

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 13th July 2026

Climate Change update

Purpose - to give an update on progress of the Climate Change Action Plan over the last year, focussing on key projects such as community engagement, work with young people and the development of the Climate Change Impact Assessments.

The full annual report is in development, which will provide updates on all actions within the Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2028, alongside wider activity that has been delivered in 2025/26. This report is being drafted and is due to go to Cabinet in September 2026.

Community Engagement

Rushmoor Climate Community Group

The Rushmoor Climate Community Group launched in October 2024. This is a forum for those that live, work or volunteer within the borough to engage with the Council on climate, environmental and sustainability issues within Rushmoor.

The Rushmoor Climate Community Group have met quarterly, with sessions ranging from information sharing, feedback on Council initiatives and a talk from a local resident on their own experience in making their home more energy efficient.

The group also requested a way for staying better informed and sharing information. The Council has since introduced the Rushmoor Climate Community Monthly Updates, which includes news, local activity, events, volunteering opportunities, as well as grants for local organisations and homeowners.

Eco Festival 2025

The Eco Festival was held in September at the West End Centre, Aldershot. The event included eighteen stallholders, which ranged from charities, community groups, and local businesses. Activities were available for all ages, alongside locally made and sustainable product. This event also hosted a range of talks, storytelling and a show that ran alongside the event.

Young People Engagement

Wonderseekers – Climate Trackers & Caterpillar Champions

Wonderseekers (Winchester Science Centre) were funded to run a Climate Trackers scheme to schools within the borough for the 24/25 academic year. The focus on the scheme is to raise climate awareness, whilst developing interest and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

This was the third year of the scheme, which was delivered to four schools in the borough. This reengaged the three schools who took part in the last round of the scheme (Cherrywood, Talavera, and Tower Hill), as well as an additional school (Cambridge). This focused on years 4 and 5, where approximately 300 children took part.

As added value, each participating school was offered a free visit to Winchester Science Centre, supporting their repeat engagement model reinforce their interest in science. Wonderseekers also increased their added value to the grant for 24/25. Each school was offered Caterpillar Champions,

which is activity centred around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths), which is centred around year 2 pupils.

Wonderseekers have also supported community activities aimed at young children within the Rushmoor Area, such as Playfest and the Eco Festival.

The 2025/26 academic year was funded through the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund, which is due to conclude in July.

Youth Climate Ambassadors

The Youth Climate Ambassador (YCA) group was introduced, with monthly sessions held during term times. This group highlights the importance of youth engagement within Climate action and in how we respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.

They have informed Council initiatives by giving feedback on activity such as active travel & greenspace mapping and events. Other activity has included activities such as Climate Mythbusters and Rushmoor COP negotiation. This has supported participants' understanding of climate issues and developed skills including critical thinking.

The Youth Climate Ambassadors were also invited to attend a session at Runways End for a Bushcraft day to develop practical skills and outdoor learning.

Climate Debate

The Council invited Wavell School to a Climate Debate, which was held in the Council Chamber, where they debated the Motion of ***'Fossil Fuels are essential for the future of the UK.'*** The school selected the motion, with students assigned to teams to encourage critical thinking and balanced debate. The debate was moderated by Rushmoor's Mayor, and the judging panel included the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities & Active Lives, the Council's Climate Change Officer and the school's English teacher.

This provided students the opportunity to link their interest in the natural environment and climate change action, alongside developing skills in critical thinking, persuasive argument, and public speaking, as well as deepening their understanding of the democratic process.

Active Travel

The Council secured an Active Travel Grant from Hampshire County Council to deliver active travel initiatives in schools. This included delivery of the Balance, Glide & Ride programme in Rushmoor schools. This involved teaching children in year R/1 to learn to ride on a balance bike and the delivery of balance bikes and helmets to four schools to encourage children to continue cycling on the balance bikes after the programme had ended.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

The Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) is a practical tool to help the Council assess climate impacts across projects and proposals.

The aims of using a CCIA within decision making:

- To support and inform decision makers
- By understanding the impacts of a project or proposal, these can be minimised, mitigated against, or modified to reduce these impacts where possible
- Reduce the Council's Operational Carbon Footprint

The CCIA is intended to inform decision making rather than prevent proposal from progressing. Over time, this will help to embed climate action across the organisation. Not all impacts will be able to be reduced due to other factors, including financial viability or legal obligations.

Training is being delivered for Officers, including SLT, Service Managers and report writers. This is being delivered by an external training provider.

A CCIA will be mandatory to be considered for Cabinet Reporting from August 2026.

Climate Change Scorecards

Climate Emergency UK publish Climate Action Scorecards for all Council's in the UK. This assesses Council's on the actions taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The scorecard is based around seven themes, with multiple questions within each of these. There is set criteria for each question and are weighted differently (eg. low, medium, high), these are used to calculate an overall percentage.

For the 2025 Scorecards, in order to achieve marks for climate action, this activity had to have been undertaken between January 2020 - October 2024. Therefore, anything delivered after this cut off isn't eligible for inclusion within this current scorecard.

The following table presents a summary of the Climate Action Scorecards marks for Rushmoor Borough Council. Rushmoor has made positive progress in nearly all categories, achieving a 10% increase compared to its score in 2023. Further progress has been made since the October 2024 assessment cut-off and would be reflected in any future reassessment.

Climate action scorecard	2023	2025
Buildings & heat	27%	45%
Transport	-10%	-4%
Planning & Land use	9%	16%
Governance & Finance	11%	25%
Biodiversity	30%	27%
Collaboration & Engagement	57%	51%
Waste Reduction & Food	23%	42%
RBC's Total:	21%	31%

The scorecards are being reassessed for 2027; however, Climate Emergency UK have taken the decision not to reassess all district Councils in the 2027 Scorecards due to Local Government Reorganisation and due to this Rushmoor Borough Council will not be reassessed in this round.

Climate Change Action Plan

The table below gives some high-level updates for each action; however, it does not include all the activity that the Council has achieved over the past year. Full updates on all the Actions within the Climate Change Action Plan 25-2028 will be included in the Climate Change Annual Report 25-26, which is due to go to Cabinet in September 2026.

Action		Status	High level update on progress
1	Consider opportunities arising to reduce gas consumption and increase renewable energy generation, including continued commitment to review the feasibility of transitioning electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.	Work underway	Solar panels have been installed on Aldershot Pools (Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund), with further being installed at Aldershot Lido in this municipal year. This is being continually reviewed and will be taken forward when financially viable.
2	To continue to explore options for switching the Council's remaining vehicles to lower carbon alternatives, as well as exploring opportunities to work with contractors on the Council's broader fleet. To continue to support the improvement of access to electric vehicle charging facilities across the Borough.	Work underway	This is currently being considered as part of the Serco Contact extension. Hampshire County Council have been awarded LEVI funding for Electric vehicle charge points.
3	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. To develop and introduce Climate Change Impact Assessments (CCIA) for new Council projects and proposals.	Work underway	Further detail will be covered at the meeting.
4	Identify and reduce the use of single use plastics across all council buildings and events.	Not yet started	The Council is exploring ways to reduce single-use plastics within the Princes Hall site. Wider work on this action will take place further down the line. Currently, activity will be undertaken when financially viable.
5	To develop the Council's offsetting approach with a view to ensuring that any offsetting undertaken by the Council has a local impact.	Not yet started	The Council's approach to offsetting emissions will be developed further as we progress toward 2030. This will ensure that the most up-to-date opportunities and recognised best practice are considered. Financial

			implications will depend on the approach taken. This will be reviewed as LGR arrangements are progressed.
6	To continue to engage young people on climate change. This includes the ongoing Climate Trackers Scheme in partnership with Wonderseekers (Winchester Science Centre), as well as introducing a Youth Climate Ambassadors Group to increase the offering for young people in the Borough.	Ongoing	Further Detail will be covered at the meeting: • Caterpillar Champions & Climate Trackers (Wonderseekers) • Youth Climate Ambassadors • Climate Debate
7	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 the energy efficiency of their home or business.	Ongoing	Communications on our social channels include events, local greenspaces, as well as relevant health & wellbeing and active travel messages. In addition to this, information on the SBN (Sustainable Business Network) for SMEs have been promoted to local businesses.
8	Continue to engage with the wider community on climate change, to allow residents to find out more of how they can reduce their negative environmental impact. This includes the annual Eco Fair, development of the Rushmoor Climate Community Group and community initiatives.	Ongoing	Further detail will be provided at the meeting: • Eco Festival • Rushmoor Climate Community Group
9	To encourage and promote active travel, by removing barriers and promoting initiatives, which will also lead to improved health and wellbeing.	Ongoing	Further detail will be provided at the meeting: • Active Travel Grant
10	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). To publish the Council's Climate Action Scorecard, assessed by Climate Emergency UK, with commentary to provide context.	Work underway	Further detail will be provided at the meeting: • Climate Change Scorecards • Council's Operational Carbon Footprint.