



Overview and Scrutiny Committee		Agenda Item
18 March 2024		10
Title:	Climate Change	
Report of:	Judith Barker, Executive Director, Place and Connectivity	
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith	
Public Report:	Yes	
Key Decision:	N/A	
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members	

Recommendations:

A	To provide scrutiny of activity on tackling the causes and impacts of climate change
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	The report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest reports to Environment and Sustainable Committee related to tackling the causes of, and impacts arising from, the changing climate. This includes the current refresh of the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025. It also provides emissions data.
1.2	A verbal report will be provided of the outcome of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee on the 11 th March on the appended reports.

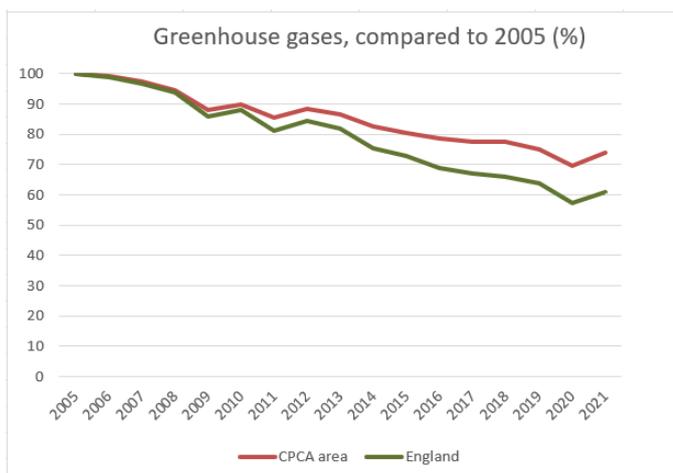
2. Proposal

2.1	The Committee to provide scrutiny of Combined Authority activity on tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.
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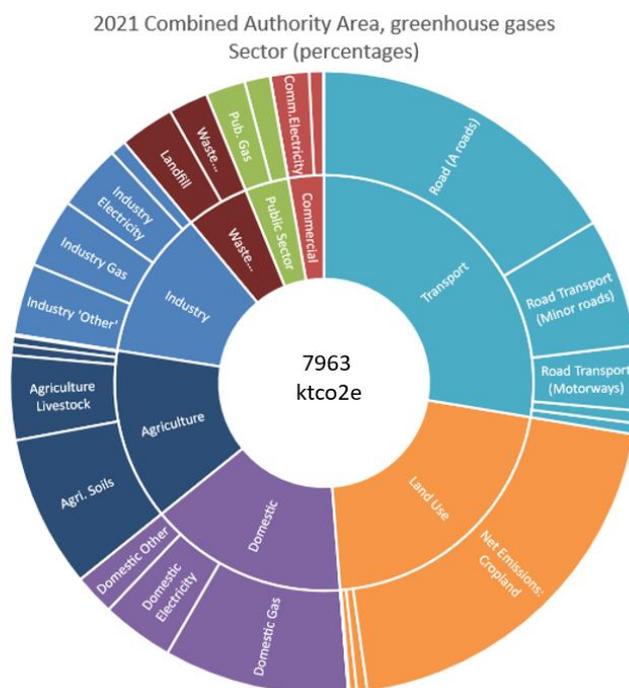
3. Background

3.1	<p>The Combined Authority is taking action to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and to help the area adapt to a changing climate. This is in line with the Corporate Objectives, especially Resilient Communities and Good Growth. Taking action is important to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the impact on our residents and businesses.• Enable a just transition.• Deal with climate impacts are that here already.• Avoid the risks associated with <u>not</u> acting.• Contribute to achieving national targets
3.2	<p>The Combined Authority has built the response on the evidence base arising from the Independent Commission on Climate and its recommendations in 2021. This included an assessment of climate change risks for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, a report on pathways to net zero greenhouse gas emissions, and stakeholder engagement.</p>
3.3	<p>A governance structure is established to inform and guide our climate response. Under the chairmanship of the Mayor a Climate Partnership meets quarterly. This has a multi-sector membership covering local government, academia, business, community / third sector organisations, and government agencies. It is supported by an officer Programme Board and thematic workstreams.</p>
3.4	<p>The Climate Partnership led the development of the Climate Action Plan that was approved by Board in March 2022 (covering the period from 2022-2025). This sets out influencing, enabling, and delivery actions under thematic themes. The Combined Authority organised a Climate Summit in November 2023 to consider progress and inform action that was attended by over 100 delegates.</p>
3.5	<p>For the 2024-2025 year of delivery the Climate Partnership has recommended a refresh of actions to remove completed actions, adjust the milestones where relevant or adjust the focus of an action to reflect changed circumstances. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee will consider those changes at its meeting of the 11th March 2024. The report and appendices are attached as Appendix A, B and C. A verbal update will be provided of the outcome.</p>
3.6	<p>The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee is monitoring delivery of specific climate projects and also the performance of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (hosted by the Combined Authority). The January budget performance report is attached as Appendix D.</p>
3.7	<p>Most of the Combined Authority's activities across all Directorates have some relationship with climate change issues, whether that is equipping the workforce with skills for the low carbon economy, improving sustainable mobility, or forecasting future economic strategies. As such each of those activities consider climate implications and are required to report them in the Significant Implications section of every Committee/Board report.</p>
3.8	<p>The Climate Partnership intends to take forward a full, evidence-based review of the Climate Action Plan during FY24/25, for adopted in March 2025.</p>
	<p>Greenhouse gases emissions</p>
3.9	<p>Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee receive updates on emission statistics. Key findings are presented in this section.</p>
3.10	<p>The data draws from government annual data on greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005). This includes a single metric combining the effects of most greenhouse gases as a "carbon equivalent". This is based on "territorial" emissions, meaning emissions that occur within the UK's borders, and is allocated on an "end-user" basis for energy. Emissions that are not energy related are distributed based on the point of emission, other than emissions from waste management which are distributed based on where the waste was produced. Emissions include methane and nitrous oxide.</p>
3.11	<p>The latest data set was published in 2023 and provides information up to 2021. This covers the immediate post-Covid upward movement in emissions as economic and social restrictions were lifted. It does not include the period covered by the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025. In 2021 emissions for the Combined Authority area were 7963 ktCO₂e. This was an uplift of 6% on the previous year, but a reduction on 2019 emissions. Looking over a longer period, emissions in 2021 were 74% of those in</p>

2005. Over that period there have been with large reductions in the commercial sector (down to a fifth of 2005 levels), other sectors about two thirds of their 2005 levels but transport and land use largely the same (noting population increase over the same period). England emissions decreased at a faster rate and were 61% of those in 2005.



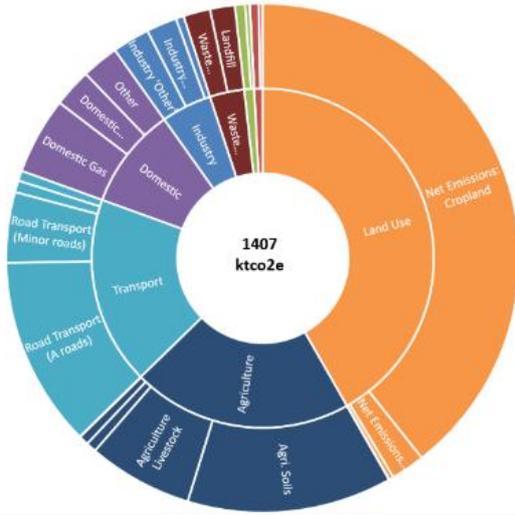
3.12 The sector breakdown for the Combined Authority area is shown in the following graphic:



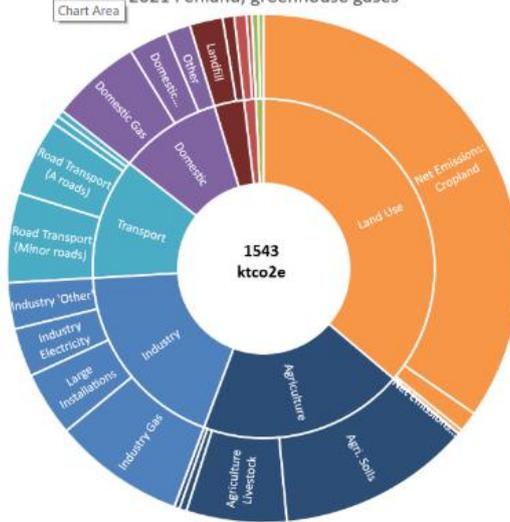
3.13 The relative impact of different sectors by local authority varies. The biggest differences across the Combined Authority area are the impact of land use and crops in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, the impact of major transport routes in Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire, industry in Peterborough and public sector in Cambridge City. Cambridge City is an outlier in terms of overall emissions attributed (the lowest at 557 ktCO₂e), with Huntingdonshire the highest (1909 ktCO₂e).

3.14

2021 East Cambridgeshire, greenhouse gases

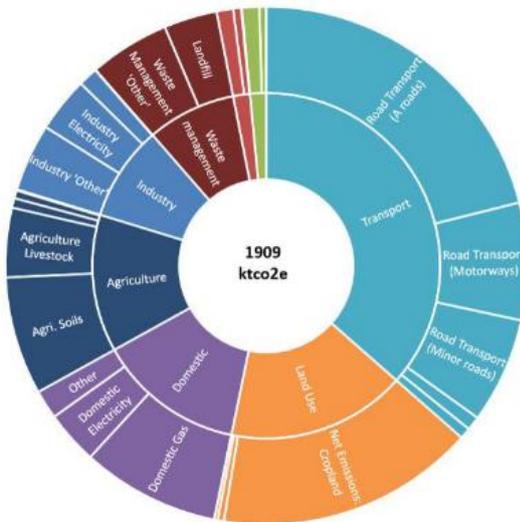


2021 Fenland, greenhouse gases

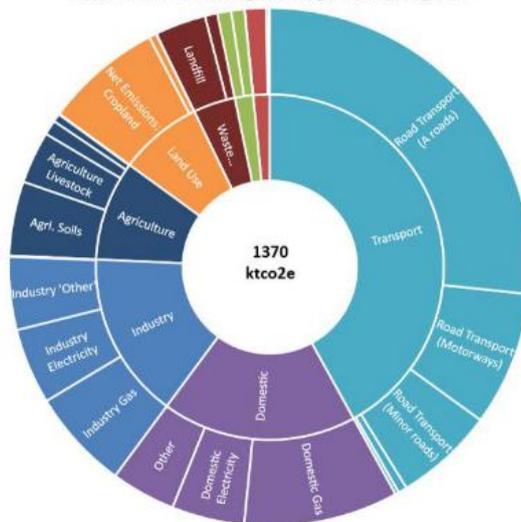


3.15

2021 Huntingdonshire, greenhouse gases

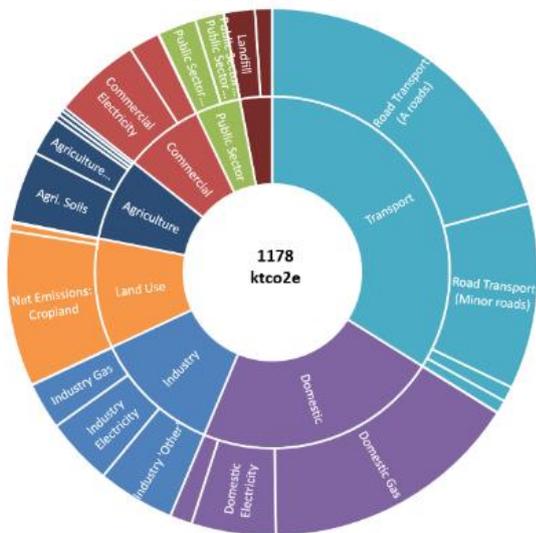


2021 South Cambridgeshire, greenhouse gases



3.16

2021 Peterborough, greenhouse gases (1178 ktco2e)

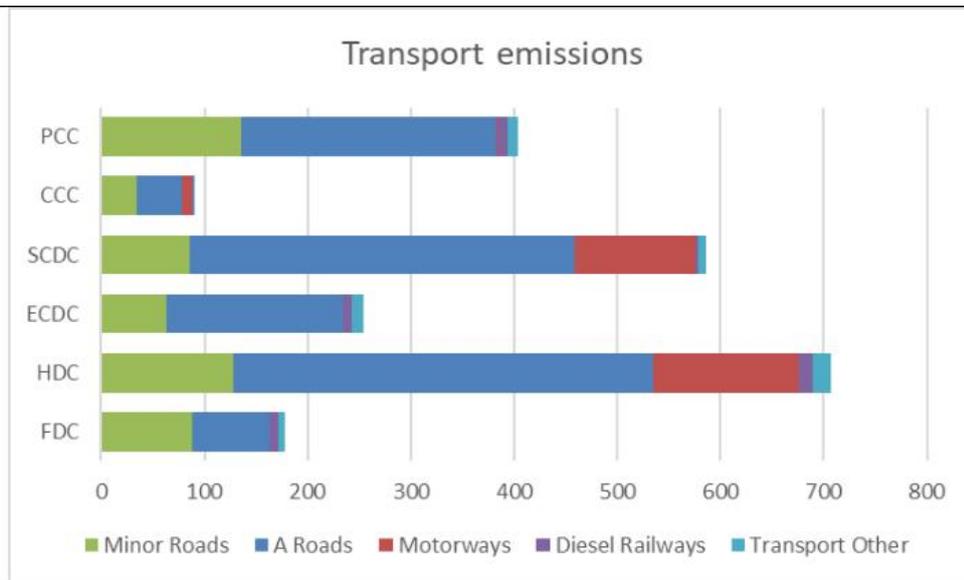


2021 Cambridge, greenhouse gases

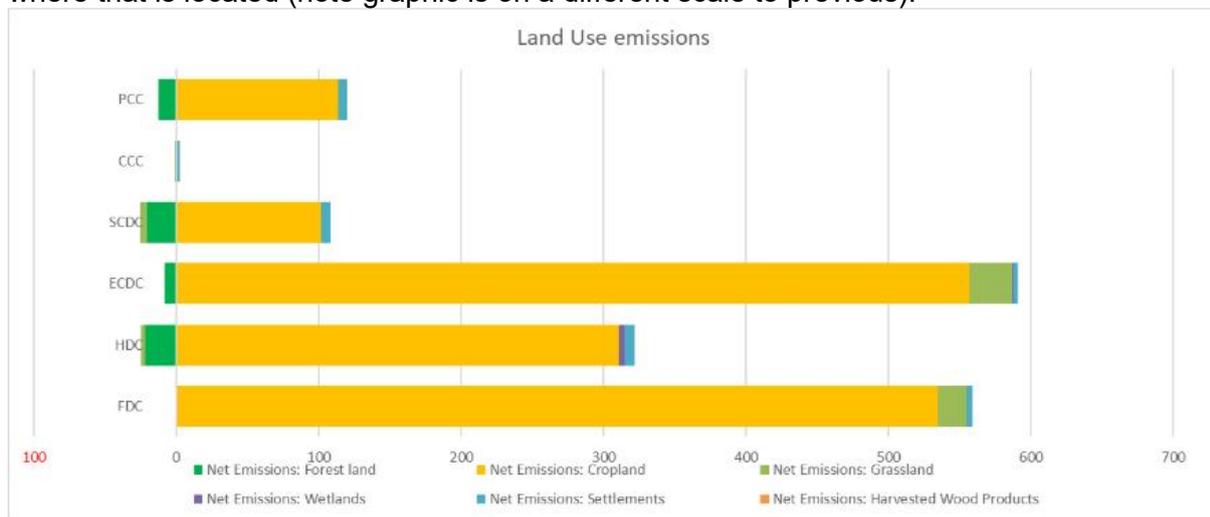


3.17

The impact on overall emission of the different sectors can be illustrated first in the transport sector, where the impact of A-roads and motorways presence in different districts is substantial:



3.18 Secondly, the land use category reflects the large emissions from farmed land, the types of soils, and where that is located (note graphic is on a different scale to previous):



3.19 The Combined Authority supported a successful partnership bid led by Cambridgeshire County Council for Innovate UK – the UK’s innovation agency – funding. This work is testing the creation of a framework between local and central government for the local reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and how this contributes to national ambitions on climate change. Known as ‘locally determined contributions’ this will examine the data differences between places as illustrated above. £150,000 has been awarded to create the framework, with supporting evidence developed with the University of Cambridge’s Hughes Hall Centre for Climate Engagement and Collaborate CiC.

3.20 The next set of data is due in June 2024, covering 2022.

4. Appendices

4.1 [Appendices A, B and C, Climate Action Plan, Report to Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee, March 2024](#)

4.2 [Appendix D, Budget Performance, Report to Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee, March 2024](#)

5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	As set out in the Committee reports appended to this report.
Legal Implications	
6.1	As set out in the Committee reports appended to this report.
Public Health Implications	
7.1	Tackling emissions and impacts of climate change can have significantly positive impacts on public health and future risks to health.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	The Climate Action Plan is a key component of the Combined Authority's response to environmental and climate change impact.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None.
Background Papers	
10.1	item 3.4 - Climate Change Action Plan CA Board Agenda - March 2022 Independent Commission Report 2021