however through working with the delivery partner Veolia, the new vehicles on the contract are using blended biofuels reducing carbon emissions.</p>
Shared Transport Schemes Has the council set up or supported a shared transport scheme that can be used across their whole area?	<p>Solihull Council participates in the TfWM Bike Share scheme that is in Solihull Town Centre and surrounds. https://www.wmcyclehire.co.uk/</p> <p>We have a number of E-Cargo Bikes that are loaned to businesses (free of charge) for up to 4 weeks to enable them to test suitability and sustainability for their business.</p> <p>The Council has carried out trials of e-mopeds with manufacturer Silence within its Low Carbon Future Mobility project. As well as this, extensive trailing of zero-emission driverless shuttle buses has been carried out as part of work to re-image shared public transport, this award winning scheme gained national press coverage and was featured on BBC's "the one show".</p> <p>The Council has purchased an e-cargo bike and launched a loan scheme for local businesses and third sector organisations. .</p>
School Streets Does the council have enforced school streets across its area?	<p>Solihull Council was one of the pilot areas to introduce "School Streets" and has introduced School Streets across a number of school across the borough, with planned future expansion of the programme.</p> <p>This project aims to address such issues by limiting traffic in the streets surrounding schools at key times, creating a predominantly car free zone.</p>
Speed limits Is the council committed to making 20mph the standard speed limit for most restricted roads?	<p>The council has a plan for rolling out 20mph speed limits outside all schools. In addition to this the School Streets programme sees speed limits on roads surrounding participating schools.</p> <p>Further details can be viewed through the following links: Speed Limit Review, 20mph TRO, 20mph Review Order, 20mph Cheswick Green Village, Knowle Village, Meriden Village Centre, Castle Bromwich Area, Marston Green Village, Dickens Heath Village</p>
Clean Air Zone Has the council introduced a Clean Air Zone or Low-Emission Zone?	<p>The Council has a Clean Air Strategy 2019- 2024 Clean Air Strategy</p> <p>This sets out the manner in which the Council monitors and manages its air quality both internally and externally. Solihull monitoring data does not warrant declaring any part of the borough as an Air Quality Management Area, there is recognition that measures could still be taken to reduce pollution levels across the borough; hence the development of a wide range of evidence-based actions within this strategy.</p> <p>The air quality doesn't require any further action to manage air quality, however wider initiatives are being developed/in place to improve air quality, mostly associated with providing support for active travel.</p> <p>Solihull consists of a number of villages and most are in rural areas. Clean Air Zones are not intended for as a policy for these areas. Solihull's Climate Change declaration mentions a 'just' transition and any policy needs to ensure all residents benefit.. Solihull's strategy is to encourage EV car use by providing chargers and the reshaping our public transport to connect our communities.</p>
Active Travel Has the council taken clear steps to support active travel?	<p>The council has Sustainable Travel Team who are committed to working with businesses in Solihull to promote more sustainable travel choices.</p> <p>The Sustainable Travel Team also offer a comprehensive package of active travel incentives and training opportunities alongside ongoing promotion. Examples include: School Streets, child cycle training, adult cycle training, E-cargo bike training and loan schemes, air quality</p>

	<p>workshops.</p> <p>Solihull MBC adopted both a Cycle & Walking Strategy and a Local Cycle Walking Investment Plan in February 2021: Since then, investment has gone into new cycle routes between central Solihull and Blossomfield and from central Solihull to Knowle. Future funding has been secured for the design of the next wave of cycling routes</p> <p>The Council has the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented 3 x new active travel schemes in Meriden and routes between Knowle and Solihull Town Centre and along Blossomfield Road. • Active travel route Gate Lane Trial between Blythe Valley Park and Monkspath and Blythe Valley Park and Dorridge to commence in Spring 2023. • Feasibility studies completed for Chelmsley Wood Route to NEC, Knowle to Solihull Town Centre and Dickens Heath to Solihull Town Centre. • A45 scheme using CRSTS funding • Funding allocations identified and / or secured for active travel schemes.
<p>Parking</p> <p>Does the council have controlled parking zones across all the residential areas of the local authority?</p>	<p>The term Controlled Parking Zone can have several different meanings. In the borough, there are no Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in residential areas, however there are some areas covered by CPZ's, with the parking restriction being limited lines and signs, but generally some form of parking restriction applies within the zone.</p> <p>Solihull does have a large amount of restricted residential streets that is covered by single yellow lines restrictions. They are generally subject to the same parking restrictions, and require lines and signs. These are located around the borough's railway stations, large retail and commercial centres and most schools.</p>
<p>Buses</p> <p>Are there any low emission buses used within the council's area?</p>	<p>Ultra-low emission buses currently operate on route 6 (Solihull – Shirley – Birmingham) and on Park & Ride routes at Birmingham Airport.</p>
<p>Buses</p> <p>Is bus ridership within the council's area high?</p>	<p>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Solihull MBC) is not the Local Transport Authority – the Local Transport Authority is Transport for West Midlands, and therefore has little control over ridership.</p> <p>The Council does not get the investment required for rural transport because resources are focused on our conurbation. To support public transport, the council is trialing in driverless vehicles through its Connected Autonomous Vehicles programme which may provide a solution in the long term.</p>
<p>Workplace Parking Levy</p> <p>Does the council have a workplace parking levy?</p>	<p>Solihull MBC does not operate a workplace parking levy.</p>
<p>EV charging</p> <p>Has the council supported the expansion of a public network of electric vehicle chargers?</p>	<p>The Council's Electric Vehicle Strategy has been developed with the central aim of ensuring that when any existing petrol or diesel powered vehicle owned or operated in the borough is sold or scrapped, it is replaced with an electric vehicle, leading to reductions in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to address current barriers while supporting the widespread transition to electric vehicles, which is now rapidly accelerating following international, national, regional and borough wide climate commitments. Solihull's Electric Vehicle Strategy can be viewed here: EV Strategy.</p> <p>At the moment the borough has 58.6 chargers devices per 100,000 residents.</p>
<p>High Carbon transport project</p> <p>Has the council approved, expanded or built a high carbon transport project since 2019?</p>	<p>There are no Council led schemes.</p> <p>Details of non-Council lead schemes in the borough are below:</p> <p>A Development Consent Order application was made by National Highways to the Planning Inspectorate, where the Council were consultees, for improvement to M42 Junction 6. The application was approved on 21st May 2020. This is classed a National Infrastructure, and required to improve the safety and capacity on the important strategic route to support economic growth and planned development in the region. Work has now commenced on the scheme. Link to National Highways Autumn 2020 newsletter (with map): BHM20_200 M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme newsletter_v4.indd</p>

	<p>Link to Planning Inspectorate page: M42 Junction 6 Improvement National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p> <p>Link to Decision Letter from Secretary of State for Transport (see Para. 50 on Carbon emissions): TR010027-000967-200521 M42 DL Final.pdf (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p> <p>In addition, an appeal was allowed for a Motorway Service Area in Catherine de Barnes on 11th March 2022: There are a high number of conditions, and the application is contingent on the M42 J6 road improvement above, the Government's review of smart motorways, not due until 2025, and (Condition 25) a carbon management plan to offset the carbon emissions. Reference: APP/Q4625/W/21/3275290</p>
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Governance & Finance

Question	Comment/links
<p>Net Zero Embedded in Corporate Plan Does the council's corporate plan include a net-zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?</p>	<p>'Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions' is one of the 9 key priorities listed in the Solihull Council Plan. The council has set a target for all council operations to be net zero by 2030 and the wider borough to be net zero by 2041. You can find the 22/23 deliverables for this priority on page 27 of the council plan. Solihull Council Plan 2020 - 2025: 2022/2023 Update</p> <p>Further details can be found in the Annual Report 21/22 where page 4 shows key outcome of actioning our climate change statement.</p> <p>In the draft Solihull Economic Strategy 'A Sustainable Economy' is listed as one of 4 key themes. The mission statement states, 'We will support our businesses to accelerate a collective transition to Net Zero'. Pages 34-40 of the strategy explain in detail how moving towards net zero will affect the local economy and the opportunity it gives to create local green jobs. Solihull Economic Strategy 2022-32 (amazonaws.com)</p>
<p>Net-Zero Embedded in mid-term Financial Plan Does the council's medium term financial plan include the council's net zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?</p>	<p>The Mid Term Financial Strategy contains details of the Council's Carbon Budget (quantity of carbon emitted) for its operations. It can be seen in Section 6 Carbon Reduction.</p> <p>Within the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 – 2032/33, Environment, Social and Governance is acknowledged as an issue to be addressed (in section 8.13)</p>
<p>Climate Change Risk Register Has the council published a climate change risk register?</p>	<p>Environmental including Climate Change Risk is included in the guidance for risk management – "Climate Change is a serious threat both now and in the future, this is included within the risk identification checklist."</p>
<p>Emission data reduction Is the council reporting on its own greenhouse gas emissions?</p>	<p>The Council has published its carbon emissions data since 2008, and reports back to 2014 are available.</p>
<p>Emission data reduction According to the council's own reporting, have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced since 2019?</p>	<p>The Council recently published the NZAP annual report – reporting on the progress the council has made so far with regards to the NZAP it also reports on the Council's Key Performance Indicators: a range of leading and lagging indicators to monitor progress.</p> <p>The annual report highlights Council's operational emissions in 2021/2022 as 5592 tonnes CO2. This is a reduction of 49% from 2017/2018. Page 10 of the NZAP Annual Report. NZAP Annual Report 21-22</p>
<p>Emission data reduction Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased, according to UK Government data?</p>	<p>The borough's greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 15% between 2019 to 2020. The emissions equate to 5.2 tonnes CO2e per person in Solihull (2020). This is lower than the national average of 5.6 tonnes and the West Midlands average of 5.3 tonnes.</p> <p>This is also published in the NZAP Annual Report (Page 6) which reports the annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2020) which are 1.14 million tonnes CO2e. NZAP Annual Report 21-22 (Draft) 0.pdf (solihull.gov.uk)</p> <p>The figures mentioned were taken from UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Climate Change Decision Making Has the council adopted a new governance or decision making process to put tackling the climate emergency at the heart of every council decision made?</p>	<p>The reports used to make decisions have had environment and carbon management embedded in them for many years. The current template used links the decision to the Council's Priorities and this includes the delivering the Climate Emergency Statement. A sample of the decision session report (see section 6.1) is included below. Decision Session Report Examples</p> <p>The Council has a 'Climate Change and Sustainability Board' who meet quarterly. This board consists of Assistant Directors from all directorates of the council who are accountable for sustainability initiatives that are undertaken.</p> <p>The Council has also passed a number of resolutions, most recently on renewable energy.</p>

<p>Procurement Has the Council embedded climate action and waste reduction into their procurement policies?</p>	<p>Procurement strategy Our Procurement Strategy and Rules for Contracts are the overarching principles for procurement delivery in the Council. In the strategy there is a 'procurement vision' to working together to enhance the lives of our communities. Included in the challenges are to 'Place social and economic regeneration and the environment at the heart of procurement'.</p> <p>An example is that alignment with Council Priorities was a key element of the retendering of the Strategic Environment Contract (SEC) included alignment with council priorities and included carbon and the management of waste. Strategic Outcome 2: The contractor makes a positive impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability. At close to £300million, the SEC is one of the Council's biggest single contracts.</p> <p>Social Value 'Social value' is one way that we get additional value from Council contracts. A social value element of between 5 and 20% is included in contracts of over £50k. Any supplier can select from a number of delivery themes including Protecting and improving our environment (Environment), Creating healthier, safer and more resilient communities (Social) and Promoting social innovation (Innovation)</p> <p>The NZAP annual report – states that in by the end of the 2021/2022 financial year committed social value of Council contracts in the environment and sustainability KPI's since measurement started is £567,300 this is additional benefit to the Borough as a result of the Council's contracts</p> <p>More information on Social Value can be viewed here: Social Value.</p>
<p>Elected Climate Change portfolio holder - Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit?</p>	<p>Councillor Andy Mackiewicz holds the post of Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Planning & Housing Councillor Mackiewicz is the political lead for Climate Change. The portfolio's terms of reference means that the cabinet member can influence and act on any issue deemed climate change, for instance, cycle routes that are also under the oversight of another portfolio holder. Cllr Mackiewicz is supported in this from many of his colleagues including:</p> <p>Councillor Ian Courts - Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy Councillor Courts Acts as a Climate Champion and holds several posts which link to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands WMCA - Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2 • Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Board - Net Zero Champion • "Courts on Climate Change" Podcast example: Courts on Climate Change <p>Councillor Dave Pinwell – Chair of Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</p>
<p>Staff time on climate action What percentage of the council's overall staff work on implementing their Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects?</p>	<p>The Council employs approximately 2700 staff. Of these there are 7FTE directly delivering the climate change priorities (0.3%). If we add in those that are delivering projects that contribute then there are a minimum 37 FTE (in the region of 2%)</p> <p>Team delivering on activity to deliver on climate change priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Sustainable Growth – responsibility for climate change alongside economic growth and transport and infrastructure commissioning. (0.3 FTE) • Group Manager – Climate Change and Sustainability (0.8 FTE) • Net Zero Project Manager (1FTE) • Senior Sustainability Officer (1FTE) • Sustainability Engagement Officer (net zero and corporate sustainability) (1FTE) • Sustainability Engagement Officer (schools and community) (0.5 FTE) • Net Zero Programme Coordinator (1FTE) <p>Climate Change Specific Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Communications Officer – delivering Your Future Solihull (1FTE) • Strategic Marketing Manager – overseeing delivery of Your Future Solihull (0.5 FTE) <p>Delivery Team 7FTE equivalent</p> <p>Project managers, leads and officer supporting with time spent on delivering climate change action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Central Project Manager - Low Carbon Future Mobility (1FTE)

Council Climate Action Scorecard: Questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKC Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (ULEV) Programme Officer (1FTE) • Property Services Asset Manager/Energy Officer – developing energy strategy and decarbonisation plans for corporate properties (1FTE) • Team Leader - Planning Policy – leading on the development of the Climate Change SPD (1FTE) • Senior Engineer - Drainage and Flood Risk Management – leads a team delivering projects on a variety of projects (1FTE) • Environmental Project Manager – responsible for the delivery of the Planting Our Future (POF) project to plant 250,000 trees across the borough (1FTE) - Community Engagement Officer for POF (1FTE) • Public Realm Manager - manages 17 green flags parks (1FTE) • Conservation and Landscape Urban Design and Ecology (CLAUDE) Team – including landscape architects, ecologists (13FTE) • Sustainable Travel Senior Officer (1FTE), Team Lead - Sustainable Travel(1FTE): • Team Lead - Sustainable Travel(1FTE); 2 x Cycling Officer (2FTE), 3 x Sustainable Travel Officer (2FTE),,, Bikeability Team (30 trainers), 2 x Business Support Officer (Sustainable Travel) (2FTE) , Road Safety Instructor - Walking Bus • Transport Planner – overseeing implementation of walking and cycling infrastructure(1FTE) <p>Approximately 30 FTE (not including bikeability training pool – zero hour contracts)</p>
<p>Carbon literacy/ awareness training Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training?</p>	<p>The development of a plan to address carbon literacy at all levels has been agreed by the Climate Change and Sustainability Board.</p> <p>A number of officers have undertaken the Carbon Literacy Training, and the has a voluntary e-Learning module on Net Zero and Sustainability through the Learning Pool.</p> <p>In addition, the Cabinet Member for 'Climate Change' is a chartered member of the Society of the Environment.</p>
<p>Funding sources Has the council raised income for climate action from property development?</p>	<p>There is a 110% biodiversity net gain and we have a policy for a biodiversity bank.</p> <p>The 'gate lane' active travel project is funded from Section 106 funding from the developer</p>
<p>Funding sources Has the council launched a Climate Bond, Community Municipal Investment or equivalent?</p>	<p>The Council has not launched a climate bond, however work is underway on funding and financing of net zero – this is included in our Net Zero Action Plan in actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.6d. Develop an investment scheme to provide funding to residents to install renewable technologies • 8.6b Consider the use of incentives to encourage business behaviour or choices that support net zero goals • 8.6c Consider the use of incentivise personal behaviour or choices that support net zero goals <p>In our recently published annual report we have also identified funding and financing of net zero as a key priority for the next 2 years.</p>
<p>Funding sources Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources?</p>	<p>Solihull Council is highly proactive in seeking funding for climate action, this has included funding from central and regional government, we are also starting to investigate the opportunities for funding and financing from private sector organisations, funding achieved to date includes the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected Autonomous Mobility- To fund the purchase of a Connected Autonomous Vehicle funder GBSLEP (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership) • ECO 4 delivery - pilot with E.ON • Virgin Park & Charge - The project aims to deliver charge points across the Borough for electric vehicles (EV). WMCA (West Midlands Combined Authority) • Solihull Habitats and Nature Improvements - To deliver woodland and water quality improvements across Solihull, with an initial focus on North Solihull and the River Cole and its tributaries - ERDF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) • Better Streets Community Fund - The aim of the Better Streets Community fund is to enable Local Authorities to work with the community to have their say in the development of their local area, by funding small scale local cycling and walking improvements. The aim being to provide true community assets that will encourage social integration, access to green spaces and local services and an improved mental and physical wellbeing. The project through an improved pedestrian/shared use environment and traffic calming measures will seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve safety • Improve air quality close to school entrance • Encourage cycling and walking to school - WMCA • Greening the Grey (Wildlife Ways) extension - Extension of the ERDF Greening the Grey programme to June 2023 with additional funding allocated to supporting the remainder of the programme and the Small Habitats Grants element of it - ERDF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) • Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) Grant Funding - To fund the commercialisation phase (FBC development) of the Solihull Town Centre Heat Network Project - BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) • Solihull Decarbonization Plan - Solihull Council Net Zero 2030 Decarbonisation Plan - Salix

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMCA UKC Infrastructure Programme (SMBC) - Additional funding allocated following successful OBC submission to fund the Sustainable Energy - Solihull Town Centre Low Carbon Heat Network Full Business Case Development and commercialisation • Net Zero Neighbourhood (Bid Funding) - Funding to develop a full application for funding for Net Zero Neighbourhood in Chelmsley Wood - WMCA • DEFRA 2 - Air Quality - Support for measures identified by Solihull MBC to help reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide exceedances DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) • DEFRA - Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund - to support the Planting for the future programme - DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) • EA Grant in Aid and Local Levy - Various Flood Mitigation Schemes - Hockley Heath and Dorridge - Environment Agency • Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme– Support connection of council buildings to the Town Centre Heat Network • Retrofit – support domestic retrofit programme including LADs, HUGs etc • Innovate UK Funding Self-driving shuttles coming to Solihull - full route announced - Birmingham Live (birminghammail.co.uk) • Low Carbon Energy Framework which gave rise to the NZAP funded by WMCA • CRST – cycle lanes
<p>Divestment of Pension Funds Has the council passed a motion in support of divestment from all fossil fuels from the councils' pension funds?</p>	<p>Currently this is addressed through working with the WMCA. The WMCA's ambition, as set out in the 2041 Net Zero Strategy is: <i>'Decoupling prosperity from consumption: between 5 and 15 years – divestment of the WM LGPF from fossil fuels: divest the West Midlands Local Government Pension Fund from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy.</i></p> <p>It is not within the council's direct control address this, however Environmental, Social Governance in the councils finances is acknowledged in the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 – 2032/33</p>
<p>Divestment of Pension Funds Has the council's pensions fund committed to divesting from all fossil fuels?</p>	<p>The Council belongs to the West Midlands Pension Fund. The below is an extract from their Investment Strategy Statement - March 2021: <i>'12 Climate Change</i></p> <p><i>The Fund takes an evidenced based approach to the risks around climate change and acknowledges the potential financial risks that climate change pose to the Fund's investments. The Fund has developed and published a separate Climate Change Framework and Strategy, setting out how it intends to manage both the risks and opportunities of climate change and how it intends to integrate climate change into its broader strategy and asset management. The Fund has set targets and will monitor and manage delivery of those targets and report back to Pensions Committee on progress. The Climate Change Framework and Strategy is subject to annual review by the Committee.'</i></p>
<p>Council Investments in High Carbon Industries Does the council have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries?</p>	<p>Solihull Council has 3.75% of Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited (BAHL) ordinary shares. The seven metropolitan councils of the West Midlands own a combined 49%. However the airport has a plan to have operations at net zero. As a key shareholder, the council can influence the airports to net zero travel. Any dividends are reinvested in public services. At this stage, divestment would be detrimental to net zero travel.</p>

Planning & Land Use

Question	Comment/link
<p>Net-zero in Local Plan Is the council's area wide net zero target a strategic objective of the Local Plan?</p>	<p>Draft Local Plan (submitted May 2021) and currently under Examination.</p> <p>Strategic Objective under Challenge A (Climate Change) is (p.13): <i>Reduce the Borough's net carbon emissions, and make a full contribution to the national, sub-regional and local targets for reduction – including to be at net-zero emissions by 2041.</i></p> <p>Link: Draft Submission Plan Oct 2020 (solihull.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Council homes - energy efficient and low carbon Has the council committed to building all future council owned or managed housing to a high energy efficiency or operationally net-zero standard?</p>	<p>All new SCH homes to be built to low carbon and highly energy efficient standards, including fabric first and renewable energy technologies. (See SCH investment action plan) The SCH business plan states that SCH will “progress the 2nd and final phase of garage site development, which will see the future delivery of 23 new net zero homes” (page18). https://www.solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Delivery-Plan-2021-22.pdf</p> <p>Solihull Housing Strategy 2023 – 2032 (section 5, paragraph 5.29) (Housing Strategy to be reported for approval to Cabinet 9.3.23) pack will be available here once released</p>
<p>New Homes - Low Carbon Requirements Does the council require new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations?</p>	<p>This has been superseded by the updated Part L (2021), which is a 30% uplift compared to the 2013 Building Regs cited here.</p> <p>Draft Policy P9 states that all development from 2021 should meet Part L 2021 (and not prior Building Regs), and from 2025, all dwellings should be net zero carbon (operational & regulated).</p>
<p>New Homes - Energy Efficiency Requirements Does the council require a fabric first approach for new development?</p>	<p>This has been superseded by the updated Part L (2021), which has a fabric first approach, and has updated Part F on ventilation, and introduced new Part O on overheating.</p> <p>As above, in the Draft Local Plan, all new developments are expected to meet the latest Building Regs as a minimum.</p>
<p>New Homes - Net zero requirements Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero?</p>	<p>The Draft Local Plan has put the date for this to happen as from 2025, to accelerate the Future Homes Standard. This is also based on Viability testing.</p> <p>We have not yet had a response from the Planning Inspectorate as to whether this approach is sound.</p>
<p>New Builds - Embodied Emissions Does the council require developers to carry out a whole life cycle carbon assessment of new build developments?</p>	<p>The Council does not require a whole life cycle carbon assessment, but does encourage sustainable use of materials/transport and construction waste in Policy P9 (Climate Change) and Policy P12 (Resource Management).</p> <p>These questions will be part of the 'Climate Change Assessment' within the SPD.</p>
<p>New Builds - Water Efficiency Does the council require a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes?</p>	<p>The Draft Local Plan Policy P11 (Water Management) does ask for the Optional technical standard of 110Lpppd.</p> <p>We are awaiting a view view from the Planning Inspectors as to whether this is sound.</p>
<p>Car dependency - Parking Standards Has the council removed minimum parking requirements for new residential homes across their area?</p>	<p>Car parking standards are judged on a case-by-case basis. There have been recent developments in the town centre with zero parking, and there are no 'minimum' parking standards within the existing or proposed Local Plan.</p> <p>However, Neighbourhood Plans recognise that parking conditions are an ongoing issue in the more rural settlements, and want to encourage new developments to accommodate electric charging points. Therefore there is more detail on the type of information required for addressing car parking requirements (e.g. Policy B8 – Car Parking and Cycle Storage, Berkswell Neighbourhood Plan).</p> <p>New developments will have charging.</p>

Council Climate Action Scorecard: Questions

<p>Sustainable Neighbourhoods Does the council include a policy in the Local Plan to create 15/20 minute neighbourhoods?</p>	<p>There is no particular policy for 15/20 minute neighbourhoods put forward in the Draft Local Plan. However, reducing the need to travel by car is a key component of Policy P7 on Accessibility, and Building for a Healthier Life Assessment is required under Policy P15 'Design'.</p> <p>More information on low emission and 20 minute neighbourhoods will be included within the Climate Change and Health SPDs</p> <p>The Council has developed the concept of Chelmsley Wood 15 Minute Neighbourhood - and are seeking funding for this scheme.</p>
<p>Local Plan - Flood plain Has the council committed to avoiding new building developments on the functional flood plain?</p>	<p>There is no specific policy banning building on the floodplain, however, no new housing development would be granted permission if in Flood Zone 3.</p> <p>Draft Policy P11: "12. New development will not normally be permitted within areas at risk of flooding. Where it is clearly demonstrated that there are no other viable sites at lower risk of flooding, consideration will be given to development in such locations, providing that it is designed to be safe from the effects of flooding and will minimise flood risk on the site and reduce risks elsewhere. Applications for new development where there is a flood risk issue must be accompanied by a site specific flood risk assessment. Such assessments should be completed having regard to this policy and National Guidance.</p> <p>13. Developers must demonstrate that the layout and design of a development, including the finished floor levels, and the drainage system take account of both fluvial and surface water flows in extreme events so as to avoid flooding of properties, both within and outside the site."</p> <p>Within the Climate Change SPD the Cabinet Member wants to include a policy that topology and design of drains can cope with a flash rainfall (like Dorridge) of in the region of 100mm/h.</p>
<p>Local Plan Renewable Energy Generation in New Development Does the council have a minimum requirement for on-site renewable energy generation for new building development?</p>	<p>Draft Policy P9 ask for a 15% of energy to derive from renewable or low carbon (e.g. heat pumps) sources on major applications (i.e. 10+ homes, 1000+sqm floorspace).</p>
<p>Local Plan Renewable Energy - Suitable Areas Does the Local Plan identify suitable areas for new solar energy, wind developments and district heat networks?</p>	<p>The Council is working on Renewable Energy and Feasibility Study, and the draft Plan refers to making use of that when it is available.</p> <p>The boroughs options are limited to solar and district heating systems. The Plan does refer to the work being carried out on Solihull Town Centre district heat network, which the council is close to completing a business case for. In previous studies large scale wind energy was assessed as not feasible within the Borough.</p>
<p>Local Plan Renewable Energy - Approved Applications Has the Council approved any planning applications for new or expanded solar or wind developments, battery storage, or renewable district heat networks since 2019?</p>	<p>The council has one application for battery storage is currently under consideration. Others have been received however are within the Green Belt</p>
<p>Negative Action - Carbon Intensive Industry Has the Council approved a planning application for a carbon intensive energy system to be built or expanded from 2019?</p>	<p>There have been no major energy applications since 2019.</p>

Biodiversity

Question	Comments
Does the council use peat free compost or soil in all landscaping and horticulture?	The Council's Conservation of the Historic Environment, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design and Ecology Team (CLAUDE) team has stopped using Peat in landscape schemes for many years now and Specifications for works under Q28 Topsoil cl 310 materials not permitted - states peat and products containing peat.
Has the council banned the use of pesticides on all council owned and managed land?	<p>Glyphosate was mainly used for all weed control operations within the ESIF projects delivered from 2014 and 2022 (SHNIP, WW and the SHG Programme). This was justified for 2 main reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considered Safe by the government. The UK has a rigorous approvals process for pesticides, and the toxicity of the products used is considered low. The Government feels that the regulatory process for authorising these herbicides is a robust system, taking into account all scientific knowledge available, so that these products pose no unacceptable risks to people, pets or the environment. In addition to the UK process, all herbicides/pesticides were subject to the regular EU wide initial approval, making sure that the data supporting their approvals meets modern safety standards. This herbicide is still considered the industry standard used by agriculture and local authorities, the best available method for weed control. 2. No alternatives appear economically available on such a scale. Here are a few of the alternatives considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manual removal would be prohibitively expensive and any perennial roots left in would simply grow stronger. - Acetic acid is not systemic and simply burns the leaves; it is also toxic to bees, and leaves considerable odour. - Foam/ hot water, again does not deal with the roots, and vehicle mounted heaters are unsuitable for tracking over wet areas in winter. - hand weeding is appropriate in higher value locations but totally impractical in most <p>In more sensitive locations such as wildlife sensitive areas, we avoided the use of Glyphosate. Here we attempted to create 50% bare ground through mechanical scarification, on to which seed was sown. This had variable results, and unfortunately was not as successful for wildflower establishment as spraying herbicides.</p> <p>Glyphosate then appears to currently be the only really effective way of preparing the ground for wildflower establishment, whether it is seeding or turf, and on occasion 2 applications are required to treat the germination from existing seed banks in the soil, or particularly invasive grasses and pernicious weeds (such as nettle, dock and thistle). The benefits of wildflower, shrub and tree establishment might be considered to compensate for the initial short-term treatment of those areas, however, on-going selective weed control remains essential to control the integrity of the swards.</p> <p>Glyphosate was also used for selective control and avoidance of re-establishment of non-native shrubs such as cherry laurel, in our woodlands to encourage the potential for natural regeneration beneath these shrubs and to avoid re-growth and shading impacts upon the natural regeneration of native species.</p> <p>There is still a need to use weedkiller for invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed.</p>
Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife?	The council has committed to changing mowing regimes for the benefit of wildlife. As part of the Wildlife Ways programme , grass verges along major routes have been replaced with wildflowers 'meadows', with reduction in mowing accordingly.
Are two thirds of the local wildlife sites in the council's area in positive conservation management?	<p>The borough has 55 out of 120 local wildlife sites in positive management. This is 46% compared to the national average of 47%. These sites are being managed to preserve their nature conservation interest, either for wildlife or geology.</p> <p>SMBC continues to work with the HBA Local Wildlife Sites Partnership, made up of key stakeholders at the local level re the designation of additional Local Sites not yet in positive management – some of the reasons given as to why wildlife sites aren't in positive management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic • Changes in Legislation • Ability to obtain information from private landowners • Financial Investment and Resources - • Insufficient funding or resources to carry out the assessment needed to provide the information. • Economic Uncertainty • Local Sites that have come out of funding schemes and are awaiting approval for a new scheme

Council Climate Action Scorecard: Questions

<p>Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow?</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member made a statement to the council that we want to re-establish Arden Forest by the end of century and give 15min access to trees for our residents.</p> <p>Solihull Council has committed to planting 250,000 trees by 2030 through local engagement with schools, residents, businesses, and community groups including the Solihull Tree Wardens. The 'Planting Our Future' campaign encourage residents to engage with tree planting, get involved in green infrastructure projects and offers support to private landowners who wish to plant trees. Since the campaign started in 2020, we have planted 51,000 across the borough and we are on track to plant another 25,000 in 2022/23.</p> <p>In addition we manage the borough's forest character through the Solihull Urban Forestry Strategy to maintain and enhance the borough's tree coverage the long term. The strategy will enable all concerned to guide the future of the urban forest. The urban forest encompasses both private and public land. It includes private gardens, streets, housing estates, public parks, schools, cemeteries, small woodlands and semi natural ancient woodland. This strategy is concerned with the parts of the urban forest that can be directly managed and influenced by Solihull Council.</p>
<p>Does the council turn off or dim their street light network to reduce light pollution?</p>	<p>The council is working with a local community to reduce brightness of lights. This will continue as we take people with us, but we will not act without consent of the local community.</p> <p>The borough's street lighting is all low energy LED which reduces lights pollution. The design also takes this into account. In addition, the council is sensitive to local bat populations when specifying lighting for area.</p>
<p>Have the council's parks been awarded Green Flag status?</p>	<p>Solihull Council has 16 Green Flag Parks.</p>
<p>Does the council employ a planning ecologist to scrutinise planning reports for biodiversity net gain?</p>	<p>As part of a bigger team, the council employs an ecologist to scrutinise planning reports for biodiversity net gain. The ecologist is back up by the Warwickshire ecology team and this ensures further professional support and best practice</p>
<p>Does the council require a higher biodiversity net gain commitment from new developments?</p>	<p>Draft Local Plan (Policy P10) will ask for 10% uplift as a minimum (110% biodiversity gain)</p>

Collaboration & Engagement

Question	Comments
<p>Council website - information for residents Do the council's climate pages include information about behaviour changes that residents can take, and are they easy to find?</p>	<p>The climate change pages, branded as 'Your Future Solihull' sit prominently on the Council's main homepage.</p> <p>On the landing page of the Your future Solihull hub, there is a section labelled 'How can I help?'. It's full of practical and feasible ways in which residents can either do their bit to combat climate change or change their behaviours to act more sustainably. There are tips for residents for each of themes of 'nature and environment', 'transport and travel', 'buildings and planning', 'waste' and 'education and engagement'.</p> <p>There are also six themed podcast episodes, also linked on the Your Future Solihull landing page, with plenty of suggestions for sustainable behaviour change.</p>
<p>Climate Action Plan Has the council published a climate action plan with SMART targets?</p>	<p>The Net Zero Action Plan sets out the actions that the Council is taking help the borough achieve our net zero aims, there is a section that defines what actions the Council needs to take to address the borough's climate ambitions. See page 85 . We have also identified KPI's which are included in the NZAP annual report – baselines for these KPI's have been taken, SMART targets will be developed against these KPIs.</p> <p>For Council emissions the Net Zero Carbon Council Plan 2030 has been developed. This is to be underpinned with local carbon plans for emitters such as Corporate properties and the Strategic Environment Contract.</p>
<p>Published Annual report Has the council published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan?</p>	<p>The Council has recently published our first Net Zero Action Plan Annual report – this can be viewed here: NZAP Annual Report</p> <p>For Council own emissions, the Carbon Report 2021/22 summarises emissions from key emitters, i.e. corporate properties, leisure centres, street lighting and the Strategic Environment Contract. Progress is also reported against NZAP targets for Council Section 3.4.</p>
<p>Councils lobbying government Has the council lobbied the government for climate action?</p>	<p>Here is a list of approaches that make direct reference to Climate Change. Much of the lobbying the Leader of the Council has done relating to this has been through discussions, attending conferences, speaking at events and nearly all his bullets and pieces he's asked to write make reference to climate change and net zero carbon emissions. Much of the work is done through the UK100 network, WMCA, TfWM, the Conservative Environment Network, amongst others.</p> <p>Letter dated</p> <p>18 June - Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP Our shared, regional cross-party support 2021 for the TfWM/West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Bid to the Levelling Up Fund - for the Midland Metro Depot and Traction Power Upgrade to Underpin Metro Network Expansion</p> <p>19 Nov 2020 - Cllr Wright and Mr Fytche, N.Kesteven District Council Environment Strategy</p> <p>30 Oct 2020 - Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Planning White Paper – Planning for the Future</p> <p>28 Jan 2020 - Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Article in Sunday Telegraph re 'We'll make it easier to build beautiful homes'</p> <p>29 March 2022 - Trudy Harrison MP - Zero carbon public transport</p> <p>Although not lobbying, the Leader participated in the following influential activities</p> <p>11 Nov 2021 - Attended COP26 Regional Roadshow WM</p> <p>26 Oct 2021 - Gave an interview to Solihull's Climate change podcast</p> <p>13 July 2021 - Speaker at International Net Zero Local Leadership Summit</p> <p>21 Sept 2022 - Attended Leadership Essentials Climate Emergency 10 virtual event</p> <p>Council Officers have also responded to Government Consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero Review • Environment Act consultation response for biodiversity net gain -Agenda for CPH Climate Change, Planning & Housing Decision Session on Wednesday 23rd March 2022, 6.00 pm Solihull City and District Council item 7 on the agenda. • Defra – Recycling Consistency Final Consultation – on line response therefore no record however our input may be cited in the published consultation response (awaiting publication) • Defra – DRS Consultation – email acknowledgement of response • Defra – Extended Producer Responsibility - email acknowledgement of response • Defra – Household Waste Recycling Centres – Call for evidence on booking systems & Technical consultation on preventing charges to householders for the disposal of DIY waste – No acknowledgement • Defra – Persistent Organic Pollutants in Soft Furnishings – No acknowledgement

Council Climate Action Scorecard: Questions

<p>Sharing Best practice between Councils Is the council working with external partners or other councils to seek to influence national governments on climate action, or to learn about and share best practice on council climate action?</p>	<p>Councillor Ian Courts - Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy Councillor Courts Acts as a Climate Champion and holds several posts which link to climate change and see him share best practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands WMCA - Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2 • Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Board - Net Zero Champion • "Courts on Climate Change" Podcast example: Courts on Climate Change <p>in addition, the council has shared its work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solihull Council's emerging plans for its Town Centre Low Carbon Energy Network are featured as a Local Government Association Case Study. - The Council's work with smart meters in schools was featured as an exemplar case study by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. - Working on a trial with ADEPT to test behaviour change along the A34 in Solihull and better understand customer car travel behaviour. <p>The Council also is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMCA Environment & Energy Board and other officers' group such as the Net Zero Officers Group - Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) and active within their groups, including the West Midlands Climate Adaptation Group. - NHS Birmingham and Solihull Green Board.
<p>Residents engagement Does the council have an ongoing way for residents to influence the implementation of the council's Climate Action Plan?</p>	<p>The Council works closely with the Solihull Climate Change Commission, who provide independent cross-sector advice to the Council's climate change plan, and fund the secretariat through Sustainability West Midlands.</p> <p>The Council has started the process of developing a Climate Change and Sustainability Engagement and Behaviour Change Plan, this will include continued engagement with residents including on the implementation of actions on Climate Change and Sustainability.</p> <p>As a Council we continue to consult on specific actions and projects alongside more general engagement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has also included Climate Change questions in it's People and Place survey which garners opinions from residents across the Borough. • The Council carried out a young persons survey • Consultation on Chelmsley Wood Net Zero Neighbourhood • Economic Strategy – Net Zero is one of the pillars • Solihull Connected Transport Strategy
<p>Representative residents engagement Does the council's ongoing engagement with residents include those most affected by climate change and climate action policy?</p>	<p>As a Council we continue to consult on specific actions and projects alongside more general engagement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has also included Climate Change questions in it's People and Place survey which garners opinions from residents across the Borough. • The Council carried out a young persons survey • Consultation on Chelmsley Wood Net Zero Neighbourhood • Economic Strategy – Net Zero is one of the pillars • Solihull Connected Transport Strategy • Gathering feedback on demand for EV car clubs and charging points across the borough
<p>Funding for community climate action Does the council provide funding for community climate action, for example through an environment fund or climate action fund?</p>	<p>The Council's Love Solihull programme is an environmental initiative supporting members of the local community. Opportunities to get involved litter picking and joining your local 'Friends of the Group'. The Council provides funding to provide litter picking equipment for volunteers.</p> <p>Residents and community groups in Solihull can apply to the West Midlands Community Green Grants, ranging from £3000 to £100k. The grants are designed to improve access to green space and increase biodiversity.</p>
<p>Health Services Partnership Is the council working in partnership with health services on active travel, home insulation, air pollution, green spaces or other climate action policies?</p>	<p>Winter Warmth Campaign working with Age UK</p>

<p>Partnerships - Culture Is the council working in partnership with cultural institutions and organisations to encourage decarbonisation within culture and arts locally?</p>	<p>The Council funds the Solihull Cultural Education Partnership, and part of their activity includes climate change and sustainability. The recent Small is Beautiful programme included two events. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ITZATNA Arts – displayed a pop-up greenhouse installation inspired by how climate change could affect the borough, by reimagining the naturalist illustrations of famous Solihull artist Edith Holden. Installed in The Core the pieces included sound alongside living plants and seedbomb sculpture. - Foolsize Theatre performed a piece whereby they were surgeons operating on the Mother Earth. using microcinema the point of view switched to Mother Earths view and as she passed in and out of consciousness. This was performed to children from Meriden primary who then created letters and film calling Mother Earth back to life. <p>In addition, the Council has a long history of working with BBC Gardeners World Live, and last year supported a ‘plant up a wheelbarrow’ competition Commonwealth Countries in a Barrow. 18 Solihull schools took part and they were exhibited at the exhibition at the NEC.</p> <p>Other events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycled flag project for the Commonwealth Games - Schools created flags using recycled material, the flags formed a trail around Touchwood Shopping Centre Test your Commonwealth knowledge in the Recycled Flag Trail. • Fairtrade Art Trail Fairtrade - Over 20 schools created sculptures / artwork for the theme of ‘Choose the World you Want’ to coincide with Fairtrade Fortnight, the artwork was displayed in shops in Solihull Town Centre to create an Art Trail during Fairtrade Fortnight 2022. - The Migration Blanket – Climate Solidarity film shows how women's lives are being affected.
<p>Partnerships - young people Is the council working in partnership with schools or other education settings to deliver climate action that young people can engage with?</p>	<p>Education for Sustainable Development Schools Webpages</p> <p>Sustainable Schools Conference – an annual (now online) event for teachers and other staff covering subjects such as energy and waste. Model COP 27 Conference – working with Interclimate Network this is the 5th conference, students from across the borough come to the council chamber to act in the capacity of their adopted countries and negotiate as happens at the real COP. Greener Schools Awards – 13 schools across the borough participated in this annual awards..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Sustainable Schools Conference - the Sustainable Schools Conference took place online. There were 3 sessions, the sustainable future of your school, climate awareness training and greener schools. The conference is aimed at school stakeholders including Eco-leaders, business and site managers. Council officers from various teams and outside organisations shared sustainability related support and opportunities, schools received the latest information on the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. • British Council - Solihull schools made links to schools in Egypt and Zimbabwe for joint climate action activities through the British Council, Connecting Classrooms programme. • Toy Amnesty – Schools compete in reuse and recycling challenge - Schools took part in the Toy Amnesty Schools Challenge, jointly organised by The Appliance Recycling Group and Solihull Zero Wasters. The competition challenged pupils to complete a ‘treasure hunt’ and bring in old WEE toys to be recycled or re-used <p>Other teams involved: Love Solihull engage and work with schools and young people through Planting Our Future and other Love Solihull initiatives such as litter picking School Travel Team</p> <p>Other partners: Veolia – provides support as the council partner. https://www.veolia.co.uk/schools</p>
<p>Partnerships - Businesses Is the council working in partnership with local businesses to encourage decarbonisation?</p>	<p>Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group- The Council convenes a sustainability group consisting of 70 small, medium and large businesses within the borough. Chaired by a representative from Jaguar Land Rover the group meets quarterly to discuss best practice and support each other in exploring opportunities for reducing carbon output. Link to the intranet site here.</p> <p>Examples of support for businesses to decarbonise include funding environmental audits for businesses, free training such as carbon literacy training, or grants to support businesses to decarbonise their properties. This can include initiatives with other councils including county and district partnerships, provided that the council signposts this work from their website. This question will include schemes that have been available at some point since 1st January 2022, in order to include funds released in waves that may not be open at the time of marking.</p>

Council Climate Action Scorecard: Questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have issued a number of business newsletters to promote a number of programmes including the Clean Growth Programme (GBSLEP), launching Your Future Solihull, promoting Bitesize event - How going green can boost your business & GBSLEP Sustainability Service, promoting Solihull Chambers Sustainable Business Series & Green Advantage - Skills Bootcamp in Sustainability & the COP27 podcast. • Promoted the Net Zero blog via Solihull for Success and social media. • SMBC are working with Sustainability West Midlands on WRAP pilot programme for businesses due to run from w/c 13 Feb to w/c 24 April 2023. WRAP (waste and recycling organisation) are offering 121 support for Solihull businesses.
<p>Communications - advertising Has the council passed a motion to ban high carbon advertising?</p>	<p>No</p>

Waste Reduction & Food

Question	Comments
<p>Single Use Plastic Has the council banned or reduced single use plastic in its buildings and events? Has the council reduced single use plastic at external events on council land, property or public spaces such as roads and parks?</p>	<p>The Council published a SUP Strategy in 2019.</p> <p>An update was published in 2020 with progress against targets.</p> <p>Due to Covid the SUP School Catering Team is on target to remove as much of the SUP from its services as is feasible, however some SUP remains where it is not yet feasible to use alternatives.</p> <p>It is estimated that the Schools and Corporate Catering Team have eliminated around 70% of the 1.2million items of SUP they use annually, with the remainder being consumables such as gloves and bin bags where recyclable or compostable alternatives are harder to source. Schools are the biggest user of SUP by far, so this is a substantial reduction.</p> <p>Encore Café (including The Core Theatre catering) is on target (however is likely to have to reintroduce some SUP due to Covid-19 such as sauce sachets and menus).</p> <p>They were a big user of SUP but have phased out much of it and put in other facilities such as water fountains and recycling bins.</p> <p>More widely across the action plan and other services and teams, the majority of the actions have or are likely to be achieved by December 2020. More can be seen in the SUP Statement of Activity 2020</p> <p>It should be noted that any plastics put into general waste are sent to the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Waste to Energy plant in Coventry. This plant recovers the energy from the waste and supplies power and district heating to Coventry. The pollution of the plant is extremely low as it has two staged of abatement</p>
<p>Circular Economy Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally?</p>	<p>SMBC are working with Sustainability West Midlands on WRAP pilot programme for businesses due to run from w/c 13 Feb to w/c 24 April 2023. WRAP (waste and recycling organisation) are offering 121 support for Solihull businesses.</p>
<p>Surplus Food Does the council support initiatives to redistribute surplus food waste?</p>	<p>This has been considered with a potential supplier however both directly managed (Encore Café) and primary schools do not produce sufficient quantities. Fortunately this is due to good management.</p>
<p>Food Strategy/Food Partnership Does the council have a sustainable food strategy?</p>	<p>The Council does not have either at the moment. However it is a long standing partner of community food growing initiatives such as Gro-Organic</p>
<p>Local Food Growing Has the council taken steps to support local food growing?</p>	<p>BBC Gardeners World – CWG themed wheelbarrow competition Commonwealth Countries in a Barrow! Food from specific common countries and then making meals from the ingredients - 18 Solihull schools take part solihull.gov.uk 18 schools planted unique Commonwealth themed wheelbarrows for the competition at BBC Gardener's World Live.</p> <p>Schools also have food growing initiatives and participants of the Greener Schools Award have received garden tools as part of the award through the business sponsors.</p> <p>The Council remains committed to providing food growing opportunities to the community through provision of allotments.</p>
<p>School Catering Do schools in the council area serve less meat in school meals?</p>	<p>The schools catering strategy includes the following statement "Incorporating non-meat protein into recipes such as lentils and beans as a healthy alternative whilst still meeting the school food standards for nutrition." These meals meet the 20% requirement</p>
<p>Kerbside Food Waste Recycling Does the council provide kerbside food waste recycling?</p>	<p>No collection of food waste provided</p>
<p>Recycling Rate How high is the councils' area wide annual recycling rate?</p>	<p>Statistics for 2021/22 (not yet published but source data used – old NI192) is 35.2%</p>
<p>Household Waste Amount How low is the councils' area wide level of household waste produced?</p>	<p>Statistics for 2021/22 (not yet published but source data used – old NI191) is 631 kg per household</p> <p>The Council publishes all treatment destinations on the web https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Rubbish-and-recycling/what-happens-recycling-waste</p>

	<p>Garden waste is composted and made into a soil improver/compost which is then sold/used by Suez, we don't use any of the product produced.</p> <p>It should be noted that Solihull borough landfill less than 10% of domestic waste. The general waste is sent for combustion at the CSWDC Waste to Energy plant. Calculations using DEFRA framework show that this route has a reduces emissions overall in the life cycle by 4000tonnes/yr – need to check. The plant also reclaims metals for reuse. Due to regulations, recycling at this stage is not counted.</p>
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