

Appendices: 0



COUNCIL

20th January 2020

Agenda Status: Public

**Directorate: Planning and
Sustainability**

Report Title	Northampton Borough Carbon Emissions baseline data
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1. Purpose

1.1 To report to Full Council on the carbon footprint of the Borough.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Full Council;

Consider the report and note its contents

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 At its meeting on 3rd June 2019, Northampton Borough Council agreed two Motions to declare a Climate Emergency.

First motion;

'This council recognises the strength of public opinion recently expressed in London and Northampton to address the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. The council also notes that the UK Parliament has declared a Climate Emergency.'

The Council therefore declares "a Climate Emergency" in Northampton and commits to a target of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council Requests a report to be submitted to the Council in 12 months' time and updated in January 2021 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this

motion and detailing how progressing this objective has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council.'

Second motion;

'All parties within this Council acknowledge the urgency of dealing with climate change. We need cross party agreement to develop strategies for a greener, more sustainable society in Northampton. A green revolution is required.

Working with partners we will seek to implement the following actions, which we strongly believe will benefit Northampton in leading an eco-friendly Britain:

- A ban on single-use plastics within school environments. Schools across Northampton produce a huge amount of plastic waste each week
- Northampton schools would benefit from educating their students on eco issues through school schemes, where programs could be set up in order to teach students how to stay green in lessons, such as Personal, Social, Health and Economic education or by holding educational assemblies with influential speakers.
- To help further reduce the damaging effects of plastic littering, the council should support and work closely with schemes operated by companies like TerraCycle who turn many unrecyclable plastics (such as crisp packets and wrappers) into outdoor furniture.
- To explore with Local businesses and partners options for an eco-rewards scheme that would allow individuals and groups to gain something back from recycling.
- Northampton Borough Council to commit to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the local planning authority and resolve to go further than the UK100 Agreement. To act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net-zero carbon by 2030, thus use the planning process to encourage developers to consider low carbon developments.

Joining many councils who have already done the same, NBC declares "a Climate Emergency" in Northampton and commits to a target, in line with the above actions, of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council requests a production of a baseline report to be submitted to the council in the beginning of 2020 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this motion. This Council also resolves to work with other local authorities ahead of Unitary to use the baseline report as the basis on which to develop an action plan which could be adopted by the new Council.'

3.1 Decision details

- 3.2.1 Baseline data, based on Local Authority area, is collected by and published annually by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The data is grouped into three major categories;
- Industry and Commercial, including emissions from energy use and agriculture
 - Domestic, including use of electricity and gas within residential properties
 - Transport, including road and rail transport
- 3.2.2 Data is also published which excludes emissions from large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land use which are beyond Local Authority influence. Given the limited extent of these within the Borough, these figures for Northampton do not differ significantly.

NBC emissions

Year (Mt CO ₂ e)	Total	2005	2017	%	LA influence	
	2005				2017	%
Industry & Commercial	585	287			584	273
Domestic total	489	308			489	308
Transport total	348	316			348	316
Grand total	1 422	909			1 422	897
Population (000's, mid year estimate)	197	226			197	226
Per capita emissions	7.2	4.0	-45%	7.2	4.0	-45%
UK per capita emissions	8.7	5.3	-40%			

- 3.2.3 Whilst the per capita emissions for the Borough have reduced by 45% since 2005, despite a 19 000 increase in population, this has resulted from increases in energy use efficiency at national level, and from the activity or influence of the Council.
- 3.2.4 Nationally, over the same period, per capita emissions reduced from 8.7 to 5.3 Mt CO₂, a reduction of 40%.
- 3.2.5 Locally, the largest reductions were in the Industrial and Commercial, and Domestic sectors, whilst Transport emissions saw only a small reduction.
- 3.2.6 Recent Borough Council initiatives which have contributed to the reductions include;
- Using licensing policies and powers to require all taxis to be Electric Vehicles by 2028;
 - Establish Air Quality Management Areas in areas experiencing high level of gases related to queueing motor vehicles. These are regularly monitored, reviewed and have already been extended;

- Negotiate to promote more energy efficient buildings through Planning and Building Regulations;
- Recent purchase of an electric vehicle for the Car Parks team;
- Promote biodiversity and green infrastructure through Planning policies, developer contributions and the delivery of Country Parks.

3.3 Next steps

3.3.1 The Councils' Cabinet will be asked to agree A Carbon Neutral Northampton 2030 Strategic Approach and Vision in February 2020. The Strategic Approach will propose that the following are included;

	Direct controllable emissions	Indirect controllable emissions	All other indirect emissions
Council emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owned transport • Fuel use • Process emissions <p>Fuel use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased goods • Operational waste • Business travel • Capital goods purchased • Employee commute
Community emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use • Stationary fuel emissions • In boundary transportation • In boundary waste & wastewater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid supplied electricity 	

3.3.2 Following this, an Action Plan will be developed, setting out what actions are proposed in the following areas;

- Transport
- Buildings
- Waste
- Energy
- Procurements
- Green and Blue infrastructure
- Influence

These are based on guidance published by Friends of the Earth in 2019 aimed at assisting Councils declaring a climate emergency

3.3.3 The delivery of these actions will require partnership working with the following;

- Employers
- Major landowners, including NCC, Homes England

- Housing providers, including NPH
- Transport organisations, including bus service operators
- Education providers including UoN, Academies
- Health providers including NHS England, Public Health England, CCTs
- Sports and Leisure providers, including NLP
- Local interest groups
- Town and Parish Councils
- Energy providers

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no direct policy implications to the baseline data, but it is noted that the Council is committed to producing a Carbon Neutral Strategy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no direct resource and risk implications to the baseline data, but it is noted that the Council is committed to producing a Carbon Neutral Strategy which will need resources to deliver its aims. Therefore it is intended to establish a new budget to support this.

4.3 Legal

4.2.1 No direct legal issues but it should be noted that the Strategic Approach proposals may give rise to procurement and other considerations which can be advised on once further details are available.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Equalities impacts will need to be considered at all stages of drafting a Carbon Neutral Strategy, and Equality Impact assessments will be carried out.

4.4.1 Environmental Implications (including climate change issues)

4.5.1 Understanding the baseline position of the Boroughs carbon emissions is key to developing a Carbon Neutral Strategy with the aim of making both the Borough Council and the Borough carbon neutral by 2030

4.4.2 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

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