THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – 4 DECEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

NET ZERO 2030 UPDATE

This report provides an update on the Council's progress toward achieving its 2030 Net Zero commitments. It outlines baseline figures, targets, and key achievements across major emission areas, alongside successful projects and impactful carbon reduction initiatives. Highlights include significant successes in energy efficiency upgrades in schools and Council operational buildings, delivery of a wide range of climate change and environmental initiatives with direct benefits for the community as part of the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme and securing external funding, all of which have strengthened our capacity to meet ambitious climate goals.

The report also acknowledges that while notable progress has been made in reducing carbon emissions, achieving the 2030 and 2040 Net Zero targets will require a transformative approach. This includes ambitious and innovative actions and strong partnership and collaboration with residents, community organisations, institutions businesses to drive the level of change needed.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. In October 2019 the Council declared a "Climate emergency" and set two ambitious carbon reduction targets. The first target aims for the Council's own operations and buildings to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. This target includes emissions from Council owned social housing estates, schools and operational buildings, fleet activities, street lighting and contracted, such as waste collection and parks maintenance service. The second target aims for the entire borough to be net zero by 2040 encompassing residential, commercial, and industrial properties, as well as transport and waste management.

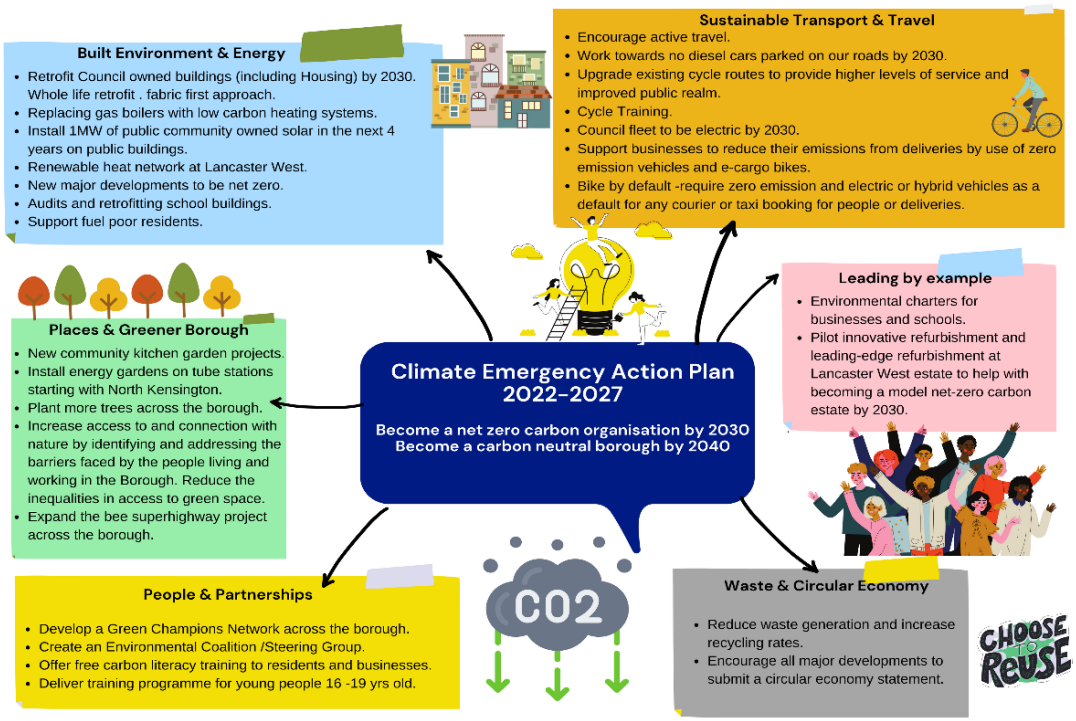
1.2. According to the latest GHG emissions inventory and carbon performance data, in 2022/2023 the Council emitted 36 $ktCO_2e$ through its operations and estates, representing an 11% reduction in emissions since the 2018/2019 baseline year. The biggest contributor – around 90% of Council emissions come from electricity and gas consumption from buildings, with Council housing accounted for 73% of these emissions.

1.3. In 2023, borough-wide emissions saw a 23% reduction compared to the baseline year 2018, with 698 $ktCO_2e$ emitted across Kensington and Chelsea. All the Council's greenhouse gas emissions are included within the borough-wide inventory and represent approximately 1% of total borough-wide emissions.

1.4. The borough GHG inventory covers the calendar year, due to the timing of the release of the data sources used, whereas for the Council inventory we use financial years.

1.5. Following the climate emergency declaration, the Council adopted the 2022-2027 Climate Emergency Action Plan, which sets out its vision, approach, and priority areas for achieving ambitious carbon neutrality targets. The plan encompasses 150 climate actions across six priority areas, all scheduled for implementation within the 2022-2027 period:

- Buildings & Energy
- Sustainable Transport & Travel
- Waste & Circular Economy
- Leading by Example
- People & Partnerships
- Places & Greener Borough



1.6. Initial research from the baseline assessment, along with insights from the commissioned “Carbon Neutral Pathways Report,” suggests that reaching net zero by 2030 could require an estimated £144 million in Council investment. This report details the Council’s approach to this challenge, highlighting activities and progress in decarbonising its operations, buildings, and housing stock. It showcases major initiatives, such as the Retrofit Accelerator for Schools and Operational Buildings, and the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme, which together secured over £13 million in external funding. The report aims to give an update on CEAP projects and the Council’s Net Zero progress.

1.7. The Council has made significant progress in assessing its current position toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and 2040, particularly in

developing its action plan and identifying investment needs. However, the target remains ambitious and will require heightened focus across all services in the coming years to meet the 2030 commitment. Updates on progress, along with key decisions, will be presented to the Leadership Team and the Environment Select Committee through regular monitoring and reporting on the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Carbon Performance Reports.

2 MAIN REPORT

2.1. Brief recap on scope and baselining for the 2030 NET Zero commitment.

2.1.1. To help track progress and carbon performance against these targets, the Council is monitoring and reporting emissions against the baseline 2018/2019 and this report presents the carbon performance for 2022/2023 (the latest data we have available).

2.1.2. After declaring a climate emergency, the Council appointed an independent consortium—Aether, CAG, and SE2—to analyse emissions sources, define the 2030 and 2040 carbon scope, identify the actions required to achieve the net zero carbon targets, and estimate the costs involved. The Carbon Neutral Pathways Report, developed in 2021, provided the evidence-based roadmap for carbon neutrality, both for the Council by 2030 and the borough by 2040. This report laid the foundation for the 2022-2027 Climate Emergency Action Plan and shaped the vision for delivering the climate emergency goals.

2.1.3. Following the 2021 Carbon Neutral Pathways Report, the Council continued working with Aether to update the carbon inventories for both the Council and the borough, covering all years from the baseline 2018/2019 to the most recent data for 2022/2023. This includes emissions across Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3, as outlined in the carbon scope agreed in 2020.

2.1.4. The carbon scope of emissions agreed are presented in Figure 1 below:

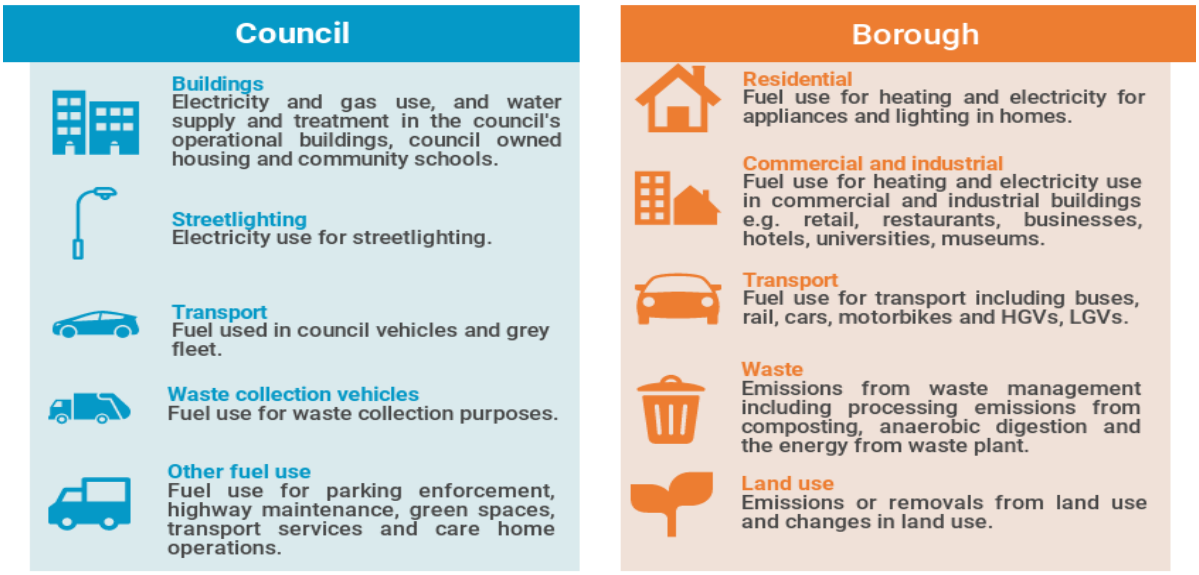


Figure 1: Council and borough-wide carbon scope

2.1.5. Scope 1, 2 and some Scope 3 emissions have been included in the baseline assessment of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

- Scope 1 emissions: The Council - GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Council.
- Scope 2: The Council: GHG emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam or other sources of grid-generated energy. Includes electricity supply to the Council's operational buildings and streetlights.
- Scope 3: The Council - GHG emissions that occur indirectly from Council activities, outside the control of the Council (e.g. the Council's procured services).

2.1.6. Principles for data inclusion and exclusion for the Council / borough inventory:

Reasons for including data within the GHG boundary	**Reasons for excluding data from the GHG boundary**
The emission source occurs within the administrative boundary of the Council / borough	The emission source has no available dataset and estimation methods will not benefit the decision-making
The quantity of activity data for the emission source is controlled by an organisation/individual within the administrative boundary of the Council / borough	The emission source clearly belongs to a different geographical region, and they are better placed to account for it
An organisation/individual within the geographical region has a significant level of control over the emission source even though it occurs outside the administrative boundary of the Council / borough	The emission source makes up a very small proportion of overall emissions and it is very time consuming/resource intensive or difficult to collect activity data

2.2. **The Council's ongoing in-house carbon performance measured against the baseline year.**

2.2.1. According to the latest data we have available, in 2022/2023 the Council emitted 36 ktCO2e through our operational activities and Council owned assets & buildings. This represents an 11% overall reduction in emissions since the initial 2018/2019 baseline year. As with previous years, the 2023 data was collected from a mix of internal sources and from data published every year by Government. The figures below outline the draft findings and associated carbon savings by high level sector since the 18/19 baseline.

2.2.2. The baseline year 2018/2019 was chosen as it provides the most comprehensive and reliable data set available for measuring emissions and tracking progress toward the Council's 2030 net zero carbon targets, following the Council's climate emergency declaration in October 2019.

2.2.3. The latest GHG inventories are calculated for the Council and the borough, from data collected in-house and by government bodies (e.g. BEIS). Due to the time lag of data source availability, the latest data for local authorities has a back log of two years for the borough and covers the calendar year. For the Council inventory, we use financial years (e.g. 2018/19 and/or 2022/2023.

2.2.4. Emissions for the Council activities are presented in Table 1 below.

	Emissions / kt CO2e				
	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Council buildings	10.0	11.0	9.3	8.8	8.3
Council housing	28.1	25.0	21.9	28.4	26.3
Streetlighting	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9
Transport	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Waste	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	**40.7**	**37.6**	**32.8**	**38.7**	**36.0**
Percentage changed compared to 2018/2019		**-7%**	**-19%**	**-5%**	**-11%**

Table 1 Council emissions

2.2.5. Figure 3 illustrates the emissions from the Council's operations, excluding those related to Council-owned housing stock, highlighting a reduction over the period 2018/19 to 2022/23. The data reveals that Council buildings are the primary contributors to these emissions, with further details provided in Figure 4. A key decarbonisation initiative which aims to directly address these emissions and improve the energy eficiency of schools and operational buildings is the Retrofit Accelerator Programme. In Phase 1, this programme consisting in replacing old inefficient gas boilers with low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, new radiators and pipework is projected to deliver annual CO_2 savings of 481.80 tonnes and lifetime CO_2e savings of 9,631 tonnes across all eight participating buildings (six local

schools and two Council operational buildings included in the 2030 carbon scope).

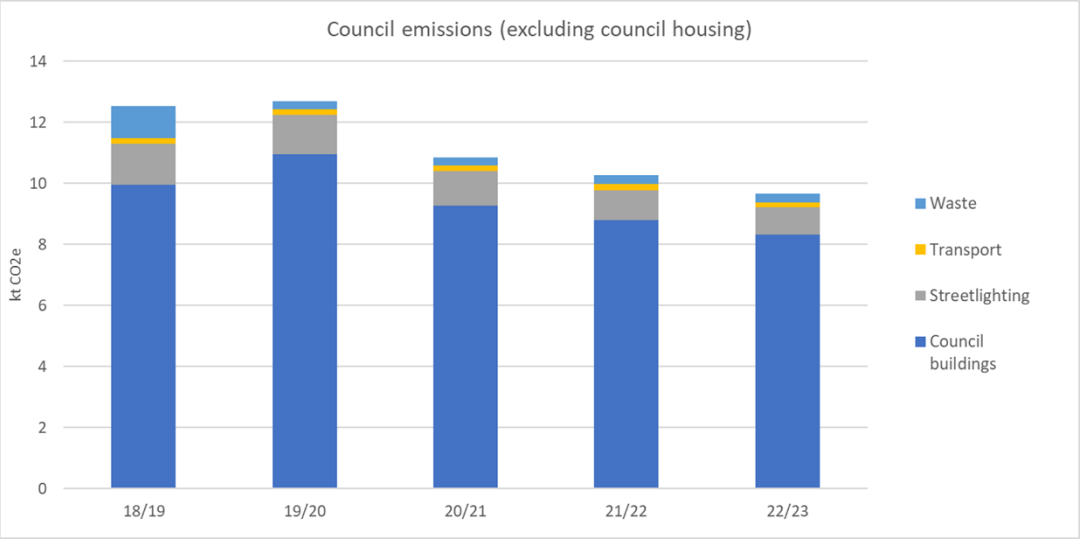


Figure 1 Emissions for RBKC Council, excluding emissions for Council owned housing

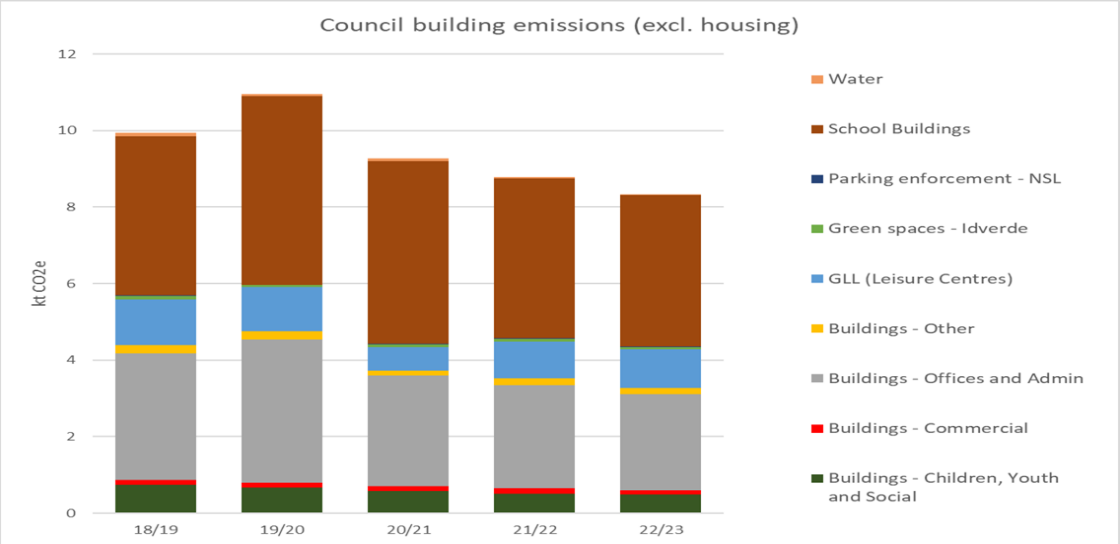


Figure 2 Emissions from Council buildings, excluding emissions from Council owned housing

2.2.6. Figure 5 highlights emissions from Council-owned housing estates, which represent significant proportion of the Council's total emissions, accounting for 73% in 2022/23.

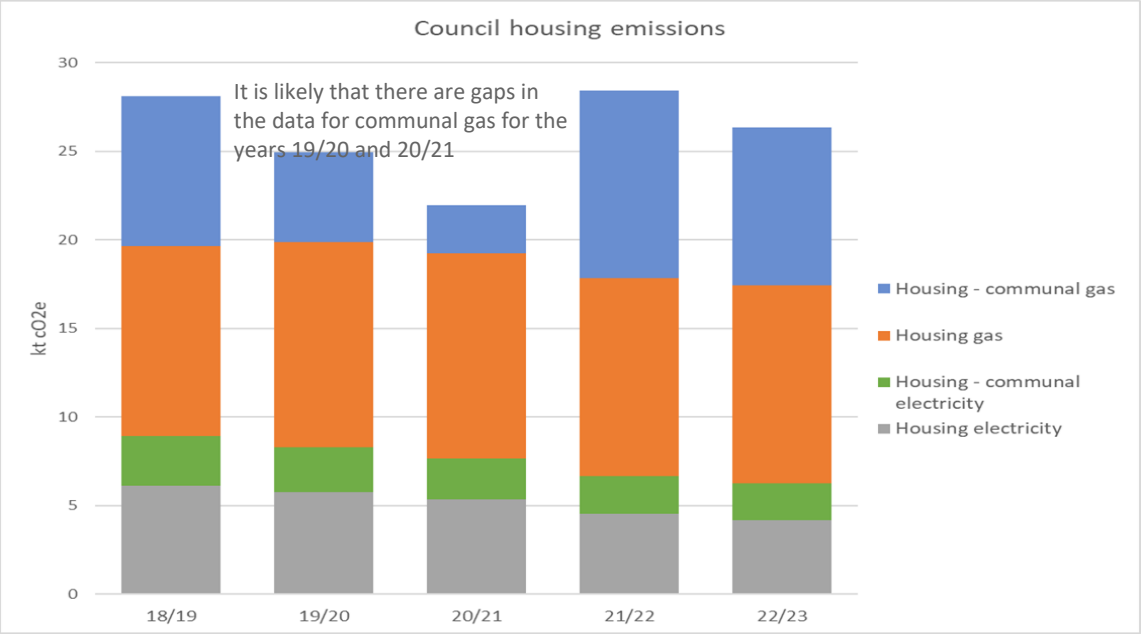


Figure 3 Emissions from Council owned social housing stock

2.2.7.

Figure 4 shows total emissions for the Council. Estimates of Council housing emissions have varied significantly over the timeframe, but it is likely that this is related to data completeness and gaps, as well as demand changes. Electricity emissions have decreased, primarily driven by improvements in the national grid's electricity emissions factor. Additionally, new data on

communal areas has been included, which previously was not accounted for.

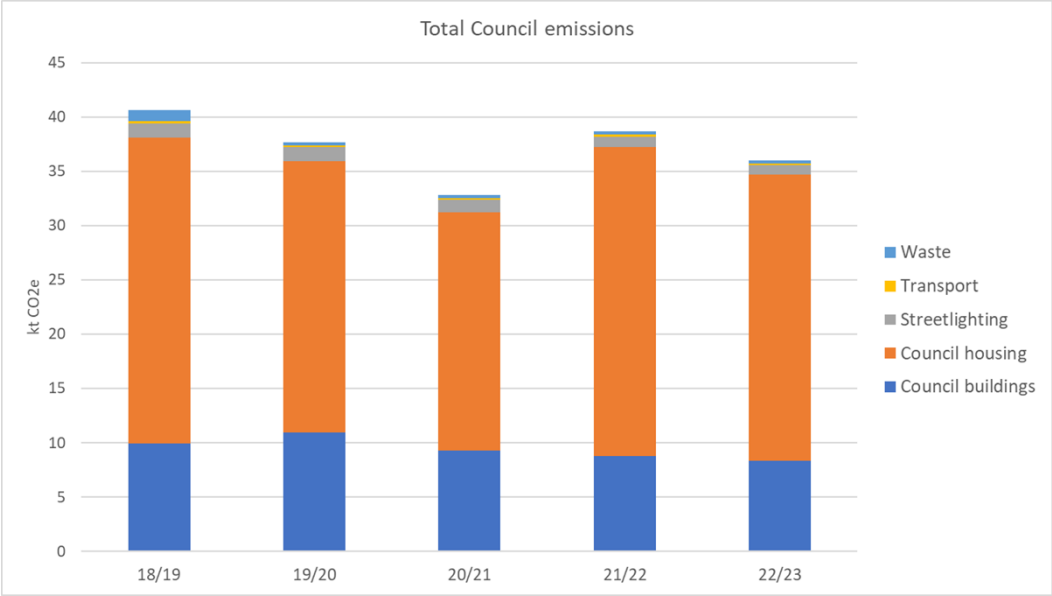


Figure 4 Total emissions for RBKC Council activities

2.3. Progress on decarbonisation activities in key areas during 2024

The Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out a comprehensive framework of 150 targeted actions to achieve these 2030 and 2040 ambitious net zero carbon goals. These actions span key areas, including energy efficiency of buildings, sustainable transport, renewable energy adoption, climate adaptation and greening, and waste reduction to name a few. Significant achievements include notable carbon savings through deep retrofitting of Council buildings and schools, electrification of the fleet, and the expansion of LED streetlighting. To ensure transparency and track progress, a Carbon Performance Report is published annually, providing detailed insights into achievements and areas for improvement. Below is a high-level summary of some of these key achievements.

2.3.1. Retrofitting of our Schools and Operational Buildings – Retrofit Accelerator Programme.

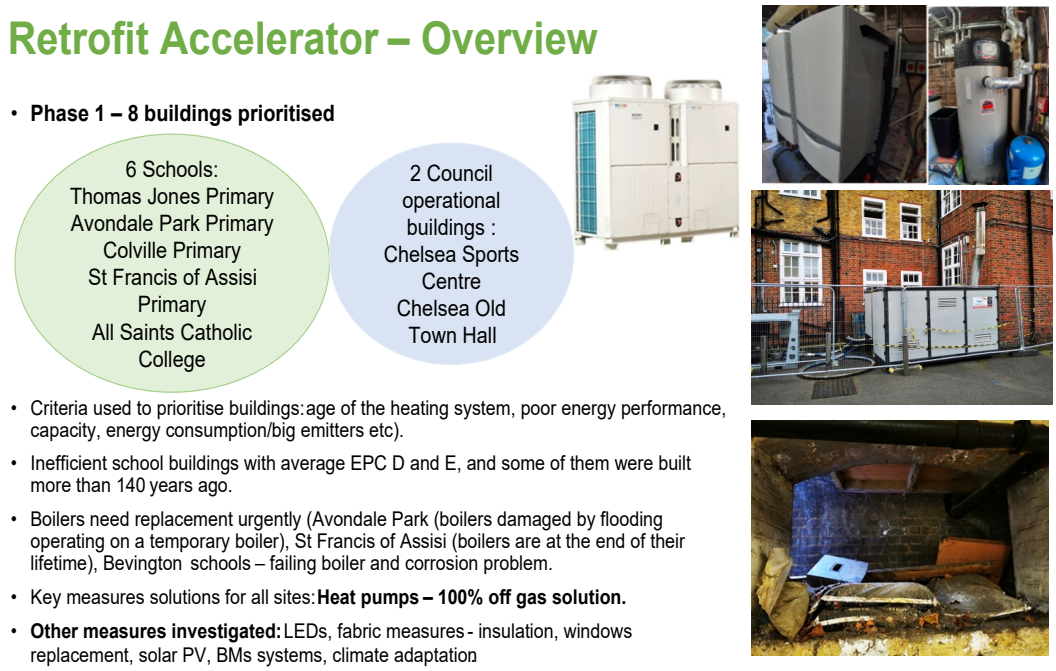
The past year has seen significant progress towards the decarbonisation of local schools and Council main operational buildings. In December 2021, the Council signed up to the Mayor of London's Retrofit Accelerator Framework for Workplaces, aimed at improving energy efficiency in non-domestic public buildings across London.

2.3.2. The Retrofit Accelerator Programme aligns with the Council's 2023-2027 Plan to become the best Council for a greener, safer, and fairer borough. The Council Plan states: "*Making our own buildings greener and supporting others to do so is at the forefront of our approach. We have invested £8 million into our schools to make them more energy efficient.*" It

is also one of the key priority actions included in the Council's 2022-2027 Climate Emergency Action Plan. A total of 32 schools and 16 operational buildings have been included in the Retrofit Accelerator Programme, with the key focus being the Council assets. It is considered one of the Council's highest-priority decarbonisation programmes.

2.3.3. Schools and operational buildings account for around 28% of the Council's carbon emissions, making them a key priority in the climate emergency response. To address this, the focus is on improving energy efficiency through a deep retrofit, fabric-first approach, decarbonising heat systems by replacing gas boilers with low-carbon alternatives and maximizing on-site renewable energy. These actions will help tackle both climate change and air pollution while addressing the ongoing energy crisis. Many school buildings are highly inefficient, with average EPC ratings of D and E, and some are over 140 years old. Urgent action is needed to replace outdated boilers, windows, and insulation to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

2.3.4. The Retrofit Accelerator Programme is a multi-phased, cross-partnership initiative collaboratively overseen by three RBKC departments: Cleaner, Greener and Cultural Services/Climate Change Team, Children's Services, and Social Investment and Property. This coordinated approach ensures that expertise and resources are aligned to deliver significant energy efficiency improvements and carbon reductions across Council-operated schools and buildings.



2.3.5. As part of Phase 1, eight buildings have been included and have had their boilers replaced with heat pumps - out of which: six schools (All Saints, Avondale Park, Bevington, St Francis of Assisi, Thomas Jones and Colville Primary) and two Council operational buildings – Chelsea Old Town Hall

and Chelsea Leisure Centre. These buildings have been prioritised due to the urgency of works required, as their heating systems were reaching their end of life and/or in some cases operating on temporary boilers due to flooding and/or corrosion problems with their pipes. The old inefficient gas boilers have been replaced with new low carbon heating systems at all these sites (with new pipework and radiators on some sites) and the works are in the final stages of completion, commissioning and handover.

2.3.6. The cost for Phase 1 Retrofit Accelerator Programme is £11,444,533, excluding additional costs such as asbestos remedial, UKPN electrical upgrades, acoustic fencing etc. The Council has allocated £8 million through the Capital Programme, with additional external funding secured, including £3.6 million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund 3B (PSDS3b) and £570k from the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme.

Retrofit Accelerator costs

Building/school name	Measures	Costs without provisional sums	Tonnes C02 savings versus baseline	Savings over project lifetime tCO2e
All Saints Catholic College	North Block: 2 x 86 kW York Amichi water to air heat pumps and 2 x 111kW South Block: 2 x 75 kW York Amichi water to air heat pumps and 2 x 97 kW Thermocold water to water heat pumps. Thermocold water to water heat pumps.	1,491,093.00	71.60	1431.00
Avondale Park Primary School	x6 Co2 air to water heat pumps and new pipework A Block: 4 x 75 kW Clade Acer Co2 Heat pumps. B Block: 2 x 75 kW Clade Acer Co2 Heat pumps.	2,003,522.00	78.90	1577.00
Bevington Primary School	2 x 125 kW Carrier Co2 air to water Heat pumps + repairing and replacement pipework and radiators.	1,731,496.00	53.80	1076.00
Colville Primary School	2 x 75 kW Clade Acer Co2 Heat pumps	1,110,016.00	57.40	1147.00
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	2 x 75 kW Clade Acer Co2 Heat pumps	540,899.00	26.20	523.00
Thomas Jones Primary School	North Block: 2 x 86 kW York Amichi water to air heat pumps and 2 x 111kW Thermocold water to water heat pumps. South Block: 2 x 75 kW York Amichi water to air heat pumps and 2 x 97 kW Thermocold water to water heat pumps.	702,915.00	21.50	429.00
Chelsea Old Town Hall & Cheslea Sports Centre	x5 Co2 heat pumps in an air source simultaneous cooling and heating heat recovery cascade heat pump system. • 1 x 300 kW Co2 heat pump system (Carrier) • 1 x 350 kW Co2 heat pump system (Carrier) • 3 x circa 220 kW water to water heat pumps (Mitsubishi Electric or equal and approved)	3,864,592.00	172.40	3448.00
Total		11,444,533.00	481.80	9,631

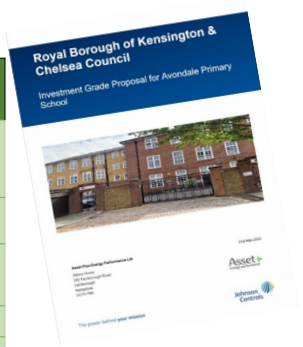
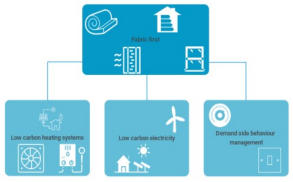


Figure 20: Strategy for decarbonising buildings



2.3.7. **Carbon savings:** Phase 1 of the Retrofit Accelerator Programme targets eight buildings, delivering annual carbon savings of 481.80 tonnes of CO2 against the baseline. Over the lifetime of the project, this phase is expected to achieve a total reduction of 9,631 tonnes of CO2e, representing a significant step toward the Council's net zero goals. Additionally, energy efficiency measures will be installed such as window replacements at Avondale Park and Colville Primary Schools, LED installations, and climate adaptation and SUDs measures. These adaptations are critical for mitigating flood risks, as schools like Avondale Park Primary , Thomas Jones Primary, and Colville Primary have faced severe impacts from flooding incidents, including during the summer of 2021.

More information about the Retrofit Accelerator Programme can be found here https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/work-underway-make-borough-schools-greener

https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/colville-primary-school-gets-green-upgrade.

2.3.8. The Council is **buying 100% renewable electricity** under the CCS framework with EDF - Council operational buildings (offices, parks, toilets, street lighting), schools and Council housing.

2.3.9. The **internal Green Champions network** has been relaunched to drive sustainability initiatives across the Council. Through this network, energy awareness campaigns will be delivered to encourage environmentally responsible practices among staff. Additionally, the **Greening the Office** programme is actively working to reduce the Council's in-house carbon emissions and phase out the use of single-use plastics, reinforcing the commitment to sustainable operations.

2.3.10. **North Kensington Community Energy** (NKCE) is the first community-owned renewable project in Kensington and Chelsea, bringing social, financial, and environmental benefits to the surrounding community. Developed by Repowering London, in partnership with Kensington and Chelsea Council, NKCE is helping drive behaviour change and empowering local people to take positive climate action. So far, NKCE have installed 224kWp of solar panels across community assets in the borough such as schools and community and leisure centres, enough to power 44 London homes. The solar panels have saved 114 tonnes of CO2 to date and the sale of electricity generated will raise a £70,000 community fund, used to support local causes in the borough.

NKCE was born in 2018 following community engagement carried out by the Council to assess likely demand. The entire project has been co-produced in collaboration with the community and is led by it, using Repowering London's proven model. To bring people on board, activities including public meetings, leaflet distribution, mentoring sessions, solar panel making workshops, Greener Living Days and energy advice sessions

were organised. A co-operative structure (Community Benefit Society) was established to administer the project, and local volunteers recruited to take key leadership roles; the Council helped identified buildings. NKCE has received two awards – Community Renewable Energy Project Award 2019 and Climate Coalition's Inspirational Community Project Award in 2020. NKCE is supported by the Mayor of London's London Community Energy Fund.

To raise the funds, NKCE issued community share offers, which allow residents to buy shares and become a member of the society. Over its lifetime, NKCE is generating ethical returns to investors who will get their capital back along with an average 3% annual return. Everyone has an equal say and vote in the society and those who cannot afford to invest can become members for £1. In Phase 1, 144 individuals invested £83,000 within the six months, which enabled NKCE to install 306 solar PV (87kWp) on three buildings owned by the Council – two primary schools and a community centre. For Phase 2, NKCE installed 500 solar panels (138kWp) on Westway Sports Centre roof. Through a second community share offer that closed in January 2021, NKCE raised £107,000 attracting more than 100 investors.

NKCE earns an income from a previous government subsidy (Feed In Tariff), from the sale of electricity and export to the grid. Building users benefit from reduced energy bills as NKCE sells clean electricity generated on site at a discounted rate. NKCE is also giving people in the borough the tools they need to take part in the fast-growing green economy: more than 40 young people have participated in a paid AQA-accredited Youth Training Programme, getting practical job skills and qualifications. Solar panel making workshops are also carried out.

A Voyage to Repower Programme delivered by Repowering London in partnership with NKCE is currently underway. This is an education to work

programme aimed at young people aged 18 - 24 yr olds and getting them into green jobs.

NKCE employs a Community Champion funded by the Council and Repowering London who has been instrumental in supporting the volunteer group to grow and engaging the community at the local level. NKCE has held three Greener Living Days supporting and building the climate movement in the borough, and to date have distributed £25k in Community Fund grants, with a further £15K allocated for distribution in 2024.

According to NKCE's annual report presented at the AGM for 2023, NKCE's installations generated 174,565 kWh of renewable energy in 2023.

A

2. Generating renewable energy

During 2023 NKCE generated 174,565 kWh across all its solar PV installations.

Table 1: NKCE Generation 2023

	Year of install	Capacity (kWp)	Generation (kWh)	Yield (kWh/ kWp)	London homes equivalent**	CO2e Emissions Avoided (tonnes)*
Avondale Park Primary School	2019	13.86	11764	849	4.4	2.4
Thomas Jones Primary School	2019	30	23558	785	8.7	4.9
Dalgarno Community Centre	2019	43	37077	862	13.7	7.7
Westway Sports Centre	2020	138	102165	740	37.8	21.2
Total		**224.86**	**174,565**		**64.7**	**36.1**

Parameter	Value	Unit	Source	Date Accessed
**Average London Home Electricity Consumption (kWh)	2700	kWh	www.ofgem.gov.uk/average-gas-and-electricity-usage	04/06/2024
*Carbon	0.207074	kg CO2e/kWh	www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2023	04/06/2024

case study on NKCE can be found here https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/London%20Borough%20Green%20Finance%20Guide%2C%20JL%20September%202024.pdf

Phase 1 of the NKCE project has seen the creation of a borough-wide community benefit society with the aim to slash carbon emissions and create a resilient, empowered community. The society's 144 members at that time raised the £83,000 needed for the project and helped to install 306 solar photovoltaic panels on three Council owned buildings - Avondale Park

Primary School, Thomas Jones Primary School and the Dalgarno Community Centre, in North Kensington.

Dalgarno Community Centre - installed 158 solar panels on the roof of the Dalgarno Community Centre, producing 42.84kWp – 52% of the building's annual electricity needs – and saving 20.6 tonnes of CO2 a year, or 412 tonnes over the lifetime of the project.

Thomas Jones Primary School - installed 88 solar panels on the roof of the school which represents the electric capacity of 29.97kWp, –35% of their annual electricity needs – saving 11.2 tonnes of CO2 per year, or 225.2 tonnes of CO2 across the lifetime of the project.

Avondale Park Primary School - installed 60 solar panels the roof of Avondale Primary School which represents an electric capacity of 13.86kWp – 11% of their annual electricity needs – saving 7.6 tonnes of CO2 per year, or 149 tonnes of CO2 across the lifetime of the project.

For Phase 2, NKCE installed 500 solar panels (138kWp) on Westway Sports Centre roof which is not owned by the Council.

NKCE is planning to install new community owned energy projects on schools, Council owned buildings and social housing such as St Quintins Centre and Silchester Estate. New solar feasibility studieswill be carried out to assess the solar potential of several Council owned buildings, using funds such as London Community Energy Fund and DESNEZ.

2.3.11. **Kensington Town Hall** – Council main office has solar panels and these produced about 44MWh in 2023. There is a 49.92kWp solar PV system on the main flat roof at Kensington Town Hall offices, which was installed in 2011. The system was generating an average of of 43,291 kWh per year.

2.3.12. **Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme**- Notting Dale is one of only 2 neighbourhoods in London selected as part of the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhoods (FN) 2030 programme to deliver a range of environmental pioneering projects, alongside the development of a community-led environmental strategy. The aim is to transform Notting Dale into an exemplary eco-neighbourhood that is greener, fairer, and more climate-resilient for all by 2030. Working with residents, local community organisations, residents' associations, and a wide range of partners, the Council is collaborating to deliver over 50 environmental initiatives across

three phases. These projects will benefit the Notting Dale community by improving air quality, creating more energy-efficient homes, reducing carbon emissions, enhancing access to nature, addressing barriers to active travel, increasing green spaces, and generating new green jobs for residents. They will also have co-benefits such as tackling social and health inequalities and alleviating the cost-of-living crisis.
For more info on the programme:
https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/notting-dale-future-neighbourhood-2030 and Story map with all projects:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/807cd8fa79934f67a14cda4d18b4454c

Programme Themes:

1. Fabric First: Notting Dale Goes Net Zero
2. Powering Up for the People: Generating Clean, Green and Local Energy
3. Creating a cleaner and healthier Notting Dale
4. Building a Notting Dale Nature Recovery Network
5. Delivering new Green Jobs and Skills in a Circular Economy

FN2030 Community engagement

Co-designing the projects and community-led environmental strategy with residents is central to the programme. A range of methods were used to gather input:

- **2 Survey:** Over 300 residents, workers, young people, and volunteers participated, shaping a ward-wide environmental strategy and action plan, and aligning funding priorities with community needs.
- **Community Roadshows:** Four roadshows across Notting Dale engaged over 200 residents, with more than 400 residents engaged.
- **Stakeholder Workshop:** This event brought together 35+ Council officers, representatives from local community organisations and voluntary sector, residents' associations, and councillors collaborated to explore opportunities and challenges in creating a greener, fairer eco-neighbourhood.
- **FN Community Steering Group:** made up of representatives of the different housing estates & residents.
- Other consultation and 121 meetings.

Co-Designing and Engagement

How we developed our Future Neighbourhood?

We will **listen** to all community groups on what improvements they want to see now and, in the future, **tackling inequality and cost of living crisis.**

Our future neighbourhood will be designed and developed **sensitively** and **collaboratively** with residents and key stakeholders.

There will be **transparent** decision-making and **feedback** provided at each step.

FN2030 Projects and funding

£3.6 million has been secured from the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhoods funding, with an additional £9.4 million contributed by the Council for approved projects and initiatives.

Notting Dale Future Neighbourhoods 2030: Overview

Programme:
Notting Dale is one of only 2 neighbourhoods in London selected as part of the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhoods (FN) 2030 programme to deliver a range of environmental pioneering projects, alongside the development of a community-led environmental strategy.

Aim
Transform Notting Dale into an exemplar model of an eco-neighbourhood that is greener, fairer, and more climate resilient by 2030.

Programme Themes:
1. Fabric First: Notting Dale Goes Net Zero
2. Powering Up for the People: Generating Clean, Green and Local Energy
3. Creating a cleaner and healthier Notting Dale
4. Building a Notting Dale Nature Recovery Network
5. Delivering new Green Jobs and Skills in a Circular Economy

Co-Benefits
- Tackling social & health inequalities.
- Addressing the cost-of-living crisis.
- Improved health and well-being.
- Tackle fuel poverty.
- Create green jobs.

Phase 1
- **Funding**:
  - Mayor of London: £1.42 million
  - Match Funding: £1.6 million
- **Deliverables**:
  - 30 projects
  - Community-led environmental strategy

Phase 2
- **Funding**
  - Mayor of London: £784,420
  - Match Funding: £2.375 million
- **Deliverables**:
  - 12 projects

Phase 3
- **Funding**
  - Mayor of London: £1,361,800
  - Match Funding: £5.5 million
- **Deliverables**:
  - 16 projects

Notting Dale Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme focuses on five key themes centred around retrofitting, energy supply, health and wellbeing, nature recovery and green skills that will help to secure sustainable and inclusive growth of Notting Dale up to 2030 and beyond.

50+ environmental initiatives being implemented such as retrofitting schools and housing estates, developing community owned energy projects, improving woodland area and installing a green roof at Avondale Park, improving and creating new community kitchen gardens, Green Skills Academy and paid youth training, repairs and upcycle initiatives, cycling training and bike mechanics, Dr Bikes sessions, installation of Library of Things at Kensington Leisure Centre, energy and greening gardens at Latimer Stations and Ladbroke Grove etc.

2.3.13. **Housing – overall performance and progress towards net zero**

In 2022/2023, more than 70% of carbon emissions come from Council social housing stock. The Council has since undertaken projects to increase energy efficiency and switch to renewable heating systems.

The below table summarises annual energy consumption and CO2 emissions from housing communal electricity and gas only, where RBKC is directly responsible for energy bills.

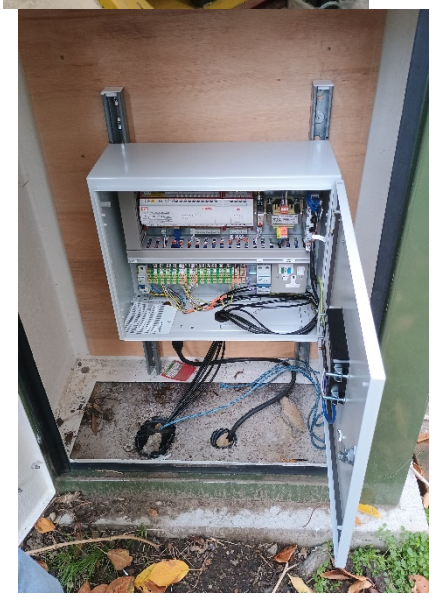
	2021-22	2022-23	23-24
Elec kWh	9,471,852	9,369,224	9,091,074
Gas kWh	57,185,280	53,210,893	61,175,679
Elec Kg CO2	2,011	1,714	1,663
Gas kg CO2	10,465	11,019	12,666
Tot kg CO2	12,476	12,733	14,329

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Major M&E works have been completed boroughwide to replace and repair failed communal heating systems and carried out feasibility studies to explore low carbon heating options. Project examples include:

- Cremorne Estate Phase 1, where replacement of heat network including all underground heating and hot water services.



- New gas fired boilers install with additional blocks at Chelsea Farm and Jean Darling to be added to the network after removal of their own gas fired boilers. The project is near completion and with the fully insulated pipework, high efficiency boilers and new BMS system, it is expected to see a 18% improvement in gas consumption to the system. Once Phase 2 is completed with HIU and Heat Meters fitted to each dwelling, this would expect to see a further 15% saving in overall gas consumption.

- Replaced Communal & Emergency Lighting with Smart Energy Saving & Energy Monitoring Systems thus contributing hugely to reduction in carbon emissions in 33 Blocks including Allom House (1-40), Barlow House (1-32), Wiltshire Close Estate ((9 Blocks).

- Resident Safety Team has replaced the air source heat pumps at Adair Tower.

- For 23/24 financial year, the gas repairs team has replaced 543 old gas boilers to energy efficient new boilers borough wide.

- We also procure 100% renewable electricity through Crown Commercial Service framework.

Refurbishments Completed

In 2023/2024, Housing has continuously focused on improving our building fabric and its energy efficiency through our major works and repairs:

- Major building fabric improvements boroughwide – roof renewals with sufficient insulation, infilled cavity wall insulation where appropriate and renewed double glazing windows. Project examples are Swinbrook Estate, Pond/Grove House, Sandhill, Adair and Hazelwood Tower, and Henry Dickens Court Estate.

2.3.14. **Lancaster West Estate - Overall performance and net zero updates**

Lancaster West Estate emitted a total of 3216 tCO2 in 2023/4. Due to incomplete 2023/4 usage data for electricity in residential properties and communal residential areas, figures from 2022/3 were used in the emissions calculation. This is a 24% reduction compared to Lancaster West Estate's baseline emissions in 2018/9 and a 6.7% reduction from the Estate's 2022/3 emissions. The delivery of the full refurbishment programme and Notting Dale Heat Network is projected to reduce Lancaster West Estate's overall emissions by 86% by 2030/1 compared to 2022/3 and reduce energy demand by 60% by 2030 compared to 2022.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

The following upgrades have been made at Lancaster West Estate through the Goodbye Gas scheme, the refurbishment programme, and the Heat Network programme.

- 47 properties have been fitted with full triple-glazed windows.
- 225 gas meters have been removed
- 272 induction hobs have been installed
- 321 smart thermostats have been installed
- Lighting in 296 households have been upgraded to LED lights
- 112 solar panels have been installed

- Energy efficient roofs installed at Clarendon Walk, Talbot Walk, Camelford Court, and Camelford Walk, benefitting 118 properties. A bio-solar roof was installed at Camelford Court, which also helps improve biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and air quality.

Refurbishments Completed
288 out of 592 tenanted properties (49%) at Lancaster West Estate have been fully refurbished internally through the internal refurbishment programme.

Project Costs and Funding and Impact
The Walkways: Earlier this year, the roof improvement project in Barandon Walk, Hurstway Walk, and Testerton Walk began construction. The project will upgrade roofs and rooflights and install automatically opening vents to improve thermal performance and ventilation. Further works to reduce heat demand in all 368 homes of the Walkways will start onsite next year and is projected to save 1097 tCO2 per year. The total cost of the roof works and main works at the Walkways is estimated to be £57.4m and is partially funded by the SHDF Demonstrator grant.

Camelford Court bio-solar roof: Lancaster West's first bio-solar roof was installed at Camelford Court. This project included the installation of new triple-glazed skylights in 13 properties to increase light and ventilation. The roof has a very low u-value (a measure of thermal performance) and helps to reduce energy usage and bills for residents. The roof also has two sections of sedum planting, which absorb approximately18kgCO2 and 1kg of airborne pollutants every year. In the second phase of the project, solar panels were installed on the roof and have saved roughly 5tCO2 since their installation. The total cost of the roof was £220,000 (rounded).

Treadgold House: Works to decarbonise all 38 homes in Treadgold House are ongoing and expected to be complete in 2025. Upon delivery, the project is estimated save 133 tonnes of CO2 per year. In May 2024, the first Air Source Heat Pump was installed at Treadgold House and solar PVs are expected to be installed later this year. The total cost of the project is

estimated to be £12m. The project has secured £1.8m in external grant funding from MustBe0.

Notting Dale Heat Network: The Notting Dale Heat Network will provide renewable energy to connected properties and first heat on is expected in Autumn 2025. This project will replace two existing gas-powered communal heating systems with a large-scale Air Source Heat Pump, Thermal store, and Solar PV. Pipe installation for the heat network also began this year at Camborne Mews. The total cost of the project is £29m and is partially funded by the GLA's LEA fund (£220,000) and HNIP grant (£1.116m). The project is expected to save 631tCO2e in the calendar year following full build out.

Goodbye Gas scheme and internal refurbishment: 272 induction hobs have been installed and 225 gas meters removed. Currently, the removal of gas is saving 11044kg CO2e per year.

2.3.15. **Street Lighting**

The borough operates approximately 10,000 streetlights of a variety of different styles, with around 50% already upgraded to energy-efficient LEDs, covering not only lamp columns but also street signs and advertising boards. These lights are vital for customer safety during the hours of darkness, and a good lighting source is also crucial for the borough CCTV network and community safety. For several years now, the Highways team have been systematically replacing the old streetlight lamp stock with more efficient modern LED lamps as part of a rolling programme of improvements. This year, with support from the Green Fund budget, we installed an additional 1,000 Chelsea Coronet LED gear trays, resulting in a projected annual savings of 25 tonnes of carbon emissions due to lower energy consumption.

With recent steep energy price hikes, the projected payback period for LED investments has significantly decreased (approximately halved), making this program a win-win by cutting both emissions and our future energy

costs. With this in mind we are currently exploring funding options to expand and accelerate this programme further.

The pace at which we can retrofit the columns is limited to some extent by the capacity of the team, the supply chain, and our incumbent highways contractor, but we believe that in a 3 year programme we can realistically deliver the upgrade for the remaining c2400 5m Chester lamp columns, which amount to just over half of all the remaining light columns that have not yet been converted to LED lamps. During this time we would also be able to develop a plan to switch for the remaining c2100 columns (eight different types) plus the >1000 illuminated signs and bollards to LED lamps. Based on current prices we estimate that this 3 year programme would require approximately £300k per year.

We have developed a specific product designed to fit our existing lanterns and columns. This means we can continue to use the existing lanterns, and only need to fit the new Gear Tray, replacing the more traditional lamps and control gear with a new unit incorporating modern energy efficient LEDs. For the Chester lamp columns, the costs of supplying and fitting the new Gear Tray is approx. £340. This will save approx. £49 in electricity per annum (on present electricity prices). The payback period is therefore approximaytely 7 years at current energy prices.

2.3.16. **Householder Greening Guides published**

The Council has been producing a series of guides to help homeowners upgrade their homes to reduce their carbon footprint, save on energy bills. and reduce the impact of extreme weather. The guides provide information on the various options available, the permissions you may need and how to make your planning application if you need to apply.

The first guide – ***Householders' Guide to Windows*** covers improving the energy efficiency of windows.

The second guide – ***Householders' Guide to Flood Protection*** sets out the steps that can be taken to protect your property from flooding.
The guides can be accessed here: https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/heritage-and-conservation/sustainably-retrofitting-your-home.

2.3.17. **Other Notable 2024 Highlights**

South Ken Zen +: During 2024 we have continued to support the South Ken Zen+ programme, led by the Exhibition Road Cultural Group. This initiative collaborates with thousands of local residents, stakeholders, and over 25 organizations to leverage the area's unique expertise and resources

toward ambitious sustainability goals, aiming for a 50% reduction in operational emissions from neighbourhood partners by 2050.

This year, the programme achieved several major milestones, including the delivery of its first neighbourhood emissions baseline report, which incorporates emissions from Council operations in the area. Additionally, it mapped the carbon footprints of multiple programme members for the first time and completed two heat network feasibility studies. These studies have the potential to drive substantial building heat decarbonisation across the South Kensington area.

World End Estate and Chelsea Riverside Heat Network Feasibility Study: Following on from the Energy Act 2023 and DESNZ's consultation on heat network zoning, new "zoning" regulations are expected to come into force next year. This will lead to DESNZ proposing "heat network zones" across England in areas where networks are considered to be the lowest cost low carbon option for building heat. The intention is to increase the amount of building heat delivered via networks in the UK from the current 3% to around 20% by 2050. Given the building density of the borough it is extremely likely that RBKC will be heavily if not entirely within a network zone.

The cross-borough energy master plan delivered during 2023 / 24, identified the World's End Estate and Chelsea Riverside area as a priority opportunity area for future heat network development. We successfully bid for GLA Local Energy Accelerator funding to explore this further and appointed a consultant to carry out a high level techno-economic feasibility study to explore the best options for decarbonising building heat in the area.

Due to the potential availability of low carbon heat sources and a significant consumer base in the area, the study concluded that there is an excellent opportunity for a local heat network in the area. It is therefore very likely that a developer will want to deliver a network here, significantly decarbonising the heat of connected buildings including our local estates and schools.

3 KEY CHALLENGES AND RISKS

3.1. Some of the key challenges and risks are outlined below:

- **Funding:** The Council's Carbon Neutral Pathways study highlights the high costs required to achieve net zero. Borough-wide, reaching net zero standards for all domestic properties is estimated at £2.5 billion, while the Council's target to reach net zero by 2030 alone requires around £144 million—of which £96.6 million is needed for Council housing. Retrofits for non-domestic buildings would cost an estimated £541 million. These figures may increase as more detailed assessments are conducted. Despite securing additional external funding, including Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund support, achieving carbon neutrality will require sustained investment to deliver on our climate goals.
- **Rapid pace** of change needed to meet 2030 and 2040 targets.

- **Internal buy-in** across all departments.
- **Limited internal resources**, skills, and expertise. Achieving net zero requires additional Council staffing, resources, and expertise. While efforts are underway to expand the Climate Change Team, further investment in skills development across the borough, including through the Green Skills Academy, will help address the capacity gaps for both Council and community-led actions.
- **Gaps in carbon data**, reporting systems, and monitoring.
- **Strong community engagement** required to empower residents and businesses.
- **Cross-borough partnerships** essential for collaborative action.
- Need for **tested, accessible technologies** to support scaling efforts.
- Addressing climate and cost-of-living impacts simultaneously.

4 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASKS

4.1. **Embed Climate Commitments Across Council Operations:**

- Endorse the integration of climate objectives into all Council decision-making, including corporate and financial planning.
- Support embedding climate-focused clauses into all Key Decision (KD) reports, major contracts, and procurement processes.
- Secure senior and political buy-in to integrate climate goals into all Council decision-making, ensuring carbon neutrality targets are prioritised across all services.

4.2. **Departmental Action Plans and oversight of progress**:

- Support with developing specific sub-targets for each service area, with detailed guidance provided to departments on incorporating climate actions into their operational plans.
- Review progress on a yearly basis based on the Carbon Performance Reports and Climate Emergency Action Plan; and against departmental sub-targets and overall milestones for achieving net zero by 2030 (Council) and 2040 (borough).

4.3. **Support Investment and Funding Strategies:**

- Encourage scrutiny of the Council's investment and funding strategies, ensuring alignment with net zero objectives.
- Advocate for the exploration of diverse funding streams, including loans, climate bonds, and external grants, to bridge funding gaps.

4.4. **Capacity Building and Resources:**

- Recommend strengthening the Climate Change Team by supporting recruitment to address identified skill gaps and capacity needs.
- Promote the development of borough-wide green skills initiatives, such as the Carbon Literacy Training, energy advice training for frontline staff, Green Skills Academy and youth training programme for the community, to empower residents and contractors to contribute to net zero targets.

4.5. **Encourage Community and Business Engagement, and Partnership Working:**

- Enhance Public Involvement: Advocate for expanded public engagement efforts, ensuring residents, businesses, landowners, and institutions are empowered to contribute to the borough-wide 2040 net zero target.
- Support Co-Design Initiatives**:** Endorse collaborative approaches, such as the Notting Dale Future Neighbourhoods programme, to ensure community voices are central to the design and delivery of climate actions.
- Strengthen Borough-Wide Partnerships: Encourage the Council to cultivate robust partnerships with key stakeholders, including institutions (such as South Ken Zen), landowners (Kingsbridge partnership), community organisations, schools, faith groups, and businesses, to drive collective action and amplify impact.
- Promote Inclusive Solutions: Advocate for initiatives that address the diverse needs of borough residents, fostering inclusivity and ensuring climate actions align with broader social and economic priorities.

4.6. **Advocate for Policy and Regulatory Support**

- Champion lobbying efforts directed at the Greater London Authority (GLA) and central government for enhanced policy, funding, and regulatory support to meet the Council's net zero goals.
- Highlight the need for innovative approaches to address systemic challenges such as behaviour change, technological limitations, and cost-of-living impacts on climate actions.

4.7. **Governance and Accountability:**

- Support enhanced governance structures for monitoring and evaluating the Council's progress.
- Request regular presentations and updates to the Committee, ensuring robust oversight of climate objectives.
- These recommendations aim to ensure that the Environment Select Committee is a proactive partner in driving the Council's ambitious climate agenda while holding it accountable for its commitments.

4.8. **Addressing Multiple Crises Holistically**

- Advocate for strategies that tackle climate change and ecological emergencies simultaneously, ensuring actions build resilient communities and address health inequalities.
- Support the integration of adaptation measures alongside mitigation efforts to prepare for the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and extreme heat, particularly in vulnerable areas.
- Promote initiatives that align climate action with addressing the cost-of-living crisis, ensuring solutions deliver social and economic co-benefits, such as reducing energy poverty through retrofits and improving local air quality.
- Champion projects that target the intersection of climate, health, and inequality to create equitable outcomes for all residents, with particular focus on disadvantaged communities.

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