

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2022

Report Title	2030 ANNUAL REPORT (2021-2022)			
Purpose of Report	To present the 21-22 Annual Report on the 2030 Strategy and Master Plan for endorsement.			
Decision(s)	Council RESOLVES to endorse the Environment Committee decision to approve the 2021-2022 Annual Report for the 2030 Strategy and Master Plan.			
Consultation and Feedback	The draft report has had the inputs of managers and core delivery staff. As a largely reflective document formal public consultation has not been deemed necessary. Our ongoing community engagement work has informed our understanding about what the interested public want to know.			
Report Author	Rachel Brain, 2030 Strategy Manager Email: rachel.brain@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	This first report of annual progress is focused on one year of action under Phase 1 of the masterplan. It reviews progress on the key priorities and commitments in that document and concludes that these remain relevant for the coming year. This means that we are proposing a sustained approach under the approved strategy and that delivery is as expected.			
Background Papers	Nothing specific for this covering report. The 21-22 Annual Report for 2030 Strategy and Masterplan include its own list of reference documents and links.			
Appendices	Appendix A – 2030 Strategy Annual Report 2021-22, Limiting, Adapting, Recovering and Responding in a Changing Climate			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The formal adoption of the 2030 Strategy and Masterplan in February 2021 followed on from the climate emergency declaration in November 2018 and was set within the context of post-COVID recovery and a heightened awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the role of nature in adaptation and mitigation. The 2021-2022 Annual Report reflects on the progress across the 7 key priorities that were identified and takes a forward look to how action will continue to progress over 2022-2023.

It is intended as a public-facing report and will be disseminated via our website and communications activity.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The report suggests that there is a significant amount of progress on all priorities. This has added conviction when the externally assessed achievements of the Green Flag Award, Climate Disclosure Project grades, Climate Scorecards results and MJ Award Finalist nomination are taken into account. It is further substantiated when all the success there has been in generating project pipeline and securing of funds is also considered.
- 2.2 Whilst the report contains more in-depth lists of activity, the following presents a highlight for each theme as a flavour of the content:

Key Priority	Sample Highlight
The Retrofit Challenge	> £14.9m secured towards countywide retrofit measures which will support our vulnerable communities and tenants.
Mainstream Renewables	Circa 100tCO ₂ e to be saved each year through our Water Source Heat Pump installs
Nature knows no boundaries	> 5,000 trees planted in our community woodland project at Salmon Springs
Increase Travel Options	Salary Sacrifice scheme enabling staff to consider an EV as their personal vehicle now live
Detail the Economic Vision	An economic development strategy is drafted which prioritises the green economy
Communicate the waste hierarchy	This is embedded to 2030 communications approach and delivered through partnership with GCC with a special campaign currently focused on reuse repair but with other waste themes also planned.
District Dialogue	External review from Climate Scorecards gave our approach top marks for 'community engagement and communications'

- 2.3 In consideration of the masterplan commitments and Phase 1 timescale to end of 2023 it is considered that the identified priorities remain relevant and that forward look shows a healthy foundation for progressing them further over the next reporting period.
- 2.4 Own estates carbon accounting figures are of limited value this year given the change in the way our offices and services were used through the pandemic and the major installation work for water source heat pumps (WSHP). This meant our heating provision was both interrupted and then utilised in ways that will not reflect normal practice whilst systems were tested and re-set. However, we can be confident that the WSHP will have a positive impact for the future.
- 2.5 A further significant factor in what comprises our data has been the move from contracted out services in Housing (Scope 3) to in-house provision (Scope 1). This increases our emissions, but also our level of control.
- 2.6 This year's data includes some estimations and predictions. This annual report is being delivered earlier in the year to the cycle we have established for carbon accounting, so data has been estimated or predicted where required, but only for a couple of months. Headline figures are below:

% Difference between 2006-now (based on actual data and predicted data where missing)
– 34% overall carbon reduction

% Difference between 20-21 and 21-22 (based on actual data and predicted data where missing) – 11% overall carbon reduction

Reduction in reliance on natural gas 2022 vs 2006 – approximately 265 tCO₂e (includes estimated data)

Based on actual and predicted data where data missing (% difference compared to 20-21):

2021-2022 tCO ₂ e		
Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
307.65	185.71	1076.74
9%	-9%	-15%

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The reporting period 2021-2022 saw council and community dealing with continued pandemic disruption and consequences. In other districts across the nation, this diverted efforts from the climate emergency and slowed progress. There is still an immense challenge for the world to face, but Stroud District Council is making good on its commitment to do all it can to rise to this.
- 3.2 In Stroud District the pandemic effects doubled the focus on community and increased the resolve to look to a better future. This, coupled with the long track record and grounding in sustainability related action has kept the district well placed to achieve highly in its 2030 endeavours. This report, a summary of just one working year offers evidence that progress is being made in all areas and our role as exemplar is placing the council on a good trajectory towards its commitment.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct Financial Implications directly related to this report.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category. Actions and decisions arising from the implementation of the strategy may have legal implications, which will need to be considered at the relevant time.

One Legal

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4.3 Equality Implications

An EIA is not required because there are no recommended actions as a direct result of this report.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category. Actions and decisions arising from the implementation of the strategy may have environmental implications, which will need to be considered at the relevant time.

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