

Date 30.11.23	Classification Public	Committee Not applicable
From Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability		Title Of Report Climate Change Annual Report 2023

THIS REPORT IS OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Redbridge Council developed and launched the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021 and the document contains 114 commitments which key services aim to deliver by the summer of 2024. The commitments primarily focus on actions that will reduce the carbon emissions associated with the Council's operations which fall within the organisation's direct control.
- 1.2. In the action plan, the Council outlined its ambitions to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and carbon zero organisation by 2050 which aligned with both regional and national net zero targets.
- 1.3. The Council will also look to develop its role as a community leader on climate change to influence borough wide emission reductions and this aspiration will be explored in further detail when the second iteration of the Climate Change Action Plan is developed.
- 1.4. When publishing the action plan, the Council committed to providing an annual report to the Place Scrutiny Committee. However, following the Council's recent committee restructure, the Climate Change Annual report will now be published online.
- 1.5. The Climate Change Annual report provides details on the organisation's progress for each of the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan and analysis of the latest data on the organisation's carbon emissions estimates.
- 1.6. The report and appendix provide a detailed summary of the Council's performance in the second year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1. Note the annual report and the attached appendix, which outline the progress made on the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-24 in the second year of delivery.
- 2.2. Review the full performance report summarised in section 5.

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

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3. CLIMATE CHANGE IN REDBRIDGE:

- 3.1. Experts around the world have reported on the irreversible impacts of climate change on both natural and human systems.
- 3.2. There has been an increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events recorded which have disproportionately affected economically and socially marginalised groups.
- 3.3. In urban settings such as London, heatwaves and flooding events have affected key infrastructure such as transportation networks and disrupted essential services that support the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable groups.
- 3.4. Climate change has also exposed the vulnerability of a significant proportion of ecosystems and species and so it is vital that the Council acts now to protect nature and support our residents.
- 3.5. Redbridge Council understands the urgency of addressing the impacts of climate change which is why a climate emergency declaration was unanimously passed at a meeting of the Full Council in June 2019.
- 3.6. The Council carried out an extensive development process to create the Climate Change Action Plan which was launched in 2021. The action plan focuses on the organisation's ability to reduce its carbon footprint and forms the foundation of the Council's long-term ambitions in addressing the wider implications on our environment over the next decade. A summary of the Council's performance in delivering the action plan is provided in section 5.
- 3.7. The Council has also taken steps to embed the climate change agenda into the values and principles of the organisation which is why the Corporate Strategy features a significant programme of work to address climate change and biodiversity in Redbridge.
- 3.8. It is recognised that the organisation is only at the start of its journey to tackle the climate emergency and the current action plan is due to come to an end in 2024. This will give the Council the opportunity to develop a second iteration of the Climate Change Action Plan and the new document can further develop the organisation's role as a community leader on climate change and influence borough wide emission reductions.
- 3.9. The Council's efforts to tackle the climate emergency also extend beyond the Climate Change Action Plan as new and innovative strategies are being developed which contribute towards important outcomes such as promoting biodiversity, improving air quality, and tackling the impacts of climate change. A summary of the new climate focused strategies is provided in section 8.

4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR:

- 4.1. The Council is continuing to work hard to deliver the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan and the following paragraphs highlight some of the key progress achieved in the second year of delivering the action plan.

- 4.2. Full details of the reported progress for all the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan, are available in **Appendix A**.

Property and Energy

Monitoring the energy consumption of Council-owned buildings:

- 4.3. Thirty five Council-owned buildings had Building Management Systems (BMS) installed and the current contractor, Aimteq, have reviewed 13 partially connected sites.
- 4.4. Officers will be able to accurately monitor the energy consumption of Council-owned buildings and target any interventions as necessary.
- 4.5. This was completed in February 2023 and the Facilities Management team are awaiting training to ensure that officers are fully equipped to navigate and utilise the BEM system.

All new non-residential Council buildings to be BREEAM 'Excellent':

- 4.6. Design teams and contractors are required to meet the BREEAM 'Excellent' requirement for all new non-residential Council buildings from 2022 and this continues to be monitored by the Council's Capital Service project managers.
- 4.7. The Capital Service continues to work with partnered service areas such as Education, Leisure, Regeneration etc. in support of Corporate and Board decision making on such requirements.
- 4.8. The team also ensure that design teams and contractors incorporate the latest associated buildings regulations relating to energy performance from central government and so parts F, L1, L2, O and S are incorporated in both residential and non-residential schemes.

Supporting low-income and vulnerable households with retrofit:

- 4.1. This year the Council secured funding for green energy efficiency grants from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to the amount of roughly £436,000. The funding will be match funded by an additional £160k which has been dedicated to energy efficiency measures from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to support low-income households and vulnerable residents in private rented accommodation as well as homeowners.
- 4.2. These interventions will include low-cost measures such as: improved heating controls (smart thermostats), loft insulation, hot water tank and pipe insulation, Solar Panels (with applicant contribution), underfloor insulation, cavity wall Insulation (with applicant contribution), part windows and door upgrade to double glazing (or with applicant contribution).
- 4.3. It is estimated that roughly 100 properties will benefit from energy efficiency measures funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant and installations are expected to start from around August 2023.

- 4.4. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Policy agreeing spend from capital DFG to support measures was presented to Cabinet in July 2023.
- 4.5. Since the launch of the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council has supported 104 properties to be retrofitted to EPC C. The Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding scheme supported 98 properties, and the Home Upgrade grant (HUG) supported 6 off grid properties.

Cleaner Journeys

Improving cycling infrastructure in the borough:

- 4.6. In 2022/23 the Council installed over 150 cycle racks across the borough and 10 secure bike hangars, with brand new cycle racks installed outside the newly upgraded Elizabeth Line stations.
- 4.7. The Council also installed circa 10km of cycle lanes in the borough in Wanstead and officers are working on the design and build of new local routes from Ilford to Gants Hill and Gants Hill to Redbridge.
- 4.8. In addition, two schemes were completed in the summer of 2023 - Woodford New Road which is 0.5km x 2 in length and Ilford to Barking upgrade which will be 1.5km x 2 in length.

Increasing the Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

- 4.9. The procurement phase of two Electric Vehicle (EV) charge point projects has been completed that will allow 484 charge points to be installed by March 2024.
- 4.10. The planning and design works have already started and on the ground delivery was scheduled to start in October 2023.
- 4.11. The Council secured funding through the LEVI Pilot which will fund 60 fast charge points and officers have also applied for the LEVI Fund to secure funding for further 500 charge points.

Developing a new Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy:

- 4.12. A new Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy has been developed to support a scalable transition to zero emission vehicles, whilst also encouraging and enabling walking, wheeling, and cycling.
- 4.13. The draft strategy has been produced and Cabinet approved the strategy to be put forward for public consultation in September 2023.
- 4.14. The strategy is currently out for public consultation for twelve weeks and the consultation exercise is due to finish on 26th November 2023. Upon which the service will conduct a review of the comments received and amend the strategy as required before seeking its adoption.

Waste

Reducing food waste:

- 4.15. The Council has continued to deliver behaviour change campaigns with a focus on reducing food waste.
- 4.16. The Neighbourhood Engagement Team partnered with the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) to deliver two 'Love Food, Hate Waste' workshops which were hosted by a professional chef in March.
- 4.17. The Council has also been including waste less food messages into workshops within schools and at roadshows which have taken place across the borough.
- 4.18. In 2022/23, the Council has recorded a 13 percent reduction in avoidable food waste per capita when compared to 2019/20 levels.

Reducing household waste:

- 4.19. The council achieved its target to reduce residual waste per household to less than 65kg as the Council recently measured an annual monthly average of 51kg per household.
- 4.20. Officers will continue to focus on targeted engagement in areas where hotspots are recorded by Redbridge Civic Services (RCS) and officers will continue to offer advice to residents on waste minimisation.

Procurement and Investments

Advising small suppliers on how they can assist the Council's efforts to be carbon neutral:

- 4.21. The Council's Procurement team delivered a "Meet the Buyer" event in partnership with neighbouring boroughs in June 2022. The event was hosted by Barking and Dagenham, with Redbridge suppliers and staff representatives invited to attend.
- 4.22. It is recognised that "meet the buyer" events will only target the suppliers that attend on the day and so suppliers are also directed toward the Redbridge internet site where the current Climate Change Action Plan is available to all.
- 4.23. Supplier engagement events are often held at the launch of new opportunities and suppliers are given specific guidance on Council priorities such as climate initiatives at these events with an example being construction projects.
- 4.24. There is also an ongoing programme of work to support local and small businesses engaging with the Council to achieve its goals.

Tracking supply chain emissions with contract managers:

- 4.25. The Council's Procurement team have created a bespoke training course to enable contract managers to track supply chain emissions through regular contract monitoring meetings.

- 4.26. This training was created alongside Waltham Forest Council. They are working to adapt the course for Redbridge and plan to deliver in Autumn 2023.

Enabling Others

Supporting schools with ongoing work to reduce their carbon emissions and educating on climate change:

- 4.27. A review of the latest 2023 research evidence on teaching about climate within GCSE curriculum from the Royal Meteorological Society has been undertaken and this will be shared with schools for the start of the 23-24 academic year.
- 4.28. The Council started preparatory work in September for schools to access the new sustainability leadership digital hub from the Department for Education which launches at the end of the 2023 Autumn term.
- 4.29. The Council is scoping the potential of the Carbon Literacy projects educational materials at the end of summer with a view to sharing them with schools in Autumn 2023.
- 4.30. The Council reviewed the updated resources and guidance from the Department for Education (published at end of May) to determine which to use to promote and support Climate Education and Sustainability Strategies in Schools.

Working with businesses to support them with sustainability:

- 4.31. The Council has delivered Business Forums on a quarterly basis and in these sessions, there has been an emphasis on raising awareness of sustainability in business.
- 4.32. The measures may include the implementation of efficient ways to dispose waste, recycling, dissemination of information on green activities and projects being delivered by local organisations, encouraging businesses to get involved.
- 4.33. The final Spark Lab project in Ilford Town Centre from September to October 2023 is being led by a Community Interest Company that works to promote sustainability in fashion. Their programme of events and workshops is aimed at both residents and businesses and focuses on achieving sustainability in a creative way.
- 4.34. Through Social Value commitments from two major HRA contractors, the Business and Enterprise team will be delivering a 'sustainability for businesses' programme throughout November 2023.
- 4.35. The Council does include regular information about 'greening your business' in the monthly business e-newsletter.

5. EXCEPTIONS REPORT:

End of year summary

- 5.1. The Council recently launched the Climate Crisis Delivery Working Group which is an operational group that meets on a monthly basis to: discuss the progress reported for the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan, share details

and opportunities for collaboration for new projects, explore new funding sources, and learn from industry experts across sectors.

5.2. The working group requests updates and RAG ratings from key officers in service areas which are directly responsible for the delivery of commitments in the action plan. The Policy team produce quarterly reports using the submitted responses to provide a comprehensive overview of the Council's progress. Senior managers are sighted on the responses and gradings provided to ensure that the progress reports are accurate and fair.

5.3. The following table provides the latest summary on the progress of all of the commitments by Directorate:

Directorate	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	N/A	Total
Regeneration and Culture	1	7	14	16	3	41
Communities	1	7	19	19	7	53
Strategy	-	1	5	2	-	8
Resources	-	2	6	3	-	11
People	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	2	17	45	40	10	114

5.4. The RAG rating system is as follows:

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

5.5. The Council has either delivered or on track to deliver 85 commitments (74.6 percent) in line with the agreed deadlines of the action plan despite the added pressures of the current financial climate.

5.6. The organisation has delivered a total of 40 commitments following the completion of the second year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan which amounts to 35.1 percent of all commitments made.

5.7. The organisation has achieved progress on key projects that have significantly contributed towards the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

5.8. There are 2 commitments in the action plan which face major challenges in their delivery and the progress reports for each of these commitments are provided in the table below.

5.9. There are a further 17 commitments which face minor challenges in their delivery and may require deadlines to be adjusted. Full details of the reported progress for all commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan are available in **Appendix A**.

Commitments which face major challenges:

5.10. The following table provides the latest progress reports and planned mitigations for the three commitments which are facing major challenges in their delivery.

Commitment No. 63	<i>Develop a final business case for the Ilford Western Gyrotory Project</i>
Timescale	<i>December 2022</i>
Progress Update	<p>Since the last report, the budget position has yet to be resolved. The Levelling Up Fund round 2 bid was unsuccessful.</p> <p>The Council plans to submit a further bid for Round 3 and alternative external funding opportunities are being explored continuously. In parallel to this, officers from the Regeneration team will continue to meet with the Finance team to identify any capital that may become available.</p>
Commitment No. 90	<i>Review current recycling offers in schools and commercial waste to promote further levels of recycling</i>
Timescale	<i>June 2022</i>
Progress Update	<p>The East London Waste Authority (ELWA) continue to offer a recycling service to schools through their contract with Renewi. Redbridge is currently reviewing the future provision of the commercial waste service as a whole with a view to improving the value for money and service provision, including recycling, for customers. The Neighbourhoods team continue to progress this workstream and it is expected to go to Cabinet for a final decision in early 2024.</p>

6. CARBON EMISSIONS PROGRESS

- 6.1. The Council is committed to producing annual reports for the Climate Change Action Plan.
- 6.2. Eunomia was commissioned to carry out a green audit to understand the scale and source of the organisation’s greenhouse gas emissions.
- 6.3. They worked closely with officers across the Council to provide an accurate assessment of the organisation’s baseline emissions in 2019 and delivered a calibrated monitoring tool to accurately calculate future carbon emissions.
- 6.4. The monitoring tool provides estimates for the Council’s carbon emission estimates in three main areas:

- **Scope 1** - Emissions generated directly via Redbridge’s owned and operated assets. This includes fuel used by the Redbridge vehicle feet (petrol and diesel), and fuel used to heat the Corporate Estate and Vision Estate buildings.
- **Scope 2*** – Emissions associated with electricity consumed in the Corporate Estate, communal areas of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings, and street lighting.

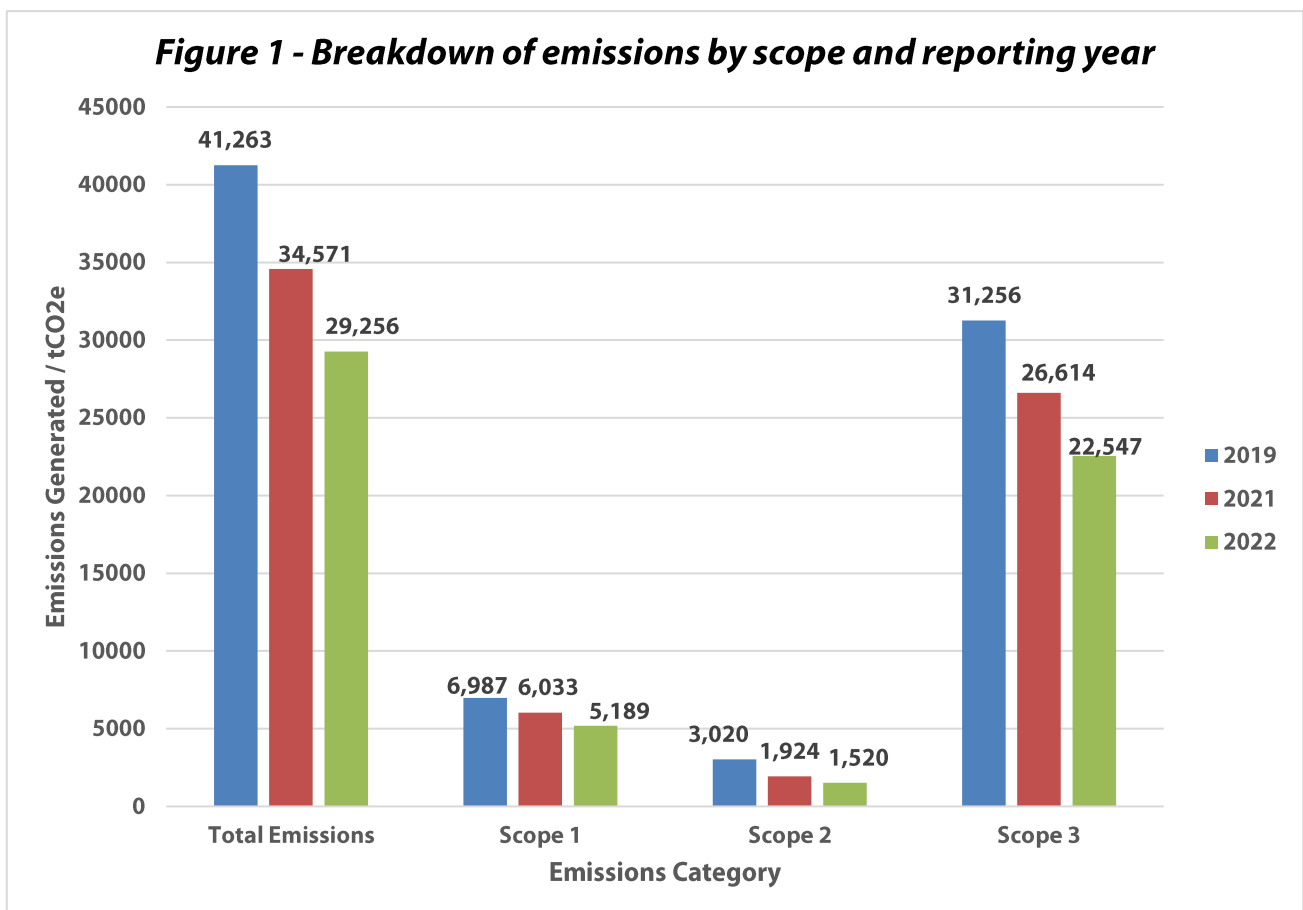
**The energy consumption data for Council owned buildings that are operated by Vision are no longer included in the scope 2 emission estimates for the Council.*

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

6.5. Following the end of the second year in the delivery phase of the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council has measured reductions in the organisation’s overall emissions and the following charts highlight some of the progress achieved.

Full breakdown of emissions by scope

6.6. Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the Council’s emissions estimates by scope in the following reporting years: 2019 baseline emissions, 2021 emissions calculation and 2022 emissions calculation.



Scope 1 emissions

- 6.7. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 1 were estimated to be 6,987 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 954 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 13.7 percent and following the latest calculation for the 2022 calendar year the organisation measured a further reduction of 844 tCO₂e, which is an additional 14.0 percent year on year reduction.
- 6.8. Overall, when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, the latest emissions calculation has demonstrated a total reduction in scope 1 emissions of 1,798 tCO₂e which is a significant reduction of 25.7 percent.

Scope 2 emissions

- 6.9. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 2 were estimated to be 3,020 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 1,096 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 36.3 percent and following the latest calculation for the 2022 calendar year the organisation measured a further reduction of 404 tCO₂e which is an additional 21.0 percent year on year reduction.
- 6.10. Overall, when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, the latest emissions calculation has demonstrated a total reduction in scope 2 emissions of 1,500 tCO₂e which is a significant reduction of 49.7 percent.
- 6.11. In October 2021, the Council switched over the Corporate Estate, communal areas of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings, and street lighting to a green electricity tariff. This means that the electricity used by these three areas are now sourced from REGO-backed renewable energy programmes such as wind farms and hydroelectric projects. The Council was keen to measure the carbon savings associated with this key switch and so officers met with Eunomia so that the monitoring tool could be adapted to reflect this.
- 6.12. If the carbon savings associated with switching the Council assets to a green electricity tariff are factored in, the updated scope 2 emissions estimate for the 2022 calendar would be 0 tCO₂e which would mean a 100 percent reduction in all scope 2 emissions.
- 6.13. Eunomia advised that it is best practice to report carbon emission estimates based on both grid-purchased and market-based emissions. This means that the Council has measured a total reduction in scope 2 emissions in the range of 49.7 - 100 percent (1,500tCO₂e – 3,020tCO₂e).
- 6.14. However, it is important to note that since October 2021, Vision assumed the responsibility of managing the energy contracts of the buildings that they lease from the Council and Vision's senior management team requested that their energy consumption data should not be included in the Council's calculations. This factor would mainly affect the scope 2 emission estimates and Vision have recently drafted an Environmental and Sustainability Plan which aims to address this important area.

Scope 3 emissions

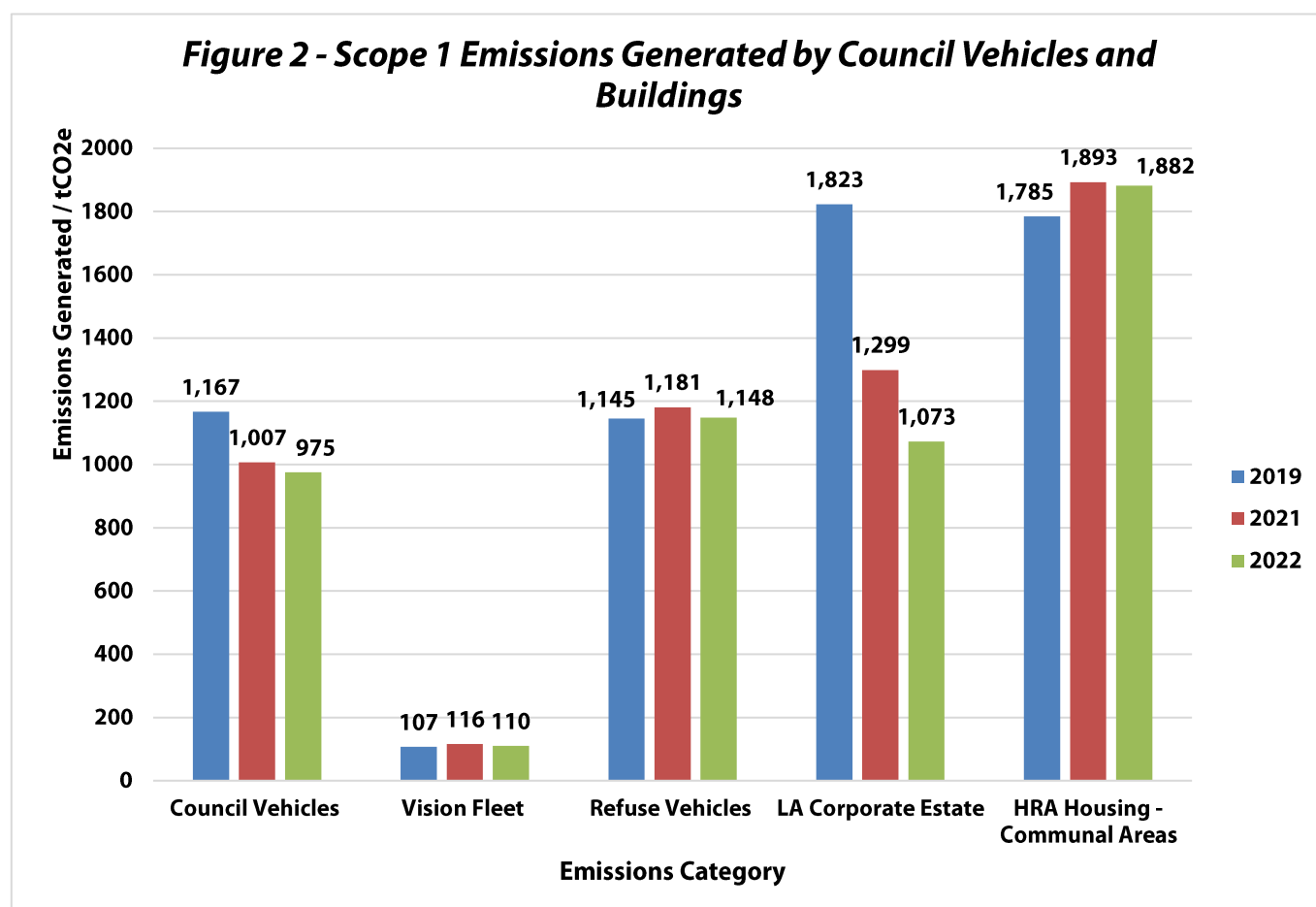
- 6.15. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions for scope 3 were estimated to be 31,256 tCO₂e. Following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan, the organisation measured a reduction of 4,642 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 14.9 percent and following the latest calculation for the 2022 calendar year the organisation measured a further reduction of 4,067 tCO₂e which is an additional 15.3 percent year on year reduction.
- 6.16. Overall, when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, the latest emissions calculation has demonstrated a total reduction in scope 3 emissions of 8,709 tCO₂e which is a significant reduction of 27.9 percent.
- 6.17. If the carbon savings associated with switching the Council assets to a green electricity tariff are factored in, as there are emissions associated with the procurement of green energy, the updated scope 3 emissions estimate for the 2022 calendar year would be 22,386 tCO₂e. This would mean there has been a 4,228 tCO₂e reduction when compared to the previous year, which is the equivalent of 15.9 percent.
- 6.18. As stated in paragraph 6.13, Eunomia advised that it is best practice to report carbon emission estimates based on both grid-purchased and market-based emissions which means that the Council has measured a total reduction in scope 3 emissions in the range of 15.3 percent - 15.9 percent (4,067tCO₂e – 4,228tCO₂e) when compared to the previous year and 27.9 percent - 28.4 percent (8,709 tCO₂e – 8,870 tCO₂e) when compared to the baseline emissions.

Total emissions

- 6.19. Figure 1 shows that the organisation's 2019 baseline emissions estimate for all 3 scopes totalled 41,263 tCO₂e and 2021's calculation totalled 34,571 tCO₂e. The 2022 calculation totalled 29,256 tCO₂e but if we also factor in the carbon emissions savings associated with switching all Council assets to a green electricity tariff, the updated 2022 calculation is 27,575 tCO₂e.
- 6.20. This means that following the first year of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021, the Council measured a reduction of 6,692 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 16.2 percent. Following the second year of delivering the action plan, the Council measured a further reduction of between 5,315 – 6,996 tCO₂e which is an additional 15.4 percent - 20.2 percent year on year reduction.
- 6.21. Overall, when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate, the latest emissions calculation has demonstrated a total reduction of between 12,007 – 13,688 t CO₂e which is a significant reduction of between 29.1 percent - 33.2 percent.

Breakdown of emissions generated by council vehicles and buildings

6.22. The following charts provide a full breakdown of the emissions generated by Council vehicles and buildings, with figure 2 displaying the Council's scope 1 emissions estimates and figure 3 showing the Council's scope 2 emissions estimates.

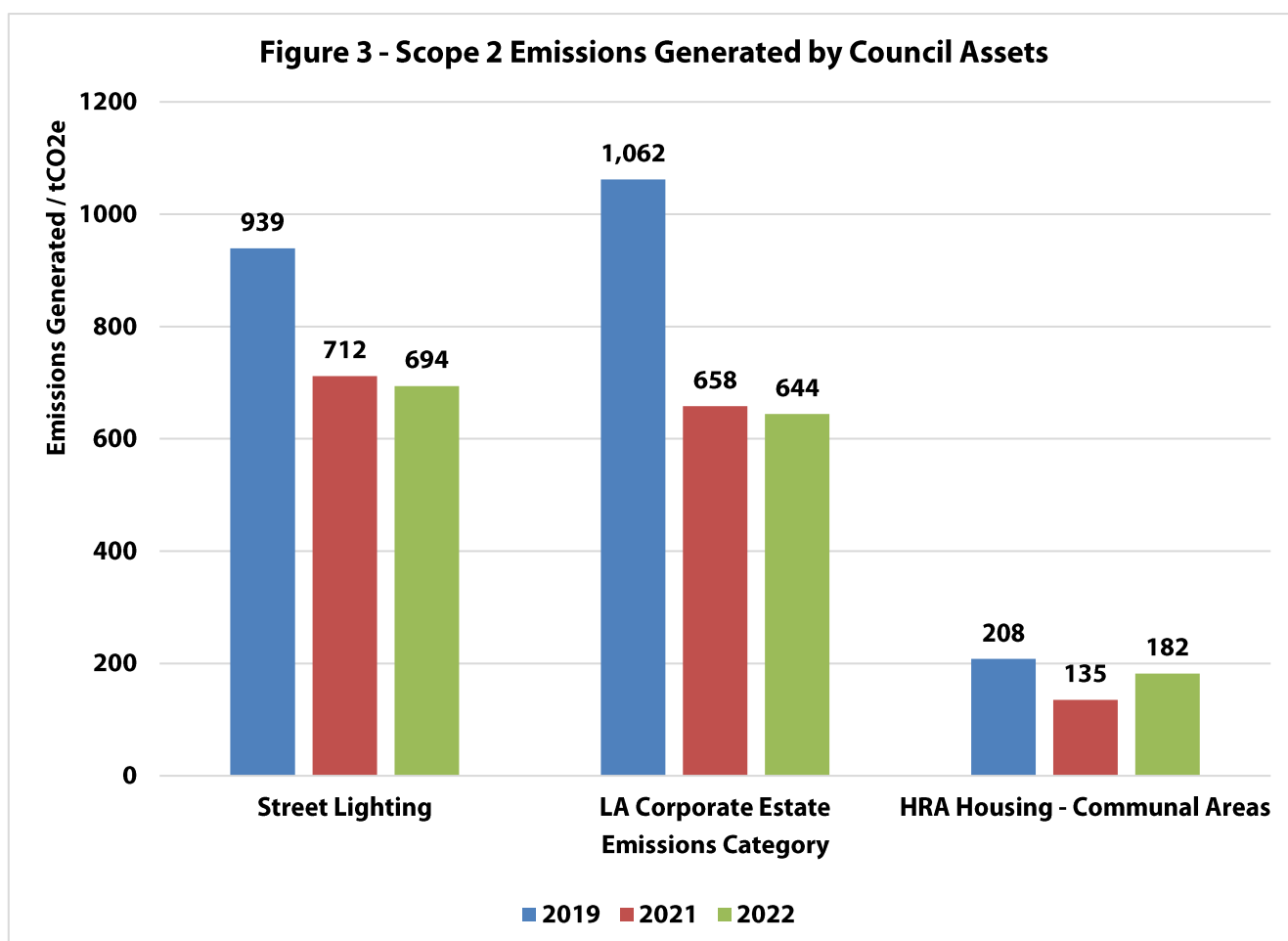


6.23. As illustrated in figure 2 the Council has measured reductions in all scope 1 emissions categories with the Corporate Estate measuring the most significant drop of 17.5 percent (-227tCO₂e) from the previous reporting year and 41.2 percent (-751 tCO₂e) when compared to the category's baseline emissions estimate.

6.24. There are two main contributing factors for the reduction in the scope 1 emissions measured for the Corporate Estate. The Council's Facilities Management team reduced the standard temperature which all buildings in the corporate estate would be heated to in an effort to reduce the gas consumption of the buildings to save on carbon emissions. Also, the transition to remote working has resulted in buildings being used less frequently by officers and this means that the buildings are heated less often.

6.25. Building Management Systems (BMS) have been installed at 35 corporate sites which will enable the Council to further monitor energy consumption and carry out interventions to further reduce this figure in years to come.

- 6.26. The scope 1 emissions categories which relate to the operation of 'Vision fleet' and 'Refuse vehicles' reported similar fuel consumption levels to the previous reporting year, however, individually the 'Council Vehicles' category continued to measure the greatest reduction of 16.5 percent (-192tCO₂e) when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate.
- 6.27. The Council is further championing greener travel by operating the largest London trial of council fleet using solar power to help run its vehicles. Under the innovative green scheme, 25 council vehicles including refuse trucks, minibuses, and vans, have been adapted to fit solar panels to help power the vehicles. Since the trial began in September 2022, the adapted fleet achieved a reduction of 9,452 KGCO₂e and has saved over 3,500 litres of fuel.
- 6.28. The Council will also continue to explore other innovative ways to help reduce the fuel consumption of all vehicles used as the organisation works towards the 2030 target.
- 6.29. Figure 3 shows the scope 2 emissions estimates for the electricity used for street lighting, the buildings in the corporate estate and the communal areas of the



Housing Revenue Account (HRA) buildings.

- 6.30. Scope 2 emissions remained stable since the previous reporting year with the corporate estate continuing to record the most significant reduction of 39.4 percent (-418 tCO₂e) when compared to the 2019 baseline emissions estimate.

- 6.31. However, as stated in paragraph 6.11, in October 2021, the Council switched over the Corporate Estate, communal areas of HRA buildings, and street lighting to a green electricity tariff. This means that the electricity used by these three areas are now sourced from REGO-backed renewable energy programmes such as wind farms and hydroelectric projects.
- 6.32. If the carbon savings associated with switching the Council assets to a green electricity tariff are factored in, the updated scope 2 emissions estimate for the 2022 calendar would be the equivalent of 0 tCO₂e which would mean a 100 percent reduction in all scope 2 emissions categories.
- 6.33. It is important to note that from October 2021, Vision assumed the responsibility of managing the energy contracts for the buildings that they lease from the Council. Vision's senior management team requested that their energy consumption data should not be included in the Council's calculations which is why 'Vision Buildings' are not included as an emissions category in Figure 3. Vision have recently drafted an Environmental and Sustainability Plan which aims to address this important area.

7. CLIMATE FOCUSED ACTIVITIES WITH THE COMMUNITY:

Community Led Activities:

- 7.1. The Council recognises that the community will play a vital role in supporting the Council's efforts to tackle the climate emergency. Officers in the Neighbourhood Engagement and Education team have been working in partnership with the community to deliver climate focused activities in the borough and the following paragraphs provide a summary of the key activities that were delivered in the 2022 calendar year:
- 7.2. Over 500 doors were knocked on and residents received valuable advice on reducing waste to save money and carbon emissions.
- 7.3. Two hundred and forty residents attended a Repair Café to have small electrical items, household items and clothing repaired to avoid material, financial and carbon waste.
- 7.4. Five hundred Fruit Trees were distributed in the community to provide canopy cover and to encourage residents to increase greenery in front gardens.
- 7.5. Five hundred and twenty children took part with tree planting projects in their school grounds.
- 7.6. Community gardening groups adopted and cultivated 21 community gardens across the borough.
- 7.7. Thirty-five Real Nappy Trial packs were distributed to parents in the borough and using these cloth nappies can save up to 40 percent of the carbon emissions associated with using disposable nappy packs.

- 7.8. Fourteen in-person home composting workshops were delivered to a total of 90 residents. Effective home composting methods can reduce residual waste by up to 40 percent.
- 7.9. Six schools were supported to start or develop pre-loved school uniform banks, which promote circular economy principles in the community which produce carbon savings, reduce waste, and save families money.
- 7.10. Seventy-one on-street planters were adopted by businesses and community partnerships.
- 7.11. Twenty registered Play Street schemes were active in closing their streets to cars on a regular monthly basis.
- 7.12. Three online Redbridge Climate Forum events were delivered, and the local green network has over 100 residents, community groups and local businesses signed up to take part.
- 7.13. The Our Streets E-Newsletter reached 13,000 subscribers who all signed up to receive content on how to take action and get involved in cleaner, greener initiatives.
- 7.14. Over 6,000 engagements were recorded on Facebook posts on the Our Streets feed where community stories and actions to get involved were shared.

Active travel initiatives delivered within the borough:

- 7.15. The Council recognises that the organisation needs to continue to build resident involvement with the climate change agenda which in turn will lead to a more engaged and climate conscious local population and subsequently influence further borough wide emission reductions.
- 7.16. Officers in the Highways and Transportation department have been working in partnership with schools and residents to deliver wider active travel educational initiatives and the following paragraphs provide a summary of the key activities that were delivered in the 2022 calendar year.
- 7.17. The Council continued to deliver a range of educational travel behaviour change projects through the Redbridge Smarter Travel team which aim to encourage children and residents to make more journeys on foot, by bike or kick scooter, with a view to reducing the carbon footprint residents' travel choices.
- 7.18. In 2022-23 the Council delivered a cycle training programme, which reached over 2,400 residents and school children. It is worth noting that the Council received a reduced amount of funding from the Transport for London for this work programme but there is still a high demand for cycle training from both residents and children and young people and so the Council will look to further increase training numbers if additional budget is secured.
- 7.19. Through a combination of a continued quality cycle training provision and the introduction of more segregated and quiet cycle ways in the borough, the Council aim to further empower and provide greater opportunities for residents to make the switch to a bicycle.

- 7.20. The Council has continued to empower and support local community cycling groups with small grant funding, advice and guidance, and access to borough owned pool bikes. The following groups were provided with the support listed below:
- [Cycle Sisters](#): Muslim women only cycle group, offering led rides, ride leader training opportunities, and support. Redbridge has the highest membership of all London Boroughs with over 260 riders.
 - [British Cycling City Academy](#): a youth sports cycling opportunity launched in spring 2023 in Goodmayes Park, supported by [EKOTA](#) and [Brothers on Bikes](#), and Vison RCL.
 - [Muslimah Sports association](#): a women's group empowering women through sport. Delivering intensive learn to ride sessions.
- 7.21. The Council also supported schools to promote travel behaviour change and to use the TfL STARS accreditation scheme. As of Sept 2022, 56 (60 percent) of schools were actively engaged in the programme with 30 (32 percent) attaining gold accreditation.
- 7.22. The Council conducted travel surveys through the STARS platform in order to calculate the modal share for school journeys in the borough. Out of the 17,000 responses received, 59 percent of respondents stated that their journeys were completed by active travel modes, 13 percent used public transport modes and 28 percent used personal cars. The Council estimated that the high percentage of active travel methods used resulted in a borough wide savings of 3,700kg CO2e each day based on a 1km daily journey per child.
- 7.23. The Council continued to introduce school streets programmes across the borough and additional class workshops were delivered to raise awareness of the individual schemes and to create walking maps for parents. A total of four school street schemes received this support, and each map effectively highlights five minute and 10-minute zones which can be used by each school to promote walking within the local area and to also highlight the streets with cleaner air. Parents are also provided with a link to these useful maps through Airtext so that they can check air quality zones before heading out to make their journeys.
- 7.24. The Council also provided 25 schools with small grants to deliver their own active travel initiatives, over 1,300 bikes were checked by the 'Dr Bikes' schools sessions to ensure they were useable and safe to ride, and 17 schools were funded to take part in Living Streets Travel Tracker during the spring term which is a scheme that encourages children to walk and wheel to school, through logging their journeys.
- 7.25. Finally, in October the Council delivered a one-day event alongside Wanstead festival in which they closed Wanstead High Streets to raise awareness of active travel initiatives. The event was visited by thousands of residents and the aim of the day was to promote the options around electric vehicle charging points, on street cycle parking, play streets schemes, recycling options, and the offer of Dr bike sessions.

8. FUTURE PLANS AND AMBITIONS:

- 8.1. The Council recognises that innovative and creative solutions will be needed to ensure that the organisation can effectively meet the challenge of the climate emergency.
- 8.2. Therefore, the Council's efforts must build on and extend beyond the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan to ensure that officers are collectively working towards achieving cleaner, greener outcomes for residents.
- 8.3. The following paragraphs outline some of the new climate focused strategies and action plans which are currently being developed by officers at the Council.
- 8.4. **Active Travel in Redbridge - Drafting a new Sustainable Transport Strategy**
 - 8.4.1. Officers in the Highways department are currently developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy which aims to provide a strategic overview of all transport matters in the borough.
 - 8.4.2. The new strategy sets the future vision for safer, more accessible, and affordable, and greener travel. The Council is committed to working in partnership to deliver this strategy for all residents, workers, and visitors. In addition to meeting our needs for local journeys, the Council will enhance Redbridge's connectivity between central London, other parts of outer London, neighbouring areas, and international gateways, boosting economic growth sustainably and generating new opportunities for our communities to thrive across the borough.
 - 8.4.3. The Strategy considers what the Borough is today and how it could be in the future with and without the strategy. Importantly, the strategy has been co-designed with residents and community groups in Redbridge, to reflect their experiences and respond to their needs and aspirations. The Strategy identifies the priorities for transport and provides direction for investment. This investment will help us realise safer, more accessible, affordable, and greener travel choices.
 - 8.4.4. The Borough is projected to have one of London's highest population increases over the next 20 years or so, and the Council and its partners will support this growth by delivering new housing, supporting businesses, and creating new places for people to live, work and visit. This growth will not be possible without an integrated and sustainable transport network that allows everyone to travel from home to school, work, and other key destinations across the Borough and beyond.
 - 8.4.5. The draft strategy will be presented to Cabinet in quarter four of the 2023-24 financial year and the aim is for the document to go out to public consultation in the same period and for the final strategy to be published next year.

8.5. **Improved Homes for Residents - Developing a New Housing Strategy**

- 8.5.1. The Council's Housing department have recently developed a new Housing Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in July.
- 8.5.2. The strategy sets out the Council's 5-year plan to deliver homes that people in Redbridge need and a key objective of the new strategy is to improve the quality of homes and increase their energy efficiency.
- 8.5.3. The Council plan to collaborate with other boroughs and Housing Associations to set out a route map to meeting the net zero emissions target for housing by 2050 and to identify opportunities to apply for Government funding to support housing retrofit when they are made available.
- 8.5.4. The Council also plan to survey and analyse the Council's housing stock and set out a programme of energy efficiency improvements. Also, to signpost advice for homeowners and private landlords who want to improve the energy efficiency of their properties and provide information on the current grants available.
- 8.5.5. The final version of the strategy is currently being designed and will be published in due course.

8.6. **Tackling Waste in Redbridge - Implementing the 2023-25 Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP)**

- 8.6.1. In June 2023, the Council adopted a new Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) that covers the period 2023 to 2025 and sets out how the Council will work towards minimising waste, increasing recycling and reducing the environmental impact of the waste that the Council manages.
- 8.6.2. Redbridge will work in partnership internally and externally with the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) to:
 - Deliver the Waste Prevention Plan.
 - Establish a lending library within Redbridge.
 - Encourage sustainable fashion by continuing to offer a bookable collection with charity partner, TRAIID, to collect textiles for reuse, and promoting sustainable clothing through a webpage to encourage residents to buy second-hand clothes and prolong the use of current clothing items.
 - Promote upcycling and private sales of unwanted furniture/home appliances and assist in organising 3 Repair Café's a year.
 - Use face to face engagement about waste minimisation along with the no side waste policy to encourage residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce.

- Work towards the introduction of a borough wide food waste recycling service.

9. CONCLUSION:

- 9.1. In summary, the Council continues to work hard to deliver the commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan as 85 (74.6 percent) of the action plan commitments have either already been delivered or are on track to be delivered despite the added pressures of the current financial climate.
- 9.2. The collective efforts have resulted in a further year on year reduction of between 5,315 – 6,996 tCO₂e which is the equivalent of 15.4 percent - 20.2 percent.
- 9.3. If the 2022 emission calculations were compared to the organisation's baseline emissions estimate, the Council measured a total reduction of between 12,007 – 13,688 t CO₂e which is a significant reduction of 29.1 percent - 33.2 percent.
- 9.4. To help visualise the Council's carbon emissions savings, the emissions produced by driving a diesel car for 6,000 km is the equivalent of 1 tonne of CO₂. Therefore, 1 person would have to drive up to 82,128,000 km to produce the same amount of carbon emissions as the Council has saved through its continued efforts to deliver the Climate Change Action Plan this year.
- 9.5. The Council also continues to explore innovative and creative solutions to meet the challenge of the climate emergency and the Council is currently operating the largest London trial of council fleet using solar power to help run its vehicles.
- 9.6. The Council have also pioneered new products and creative methods to construct carriageway and footway schemes in the borough. The Council's highways contractor, Kensons, used eco-crete and dura-layer materials to resurface the footway on Thorold Road and the concrete used can be fully recycled after use and the total carbon saving of the scheme was estimated to be over 2,200kg of CO₂. Kensons also reduced their carbon output when using warm mix asphalt by up to 8% and these new methods and materials performed well and will be used again in future schemes.
- 9.7. The Council's efforts to tackle the climate emergency also extend beyond the Climate Change Action Plan to developing additional climate focused strategies which contribute towards important outcomes such as promoting biodiversity, improving air quality, and tackling the impacts of climate change.
- 9.8. The Council recognises that the organisation is only at the start of its journey in becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050. In the near future, the Council will begin the process of developing the second iteration of the Climate Change Action Plan and will look to develop the Council's role as a community leader on climate change and further identify work programmes which will contribute towards the organisation's 'clean and green' strategic objectives set out in the Council's corporate strategy.

10. FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

10.1. In summary, section 149 of the 2010 Act requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act (which includes conduct prohibited under section 29).
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't share it.
- c) Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding).

10.2. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, the relevant protected characteristics are:

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Gender Reassignment
- d) Pregnancy & Maternity
- e) Race
- f) Religion
- g) Sex
- h) Sexual Orientation

10.3. In respect of the first aim only i.e., reducing discrimination, the protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership is also relevant.

10.4. Having due regard to the need to 'advance equality of opportunity' between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not includes having due regard, in particular, to the needs to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic where those needs are different from the needs of persons who do not share that characteristic.
- Encourage those who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

10.5. Further, section 149 provides that the steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

10.6. Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others, but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited under the Act (which includes breach of an equality clause or rule, or of a non-discrimination rule).

10.7. Regular performance monitoring of the Climate Change Action Plan allows the Council to measure how successful it is being in achieving its aims, including those around fairness, equality, and diversity.

11. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

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

12. CHILD FRIENDLY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. The UNICEF Child Friendly Action Plan for the next three years includes a focus on Place, which includes the climate crisis. This will ensure that the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the borough's response in tackling the climate emergency.
- 12.2. In addition, participation from children and young people will also be encouraged as part of the Redbridge Climate Forum which is the borough's public green network.

13. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. There is no separate budget identified for Climate Change. To date, the initiatives set out in the Annual Report have been funded from existing revenue and capital budgets and from external grants. As initiatives develop and future specific initiatives are identified and tested for feasibility, any additional resources needed to implement these initiatives will be identified and will need to be considered and approved as part of the Council's future budget setting arrangements.

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. The Council understands that the organisation will need the active support, innovation, and shared ownership from all who live and work in the borough to reduce both the organisations and borough's emissions over the coming years.
- 14.2. To address this issue, the Council continues to carry out extensive engagement activities with residents, community groups and schools to collect a well-rounded view from all age groups and demographics in the borough on what local efforts are being made to tackle the impacts of climate change and in what ways can residents get involved and collaborate.
- 14.3. The Council will continue to engage with residents and partners on the climate agenda and will be an active member of regional green bodies to lobby and influence government policy to provide local authorities with the necessary funding and legislative framework to make accelerated progress on climate change.
- 14.4. There is no legal impediment to the recommendations contained at paragraph 2 of this report as these are in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act"). Part 1 of the 2008 Act as amended by section 2 of The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 sets the target for the reduction of climate emissions of carbon dioxide and the duty to prepare proposals and policies and budgets necessary with a view to meeting those targets.
- 14.5. The proposed action plan at Appendix A of this report complies with the provisions of section 1 of Part 1 of the 2008 Act.

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