



Conwy County Borough Council

Environmental Report

2020/21

Introduction

Conwy County Borough Council recognises the positive and negative impacts on the environment from the wide range of activities and services we deliver and have made a commitment to being a leader in protecting and sustaining the county's natural environment.

We believe that we should lead by example to reduce our negative environmental impact and continuously improve our environmental performance. In order to achieve this, we have implemented the Green Dragon Environmental Standard across all of our services, excluding schools, ensuring our environmental impacts are monitored and managed and our overall environmental performance continues to improve.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the environmental performance of Conwy County Borough Council during 2020/2021, provide an overview of the Environmental Management System and to illustrate progress against our environmental objectives.

How to obtain further information:

Environment, Roads and Facilities

Conway Road

Mochdre LL28 5AB

01492 575337

green.dragon@conwy.gov.uk

www.conwy.gov.uk/greendragon

Related Links

Green Dragon Environmental Standard

A voluntary initiative in Wales, designed to help organisations improve their environmental performance.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act places a duty on public bodies to deliver services in a sustainable way, working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.

Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board Local Well-being Plan 2018-2023

This 5 year plan sets out the local objectives the Public Service Board will take to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being for the local area.

CCBC Corporate Plan 2017 to 2022

This 5 year plan sets out the Council's key priorities to support the needs of the citizen's who live in, work in and visit the County Borough of Conwy.

CCBC Climate Emergency Declaration and Notice of Motion May 2019

The Council has declared a climate emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations. The Council has set a target for the authority to become a net zero carbon user by 2030.

CCBC Climate Challenge Programme

The programme has been established to deliver a decarbonisation plan for Conwy County Borough Council with the vision to lead our communities in delivering a net carbon zero County.

Organisational Context

Corporate Services

Audit & Procurement, Finance, Human Resources, IT & Digital Transformation, Law & Governance, Marketing & Communications, Research & Information, Estates.

Economy and Culture

Leisure centres; libraries; swimming pools; business & conference centres; theatres.

Environment, Roads and Facilities

Waste collection & disposal; street cleaning; public toilets; flood response; flood & coastal defence; parks, green spaces & countryside; playgrounds & play areas; allotments; burials & cremations; maintenance of Council vehicles; maintenance of roads, footpaths, verges, bridges & structures; street lighting; winter gritting; harbour & seaboard management; parking; management of Council buildings; Great Orme Tramway.

Regulatory and Housing Services

Animal health monitoring; planning; building control; CCTV; conservation; enforcement; dog warden; environmental quality monitoring; food safety & standards; housing support; licensing; street & property naming & numbering; registration of births, deaths & marriages; trading standards.

Revenues and Benefits Assessment Service

Collection of national non-domestic rates & council tax; council tax & housing benefit claims & advice; benefit fraud investigations.

Social Care and Education

Social work support; residential & nursing care; home care; day centres, primary & secondary schools.

Environmental Policy

1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations.
- 1.2 Conwy County Borough Council is committed to:
 - Becoming a net zero carbon user by 2030;
 - Protecting the environment by minimising the negative impacts from our activities and being community leaders in promoting responsible environmental management;
 - Identifying and complying with all environmental compliance obligations relevant to our organisation;
 - Preventing pollution of air, water and land from our activities and seeking to minimise pollution from other sources.
- 1.3 The Environmental Management System operated by Conwy County Borough Council complies with the latest Green Dragon Standard for Environmental Management 2016.

2.0 Policy Scope

- 2.1 Conwy County Borough Council's Environmental Policy covers all of the Authority's services. This includes Corporate Services, Economy & Culture, Environment, Roads & Facilities, Regulatory & Housing Services, Revenues & Benefits Assessment Service and Social Care & Education.
- 2.2 The main environmental aspects from our activities link to our environmental priorities in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of natural resources, waste management, trade effluent discharge and the storage of fuel and associated pollution risk.

3.0 Improvement Objectives

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022 is aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and focuses on 8 priority areas:
 1. People are educated and skilled.
 2. People are safe and feel safe.
 3. People have access to affordable, appropriate, good quality accommodation that enhances the quality of their lives.
 4. People are healthy and active.
 5. People live in a county that has a prosperous economy.
 6. People value and look after the environment.
 7. People live in a county where heritage, culture and the Welsh language thrive.
 8. People contribute to their community. They are informed, included and listened to.
- 3.2 Performance towards delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities is closely monitored and reported annually.

4.0 Review and Approval

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed at least once a year or sooner as operational and business needs dictate. As part of the review, this policy will be presented to the Climate Challenge Programme Board to approve any amendments.

Environmental Management System

Conwy County Borough Council have been accredited to Level 5 of the Green Dragon Standard since February 2014.

The scope of the environmental management system includes all activities and functions of the council, excluding schools, and is audited on a regular basis to ensure all areas meet the requirements of the Green Dragon Standard.

The management system is fully documented and the Environmental Manual acts as a signpost to the different elements of the system, including the documents and procedures for running the management system.

The Environmental Manual and all other documents relating to the management system can be requested from green.dragon@conwy.gov.uk. The Green Dragon staff guide and the Green Dragon fact sheets, which give guidance on legislation that is common across departments, can be found on the green dragon intranet pages.

Environmental Aspects Register

The most significant environmental aspects of the activities of Conwy County Borough Council have been identified and documented on the Environmental Aspects Register, categorised in accordance with the Register of Compliance Obligations into 7 categories: Statutory nuisance, Water & effluent control, Waste management, Land use & conservation, COSHH, Emissions to air and Use of natural resources.

The significance of the identified aspects are evaluated using a risk matrix, comparing the likelihood of the impact occurring, the consequence of the impact in the event of occurrence and whether a breach of legislation has occurred.

The Aspects Register also identifies if there is a pollution risk associated with the aspect, linking to the Pollution Prevention Plan, and listing specific control measures for these aspects.

The main environmental aspects identified link to our environmental priorities in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of natural resources, waste management, trade effluent discharge and the storage of fuel and associated pollution risk.

Pollution Prevention

The activities of Conwy County Borough Council that pose a potential medium or high risk of environmental pollution, as identified on the Environmental Aspects Register, are documented on the Pollution Prevention Plan.

The plan has been developed to minimise the environmental risks arising from our activities to ensure we can provide an effective response to any potential pollution risk. The Pollution Prevention Plan details the control measures currently in place to minimise the pollution risk, any additional measures required.

In the event of a pollution incident occurring it will be dealt with in accordance with EMS04 and details of the incident, including actions taken, will be documented on the Non-conformance Register.

Management Review

Management Reviews are held annually to act as a forum for continual environmental improvement and to monitor the effectiveness of the Environmental Management System.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team chairs the Management Review and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation and ERF Business Improvement Manager make up the Management Review Team.

Outputs from the Management Review are recorded in the minutes, which are available on request.

Outputs from the most recent Management Review included:

- Approval that the Corporate Plan outcomes will continue as the environmental objectives.
- Confirmation that significant environmental aspects are being appropriately controlled.
- Confirmation that compliance obligations are appropriately monitored and controlled.
- Approval that the Environmental Report will signpost to the Carbon Performance Report for details of environmental performance in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

Legal Compliance

All applicable environmental legislation, regulatory requirements and other voluntary commitments that relate to the environmental aspects of Conwy County Borough Council's activities and services have been documented on the Register of Compliance Obligations including the relevance of the legislation to the organisation; details of the requirement for compliance; the methods used to evaluate compliance and the officer responsible for monitoring compliance. The Register is reviewed annually, in accordance with EMS01.

Records of waste licenses and Display Energy Certificates held by the Authority are maintained and monitored to ensure compliance and timely renewal when required.

Reducing Green House Gas Emissions

The greenhouse gases released from the activities of Conwy County Borough Council have been identified and we are aware of the activities they originate from and the impact they have on the environment.

The main GHG's identified are:

- Carbon Dioxide from travel and energy use;
- Methane from waste sent to landfill;
- Nitrous Oxide from vehicles fitted with catalytic converters and sewage treatment;
- Ozone from vehicles fitted with catalytic converters;
- Water Vapour.

The work to become a net carbon zero Authority will include monitoring and reporting emissions data from the following sources:

Scope 1 emissions

- Direct fuel used by CCBC owned & operated buildings
- Gas used by CHP plant
- Fuel used by CCBC vehicles and plant

Scope 2 emissions

- Grid electricity used by CCBC owned & operated buildings
- Grid electricity used by street lighting / CCTV

Scope 3 emissions

- Water supply & treatment for CCBC owned & operated buildings
- CCBC staff business travel
- CCBC staff commuting
- Waste from CCBC operations
- Procurement of goods & services
- Energy use by leased assets

2018/19 is the baseline year for emissions reporting and will allow emissions to be tracked towards the goal of becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. Emissions have been converted into CO₂e for reporting purposes and details are reported annually in the Net Zero Carbon Report which is published on the council's website.

Sustainable Development

The Well Being of Future Generations Act has set the direction for Wales in relation to delivering services in a sustainable way and working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

To support delivery of the well-being objectives outlined in the Act the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Service Board have developed a Local Well-being Plan which sets out objectives the Board will deliver to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the local area in Conwy and Denbighshire.

The Well-being Plan has 3 priorities:

- People - Supporting good mental well-being for all ages.
- Community - Supporting community empowerment.
- Place - Supporting environmental resilience.

Conwy's Corporate Plan is a 5 year plan which sets out Conwy's key priorities to support the needs of the citizens who live in, work in and visit Conwy and contributes to the delivery of the Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board Well-being Plan.

The Corporate Plan is based around 8 citizen outcomes which have been adopted as our environmental objectives.

People in Conwy:

1. Are educated and skilled.
2. Are safe and feel safe.
3. Have access to affordable, appropriate, good quality accommodation that enhance the quality of their lives.
4. Are healthy and active.
5. Live in a county that has a prosperous economy.
6. Value and look after the environment.
7. Live in a county where heritage, culture and the Welsh language thrive.
8. Contribute to their community. They are informed, included and listened to.

Environmental Priorities

Conwy County Borough Council recognises that our most significant environmental impacts are in the areas of:

Greenhouse gas emissions from our activities

We emit greenhouse gases from nearly everything we do, as we travel and purchase more goods to provide a quality service we are emitting carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere, which are adversely affecting our environment.

Conwy County Borough Council was a participant in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme from 2011-2019, reporting on the amount of carbon emitted from our buildings and activities.

In 2019 Conwy County Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency and has set up the Climate Challenge Programme to deliver a decarbonisation plan to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Information on this is published on the Council's website and will be updated as the programme progresses. [Climate Challenge Programme \(conwy.gov.uk\)](https://www.conwy.gov.uk/climate-challenge-programme)

Consumption of natural resources

Conwy's Climate Challenge Programme sets out the Council's commitment to managing the carbon emissions from its activities to reduce the negative impact on the natural environment, ensuring it is protected for future generations.

The Programme scope includes carbon emissions produced from the activities undertaken by the council including energy and water consumption in the Council's estate, operation of the council's fleet, business travel and commuting, street lighting and the Council's supply chain.

Waste management

As well as the waste produced in the offices and depots of Conwy County Borough Council, we are responsible for kerbside recycling and refuse collections from all households in the County; our trade waste service collects recycling and refuse from a number of businesses and schools; we operate a materials reclamation facility (MRF), a bulking station and 2 household waste recycling centres.

Conwy's Waste Service, part of ERF, continue to investigate new waste treatment methods. In partnership with Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils an anaerobic digestion plant was opened in July 2014 which processes 22,500 tonnes of food waste each year, generating 1MW of renewable electricity and bio fertiliser for use on local farmland.

In 2019 the Parc Adfer waste-to-energy facility came into operation which processes up to 200,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from North Wales Authorities each year, generating up to 19MW of renewable energy to power homes and businesses. Since the opening of Parc Adfer no waste from Conwy County has been sent to landfill.

Working towards the national performance indicator for increasing the recycling rate, Conwy implemented the trolibocs recycling collection system in 2014/15 and were the first council in the UK to implement 4 weekly refuse collections during 2018/19 which have contributed to significant improvements in this area.

The result of these actions is that 70% of waste collected in Conwy was recycled, reused or composted in 2020/21.

All the legislation governing these activities is documented on the Register of Compliance Obligations and we ensure compliance with them at all times.

Storage of fuel for the council fleet

The Transport section of ERF is responsible for providing fuel for all the vehicles and plant in the Council fleet. There are fuel tanks located at 7 depots throughout the county: Builder Street; Mochdre Offices; Plas yn Dre; Gofer Bulking Station, Tan y Gopa, Cerrigydrudion and Tre Marl.

The fuel tanks stock red and white diesel (with the exception of Cerrigydrudion which only stocks red diesel) and pose an environmental risk of fire, explosion, spill, leak and pollution to ground. These risks have been identified in the Environmental Aspects Register and Pollution Prevention Plan and measures are in place to control and reduce the associated risks.

Trade effluent discharges

We recognise that some of our activities produce trade effluent that is discharged into the waste water system. Where this occurs we have identified the type of discharge and have acquired the appropriate consents from Welsh Water.

We have documented drainage plans for our high risk sites identifying the location, type and direction of flow of drains and location of additional system features to allow efficient management of effluent and drainage systems.

Environmental Objectives

The 8 citizen outcomes from Conwy's Corporate Plan have been adopted as our environmental objectives.

- Outcome 1. People in Conwy are educated and skilled.
- Outcome 2. People in Conwy are safe and feel safe.
- Outcome 3. People in Conwy have access to affordable, appropriate, good quality accommodation that enhance the quality of their lives.
- Outcome 4. People in Conwy are healthy and active.
- Outcome 5. People in Conwy Live in a county that has a prosperous economy.
- Outcome 6. People in Conwy value and look after the environment.
- Outcome 7. People in Conwy live in a county where heritage, culture and the Welsh language thrive.
- Outcome 8. People in Conwy contribute to their community. They are informed, included and listened to.

Detailed performance is available in the Annual Report which can be viewed on the Council's website www.conwy.gov.uk/annualreport

Outcome 1: People in Conwy are educated and skilled

Everyone has potential. We want people to learn new skills and reach their potential. We want to be known for excellent education.

We will focus on

- Improving education across schools.
- Improving performance and results.
- Helping young people to develop skills and make the most of job opportunities.

How we plan to do this

A1.1 – Work with schools to improve results at each key stage of education. We will focus support on groups of learners such as looked after children, those on free school meals as well as challenging our high achievers.

A1.2 – Develop systems to effectively challenge and support schools performance throughout the Local Authority.

A1.3 – Work with schools to implement the digital competencies framework.

A1.4 – Work to get the balance right - as well as being IT literate, young people need to be able to play and be physically literate. We will look at ways to help reduce childhood obesity and improving emotional health.

A1.5 – We will continue to support schools with ongoing Covid controls and policies.

Outcome 2: People in Conwy are safe and feel safe.

We want communities to work together to make sure vulnerable people are safe.

We will focus on

- Strengthening safeguarding arrangements across the council.
- Having communities that look out for vulnerable people.
- Helping people know what they should do to keep themselves and others safe.

How we plan to do this

A2.1 – We will ensure that within the council, there is a consistent corporate approach to safeguarding.

A2.2 – We will monitor our approach and aim to continually improve safe recruitment and employment.

A2.5 – Seek assurance from schools that Governors are completing safeguarding training.

A2.7 – We will support Wels Government and our local communities to maintain social distancing and other control measures during Covid.

Outcome 3: People in Conwy have access to affordable, appropriate, good quality accommodation that enhance the quality of their lives

We want our residents to live in accommodation that supports their positive health and well-being.

We will focus on

- Increasing the number of affordable houses available to buy and rent.
- Planning the right accommodation in the right areas.
- Stopping people from becoming homeless.

How we plan to do this

A3.1 – Increase the supply of good quality affordable housing which meets identified need and assists in mitigating the impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms.

A3.2 – Work with our partners to further strengthen our homelessness prevention services.

A3.3 – Increase the supply of appropriate market housing which meets identified need.

A3.4 – Work with partners to increase the supply and quality of appropriate accommodation in the independent care sector.

Outcome 4: People in Conwy are healthy and active

We want to promote healthy lifestyle choices. This can make a real difference to the quality of people's lives.

We will focus on

- Promoting healthy choices and healthy lifestyles.
- Working with Health and Social Care services.
- Making sure people can get the care they need when they need it.

How we plan to do this

A4.1 – Develop new models to promote health & well-being so that people of all ages are less reliant on health and social care. We will do this by working collaboratively and looking at future trends.

A4.2 – We will focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences and provide support to parents through multi-agency approaches.

A4.3 – We will work to ensure Conwy citizens have timely access to mental health assessment and support.

A4.4 – We will develop approaches to encourage people to take part in physical activity.

A4.5 – We will work to achieve the Corporate Health Standard in order to support the well-being of staff.

A4.6 – Encourage families across the county to have the confidence to go out and play, explore and create together.

Outcome 5: People in Conwy Live in a county that has a prosperous economy.

We want to have enough jobs, services, goods and money. This is important if we're going to be healthy, strong and able to grow in the future.

We will focus on

- Encouraging new ideas and innovation.
- Encouraging new jobs and businesses.
- Developing winter tourism.
- Developing skills and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Working together with all businesses in the area.

How we plan to do this

A5.1 – To provide support to businesses to help them remain viable/ recover from the economic impact of Covid-19.

A5.1a – Enable Conwy's businesses to benefit from the major economic developments across the region and support them to take advantage of the opportunities from the North Wales Growth Deal and the wider growth vision.

A5.2 – To review the Conwy Economic Growth Strategy to ensure that the priorities are still pertinent in light of Covid-19.

A5.3 – To complete the new premises in Conwy's Penmaen Road (Tremorfa Enterprise Park) to support the growth of new businesses.

A5.4 – Support skill development (including apprenticeships) to equip people to be ready for

work opportunities in the region.

A5.5 – Develop a winter tourism offer in order to strengthen the sector making it more sustainable for investment and employment.

A5.6 – Encourage other stakeholders to help defend the coastline and protect critical infrastructure including the A55 and mainline rail and trunk sewer at Colwyn Bay.

A5.7 – We will restructure our services to enable us to focus on regeneration strategies across the County.

Outcome 6: People in Conwy value and look after the environment

We want our communities to be resilient to climate change. We need to think about the environment when making decisions.

We will focus on

- Protecting the environment for future generations.
- Improving coastal flood defences.
- Educating people to protect their own home from floods.
- Recycling more.
- Using more renewable energy.

How we plan to do this

A6.1 – Support and educate communities to prevent/prepare for flooding.

A6.2 – Subject to funding implement sustainable coastal and flood defence schemes that are fit for purpose.

A6.3 – Supporting residents and businesses to recycle more and waste less.

A6.4 – Work with Welsh Government to influence a sustainable recycling industry e.g. producer responsibility schemes. We will procure from environmentally responsible providers.

A6.5 – Reduce the Council's carbon footprint and carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy.

A6.5a – Encourage communities to develop their own renewable energy projects.

A6.6 – Promote the development of a tidal lagoon in North Wales.

A6.7 – Implement the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty plan.

A6.8 – The Council will publish a clear plan for a route towards the Authority becoming a net zero carbon user. The plan will be designed with a goal to be fully implemented during the following 10 years.

Outcome 7: People in Conwy live in a county where heritage, culture and the Welsh language thrive

We want to protect our culture and heritage for future generations. We want to encourage speaking Welsh as part of everyday life.

We will focus on

- Promoting and celebrating our culture.
- Using the arts to help people's well-being.

How we plan to do this

A7.1 – We will develop our libraries into community hubs that provide a wide range of services and activities.

A7.2 – We have now established Conwy Culture Centre and will continue to develop a community engagement outreach programme.

A7.3 – Develop a County-wide cultural strategy that encompasses all of our arts, heritage and cultural activities and which will support economic development, wellbeing, regeneration and major investment decisions.

A7.5 – Through the Conwy Welsh Language Promotion Strategy & Welsh in Education Strategic Plan we will encourage learning and speaking Welsh as a part of everyday life.

Outcome 8: People in Conwy contribute to their community. They are informed, included and listened to

Its important people have a say in decisions that affect their lives and their communities.

We will focus on

- Looking at how we involve people.
- Looking at how we communicate and work with communities.
- Making changes to improve how we work.
- Helping people get involved.
- Making good use of technology.

How we plan to do this

A8.2 – We will review how we engage communities especially Town and Community Councils to ensure all communities have the opportunity to be involved in service development and resilience.

A8.3 – We will take steps to ensure that we make the information we share relevant and more accessible and resilient.

A8.4 – We will maximise the use of digital technology and digital channels to provide more effective and efficient access to services.

A8.5 – Work with communities, transport providers and other partners to undertake a fundamental review of transporting the public and access to services. We will pilot innovative alternative options.

A8.6 – We will aim to achieve and maintain the status of 'working towards dementia friendly' as accredited by the Alzheimer's Society.

A8.7 – We will continue to implement the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) rollout across Conwy owned sites and where possible seek to support/ influence external providers outside our control to implement the LFFN.

Environmental Performance

Emissions of both CO₂e and CO₂ are monitored as part of Conwy's commitment to environmental management, used to monitor the effectiveness of improvement measures that have been implemented and to establish our overall environmental performance.

Following declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 the Climate Challenge Programme has been established to deliver a decarbonisation plan for Conwy County Borough Council. 2018/19 is the baseline year from which Conwy's journey to net zero emissions will be measured.

The Climate Challenge Programme will deliver the vision to **lead our communities in delivering a net carbon zero county.**

The programme objectives are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate, fleet, staff commuting, business travel, supply chain and street lighting to achieve net zero emissions.
- To offset the remaining emissions by 2030.
- Develop and implement a local area energy plan for Conwy County by 2030.

Performance of the programme and progress towards the goal of net zero emissions will be managed through the Climate Challenge Programme, reported annually in the Net Zero Carbon Report and presented to Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

The Net Zero Carbon Report 2020/21 is attached as appendix 1.



REPORT TO: Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee

DATE OF MEETING: 19th January 2021

PORTFOLIO HOLDER Cllr Greg Robbins

LEAD OFFICER: Geraint Edwards, Head of Environment, Roads and Facilities

CONTACT OFFICER: Amanda Jones, Business Improvement Manager
Tel. No. 01492 575398
E-mail: amanda.j.jones@conwy.gov.uk

SUBJECT: Net Zero Carbon Performance Report

ELECTORAL DIVISION: ALL

1. SUMMARY AND KEY POINTS

- 1.1 Following the national and local climate emergency declarations in 2019, Welsh Government set out its commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and decarbonise the public sector by 2030.
- 1.2 Conwy Council has declared a climate emergency and set out its commitment to achieve net zero by 2030. The Council have responded proactively to the national direction and in December 2020, the Council's Decarbonisation Plan received unanimous democratic approval.
- 1.3 Conwy Council have established a new carbon equivalent baseline aligned to the national net zero reporting requirements developed by Welsh Government. The baseline year is now 2018/19, with a widened scope, including additional elements to what has been measured and reported historically, such as supply chain and staff commuting.
- 1.4 Future carbon equivalent performance of this scope will be compared to this new baseline year of 2018/19, whereas previously performance has been compared to that of 2010/11.
- 1.5 This report outlines the carbon equivalent performance of the revised scope for 2020/21 and compares it to the new baseline year of 2018/19.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that:
 - Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are provided with assurance that the authority is effectively addressing and



monitoring its performance against the carbon reduction targets and its decarbonisation plan.

3. REPORT DETAILS

- 3.1 In October 2018, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) climate change predictions were that the impacts of global temperature rise are worse than expected. As a response to the predictions, local authorities across the UK began declaring 'Climate Emergencies'. The Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency on 29th April 2019 and on 1st May 2019 the Climate Emergency declaration motion was passed by the National Assembly.
- 3.2 Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, following recommendations by the Independent Climate Change Committee.
- 3.3 As part of its strategy to achieve a net zero public sector by 2050, Welsh Government have developed a 'Net Zero Reporting Guide' which sets out the scope and carbon emission reporting requirements for public sector organisations.
- 3.4 On 9th May 2019, Conwy County Borough Council declared a climate emergency and the following resolution was passed:

"The Council notes that the effects of climate change and extreme weather events have already had an impact on residents within the county, and that residents living on low ground and on the coast are living in an area of high flood risk. The Council also notes that sea level is expected to rise by 1.1 metre over the next century, and that every year floods cost around £200 million to the Welsh economy.

The Council declares a climate emergency and commits to ensuring that the county continues to be a lively, viable and sustainable home for our children and future generations.

The Council calls on the Welsh Government to commit to taking the positive steps needed to reduce carbon emissions and strive to create a carbon-neutral future.

The Council calls on the Welsh Government to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions across Wales.

The Council will task the Green Programme Board to develop, during the next 12 months, a clear plan for a route towards the Authority being a net zero carbon user. The plan will be designed with a goal to be fully implemented during the following 10 years".



- 3.5 In December 2020, Conwy Council's Decarbonisation Plan received unanimous democratic approval. This plan sets out the Council's route map to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 from the activities within scope.
- 3.6 A Climate Challenge Programme has been established to deliver the interventions necessary for the Council to achieve its net zero target by 2030.
- 3.7 The Council has been reporting its carbon performance since 2010 comprising energy and fuel use from buildings, CCBC fleet, staff business travel and street lighting. The Welsh Government guidance requires that public sector organisations measure and report on additional carbon-emitting activities, including supply chain and staff commuting. Therefore, a new baseline, encompassing these additional activities was defined for the Council. This report therefore presents the Council's carbon emissions from this revised scope.

3.8 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance - Overall

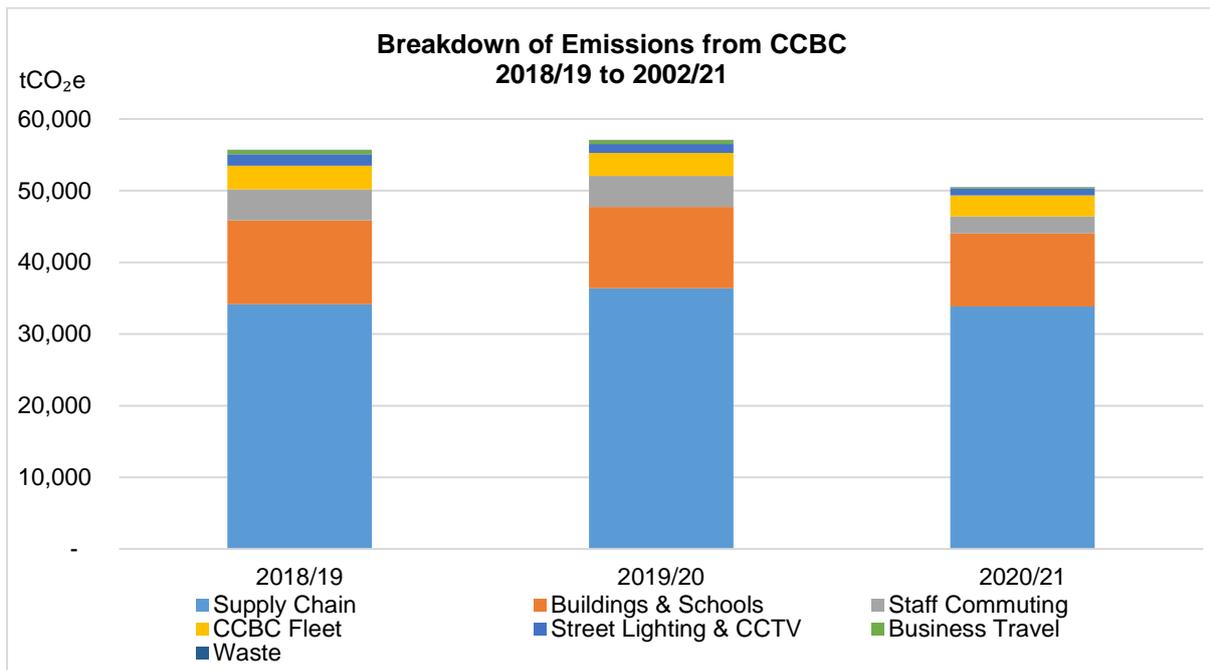
3.8.1 Chart 1.1 below details Conwy Council's emissions between 2018/19 and 2020/21. The activities emitting carbon include:

- Energy & water consumption from buildings we own and lease;
- Fuel consumption from the Council's fleet of vehicles;
- Fuel consumption from staff using their cars for business travel;
- Energy consumption from street lighting & CCTV;
- Fuel consumption from staff commuting to & from their place of work;
- Treatment of waste from our own operations;
- Energy & fuel consumed in our supply chain.

3.8.2 Emissions in the category of supply chain account for the majority of the Council's emissions at 67% (33,837 tonnes) of the total. This is followed by buildings at 20% (10,198 tonnes) and then fleet at 6% (2,918 tonnes).

3.8.3 At the end of 2020-21, CCBC emissions had decreased by 9% (5,201 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19. This decrease is mainly due to a decrease in emissions from staff commuting & building energy usage. These decreases are primarily due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.

Chart 1.1



3.9 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance - Buildings

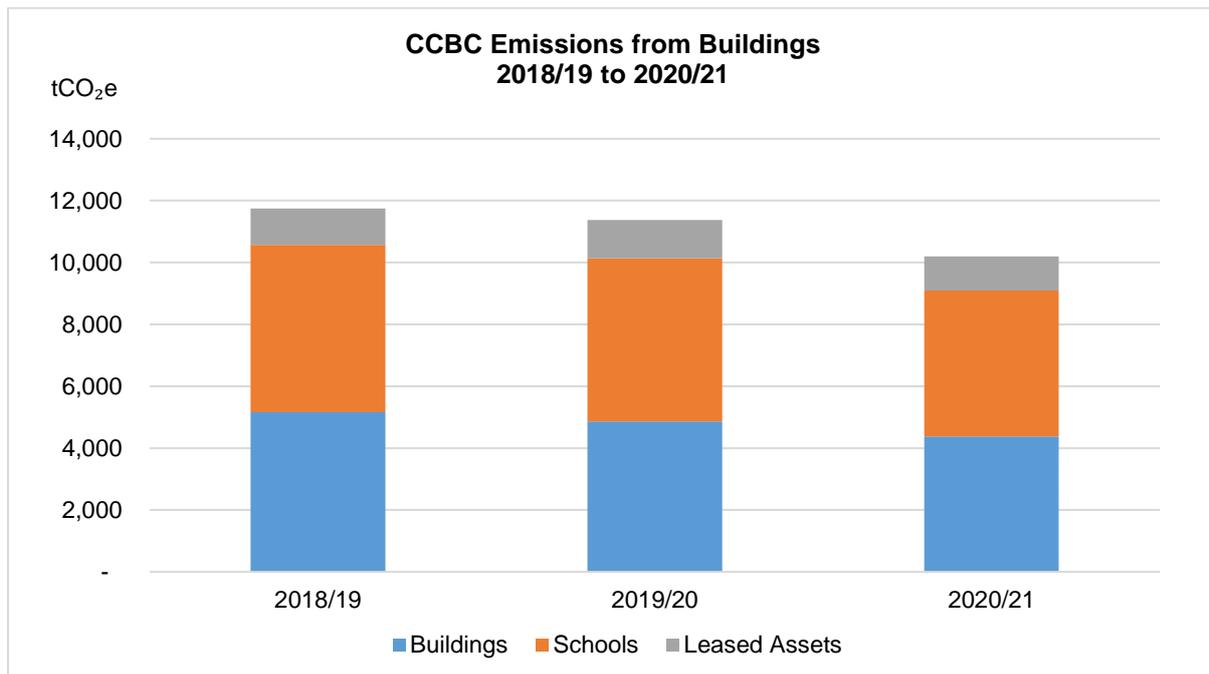
3.9.1 Chart 1.2 below details Conwy Council's emissions from energy consumption in its buildings between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

3.9.2 At the end of 2020/21, CCBC had reduced its carbon emissions from its buildings by 13% (1,546 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.

3.9.3 Contributing factors to this reduction include:

- An increase in homeworking due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- A reduction in the number of pupils & staff attending schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in reduced classroom occupancy and reduced use of electrical equipment.
- A 1% reduction in the number of buildings. In 2018/19 we occupied 117 buildings and in 2020/21 we occupied 116 buildings;
- The greening of the national grid which has lowered the electricity emission conversion factor.

Chart 1.2



3.9.4 Despite an overall reduction in emissions for buildings, there was a slight increase in gas oil consumption from our own buildings. This is as a result of a Wales' mean winter temperature that was 35% colder in 2020/21 compared to winter of 2018/19.

3.10 CCBC Carbon Performance - Schools

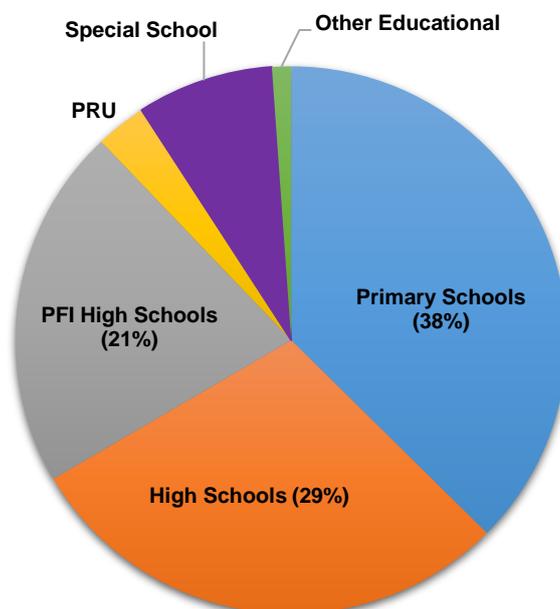
3.10.1 The primary and secondary schools in Conwy County are a major contributor to the Council's carbon emissions, accounting for an approximately 52% of the Council's emissions from its occupied buildings.

3.10.2 Schools energy consumption breakdown for 2020/21 is detailed in chart 1.3 below, which is as follows:

- 56 primary schools which account for 38% of total emissions;
- 4 high schools which account for 29% of total emissions;
- 3 PFI schools which account for 21% of total emissions;
- 4 pupil referral units which account for 3% of total emissions;
- 1 special school which accounts for approximately 8% of total emissions;
- 4 other educational centres which account for 4% of total emissions.

Chart 1.3

Schools CO₂e Emissions 2020-21 (tonnes)



3.10.3 At the end of 2020/21, schools had reduced their carbon emissions by 13% (694 tonnes) when compared to the baseline year of 2018/19.

3.10.4 Interventions have taken place with the aim of reducing the carbon emissions in the County's schools, as part of wider corporate improvement programmes.

These interventions include:

- Making energy efficiency integral to the design process of building improvements;
- Targeted awareness and behavioural change as part of the Low Carbon Schools project;
- LED lighting replacement as part of reactive maintenance works and larger scale modernisation projects.

3.11 The Impact of the Weather

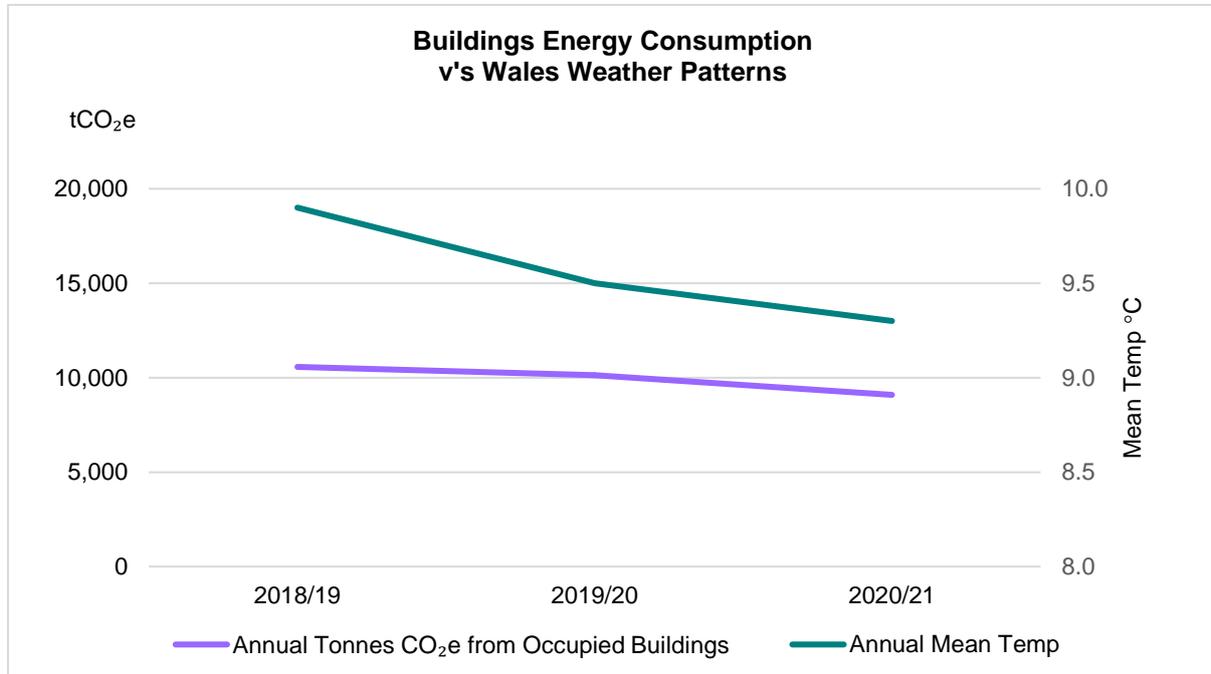
3.11.1 Chart 1.4 below shows the mean temperatures for Wales between 2018/19 and 2020/21, compared to the carbon emissions of CCBC buildings for the same period, to establish if the weather has impacted upon our carbon performance.

3.11.1 In 2020/21 Wales' annual mean temperature was 0.6°C colder compared to 2018/19 while the consumption of heating fuel decreased by 1%. Carbon emissions from occupied buildings reduced by 1,042 tonnes (10.3%) for the



same period mainly due to restrictions tackling the Covid-19 pandemic & partly due to the greening of the electricity grid and a lower conversion factor for electricity.

Chart 1.4



3.12 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Fleet

3.12.1 Chart 1.5 below details Conwy Council's actual carbon emissions from fuel consumption of its fleet between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

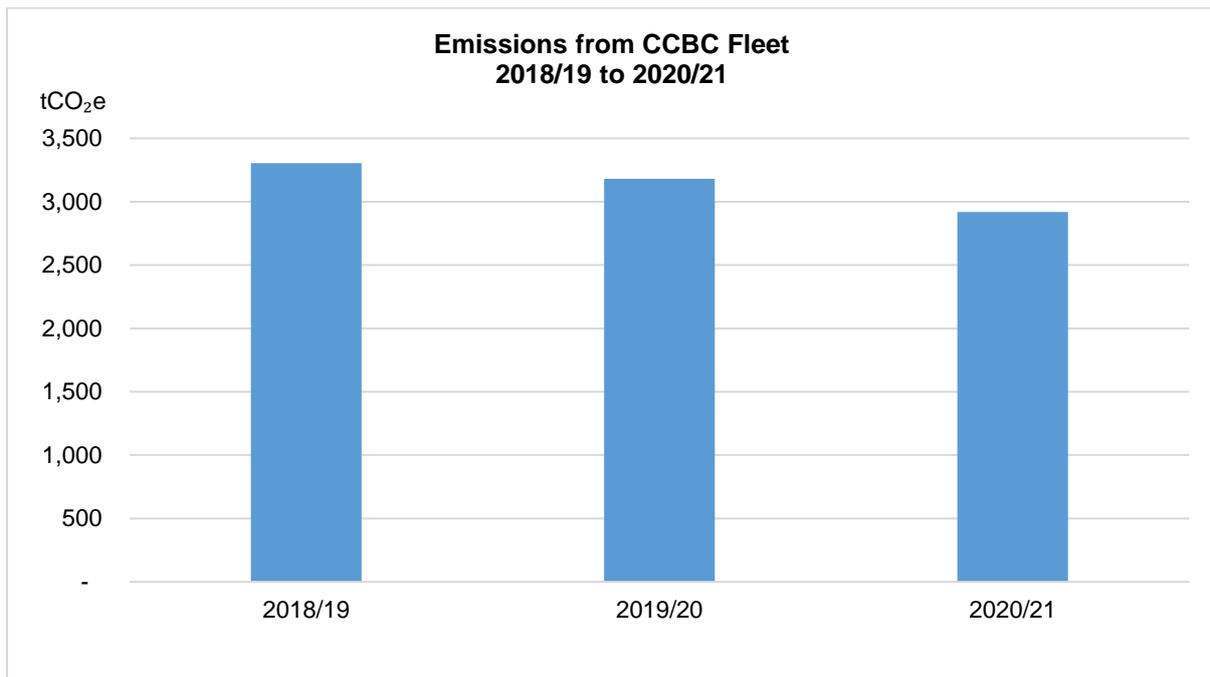
3.12.2 At the end of 2020/21, CCBC had reduced carbon emissions from its fleet by 12% (386 tonnes), when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.

3.12.3 Factors to support a reduction in fuel consumption include:

- Procurement of more fuel efficient vehicles and plant. We currently have 16 electric vehicles in our fleet;
- Driver behaviour monitoring;
- LPG no longer used as a fuel for vehicles;
- More efficient working practices through improvements in technology and service transformations.

3.12.4 The reduction in carbon emissions associated with the council's fleet is affected by the requirement to comply with the Euro 6 emissions regulations. Our vehicles that comply with these regulations consume more fuel as a result of the heating process in the engine designed to reduce end of process emissions.

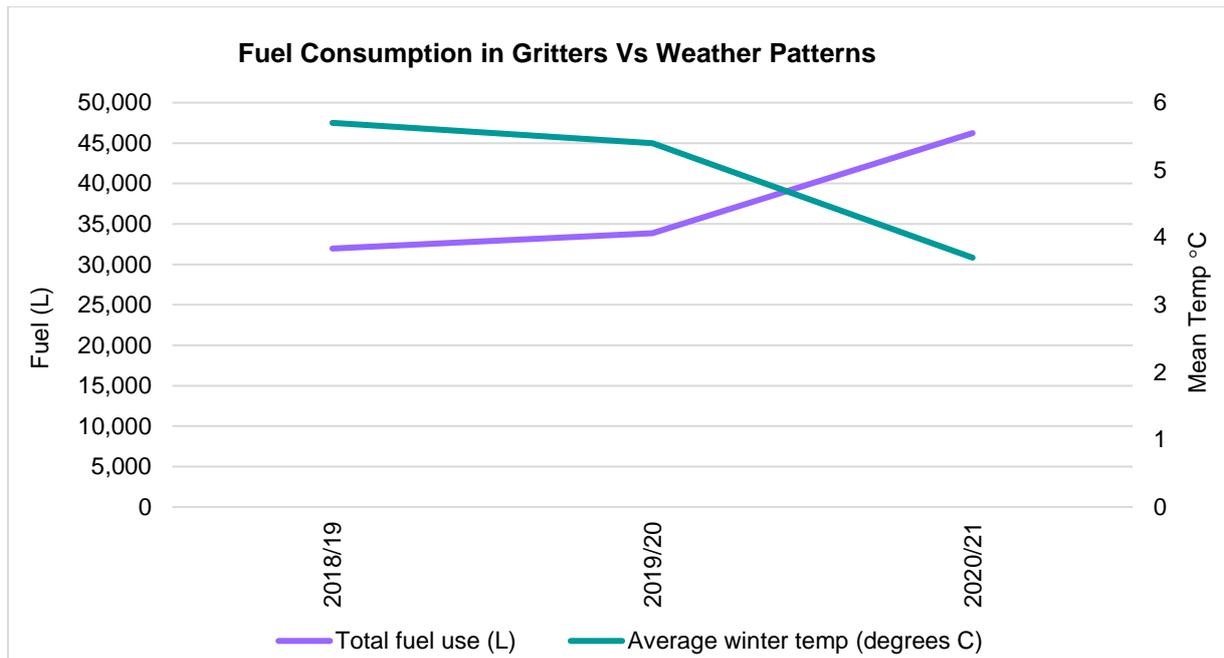
Chart 1.5



3.12.6 Chart 1.6 below shows the mean winter temperatures for Wales between 2018/19 and 202/21, compared to the fuel consumption of gritting vehicles for the same period, to establish if the winter weather has impacted upon our fleet fuel consumption.

3.12.7 In 2020/21 Wales' mean winter temperature was 35% colder compared to winter of 2018/19. It is assumed that the 45% increase in gritter fuel consumption, compared to 2018/19 can be attributed to the colder temperatures.

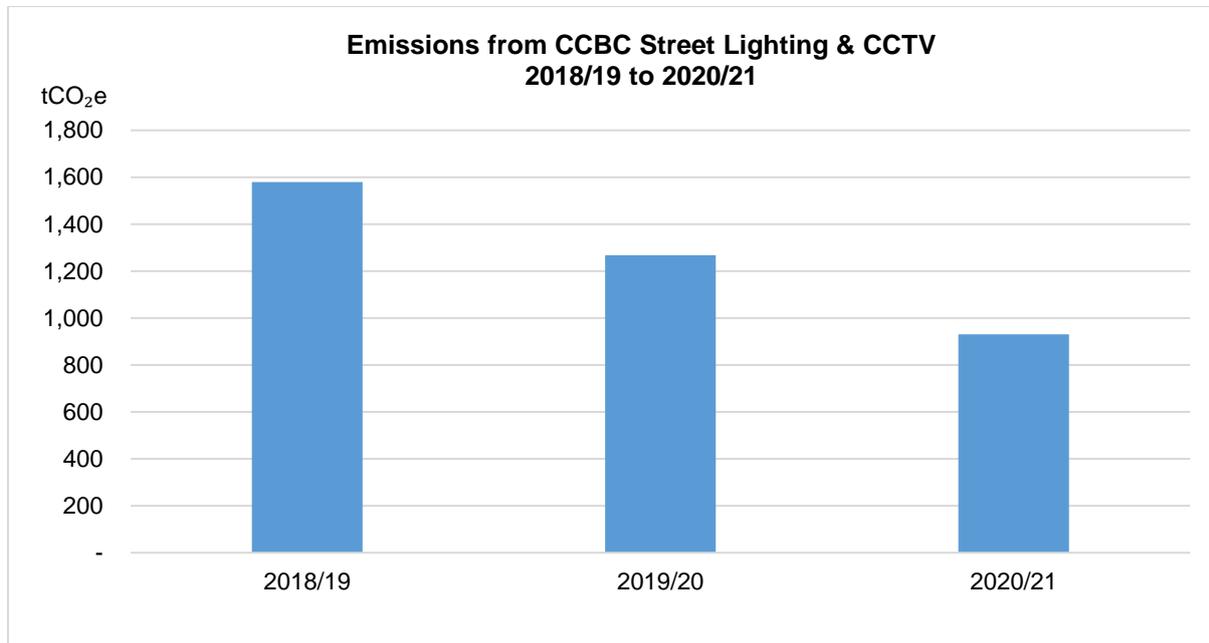
Chart 1.6



3.13 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Street Lighting & CCTV

- 3.13.1 Chart 1.7 below details Conwy Council's carbon emissions from street lighting and CCTV between 2018/19 and 2020/21.
- 3.13.2 At the end of 2020/21, carbon emissions from street lighting and CCTV had reduced by 41% (649 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.
- 3.13.3 The average wattage of all street lighting assets has decreased by 13% in 2020/21 compared to the previous year. The decrease in consumption is mainly due to the lantern replacement programme. It should also be noted that the number of assets reduced by 6%.
- 3.13.4 The replacement programme is ongoing within street lighting to replace lanterns with more efficient LED's, both reactive replacements when a lanterns fails and planned replacements on a larger scale, involving approximately 2,100 replacements per year. To date, 11,823 lanterns have been upgraded to LED.
- 3.13.5 The replacement programme is dependent upon the investment in lighting column replacement, as LED lanterns can only be installed on columns that are in a good condition. Investment in upgrading columns that are deteriorating is therefore crucial to the continued success of lamp upgrades and associated carbon reduction.

Chart 1.7



3.14 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Grey Fleet Travel

3.14.1 Chart 1.8 below details Conwy Council's carbon emissions from grey fleet travel mileage between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

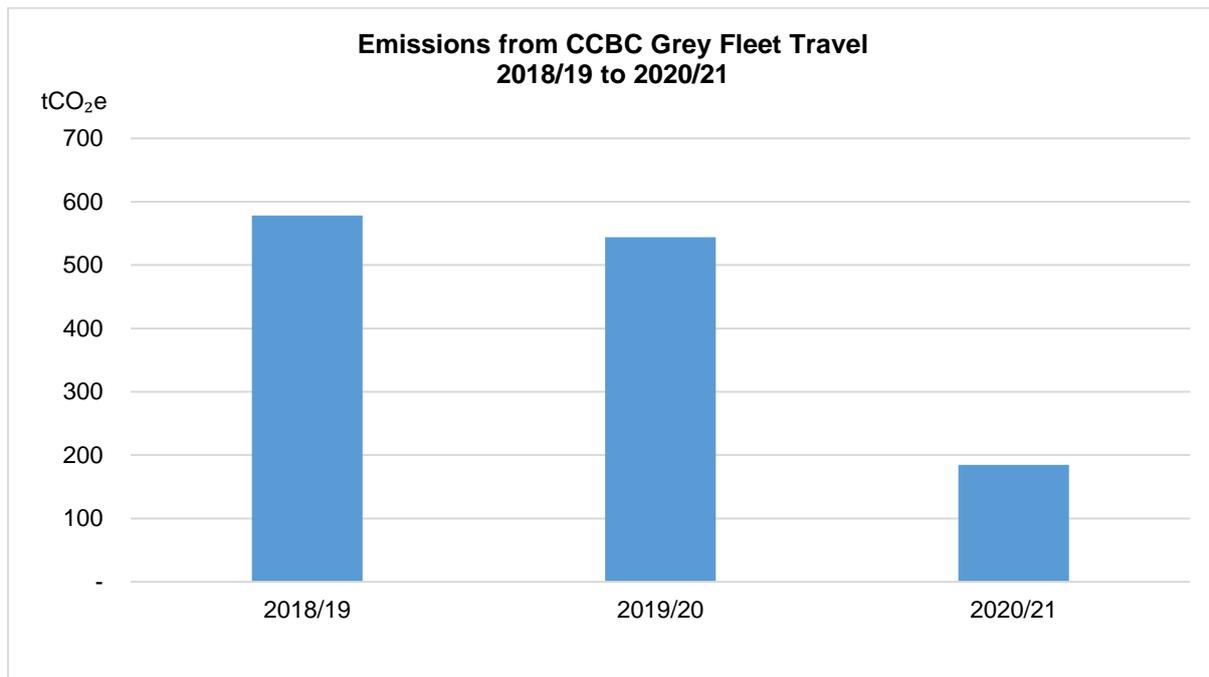
3.14.2 At the end of 2020/21, CCBC had reduced carbon emissions from grey fleet travel by 67% (379 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.

3.14.3 A total of 961,429 fewer miles were claimed in 2020/21 compared to the previous year which resulted in a saving of £445,687 on the cost of business mileage.

3.14.4 Contributing factors to this reduction include:

- High uptake of Workwise methods of working, due to the government restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has reduced the need for business travel;
- Reduction in the rates paid for business mileage in 2012;
- Transformations in Environment, Roads & Facilities and Social Services and the restructuring of many other services.

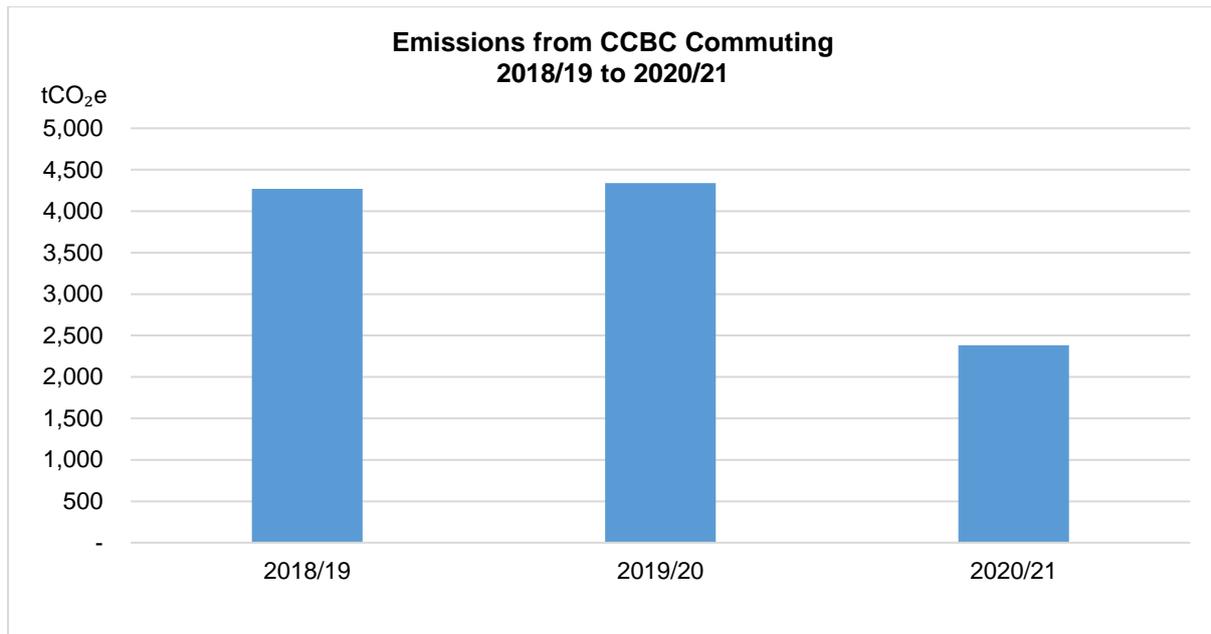
Chart 1.8



3.15 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Staff Commuting

- 3.15.1 Chart 1.9 below details Conwy Council's emissions from staff commuting between 2018/19 and 2020/21.
- 3.15.2 At the end of 2020/21, emissions from staff commuting appear to have decreased by 44% (1,887 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2020/21.
- 3.15.3 Emissions are calculated using assumptions based on the postcodes of staffs home addresses & their primary workplace location.
- 3.15.4 The reduction is primarily due to government restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Adjustments to the data were made to account for reduced staffing levels in some service areas, such as schools, leisure centres, theatres and libraries.
- 3.15.5 The data was further refined to improve its quality, for example commuting by temporary staff was excluded as it is counted under Supply Chain emissions as a procured service.

Chart 1.9



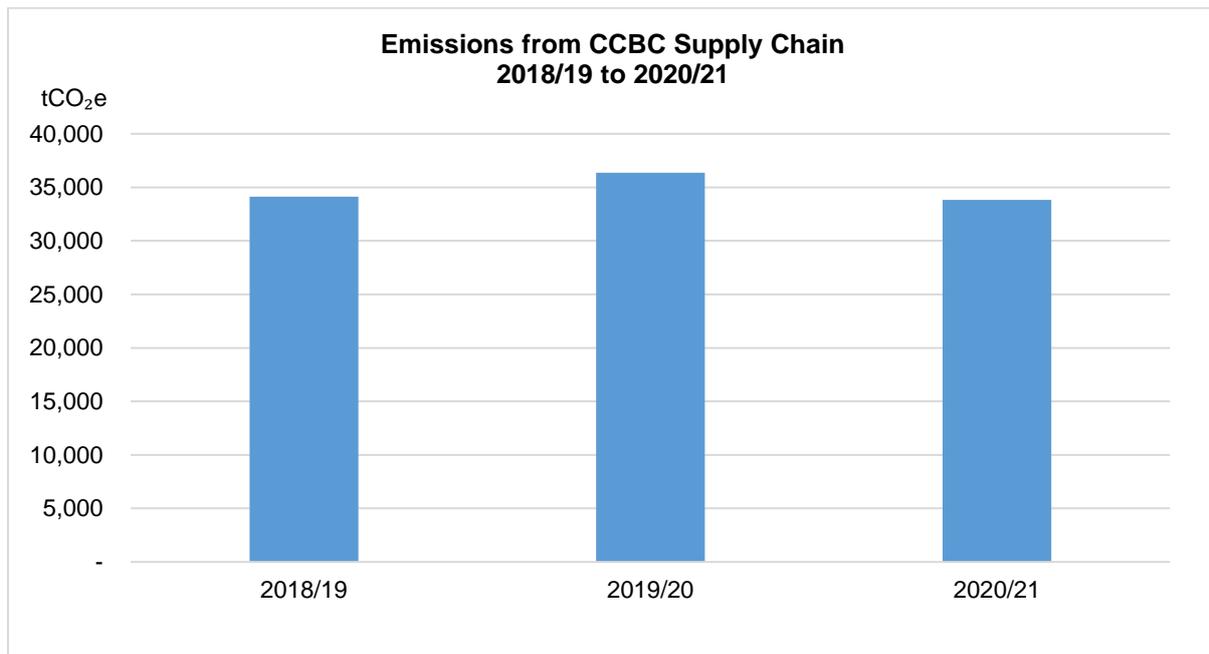
3.16 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Land Use

- 3.16.1 At the end of 2020/21, emissions from land use have remained the same when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.
- 3.16.2 The data is based on analysis of our land assets.
- 3.16.3 The forest land owned by CCBC acts as a carbon sink. It is estimated that the forestland is responsible for the sequestration of 452 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, approximately 1% of CCBC's total emissions.

3.17 CCBC Carbon Equivalent Performance – Supply Chain

- 3.17.1 Chart 1.10 below details Conwy Council's emissions from supply chain spend between 2018/19 and 2020/21.
- 3.17.2 Supply Chain accounts for approximately 67% of CCBC's total emissions.
- 3.17.3 At the end of 2020/21, emissions from supply chain spend appear to have decreased by 1% (290 tonnes) when compared with the baseline year of 2018/19.
- 3.17.4 The data is based on the application of emissions factors to £ spent in various categories. The decrease in emissions is due to decreases in spending in the Waste Management, Food & Drink, Equipment, Manufactured Products, Construction, Production from Land & Sea, & Repair & Maintenance categories.

Chart 1.10



4.0 OPTIONS

N/A.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant staff members across the authority who have involvement in decarbonisation in Conwy.
- 5.2 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation whose observations are as follows:

Comment to be added once finalised.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The balance from the former Carbon Management Programme capital budget has been realigned to the Climate Challenge Programme. Additional investment will be required to fund delivery of the interventions required to achieve net carbon zero by 2030;
- 6.2 The Climate Challenge Programme Board is in place to oversee delivery of the programme. Governance is in the process of being established for all of the projects under this programme.
- 6.3 Monitoring our carbon performance is essential to enable the Council to reduce its consumption of carbon-emitting natural resources and have a positive impact upon climate change mitigation.



7.0 CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 The Authority has made a commitment within the Corporate Plan 2017-22 as follows:

‘A6.5 Reduce the Council’s carbon footprint and carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy’.

‘A6.8 The Council will publish a clear plan for a route towards the authority being a net zero carbon user. The plan will be designed with a goal to be fully implemented during the following 10 years’.

This will be monitored by measure M6.4, % change in carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) from the activities of Conwy County Borough Council.

8.0 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

8.1 Long Term

Reducing the Council’s carbon emissions is reducing reliance on depleting natural resources and helping to protect and safeguard the environment now and in the future.

8.2 Prevention

Reducing the Council’s carbon emissions demonstrates that the Council is playing its part in slowing down the effects of global climate change.

8.3 Integration

Reducing the Council’s carbon emissions is helping to deliver the Council’s Corporate Outcome ‘People in Conwy value and look after the environment’. It also contributes to achievement of national and global carbon reduction targets.

8.4 Collaboration

All Council departments and staff contribute to the activities which produce carbon and therefore play a key role in reducing the Council’s emissions. ERF work with all departments to assist them in doing this.

8.5 Involvement

Carbon reduction awareness initiatives and energy audits provide opportunities for staff from all areas of the Council to get involved in helping the Council reduce its carbon emissions.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No perceived equalities implications.



10.0 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 10.1 CCBC Climate Challenge Programme, Renewal Programme, Asset Management Plan and Office Accommodation Strategy will impact upon the Council's carbon reduction.

11.0 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The following risks have been identified as Corporate risks: with a residual risk rating of C3:

'CR6.3 – The risk that Conwy Council does not achieve local and national carbon reduction targets'. This has a residual risk rating of C3 (moderate).

'CR6.6 – The risk that we do not respond to the climate change emergency at a local level'. This has a residual risk rating of C1 (critical).

This report supports the mitigation of these risks.

12.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 12.1 N/A

13.0 REPORT REVIEW GROUP (RRG) COMMENTS

- 13.1 N/A

Environmental Report Validation

The information contained within this Environmental Report has been sampled and validated by the Green Dragon auditor and found to be a fair and accurate assessment of the organisations' activities and environmental performance over the past year within the organisations defined scope.

Lead Auditor: Robert Williams

Auditing Organisation: Groundwork Wales

Date of audit: 15th March to 24th March 2022

Valid until: March 2023

Validation of the Environmental Report does not confirm certification of the organisations Environmental Management System to the Green Dragon Standard. Confirmation of certification can be made by obtaining a copy of the organisations valid Green Dragon certificate or visiting the Green Dragon website at www.greendragonems.com.