



Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
22 January 2024	7

Title:	Climate Action Plan
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director, Place and Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith, Chair of Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	To note progress on refresh of Climate Action Plan; and
B	To note climate mitigation targets and monitoring

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
✓	Achieving good growth
✓	Enabling resilient communities

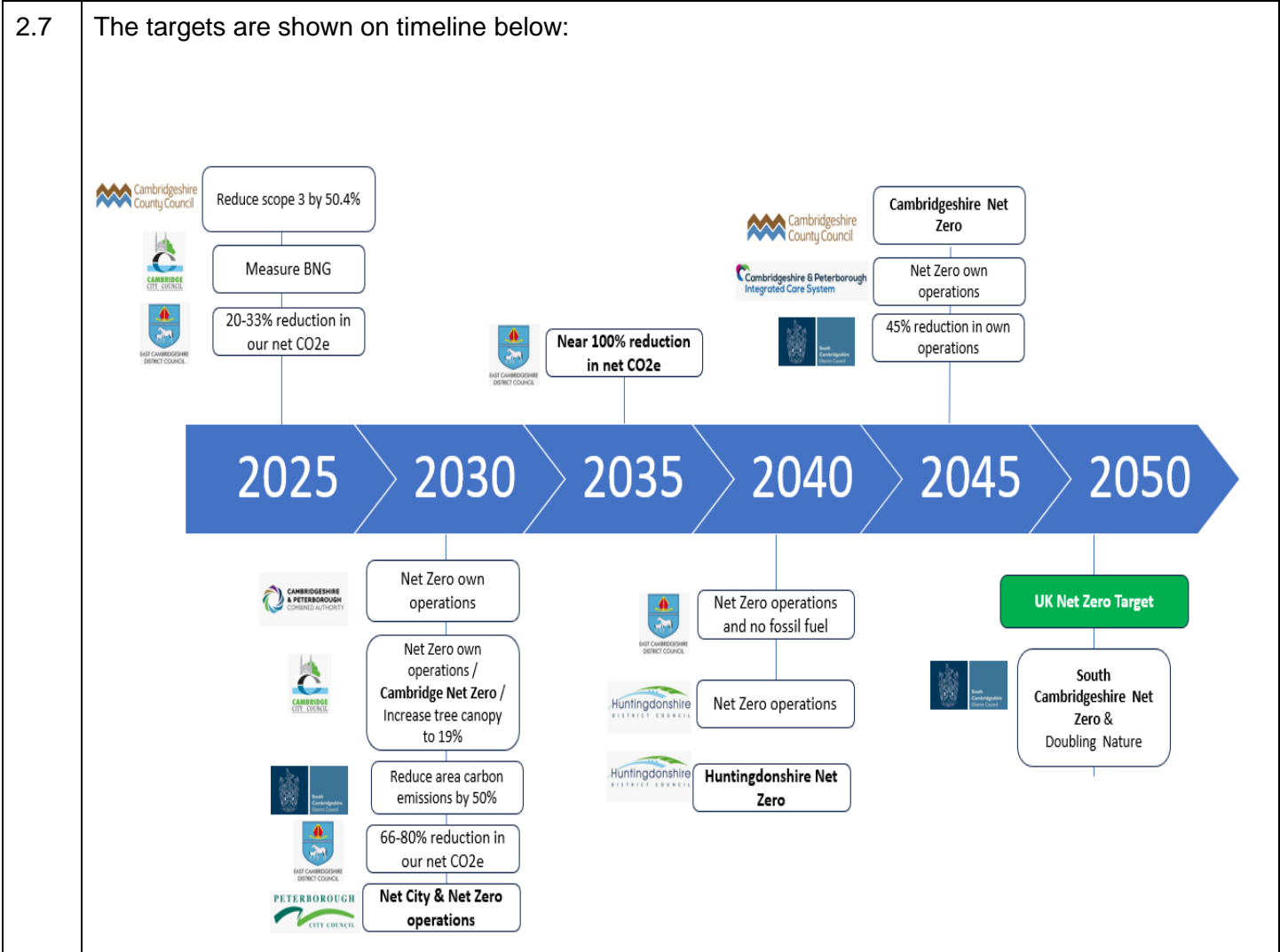
1. Purpose

1.1	This report provides an update on the refresh of the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 and highlights climate emissions targets adopted by constituent councils.
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2. Proposal

2.1	The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Climate Partnership that a refresh of the Climate Action Plan was undertaken to update actions for the year 2024/25, prior to the full review of the Plan taking place in 2024.
2.2	Work is taking place to consider each of the actions across the ten thematic workstreams regarding completion of that action, action still relevant or whether the action milestones need updating. These will be discussed at a workshop for the officer programme board to refine and cross-check the actions between the workstreams, arranged for the 7February. Revised draft actions will be considered by the Climate Partnership on the 1 March, with recommendations for change 24/25 coming to the Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee at its March meeting.

2.3	The refreshing of the action milestones is taking into account progress to date and relevant output data where available. As described in previous reports, a different approach will be taken to the full review in 2024. That will consider a more comprehensive 'risk/impact' based approach, looking at the different sectors and the ability to maximise impact on reducing emissions. This will draw upon the data illustrated in the Background section of this report and new work on appropriate cost effective interventions/pathways.
2.4	The Climate Summit in 2023 heard progress from a number of workstreams from the Action Plan. A common theme emerged from the Summit around the importance of effective engagement and mobilising local action. This will be picked up by revised actions in the Engagement workstream, including the particular transport challenges highlighted by the schools/younger people representatives.
2.5	Monitoring data has a lag, so the impact of collective action since 2022 is not yet able to be measured in the national statistics. For context, the Combined Authority area greenhouse gases emissions in 2021 were estimated to be 74% of 2005 levels, with large reductions in the commercial sectors (down to a fifth of 2005 levels), other sectors about 2/3rds of their 2005 levels but transport and land use largely the same (noting population increase over the same period).
2.6	Action also continues at the local level through councils and other stakeholders. Most Councils in the Combined Authority area have adopted a combination of emission reduction targets for (a) their own operations, and/or (b) their area. The national statutory target is to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. Area emission reductions are reliant on a wide range of actions, many outside the direct control of local authorities. Most councils therefore include a variety of convening and influencing actions in their climate or environment strategies (as does the Climate Action Plan itself).



2.8	These targets are updated as councils review their strategies. The national monitoring of emissions by local authority area (divided into different sectors) shows that councils face different challenges depending on their geographic, socio-economic and environmental characteristics. Examples are given in the Background section.
2.9	These current strategies and targets will be also taken into account in project looking at the scope for developing a “Local Determined Contribution”, which would seek to draw together these local targets into a carbon budget pathway and framework. Innovate UK – the UK’s innovation agency – supported the partnership bid led by Cambridgeshire County Council. This work will test the creation of a framework between local and central government for the local reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (tCO2e) and how this contributes to national ambitions on climate change. Known as ‘locally determined contributions’, this work follows on from the national Net Zero Review findings which highlighted the importance of local government leadership and place-based action to combat the climate crisis. £150,000 has been awarded to the Cambridgeshire partnership to create the framework, with supporting evidence developed with the University of Cambridge’s Hughes Hall and Collaborate CiC.
2.10	The monies have been allocated under Innovate UK’s ‘Net Zero Living Programme’ which aims to overcome barriers to cutting carbon, speed up processes and encourage finance and investment in local emissions reductions. The partnership includes the Combined Authority, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdon District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Collaborate CiC and the University of Cambridge’s Hughes Hall. Detailed work will begin in February 2024 and the collaboration will take place over the following 18 months.

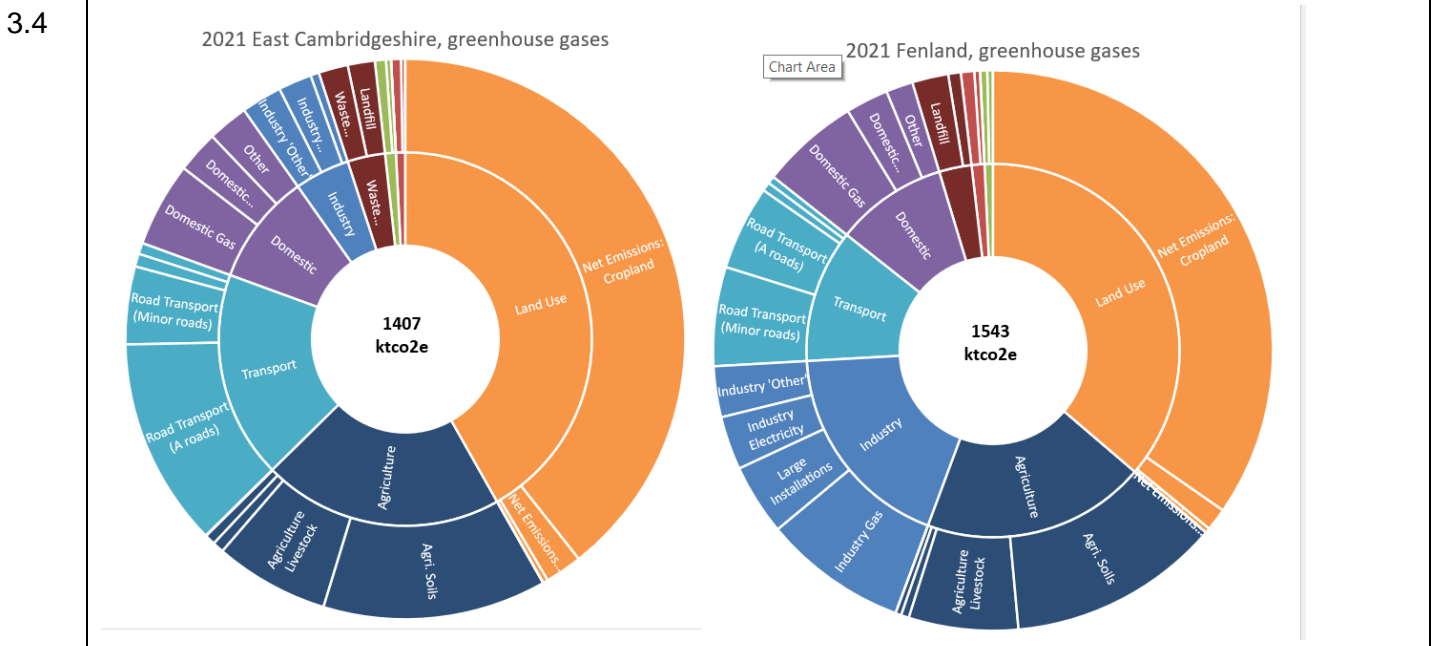
3. Background

3.1	The government publishes annual data on greenhouse gas emissions, including tables for each local authority area. These include data that provides a single metric combining the effects of most greenhouse gases as a carbon equivalent. This combines data from the UK’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory with data from a number of other sources, including local energy consumption statistics, to produce a nationally consistent set of greenhouse emissions estimates at local authority level from 2005 to 2021. They show "territorial" emissions, meaning emissions that occur within the UK's borders. The data show emissions allocated on an “end-user” basis where emissions related to energy use are distributed according to the point of energy consumption. 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.
3.2	In 2021 the sector breakdown for the Combined Authority area is shown in the following diagram:

2021 Combined Authority Area, greenhouse gases
Sector (percentages)

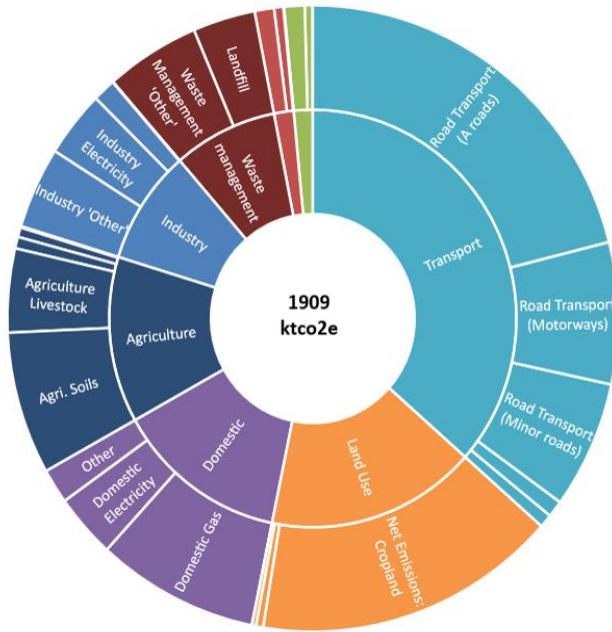


3.3 As has been highlighted previously, the relative impact of different sectors by local authority varies. The biggest differences across the Combined Authority area are the impact of land use and crops in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, the impact of major transport routes in Huntingdonshire and South 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).

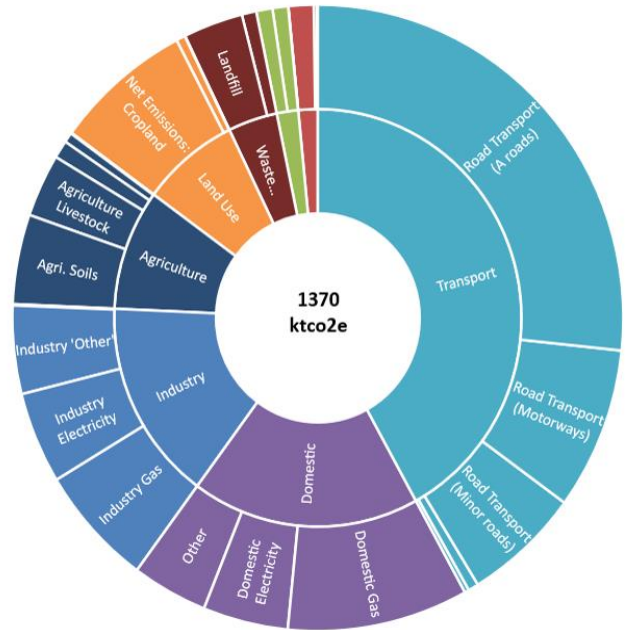


3.5

2021 Huntingdonshire, greenhouse gases



2021 South Cambridgeshire, greenhouse gases

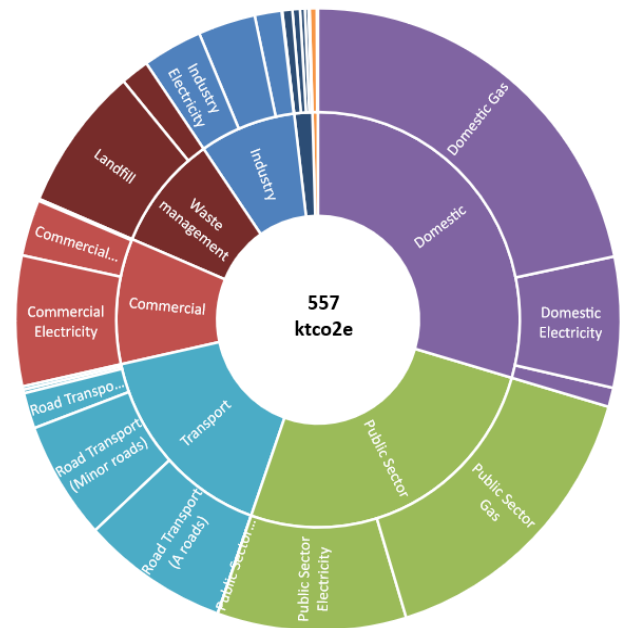


3.6

2021 Peterborough, greenhouse gases (1178 ktco2e)

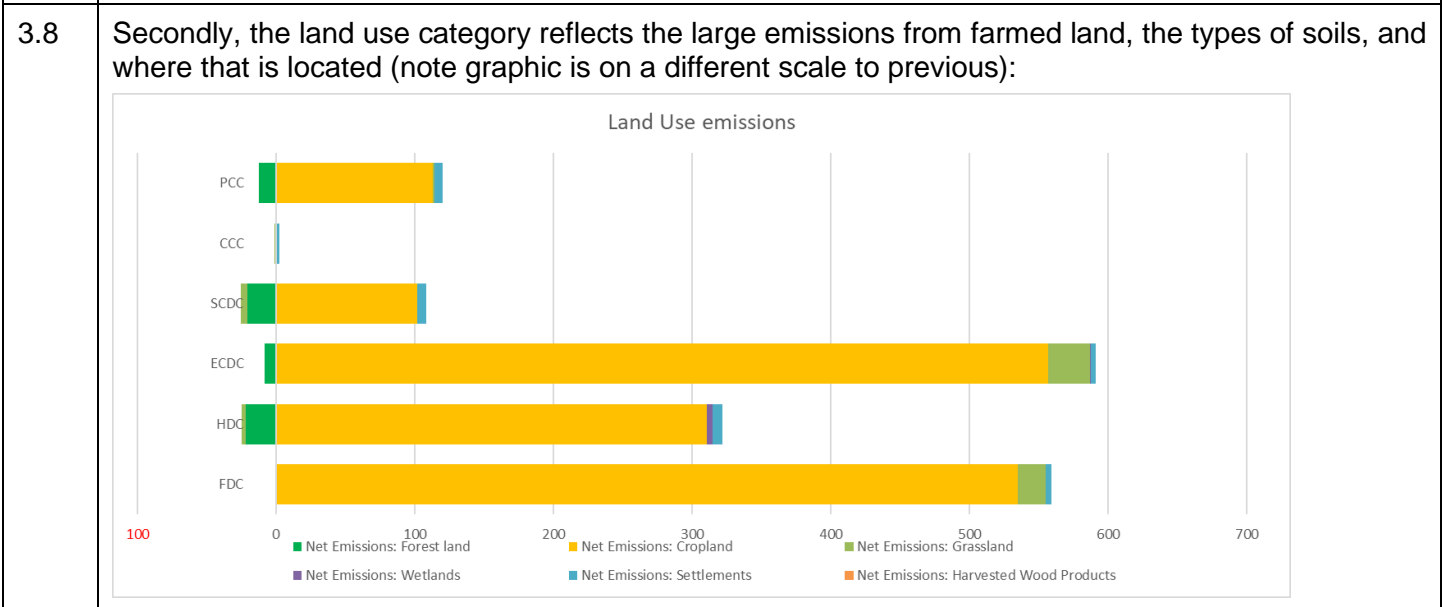
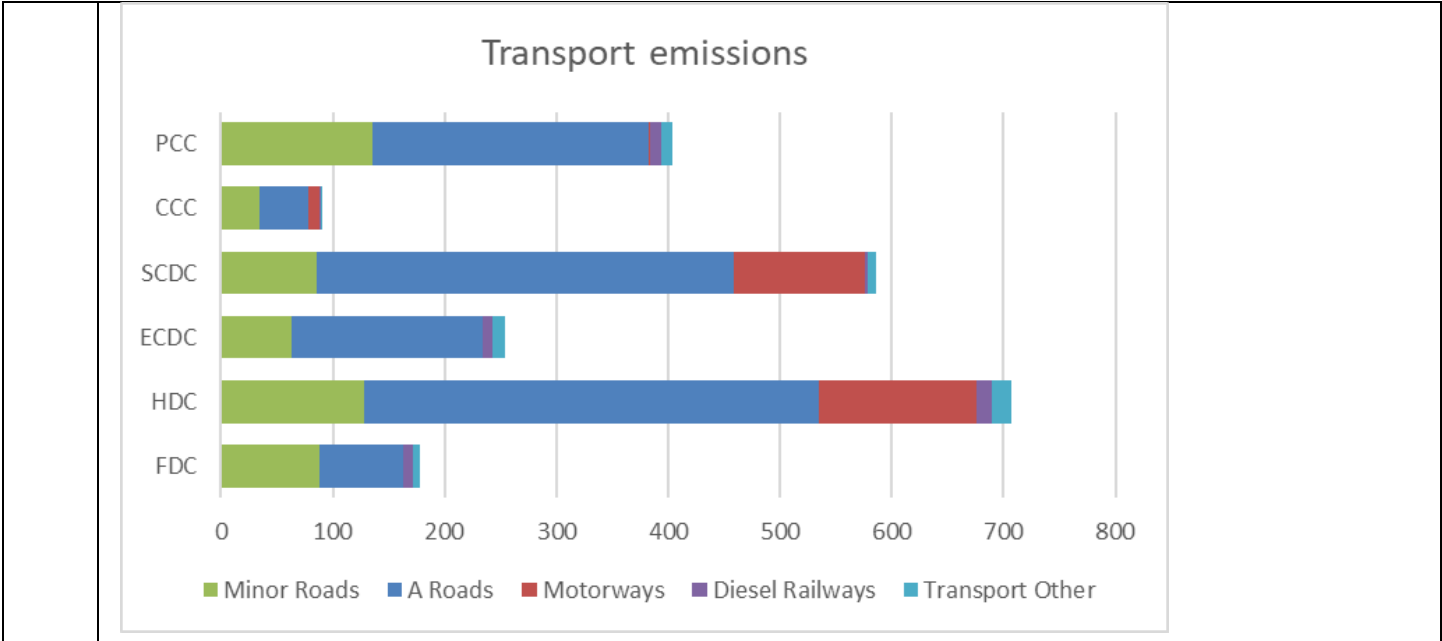


2021 Cambridge, greenhouse gases



3.7

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:



3.9 The data is available for all sectors, and over time since 2005.

4. Appendices

4.1 None.

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1 Further climate capital and revenue budget allocations are subject to the outcome of the MTFP review for 24/24 to 27/28.

Legal Implications

6.1 None.

Public Health Implications	
7.1	Tackling climate issues has many co-benefits for public health. This includes physical and mental health, health resilience to more frequent extreme weather events, and reducing impacts on the costs of providing public health services.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	As described in the project descriptions. These projects/programmes are in support of tackling climate emissions, adaptation and environmental crisis.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None.
Background Papers	
10.1	None.