

CABINET

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN TENNANT
DEPUTY LEADER AND MAJOR
PROJECTS AND PROPERTY
PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

4 JULY 2023

REPORT NO. ACE2306

KEY DECISION? No

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2023-26

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following the declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019, the Council has been delivering a number of projects and programmes that seek to mitigate the impact of climate change. This report provides further detail on actions taken to date and presents the Council's carbon footprint for the period 2021/22. In light of this information, a revised climate change action plan for the Council is proposed which will cover the period 2023 – 26.

Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Note the progress in delivering the actions in the climate change action plan which was agreed in November 2020
- ii) Note the Council's carbon footprint for 2021/22 and the carbon footprint target setting report in Annex A.
- iii) Agree the Climate Change Action Plan 2023 – 26 as set out in section 4 of this report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency with a motion unanimously passed by Council. Following on from this, in November 2020, Cabinet agreed a climate change action plan which contained 90 identified actions. This report includes an update on the implementation of these actions.
- 1.2 A key action that the Council has been to appoint dedicated officer resource to lead and coordinate activity in line with the climate change action plan and also to calculate the Council's carbon footprint for 2021/22. This has helped to shape the development of the revised action plan which is set out in section 4.

- 1.3 This report seeks Cabinet approval to the revised climate change action plan which sets out actions to directly reduce the Council's carbon footprint between 2023 and 2026. This will be reviewed and updated annually in light of the updated Council carbon footprint and an annual report detailing progress against actions will be published.

2. Approach to date

- 2.1 The current climate change action plan was comprised of 90 actions. This was a rolling plan, with a view that it would be updated in light of the Council's carbon footprint. Each action was given a 1 year, 3 year or longer-term timeframe.

- 2.2 The action plan was divided into four areas as set out in the Climate Change Strategy:

- A: Awareness Raising and Engagement
- B: Reducing Impacts (Mitigation)
- C: Building Resilience (Adaptation)
- D: Other Sustainable Initiatives

- 2.3 Of the 90 actions identified within the plan, almost two-thirds have been progressed. Key Achievements against the current climate change action plan include:

- A separate weekly food waste collection service was successfully rolled out across the borough.
- A grant was given to Winchester Science Centre to develop and deliver a programme (Eco-schools) to two schools within the borough in 2022. This was based around a repeat engagement model approach and due to its success was extended to a further two schools (total 4) in 2023 (Climate Trackers).
- A Climate Change Competition for KS3-KS5 was organised for young people to submit proposals on how they, their school or community, could reduce their negative impact on the environment. The key objectives of this project were to get young people engaged in the climate debate and to increase their understanding of environmental issues.
- Rushmoor Borough Council is part of Portsmouth Consortium, which has secured funding for decarbonisation measures on domestic properties within the borough (Local Authority Delivery scheme; LAD2, LAD3, and the Home Upgrade Grant; HUG1 & HUG2)
- Rushmoor Repair Café in Aldershot was successfully launched in December 2022 and takes place on the third Saturday of every month, supporting a circular economy and reducing the number of items sent to landfill.
- The Council's carbon footprint (2022/23) was calculated using SUSTRAX, by Carbon Footprint Ltd. Carbon Footprint Ltd then produced a Carbon Footprint

Target Setting report, which put forward recommendations for reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions until 2050, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

- The appointment of a climate change officer within the Council, allowing for dedicated resource to be available and for the Council to increase engagement with external groups including the Hampshire Climate Change Officer Group.

2.4 The Cabinet had also appointed a Climate Change Champion role who had acted as the Chair of the Climate Change Working Group. The Climate Change Working Group was established in November 2020 to “guide the development and detail of the implementation plan” and has provided advice and guidance on the development of the Council’s carbon footprint. Further policy and project matters will be presented to the Policy and Projects Advisory Board (PPAB) and progress in delivering the plan will be reported to as part of the Council’s quarterly monitoring and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These arrangements reflect the changes within Cabinet Portfolios which sees climate change positioned more corporately and the move of responsibility for climate change from the climate change champion role to the Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder. There will be a meeting with the previous members of the climate change working group in the coming months to enable for a transition of these arrangements.

3. Calculating the Council’s carbon footprint

3.1 The carbon footprint is comprised of three scopes and includes both direct and indirect emissions. The data that each scope encompasses within Rushmoor Borough Council's carbon footprint is shown in the table below.

Rushmoor Borough Council’s carbon footprint scopes

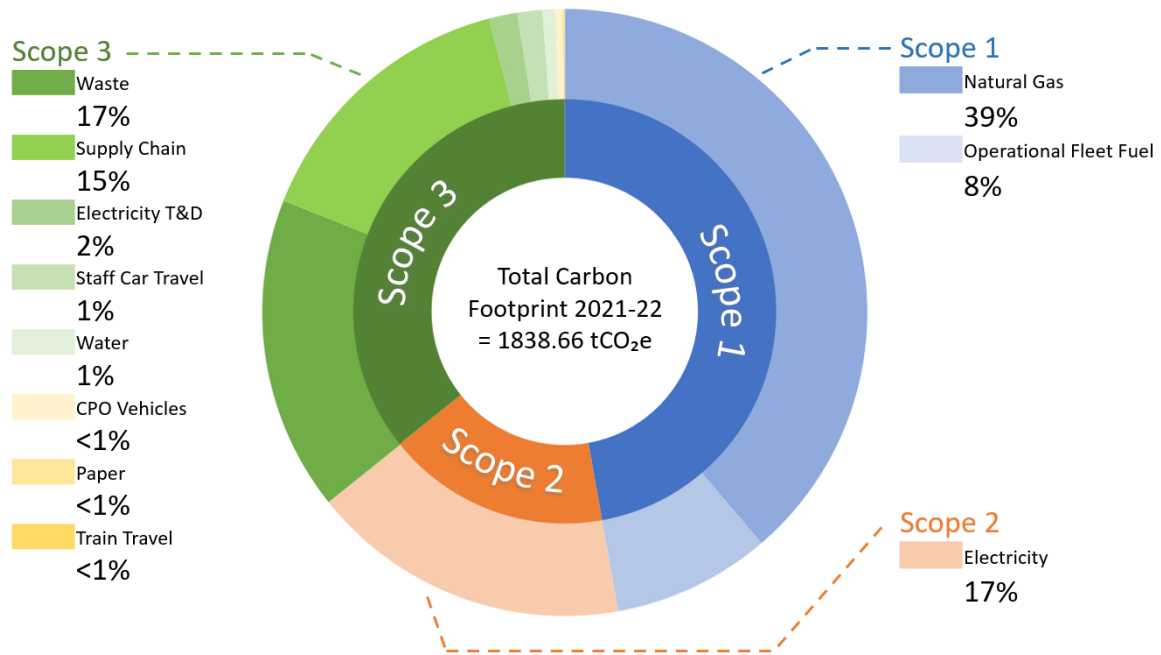
Scope 1	Direct Emissions	Gas (Heating) and Council Owned Vehicles (Operational Fleet)
Scope 2	Indirect Emissions	Purchased electricity
Scope 3	Indirect Emissions	Business Travel, Paper, Waste, Water and Supply Chain (procured goods & services)

3.2 The Council's previous carbon footprint (19/20) was calculated by The Carbon Trust. The 2021/22 carbon footprint was undertaken using SUSTRAX by Carbon Footprint Ltd. The methodology that is used in SUSTRAX is aligned with the greenhouse gas protocol and in relation to supply chain data; DEFRA recommended conversion factors. This means that the two footprints are not directly comparable. The methodology set out in SUSTRAX will be used going forward in order to track progress and therefore can be used as a baseline for the future.

- 3.3 All data categories, with the exception of the supply chain, is based on primary data. Supply chain data was calculated using contract cost and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code categories. Primary data for the vehicle mileage and waste tonnage from the Council's contract with SERCO was used. The recommendation would be in the future to work with contractors and suppliers to increase the amount of primary data used in the supply chain category in order to increase the accuracy of the footprint.
- 3.4 The carbon footprint is expressed as an absolute amount in tCO_{2e}. This is the amount of greenhouse gas emissions as represented by tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalence, meaning other greenhouse gases impacts are quantified using carbon dioxide's warming effect as reference.
- 3.5 The overall operational carbon footprint (2021-22) was 1,838.66 tCO_{2e}. The breakdown of these emissions is shown in the table and image below.

Breakdown of Rushmoor Borough Council's Operational emissions

Scope	Source	Rushmoor	Contractors	Total
1	Natural Gas	712.12	-	712.12
	Operational Fleet Fuel	13.24	141.98	155.22
2	Electricity Generation	314.1	-	314.1
3	Waste	1.06	306.84	307.9
	Supply Chain & Purchased Goods	275.24	-	275.24
	Electricity T&D	27.8	-	27.8
	Staff Car Travel	24.52	-	24.52
	Water	12.98	-	12.98
	CPO Vehicles	6.49	-	6.49
	Paper	2.25	-	2.25
	Train Travel	0.04	-	0.04
Total:		1389.85	448.82	1838.66



4. Climate change action plan 2023 – 2026

4.1 The Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2026 has been developed in an evidence-based way, with the majority of proposed actions linked back to the Council's carbon footprint. The Council has sought independent advice on its target setting and the full report which has shaped and informed this action plan can be seen at Annex A.

4.2 The Action Plan 2023-2026 contains 12 proposed actions set out below. This Action Plan is predominantly focused on reducing the Council's own carbon footprint but does also include some actions which support the objective of achieving a greener and more sustainable Rushmoor. The Action Plan does not aim to summarise all the activity that the Council is undertaking to support the climate change and biodiversity agenda, much of which is undertaken as business as usual activity following changes made in recent years (including the introduction of food waste collection and changes to mowing and planting to increase biodiversity). The annual report proposed in Action 12 allow for the full range of associated activity to be reported on an annual basis, alongside progress to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

4.3 The twelve priority actions proposed for 2023-2026 are as follows:

Action 1: Transition electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.

Action 2: Switch the Council's car fleet to electric alternatives and investigate options for other Council vehicles.

Action 3: Achieve a 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes and refresh the Council's Workplace Travel Plan.

Action 4: Consider opportunities arising from a relocation of the Council's offices to reduce gas consumption and/or increase renewable energy generation on-site.

Action 5: To continue to engage young people on climate change through the schools' programme which is now running in four junior schools within Rushmoor.

Action 6: To use the Council's communications channels (including through Member engagement) to promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint, including promoting schemes to improve energy efficiency of their home or business.

Action 7: To hold an eco-fair in September 2023 at Southwood Country Park and Field Centre to allow residents to find out more about climate change and opportunities to reduce their own carbon footprint and to hold an event for local businesses on low carbon opportunities.

Action 8: To work with Hampshire County Council to improve access to EV charging facilities across Rushmoor.

Action 9: To refresh the Council's procurement strategy to ensure that the goods and services that the Council buys support the aim of the Council being carbon neutral by 2030.

Action 10: To review processes for the Council's capital programme so that environmental impacts are incorporated into business case development and whole life cycle carbon assessments are undertaken.

Action 11: To develop the Council's offsetting approach with a view to ensuring that any offsetting undertaken by the Council has a local impact.

Action 12: To review, update and publish the Council's carbon footprint on an annual basis, publish an annual report detailing all that the Council has achieved in relation to its climate action plan and associated strategies (e.g. Green Infrastructure Plan).

- 4.4 The report from Carbon Footprint Ltd suggests that implementation of the measures above would have the potential to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by over 40% by 2030 and it is acknowledged that there is the potential to reduce carbon emissions by over 80% by 2050. The model from the report in Annex A recognises that it is likely that the Council cannot be net zero by 2030 (largely as a result of operations at the crematorium) but can achieve carbon neutrality by this date through offsetting the remaining footprint.

5. Implications

Legal

There are no anticipated legal implications arising from the proposed action plan.

Financial

A climate change reserve was created in November 2020 and this will be used to support actions 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12 with the proposed plan and could also be used to support other activity within the climate change action plan. At the end of last financial year (2022/23), the balance of this reserve was £178,000.

Other actions will be funded through relevant service budgets and in accordance with the financial procedure rules. Wherever possible, external grants and funding sources will be sought to support the delivery of the action plan. Members should note that the delivery of some of the actions contained within this plan could have financial implications and business cases will be developed and presented for consideration where this is the case.

Equalities impact

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on the individual actions within this plan if required.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Since declaring a climate emergency in summer 2019, progress has been made to deliver the actions within the existing climate change action plan. Following the calculation of the Council's carbon footprint and the delivery of a number of actions within the existing plan, a refreshed action plan.
- 6.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the 12 priority actions contained within the refreshed Action Plan which will help to deliver a reduced carbon footprint for the Council and a greener and more sustainable Rushmoor. An annual report on progress against each of these actions and the broader environmental actions that the Council has taken over the previous 12 months will be prepared each year and the Action Plan will be reviewed in light of this.

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN TENNANT
DEPUTY LEADER AND MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROPERTY PORTFOLIO
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Annex A – Carbon Footprint Target Setting Report

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Carbon Footprint Target Setting for Rushmoor Borough Council

Based on data from Assessment Period:
1st of April 2021 – 31st of March 2022

Executive Summary

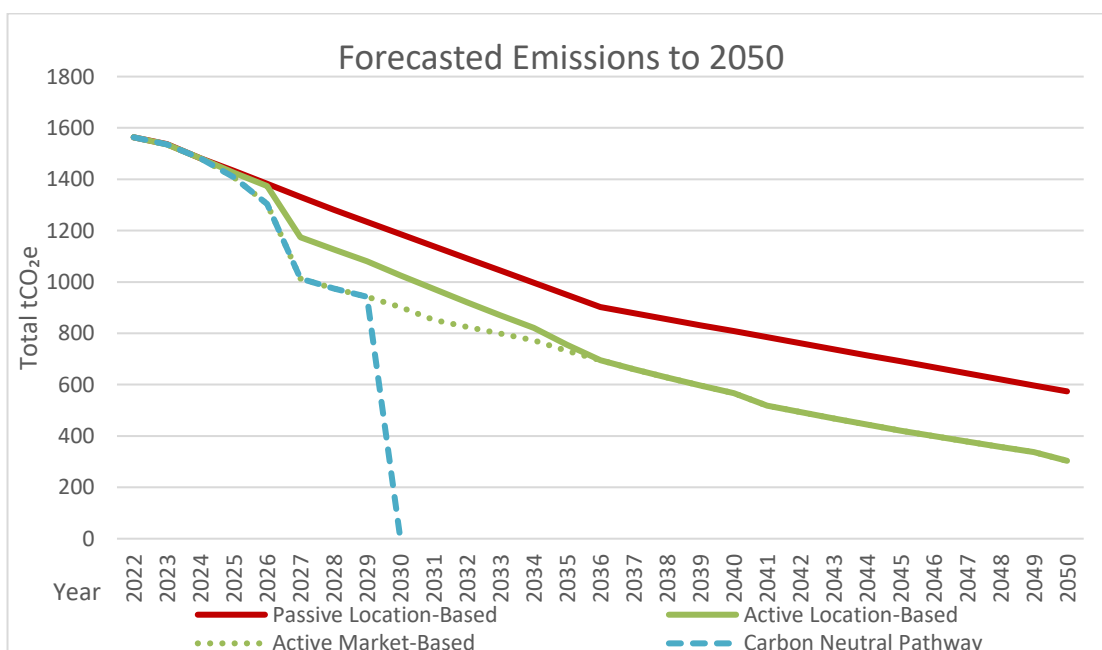
Carbon Footprint Ltd has completed a forecast of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of Rushmoor Borough Council until 2050 based on a dataset provided by the council for the period of the 1st of April 2021 to the 31st of March 2022.

Key Outcomes

- Baseline absolute location-based emissions are 1563.43 tCO₂e and 6.30 tCO₂e respectively on a per FTE Employee basis.
- Baseline absolute emissions including the council’s Scope 3 supply chain footprint are 1838.66 tCO₂e.
- Rushmoor Borough Council should aim to reduce total market-based emissions by 42.3% and market-based emissions on a per employee basis by 46.7 %, each, respectively, by 2030.
- Rushmoor Borough Council should aim to reduce total market-based emissions by 80.6% and market-based emissions on a per employee basis by 85.2%, each, respectively, by 2050.

Recommendations

- Offset the GHG emissions created within this data period to become carbon neutral.
- Swap all electricity utilities to 100% renewable tariffs by 2030 across all sites to reduce market-based emissions.
- Switch to a 100% renewable electricity tariff at the Council Offices site by 2025.
- Begin phasing out gas usage across all sites (excluding the Aldershot crematorium) from no later than 2030 onwards and replacing with electric system alternatives.
- Select a waste contractor transitioning to an electric vehicle fleet from no later than 2035.
- Commit to implementing a travel policy aimed at reducing total travel from employee-owned car travel by 5% per year, from 2024.



¹ Targets within this report should be re-assessed in the next 3-5 years to allow remodelling with inclusion of any potential hydrogen alternatives to current natural gas usage which may become available during this time.



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Quality Control

Report issue number: 1.1
Date: 03 June 2023

Calculations completed by: Joe Murray
Calculations reviewed by: Zoe booth

Report produced by: Joe Murray
Report reviewed by: Zoe Booth
Director approval: Dr. Wendy Buckley



1. Carbon & sustainability targets

1.1. Target setting

We recommend targets are set against a growth metric, to account for changes in the size of the council. For Rushmoor Borough Council we recommend setting the reduction target on a per FTE and per borough resident population basis, to allow comparison with future emissions, when the council may have grown.

There are four categories of carbon dioxide² reductions to consider whilst setting targets:

1. **Passive Reductions** – these are carbon reductions that would happen without any action needed by the organisation e.g., the decarbonisation of the electricity grid will gradually reduce the carbon emissions associated with the electricity you use and purchase.
2. **Market-Based Reductions** – these are achieved by selecting and paying for energy tariffs that have lower emissions e.g., buying a green electricity tariff.
3. **Active Reductions** – these are achieved by making technological, behavioural and operational changes within the organisation. E.g., choosing to reduce the number of miles driven in cars; choosing to put a limit on the number of flights people make; investing in new technology to reduce energy consumption etc.
4. **External Reductions** – carbon **compensation/offsetting** to reduce emissions external to your own footprint to reduce your Net emissions.

Figure 1 shows this recommended approach applied to Rushmoor Borough Council's emissions to 2050.

The **Passive Reductions** assume:

- Electricity Grid emissions will reduce linearly to zero by 2035 (which is the UK's target to achieve zero carbon emissions electricity grid). Note: the grid emissions have reduced by approximately 50% over the last 5-6 years on a tCO₂e per kWh basis.
- Rushmoor Borough Council's crematorium site will continue to require natural gas consumption for its operations, past 2035.
- Car & van emissions will transition to being 100% electric by 2050. Note: the UK government has moved to end the sale of non-electric cars by 2030. In the assessment we assume electric cars will require the same amount of energy as those powered by internal combustion engines, based on the litres of fuel burned by Rushmoor Borough Council during the 2020/21 assessment period.
- The council's contracted waste collection lorries will transition to electric/hydrogen models from between 2045 to 2055, assuming that by this point, lorries powered by batteries, hydrogen or other renewable advances will be readily available.
- The council will continue to hold a responsibility to collect some forms of household waste not likely to be recyclable, via its contractor(s), until 2050.

² Referred to as "carbon" or "CO₂"

- The **Active Reductions** assume:
- All utilities to swap to 100% renewable electricity tariffs by 2030.
- Site electricity at the Council offices to transition to a 100% renewable electricity tariff by 2025.
- Site electricity at the Aldershot Crematorium site and Princes Hall site to transition to a 100% renewable electricity tariff by 2027.
- The council offices to phase out onsite gas usage for heating purposes from 2027 by transitioning to a renewable energy alternative.
- Phase out natural gas usage from site energy mix across all remaining sites from 2030 onwards, with a 10% annual reduction in site gas consumption (equivalent to retrofitting 3 sites per year from 2030 – 2040 based on current site numbers).
- Lorries are transitioned to renewable alternatives 10 years ahead of the passive reductions forecast (2030 - 2040).
- CPO vehicles are swapped to electric vehicle alternatives in 2024/25.
- A 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes, to 2035.

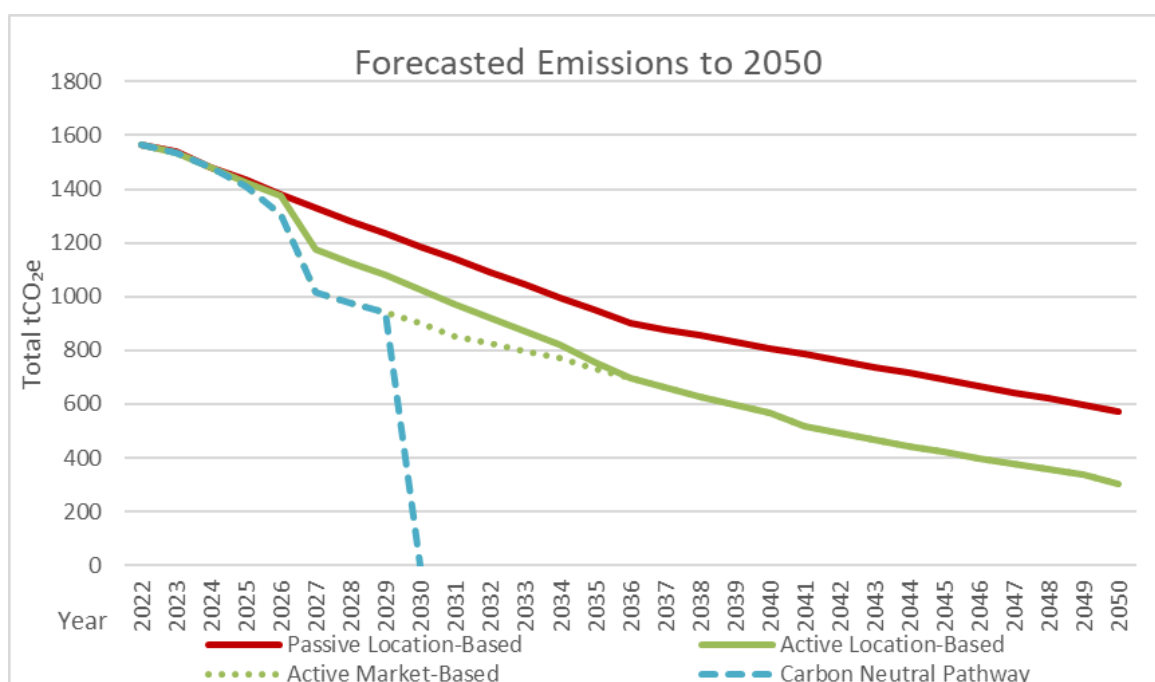


Figure 1: Emissions forecast for Rushmoor Borough Council until 2050

The above graph provides simulations that are designed to be best and worst-case scenarios. However, it is impossible to predict the future with 100% accuracy. The area between the passive and active lines represents emissions that could be saved.

Figure 2 forecasts the estimated breakdown of Rushmoor Borough Council’s future emissions on a per FTE Employee basis, with Figure 3 forecasting emissions on a per borough resident basis (100,100 as of 31st March 2022), this will allow Rushmoor Borough Council to scale the numbers to account for growth. Figure 4 details the breakdown of emissions by source category from the baseline year to 2050.

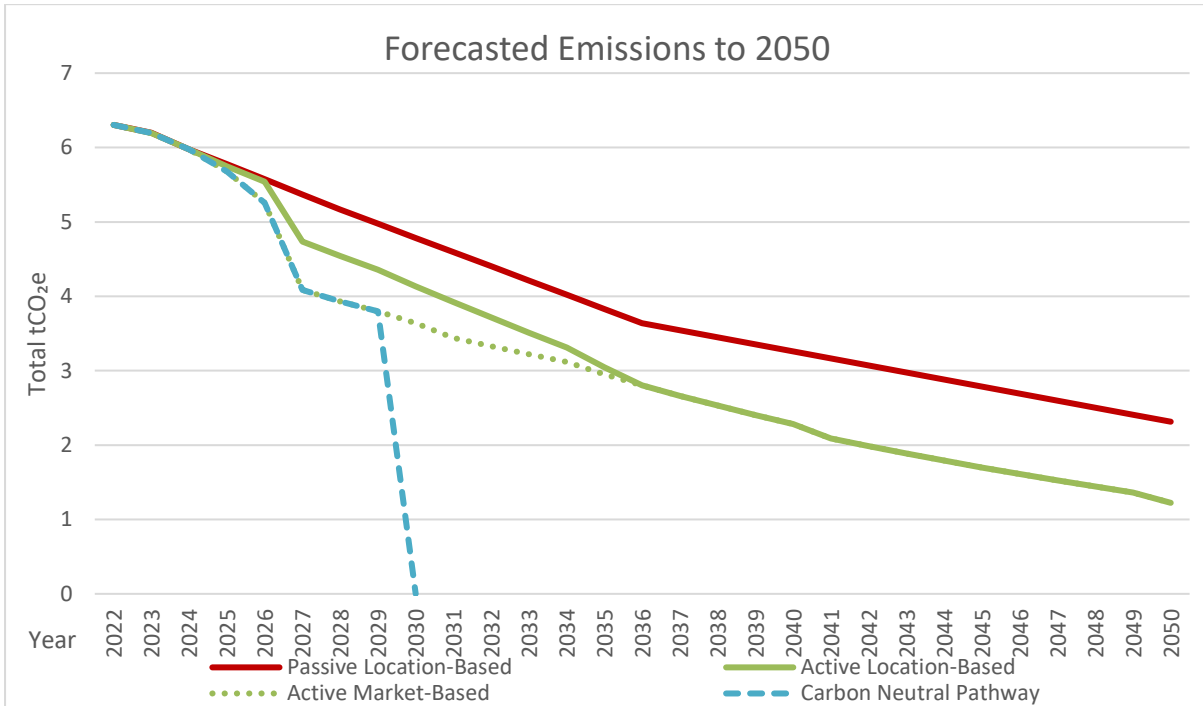


Figure 2: Breakdown of Rushmoor Borough Council's future emissions sources per FTE

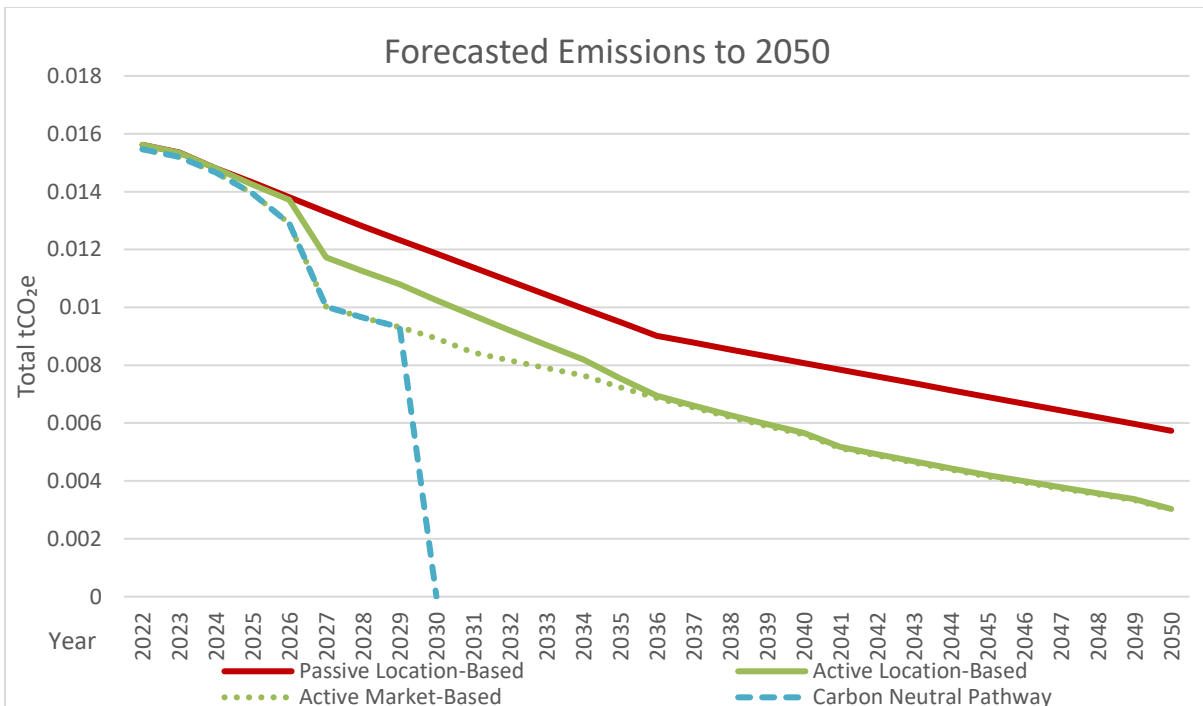


Figure 3: Breakdown of Rushmoor Borough Council's future emissions sources per borough resident

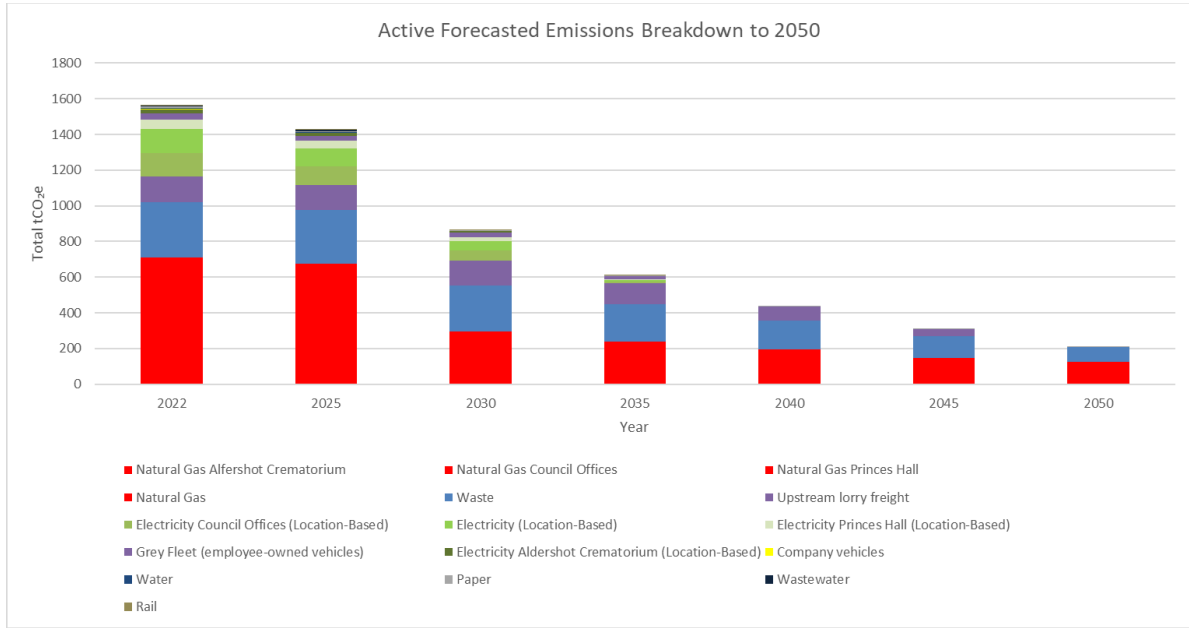


Figure 4: breakdown of Rushmoor Borough Council’s emissions by source category

All targets set should be reviewed regularly (e.g., on an annual basis) and amended accordingly (i.e., target increased if it is met ahead of schedule). This will prevent complacency if the target set was too conservative from the onset. An action plan should be developed to set out how the targets will be met, and an employee should be allocated the responsibility for carrying out the plan.

1.2. Supply Chain Target Setting

Forecasting emissions from the supply chain footprint analyses the trends in emissions factors and assumes that, by 2040, there will be carbon neutral alternatives for Rushmoor Borough Council’s entire supply chain either available or becoming available. Therefore, between 2040 and 2050, the supply chain footprint linearly reduces to zero for all sources based on this modelling assumption.

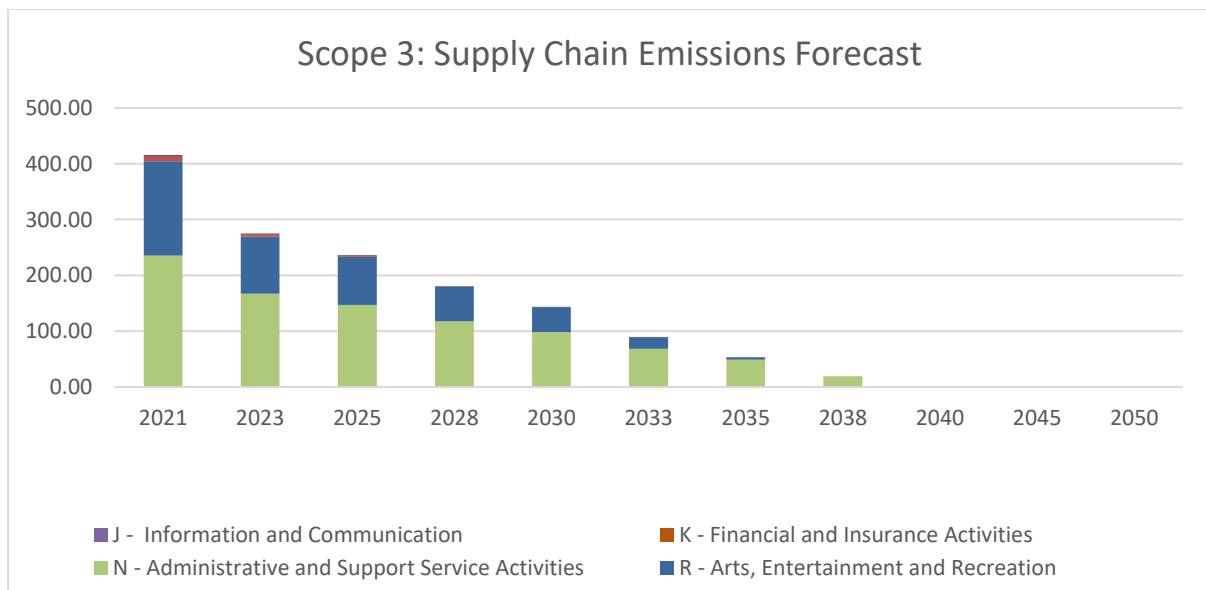


Figure 3: Forecasted emissions from Rushmoor Borough Council’s supply chain

1.3. Summary of Target Setting Recommendations

In summary we recommend Rushmoor Borough Council set the following targets:

- Offset the calculated footprint by supporting climate change solutions around the world to become a 'Carbon Neutral Organisation'. Carbon offsetting is the only way to account for those emissions which have already been caused.
- The model forecasts that the council likely cannot reach its current target of being net zero (according to the SBTi understanding of the term) by 2030, but can achieve carbon neutrality by this date through offsetting its remaining footprint which it cannot reduce further from no later than the year of the 2030 assessment year, onwards.
- Rushmoor Borough Council should aim to reduce total market-based emissions by 42.3% and market-based emissions on a per FTE basis by 46.7 %, each, respectively, by 2030.
- Rushmoor Borough Council should aim to reduce total market-based emissions by 80.6% and market-based emissions on a per FTE basis by 85.2%, each, respectively, by 2050.
- Transition all electricity utilities across the council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs to reduce market-based emissions by 2030.
- Swap to a renewable electricity tariff at the Council offices from 2025.
- Begin phasing out gas usage from the council's sites from 2030 onwards.
- Consider transitioning to waste collection contractors which can provide electric vehicles within their fleet from as soon as possible.
- CPO vehicles are swapped to electric vehicle alternatives in 2024/25.
- A 5% annual reduction in overall travel from employee-owned vehicles for business purposes, to 2035.

2. References

1. BEIS GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (2016-2021)
2. Carbon Footprint Ltd's Target Setting White Paper (2021)
3. Guidelines to Defra's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Conversion Factors for Company Reporting – annexes (June 2013)
4. Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) (2021)
5. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, Revised Edition (March 2004)