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Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 22 November 2022

6.00 pm

The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3  
4NT

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**Democratic Services:** Kieran Robinson 01952 382061

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**Committee Members:** Councillors G C W Reynolds (Chair), M Boylan, G H Cook,  
T L B Janke, T J Nelson and G L Offland

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	To receive an update on active travel and electric vehicles.	
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## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

**Present:** Councillors G C W Reynolds (Chair), T L B Janke,  
T J Nelson and G L Offland.

**In Attendance:** A Lowe (Director: Policy & Governance) and K Robinson  
(Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))

#### **ENVSC51 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **ENVSC52 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting 26 April 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **ENVSC53 Terms of Reference 2022 - 2023**

The Director: Policy & Governance presented the report.

This was a standard report, presented annually at the first meeting of the municipal year. There was one amendment to the standard terms of reference to provide for the election of a vice chair should the committee wish to.

**RESOLVED** – that the Committee approve the terms of reference for the year 2022 – 2023.

#### **ENVSC54 Work Programme 2022 - 2023**

The Director: Policy & Governance presented the draft work programme, explaining each item in turn providing a brief summary of the item and its background.

Items included a standing item on climate change work in the borough, an item focussing on Food and the Environment, and further items on the Council's contracts and their environmental provisions, partnership work, transport strategies, and river sewage.

Following the presentation, Members made a number of comments on proposals. Specifically noted was the value that could be added in terms of a review the roll out of dual-use bins. Members were also encouraged by the inclusion of a 'Food and the Environment' item given the rural status of the county at large and the importance of the food industry in the borough. It was

also requested that there be information about cycle and footpath maintenance as part of any update on the active travel policy.

**RESOLVED** – that the draft work programme be approved by the Committee.

**ENVSC55 Chair's Update**

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 22 November 2022.

The meeting ended at 6.26 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Tuesday 22 November 2022



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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

22 November 2022

## Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services	
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Felicity Mercer - Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services	
<b>Service Area:</b>	Community Services	
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ian Wykes - Team Leader: Climate Change and Sustainability	
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01962 384960	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ian.wykes@telford.gov.uk">ian.wykes@telford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision	
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable	
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Cabinet - 22 September 2022	

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### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

1.1 To note and review the update on Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free.

### 2.0 Purpose of Report

To allow Environment Scrutiny the opportunity to

2.1 Note and review the Council's progress on becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic free as set out in the report to Cabinet on 22 September 2022 (See Appendix 1)

### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Tackling climate change is one of five priorities set out in the current Council Plan. In July 2019 the council declared a climate change emergency and made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Through its support of a borough partnership the council is also playing a full part in helping the wider borough achieve the same target.
- 3.2 The Council has also made a commitment to remove single-use plastics from the Council's operations and activities, replacing them with sustainable alternatives, by the end of 2023.
- 3.3 Previously reporting on these two areas had been undertaken separately. However, the report to Cabinet in September 2022 (Appendix A) provided an update on the progress being made to meet both targets and we will continue to report on both as one delivery plan moving forward.

### 4.0 Summary of main proposals

In summary the Cabinet report:

- 4.1 Set out that from a baseline of 2018/19 the council achieved a reduction of 57% overall in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions.
- 4.2 Highlighted a range of activities undertaken in 2021/22 to help achieve this. This included various initiatives such as the opening of Wellington Bus station the first off grid bus station nationally and Newport swimming pool now being heated by an air source heat pump. As well as well as practical delivery, projects awareness raising has also been an important element of our work. For example, we held the first Climate Change Youth Summit with over a hundred year 9, 10 and 12 pupils form across our secondary schools helping to shape our climate change work going forward. We held plastic free July to raise awareness of how residents and staff could eliminate their use of single use plastic.
- 4.3 Included the following recommendations

To build on the progress made to date and to ensure that the Council's carbon mitigation work fully contributes to wider issues of extreme weather and fuel poverty the following areas of work are seen as a priority:

- **To keep the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan and Plastic Free Action Plan under constant review** and to work across the authority to identify new initiatives.

- **To continue to monitor progress on a quarterly basis** to ensure progress is being made and to identify challenges more quickly to ensure the successful delivery of projects
- **To work with service areas to develop adaptation plans** or to ensure that the impacts of climate change are fully reflected in business continuity plans
- To ensure that any actions to address climate change also continue to play a full part in helping Telford's residents, community groups and businesses **address the impact of unprecedented recent increase fuel prices and fuel poverty.**
- **Developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** on climate change in support of the revised Local Plan.
- **Extend our range of advice and support to staff** – including a new Climate Change training module on Ollie and carbon literacy training to support service provision and operations.
- **Lobbying** - we cannot succeed alone and require more legislation and greater funding support from Government in order to push forward with this agenda in the way that is needed. Working together with other members of UK 100 will help us do this.

## 5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The alternative option would be to do nothing and not deliver on the council's climate change commitments. However, this could lead to serious reputational risks for the council as a community leader. Not addressing issues such as energy efficiency of buildings or development of renewable energy generation opportunities would also lead to significant cost implications through increase in fuel bills and loss of income. Doing nothing would also lead to a negative impact on the health and social / economic wellbeing of Telford and Wrekin businesses, communities, and residents.

## 6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 Committee Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3), published in June 2021 sets out the priority climate change risks for the UK. In summary, risks in the report include:

- The impacts of climate change on the natural environment.
- An increase in the range, quantities and consequences of pests, pathogens and invasive species.
- The risk of climate change impacts, especially more frequent flooding and coastal erosion, causing damage to infrastructure services.
- A reduction in public water supplies due to increasing periods of water scarcity.

- The impact of extreme temperatures, high winds and lightning on the transport network.
- The impact of increasing high temperatures on people's health and wellbeing.
- Increased severity and frequency of flooding.
- Disruption to the delivery of health and social care services due to a greater frequency of extreme weather.
- Damage to cultural heritage assets as a result of temperature, precipitation, groundwater and landscape changes.
- Impacts internationally that may affect the UK, such as risks to food availability, safety and security, risks to international law and governance from climate change that will affect the UK, international trade routes, public health.

Therefore, there are significant risks as outlined should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.

## **7.0 Council Priorities**

7.1 The councils' work on climate change and sustainability is a direct response to the council's priority "Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency". However, as a cross cutting agenda it also has a significant contribution towards all other council priorities including:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 An approved allocation of £4m was included in the capital programme to support Climate Change initiatives; spend in previous years totalled £0.2m which leaves £3.8m available in 2022/23. This is being allocated to schemes in the Action Plan which are detailed in this report and appropriate finance support is being provided. Finance will also provide support in relation to any bids for external funding as required.

The Community Municipal Investment was launched in May 2022 and provides an opportunity for individuals to lend money to the Council which will be used to fund projects across Telford & Wrekin to help tackle the climate emergency. This is a new borrowing source for the Council (permitted in the approved Treasury Strategy), which is an alternative to loans from the Public Works Loans Board



(PWLB) and is specifically aimed to support the Council's Climate Change Agenda. The cost of borrowing to the Council, including fees, was comparable with PWLB rates at the time of entering the arrangement.

## **10.0 Legal and HR Implications**

- 10.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050 when compared with the 1990 baseline. At a local level, Section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to include in their local plans, policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. In the management of its activities, provision of its services and performance of its functions, local councils are in a position to play a vital role in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. The Council has wide scope to decide how best to address these challenges.
- 10.2 Full legal support was provided for the implementation and launch of the Community Municipal Bonds scheme.
- 10.3 Implementation of the proposals in this report may give rise to specific legal issues upon which specific legal advice will be provided as necessary
- 10.2 There are no specific Human Resource implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 Ward Implications**

- 11.1 This report has a borough wide impact

## **12.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

- 12.1 Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on the health of Telford and Wrekin's residents as well as on their social and economic wellbeing. For example, July 2022 saw the highest temperatures on record. Heatwaves can lead to very serious health implications particularly for the most vulnerable<sup>1</sup> Many of the actions set out in the climate change plan have considerable co-benefits. The Climate Change Fund supports businesses and community groups with energy efficiency measures which should help address recent rises in fuel prices.

## **13.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 13.1 The Council's Climate Change Action Plan takes account of the legal requirement to pay due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Key to this is consideration of people's specific needs based on their protected characteristics.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)30434-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)30434-3/fulltext)

People who share protected characteristics of age, race, ethnicity and disability are often disproportionately affected by climate change and its consequences. This is true locally and internationally. Extreme weather events, for example heat waves most detrimentally affect older residents and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The success of our climate change activity relies on active participation by the whole community. Steps are taken to make sure that events are inclusive and the differing needs of individuals are considered so that they can access activities and contribute effectively.

#### **14.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

14.1 This report sets out the key areas as to how Telford and Wrekin Council is helping address climate change and environmental implications.

#### **15.0 Appendices**

- 1 Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update – Cabinet Report 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

#### **16.0 Background Papers**

- 1 UK Climate Risk – Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment – Summary for England: <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCRA-Evidence-Report-England-Summary-Final.pdf>

#### **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	26/10/2022	31/10/2022	RP
Democratic Services	26/10/2022	01/11/2022	KR



## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Cabinet

22 September 2022

## Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services	
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Felicity Mercer - Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services	
<b>Service Area:</b>	Community Services	
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ian Wykes - Team Leader Climate Change and Sustainability	
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01962 384960	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ian.wykes@telford.gov.uk">ian.wykes@telford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision	
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Report considered by:</b>	SMT – 22 August 2022 Business Briefing – 08 September 2022	

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

- 1.1 That Cabinet notes the progress the Council has made over the last 12 months in its journey to become carbon neutral by 2030 and how the Council will continue to work to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's operations and activities and influence carbon reduction Borough-wide.
- 1.2 That Cabinet notes the progress the Council is making to become plastic free by 2023 and as part of the borough wide Telford and Wrekin Plastic Free Task Force.

1.3 That Cabinet Notes that this report is in relation to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency Declaration and will be referred to Full Council for information as part of the 'Matters Determined by the Cabinet' report.

## 2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To update Cabinet on progress being made to meet the Council's target of becoming Carbon Zero by 2030 (a 57% reduction in emissions to date) and Plastic Free by 2023.

## 3.0 Background

3.1 In 2019 Telford and Wrekin Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and set out an ambitious target to ensure its activities and operations are carbon neutral by 2030. The Council also made a commitment to remove single-use plastics from the Council's operations and activities, replacing them with sustainable alternatives, by the end of 2023.

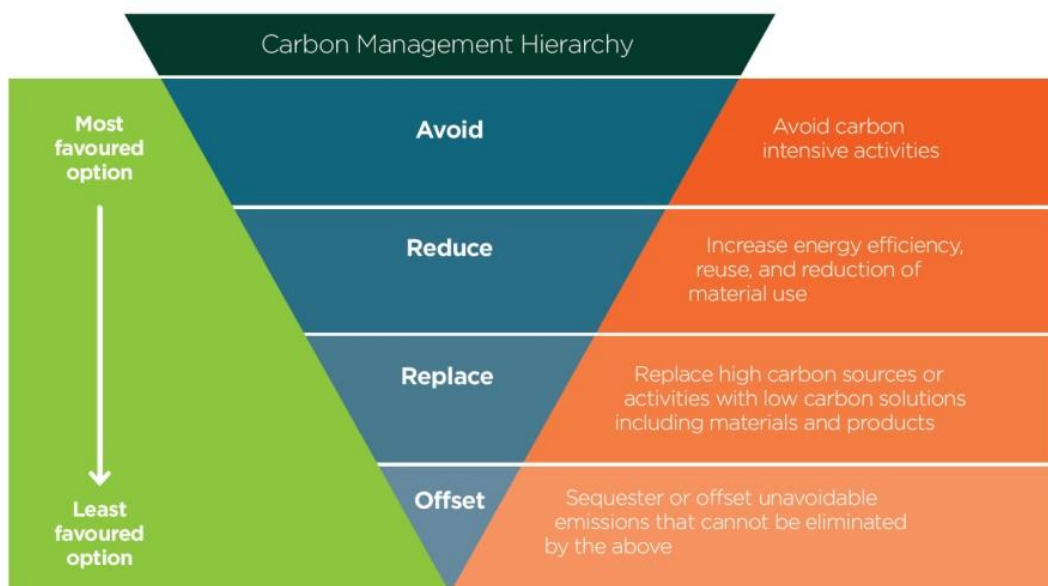
3.2 Previously reporting on these two areas has been undertaken separately. However, we will be reporting on both as one delivery plan for the purposes of monitoring and reporting moving forward.

3.3 At the time of the last Climate Change Report to Cabinet in November 2021 the UK was hosting the COP26 in Glasgow. The main achievement of COP was to reaffirm the commitment of keeping a global increase in temperature to 1.5°C as previously agreed at The Paris Agreement in 2015. The UK Government's commitments are still those set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) which established a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050.

3.4 Although there have been no recent legislative changes, there are two ongoing influencing factors that have had, and will continue to have, a bearing on the focus of the Council's climate change work going forward.

- Firstly 2022 has seen a continued increase in fuel prices which have contributed to the current cost of living crisis. This is one of the biggest challenges Telford and its residents are currently facing. More households will be entering fuel poverty and we will also see a big impact on local community groups and businesses.
- Secondly the general trend of climatic extremes has continued into 2022 with July recording the highest ever temperatures in the UK.

3.5 The graphic below sets out the principles that the council seeks to adhere to meet its sustainability and climate change ambitions



3.6 To support a range of schemes to reduce the Council's carbon footprint the Council has allocated £4,000,000 of capital funding into this programme of work. To date approximately half the fund has been allocated and is being used across a range of projects to help support the delivery of the action plan. More information on this is set out in the main report.

#### 4.0 Summary of main proposals

##### Carbon Emissions 2021/22

4.1 The Council has continued to monitor emissions from the following activities:

- Corporate estate
- Street lighting
- Transport and travel

4.2 Regarding transport and travel data, whilst there is accurate data available on business and fleet mileage, it has not been possible to precisely monitor emissions from commuting by employees. This is due to variable working patterns of employees during the Covid recovery period. We have therefore removed commuting from the data, pending carrying out an updated staff travel survey, linked to an accommodation review, which will provide an evidence base for future data.

4.3 With that in mind, and to ensure consistency, we have also removed commuting from all previous years data in order to track progress in 2021/22 against a comparable baseline figure for 2018/19. Using this methodology, emissions in 2021/22 total 2426 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. When comparing this to equivalent baseline data for 2018/19 (5686 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e – with commuting removed), the overall figure is a reduction of 57% overall in

emissions.

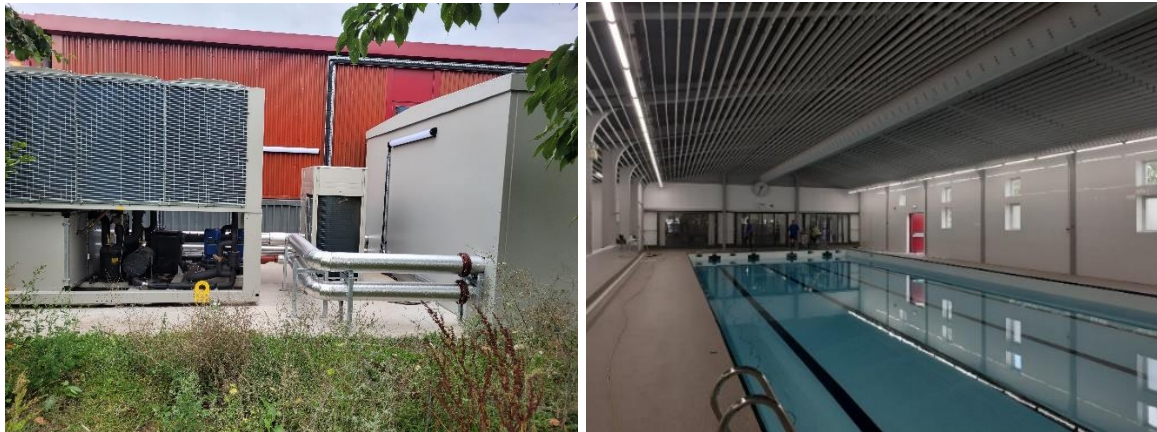
- 4.4 Using comparable data, the % reduction in 2020/21 from the baseline year was 61%. This small variation is to be expected as services were returning to normal operation during 2021/22 following the pandemic, however it is positive to note that we still managed to sustain a 44% decrease in emissions in business mileage in 2021/22 compared to pre-pandemic (2019/20) levels.

#### Progress against the action plan

- 4.5 The Council has received national recognition for its climate change work. A report by Climate Emergency UK and featured in the Guardian put Telford and Wrekin Council in the top 10 single tier authorities. <sup>1</sup> The Council has also been approved to become a member of UK100 a network of local authorities who have a clear and demonstrable commitment to tackle climate change. This will be formally signed by the Leader in the autumn.
- 4.6 Good progress is being made against the actions in the corporate Climate Change Action Plan with 22 of the 82 already having been completed and a number of longer-term actions are in progress as well. Some of those in progress have either been delayed by the continuation of Covid 19 or are awaiting other reviews to be completed such as the ongoing accommodation review.
- 4.7 For the corporate estate, a range of energy efficiency and renewable energy installations have been delivered. The council has targeted those buildings with the largest emissions already identified those buildings and measures have been completed in 8 of these. For the remainder measures are being identified which will form part of future funding bids. The council is currently looking to submit a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for retrofit and other improvements at Darby House and Granville House
- 4.8 At **Newport Leisure centre** £586,000 was secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to install an air source heat pump and thermal insulation. The Council also reduced the depth of the pool to reduce water heating costs and installed new LED lighting. The outcome of this work means the site will save 566,863kWh a year (the same amount of energy typically used by 182 houses). The pool was re-opened to the public in July 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>



*Air source heat pump and completed installation at Newport Leisure Centre*

4.9 At **Oakengates Leisure Centre** photovoltaic panels have now been installed, funded through SEPUBU (Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings). SEPUBU funding has also been used to install Electric Vehicle charging points and LED lighting at **Horsehay Golf and Fitness Centre**. Additional funding has now been secured to install photovoltaic panels and battery storage.

4.10 **NuPlace** (owned by Telford and Wrekin Council) have developed 46 sustainable homes at Southwater Way, all with photovoltaic panels and electric vehicle charging points with the first tenant moving in April 2022



*Sustainable housing at Southwater Way*

4.11 In Donnington planning consent has been granted for a 329 unit development. All units will accommodate a range of carbon reduction technologies including fabric upgrades, water heat recovery, electric car charging points, solar panels etc. Eighteen NuPlace properties are to be built to the Future Homes standard and will be electrically heated powered by photo voltaic panels.

4.12 **NI. Park** is employment development land south of the A518 and west of the A41 in Newport. The first phase of TWC Investment Units was completed in October 2021 and is understood to be the first in the area to deliver both electric vehicle charging and photovoltaic panels to support smaller businesses, ahead of recent changes in the planning process. It also includes a wildlife pond:



- 4.13 Funding from the capital budget has been allocated for the installation of low energy LED lighting at **Granville House**, and for Photovoltaic panels at **Lakewood Court**. Funding has also been provided for an innovative Pavegen scheme at Southwater currently being installed. Pavegen is a technology where paving slabs can generate electricity from the motion of peoples' footsteps.
- 4.14 170k of capital funding, from the Municipal Investment (see case studies in section 4.19) will be utilised to fit energy efficiency measures to 12 units of the Council's temporary accommodation, showing an intent to lead by example in improving our own stock for vulnerable people. This is part of the Council's much wider work on Safer, Stronger Communities. £500,000 of the capital budget is being used to plug gaps in Government funding and help deliver energy efficiency measures and other support to targeted residents most at risk of fuel poverty. This is part of the council's wider affordable warmth work.
- 4.15 Our Affordable Warmth Strategy has set us clear targets to make homes with an energy performance rating of D and below within our borough more energy efficient, taking our most deprived households out of fuel poverty, while working towards our carbon net zero target. Homes currently account for around 20% of all emissions in the borough. To date we have brought in over £3m of capital funding through programmes such as the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme to provide energy efficiency measures to our most vulnerable citizens in fuel poverty resulting in a minimum of 900 measures being delivered in people's homes. Targeted work has also been undertaken in our Safer Stronger Community areas, for example 61 households alone have benefitted in Sutton Hill.
- 4.16 Looking at transport, a comparison of emissions from some areas with data prior to Covid may indicate a long-term trend in the reduction of carbon emissions. For example, grey fleet mileage (business mileage in private cars) just prior to the pandemic in 2019/20 stood at 1,672,429 miles but reduced significantly in 2020/21 to 671,626. This figure increased the following year as lockdown restrictions lifted again but it still shows a reduction of 59.8% compared to pre-pandemic mileage levels. This could suggest there has been a permanent shift away from face to face to more virtual meetings which will have a positive impact on our travel emissions moving forward.
- 4.17 Supporting this, the Council are continuing to invest in electric vehicles as part of its routine ongoing replacement of its fleet. The Public Protection team are already in receipt of four electric vans and Highways have also purchased two electric vans. An additional ten vehicles are ordered and awaiting delivery including two electric minibuses for Arthog that will be funded through the Municipal Investment. The Council is finalising a bid for funding to install up to **50 electric charging points in car parks across the borough**



aimed at providing charging facilities for residents without off street parking. This builds of the 15 points the council has already installed for its own fleet

- 4.18 In July 2022 Cabinet approved the Electric Vehicle Strategy as well as the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan both setting out the Council's aspirations towards sustainable transport. Both will play a significant role in helping the Council meet its own climate change commitments as well as the borough as a whole.



- 4.19 Focussing on biodiversity, the Council has a range of projects it is working on. It organised a No Mow May event and bug hunt in Hartshill Park earlier this year in conjunction with Oakengates Town Council. In June it worked with Bug Life and created an extensive project in Dawley Park to improve the bee line corridor and in July it built 2 bug hotels at Bowring Park along with the Friends of Group. The Council is due to build more bug hotels in Dale End Park in September and is working on developing a bee bank. A bat walk and survey is also planned, followed by bat box building in conjunction with local schools in the autumn.
- 4.20 Over and above the specific actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan the Council is also engaged in a wide range of activities across land in its ownership to deliver appropriate habitat and site management, benefits to specific species and biodiversity enhancements through actions funded by Council budgets, external funding and developer contributions. These actions are targeted primarily at biodiversity gains, and halting biodiversity loss, but in many cases contribute significantly to the sequestration of carbon and therefore to the aims and objective of the Climate Change Action Plan. Examples of relevant actions are the restoration of pools and ponds, management of heathland and species rich grassland to maintain extent and enhance condition and the enhancement of grasslands for increased species diversity.

## Case studies

- 4.21 The case studies below provide a snapshot of a range of activities completed (or currently being delivered) since the last report. These include actions in the action plan that contribute directly to the Council's own carbon footprint, the wider Borough's emissions or are helping raise awareness.

### **Climate Change Fund**

The fund was launched in February 2021 with a £100k grant fund to support local groups and small businesses with projects to reduce their carbon footprint and help the Borough reach Net Carbon Zero by 2030. It was very well received, with the scheme being oversubscribed, receiving 69 applications with grant requests totalling over £250,000.



*Admaston House Community Centre one of the recipients of the Climate Change Fund.*

Successful applications included projects such as a community electric charging point in Sambrook, a secure bike storage facility at Burton Borough School and the installation of solar PV systems at several buildings across the borough. Owing to the success of the first round a second round of £200,000 was launched in June 2022. This is being secured through the Municipal Investment.

### **Municipal Investment**

Telford & Wrekin Council launched the West Midlands' first Community Municipal Investment (CMI) with Abundance Investment in May 2022, meaning local people can now invest directly in a greener, more sustainable future for all. It has already raised over £250,000, (296 investors) allowing people to invest from as little as £5, earning 2.1% interest per year fixed, before tax, with interest and capital repayments every 6 months across the investment term. The CMI fund will be used to:

- Provide the finance for the second round of the Climate Change Fund (see above)
- Pay for energy efficiency improvements to the Council's temporary accommodation, meaning affordable warmth for some of the most vulnerable members of the community
- Buy two electric vehicles for the Council's Outdoor Education team, meaning school trips to everyone's favourite place - Arthog - become sustainable!



## Youth Climate Summit

Directly as a result of the feedback from consultation on the Borough Climate Change Partnership's Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council held the first Youth Climate Change Summit at Enginuity which is part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Over a hundred pupils from Year 9, 10 and 12 attended from 4 schools across the borough: Ercall Wood Academy, Charlton School, Newport Girls' High School and Hadley Learning Community. The event included talks on aspects of climate change from a range of experts as well as interactive workshops so that pupils could help shape the Council's work going forward.

Babi Banjoko, 14, a pupil at Ercall Wood Academy said: *"Our generation is going to be the one that has the most impact on what is going to happen to the Earth, so it is important we have the information in our heads to help us."* Geography teacher at Charlton School and head of year nine, John Taylor, said: *"It is a good realisation for them that it is not just about planting trees, but action is more important and the awareness of reducing their impact on the environment."*



## Wellington Bus Station

Telford & Wrekin Council opened the UK's first bus station to generate its own electricity in June 2022. Working with suppliers Etesian Green and Journeo, an 'off-grid' station was created where power is generated by multi-directional wind turbines and solar panels producing renewable carbon free energy. The bus station will generate approximately 820 kilowatt-hours a year, enough electricity to supply a house for three months.

This energy will power the lighting, CCTV and live timetable information boards in the shelters. Over the lifespan of the bus station, carbon savings of 55 tonnes will be achieved. In addition, each bus shelter is made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. As well as energy saving measures, the station now has passenger information technology including improved accessibility and security features such as voice and push button announcements.



*Opening of Wellington Bus Station*

### **Eco grants**

The Telford and Wrekin Growth Hub launched its Eco grant mid-January as part of the Councils' Pride in Our High Streets (PiOHS) programme. Christine's Florist in Oakengates was given an Eco grant to support the switch from cellophane wrapping to brown roll wrap – cellophane wrapping is a third cheaper than brown eco paper. With our funding help she was able to sign up to a 3 year delivery schedule of brown paper making the switch affordable and giving her time to build in small price increases to absorb costs over the next 3 years. Just William Cobblers in Newport have old fluorescent tubular lighting installed in their shop. The Council's eco-grant will support the business owner to switch over to eco LED lighting panels.

### **Cool Shropshire and Telford**

Telford and Wrekin Council have been working with Shropshire Council and local company E4environment Ltd to provide a free resource to support micro businesses and other organisations providing an online resource to help businesses identify effective measures they can undertake to be more sustainable and save money through energy efficiency. So far over 30 businesses have registered and E4environment are following up with additional resources and support.



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### Carbon Literacy Training

4.22 To support the Council's journey with becoming carbon neutral, 3 members of the Climate Change & Sustainability Team have completed carbon literacy training, delivered by Save Our Shropshire.

- 4.23 Carbon Literacy covers the basic science of climate change and an understanding of the ways to reduce emissions in a variety of ways, on an individual, community and organisation basis. The intention now is to ‘train the trainer’ and share this knowledge across the rest of the organisation to inform and influence the Council’s future operations.

#### External funding

- 4.24 Moving forward it is important that the Council maximises the amount of external funding it can draw down through a variety of national and regional funding sources. A funding bid has been submitted to Phase 3 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (administered through Salix) for feasibility studies across eleven properties.
- 4.25 If successful, this will then form the basis of a larger bid for wide ranging retrofit works. The Council are also involved in two substantial bids to the Marches Energy Fund. One to provide an additional fund for businesses in the Marches LEP area and another working with AceOn to trial large scale battery storage at various sites across the LEP area. In both cases we have been successful in our expressions of interest and been invited to submit detailed bids.

#### Partnership working

- 4.26 Although the primary focus of this report relates to the Councils’ own activities, it should also be noted that since the last report to Cabinet in November 2021 there has been considerable progress working in wider partnerships. For example, the Council has supported the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership to finalise and publish the Borough action plan as well as agree priorities for the first year of activities.
- 4.27 The Council has also been working closely as part of the Integrated Care System to develop an inter-agency strategy to tackle climate change and with the Town and Parish Councils Climate Change group, many of whom have now also declared their own climate emergencies.

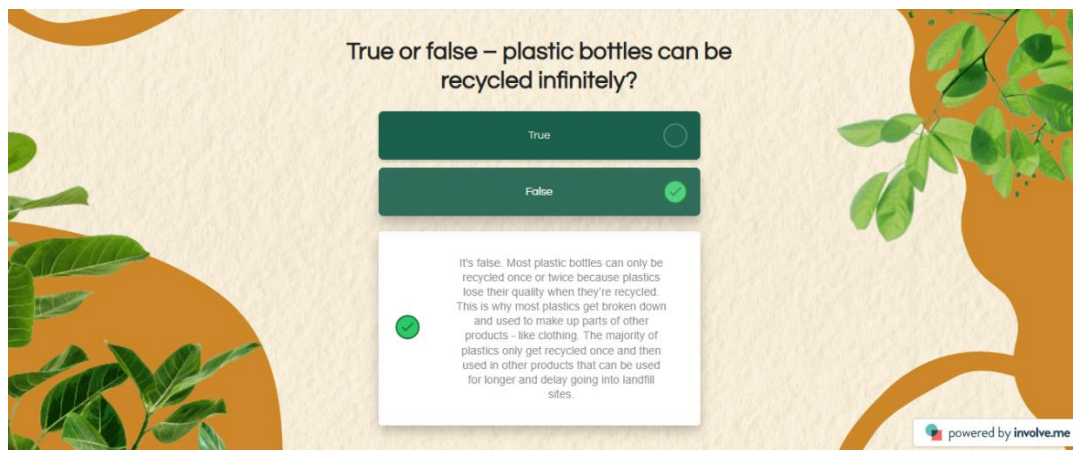
#### Removing single use plastics

- 4.28 The Council has made a commitment to remove single-use plastics from the Council’s operations and activities, replacing them with sustainable alternatives by 2023. Single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once e.g., plastic bags, disposable utensils, wet wipes, razor blades, food wrappers and plastic lids.
- 4.29 The Council has an action plan in place setting out how it will reduce its own single use plastic and how it will encourage and promote plastic free initiatives borough wide. It requires participation by a wide number of teams and services and as such we have a Council cross-working group to ensure we are doing all we can to achieve this.
- 4.30 Progress was last reported to Cabinet on this in October 2020 but for the two years after this things have proved challenging due to Covid. We were unable to hold any community events during lockdown and a number of things had to be put on hold due to the offices being closed and restricted operations. However, we have still been able to make positive changes during that time:
- **Environmental impact** has been included in the new Cabinet report template to ensure that consideration is given to climate change and the impact of single-use plastics.

- **We have recruited 32 Climate Change Champions** that help us to communicate with friends, family and local communities about the climate change agenda, including single use plastics.
- **We now have a local Green Guide for Telford and Wrekin** via the Mossy Life website. Accredited as a 'plastic free champion' this website signposts users to local sustainable businesses and organisations and you can search a variety of green credentials including plastic free. A link to this sits on our Sustainable Telford & Wrekin Website and we are working with Plastic Free Taskforce members to promote the website to local businesses, encouraging more to sign up. Mossy Life is regularly updated to include details of Council's activity on Plastic Free.
- **We have introduced dual recycling bins** in the Town Park, Hartshill Park, and Dawley Park that capture recycling separate from general rubbish. These allow people to recycle whilst they are on the go and were a recommendation from the Environment Scrutiny Committee. The non-contamination and quality of recyclates to date has been very good and Environment Scrutiny Committee will be reviewing later this year to see what impact they have made.
- We have **introduced a new recycling process into the Street Champion scheme** - they now have clear bags to separate their recycling into (this is in addition to the blue bags you may see them using for the general waste). This is great news as we have over 1,300 volunteers doing litter picking activity across the borough, so it is far reaching.
- We've also **replaced the plastic hoops that Street Champions use** to hold their rubbish in with ones made out of recycled plastic.
- **The Council's Events team** continue to work with waste companies who are able to evidence that they can recycle the majority, if not all, of the waste from our events. They have worked with some different examples of waste companies to assess their effectiveness both at reducing waste to landfill or incineration and in cost effectiveness. In addition, they have clearly instructed our event vendors and suppliers of our aim to reduce plastic waste, and indeed not to supply it at future events but replace it with sustainable or recyclable alternatives.
- A number of social media campaigns have taken place, this year including:
  - **A Plastic Free Pledge launched February 2022.** The objectives being to spread plastic free messages to a diverse audience, increase awareness, encourage behaviour change and encourage people to make their workplace part of the plastic free community. We created messages to encourage pledge sign-up across all our channels, including messages to volunteers and stakeholders who could share with their communities. In signing the pledge, people signed up to a series of 'tips' emails over the following 4-week period using the last email to cross-sell sign up to the Sustainable TW monthly emails for people who want to keep receiving sustainability tips in future. In total 316 have signed up to the pledge so far and we continue to promote this throughout the year. Example images:



- **Plastic Free July** – linking in with the national campaign we highlighted the environmental impacts of plastic pollution and encouraged local residents and organisations to be part of the solution by ‘stepping away from single-use’ and signing the plastic free pledge. We ran a series of communications on social media throughout the month including case studies from staff, volunteers and members of the Plastic Free Taskforce. We also delivered an online event for staff to find out more about what we are doing and how everyone individually can make a difference – either at work or at home. This included an online quiz and we gave examples of how to make simple swaps.



4.31 However, there is still more we need to do and key areas of focus moving forward include:

- Reviewing the use of products that contribute to micro plastic pollution in all our operations.
- Reviewing single-use plastic used in our care sector.
- Exploring how Fleet Services and staff can help reduce vehicle tyre plastic pollution.

4.32 We will also be bringing the Council cross-working group together again to review the current plan and look at what else can be added moving forward to continue removing single-use plastics from our operations.

Achieving plastic free community status for the borough

4.33 The Council has set up and is working collaboratively with a range of local organisations including schools, universities, businesses, community groups and Town and Parish Councils. Collectively Telford & Wrekin Plastic Free Taskforce are working to achieve plastic free community status for the borough by 2023 as well. Accredited by

Surfers Against Sewage there are 5 main objectives to this, so the Taskforce has developed its own action plan and the group meets regularly throughout the year to report progress and work together on joint events.

4.34 For the Council's part, as well as passing a resolution we play a lead role in co-ordinating the work of the Taskforce. This includes administering meetings, gathering evidence to support our application and supporting borough wide awareness raising campaigns and events.

4.35 Progress to date:

- Wrekin Housing Group is our **Flagship employer**
- **All Town Councils need to achieve plastic free status in their own right and pass resolutions** – so far 1 has achieved this (Newport) and the rest are working towards this and are at various stages in the process.
- **42 businesses in the borough overall need to be signed up as business allies, supporting the campaign and removing at least 3 single use plastics from their operations** – so far we have 54 signed up but the Partnership will continue to work with more across the borough.
- **We require plastic free allies;** from schools, community facilities, places of worship and libraries – and we have been carrying out targeted engagement with these groups this year and offered to support them with making the commitment. Work is still in progress to get as many signed up as possible. This will include the Council's own Leisure Centres, Libraries, Theatre and outdoor activity centres.
- **Holding at least 2 community events in each calendar year:**
  - Last year we did a borough wide litter picking event that included recycling (as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign). Working in conjunction with partnership members and local Street Champions it was held across Hollinswood, Woodside, Dawley, Wellington, Oakengates and Ironbridge. As part of the litter picking we asked participants to separate the rubbish between general household waste and recycling and this was supported by a promotional campaign and video to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and single use plastics. In total 85 bags of general waste and 56 bags of recyclables were collected during this event. Following this we became shortlisted finalists at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards 2022.
  - We also worked on an **Ocean Fish project**, in partnership with the British Ironwork Centre, which was launched as part of a schools' education programme. 23 schools took part, all of which painted a fish which was provided by the Ironwork Centre.  
In doing this they learnt about why we should stop using single use plastics and what we can do to change. All the fish went on display in the Town Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend as part of the Balloon Festival. Following that they were put on display in the Chelsea Gardens in the Town Park for a period of time along with some background information about the project.





- This year as part of the **Council's Youth Climate Summit** we had a 'Plastic Free' stand to promote the work of the partnership and to encourage more schools to sign up and become community allies.
- Later this year we will be hosting a 'greener living' event to provide a celebration of sustainable living and to get a variety of stalls to offer information and advice on a range of different topics including single-use plastics.

## 5. Next steps

5.1 To build on the progress made to date and to ensure that the Council's carbon mitigation work fully contributes to wider issues of extreme weather and fuel poverty the following areas of work are seen as a priority:

- **To keep the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan and Plastic Free Action Plan under constant review** and to work across the authority to identify new initiatives.
- **To continue to monitor progress on a quarterly basis** to ensure progress is being made and to identify challenges more quickly to ensure the successful delivery of projects.
- **To work with service areas to develop adaptation plans** or to ensure that the impacts of climate change are fully reflected in business continuity plans.
- To ensure that any actions to address climate change also continue to play a full part in helping Telford's residents, community groups and businesses **address the impact of unprecedented recent increases in fuel prices and fuel poverty.**
- **Developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** on climate change in support of the revised Local Plan.
- **Extend our range of advice and support to staff** – including a new Climate Change training module on Ollie and carbon literacy training to support service provision and operations.
- **Lobbying.** We cannot succeed alone and require more legislation and greater funding support from Government in order to push forward with this agenda in the way that is needed. Working together with other members of UK 100 will help us do this.

## 6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 The alternative option would be to do nothing and not deliver on the council's climate change commitments. However, this could lead to serious reputational risks for

the council as a community leader.

Not addressing issues such as energy efficiency of buildings or development of renewable energy generation opportunities would also lead to significant cost implications through increase in fuel bills and loss of income. Doing nothing would also lead to a negative impact on the health and social / economic wellbeing of Telford and Wrekin businesses, communities, and residents.

## **7.0 Key Risks**

7.1 Committee Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3), published in June 2021<sup>2</sup> sets out the priority climate change risks for the UK. In summary, risks in the report include:

- The impacts of climate change on the natural environment.
- An increase in the range, quantities and consequences of pests, pathogens and invasive species.
- The risk of climate change impacts, especially more frequent flooding and coastal erosion, causing damage to infrastructure services.
- A reduction in public water supplies due to increasing periods of water scarcity.
- The impact of extreme temperatures, high winds and lightning on the transport network.
- The impact of increasing high temperatures on people's health and wellbeing.
- Increased severity and frequency of flooding.
- Disruption to the delivery of health and social care services due to a greater frequency of extreme weather.
- Damage to cultural heritage assets as a result of temperature, precipitation, groundwater and landscape changes.
- Impacts internationally that may affect the UK, such as risks to food availability, safety and security, risks to international law and governance from climate change that will affect the UK, international trade routes, public health.

Therefore, there are significant risks as outlined should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.

## **8.0 Council Priorities**

8.1 The councils' work on climate change and sustainability is a direct response to the council's priority "Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency". However, as a cross cutting agenda it also has a significant contribution towards all other council priorities including:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCRA-Evidence-Report-England-Summary-Final.pdf>

- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 An approved allocation of £4m was included in the capital programme to support Climate Change initiatives; spend in previous years totalled £0.2m which leaves £3.8m available in 2022/23. This is being allocated to schemes in the Action Plan which are detailed in this report and appropriate finance support is being provided. Finance will also provide support in relation to any bids for external funding as required.

The Community Municipal Investment was launched in May 2022 and provides an opportunity for individuals to lend money to the Council which will be used to fund projects across Telford & Wrekin to help tackle the climate emergency. This is a new borrowing source for the Council (permitted in the approved Treasury Strategy), which is an alternative to loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) and is specifically aimed to support the Council's Climate Change Agenda. The cost of borrowing to the Council, including fees, was comparable with PWLB rates at the time of entering the arrangement.

## **10.0 Legal and HR Implications**

### **10.1 Legal**

The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050 when compared with the 1990 baseline. At a local level, Section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to include in their local plans, policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. In the management of its activities, provision of its services and performance of its functions, local councils are in a position to play a vital role in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. The Council has wide scope to decide how best to address these challenges.

Full legal support was provided for the implementation and launch of the Community Municipal Bonds scheme.

Implementation of the proposals in this report may give rise to specific legal issues upon which specific legal advice will be provided as necessary

### **10.2 HR**

This report does not raise any specific implications for HR.

## **11.0 Ward Implications**

- 11.1 This report has a borough wide impact

## **12.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

- 12.1 Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on the health of Telford and Wrekin's residents as well as on their social and economic wellbeing. For example, July 2022 saw the highest temperatures on record. Heatwaves can lead to very serious health implications particularly for the most vulnerable<sup>3</sup> Many of the actions set out in the climate

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)04327-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)04327-7/fulltext)

change plan have considerable co-benefits. The Climate Change Fund supports businesses and community groups with energy efficiency measures which should help address recent rises in fuel prices.

### **13.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 13.1 The Council’s Climate Change Action Plan takes account of the legal requirement to pay due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Key to this is consideration of people’s specific needs based on their protected characteristics.

People who share protected characteristics of age, race, ethnicity and disability are often disproportionately affected by climate change and its consequences. This is true locally and internationally. Extreme weather events, for example heat waves most detrimentally affect older residents and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The success of our climate change activity relies on active participation by the whole community. Steps are taken to make sure that events are inclusive and the differing needs of individuals are considered so that they can access activities and contribute effectively.

### **14.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

- 14.1 This report sets out the key areas as to how Telford and Wrekin Council is helping address climate change and environmental implications.

### **15.0 Background Papers**

- 1 [Telford and Wrekin Becoming Carbon Neutral Update – report to Cabinet 4 November 2021](#)
- 2 [Telford & Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral Action Plan - Annual Update 18 March 2021](#)
- 3 [Reducing Single-use Plastic in Telford and Wrekin – update report - 8 October 2020](#)

### **16.0 Report Sign Off**

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Pauline Harris	11 August 2022	17 August 2022	PH
Emma Harvey	23 August 2022	24 August 2022	EH