

## Bromsgrove Carbon Reduction Strategy

September 2024 Review.

### Introduction.

Globally, governments have committed to keep within a 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local authorities (LA) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as major employers. Evidence supports that Bromsgrove District Council should make carbon reduction key to what it does as a Council to support national, regional & local targets. Currently the carbon emissions associated with Worcestershire are approximately 2.5 million tonnes, the district of Bromsgrove is responsible for 669,200 tonnes of this and the Council, with emissions of 818 tonnes, seeks to play its part in the reduction of these figures.

Bromsgrove District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming that it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LAs are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and action plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and using their sphere of influence.

Bromsgrove District Council developed and published its first carbon reduction strategy in 2022 and set this strategy to run for 3 years with a yearly review of progress to take place. The strategy is now in its second year and this report is assessing the progress so far on the measures outlined in the Carbon Reduction Strategy and sets out a set of actions to carry forward into the final year.

Following the final year review of the carbon reduction strategy in 2025 a new strategy will be produced to monitor progress through to 2030 and the target year to reach 50%.

To support with the development of the next iteration of BDC's carbon reduction strategy and to continue to work with services across BDC in their efforts to reduce their own carbon emissions recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change Officer.

### **Measures:**

1. Assess low carbon fleet fuel options.

Environmental services use of fuel now means each 4<sup>th</sup> tanker of fuel that fills up our tanks is HVO which is then used by all vehicles in the fleet. HVO can save up to 90% of the lifetime carbon emissions compared to traditional diesel. Environmental services are planning to increase the frequency of HVO only tanker deliveries to 1 in every 2.

We are undertaking a review of our fleet replacement programme, together with associated plant and machinery, and as part of this we are assessing the availability and affordability of alternative fuel options

2. Support Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to apply for funding to improve Efficiency of housing stock.

### **LAD3**

In 2023 BDC completed the LAD 3 programme which saw 13 low-income owner occupier households across the borough receive energy efficiency measures. Of these homes 2 were moved up to an EPC B, 7 to EPC C, and 4 to EPC D from their previous EPC rating on average saving 20.1 tonnes of carbon per year and an average of 3.89 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per household per year.

### **HUG2**

Bromsgrove District Council have also been working in partnership with Worcestershire County Council on delivering the Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) scheme which is focused upon installing energy efficiency measures to low-income households that aren't heated by a gas boiler and have an EPC below a C. To date there are 2 properties being taken forward for install of measures with a projected carbon saving of **18.83tCO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup>**

### **BDHT - SHDF**

Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) have chosen to focus efforts on securing funding for the upcoming SHDF wave 3 with the intention to carry forward 100 electrically heated properties identified as part of wave 2 and a potential 900 other properties ranging from EPC G-D are in scope for the next SHDF wave.

Progress is being made on the domestic housing front utilising the limited government funding available. Bromsgrove District Council will continue to take advantage of any government funding that becomes available in future to support domestic retrofit across the district. BDC will also continue to support BDHT where applicable in their need to improve energy efficiency of their housing stock.

### **Future Government Grant Schemes**

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<sup>1</sup> Figures provided by SAP modelling from WCC retrofit Co-Ordinator Core Logic

As the new government has made a commitment to target energy efficiency measures at homes across the county. BDC will continue to work with BDHT and other partners to secure funding to support the retrofitting of homes across the district over the coming years.

3. Agree decarbonisation strategy as part of asset management strategy. Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption.

**Parkside Hall:**

Parkside has been benefiting from the installation of Solar PV for 12 months. The building is also set to be one of the beneficiaries of the Bromsgrove District Heat Network. In preparation for eventual connection to the heat network officers will need to account for any restrictions and constraints in any retrofit. Bromsgrove District Council should be able to apply for PSDS funds to assist with the retrofit costs that will be incurred.

**Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure:**

Bromsgrove Sport and Leisure Centre have been supported with winning a bid to install solar PV on the building. At present the project is in the design phase.

4. Seek commercial partners to build out the Bromsgrove District Heat Network

In January 2024 Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) presented BDC with a potential routeway to finding a commercial partner to build and operate the proposed district heat network for the town. A cabinet report is being prepared for November 2024 to outline a proposed change of direction for delivering the district heat network for approval and implementation.

5. Apply for funding for Parkside Building energy efficiency / generation measures

Parkside Hall has seen the completion of the solar panel installation and the below table outlines the KWh savings that have been achieved in each financial year since the installation was completed.

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>Savings (kWh)</b> | <b>Tonnes of CO2 Saved</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022-2023             | 264464               | 105                        |
| 2023-2024             | 230630               | 92                         |
| 2024-2025             | 63803                | 25                         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>    | <b>558897</b>        | <b>222</b>                 |

The total savings seen so far translate into 222 tonnes of CO2 saved thus far as a result of this measure.

6. Support 'Everyone Active' to reduce energy consumption at the leisure centre & include in funding bids.

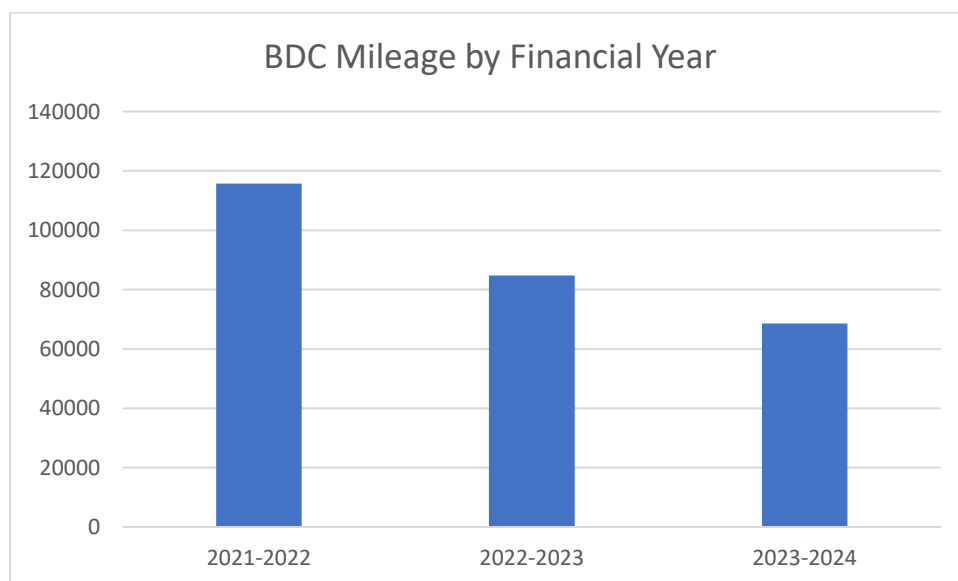
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7. Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices

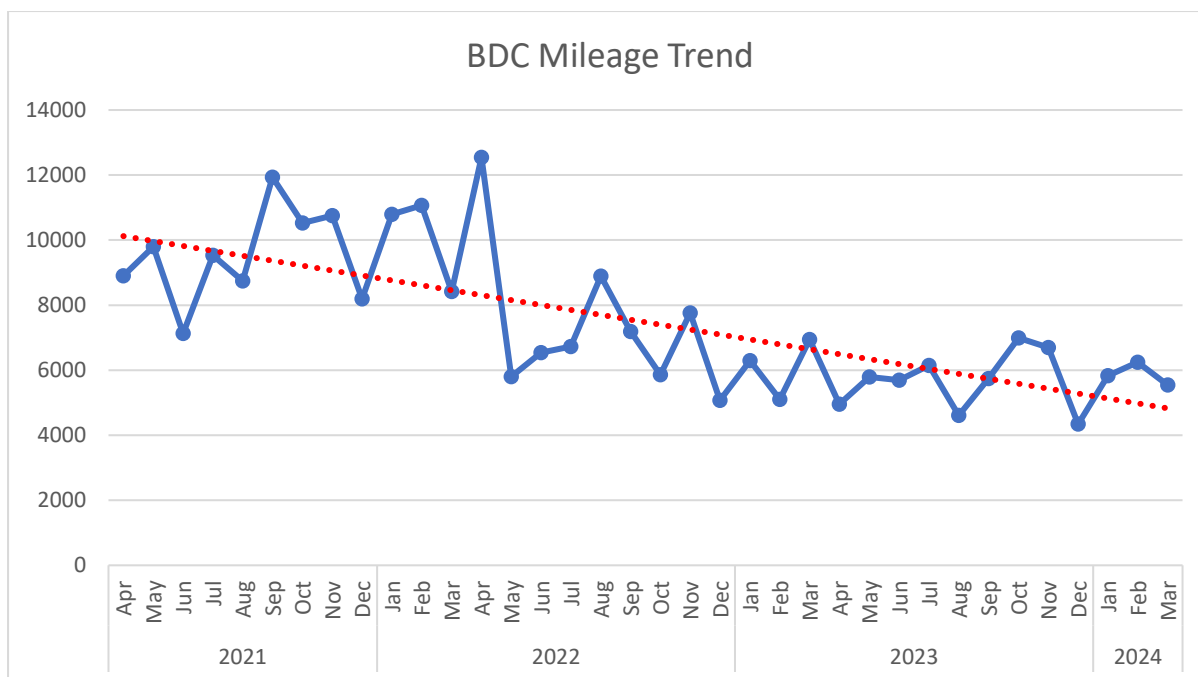
Audit was to take place in September, Date to be agreed for October

8. Reduce staff travel and make further use of video conferencing.

Bromsgrove District Council has continued to see a trend of reduced staff mileage year on year since the pandemic in 2020. In the graph below over all mileage is down. This doesn't include staff mileage from home to any BDC sites as BDC does not collect data on this. Bromsgrove District Council also shares services with Redditch Borough Council and where a service has its budgets lines set may also impact on this trend.



Furthermore when looked at in more detail on month by month basis the downwards trend of mileage can be seen more clearly with two key months consistently standing out each year (August and December) for low points in mileage claims, which also coincide with when staff most take their annual leave.



In terms of carbon savings, the government states that the average car in the UK emits 190grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. Average distance claimed per staff member for BDC is 2021-22 43.1miles 2022-23 42 miles and 2023-24 26.8 miles meaning that each person on average produced 8.5kg of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2021-22 8.2kg of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2023-23 and 5.3 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2023-24<sup>2</sup>

9. Cut the Council's paper waste by offering papers electronically.

In the aftermath of the covid 19 pandemic and the result of staff across the council using digital means to share papers BDC has seen a reduction in paper usage.

Additionally where it was found that internally democratic and committee services were significant users of paper. Efforts have been made to offer committee groups papers electronically and in this area paper reduction has occurred. The chart below shows the rates over the last XX years.

10. Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet' and include Travel plans across all service areas.

The move to agile working has contributed to reduction in staff mileage across BDC and having a positive impact upon CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Services are also actively working to ensure journey planning is done in the most efficient way where practically possible, and by holding meetings online to reduce the need for staff to travel to office locations.

In addition BDC has a number of EV chargers on some of its car parks in the district and is work with Zest to explore expanding the public charging network including looking at the sites used by BDC.

<sup>2</sup> Based upon UK government assumptions [Transport and environment statistics 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-and-environment-statistics-2022) and using the example journey between Croydon and Wimbledon as a representation of the type of travel that would occur across the district by car.

employees and vehicles. BDC is also working with Worcestershire County Council on a LEVI funding bid to undertake a project to install EV charge points in locations where residents don't have access to off street parking.

Outside of direct influence of BDC, the growth of electric vehicle sales, and more efficient vehicles on the road will also have an impact on grey fleet emissions over time.

Conclusion.

This report will be the last review report of the current carbon reduction strategy for BDC. In 2025 the next iteration of the Carbon Reduction Strategy will be produced taking into account the learning and outcomes of this 3-year strategy, and with a view to taking the next strategy up to 2030 and the point in which BDC is aiming to be 50% net zero.

In addition, recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change officer to support and add additional resource to BDC to continue its journey to net zero and support services in contributing to achieving their climate change goals.

The measures covered in the current Carbon Reduction Strategy doesn't cover all the work that Bromsgrove District Council is doing to tackle climate change more broadly. This includes work being undertaken to improve bio diversity across the district, and working with developers to ensure house building is to the most energy efficient standard, like the recent development on Burcot Lane in Bromsgrove.