



CAN Annual Report April 2022 – March 23

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1. Executive Summary

The following report outlines progress made at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) implementing the Climate Action Now (CAN) programme over the last financial year 2022-23. It focuses on projects completed or underway aligned to each of the core CAN programme workstreams.

It is clear significant progress has been made since the last CAN Annual Report was issued and that there are some considerable successes to celebrate. There have been very positive strides forward in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from council operations such as the refurbishment work at Stopford House, the securing of funding for renewable energy generation projects on council and school buildings, together with a drive forward on improving electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the borough.

The council has instigated some ground-breaking engagement programmes such as the school's climate assembly, the CAN Fund and Carbon Literacy training for different groups both at the council and across the borough. The CAN programme has allowed a cultural shift to happen at SMBC so that action on climate change is now embedded as a key aspect of how the council is run. Not least, CAN is one of the two main cross-cutting themes for the 2023-24 Council Plan. At SMBC there is a clear cross-party consensus on the need to take action and this has helped embed the approach at the council about the scale and ambition of the challenge to combat climate change.

However, as is evident from the most recent data on GHG emissions, there is so much more to do to meet both the Council's own 2030 net zero target and the borough wide target of carbon neutrality by 2038. Even at current pace, GHG emissions reduction is not happening quickly enough. The council has a massive ambition to meet our climate targets all played out against a national backdrop of limited resources. As the ability to control GHG emissions is myriad and governed at an international, national and to some degree, a local level, it is apparent the council, if working in isolation, only has limited tools at its disposal to determine significant reductions in GHG emissions across the borough. Despite this, it is clear collaboration will be required between national and regional government.

It is apparent from this report that a large amount of work tackling the key areas of the CAN strategy are well underway, but that much more needs to be done if we are to meet climate targets. The current carbon budget for Greater Manchester is and continues to be exceeded by some considerable margin (see Appendix 5.2). If we continue as we are, the entire carbon budget for GM for the next century will have been used up by 2026. The recent [report](#) by the World Meteorological Organisation highlighting the likely breach of the 1.5-degree global warming by 2027 is a stark reminder of the urgency to act. This is recognised by Stockport Council, GMCA and the other GM Local Authorities and further plans are being drawn up to address this in conjunction with utilising the powers obtained via the new devolution deal. It is apparent a step change is needed in the scale of work required to meet the climate emergency. The best way to achieve this is collaboratively, and this will be borne out

in the new Greater Manchester 5-year emergency plan which SMBC are proactively participating in developing.

There are national drivers which will significantly shape how this change can be accelerated, but there are many levers that Stockport SMBC can and will exploit to ensure targets remain ambitious but realistic and achievable. Working with partners to secure the investment that is required to deliver change at scale will be necessary. This can be seen in work such as partner investment around the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme with £35M investment from Stagecoach alongside national and local government funding. These kinds of opportunities, to leverage commercial investment opportunities, will be crucial in commercialising large-scale 'green' infrastructure projects such as the District Heating Network (DHN) discussed in more detail in section 2.2.1.

1.1. Introduction

In March 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published the [Sixth Assessment Report](#). The report summarises the extent of knowledge about climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and the need for both mitigation of the causes of climate change and the need for widespread adaptation to the predicted further effects from climate change

The overwhelming body of evidence from climate scientists across the world indicates an extremely serious threat to society from climate change, and if we don't mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and simultaneously prepare to adapt to climate change that is already happening, the social and financial costs to society will be far greater.

In March 2023 this was highlighted by the [Climate Change Committee](#) which has commented on how underprepared we are in the UK to meet the inevitable effects of climate change on everything from energy and food security to the resilience of our transportation network and flood defences. It is imperative we act now to reduce the long-term impact and costs of climate change, not just on people across the planet, but locally too.

The One Stockport Borough Plan sets a vision of a climate-friendly Stockport that promotes a responsible and sustainable borough. This ten-year plan, developed by the Council together with key partners and through engagement with Stockport residents, sets out our partnership ambitions for Stockport. As a Borough we are committed to tackling climate change which has become a cornerstone of the One Stockport Borough Plan as can be seen below:

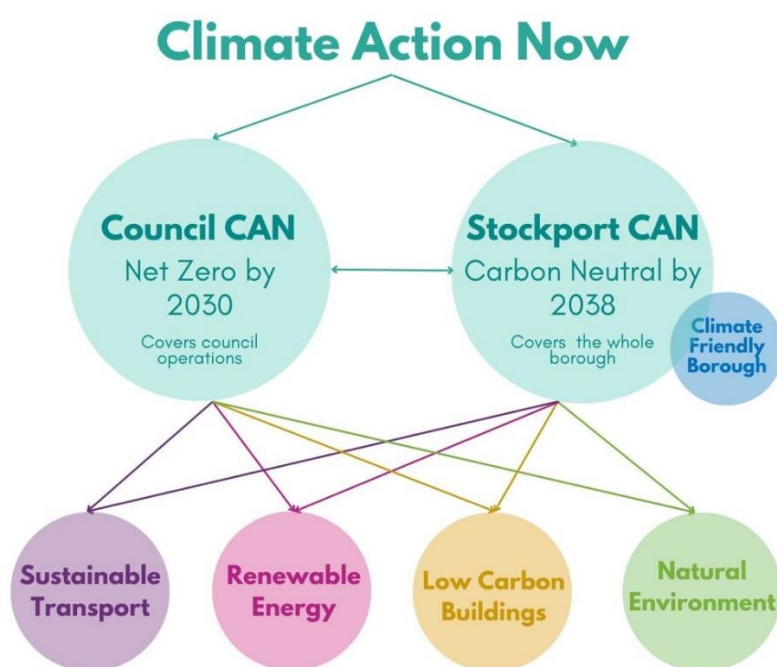


Examples of action over the last year include the work on warm spaces to help residents stay warm, become more energy efficient whilst reducing social isolation. Action by volunteers working together to enhance and look after the borough's greenspaces. Young people have made their voices heard to impact climate action in Stockport via the Schools Climate Assembly, plus regeneration & development plans have set the ambition for sustainable growth and new infrastructure such as new electric vehicle charging infrastructure and district heating plans that will enhance local 'green' skills and create jobs. Stockport economy already benefits from green growth has been highlighted as a [net zero hotspot](#) in the UK

The Stockport Council Plan 2023/24 describes the key role we play in supporting the borough, through the provision and delivery of key services that are essential to everyday life. The plan identifies Climate Action plus work to promote Fairness and Inclusivity as two cross-cutting themes that impact and shape everything we do, as shown in the diagram below.



This report outlines the Climate Action Now (CAN) work undertaken by Stockport Council, between April 2022 and March 2023, to meet our two climate targets: to be operationally net zero as a council by 2030 and to be carbon neutral as a borough by 2038. The report updates on work across 6 key areas (Council CAN, Renewable Energy, Low Carbon Buildings, Sustainable Transport, Natural Environment and Climate Friendly Borough / Engagement) and then outlines the future plans. Below is a diagram outlining the CAN strategy.



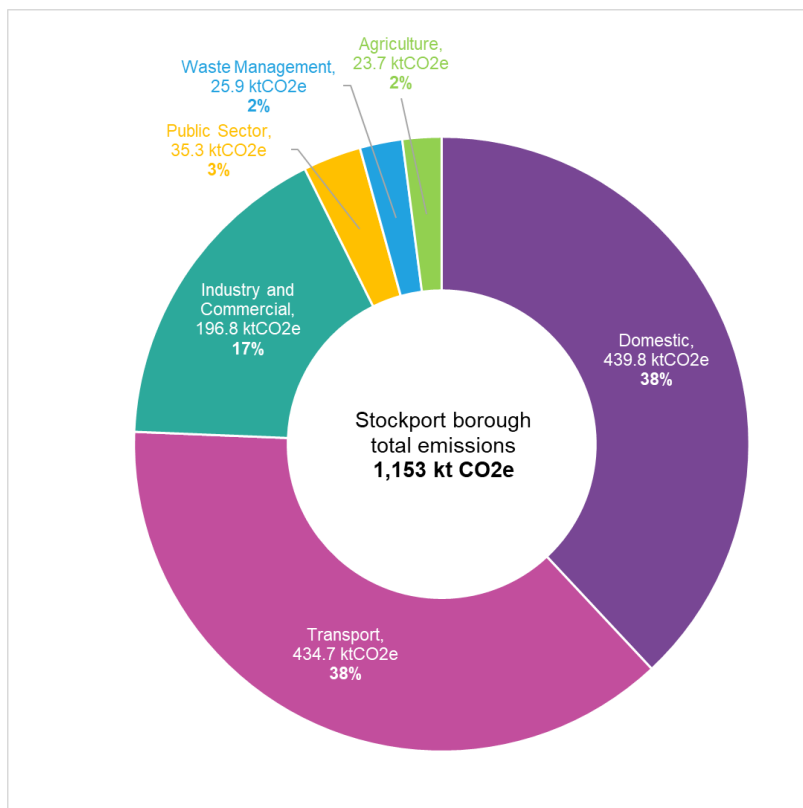
1.2. Background - Council operations and Stockport borough targets

The Stockport CAN strategy was approved by full council in October 2020 and incorporated the Greater Manchester wide target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2038 for the borough of Stockport.

In November 2021, the council also committed to a 2030 operational net zero target for council greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The 2030 operational net zero target is focused on how the council operates and delivers its services and to demonstrate leadership in GHG emissions reductions.

Although the 2038 carbon neutrality target concerns all emissions in Stockport, from residents to businesses to transport, it is essential for the council to help demonstrate what it is doing but also to help work as an exemplar and catalyst in this space. The council plays an integral role in helping to shape, influence and support how everyone in the borough can reduce their GHG emissions to meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target. This means using the council's civic leadership role to help residents, businesses, organisations, schools and communities across Stockport to adopt new measures, make changes and seek opportunities to ensure we meet the challenges of reaching carbon neutrality and adapting to the effects of the climate crisis.

In 2020, Stockport as a borough emitted 1.153 million tonnes CO₂e (see the image below). This data is from the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which provides GHG emissions by local authority area. The most recent data is from 2020 and is publicly available [here](#).



In 2020, the two largest sources of emissions in Stockport were from heating and powering domestic homes (38%) and transport (38%), making up over three-quarters of all GHG emissions in Stockport. On-road transport, such as cars, taxis and buses, made up the vast majority (97%) of transport emissions. Industrial and commercial processes accounted for 17% of total emissions, where industry contributes 11% and commercial 6%. The public sector accounted for 3%, waste management for 2% and agriculture 2%.

2. CAN Progress 2022-23

Section 2 outlines some of the main progress made within each of the six key areas of the CAN programme.

2.1. Council CAN

Council CAN describes what we 'do' as a council. This means ensuring the operations and culture at SMBC align with delivery of our CAN 2030 and 2038 targets. The council aims to mitigate its impacts on climate change and aid adaptation to climate change to come. This means helping to enhance a culture at SMBC where CAN is at the heart of all policies and delivery of projects and services. This is demonstrated by the [2023-](#)

[24 Council Plan](#) highlighting Climate Action Now as one of two cross-cutting strands (Fair & Inclusive being the other) that impact everything we do as a council.

2.1.1. Measuring & Monitoring Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In order to manage effectively it is necessary to measure and monitor what is happening. Therefore, being able to measure and monitor the council's GHG emissions accurately and effectively is a key undertaking. Whether it is in order to set reliable key performance indicators (KPIs) needed to fulfil our CAN targets or helping shape the decarbonisation of our civic estate, having reliable and up to date GHG emissions data from our operations is crucial.

This year we have produced the council's first comprehensive GHG emissions report which contains the council's operational GHG emissions data from the last five years (section 5.1). We have committed to reduce the council's operational GHG emissions to net zero by 2030, and in order to monitor our progress against this target, we must measure and understand what activities cause our GHG emissions. The GHG emissions reporting regime allows the council to set a baseline against which science-based targets (SBTs) can be developed in order to set a reliable GHG reduction pathway and KPIs to aid management and the decarbonisation of the council's operations. A summary of the findings of the first GHG report can be found in the Appendix below. The initial analysis shows we are concentrating on the largest sources of emissions in the current CAN strategy. The intention is to utilise this data to help us set the right priorities for action in future years.

2.1.2. Decarbonisation of the Civic Estate via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

Whole building retrofit work on Stopford House, the main council office, is now complete and includes the installation of air source heat pumps and triple glazed windows in order to maximise both renewable energy generation and efficiency. The £5.6 million PSDS funding award which allowed this work to progress also covered carbon-reducing measures such as new insulation, LED lighting, new windows and installation of more heat pumps and heating controls in other council civic estate buildings such as Fred Perry House, the Town Hall, Grand Central Life Leisure and four Stockport schools.

This work is projected to save around 600 tonnes (which is 17% of the total amount of GHG emissions from council buildings) of GHG emissions per year from council buildings. The Stopford House refurbishment project picked up the 'Fit-Out Project' award at the 2023 Sustainable Design Council Awards.

2.1.3. Zero-emissions fleet review

Current analysis of GHG emissions shows that 14% of the council's measured emissions originates from our operational fleet managed by the Totally Local Company (TLC). There are already some electric vehicles in use across council operations and work at Endeavour House (TLC's main depot) has begun to install more charging infrastructure powered by renewable energy generation from solar PV. This year, TLC

and the council have begun a review into how to decarbonise the rest of the fleet in line with the council's net zero target. This report is due to conclude with recommendations for action in the Autumn.

An example of work to help decarbonise the fleet already implemented this year is the TRAILAR solar panels that have been installed on six refuse trucks operated by TLC. It is estimated that this energy efficiency measure, using solar technology on each refuse truck to power all onboard electrical equipment, thereby reducing demand on energy produced by the engine, now saves up to 400 litres of fuel a year which equates to 1 tonne of GHG emissions.

2.1.4. Procurement and Social Value

Work is underway to analyse GHG emissions from the council's supply chain, working with STAR procurement and our suppliers to establish GHG emission data and to encourage our suppliers to create and implement their own carbon reduction plans.

Alongside this, the Social Value Steering Group is tasked with ensuring the council gets quality and deliverable social value from its contracts. Climate and environment information has been added to the engagement information for bidders and will be reported on during 23-24.

2.1.5. Ways of Working

The refurbishment of Stopford House has embedded a flexible hybrid working model that supports our staff but also reduces carbon emissions from staff travel and use of office space.

For those staff who do travel to work, the council offers a Cycle to Work scheme and salary sacrifice schemes for bus and rail season tickets and purchase of electric vehicles. Electric vehicle charging points are available to staff in the Stopford House car park. Internal communications also promote the use of the Enterprise Car Club. The refurbishment of Stopford House included new and increased cycle storage and shower facilities.

2.1.6. Carbon Literacy

Building on the Council's Bronze status for Carbon Literacy where 140 colleagues, including senior management and members, undertook training, a new, bespoke Stockport Council Carbon Literacy course has been in operation since September 2022. This year 49 additional colleagues completed Carbon Literacy. After taking the course, learners reported feeling more knowledgeable about climate change and more empowered to make changes to tackle climate change. Delivery is peer-to-peer and plans for 2023/24 include utilising previous learners to facilitate delivery of the course to their wider team; essentially 'training the trainers'.

Training for elected members, with an induction training programme, has been prepared and trialled ready for delivery following May 2023 elections. This climate induction training will form the first part of the Carbon Literacy course for Members.

To facilitate Carbon Literacy across the borough, training for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is being developed through the Climate Action Business Forum and a programme of community engagement is being developed by the Stockport Green Network (see Climate Friendly Borough for more information).

Stockport Homes Group (SHG) manage Stockport's council housing stock as an arm's length organisation that is wholly owned by the council. Stockport Homes Group (SHG) have revamped their 'My Planet and Me' Carbon Literacy training for staff. Currently 208 staff have undertaken the training with a target of having 100% of staff carbon literate by 2025. There are also now a group of 'Green Champions' that meet quarterly and work on projects through the year dedicated to raising awareness and providing a working environment so staff can live and work in a sustainable way.

2.1.7. Ambitious Stockport 'climate response' award

The council's in-house Ambitious Stockport awards were set up this year to recognise great achievements and inspire further actions amongst council officers. A 'climate response' category was included to celebrate teams and individuals who are championing and embedding Climate Action Now in their work. Following nominations from colleagues, the Stockport Youth Council selected the LED Streetlighting project as this year's winner. Through the winning project, energy usage from streetlighting has been reduced by over 40% since 2017-18.

2.1.8. SMBC Best Practice

Sharing and learning about best practice is key to improving the Council's performance in order to meet our climate targets. Stockport Council is a member of UK100, a network of ambitious local government authorities with stretching climate targets that seek to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy and Net Zero emissions. In 2022-23, the portfolio holder for Climate & Environment, took part in the UK100 Leadership training programme and Stockport Council shared a case study about the [Schools Climate Assembly](#).

2.1.9. Local Climate Engagement programme

Stockport Council was successful in our application to be part of the Local Climate Engagement programme run by UK100, Involve, Climate Outreach, Democratic Society and Shared Futures. In 2022-23, Stockport Council joined the Coaching Group as one of only 15 councils across the country to get places. The work and training undertaken created an opportunity to learn alongside and from other ambitious local authorities to help inform how the council can be more effective in its CAN programme.

2.2. Renewable Energy

Reducing GHG emissions from energy use via efficiency and generating more renewable energy is paramount to meeting our net zero and carbon neutrality targets. To that end, this key area of focus for the CAN programme aims to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in Stockport both directly through using council

property and land, but also in partnership with public and private bodies. Below are some of the key areas of work being undertaken by the council to enhance renewable energy generation.

2.2.1. Town Centre Renewable Energy District Heating Network

One of the largest sources of scope 1 GHG emissions for the council (and the borough) stems from gas powered heating of our buildings. Working with consultants AECOM and Anthesis and part funded by the UK government, an initial heat network feasibility study was carried out during summer and autumn 2022. The feasibility study concluded that a District Heating Network (DHN) for the town centre would potentially be economically and technically viable. Following this study, an application to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for funding the next stage of developing a DHN, a Detailed Project Development (DPD), was submitted. This bid was successful and just over £300K together with match-funding of a further £60K from GMCA awarded in March 2023 means the DPD will now be undertaken during 2023-24. Work on procuring a consultant to assist with this work is already underway with a view to starting the DPD in June 2023.

At a GMCA level, work continues on the City Decarbonisation Delivery Plan Heat Networks pilot exploring the creation of DHN 'zones' which would mandate new developments, existing large consumers of heating energy and producers of significant excess heat energy, to join district heating networks. A further £35K was awarded to the council from BEIS to take part in a potential pilot scheme.

2.2.2. Schools solar

Opportunities for installing solar photovoltaic (PV) on schools in Stockport is progressing via collaboration with GMCA on providing information directly to schools on how to access funds to enable the deployment of solar PV.

Further applications for European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) for solar PV on schools were also successful this year. Just over £244K of funding has been secured for installing solar PV on Bramhall High School, Ladybridge Primary School, Westmorland Primary School, Banks Lane Junior & Infant Schools with a total project spend of £531K.

Bramhall High School solar is progressing with an application submitted to the Local Planning Authority that seeks prior approval consent for the installation of a solar PV array that will have an overall 250kWp of electricity generating capacity. The estimated electricity that will be generated per annum is 220,000kWh. This will prevent approximately 48 tonnes of CO₂ entering the atmosphere annually.

2.2.3. Council Buildings - solar

Work to install ERDF funded solar PV schemes on council buildings Grand Central and Endeavour House has begun this spring with work due to finish in June 2023. The installed capacity at Grand Central will be 325kWp, with anticipated generation of 22,085kWh and 47 tonnes CO₂ avoided in the first year. The installed capacity at

Endeavour House is 232kWp, with anticipated generation of 175,415kWh and 33 tonnes CO2 avoided per year.

2.2.4. Council Buildings and Land – Go Neutral

The Go Neutral project instigated by GMCA has created a framework for delivering renewable energy generation projects. Installation of solar PV on Grand Central was one of the first schemes to use this framework successfully. Promotion of solar PV schemes for schools will also generate leads for future renewable energy generation schemes across Stockport all also potentially deliverable via the Go Neutral framework. Go Neutral creates potential for public / private partnership in terms of finance and delivery and has also created a procurement framework for delivery of numerous renewable energy technologies.

2.2.5. Residential and commercial – solar

In many instances, the installation of solar PV panels does not require approval from the local planning authority. Larger solar PV schemes do tend to require approval, and during the monitoring year we dealt with 8 large applications at 6 locations, all of which were approved. If these sites are implemented, there will be an estimated total generating capacity of 2.1MWp which would generate approximately 1,409MWh per annum. Based on an estimated carbon intensity of 0.233 kgs/CO2/kWh for electricity, this would avoid approximately 328 tonnes CO2 entering the atmosphere per annum.

2.2.6. Local Area Energy Plan

The Stockport Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) produced during 2022 aims to define the extent of the transformation needed across Stockport to meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target. It helps to provide a robust evidence base and plan to help engage businesses and citizens in accelerating towards carbon neutrality. The plan can be accessed [here](#).

The development of Stockport's LAEP was led by GMCA in partnership with the council and Energy Systems Catapult. The results are a fully costed, spatial plan that identifies the change needed to the local energy system and built environment, detailing the 'what, where, when, and by whom' is needed for carbon neutrality. The LAEP sets out the total costs, changes in energy use and emissions reductions over incremental time periods that are required to meet the 2038 target and to stay within our carbon budget. The scope of the LAEP addresses electricity, heat, gas networks, future potential for hydrogen, the built environment (industrial, domestic and commercial), its fabric and systems, flexibility, energy generation and storage, and providing energy to decarbonised transport e.g. electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The findings of the Local Area Energy Plan are now being used to inform a strategic review of decarbonisation of council's civic estates, schools, and the emerging Local Plan, for example, by providing an evidence base for solar for schools and for consideration of district heating networks and solar farms.

2.3. Low Carbon Buildings

The impact on climate change arising from buildings is one of the largest contributors of GHG emissions in the borough. Work on this key area for the CAN strategy focuses on ways the council can ensure that current and future buildings of Stockport are sustainably designed and powered. Along with decarbonisation work already outlined in the Council CAN section concerning our own civic estate, below are some further actions that were undertaken this year to promote the low carbon-built environment.

2.3.1. Dial Park Primary

Additional funding of £480K from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 3B has been secured to support a combined condition and decarbonisation project at Dial Park Primary School. The project includes a heating system with ground source heat pumps, roof and wall insulation and replacement doors. This project builds on previous PSDS funded work such as LED lighting and double-glazed windows and will now mean fully decarbonising the school's energy supply, putting it on the way to becoming the first 'net zero' school in the borough.

2.3.2. Cheadle Eco-Business Park at Birdhall Lane

Cheadle Eco Business Park will see the council owned 7-acre industrial estate redeveloped into a sustainable eco-business park with a focus on sustainability in construction, operation and with clean energy generation. The development is supported by £4.44m of Cheadle Towns Fund Grant. Various accreditations are being considered including BREEAM with a view to achieving a minimum rating of Excellent. The key focus however is on genuine, real, measurable carbon reducing strategies and innovative sustainable design.

Consultants were appointed early in 2022 to undertake an initial feasibility study into the methods of energy generation that could be considered on the site. This work concluded that solar energy generation would provide the most cost effective and efficient way of producing clean energy. Air source heat pumps could also be utilised to support the solar energy generation.

Various construction methods are being considered which will allow for the maximisation of solar PV on the site as well as reducing embodied carbon in construction. This includes considering innovative construction methods such as the use of a glulam timber frame for parts of the structures.

2.3.3. Mayoral Development Corporation Town Centre West

Established in 2019, Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) was created to regenerate 'Town Centre West', transforming a 130-hectare area of brownfield land to the west of Stockport Railway Station into an exemplar urban neighbourhood. The MDC brings together powers devolved to the Greater Manchester Mayor combined with local leadership from Stockport Council and the long-term commitment of the government's housing agency, Homes England. Its guiding principles are community, sustainability and innovation.

Reflecting the stretching carbon neutrality targets adopted by both Stockport Council and GMCA, carbon reduction has been a key focus for the MDC since its inception. Alongside work to ensure that individual development schemes are designed to maximise energy efficiency and limit embodied carbon, the Board has sponsored a series of innovative initiatives to make Town Centre West a low-carbon neighbourhood. This includes work to establish the feasibility of a district heat network serving the area and wider town centre, powered by renewable energy, and proposals for highways improvements to consolidate traffic flows and create dedicated active travel infrastructure. During 2022-23 the MDC team received mentoring through Stockport Council's participation in the Local Climate Engagement programme and further work to understand the carbon footprint of regenerating the town centre is underway.

2.3.4. Stockport Homes Group – social housing

Stockport Homes Group (SHG) manage Stockport's council housing stock as an arm's length organisation that is wholly owned by the council. Currently 96% of properties have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of C or above and 39.1% of properties have at least one form of renewable energy technology. A target for all council owned housing managed by SHG to be rated as C or above by 2025 to meet the regulatory standards is in place.

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 'SHDF Wave 1' programme has progressed to site, with installations of new energy efficient storage heaters and solar PV panels being fitted to properties. The project is due to complete in June 2023, which will improve the Energy Performance Certificates of 75 properties to a C rating or above. During this period, SHG (as part of the wider GM Consortium) have successfully been awarded funding from the 'Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2', which is the 4th largest award nationally and the 2nd largest award to a local authority-led consortium. This will improve the homes of thousands of GM residents.

2.3.5. Grant schemes and support

Delivery of national grant schemes and offers has been progressed through partnership of the Greater Manchester Housing Retrofit group. ECO4 flex contractors have been appointed by GMCA, with ImprovEasy covering Stockport, Trafford and Manchester. Promotion of the Octopus Air Source Heat Pump offer was mailed to 3,338 eligible households in Stockport. Work is underway to create a GM wide portal that will offer residents across GM easy to access and tailored advice on grants and support available to help retrofit their home.

2.3.6. 'Your Home Better' - GMCA Retrofit Accelerator

The GM wide programme '[Your Home, Better](#)' was launched in 22-23. This scheme helps provide advice around retrofit and upgrading homes in terms of renewable energy options, energy efficiency and insulation.

2.3.7. Planning applications

The Planning service's CAN Senior Planner, who is responsible for climate change related issues for the emerging Local Plan, has been formulating exemplar environmental planning policies and ensuring best practice on both mitigating and adapting to climate change is built in.

As part of this role, they are facilitating training so that all of Stockport Council's planning service will achieve Carbon Literate certification in 23-24.

2.4. Sustainable Transport

GHG emissions arising from transport across the borough are another key factor that must be addressed to meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target. Areas of work around implementing sustainable transport focus on how the council can help move Stockport towards having more carbon-free and low-carbon transport options, including the promotion of walking, cycling and the use of public transport within the borough and the wider GMCA.

2.4.1. One Stockport Transport Plan

The draft One Stockport Transport Plan was endorsed in September 2022 and will form part of the evidence base for the future Local Plan examination. As drafted, the plan reviews challenges and opportunities for transport and movement in Stockport; reviews existing evidence and data; identifies a vision for the future and the priority themes needed to deliver that vision; and identifies potential schemes needed to address current challenges and opportunities.

2.4.2. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI)

Cabinet approved a way forward to increase EV charging opportunities in the borough by working with Iduna, the providers of the Be.EV network. The need for improving publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure is apparent across the borough, which is why the council has sought an investment and partnership agreement with Iduna to significantly enhance what is currently available. In principle agreement and contracts have been exchanged with Be.EV / Iduna who will finance the investment required to significantly increase publicly available charge points.

Wave 1 locations for charging infrastructure have been agreed. These have been discussed and approved at Area Committees. Wave 1 is expected to deliver up to 50 EV charging spaces, across 19 car parks within the next 12 months. The charging units will feature a range of rapid and ultra-rapid chargers. Wave 1 locations are all within council-owned car parks.

Three sites for charging EV Taxis are being delivered via Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). The sites are at the council-owned car parks in Lomas Street, Edgeley (due in May 23), Torkington Park (due in May 23) and Newbridge Lane (in progress).

2.4.3. Electrification of Bus Fleets

Through the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, £35.73million in funding has been secured to introduce 170 green buses to the region. Greater Manchester secured the funding after a joint bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) submitted by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Stockport Council and Stagecoach Group PLC. The funding will be topped up with £12.5million from GMCA and will support the introduction of 170 zero emission buses running from Stockport by 2024. This equates to 10 per cent of the whole bus fleet in Greater Manchester. In March 2023, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and bus operator Stagecoach have confirmed that an order has been placed for 170 new electric buses to serve routes in and around Stockport from 2024.

2.4.4. Walking and Cycling Opportunities

Work undertaken includes continued delivery of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements and Mayor's Challenge Fund schemes. For example, a widened bridge opened over Black Brook in Heaton Chapel providing a safer cycling route; soft launch of the Bramhall Park A6 Scheme providing a continuous two-way cycle route; a new Sparrow crossing on Didsbury Road, Heaton Mersey providing a route from Heaton Mersey Common to the Pennine trail.

Stockport Council's Road Safety team teach safe walking and cycling, promote and encourage WOW days (walk on Wednesdays or walk once a week), enable park and stride options from local car parks at no cost to parents at school pick up and drop off times, and support cycle parking in schools. The team also offers support to schools with 'School Travel Plans' whereby a school sets out its ambitions to support pupils to get to school more sustainably, and pupils can get involved in putting this plan together or updating the one they have in place.

Stockport Council supports community walking through wellbeing walks, recently providing Ramblers wellbeing walk leader training to ten new volunteers leaders in April 2023, and training eight new volunteer leaders to lead the walk-a-day walks programme. This programme is also now supported by our community rail partnership, who have funded the production and printing of their quarterly walks programme which provides detailed information about the walks with bus and rail as start and end points and by providing maps that show active travel routes.

Stockport Council runs a Walking & Cycling Forum which meets quarterly to discuss projects, proposals and challenges relating to walking and cycling in the borough.

2.4.5. School Streets & Turn It Off campaigns

Stockport Council worked with primary schools to develop seven 'School Streets' trials using Mayoral Challenge Funding to improve road safety and air quality. Temporary road closures and the provision of marshals at these closure points at the start and end of school days helped reduce the level of general traffic, by encouraging more families to complete the school run on foot, bicycle or by scooter.

The trials ran over the summer term in 2022 and four schools have kept arrangements in place due to the multiple benefits of better air quality, greater levels of daily activity gained and the social benefits for those pupils travelling actively.

A Stockport Council school's campaign (originally launched in 2020) called 'Turn it Off', which urged parents and guardians to turn off their engines when waiting for children at school pick-up times, continued following further promotion in 2022 and early 2023, with almost 45 schools in the borough taking part.

The campaign asks parents and guardians to switch off engines outside the school gates and on surrounding roads when dropping children off. It also encouraged children to catch the school bus if they are able or to walk or cycle to school.

2.4.6. Cheadle Rail Station

The council previously secured advanced Towns Fund monies to undertake further assessment work and produce a Business Case regarding the new Cheadle Rail Station in March 2022. Following a public consultation, the team undertook further design work and submitted a planning application which received support from the Planning Committee who delegated the final planning decision to the Planning Officer. The station Business Case has now been passed and funding has been secured.

Network Rail are reviewing station design and designs for car parks, highways and structures are underway by the council. Discussions between Stockport Council and Circle Health Group to secure a land agreement at the Alexandra Hospital proposed site are underway. Systra are finalising the Station modelling which is due late summer 2023. The next steps are to gain all approvals and enter into rail industry agreements. We expect the station to be built in phases, completing by 2025, with operational services to follow.

2.4.7. LED Lighting and Energy Efficiency Project for Street Lighting

The introduction of low energy LED street lighting has reduced energy costs and future carbon emissions, along with reducing the associated costs of street lighting maintenance and operations. The project covered upgrading streetlights, illuminated signs, island lighting and decorative lighting to LED, plus island bollards changed to non-lit flexi bollards and the installation of additional columns to achieve lighting designs that comply with current standards. Upgraded subway lighting and lighting on key routes in Parks and on Public Rights of Way was also undertaken as part of this project. Project delivery has been complex and was further complicated by the pandemic. All the lantern changes with larger gains are now complete and the remaining work involves more detailed design. Since 2017-18, energy usage from streetlighting has been reduced by over 40%

2.5. Natural Environment

The Natural Environment aspect of the CAN strategy focuses on a 10-year plan to enhance biodiversity and increase 'green canopy' across the borough, with nearly

7,000 trees planted through the plan prior to the reporting year. Planning for the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation is also underway for delivery in November 2023.

2.5.1. Woodlands, Orchards & Meadows

1,825 trees and 600 fruit trees were planted between December 2022 – March 2023 which has helped the council exceed proposed targets on tree planting for orchards. Three new wildflower meadows have also been created alongside these three new orchards.

Stockport Council have run Orchard Mentor training for residents for the second year running, with plans to run the project for the remaining 7 years of the 10-year plan. The training includes teaching pruning and maintenance to volunteers who will then manage the community orchards. During this year, 7 Orchard Mentors were trained who will now go on to cascade learning into their community.

Alongside this, Stockport Council train volunteers to be able to safely enhance and improve greenspaces. Volunteers receive Task Day Leader and power tool training. Stockport Council have also run graffiti removal and pruning training events for residents.

2.5.2. Biodiversity Net Gain & the Members' Local Nature Recovery Group

In November 2022, Members passed a motion to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. The council pledged to support the Climate and Ecology Bill by writing to the four local MPs representing the borough of Stockport letting them know that the motion has been passed and urging them to sign up to support the Bill or thanking them for already doing so. The council also wrote to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing its support.

Following the motion, it was agreed that a Members group, which will be called the 'Local Nature Recovery Group' will be established to focus on this issue. The group will consist of the members of the CAN Cross-party Members Group plus one more Member from each political party represented on the council. The first meeting will be held following the 2023 elections to discuss terms of reference. There will also be an Officer Advisory Group set-up alongside the Members' Local Nature Recovery Group consisting of officers from Highways, Neighbourhoods, Planning & CAN.

Funding from central government to support preparation for BNG legislation has been secured, enabling planning and ecologist support for biodiversity enhancement. Collaboration between Stockport Council, GMCA and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit is also happening to ensure a GM wide joined up approach for the most effective way to deploy the BNG legislation at scale.

2.5.3. Partnership working

Stockport Council works closely with partners to effectively deliver on our Natural Environment work programme. This includes partnership work with City of Trees, particularly around urban tree planting; the Kindling Trust, from whom the council

sources saplings; and George Cox Ltd, who assisted in delivery of the woodland at Penny Lane.

2.5.4. Community growing and biodiversity projects supported by the Stockport CAN Fund

The CAN fund ran from November 2021 – December 2022 and supported seventy-three climate and biodiversity projects in total. Of these, twelve involved community garden/food growing, nineteen involved school garden/food growing, five involved tree planting, and seven focused on biodiversity. One example of this is the Chatty Wednesdays group in Lancashire Hill who received support to start an allotment for fruit and veg growing, wanting to encourage healthy eating, wellbeing and climate action simultaneously.

2.5.5. Community Gardens winning idea

The youth vote at this year's Schools and Youth Climate Assemblies (see the Climate Friendly Borough section for further detail) supported the idea to make more "community gardens where people can plant and pick fruit and veg, reducing the carbon footprint of food." Since the youth vote, the Stockport CAN team are developing a partnership with libraries that will see the creation of new food growing spaces alongside educational resources about the climate impact of food.

2.5.6. Effective flood management

Work has continued with developing the emergency flood plans for the reservoirs in Compstall and Reddish Vale. Officers are also working with United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Mersey Rivers Trust on several studies and flood mitigation schemes including the creation of 'leaky dams', a project to alleviate potential flooding. The council has been successful in several funding bids seeking additional Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) money under their 'Local Levy' programme. This includes money for watercourse works at Lower Fold Marple Bridge a contribution to improvements near Poise Brook, Offerton, and Lavington Avenue, Cheadle.

2.5.7. Recycling & Waste

Stockport residents continue to reduce waste going into the black bin via recycling options. Less waste arising in black bins means a reduction in financial costs arising from waste charges and reduces environmental impacts. The performance on this measure (residual waste arisings) is consistently the best in GM.

As is noted above, resident behaviour is vital in reducing waste arising and promoting recycling. The council continues to work closely with GMCA to progress these aims and influence residents and businesses behaviour. The long-awaited Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was announced this year with expected implementation arriving in 2025. The DRS is a major step towards reducing the amount of litter and waste in the UK. It will allow consumers to get their money back for food and drink containers that meet certain criteria. This new legislation will help to encourage people to recycle responsibly and to reduce the amount of waste being accumulated. Overall, it's a great

step towards creating a cleaner, greener and healthier environment for everyone. This will be a step change in behaviour change for residents and businesses alike.

2.6. Climate Friendly Borough / CAN Engagement

The final workstream is about how the council can help bring about positive change and climate action outside the confines of council operations. This workstream focuses on helping to deliver the 2038 carbon neutrality target by influencing businesses, residents and communities across the borough of Stockport to adopt measures that significantly reduce GHG emissions.

2.6.1. Stockport CAN Summit

The Stockport CAN Summit is an annual event that aims to celebrate and grow climate action across the borough. The CAN Summit took place in June 2022 with 138 people attending to hear talks from speakers about the three themes for the day: Council CAN, Energy and Food. Energy and Food were chosen as themes as these topics were at the forefront of minds in connection to cost-of-living and also have a huge impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

"It was great to know that Stockport is so committed to Net Zero Carbon and in a practical way. Very interesting and inspiring speakers"

From 2023 onwards, the summit will be held annually in November, ahead of the annual international COP conference and will involve more active and participatory elements.

2.6.2. Stockport CAN Fund

The Stockport CAN Fund ran from November 2021 to December 2022. Community organisations, schools and groups of residents were able to apply for funding to enable community climate action and engagement. 73 projects, across every ward in the borough, were awarded a total of £131,994.

The projected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from these projects is estimated to be 128.4 tonnes within 12 months of the project receiving funding, the equivalent to the emissions produced by driving over 240,000 miles by car or flying from the UK to Australia and back 21 times. In the next fifteen years up until the 2038 carbon neutral Stockport target, the projects are estimated to save 1,771.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The 73 projects have reached 5,800 unique beneficiaries across Stockport, with a projected 9,150 unique engagements within 12 months.

There were three applications which together totalled £88,926, representing two-thirds of all money spent by the CAN Fund. These three projects represent 94% of the projected greenhouse gas emission reduction estimates and 17% of the predicted beneficiaries.

2.6.3. Climate Action Business Forum

The Climate Action Business Forum is a peer-to-peer network for Stockport-based businesses who want to go beyond the initial stage of understanding climate change

and move towards actively addressing and implementing change within their organisations.

Since it formed in February 2022, 121 people from 68 businesses have engaged with the network and 65 people are members of the Forum's LinkedIn group. The Forum meets quarterly. 34 people attended in June 2022, 36 attended in September 2022, 41 attended in November 2022 and 50 attended in March 2023. Speakers included: Electricity Northwest, Transport for Greater Manchester, One+All, musicMagpie, CDL, Red Rose Packaging, Business Growth Hub, Robinsons Brewery, Fibrestar Drums and Sustainable Materials Innovation Hub. Workshops have included: Engaging your Stakeholders, Climate Risk & Opportunity, and People, Planet & Profit.

2.6.4. Support for businesses

The vision and mission for Stockport's Economic Plan is to grow Stockport's local economy to create and support successful businesses that are stronger, resilient and productive which generate quality jobs which are better paid, sustainable and accessible for the benefit of all our residents. This gives the context for Stockport Council, and our partnership with the Business Growth Hub, to offer a range of support for businesses wanting to be more sustainable. As part of this a Carbon Literacy taster session was delivered with the Build A Business network and the monthly Business Bulletin email has signposted and highlighted sustainability information, developments in Stockport, business support opportunities and forthcoming networking events.

Through the Business Growth Hub, fully funded places are available for Stockport businesses on the '[Low Carbon Skills: Journey to Net Zero](#)' training. 12 Stockport businesses completed the training in 22-23. Alongside this, Green Economy (part of the Growth Company's Business Growth Hub for Greater Manchester) increases the visibility of the green tech sector with an online [Marketplace](#) which enables businesses to find local, trusted partners for their transition to net zero. The team has built a network of over 500 local green technologies and services suppliers, which is then used to support businesses that want to decarbonise, by instilling confidence in the local supply chain.

2.6.5. Stockport Green Network - co-developing a Climate & Environment Community Network

The Stockport Green Network is a space for residents and members of voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise groups to come together around climate and environmental action. Since it formed in April 2022, 66 people across 41 groups have engaged with the network. The network meets quarterly. 32 people attended in December 2022 and 37 attended in March 2023. The network has three key themes: climate action, nature & biodiversity and awareness raising & engagement. The network is planning a community festival to take place in summer 2023.

2.6.6. Schools & Youth Climate Assemblies

The Schools Climate Assembly is an annual project in which young people across the borough learn about, propose, debate and vote on climate action ideas. Pupils and students take part in climate action and democracy lessons within their own

classrooms before taking part in a youth debate with other schools in the Council Chambers at Stockport Town Hall.

In 2023, over 850 young people took part in a climate action lesson at the start of the project and 130 climate action ideas, all thought up by young people, were submitted to the council as part of the project. The Town Hall debates took place in March where 78 young people representing 28 schools and colleges took part. The young people voted on which climate action idea they thought was most important, supporting an action around community gardens where people can plant and pick fruit and vegetables, reducing the carbon footprint of food. This idea was originally submitted by St Paul's Primary School in Brinnington. The council has committed to act on this idea.

2.6.7. Eco-friendly period products training and grants

In 2022, young people voting at the Schools Climate Assembly supported an idea to make eco-friendly, biodegradable and reusable period products more affordable and accessible in schools. Responding to the youth vote, we offered eco period product training, and a grants programme from November 2022 to March 2023. 20 schools accessed the grant programme, with all grants awarded totalling £11,540. The training has since been accessed 163 times by schools. To further support the idea, we also started offering free eco-friendly period products within bathrooms of council offices. Please see the following case study for more details: [Schools Climate Assembly](#)

2.6.8. Two + Two

Two + Two is an annual collaboration day run by Stockport based [Creative Resource](#) that brings together advertising, marketing and creative students and experts from across the north of England to tackle a behavioural change brief for an important cause. Climate Action Now was the 'client' this year with a 'beyond recycling' brief. 250 students from universities across the northwest took part in the day held at Stok and were supported by over 100 industry mentors. Stockport-based APS group are working with the winners and Stockport CAN to develop the winning idea into a campaign pitch for the council.

2.6.9. Co-developing climate change training for businesses, VCFSE and education settings

To facilitate climate change education across Stockport, Carbon Literacy training for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is being developed through the Climate Action Business Forum and a programme of community engagement is being developed by the Green Network. Following the first Climate Action Business Forum meeting, the CAN team began working with local businesses and the Carbon Literacy Project to develop a course for micro and SME businesses. Further to this, the CAN team are working with Sector3 and the developing climate and environment network to create suitable climate and environment training for VCFSE organisations in Stockport. In January 2023, 20 students from the Green College Assembly from the Trafford Colleges Group undertook a day of climate change learning with Stockport Council resulting in them taking a list of asks to their senior leadership and asking

questions of the college's waste service provider. The college's student outreach worker undertook Carbon Literacy training with Stockport Council as part of a 'train the trainer' exercise with the intention of creating a course to provide climate change training for their 11,000 students.

2.6.10. Developing a food plan

Stockport Council is developing a partnership, borough wide food plan. The Public Health team have hosted three cross sector workshops which include council services, health, VCFSE and private sectors. Through the workshops, a food plan is being developed that embeds climate and environment considerations through its aims and actions around policy, local food economy, health & wellbeing, community, environment, and education. The result will be a working plan that will continue to be developed and adapted.

The developing plan compliments and joins work together across the Stockport Borough Plan, Active Communities Strategy, Climate Action Now Strategy, Real Living Wage, GM Good Employment Charter, Stockport Economic Plan and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The work further complements the Stockport Food Network which is a community-led initiative, that is supported by the council, to take action on food poverty, access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food, food waste and sustainable food in the borough.

2.6.11. Stockport Spring Clean

During the 2-month long campaign, across March and April 2023, community groups, individuals and council staff have been cleaning up Stockport by removing graffiti, repairing bridges, weeding plots, litter picking and more.

Stockport Council's Spring Clean campaign aimed to highlight some of the work and challenges faced on a daily basis by council staff, including keeping the boroughs' parks and greenspaces safe and clean. This has included daily social media posts giving an insight into cleaning and maintenance and the effects of anti-social behaviour, such as fly-tipping and graffiti, on the environment.

As part of the campaign, a poster competition was launched with schools. The winner will see their design displayed around Stockport to encourage residents to keep our borough tidy and to look after the environment.

2.6.12. Stockport Greenspace Volunteers Awards

As part of the Stockport Spring Clean campaign the council has launched the Stockport Greenspace Volunteer Awards 2023. These awards acknowledge the invaluable work and commitment of Stockport's many dedicated volunteers and groups who help make the borough a welcoming place for visitors and residents. Nominations can be made by anyone for any individual or group whose work benefit the borough's greenspaces and are invited against the following categories: Thinking Stockport Greenspace, Fair and Inclusive, Volunteer of the Year and Environment Award. The winners will be announced in June 2023.

3. CAN Forward Plans

3.1. Local Plan

How we plan for development in the borough will play a vital role in achieving our climate targets. The Local Plan is an important step forward in delivering the vision for Stockport set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan (2020). It draws across all elements set out in the Borough Plan of One Heart, One Home and One Future, to ensure that Stockport has the right land, homes and infrastructure in the right places, for current and future generations.

The Local Plan will contain a number of objectives which set the planning and spatial context for delivering our One Stockport Borough Plan. These planning objectives, as currently drafted, are intended to ensure a resilient and healthy borough which delivers zero carbon development by 2038, whilst adapting to the impacts of climate change and increasing biodiversity through sustainable development.

Building upon these objectives, climate change is a cross cutting theme of the draft Local Plan, with policies contributing to mitigating and adapting to climate change and particularly those on clean air, biodiversity, water, green infrastructure, design, and walking and cycling. It will encourage the re-use and renovation of buildings rather than demolition and rebuild, to reduce the use of new resources and their associated embodied carbon emissions. Developments should follow the energy hierarchy, where minimising energy demand and maximising energy efficiency are at the top of the hierarchy. In line with the pledge made in the GM Environment Plan, the design and construction of development will seek to ensure that there is a 100% reduction in total carbon emissions produced in the borough by 2038 from 1990 levels to limit climate change.

3.2. Forward Plans 23-24

In addition to the previous and current actions undertaken during 2022-23 outlined, the following details highlight further significant work planned for delivery during 2023-24.

3.2.1. Establish KPI's for CAN Workstreams & Develop Carbon Budgets for Council Services

Based on the development of science-based targets, the Borough Plan Outcomes Framework and Local Area Energy Plans, this year we aim to refresh CAN KPI's and establish internal quarterly update reports for CLT and the Portfolio Holder in line with financial reporting cycles. Work will also begin on setting carbon budgets across key areas of the Council to aid long-term planning and the ability to meet our 2030 net zero target.

3.2.2. Risk Assessment Exercise

During this year, officers will carry out an adaptation-based risk-assessment across all areas of the council to help highlight potential short, medium and long-term risks of climate change to council operations and service provision.

3.2.3. External Stockport CAN Advisory Board

This year the council will seek to establish an external CAN advisory panel. This panel will include residents, youth groups, businesses, community groups and climate change experts to assess the effectiveness of the CAN strategy and make suggestions for improvement.

3.2.4. Members' Corporate Induction & Carbon Literacy

A Climate Action Now training session has been added to the Members induction programme that will follow the elections in 2023. The induction session forms the first part of Carbon Literacy training which will be made available to all Members.

3.2.5. Supporting the Stockport Green Economy

During this year, we will further explore how regeneration and development projects, such as the town centre area, can contribute to our emission reduction targets. We will explore further partnership work with Green Economy.

3.2.6. Green Libraries

A Green Libraries working group will be established that will look at opportunities and actions around decarbonising library buildings, delivery of library services, greening library land and community engagement. The group will include library colleagues, library senior management and the CAN team.

3.2.7. Climate Engagement Programme

Throughout 23-24 the council will continue to deliver its climate engagement programme; working to grow climate awareness, climate action and to build partnerships across the borough. The annual Stockport CAN summit will take place in November 2023. The Schools Climate Assembly will run from November 2023 – March 2024, with the council delivering on the outcome from last year's youth vote (community gardens) alongside this. The Climate Action Business Forum will seek to grow its membership and provide relevant content for SMEs through to large businesses; this will include co-developing climate change training with businesses from the network. The Stockport Green Network will seek to increase engagement with local, grassroots groups to increase the diversity and number of groups and residents who are aware of and involved in climate and environmental action in Stockport; this will include running a Green community festival in the summer of 2023.

4. Conclusion

As average global temperatures continue to rise and the level of GHG emissions fail to decline at a rate that keeps the Paris Agreement of 1.5-degrees in reach, it is self-evident that more must be done to mitigate emissions. However, given the global context it is also prescient that we must adapt to the changing environment and understand how the environment will change in the future and what the impacts will

be for being able to deliver council services. We must understand and prepare for the effects of climate change on residents, businesses and transportation systems across the borough and nationally. Understanding the risks of climate change at a global, national and local level will help the council to adapt and meet the challenge of a changing climate. Effects on migration, supply chains and infrastructure will directly affect the residents and businesses of Stockport, so it is imperative that the council is at the forefront of climate adaptation preparedness. Moreover, in order to meet our targets, we must start to treat GHG emissions in the same way we do finance; by budgeting accordingly. The next stage for the council to progress is for GHG emission budgets to become part of managing the delivery of operations and services at the council. Work on both mitigation and adaptation for climate change is underway and will be accelerated. The principle of adhering to GHG emissions budgets that lie behind the target dates are key to delivering meaningful climate action now.

4.1. Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Note and comment on the progress achieved since the CAN Annual Report issued in July 2022.
- Endorse the publication of a modified version of this report on the council's website to include the council's annual GHG emissions report and case studies outlined in the appendix. Provisional endorsement for transparency of the council's GHG emission report was agreed at the Communities & Housing Committee in January 2023.
- Note and comment on the need for an acceleration in action to meet both the council's 2030 operational net zero target and the biggest challenge of remaining within the borough's carbon budget set by the GM wide 2038 carbon neutrality target.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Stockport Council CAN Strategy - Oct 2020](#)

[CAN annual report 2021-2022](#)

[GHG Emissions Reporting for Stockport Council – Jan 2023](#)

5. Appendix

5.1. Stockport Council's GHG Emissions Report

There are two main guiding principles of methodologies for the new GHG emission reporting regime adopted by Stockport Council. They are that we employ a continual improvement process and that we abide with the GHG Protocols, the world's most

widely-used GHG accounting toolkit. Therefore, over time as the regime is refined and as techniques for collecting and monitoring operational GHG emissions are improved, the GHG emissions report for the council will change and improve as more data is uncovered and work on reducing the impacts of our scope 3 emissions is embedded. For instance, we are working on developing a reporting regime looking at the wide variety of 'scope 3' GHG emissions such as those arising from the council's supply chain. Furthermore, work will be needed to obtain, assess and verify certain GHG emissions data arising from council operations. It is therefore predicted that as the GHG emissions reporting regime improves the council will be able to report a fuller picture of what is happening, and this will aid strategic choices around achieving a net zero position for the council. The reliability of this GHG emissions data is crucial as this will ultimately inform the CAN strategy, science-based targets and CAN KPI's.

The initial analysis of data indicates that the council's current areas of focus are largely correct. However, it also confirms that there is a huge amount of work needed to meet the 2030 net zero target and that decarbonisation work around our scope 1 and 2 emissions needs to accelerate. It is expected that as more detailed analysis of verified data takes place that additional priorities within the borough will be identified.

Once the baselines and boundaries for reporting the council's GHG emissions have been set the next step is to determine science-based targets for the reduction of the council's operational GHG emission in line with the Council's 2030 net zero target. This work will determine GHG emission budgets for the council which will form KPIs.

5.1.1. Scopes 1, 2 and 3

GHG emissions are often split into three groups, called scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 emissions. As described in the GHG Protocol, the scopes are a way of categorising different sources of an organisation's emissions. They describe whether emissions come from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation (which are often referred to as direct emissions) or whether they come from sources that are a consequence of the organisation's activities (often called indirect emissions).

Scope 1 emissions cover sources that the organisation directly owns and often come from fuel that is burned by the organisation – for example, gas in boilers used to heat buildings or fuel used by fleet vehicles.

Scope 2 covers GHG emissions from power that is generated elsewhere and then purchased and transported in for use by the organisation – for example, electricity used to power buildings.

Scope 3 emissions cover everything else the organisation is responsible for, but that they don't directly produce or control – for example, the emissions that come from when an organisation buys products from suppliers. This represents the biggest scope for many organisations - for example, 95% of [Cambridgeshire County Council's emissions](#) fall under scope 3 – and these can often be the most difficult to measure and to reduce.

It is common for local authorities to outsource buildings and services that typically produce emissions which come under scopes 1 and 2; for example, councils which outsource buildings, leisure centres, and fleet vehicles. In order to adhere to the principles that underpin carbon accounting which emphasise transparency, consistency and accountability, we aim to be clear about which scope each category of emissions is counted.

Additionally, the council has varying degrees of influence regarding the emissions produced by companies and organisations in the council's scope 3 emissions. We aim to include organisations over which the council has significant influence or control within our Net Zero by 2030 target; those which the council has no decision-making control over will be included in the carbon neutral by 2038 target. All of the council's scope 1 and 2 emissions will be included in the Net Zero by 2030 target.

The table below summarises our boundaries for scopes 1, 2 and 3:

Scope		Description	Examples	Currently measuring
1		Emissions from fossil fuels burned directly by the organisation	Gas and heating oil used within the civic estate and non-mainstream schools	Yes
2		Emissions from imported electricity	Electricity used within the civic estate and non-mainstream schools	Yes
			Electricity used for public street lighting	Yes
3	Included in Net Zero 2030 target	Emissions from the activities and functions that occur from sources not directly controlled by the council but over which the council has significant ownership and influence	Commissioned services where the council uses third-party delivery (including Totally Local Company, Stockport Homes Group and Life Leisure) - this includes TLC fleet	Yes
			Business travel and employee commuting	No
			Corporate waste	No
		Emissions from the operational buildings, activities and fleet from any companies wholly-owned by the council	Fuel and energy related activities (not included in Scopes 1 or 2)	No
			Water use	Yes
			Electricity transmission and distribution	Yes
			Maintained and voluntary controlled schools	Yes
	Not included in Net Zero 2030 target	Emissions from the activities and functions that occur from sources not controlled by the local authority and over	Supply chain – purchased goods and commissioned services	No
			Council-owned housing	No
			Municipal waste	No
			Investments and franchises	No

		which the local authority has limited influence	Academies and voluntary aided schools	Yes
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The table above lists which data sets we currently have and that are included in the report. We recognise that there are many components of the council's GHG emissions that we do not yet have the data for. As part of our continual improvement approach and process, we aim to collect that data and include it in future iterations of our annual GHG report.

5.1.2. Stockport Council's GHG emissions

The following dashboard below outlines the measured emissions from the council's Scopes 1, 2 and 3 every year since 2018-19.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council - CLIMATE ACTION NOW - Carbon Accounting Dashboard						
STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL						
Summary	Emissions Breakdown				Buildings Emissions Only	
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23 vs 2018-19
Total Emissions	22,551 tCO ₂ e	21,357 tCO ₂ e	17,484 tCO ₂ e	17,352 tCO ₂ e	15,682 tCO ₂ e	-30.5%
Scope 1	2,199 tCO ₂ e	2,300 tCO ₂ e	2,185 tCO ₂ e	2,055 tCO ₂ e	2,327 tCO ₂ e	+5.8%
Scope 2	6,216 tCO ₂ e	5,030 tCO ₂ e	3,889 tCO ₂ e	3,286 tCO ₂ e	3,050 tCO ₂ e	-50.9%
Scope 3 - Fleet (council fleet managed by TLC)	2,215 tCO ₂ e	2,340 tCO ₂ e	2,203 tCO ₂ e	2,370 tCO ₂ e	2,307 tCO ₂ e	+4.2%
Scope 3 - Council buildings (incl. maintained/VC schools, Life/Lesure, TLC & SHG depots/offices)	9,004 tCO ₂ e	8,854 tCO ₂ e	6,757 tCO ₂ e	7,555 tCO ₂ e	6,315 tCO ₂ e	-29.9%
Scope 3 - Other (incl. water use, elec transmission/distribution, academies/VA schools)	2,917 tCO ₂ e	2,833 tCO ₂ e	2,450 tCO ₂ e	2,086 tCO ₂ e	1,683 tCO ₂ e	-42.3%

Since 2018-19, the council's total GHG emissions has decreased by 30.5%. Our Scope 1 and 2 emissions currently make up 34% of total GHG emissions and Scope 3 contributes the remaining 65%, although we expect our Scope 3 emissions to increase significantly once we progress work to collect our supply chain GHG emissions.

Scope 1 emissions have remained relatively stable over the last 5 years, reaching their lowest point in 2021-22 but increasing the next year, showing that gas usage by civic estate buildings remains unchanged despite shifts in office usage since the Covid-19 pandemic. This reinforces the need for renewable sources of energy, such as that from the District Heat Network, that can replace fossil fuels, such as gas, that are currently used to power civic estate buildings.

Notably, the council's Scope 2 emissions have halved. Scope 2 emissions include electricity used by the civic estate, non-mainstream schools and street lighting. Since 2018-19, work has been undertaken to upgrade street lighting across the borough to more energy efficient LED lighting which has reduced the amount of energy used by 40%. This has resulted in a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from streetlighting of 38%. This decrease in Scope 2 emissions can also be partly attributed to the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Fleet vehicles are maintained by TLC and emissions from these vehicles are therefore categorised in the council's Scope 3 emissions. These have fluctuated year on year but have generally remained unchanged since 2018-19. They currently represent 14% of the council's total GHG emissions which highlights the need for decarbonisation of the fleet and investment into electric vehicle infrastructure to support this shift away from petrol and diesel-powered vehicles.

The rest of the council's Scope 3 emissions (in the above table under 'council buildings' and 'other') have decreased since 2018-19. Emissions from council buildings, buildings under ownership of TLC, Stockport Homes and Life Leisure, and maintained and voluntary controlled schools, have decreased by nearly 30%, whilst emissions from water use from all council buildings, voluntary aided schools and academies, and emissions associated with electricity transmission, decreased by 42%. Similarly to the council's Scope 2 emissions, these significant decreases in GHG emissions is likely partially due to the decarbonisation of the national grid, but also could indicate that energy efficiency measures that are being installed across buildings, such as schools upgrading to LED lighting, are proving beneficial.

5.1.3. Next steps

In future, we will seek further data sources as indicated in the above table by working closely with key stakeholders. We have already started working with STaR Procurement and the council's Spend Hub team in order to develop the process of quantifying and reducing our supply chain emissions, which we expect will make up a significant amount of our scope 3 emissions. We have appointed a new role in the CAN team whose focus will be on GHG reporting and supporting the supply chain work, and we have aligned closely with the council's estates decarbonisation lead and the Business Intelligence team in order to best collect and refine the data used in reporting.

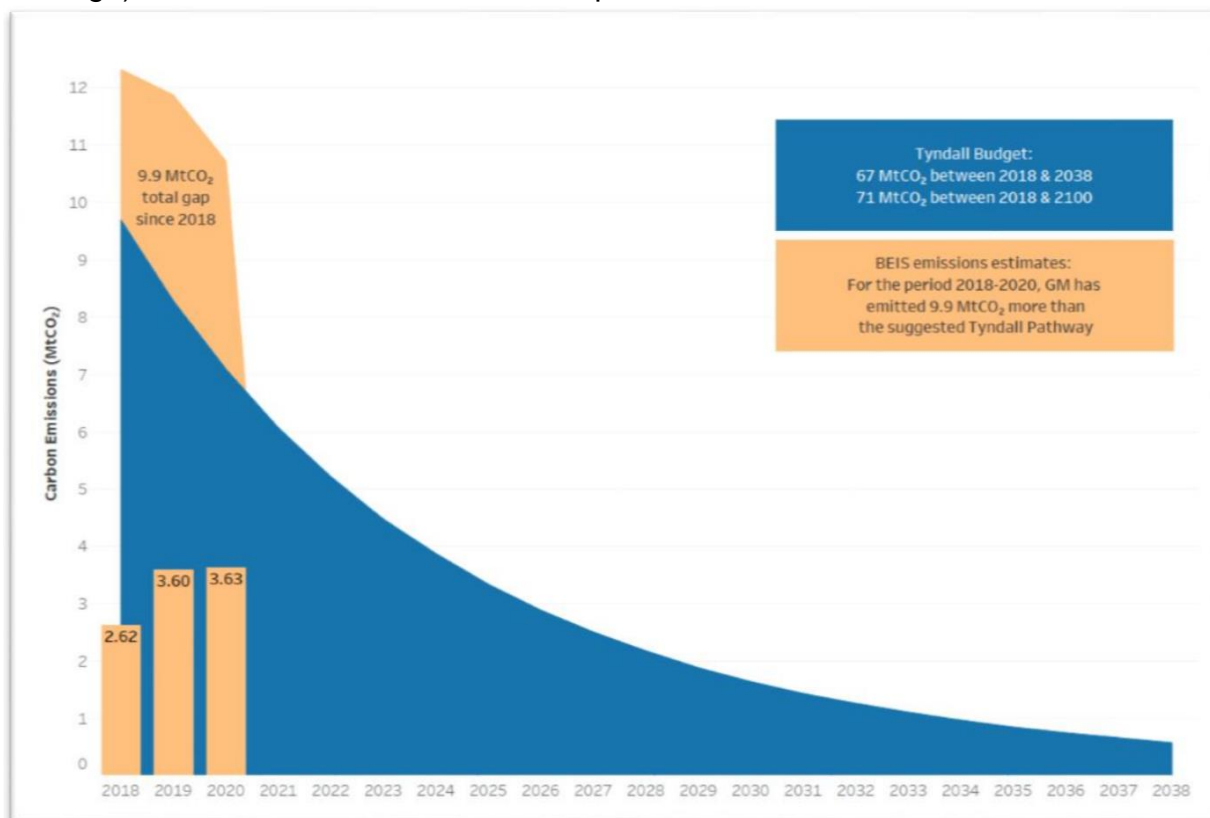
We will also strive to improve the data collection and analysis processes we currently follow to ensure our data is as accurate as possible. In line with financial reporting, we aim for this work to be audited both internally and externally, which will provide feedback on the direction in which this work is heading to ensure we are making the best available use of council resource.

Stockport Council will work with the Green City Region board to establish best practice amongst the 10 GM local authorities and other public sector organisations on GHG boundary setting, data gathering and reporting. Within this group, there will be an

ongoing discussion regarding the continual improvement of data collection for scopes 1, 2 and 3.

5.2. Progress of Greater Manchester region's 2038 carbon neutrality target

This diagram illustrates Greater Manchester's science-based carbon reduction pathway (target reduction pathway in blue) and shows actual emissions to date (in orange). Please note, data is available up to 2020.



5.3. Key Terms

5.3.1. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) - the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases (also known as GHGs) are gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat and cause global warming. These include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated carbons. Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent GHG in the atmosphere which is why the term 'carbon' is often used to describe GHG emissions. However, there are other GHGs such as methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated carbons which have significantly greater warming properties than carbon dioxide.

5.3.2. Net Zero – a net zero position is achieved when the human-caused greenhouse gases of an organisation are reduced as far as possible but then balanced by human-led activities which remove GHG emissions from the atmosphere. The total amount of GHGs emitted must equal zero, hence the term 'net zero' GHG emissions. Often a target time is set for achieving a 'net zero' position and these targets are often based upon a specific GHG or 'carbon budget'. In this instance the target is referred to as a

'Science-Based Target' (SBT). Please also see ISO net zero guidelines for a more detailed definition.

- 5.3.3. Science-Based Target** - targets are considered 'science-based' if they are in line with what the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement which is 'limiting global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C'.
- 5.3.4. Carbon Neutral** - achieving a balance between the carbon dioxide emitted into the **atmosphere** and the carbon dioxide offset or removed from it. See [The difference between carbon neutral and net zero | National Grid Group](#)
- 5.3.5. Net zero 2030** – the net zero 2030 target focuses on the council's own operational GHG emissions, which make up around 2-5% of the borough's total emissions. We have committed to reduce these to net zero by 2030
- 5.3.6. Carbon neutral 2038** – the carbon neutral 2038 target focuses on all emissions in Stockport, including those from homes, businesses, transport, and industry.

5.4. Case Studies for Website Publication of CAN Report

5.4.1. Council CAN case studies: Carbon Literacy

Nicole: Nicole works in Corporate and Support Services and completed Carbon Literacy training in the summer of 2022. "I thought the training session was fantastic, I had some understanding about climate change but this really opened my eyes to the full extent of the issues we need to deal with. I enjoyed it that much that I keep telling my family about the course and making sure they are doing everything right! I think it was great though that the training shows us that there is so many ways as individuals and as a group we can help with climate change and it's made me look at it in a positive way."

In the year since she took the course, Nicole decided to make some lifestyle changes in order to reduce her own carbon footprint. She now walks all short distances where she once used to drive, and she has adopted a more low-carbon diet by reducing the amount of meat she eats. "The training has definitely made me question anything I buy, whether that's food or other products, and I always try to educate people on climate change when I can!"

Michael: Michael works in the Planning Service and did Carbon Literacy training in the spring of 2023. "Whilst sustainability and minimising the effects of climate change are key issues I encounter in my job, I never felt like I knew enough about it as I didn't have all the facts. The training has given me more confidence in this area and has inspired me to think about ways in which I can help. I know that my actions can not only make a difference, but it can also inspire others - including my 7-year old son - which is important to me".

After the course, Michael wanted to reduce his own carbon footprint and increase fitness. Michael lives about 3 miles from work and he has ordered a bicycle through the staff salary sacrifice purchase scheme. He is looking forward to a long-term goal

of cycling to work instead of getting the bus or driving, thus reducing carbon emissions from commuting.

5.4.2. Low Carbon Buildings case study: St John's Primary School

Andy is the deputy headteacher at St John's Primary School in Heaton Mersey. He applied for the Stockport CAN Fund on behalf of the school to install solar panels to power an outdoor classroom on school grounds.

"We applied for a grant of £2,500 to cover the purchase and installation of an Off Grid Solar Power solution. The money provided to us via the grant has allowed us to purchase the Off-Grid Solar Power Station and all the cabling, LED lighting, sockets and switches to supplement the kit and the wood to box in the set up to keep us all safe. Installing the kit has enabled us to have permanent access to lighting in the outdoor shelter for after-school and community events and power for PA systems, music, hot drinks amongst many other things. The CAN Fund allowed us to achieve our aims and support us in moving the school to considering greener options for the future. From the moment we began installing the panels, it generated huge interest from the children who would ask questions about what elements of the kit would do. We have been so impressed by the possibility of solar power that we are considering its deployment elsewhere on the school site. Some parents have also talked to us about the set up as they are now considering it as a viable option at home."



5.4.3. Renewable Energy case study: Disability Stockport & Age UK Stockport energy efficiency measures

Through the Stockport CAN Fund, Disability Stockport were able to help 286 households to reduce their energy usage. Speaking about the work Sara from Disability Stockport said "from my point of view the impact of the funding was immeasurable. You cannot underestimate the impact of the goods people received. Not only did they help keep themselves warm and reduce carbon emissions,

but it was the impact on their mental health and well-being. The smiles, the positivity, and the boost this grant provided was incredible.”

Age UK Stockport also received support through the Stockport CAN Fund to extend their Wellbeing in the Community Service to be able to offer energy saving devices and advice to help residents to keep their homes warm, keep their bills down and simultaneously cut carbon emissions.

One resident who accessed the support contacted Age UK Stockport saying “my bills have tripled so I have one storage heater on to keep warm. Please can someone help me. My PIP disability money can’t stretch any further. Plus it’s so cold with only one heater on.”

Robert, the Handy Help worker, visited her home and was able to advise on the best way to keep areas of the house in use suitably warm. He also fitted a number of draught excluders to internal doors. General advice on keeping well and warm was provided along with manual socket timers for storage heaters, nightlights and energy saving light bulbs. With the new equipment installed the resident can keep warm in her home without excessive use of energy; and has gone on to refer a friend into the service.

5.4.4. Sustainable Transport case study: Hazel Grove High School

Hazel Grove High School signed up to the Turn It Off campaign in order to reduce air pollution at drop-off and pick-up times and encourage active travel and use of public transport for pupils. In January 2023, the school helped to relaunch the campaign. The school’s Climate Council were the driving force behind getting involved and have since helped to cascade the important message to their peers via class assemblies and newsletters.

5.4.5. Natural Environment case study: Chatty Wednesdays

Chatty Wednesdays is community group for local residents to meet up weekly at All Saints Church Hall in Heaton Norris. The group provides a warm environment within walking distance for people that may be lonely, have experienced loss and those with mental health issues. Josh applied to the CAN Fund to kickstart an allotment to allow the group to grow fresh fruit and vegetables for the whole community.

Josh said: “The allotment has grown from strength to strength with the money we have received from the CAN Fund – some of the money was put towards new fruit trees and bushes to share with the wider community. The allotment is maintained by a group of adult volunteers drawn from 'Chatty Wednesdays' encompassing all walks of life: those who are isolated, those who wish to make new friends, or those who wish to reach out to those in need. The allotment is also now used by kids of our Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade from the local area to teach the next generation the joys of gardening and getting mucky outdoors! Since receiving this fund, a group of around 30 people meet on Wednesday afternoons to potter in the garden together and then have a natter around a brew and a butty.”



5.4.6. Climate Friendly Borough case study: Cracking Good Food

Cracking Good Food applied to the CAN Fund for a grant to support their Kitchen Kit Call Out campaign. The funding supported three events that sourced donations of pre-loved, under-used kitchen equipment, thereby saving it from landfill and redistributing it to individuals, communities and VCFSE organisations throughout many of Stockport's side-lined communities. Not only does this help to break down the barriers people face when accessing and cooking food, it also saves the equipment from ending up in landfill. Tracey from Cracking Good Food said: "The event was a resounding success resulting in us reaching our 5 tonne collective redistribution target for our 3 events." Cracking Good Food aims for the project to not only alleviate poverty, reduce CO2 emissions and waste in landfill and empower cooking, but bring people and organisations together to strengthening social, community and organizational networks.

Billie, from Contact hostel for female care leavers, attended a Kitchen Kit Call Out event in December 2022. She said: "The Cracking Good Food kitchenware event was amazing. It is an ingenious idea giving further life to unused utensils and kitchen items, giving these items to those who will use and cherish them. The event helped Contact immensely. When one of our young women moves on to more independent accommodation, we ensure they have everything they need to succeed, setting them up much like a parent would – a big part of this is ensuring they have the means to cook for themselves. The kitchenware we collected ensured one young woman, who

moved on it December, had a toaster, kettle, microwave, bowls and plates. They were thrilled with these items and we know they will be used for years to come!”

This project will result in over 60 tonnes of embodied carbon being prevented from going to landfill.



A CRACKING BIG THANK YOU
for supporting our 'Kitchen Kit Call Out' redistribution event!

 5075kg of equipment diverted from landfill
 90 hours of volunteer time contributed
 Free kit distributed to 31 community organisations