

# Refresh of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration: PES/473

## Appendix C: Summary of current action plan and critical projects.

- 1.1 The Council's scope 1 emissions have not fallen significantly since a climate emergency was declared, and ending the Council's reliance on fossil gas as an energy source for heating and hot water is critical to reducing our carbon footprint. Heat Decarbonisation Plans have been completed or are being commissioned for all of the Council's direct operational assets. These will assess the fabric of the building and energy consumption to make recommendations as to how energy efficiency can be improved, gas boilers replaced with low carbon heat courses, and local renewable energy generation deployed.
- 1.2 K2 leisure centre represents 70% of the Council's gas consumption and plans have been prepared to replace the aging gas boilers (which were installed 20 years ago when the building was constructed) with Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP). This requires changes to the heat distribution systems within the building to enable heating systems to run at the lower temperatures required for heat pumps. This project should be eligible for grant funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). Plans to install solar carports in the carpark will reduce emissions and the cost of electricity at the site, and support future heat decarbonisation.
- 1.3 Plans for expansion and electrification of the Town Centre District Heat Network (DHN) are underway. The capital cost would be significant, but the private sector can invest in constructing and operating this kind of asset and it is not expected that the Council will be required to invest capital in this project. New legislation to promote the development of heat networks across the UK (Heat Network Zoning) is expected from the government in 2025, and this may specify roles for local authorities in further developing heat networks.
- 1.4 Heat Decarbonisation Plans have either been completed or are being developed for these assets using grants from the Low Carbon Skills Fund. The development of an asset database will assist the further development of these plans, providing a comprehensive source of data defining the design, age and condition of the buildings and enabling alignment with maintenance schedules.
- 1.5 The Council has a large portfolio of operational buildings, including the Hawth theatre, Metcalf Way offices and depots, community centres and pavilions, which all use gas for heating and hot water. A PSDS application is being prepared to fund decarbonisation works at a selection of Community Centres.
- 1.6 Transport emissions are also significant, particularly from the waste collection fleet owned by the Council. It was decided in 2023 to replace the waste collection fleet with diesel powered vehicles with an expected lifespan of 10 years, but they can be fuelled with biodiesel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil or HVO) which significantly reduces both

carbon emissions and particulate emissions at the tailpipe, impacting the Council's carbon footprint and improving air quality.

1.7 Electrification of passenger vehicles, and equipment used by the Community Services teams has already been significant and is ongoing. Charging facilities for electric vehicles have been installed, but further capacity is needed for both Council and contractor fleets.