



# Council Meeting

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**Wednesday, 14th  
July, 2021**

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## HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, on Wednesday, 14th July, 2021 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Muriel Matters House  
Breeds Place  
Hastings

7 July 2021

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### **AGENDA**

#### **WRITTEN COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS**

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council

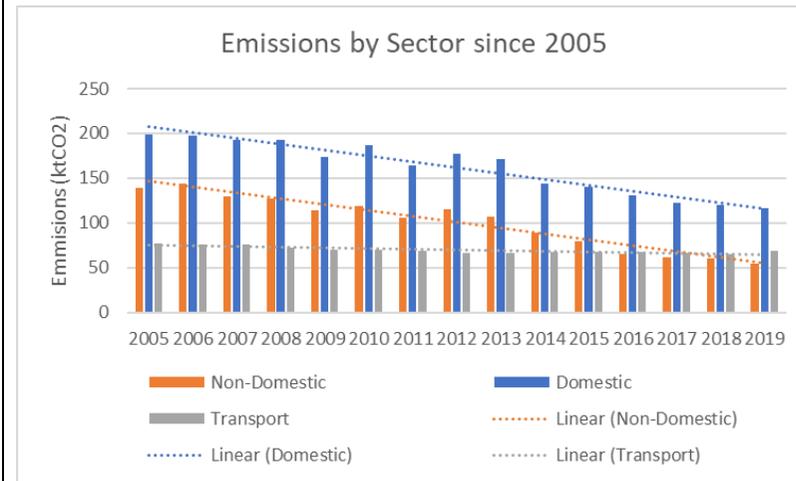
Questioner	Question	Answer
<p>Councillor Hilton</p>	<p>I note that the headline item on the Programme for the Year is to tackle climate change.</p> <p>In February 2019 Hastings Council committed to setting a target date of 2030 for Hastings to become carbon neutral. Since then a climate action plan has been published in March 2020 with the headline, “Our vision is to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030.”</p> <p>AECOM were also commissioned to provide the initial evidence base to ensure the most effective solutions are deployed to help the town tackle climate change.</p> <p>However since then no interim or annual targets have been set to give the town some sense of the task we have set ourselves in particular in reducing the demand for fuel to heat and light our buildings and for transport.</p> <p>While of course the council’s direct control over carbon emissions is small, it has a very important leadership role to play in driving change and part of that should be to produce measurable interim targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>This list has no measurements of the carbon reductions that will be achieved by the various measures outlined.</p> <p>When will the council publish year by year targets of what we need to do as a town to have any chance of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030?</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>As you would imagine there is not a simple answer to this challenging question of setting annual carbon reduction targets for the town – as its not as straight forward as that.</p> <p>It is useful to remind ourselves that the Government target is to get to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and as such the climate emergency declaration aim to reach net zero by 2030 is extremely ambitious. It reflects a strong consensus on the need to get to net zero as quickly as possible, in keeping with the international Paris Agreement to try and limit maximum warming to 1.5°C and using science based targets.</p> <p><b>Greenhouse gas emissions and trends</b></p> <p>In order to reduce our emissions we need to understand where they come from – as this helps to target action towards our climate neutral goal.</p> <p>Greenhouse gases are commonly divided into 3 categories based on where they are generated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope 1 (direct emissions) – from sources within the borough</li> <li>Scope 2 (indirect emissions) – from using grid supplied electricity within the borough</li> <li>Scope 3 - all other emissions that occur outside the borough as a result of activities within the borough e.g. everything we buy in Hastings that is made elsewhere</li> </ul> <p>There are 6 main green house gases that contribute to global warming. Each gas has its own global warming potential (GWP) over a 100 year period; carbon dioxide is the most abundant and as such by comparing the GWP of each of the other gases to CO<sub>2</sub> – a CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent value can be created - CO<sub>2e</sub></p> <p>Currently there is no published information on total GHG emissions by a local authority area – the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes data each year to monitor emissions from domestic, business, public sector and transport sources and changes in</p>

land-use. The data does not include emissions from aviation, shipping or items produced outside of the borough but used here. The data provides a continuous record of local emissions from 2005 -2019. However, due to the complexity of collating and verifying the data, it is published annually, but 18 months in arrears. ([UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2019))

The modelling work that AECOM undertook used the BEIS data to model a pathway to net zero by 2030 whilst taking account of policy developments and identifying possible actions we can take at a local level.

Emissions from all sectors have decreased by 40% since 2005. This is an average reduction of approximately 3% per year, which is similar to the national trend, mainly arising from the decarbonisation of the electricity grid. The majority of emissions in Hastings arise from the domestic housing stock, followed by industrial and commercial buildings and transport. (see figure 1)

Figure 1 Emissions by sector 2005-2019



**Climate emergency targets.**

To keep below the global average 1.5°C increase requires a limit to the total quantity of greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere. This is the global carbon budget, which can be divided down into national and local carbon budgets. All emissions above this budget will contribute to exceeding the 1.5°C threshold. The UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has developed a recognised methodology for calculating the CO<sub>2</sub> budget for the UK that is aligned with the Paris Agreement, and has divided this by local authority area, to ensure that carbon budgets at different administrative levels (eg. district/borough and county) are comparable and that all areas are contributing to a common UK carbon budget.

The Tyndall methodology makes a number of simplifying assumptions and only covers CO<sub>2</sub> rather than all GHGs. Nevertheless, it's a useful model which indicates that:

- The total remaining (energy only) CO<sub>2</sub> budget for Hastings is about 1.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> up to 2100.
- At current emission levels this budget will be exceeded in 6 years.
- the annual average reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> required to keep within the remaining budget is about 12% per year

The Tyndall carbon budget has a steady 12% decrease in carbon emissions year on year, this budget has Hastings emitting 60 kT CO<sub>2</sub> in 2030, which is above our own target of net zero. A 12% per year reduction equates to a halving of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every 5 years.

The average annual reduction is currently 3% - highlighting the scale of the challenge to keeping within a carbon budget and setting measurable annual targets.

Budget Period	Carbon Budget (MtCO <sub>2</sub> )
2018-2022	1.0
2023-2027	0.6
2028-2032	0.3
2033-2037	0.1
2038-2042	0.1
2043-2047	0.0
2048-2100	0.0

Recommended carbon budget for Hastings (source Tyndall Centre)

By analysing the data produced by BEIS we have extrapolated the required amount of carbon emissions required to reduce per year to map a linear route to net zero by 2030. This figure is 19.8kT CO<sub>2</sub> reduction every year. However, this needs to be treated with caution as it assumes uniform reductions across all sectors and over time, assuming past performance is good indication of future performance.

Obviously the route we take to net zero will not be linear, and some measures will have a greater effect than others, but this linear target does give us something to aim at. In practice, it's likely that emission reductions will become harder and more costly over time as the easier wins are achieved, whilst some sectors, notably transport, have seen little to no reduction in emissions in the recent past.

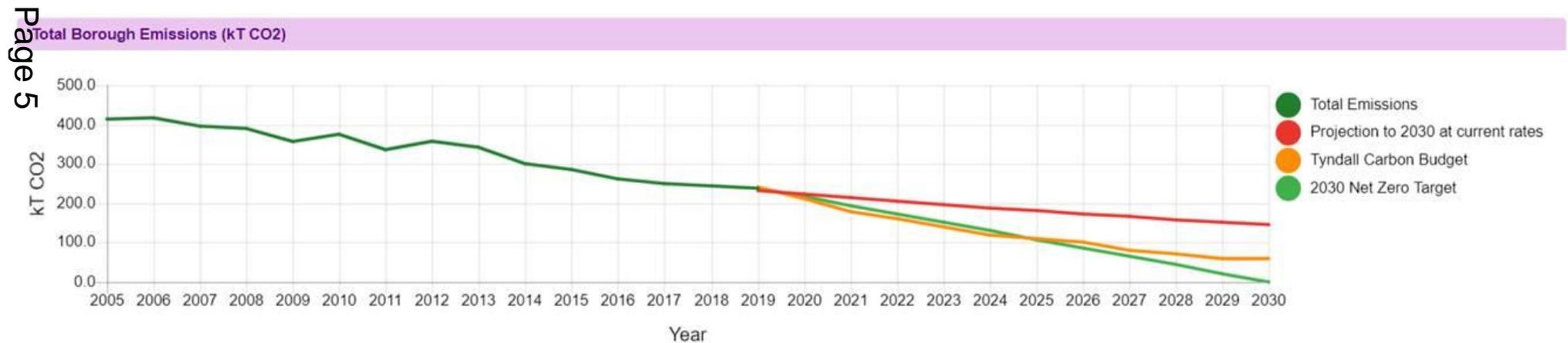
Officers are investigating other reporting software including the Place Based Carbon Calculator, Scatter Model , and the Environmental Insight Explorer powered by Google. As modelling advances and data is more readily available, we will be able to measure our progress more easily, but for now we are tied by the national data sets and the software tools we have available to us.

See figure 2 below – Which illustrates a simplified overview of the Boroughs emissions and the comparison of the Tyndall data, the linear route to net zero, and the current trend.

### Impact of COVID-19

the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 16 months has impacted on our ability to work on this action plan, especially due to the impacts of staff redeployment. However, officers are now back in post and will be bringing an update on the progress made within the action plan to cabinet later this year and will be updating the action plan in the coming months to take us beyond our March 2022 commitments. This action plan will be a live document and will be updated in line with changes to technology and central government policy along with measures we have taken.

Figure 2 The Actual and potential trends in Carbon emissions 2005 – 2030 – total borough emissions (kT CO<sub>2e</sub>)



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