

# Swindon Borough Council Carbon Reduction Strategy 2020

**The Vision for a Carbon Neutral  
Council and Borough**





# Contents

The Vision for a Carbon Neutral Council and Borough	1
Carbon Reduction Strategy Public Consultation	4
<b>Section 1 – Swindon Borough Council Emissions</b>	<b>6</b>
Where is the Council on Carbon Usage?	6
Swindon setting the standard	10
Recent carbon reduction projects and successes	10
Other associated SBC workstreams	12
Working with partners and their strategies	13
Swindon Borough Council's pathway to achieving neutrality by 2030	15
<b>Section 2 – Working to reduce the wider emissions of the Borough</b>	<b>22</b>
Implementation Plan	26
Monitoring, Reporting and Governance	27
Offsetting Strategy	30
Glossary	31





# The Vision for a Carbon Neutral Council and Borough

**Mission Statement** – Swindon Borough Council recognises the impact of climate change and the need to be sustainable and as such will be carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. In parallel to this, we will work with all interested groups in an effort to make the whole Borough carbon neutral by 2050 in line with national targets<sup>1</sup>

## The Climate Change Context

Climate change is the biggest environmental threat that the world currently faces and Governments and Administrations worldwide have responded to the evolving climate change issue by committing to reduce carbon emissions in the coming decades. In June 2019, the UK Government set a legally binding target for the UK to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

## The Council's Ambition

Swindon Borough Council is committed to playing its part in helping the Borough reduce carbon dioxide by agreeing to reduce carbon emissions and become a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.

Further to this target, the Council recognises the wider issue of climate change and plans to set an example to businesses and residents across the Borough by working towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

Following these ambitions this document will be formed of two distinct sections; Part 1 covers the direct emissions from Swindon Borough Council's activities that it can manage and control. Part 2 will cover the wider borough and indirect emissions. Each section

---

<sup>1</sup> In July 2019 the Government increased the UK reduction target from 80% to 100% carbon reduction by 2050, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654>

explains why it is important for the Council to develop a carbon management programme and how it plans to achieve its ambitions of achieving the carbon dioxide reduction targets. To achieve this, the strategy will look at four key areas of delivery:

- Scope 1 Emissions
- Scope 2 Emissions
- Scope 3 Emissions
- Wider Borough Emissions

These key areas have been expanded upon and defined in table 1 below:

**Table 1 – Emission Scopes**

Scope	Definition	Examples	Target Date
<b>Scope 1 Emissions</b>	Carbon emissions from sources that directly burn the fossil fuel, such as gas boilers and combustion engines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heating of SBC owned and managed assets e.g. offices, libraries</li> <li>• Staff business travel and SBC owned fleet mileage</li> </ul>	2030
<b>Scope 2 Emissions</b>	Carbon emissions from electricity usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC owned and managed assets power e.g. offices, libraries and car parks</li> <li>• Electric vehicles and their charging points</li> <li>• Streetlighting and traffic signals</li> </ul>	2030
<b>Scope 3 Emissions</b>	Carbon emissions from sources that the Council does not directly control; but over which it has some responsibility and influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC Housing stock and third party occupied buildings</li> <li>• SBC supply chain</li> <li>• SBC waste management</li> <li>• Staff commuter journeys</li> </ul>	2050
<b>Wider Borough Emissions</b>	Carbon emissions that are outside of the Council's control. These are emissions the Council will look to influence and encourage the reduction of as a Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swindon businesses emissions</li> <li>• Swindon residents emissions</li> </ul>	2050

This Strategy aims to help set the direction for effective carbon management for both the Council and the wider borough. Following the release of this strategy the Council aims to develop an effective implementation plan for carbon reduction, in order to achieve this the Council will consider the drivers for change, explore where the organisation is from a carbon emissions perspective and consider the baseline data we have available to us. This proposed implementation plan will also capture the initiatives we have taken, are taking and will take to achieve council neutrality by 2030 and to influence borough wide reductions by 2050.

## SBC's Commitment to Carbon Reduction

In recognition of the growing need to take action against climate change, Councillors passed a resolution in January 2020 to commit Swindon Borough Council to achieving carbon neutrality for its own operations by no later than 2030.

As agreed in January 2020, the Council is working an agreed resolution that:

**"Commits the Council to an 80 per cent reduction in the council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 per cent with carbon offsetting by the same date, with the aim of making the council's estate and activities net-zero carbon by 2030"**

The Local Authority's wider commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and environmental impact is embedded and evidenced within the values, priorities and pledges of Swindon Borough Council. Our Vision makes strong reference to our ambitions to reduce our carbon footprint:

**"By 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies; a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well managed housing growth which supports and improves new and existing communities"**

In addition, priority one states that the Council will:

**"Improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy"**

## SBC and the Community

Swindon Borough Council has and continues to play a key role to play within the community. As a considerable consumer of energy, steps taken by the Council will help reduce borough wide carbon consumption and contribute to wider goals.

In addition, as an organisation of significance in the area, Swindon Borough Council is well placed to lead by example and demonstrate good practice to both business and residents.

# Carbon Reduction Strategy Public Consultation

In recognition of the Council's key role within the community and the need continually engage with residents, businesses and interest groups, a public consultation was undertaken from November 2020 - January 2021 seeking feedback on the key principles of this strategy.

The public consultation attracted responses from both residents and businesses and highlighted a number of key focus areas that we will inform the delivery of our Implementation Plan.

Some of the key findings from the consultation process include:

- The overwhelming majority of respondents (94.7%) agreed with all or some of the visions and principles of the carbon reduction strategy.
- 68.9% of respondents agree with the Council's target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
- A significant majority of respondents agreed with the scope and breadth of all 12 objectives. For each of the 12 objectives, at least 79.9% selected 'strongly agree' or 'agree'.

We will also use the consultation responses to inform the development of our implementation plan and to build the foundation of engagement processes with stakeholders at all levels. We will explore a number of initiatives within our implementation plan to increase engagement levels with the borough community.



We will:

- Consider Parish Councils and how the Council can help them develop individual carbon reduction plans.
- Engage with schools to actively involve school children in Borough actions, investigate the formation of a youth parliament allowing school children to input into the carbon reduction work.
- Explore the viability of creating a community climate forum or citizens assembly to provide a foundation for further public engagement with carbon reduction initiatives.

# Section 1 – Swindon Borough Council Emissions

In order to better understand our carbon emissions and outputs, a process to calculate a new baseline of Swindon Borough Council carbon output was begun in January 2020, providing a dataset that will serve as the basis for future comparison and benchmarking.

The baseline figure will serve as a reference point for progress against both Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Progress in reducing these emissions will contribute directly towards the achievement of the 2030 reduction target.

Scope 3 and the wider council emissions are covered further below. There are some Scope 3 activities that are likely to be addressed as a priority by the Council, for example the Council's Housing Stock will be a priority, as well as Council staff members commuter journeys and their emissions from working at home.

## Where is the Council on Carbon Usage?

The baseline figure for Swindon Borough Council directly managed and controlled emissions have been calculated using data from the 2018/19 financial year, converting all outputs into a Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) figure<sup>2</sup> using UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2018:

---

<sup>2</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>e – Carbon dioxide equivalent” or “CO<sub>2</sub>e” is a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO<sub>2</sub>e signifies the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> which would have the equivalent global warming impact

Table 2 – Swindon Borough Council Scope 1 emissions

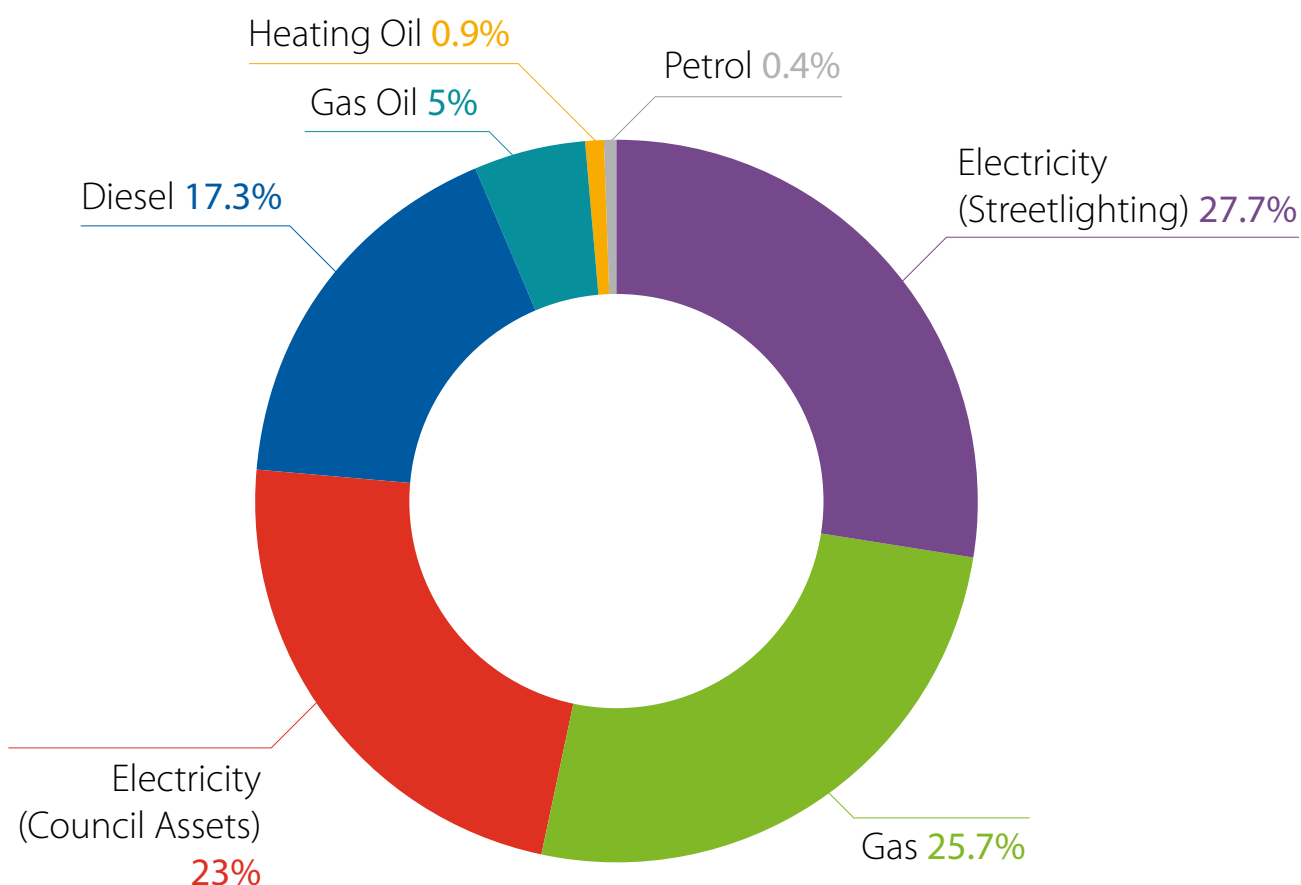
2018/19 Baseline – Scope One Emissions		
Fuels	Comments	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e
Petrol	Fleet Operations	48
Diesel	Fleet Operations	2,044
Heating Oil	Lydiard House	101
Gas Oil	Fleet Operations	608
Gas <i>Including:</i>	<b>All direct council usage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterside Park</li> <li>Social Care Buildings</li> <li>Offices</li> <li>Museums and Libraries</li> <li>Crematorium</li> <li>Misc/other</li> </ul>	<b>3,033</b> 645 504 399 383 226 876
<b>Scope 1 Emissions total</b>		<b>5,834</b>

Table 3 – Swindon Borough Council Scope 2 emissions

Scope Two Emissions		
Fuels	Comments	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e
UK Electricity <i>Including:</i>	<b>All direct council usage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offices</li> <li>Car parks</li> <li>Museums and Libraries</li> <li>Landlord Supplies</li> <li>Misc/other</li> </ul>	<b>2,720</b> 449 423 372 295 1,181
	<b>Streetlighting including Traffic signals etc.</b>	<b>3,269</b>
<b>Scope 2 Emissions total</b>		<b>5,989</b>

## The target for Swindon Borough Council is to reduce our carbon emissions from 11,823 CO<sub>2</sub>e down to Net Zero by 2030

Figure 1 – Scope 1 & 2 Emissions – Achieve Net Zero by 2030



Scope 3 carbon emissions relevant to the Council's activities to be included within the 2050 emissions reduction ambition, are shown opposite in table 4.

Table 4- Swindon Borough Council Scope 3 Emissions

Scope Three Emissions		
Waste	From Council Buildings - SBC commercial waste arrangements will be reviewed in line with our Net Zero Carbon ambition	Action – Full commercial waste review underway, current emissions to be calculated
Grey Fleet	All staff claimed mileage	249
Staff Commuting	Staff mileage to SBC office locations	Action - A staff travel survey will be conducted to gather this information and calculate emissions
Water	The use, disposal and treatment of water	360
Energy from Council Owned properties	Elderly Persons Group Dwellings	3,391
	Council Houses	31,484 (estimated)
SBC construction Activities	All SBC construction activities, materials used and energy consumed.	Action - Review SBC construction activities, and calculate emissions
Supply of goods and services	A full procurement review shall be conducted in line with our net zero carbon ambition	Action - Action - Capture and calculate all supply chain emissions

Information about the wider borough emissions are captured in Section 2 below, all SBC's scope 1,2 and 3 emissions will also be captured by the total borough figures.



# Swindon setting the standard

Swindon has established a reputation as one of the leading towns in the UK for renewable energy, delivering a number of key initiatives in hydrogen and solar power:

- Swindon was home to the UK's first commercial hydrogen filling station, delivered in partnership with Honda and BOC.
- Wroughton Airfield Solar Farm with a capacity of 62 MW is one of the largest ground mount solar parks in the UK.
- Chapel Farm Solar Park was the first solar farm funded by a Council backed community solar bond, winning 2017 APSE award for Best Renewable Energy Initiative.
- Common Farm Solar Park was the first solar farm funded by an ISA-eligible renewable energy bond.

## Recent carbon reduction projects and successes

Although this is a new Swindon Borough Council strategy, emission reduction activities are not new, and there has already been a large amount of work completed or in progress.

Following the publication of this strategy the next step will be the creation of a Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan that will help bring existing efforts together and unite projects with a common vision of achieving carbon neutrality and influencing the behaviour of others.

Some examples of the excellent carbon reduction work already completed or underway are detailed below in table 5, these projects have required significant investment from SBC:

Table 5 - Examples of carbon reduction projects

	Investment	Expected CO2e Savings
Installation of EV charging infrastructure across the Borough (2014-2021)	Circa £150K	Contributing to reducing the number of fossil fuel cars on Swindon Roads

Purchase and deployment of four new electric vans beginning the transition of council fleet to EV (Jan 2020)	Circa £60K	Contributing to reducing the number of fossil fuel cars on Swindon Roads
Delivery of project to replace 26,000 streetlights with LED alternatives due to complete in 2022	£9.7 Million	Expected carbon reduction circa 2,000 tonnes CO2e
Completion of LED retrofit projects at North Swindon Library and the STEAM Museum, improving lighting efficiency by over 60% (2018)	Circa £20k	Carbon reduction circa 8 tonnes CO2e
Completion of SBC owned Multi-storey car park lighting upgrade resulting in around 60% reduction in energy use (Sept 20)	> £300k	Expected carbon reduction circa 233 tonnes CO2e
Purchase of Energy Management Software to improve monitoring ability of carbon emissions (2019)	Circa £7k	Potential to save in the region of 1-5% of SBC consumption through bill validation and increased monitoring Circa 250 tonnes CO2e per annum
Investment in the construction of 3 solar Farms within Swindon	> £4.5 Million	Opportunities to offset SBC electricity consumption with green energy generated at these solar farms
Development of planning policies that requires developers to install EV charge points in new residential and commercial developments	Zero	Encourages the uptake of electric vehicles and potentially reduces the number of fossil-fuelled cars on the roads
Print rationalisation project, moving from 15m pieces of paper a year to a paper-light, 1m a year by April 2021	Zero – Behaviour change	Project to reduce the amount of paper printed for Council purposes
Since 2014, we have invested in new or improved off-carriageway cycle infrastructure. The 3 flyer routes have on average over 1,000 daily cycle trips	£4.5m	These journeys remove over a tonne of carbon everyday, if they had driven a car for the same journey

# Other associated SBC workstreams

In recent years, Swindon Borough Council has implemented a number of strategies and projects that have had a positive impact in reducing our carbon footprint. We have worked in active consideration and conjunction with:

- The SBC Waste Strategy (<https://www.sustainableswindon.co.uk>) – The main aim of the SBC Waste strategy will be for Swindon to not only recycle as much as possible but also to reduce the amount of waste Swindon produces. By encouraging everyone in Swindon, whether they are residents, businesses or visitors, to play their part in achieving that aim. SBC will also make sure the waste we do have to dispose of is processed in the most environmentally friendly way possible
- The SBC draft EV Strategy – This EV strategy sets out the options available to Swindon Borough Council in rolling out electric vehicle charging infrastructure over the next decade in order to meet the low emission ambitions of Swindon by 2030.
- SBC housing projects and initiatives – including an extensive boiler replacement scheme, to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- The SBC Air Quality Action Group.
- The SBC Energy efficiency programme – identifying and implementing energy improvements across the Council's estate.
- Travel Choices and Car Share – Swindon Travel Choices was set up to help residents find sustainable ways to travel that save time or money, improve wellbeing and the local environment. Through community and workplace events, the website and targeted work in new developments, Swindon Travel Choices has produced and distributed thousands of copies of the Swindon Cycle Map, Get walking magazines and promoted the borough's car share scheme, car club and bus network.  
The Borough car share and car club schemes help contribute to the reduction of journey made across the borough with an estimated 1500 miles a month driven in our car club vehicles. Our data shows that each car club car displaces 6.1 private cars and a further 12 purchases are deferred. We currently have 3 cars in Swindon and are looking to introduce a 4th with a transition to electric vehicles planned in future years.

# Working with partners and their strategies

## Public Power Solutions

As a wholly-owned company of Swindon Borough Council, Public Power Solutions Ltd (PPS) is an instrumental organisation that has already helped reduce the Council's carbon footprint and will continue to play a critical role in the future.

PPS have delivered a number of initiatives that continue to benefit the Council, its residents and the wider borough. Highlights include:

- The operation of a Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) facility at Waterside Park, Swindon, processing 100% of Swindon's municipal waste, previously destined for landfill to produce a solid recovered fuel.
- The development of 30MW (planning permission for increase to 50MW) grid connected battery installation at Mannington.
- The development of a model for achieving a net biodiversity increase on the sites PPS asset manage.
- Facilitating investment in large scale renewable energy schemes for a number of local authority investors. For example, the establishment of one of the UK's largest solar farms based in Swindon, completed in partnership with the Science Museum.

As part of this strategic approach to carbon reduction, we will continue to work in partnership with PPS to deliver new and existing low carbon initiatives across the borough. Working in partnership with PPS will provide resource and expertise that will benefit the Council's efforts to deliver this strategy and the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan.

## Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP)

As part of the wider approach to reducing carbon emissions, the Council will continue to support the priorities of the SWLEP including their delivery of the Local Energy Strategy, which informs and aligns with the Council's work. This includes developing strategic approaches to enable Swindon and wider Wiltshire to take a more active role in carbon reduction and to better understand emerging technology trends.

This is part of Swindon's wider strategic work with SWLEP and this partnership has also developed the Local Industrial Strategy which contains plans for new energy vehicle infrastructure, a centre for excellence in sustainable technologies and other research and development opportunities in the region.

## District Network Operators (DNO)

Both the Gas and Electric Network Operators are responsible for maintaining the gas and electricity grids, ensuring the provision of energy to the Swindon area. These DNOs have their own emission reduction strategies and targets to achieve, which include actions such as green gas (Hydrogen) injection into the gas grid, battery storage and wider encouragement of renewables.

SBC will actively engage with the DNOs to work collaboratively in ensuring Swindon progresses positively towards its Net Zero Carbon Ambition.

## England's Economic Heartland

As part of the development of this strategy, we have considered the key aims and objectives of the Draft Transport Strategy set out by England's Economic Heartland (EEH). In particular the Pathways to Decarbonisation piece examines growth in terms of housing, population and transport infrastructure, and the ways to measure and mitigate impact through evidence and policy led actions. As part of this work EEH has also commissioned an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal – this will ensure that strategic connectivity is planned and delivered in order to realise the economic potential of the region whilst ensuring the principles of sustainable development are followed to deliver social and environmental benefit.

## Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)

Working on a not-for-profit basis, the extensive APSE network, more than 250 local authorities and organisations are able to share information and expertise on vital frontline services, ask for advice and innovative solutions, and develop new, viable ways forward in an effort to help one another.

APSE run a bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration which is a partnership developed by their member authorities which looks to leverage and maximise the opportunities afforded to local authorities by working together on a national scale in the green energy agenda. Swindon Borough Council will continue to work closely with APSE with our Carbon Reduction ambitions to ensure best practise can be identified and opportunities captured.



## REGEN

Regen is a not-for-profit centre of energy expertise and market insight whose mission is to transform the world's energy systems for a zero carbon future. Regen offers independent expert advice and market insight on all aspects of sustainable energy delivery. Swindon Borough Council are actively engaging with the initiatives that REGEN are developing particularly around locally led energy transition and identifying clean energy opportunities.

## Inter Authority Climate Emergency Partnership

The Inter Authority Climate Emergency Partnership provides a collaborative platform for Local Authorities based in the South West to discuss climate change ideas, initiatives and share best practice.

Swindon Borough Council are active members of the network, contributing to the wider conversation around climate change.

# Swindon Borough Council's pathway to achieving neutrality by 2030

The journey to achieving net zero carbon emissions as a Council by 2030 will entail investment in energy saving technologies, an increase in the use of renewable technologies such as electric vehicles and changing the way the Council operates on a day-to-day basis.

There will inevitably be instances where the Local Authority cannot reduce emissions further through direct activity. To tackle these emissions the Council will need to develop an offsetting strategy seeking opportunities within the Borough boundaries where possible. Carbon offsetting is a way to compensate for emissions by creating or funding a project that captures or creates an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere. Please see the following page for further details.

## Developing an implementation plan to achieve neutrality

The Council's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 is ambitious but necessary to ensuring Swindon play its part in the world's collaborative approach to the issue of climate change. As has been evidenced above, Swindon has already taken strides towards reducing its carbon emissions through the commencement and completion of key projects in recent years but more is needed to expedite the Council's progress.

Below are the 12 main objectives for this strategy, that will enable the Council to progress towards the Net Zero Carbon ambition:

Table 6 - SBC Carbon Reduction Objectives

1	Reduce the energy related emissions from the council's own building stock/ portfolio (including street lighting) (Scope 1 & 2)
2	To reduce the fuel related emissions from SBCs owned vehicle fleet. (Scope 1)
3	To reduce the emissions from SBC Staff business mileage carried out in personal vehicles (Grey Fleet, Scope 3)
4	To reduce the emissions from SBC Construction and other related activities (Scope 3)
5	To reduce energy related emissions from SBC owned housing stock (including sheltered housing schemes). (Scope 3)
6	To reduce emissions from SBC staff commuter journeys (Scope 3)
7	To identify and reduce procurement/ supply chain related emissions (Scope 3)
8	To reduce waste related emissions from direct SBC activities (Scope 3)
9	To identify other council led interventions (Scope 1,2,3 and Wider Borough)
10	Use policy levers to create change e.g. EV charging requirements in new build (Wider Borough)
11	To encourage emission reductions from Central Government, Swindon Businesses and Swindon Residents, through lobbying, influence and example (Wider Borough)
12	Use education to promote low carbon activity (Wider Borough)

## Deliverables – How we will achieve the Objectives

In order to move these objectives forward the Council will develop an overarching Carbon Reduction implementation plan that will follow an extensive review of all Council activities and emission sources. It is intended that this implementation plan will be submitted to Cabinet for approval during 2021.

This document outlines the council's strategy for achieving net zero by 2030. The next stage will be to develop an implementation plan to deliver on that strategy, the following is a list of some suggested deliverables that we expect to form part of that plan.

### Objective 1:

Reduce the energy related emissions from the council's own building stock/ portfolio (including street lighting) (Scope 1 & 2)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Deliver LED retrofit across all council multi-storey car parks	2020
Conduct a full review of the Council asset portfolio and plan the rollout of building energy surveys	2021
Production and rollout of Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Training to all staff and Councillors	2021
Develop the basis for staff behaviour campaign aimed at reducing carbon emissions in consideration of existing staff policies, procedures, controls and incentives. E.g establishing department climate champions within the Council	2021
Replacement 26,000 streetlights with LED alternatives	2022

## Objective 2:

To reduce the fuel related emissions from SBCs owned vehicle fleet.  
(Scope 1)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Implement SBC Fleet Strategy and review in line with the Net Zero Carbon by 2030 ambition	2021
Explore the viability of using vehicle alternatives for short trips to be made between council sites	2021

## Objective 3:

To reduce the emissions from SBC Staff business mileage carried out in personal vehicles (Grey Fleet, Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Further encourage uptake of meeting software to allow meetings to be held online	2021
Review the Council's business travel policy in line with the Net Zero Carbon ambitions	2022

## Objective 4:

To reduce the emissions from SBC Construction and other related activities (Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Conduct a full review of our construction activities to determine baseline	2020
Review council construction policies in line with the Net Zero Carbon ambitions	2021

## Objective 5:

To reduce energy related emissions from SBC owned housing stock (including sheltered housing schemes). (Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Review current Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings for Council Housing Stock	2021
Review current maintenance and repair schedule in line with our Net Zero Carbon ambition	2021
Setup a sub group to investigate the resource requirement to raise the Housing Stock EPC rating	2022



## Objective 6:

To reduce emissions from SBC staff commuter journeys (Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Review provision of cycle storage and changing facilities at all council premises	2020
Explore viability of incentive schemes to encourage purchase of electric vehicle alternatives	2021
Work with the Council's communications team to raise awareness of more sustainable travel options to the workplace in consideration of the evidence base from the work delivered by the Sustainable Travel Choices initiative	2021
Review staff working arrangements, encouraging staff members to work from home when they can	2021

## Objective 7:

To identify and reduce procurement/ supply chain related emissions (Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Conduct a full review of the Council's supply chain to identify the embedded carbon baseline	2020
Integrate climate assessment into the Council's decision-making process	2021
Strengthen our carbon data capture within our procurement selection process	2021

## Objective 8:

To reduce waste emissions from direct SBC activities (Scope 3)

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Set new recycling targets for waste from council buildings and increase the quality of waste separation	2020
Review SBC Waste Strategy in line with the Council's Net Zero Carbon ambitions	2021

## Objective 9:

To identify other council led interventions

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Conduct a Green Audit of all public facing services provided by SBC to identify potential emission savings through digitisation for example	2021
Continue close working relationship with PPS to identify Carbon Reduction and efficiency initiatives	2021
Submit a formal bid for the Government's Electric Bus Town funding. If successful, the funding will help pay for a brand-new fleet of electric buses, reducing emissions across the borough	2021
Submit a formal bid for the Governments Green Homes Grant. If successful, the funding will help pay for energy efficiency improvement work across some of our housing stock	2021
Review the Local Plan in line with our Net Zero Carbon ambition. Including further use of Local Development Orders (LDOs) to encourage low carbon initiatives	2022

# Section 2 – Working to reduce the wider emissions of the Borough

As important as it is for the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, it is also imperative that the authority strives to influence others and act as an exemplar of good practice. The Council will work in partnership with local businesses, residents and suppliers to develop a proactive carbon reduction agenda that helps the wider Borough of Swindon to reduce their emissions to Net Zero by 2050. The Council will also work closely with wider Central Government agencies to deliver change, lobby, and influence where necessary.

We anticipate that partnership working and taking a collaborative stance will form the cornerstone of influencing others and will include:

- Working to co-create and deliver climate change initiatives, events and messages with new and established businesses within Swindon. For example, establishing borough wide action days and working in collaboration with organisations to deliver stronger, collective communications around climate change in the region.
- Engaging with members of the public across the borough through considered communications and campaigns, working to collect and action feedback in the process.
- Working with national agencies to deliver a regional thrust to key messages. For example working to reinforce UK Government advice and directives around how people can positively impact climate change at a local level.

## Total borough emissions

Whilst the Council cannot directly influence the wider emissions of the borough, it is able to monitor the total emissions of the borough, using the tool detailed below, and report progress on an annual basis.

Swindon Borough Council has taken the additional commitment to help the wider borough become Net Zero Carbon by 2050. In order to help measure Borough wide emission the SCATTER tool will be utilised. SCATTER is a local authority focussed emissions tool and has been funded by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in collaboration with Nottingham City Council, the Anthesis Group and the Tyndall Centre.

SCATTER stands for Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction. This tool generates a greenhouse gas emissions inventory following the Global Protocol for City-wide Greenhouse Gas emissions for your local authority area.

Table 7 – Summary Greenhouse Gas emissions (tonnes CO2e) for for Borough of Swindon

	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	
Sub-sector	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e	Total tCO2e
	Direct	Indirect	Other	Total
Residential buildings	195,548	121,849	52,439	369,836
Commercial buildings & facilities	32,231	27,911	10,245	70,387
Institutional buildings & facilities	55,464	141,042	31,982	228,488
Industrial buildings & facilities	43,729	81,759	21,314	146,803
Agriculture	4,338	1	1,035	5,374
On-road	406,682	IE	105,112	511,794
Rail	2,618	IE	624	3,242
Aviation	NO	IE	116,329	116,329
Off-road	4,067	-	NE	4,067
Solid waste disposal	40,079	-	IE	40,079
Wastewater	13,724	-	NO	13,724
Industrial process	19,132	-	-	19,132
Livestock	18,022	-	-	18,022
Land use	15,006	-	-	15,006
CHP generation	137	-	25	163
Local renewable generation	6	NO	-	6
TOTAL				1,532,440

IE – Integrated Elsewhere      NE – Not Estimated      NO – Not Occurring

\* The emissions in this table cover the entire Borough of Swindon.

## The target for the wider Borough of Swindon is to work towards Net Zero carbon emissions from 1,532,440 CO2e by 2050

To contribute to the reduction of the wider borough emissions, the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has developed a set of themes and using resources created by Friends of the Earth it is developing specific Borough wide deliverables that will form part of the Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan:

Below are the key objectives of the CCWG along with some suggested deliverables. Please note that these suggestions may be amended or superseded by the Carbon Reduction Implementation plan when it is approved.

### Objective 10:

Use policy levers to create change e.g. EV charging requirements in new build

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Finalise planning policy to include Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in all new developments	2020
Work to influence the Licencing process in order to improve Borough emissions for example encouraging Taxis to transition to Electric Vehicles	2021

## Objective 11:

To encourage emission reductions from Central Government, Swindon Businesses and Swindon Residents, through lobbying, influence and example

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
To provide guidance and influence the private housing sector to improve the efficiency of housing stock	2021
Council demonstrate best practise - construction	2020 onwards
To provide guidance and influence to all Swindon schools and academies to tackle their carbon emissions.	2021

## Objective 12:

Use education to promote low carbon activity

Suggested Deliverable	Completion Date
Explore possibility of promoting council carbon reduction initiatives through advertising outlets such as digital billboards	2021
Explore the potential to use the new learning from apprentices to develop Carbon Reduction initiatives further	2021
Explore wider partnership projects with Swindon Businesses and educational institutions	2021

# Implementation Plan

The development of a designated implementation plan will provide the foundation for action and detail the actions that the Council will take to reduce carbon emissions.

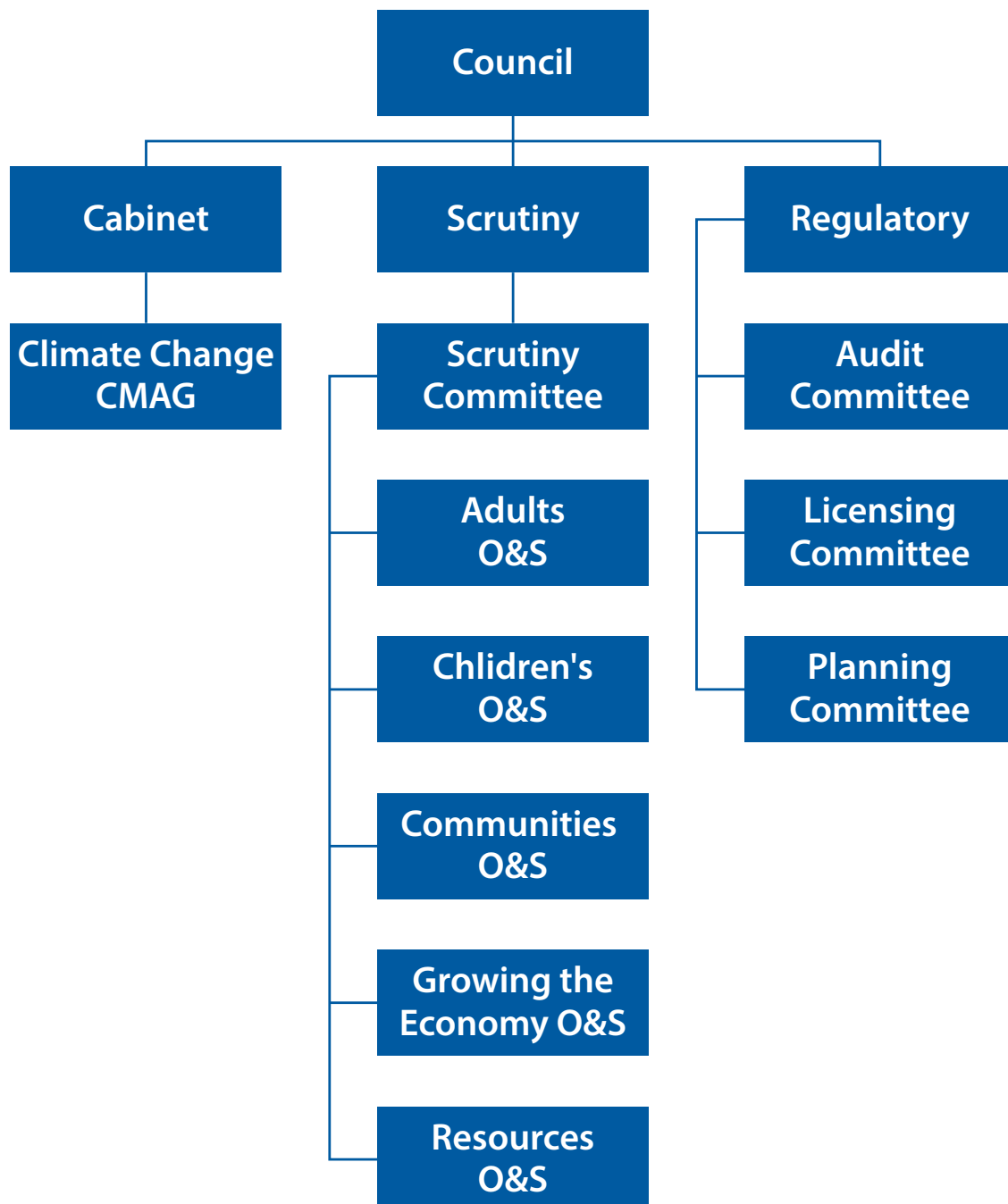
The implementation plan will exist as an active document that will be continually developed. The first iteration of the implementation plan will be completed in the first quarter of 2021 and updated annually thereafter. Upon completion, the implementation plan will supersede the suggest deliverables listed within this document.

The implementation plan will not only address direct emissions, but it will consider how the Council can facilitate the development of a low carbon economy within the region and how the Council can play a greater role in influencing residents and businesses.

# Monitoring, Reporting and Governance

The Council will monitor its carbon emissions performance and publish its progress towards Net Zero on an annual basis. As part of the annual review, the Council will review progress against the established baseline data and metrics related to scope 1, 2

As Scope 3 and wider Borough Emissions are more difficult to monitor accurately, reduction estimates will be used to demonstrate performance.

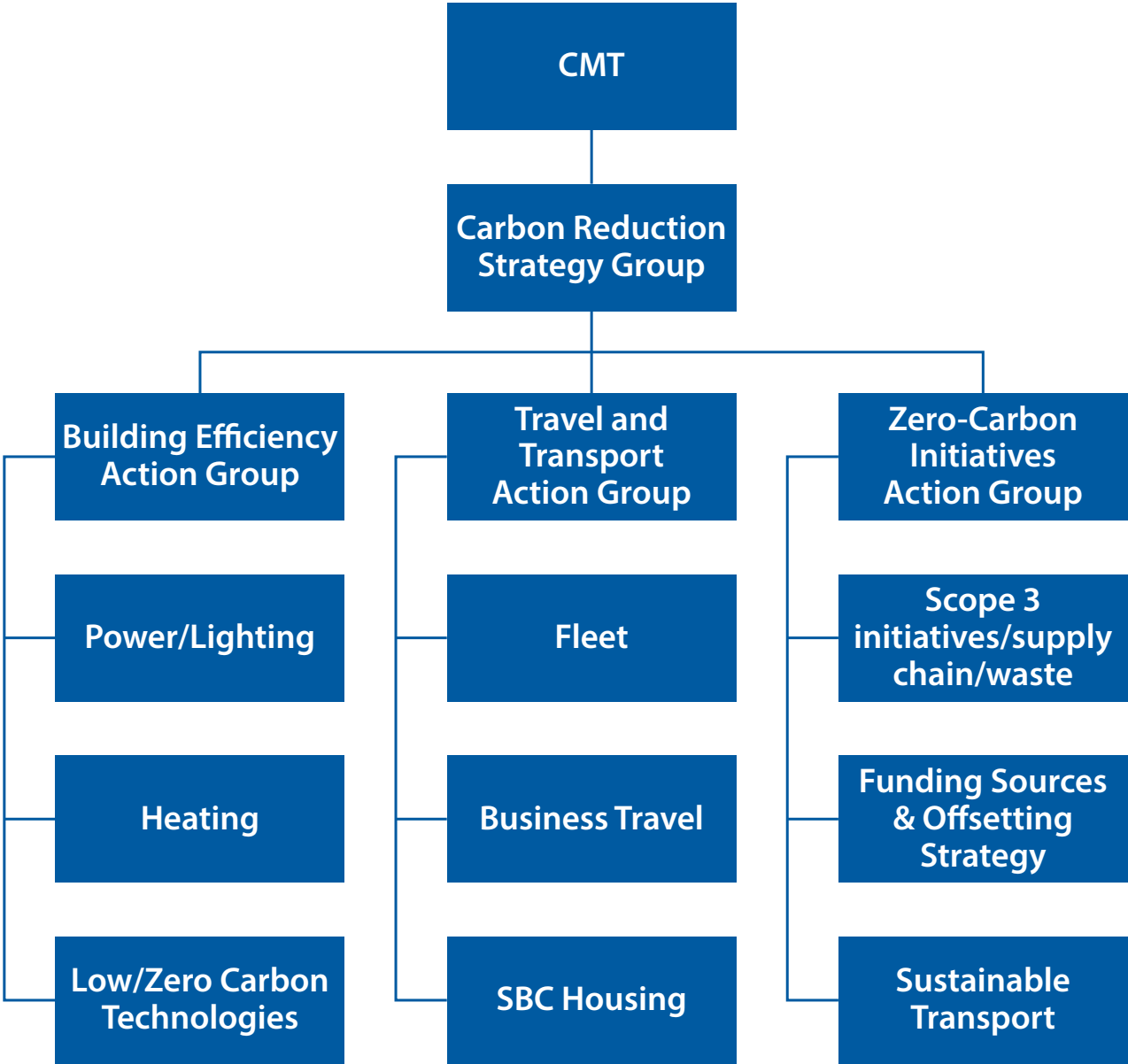




The Carbon Reduction Strategy Group and the Climate Change Working Group shall be responsible for the delivery of this strategy; they will meet at least every quarter, to ensure progress towards the overall net zero ambition.

The various sub groups will be created and deployed to focus on specific priority areas with further action groups created as necessary. It is expected that these sub groups and action groups will meet much more regularly as the project dictates.

The two main groups, Carbon Reduction Strategy Group and Climate Change Working Group will regularly liaise on priority actions and current focus to ensure that their work compliments each other.



## Carbon Reduction Strategy Project Team

A core project team has been created to steer this project and drive the emission reductions required:

Carbon Reduction Strategy Group	Officer Role
Cabinet Sponsor	Cabinet Member for Climate Change
Group Chair	Chief Operating Officer
Subject Matter Specialist	Energy & Climate Change Manager
Project Support	Strategic Growth Officer
Finance	Head of Finance
Communications	Head of Communications
IT	Head of IT
Staff Travel	Travel Plan Officer
SBC Property	Corporate Building Manager
Housing	Housing Strategy and Development Manager
Construction	Head of Construction
SBC Fleet	Head of StreetSmart
	Fleet Operations Manager
Planning	Planning Manager
Committee Services/ Democracy	Senior Committee Clerk
Procurement	Senior Procurement Officer

## Climate Change CMAG

Chair and Cabinet Member	Cllr Keith Williams
Councillors	As nominated by the Party Groups/ accepted by Cllr Williams
Transport, Environment and Air Quality Sub Group Lead	
Buildings Sub Group Lead	

# Offsetting Strategy

Reducing emissions through direct action will be our main approach to becoming a carbon neutral organisation. But there will be a certain level of emissions which are currently not practically or financially possible to reduce within ten years. As the Strategy and Implementation Plan are developed and implemented the Council hopes to be able to calculate the level that this offset is likely to be. Officers will develop and seek approval of a carbon offset strategy to address this. Where possible this will keep offsetting activities within Borough boundary.

The main areas for offsetting focus will be biodiversity offsetting, predominantly through tree planting. Renewable technology offsetting through the installation of suitable projects within the borough and suitable energy efficiency subsidy schemes will also be investigated.

The Council are embarking on an accelerated tree planting programme totalling 350 acres, scheduled to commence in 2021. The programme will target tree planting in both urban and rural settings, the planting of extensive woodland blocks and significant numbers of individual trees on both public and private land.

Using an adopted methodology from the Forestry Commission to calculate per hectare impact, we anticipate that by 2050, each hectare of developed woodland will capture between 180-240 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Based on a % calculation of the Forestry Commission methodology referenced within the Woodland Carbon Code

# Glossary

## Carbon footprint

The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organisation or community.

## Carbon offsetting

Is a way to compensate for our emissions by creating or funding a project that captures or create an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere.

## Climate change

A large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures

## Offsetting

Carbon offsetting is used to compensate for emissions which may have reached their limit of reduction by using low carbon technology, natural environment or funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving.

## Green House Gas

Greenhouse gas, any gas that has the property of absorbing infrared radiation (net heat energy) emitted from Earth's surface and reradiating it back to Earth's surface, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect.

## Net Zero Carbon

Where some emissions are still being generated by an organisation after carbon reductions, these emissions are being offset making the overall net emissions zero.

## **Economy and Growth**

Swindon Borough Council  
Wat Tyler House  
Beckhampton Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2JH

[www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk)

This information can be reproduced in large print  
or other accessible formats by emailing:  
[customerservices@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@swindon.gov.uk)