Environmental Sustainability Strategy

July 2020

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Comments		
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3	23/02/20	Comments accepted
4	28/02/20	Foreword and action plan tables added
5	23/06/20	Action plan tables removed

Disclaimer

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1. Foreword

I am delighted to introduce Reigate & Banstead Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

We are publishing this strategy at a time when there is – rightly – a lot of concern about not only our local environment but also our global climate.

Recognising the scale of the challenge, the UK Government has been the first major nation to propose to cut bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Our own corporate plan, Reigate & Banstead 2025, commits the Council to being proactive about tackling climate change and reducing our environmental impact, and supporting local residents and businesses to do the same.

This Strategy explains how we will continue to build on the work we are already doing to make real progress in relation to energy and carbon, low impact consumption and biodiversity and the natural environment. It focuses on the actions we will take across our own estate and services. It also looks at how the Council can help achieve positive change across the borough, working with residents, businesses and partners.

This, for Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, is our next step on a continuing journey. We will report on our progress in delivering it every year, and will regularly review the Strategy to make sure it remains up to date and effective.

I look forward to working with local communities and partners to make Reigate & Banstead a more environmentally sustainable borough.

Cllr Natalie Bramhall

Executive Member, Neighbourhood Services

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

2. Introduction

This report has been developed to outline Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's (RBBC's) Environmental Sustainability Strategy. As part of its 5-year corporate plan the Council has committed to being proactive about tackling climate change and reducing the borough's environmental impacts. This includes reducing the Council's direct impact and supporting residents and businesses to do the same.

While climate change is a global issue, the importance of each country taking action to limit greenhouse gas emissions cannot be underestimated. In response to the adoption of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Achieving net zero will require a combination of conventional mitigation techniques that is reducing energy and resources consumption in our buildings, infrastructure, industrial processes and our daily lives. It will require in parallel a transition towards renewables sources of energy. There will always be however residual carbon emissions that will have to be compensated for through carbon removal technologies (e.g. reforestation, afforestation, carbon capture and storage).

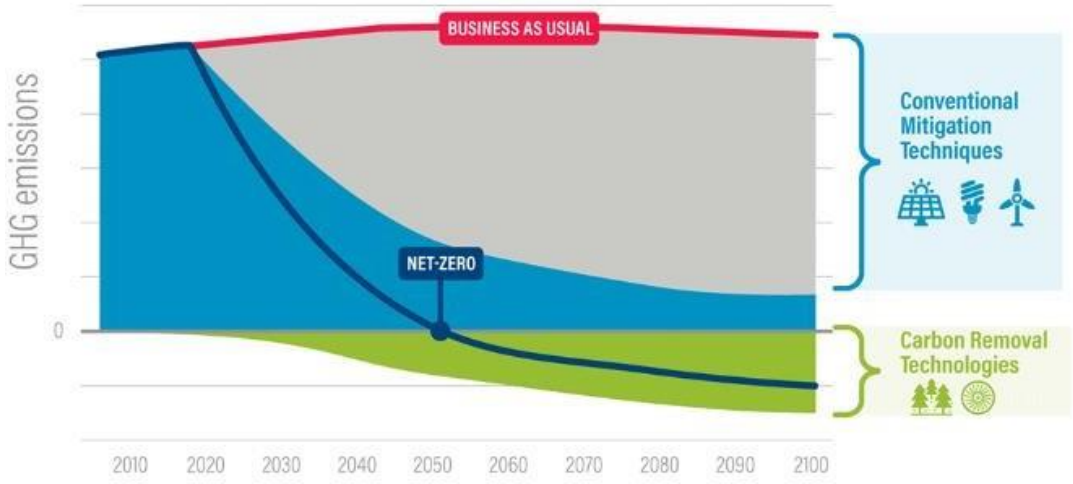


Figure 1 - Net Zero diagram - Source: World Resources Institute (WRI)

To support the government in achieving net zero by 2050, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has recognised that the role of local government is critical in helping to embed measures and support residents and businesses to make the necessary changes to meet this national legislation.

In addition to focusing on limiting actions and processes that contribute to climate change, the Council has also considered their environmental impacts more broadly. Recent history has demonstrated that there is an increasing disconnect between society's consumption of natural resources (e.g. plants, air, water, soils, minerals) and ecosystem services (e.g. water and air purification, crop pollination and pest control) and the ability of our ecological and environmental systems to replenish themselves. Currently, UK consumption exceeds what can be produced.

The challenges of embedding sustainability within the Council's practices and then influencing the wider Borough are wide ranging. The scope of the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy has therefore been influenced by the areas of responsibility that the Council holds. It is acknowledged that Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for issues such as transport, highways, schools and education. RBBC will look to collaborate with SCC where its initiatives support the objectives of this sustainability strategy but will prioritise implementing opportunities within its direct sphere of responsibility.

Acknowledging the range and complexity of issues required to achieve sustainable development, the strategy has been broken down into three overarching environmental themes. It should be noted that

climate change adaptation and resilience is a cross cutting issue which has been addressed under each environmental theme.

1. Energy and carbon
2. Low impact consumption
3. Biodiversity and the natural environment

To support the delivery of the strategy an action plan has also been developed for each of these themes to formalise how the Council intends to embed and achieve the strategy. As part of each priority theme there are a range of key issues to ensure its successful realisation.

Overarching objectives set out the Council's approach within each theme which are supported by key performance indicators (KPIs) to assist with monitoring progress against the objectives and evaluating the success of the actions.

In some cases further investigation is required before a definitive target can be identified. For these objectives, a direction of travel has been identified. In developing future targets, national or other recognised industry benchmarks will be referenced alongside deliverability and viability considerations, and therefore these targets are indicative only.

It should be recognised that the achievement of 'Borough' level targets does not fall solely within the control of the Council and therefore are indicative only. A long list of activities has been developed. Those that are likely to be most effective in delivering the council's priorities are detailed in the following sections of this strategy document.

3. Energy and carbon

Overview

In June 2019 the Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 and is now targeting a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. This is otherwise known as a net zero target which will have to be achieved through a combination of efficiency measures, renewable energy production and carbon sequestration (e.g. reforestation). This target would effectively mean that the UK will end its contribution to global emissions by 2050.

RBBC is responding to this challenge by aiming to achieve carbon neutrality (based on scope 1 & 2 emissions - Figure 2) by 2030 with a focus to achieving carbon neutral including scope 3 as soon as possible thereafter. It is worth highlighting that the carbon emissions directly under the control of RBBC represent only about 0.2% of the emissions released within the Borough
(Table 1). It is therefore paramount that RBBC concentrates its efforts on reducing its Scope 3[1] emissions as soon as practical thereafter.

This highlights the importance for RBBC to concentrate its efforts in influencing businesses and residents' behaviour and purchase patterns to adequately curb emissions. RBBC will work in partnership with Surrey County Council (SCC) and other key stakeholders achieve carbon neutrality across the Borough by 2050.

Definition of Scope 1,2, 3 emissions

Scope 1 includes emissions from the **combustion of fuels** by sources owned or controlled by the reporting organisation.

Scope 2 includes the emissions from the combustion of fuels to generate electricity, steam, heating, and cooling **purchased and consumed** by the reporting organisation.

Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in a organisation's value chain.

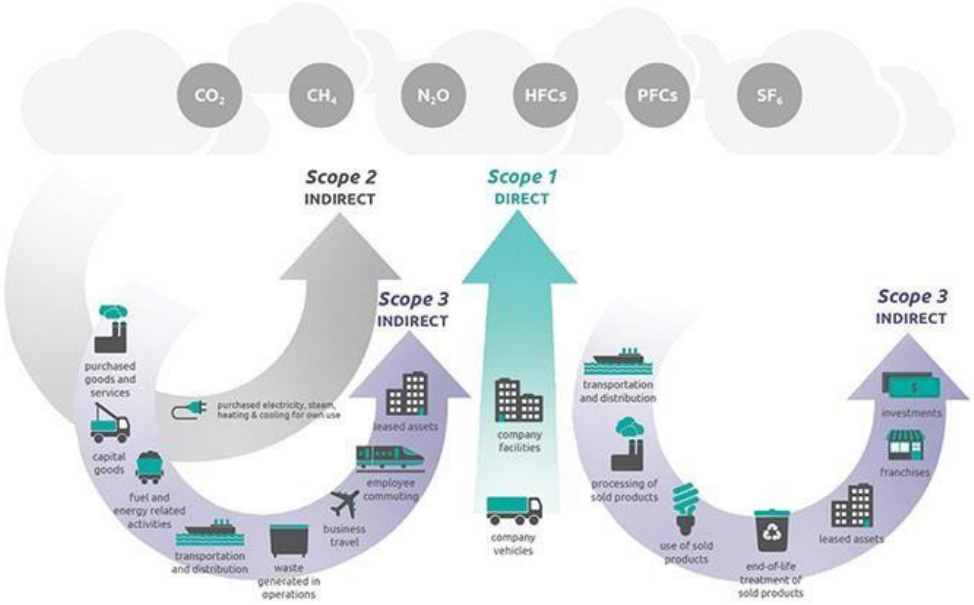


Figure 2 - Overview of Greenhouse Gas Protocol scope and emissions across the value chain. Source: GHG Protocol

[1] Scope 3 emissions include purchased goods and services; business travel; employee commuting; waste disposal; use of sold products; transportation and distribution (up- and downstream); investments; leased assets and franchises

Scope	Description	Annual carbon dioxide emissions (estimates)	
		Council level	**Borough level**
Scope 1	Fuel consumption (waste fleet)	304.24 tCO_2	764,000tCO_2 (2017)[2] ▪ Transport 47% ▪ Domestic (elec., gas, fuel) 32% ▪ Businesses (elec., gas, fuel) 21%
	Fuel consumption (cleansing)	197.54 tCO_2	
	Fuel consumption (greenspace vehicles/machinery)	76.59 tCO_2	
	Fuel consumption (other company vehicles)	55.58 tCO_2	
	Sub-total	**633.91 tCO_2**	
Scope 2	Purchased electricity	473.22 tCO_2 (2018)	
	Purchased gas	384.86 tCO_2 (2018)	
	Sub-total	**858.08 tCO_2**	
Total Scope 1 & 2		**1,492tCO_2**	**764,000tCO_2**

Table 1 – Reigate and Banstead's estimated annual carbon emissions at Council and Borough levels.

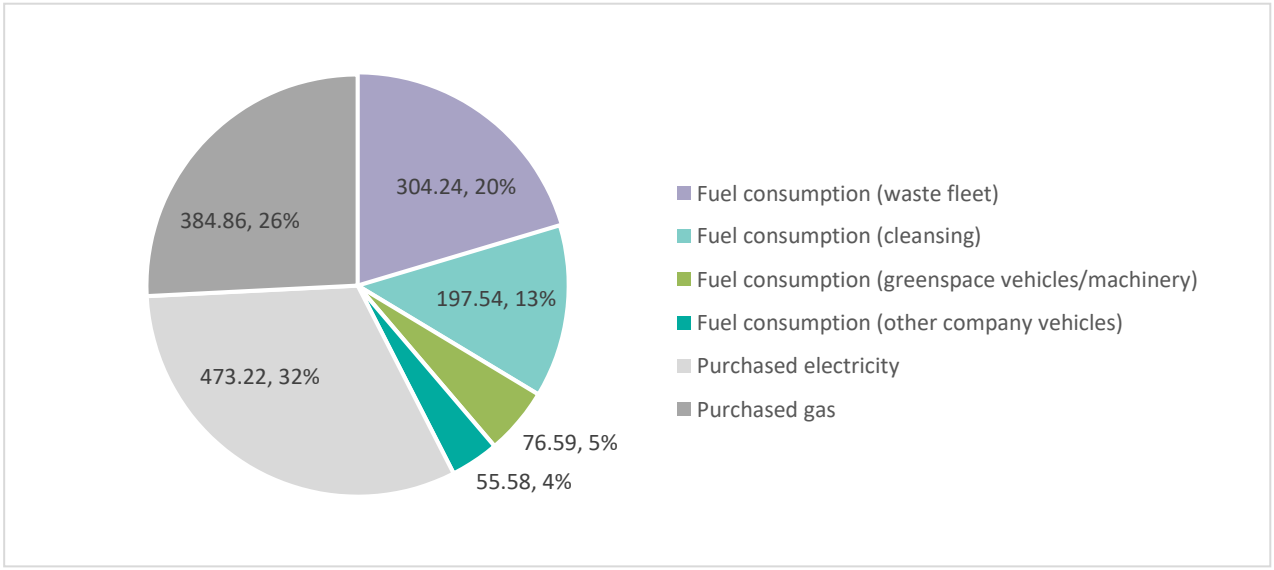


Figure 3 – RBBC's Scope 1 & 2 carbon dioxide emissions (tCO_2)

[2] Figures based on BEIS - UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2017

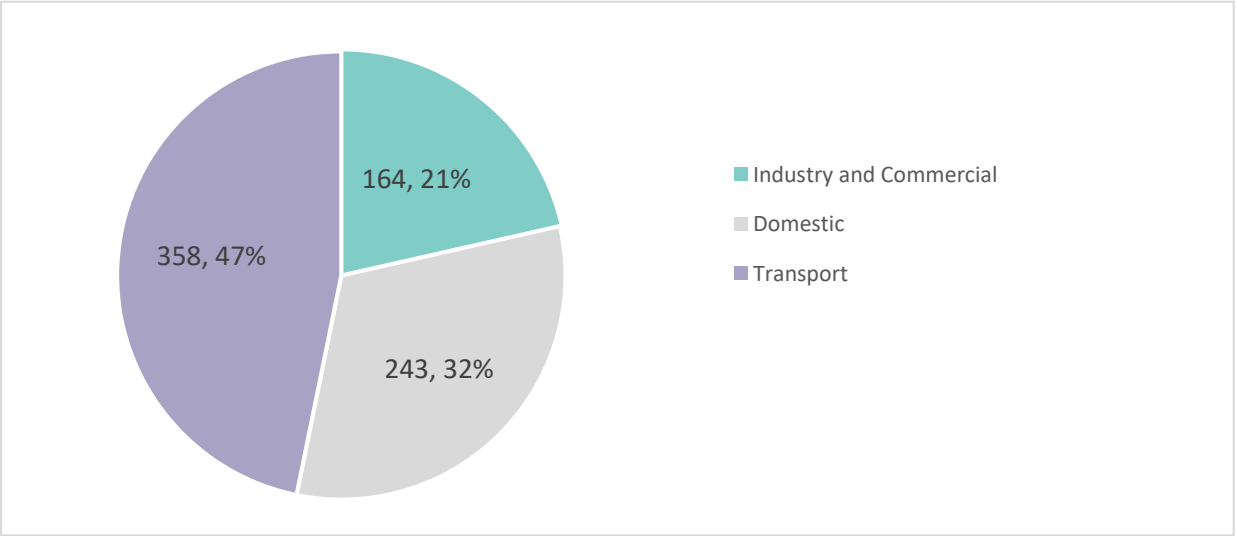


Figure 4 – Reigate & Banstead Borough CO_2 end-users emissions estimates 2017 ($ktCO_2$)

2050 Vision

- All Council's energy needs are met through renewable energy generated within the County or through reputable green tariff.
- The entire Council's fleet is powered by clean energy (i.e. either electricity from renewable or biodiesel from organic waste).
- All businesses and residents are generating their own renewable energy and/or have switched to a reputable green tariff.
- All residents walk or cycle for short journeys, where possible. Residents have moved away from car ownership; they use public transport or a car-sharing system for longer journeys. Where private car remains a necessity, these run on 100% renewable energy.

Priorities

Under the energy and carbon section we have set a number of objectives under four key priorities:

Energy minimisation: Reduction of operational energy (regulated and unregulated) through efficiency measures (e.g. insulation, LEDs) and behaviour change.

Renewable energy: Generation of renewable energy locally and procurement of renewable energy through reputable green tariffs.

Low carbon transport: Minimisation of transport emissions through reducing personal car travel, promoting electric vehicles, developing public transport and encouraging cycling and walking.

Embodied carbon: Reduction in embodied carbon in new infrastructure or building projects through lean engineering and construction techniques.

At the Council level, RBBC will switch to a renewable energy provider for its electricity and gas consumption. As part of any planned upgrade and works on its assets, energy reduction opportunities will be identified: improving fabric efficiency and incorporating efficient fixtures and fittings. Whole-life cost analysis will form an integral part of the decision-making process as part of any procurement activities to ensure that any mechanical and electrical plant to be replaced are future-proofed moving away from like-for-like replacement if this isn't the best long-term strategy. RBBC's fleet consumption is a key area to tackle as it represents circa 42.5% of its combined Scope 1 & 2 emissions. RBBC will gradually replace its fleet with electrical vehicles and machinery as part of their scheduled fleet renewal programme and subject to operational considerations.

At the Borough level, RBBC will work with residents and businesses to encourage them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Borough level domestic carbon dioxide emissions per capita figures show that RBBC residents with an annual energy footprint of 1.66[3]tCO_2/person consume more energy to run their homes than the average person in the rest of England (Figure 5).There is therefore scope for RBBC to concentrate its effort to enable a transition towards renewable energy purchase and generation across the Borough. RBBC will consider the suitability of developing community-owned renewable energy projects. It will also explore the possibility to negotiate preferential energy tariff with reputable renewable energy providers for its residents and businesses by teaming up with Surrey County Council.

The measures to reduce greenhouse house gas (GHG) emissions associated with the Council and Borough activities will have wider benefits beyond limiting contributions to climate change. Initiatives around promoting active travel (e.g. walking and cycling) and reducing gas consumption will improve air quality and overall well-being.

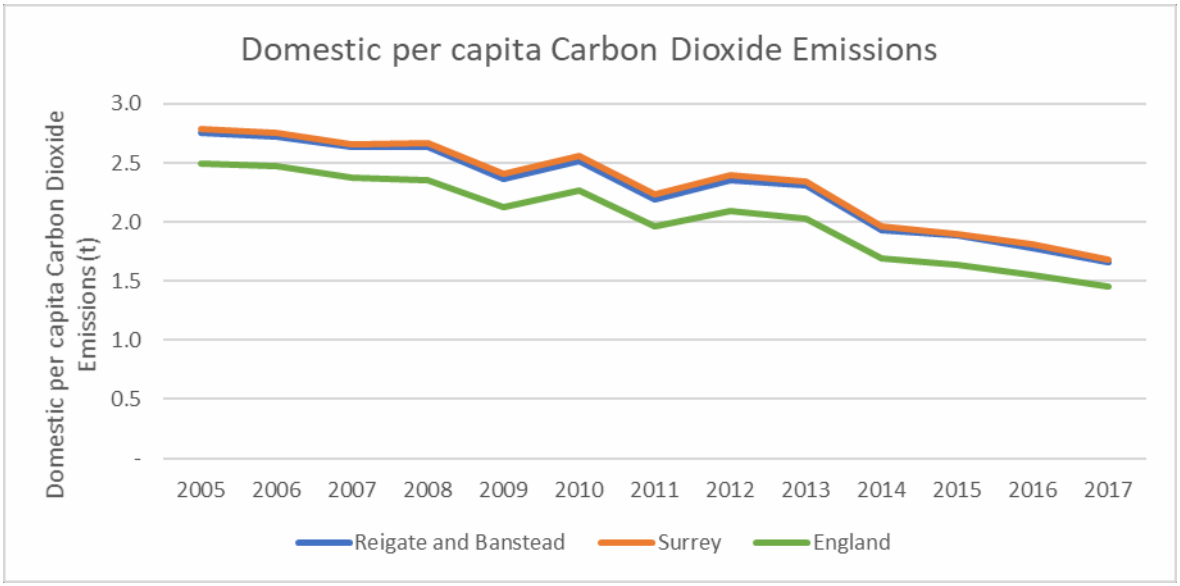


Figure 5 – Domestic per capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions (tCO_2)
Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO_2 emissions – data table

[3] RBBC Environment and Sustainability Monitor Data Report 31 March 2019 http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20280/plan_monitoring/681/environment_and_sustainability_monitor

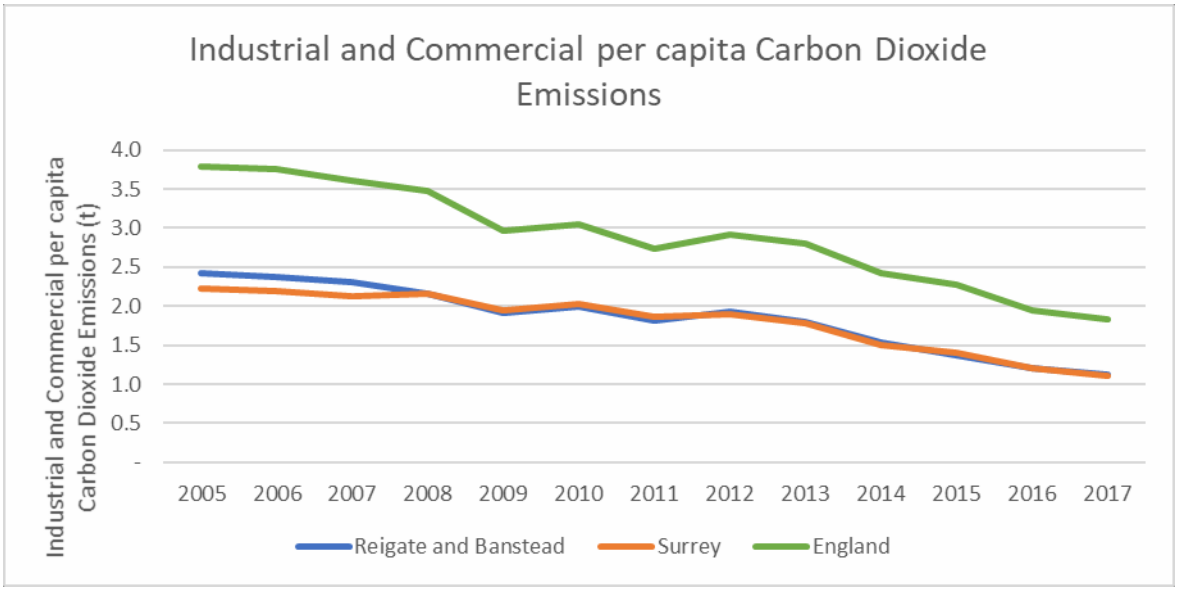


Figure 4: Industrial and Commercial per capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions (tCO_2)
Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO_2 emissions – data table

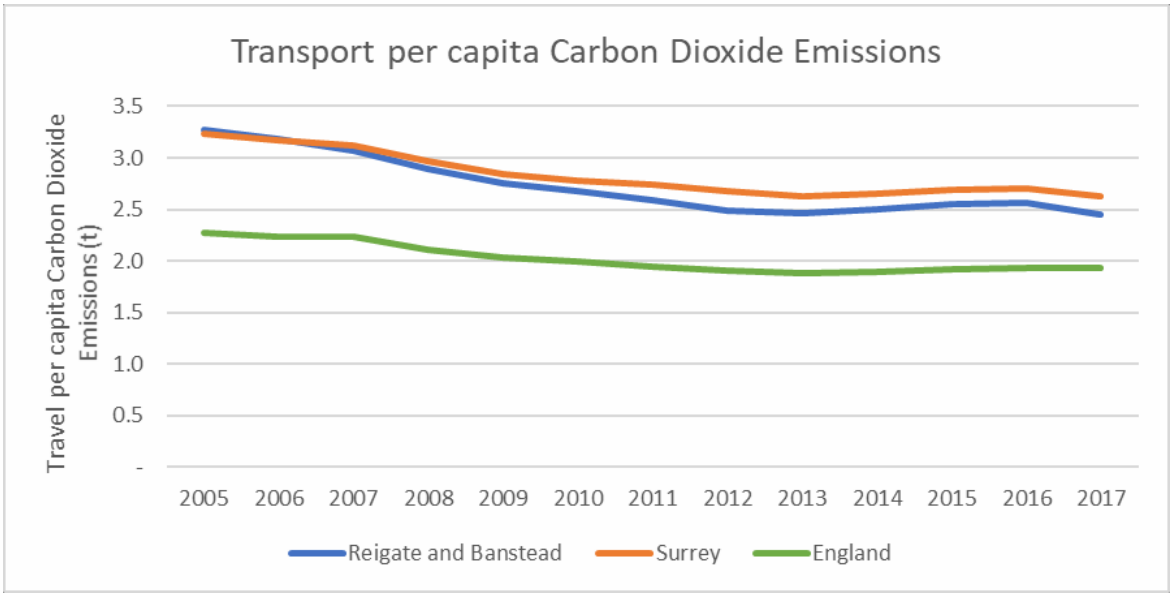


Figure 5:Transport per capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions (t)
Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO2 emissions – data table

4. Low impact consumption

Overview

Living by consuming a fair share of the earth's resources is key to reduce environmental and social impacts associated with over-consumption. It requires us to reflect on our habits to make more informed decisions in our day to day activities with a view to consume more responsibly.

We currently deplete natural resources at an alarming rate, much faster than our ecosystems can replenish them. Studies show that an average UK resident requires 5.4gha of biologically productive land and water[6] to support its lifestyle. This means that if everyone on earth consumed as much as the average person in the UK, we would need the equivalent of three planets to support us.[7]

The Council recognises its role in demonstrating leadership on this issue. As part of the review of its activities the Council has considered measures to reduce its impacts through the more efficient management of its own estate and the set-up of a responsible procurement process. The Council also proposes to support initiatives to see improvements on a Borough wide scale.

- **Homes and energy** (27%) includes gas and electricity consumption, and the building and maintenance of our homes.
- **Transport** (17%) includes fuel consumption, car ownership, public transport and flying.
- **Food** (23%) includes food and drink consumed at home and out at restaurants.
- **Goods** (14%) includes any products we purchase, such as large household objects like furniture and appliances, plus smaller products such as newspapers, clothing, and electronics.
- **Services** (9%) includes any services that we use such as recreation, financial, telephone, insurance, private schools and private medical care.
- **Government** (7%) includes central and local government activities, the NHS, schools, universities and social services.
- **Capital assets** (4%) includes the investment in capital assets such as factories, machinery and other buildings and structures that isn't covered in the sectors above.

Figure 6 - UK resident ecological footprint breakdown. Source: Bioregional

[6] Biologically productive land and water is the required area to produce the goods we consume and to assimilate the wastes we generate. There are six categories: cropland, grazing land, fishing grounds, built-up land, forest area, and carbon demand on land.
[7] http://calculator.bioregional.com/findoutmore.php

2050 Vision

- The Borough operates as part of a closed-loop system where residents consume only their fair share of the earth's resources.
- Circular economy principles underpin our manufacturing and industrial processes: waste is transformed into valuable resources and pollution is prevented.
- Residents and businesses recycle or compost as much as possible of their waste, and processing takes place as locally as possible.
- Water is viewed as a precious resource and it is kept as close to its source as possible

Priorities

Under the low impact consumption section, we have set a number of objectives under three key priorities:

Waste reduction: Minimisation of waste arisings through better procurement choices (e.g. longer-lasting or better quality products) and recycling unavoidable waste in local treatment facilities.

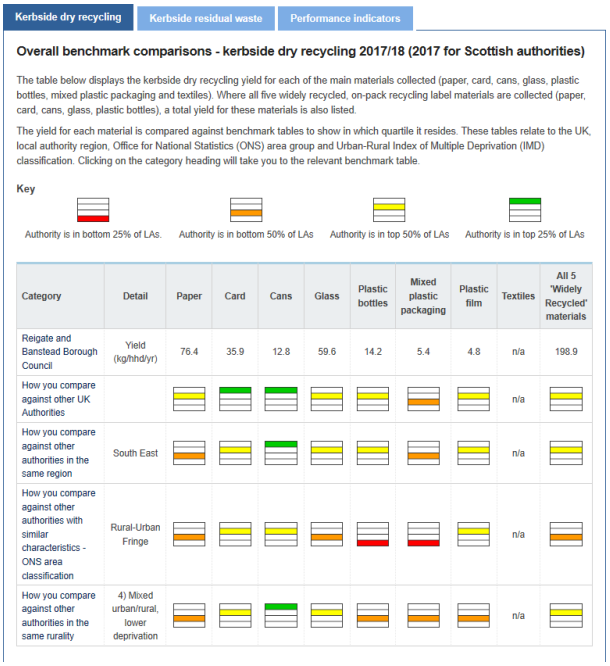
Water efficiency: Reduction of water consumption by promoting water efficiency to alleviate water scarcity issues.

Responsible sourcing: Use of materials and products produced responsibly (i.e. not causing any environmental or social harm).

At the Council level, RBBC will actively reduce its waste and single use plastics will be eliminated. As part of any planned refurbishment or upgrade of the Council's assets, avenues to reduce water and energy consumption will be actively pursued. In parallel, the Council will look to ensure that responsible sourcing is considered in all purchasing decisions. Relevant sustainability opportunities will be identified and incorporated into specifications and relevant tender documents.

At Borough level, in excess of 50,000 tonnes of waste is produced annually of which 53.8%[8] is recycled or composted/anaerobically digested. Implementing the waste hierarchy with reuse and recycling at the top will be a priority, with a number of actions having been identified to increase the reuse and recycling of a wide range of products including food waste and currently difficult to recycle products. There is also a role for the Council to collaborate closely with local businesses in relation minimising waste and increasing reuse and recycling; and to use its planning powers to encourage developers to reduce material consumption as part of their design and facilitate waste reduction during construction and to increase water and energy efficiency levels.

[8] Based on 2018/19 figures 51,854 tonnes was produced of which 53.8% was recycled



Kerbside dry recycling | Kerbside residual waste | Performance indicators

Overall benchmark comparisons - kerbside dry recycling 2017/18 (2017 for Scottish authorities)

The table below displays the kerbside dry recycling yield for each of the main materials collected (paper, card, cans, glass, plastic bottles, mixed plastic packaging and textiles). Where all five widely recycled, on-pack recycling label materials are collected (paper, card, cans, glass, plastic bottles), a total yield for these materials is also listed.

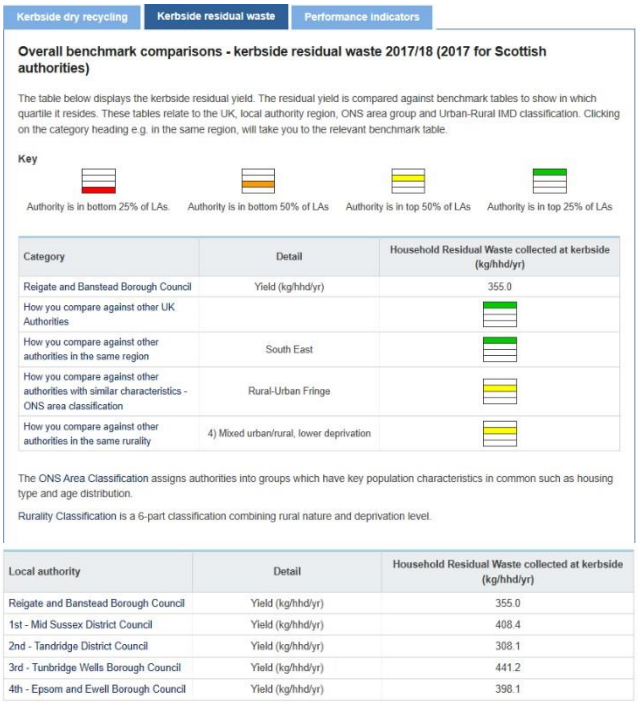
The yield for each material is compared against benchmark tables to show in which quartile it resides. These tables relate to the UK, local authority region, Office for National Statistics (ONS) area group and Urban-Rural Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) classification. Clicking on the category heading will take you to the relevant benchmark table.

Key

Authority is in bottom 25% of LAs. | Authority is in bottom 50% of LAs | Authority is in top 50% of LAs | Authority is in top 25% of LAs

Category	Detail	Paper	Card	Cans	Glass	Plastic bottles	Mixed plastic packaging	Plastic film	Textiles	All 5 'Widely Recycled' materials
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	76.4	35.9	12.8	59.6	14.2	5.4	4.8	n/a	198.9
How you compare against other UK Authorities									n/a	
How you compare against other authorities in the same region	South East								n/a	
How you compare against other authorities with similar characteristics - ONS area classification	Rural-Urban Fringe								n/a	
How you compare against other authorities in the same rurality	4) Mixed urban/rural, lower deprivation								n/a	

Figure 7 – Reigate and Banstead Borough - Overall benchmark comparisons – kerbside dry recycling 2017/18. Source: LA portal WRAP



Kerbside dry recycling | Kerbside residual waste | Performance indicators

Overall benchmark comparisons - kerbside residual waste 2017/18 (2017 for Scottish authorities)

The table below displays the kerbside residual yield. The residual yield is compared against benchmark tables to show in which quartile it resides. These tables relate to the UK, local authority region, ONS area group and Urban-Rural IMD classification. Clicking on the category heading e.g. in the same region, will take you to the relevant benchmark table.

Key

Authority is in bottom 25% of LAs. | Authority is in bottom 50% of LAs | Authority is in top 50% of LAs | Authority is in top 25% of LAs

Category	Detail	Household Residual Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	355.0
How you compare against other UK Authorities		
How you compare against other authorities in the same region	South East	
How you compare against other authorities with similar characteristics - ONS area classification	Rural-Urban Fringe	
How you compare against other authorities in the same rurality	4) Mixed urban/rural, lower deprivation	

The ONS Area Classification assigns authorities into groups which have key population characteristics in common such as housing type and age distribution.

Rurality Classification is a 6-part classification combining rural nature and deprivation level.

Local authority	Detail	Household Residual Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	355.0
1st - Mid Sussex District Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	408.4
2nd - Tandridge District Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	308.1
3rd - Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	441.2
4th - Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	Yield (kg/hhd/yr)	398.1

Figure 8 - Reigate and Banstead Borough - Overall benchmark comparisons – residual waste 2017/18. Source: LA portal

5. Natural environment and biodiversity

Overview

The natural environment is essential for human existence and for maintaining a good quality of life. It provides crucial ecosystem services which deliver fundamental requirements such as clean water, food, resources and services such as pollination, carbon storage, climate regulation, and natural protection from hazards such as flooding and erosion[9].

Over recent decades impact from human activity through pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation have caused stress to the natural environment. This presents a substantial risk to the future of the UK's native wildlife and also to the crucial ecosystem services they provide. Future climate change is only likely to accelerate current rates of decline and loss of ecosystem function [10] as the natural ability of species and ecosystems to adjust and adapt is reduced.

In addition to the delivery of essential ecosystem services' access to greenspaces, parks and gardens play an important role in our health and well-being. A recent government report has stated that across the UK the average number of visits taken per person per week to the natural environment is 1.7[11]. The importance of maintaining a healthy natural environment cannot therefore be understated.

The borough of Reigate & Banstead is fortunate to benefit from a rich and varied natural environment. This includes a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty with 69% of the borough designated as metropolitan Green Belt.[12]

2050 Vision

- Nature forms an integral part of our urban environment.
- New developments include parks or recreational spaces that have been designed to benefit wildlife and contribute to residents' overall well-being.
- Our drainage systems are designed to respect the natural water cycle, provide valuable habitat to wildlife and deliver amenity benefits where possible.
- Permeable paving solutions have replaced hard surfaces wherever possible.
- Harmful products that have a detrimental impact on our ecosystems or our health are not used.

Priorities

[9] IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services https://ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=35329&mc_cid=4df044f04d&mc_eid=%5bUNIQID%5d&mc_cid=4df044f04d&mc_eid=2754a8280b

[10] UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report, Chapter 3: Natural environment and natural assets

[11] Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The national survey on people and the natural environment. Headline report 2019, September 2019, Natural England.

[12] RBBC Environment and Sustainability Monitor Data Report 31 March 2019

Under the natural environment and biodiversity section we have set a number of objectives under three key priorities:

Ecological enhancement: Improvement of the tree soft landscaping cover to create habitats that are of benefit to wildlife.

Sustainable drainage system: Installation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce embodied carbon of drainage infrastructure and provide biodiversity and amenity benefits.

Environmental impact and pollution prevention: Avoidance of negative impacts to the wider environment i.e. air, water, ground, habitat loss resulting from Council's activities (including procurement).

At Council level the importance of the natural assets within the borough and the need to protect and enhance these assets has been recognised. As part of this work the Council has developed a 'Green Infrastructure Strategy'[13] which seeks to make the most of the green infrastructure network that runs through the borough and beyond. The Strategy acknowledges the threat to the green infrastructure network from the competing needs to provide housing and employment land.

The priorities focus on maintaining and improving the most significant elements of the existing green infrastructure network in the borough and exploring ways to increase the size and connectivity of the network through new development and regeneration projects.

As part of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy the Council is committed to ensuring the realisation and delivery of the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' but has also looked closely at what additional measures can be implemented to protect the borough's natural environment and enhance biodiversity.

At Borough level measures to increase soft landscaping and tree cover can have wide ranging environmental benefits which will also contribute to the achievement of other objectives within this strategy, including:

- A reduction in carbon emissions (one large tree consumes circa 20.3 kgCO_2e in a year)
- A reduction in air pollution (trees can remove pollutants such as nitrous oxide and particulate matter from the atmosphere)
- A reduction in water scarcity
- Flood alleviation
- A reduction in urban heat island effect

[13] Reigate and Banstead Borough Council 'Green Infrastructure Strategy', August 2017 http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/3600/green_infrastructure_strategy_and_action_plan

6. Effective implementation

A series of overarching and supporting measures will have to be rolled out to achieve the objectives set out in this strategy. These are essential to implement the action plan.

6.1 Planning policies

When considering the UK Government's target of achieving net zero carbon by 2050 it is clear that planning policy will have a crucial role in supporting the transition towards achieving this. In light of the UK target, the Council recognises the impracticalities of continuing to grant planning permission for developments which are planned and built in a way that will require retrofitting in the near future.

As part of the Council's strategy to address climate change and improve sustainability at a borough wide level there is an intention to focus on how the current planning policies and processes can be used to help deliver environmental sustainability across Reigate & Banstead, within the framework provided by national legislation and policy.

Measures will include:

- Review of the Local Plan policies and alignment with RBBC's action plan objectives as part of the next review process.
- Introduction of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and/or Planning Position Statements (PPSs) to provide further guidance to developers on topics such as energy and carbon and the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage.
- Introduction of templates to standardise the information received in relation to energy and sustainability for use by planning applicants. To be incorporated as part of the planning validation checklist.
- Training for planning staff and councillors on the planning committee to better understand RBBC environmental objectives within the Local Plan. This will better enable the Council to engage with developers when developments are not meeting policy requirements to determine if anything can be done to help address this.

6.2 Procurement

A number of objectives across all overarching environmental themes of the strategy relate to products and services being supplied to the Council by third party providers/suppliers. In order to ensure that RBBC selects suppliers/providers with the right level of products and expertise to deliver this strategy changes to the internal procurement procedures will be required to be implemented.

As part of the procurement process, the Council will look to update their Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) and Invitations to Tender (ITTs). These documents will be updated to reflect the objectives of the action plan relative to the service which is being tendered.

For relevant procurement exercises tendering companies/suppliers will then be assessed on their ability to contribute to the delivery of RBBC's overarching sustainability objectives. As part of the evaluation process, tendering Companies'/Supplier's responses will be assessed via a balanced scorecard approach where a certain percentage score is allocated to sustainability. The evaluation will consider aspects such as past demonstrable experiences and/or practical measures / goods to deliver RBBC's strategy.

In parallel, it is advised that RBBC develop general implementation guidance on key topics (e.g. embodied carbon) to facilitate uptake and ensure consistency in terms of implementation across different

companies/suppliers.

6.3 Communication

The Council realises that it has an important role in encouraging businesses and residents within the Borough to support actions which address climate change and environmental sustainability. Recognising the importance of providing easily accessible and digestible information as part of this process, it is proposed that an online central information resource will be developed.

It is therefore intended that the Council will look to create an easily navigable webpage on the current RBBC website, acting as a 'one-stop' page for all sustainability related matters. The webpage will aim to centralise information on measures to promote sustainable travel, provide advice on lowering an individual's impact on the environment and where applicable flag where access to further funding and grants are available.

The success of the objectives outlined within the Action Plan will be reliant on support from communication campaigns to help aid the understanding of the issue across the borough. The Council will therefore ensure that, where applicable, actions are supported by the dissemination of appropriate materials at a borough level e.g. inclusion of relevant information within Council newsletters and promotion via social media.

6.4 Resources

The appointment of a dedicated sustainability resource will be significant in ensuring the successful delivery of the action plan. It will not be the sole responsibility of this individual to implement the relevant measures within the action plan rather their role would be to guide and support the relevant Council departments in delivering their sustainability objectives in conjunction with other key stakeholders where applicable.

6.5 Monitoring and reporting

As part of the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy it will be crucial to ensure that all objectives of the associated Action Plan are monitored. This will assist in understanding where measures have successful and to identify where improvements to the implementation approach may be required.

The monitoring and reporting frequency will depend on the objective, associated action and timescale for delivery. Periodic sustainability forums will provide an opportunity to discuss where progress is being made and to flag any arising issues. It will also provide an opportunity to periodically audit performance against the plan and identify where further resources/ attention needs to be focussed. The strategy will need to be kept under review to ensure that the council's activities continue to take account of national policies, commitments and technological changes.