

Draft Environment and Climate Strategy consultation Representation Form

Your representation

Your representations should cover all of the supporting information and evidence necessary to justify your response.

Our Vision

“Our vision is to be a borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a sustainable future, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions 2050.”

Question 1: Do you have any suggestions for improving our vision for the borough?

- 1) We must include clear intentions, separately defined, for each of the following four PRIMARY TARGETS;
 - a) Achieving **net-zero carbon emissions**
 - b) Restore and protect **Biodiversity**
 - c) Prepare the Borough for the effects of 2°C global warming (**Climate Resilience**)
 - d) Reduce net pollution to less than 10% of current values (**Pollution**)
- 2) Bring the target date to achieve net-zero Carbon emissions back to 2030 - **Net-Zero Carbon Emissions**
- 3) The annual targets for the reduction of Carbon emissions need to be far greater in the earlier years - **Net-Zero Carbon Emissions**
- 4) We must be ambitious and apply all plans directly to RBWM assets including its Joint Venture and Commercial Companies and, facilitate and encourage residents and businesses to achieve the same - **Scope: application to everyone and everything in the Borough**
- 5) Decarbonise all transport in and over the Borough - **Net-Zero Carbon Emissions**
- 6) We must prepare and help residents prepare for known changes to UK weather including extreme heat and increased flooding - **Climate Change Resilience**
- 7) Our ambition for **Biodiversity** should be for rigorous protection of what we've got and, large scale habitat restoration and recreation including urban greening and, no building on greenbelt (immediate stop)
- 8) We must develop baseline studies and detailed assessments for each of these areas - **Provable Methodology**
- 9) We must develop metrics so we can measure our baseline, evaluate each proposal, each and every plan, action, and decisions taken by the Council and so and prove our achievement. We must not rely on out of date ONS estimates for the country will not give us any clarity on achievement - **Provable Methodology**
- 10) All of RBWM's **policies** and **reporting** should be geared towards the objectives in the Environment and Climate Strategy especially Planning Regulations - **Building for the future now**
- 11) Given that 10% of Carbon emissions are generated by the use of land for rearing livestock, which also generates methane, we should produce a plan to promote and encourage a plant-based diet through education, training, and working with farmers and retailers (**Zero-carbon objective**)
- 12) As our four objectives (Net-Zero Carbon Emissions, Biodiversity, Climate Change Resilience, Pollution) need to be applied to every area of operation and responsibility. To ensure that we can do this, all officers, especially senior officers, should be equipped by funding **training to a high level on the four core issues and metrics**. I am a great believer that if we train them, our

officers will come up with the ideas to push us further. Let's make them the environment and climate change evangelists.

- 13) Set out **positive plans** to achieve objective e.g. plant more trees
- 14) Set out **defensive measures** e.g. prevent builders and residents from chopping down trees without equivalent replacements
- 15) **Multiply the effect** of your policies through education and helping residents also achieve the policies themselves e.g. encouraging residents to identify trees that should have a Tree Protection Order on them
- 16) **Magnify the achievements** by collaborating with residents, scientists & academia, neighbouring authorities, businesses etc.. Ensuring you apply your policies to everything in your power e.g. scientists (ecologists) could specify a strategy of which trees and where; businesses could get involved with providing RFID chips to tag and document all trees
- 17) **Funding:** raise funds to help achieve the objectives e.g. issue a Tree Bond to investors, call for Tree Philanthropists etc..
- 18) **Resources:** Ensure we have sufficient resources and qualified people in place e.g. recruit more Tree Officers
- 19) Amend our Joint Minerals & Waste Plan (JMWP) to include green economy materials such as wood **(All objectives)**
- 20) Review all policies, plans and documents e.g. JMWP are framed to also deliver our objectives for zero-carbon, biodiversity restoration, climate change resilience and, elimination of single use plastics **(Zero Carbon, Biodiversity, Climate Change Resilience, Pollution)**
- 21) **Develop plans for all of areas identified by the Centre for Alternative Technology, in proportion to carbon emission value to include;**
 - a) Heat and Power for buildings **(40% carbon emissions)**
 - i) Switch to a renewable energy tariff
 - ii) Change heating from oil and gas to electric
 - iii) Reduce power usage in buildings
 - iv) Install energy saving devices and constructions
 - v) Generate renewable energy
 - vi) Lobby government to accelerate the switch to renewable energy
 - b) Vehicles and transport **(40% carbon emissions)**
 - i) Stop/prevent the use of petrol and diesel vehicles
 - ii) Switch to electric vehicles
 - iii) Use public transport
 - iv) Walk and cycle more
 - v) Fly a lot less
 - vi) Lobby government to increase funding for electric vehicles and green public transport
 - c) Land use **(10% carbon emissions)**
 - i) Eat less meat and more plant-based foods
 - ii) Waste less food especially meat
 - iii) Plant a lot more trees
 - iv) Create more habitat for carbon-capturing ecosystems
 - v) Stop building on green spaces
 - d) Industrial aspects **(10% carbon emissions)**
 - i) Stop building on green spaces
 - ii) Reduce the use and leakage from gas pipelines and super greenhouse gases from fridges and aerosols.
 - iii) Switch from cement to plant-based building materials
- 22) Develop a Climate Change Resilience plan to include, inter alia, **(Climate Change Resilience)**
 - a) Planting more trees and, considering planting type and fire breaks – this will absorb rainfall and reduce local flooding

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- b) Prevent building on any flood plains and green spaces
- c) Prevent the loss of green spaces such as front and rear gardens – this will prevent an increase in surface water run off exacerbating local flooding
- d) Weatherproofing buildings to cope with extreme heat
- e) Stipulating building regulations that allow residents and building users to exist comfortably
- f) Invest in flood mitigation schemes such as the [River Thames Scheme](#)
- g) Build water storage facilities or secure water supply for food producers
- h) Build roads to survive high temperatures and localised flooding
- i) Create community emergency plans
- j) Facilitate useful, green, low cost, climate-resilient transportation
- k) Implement water saving concepts and devices
- l) Facilitate residents and businesses achieving all of the above through education, grants, collaborations, prizes, and conferences

Themes

The strategic framework has been based on focussing our action around four key themes.

- Circular Economy - 'Reduce waste and consumption, increase material re-use and increase recycling rates in the borough'
- Energy - 'Reduce energy consumption and decarbonise supply'
- Natural Environment - 'Cleaner air, higher water quality and increased biodiversity'
- Transport - 'Enable sustainable transport choices'

Question 2a: Do you agree with the Circular Economy Theme?

Yes

No

Question 2b: Do you agree with the Energy Theme?

Yes

No

Question 2c: Do you agree with the Natural Environment Theme?

Yes

No

Question 2d: Do you agree with the Transport Theme?

Yes

No

Question 2e: If not, do you have any suggestions for improving the themes?

These themes should be arranged more about the primary objectives, which should include Climate Change Resilience and also Pollution/Well Being.

Theme Objectives

Each theme has 3 objectives.

Do you agree with the objectives for each theme?

Question 3a: Circular Economy - Reduce residual waste

Yes

No

Question 3b: Circular Economy - Improve recycling rates

(Definition: Residual waste refers to the waste that is not recycled or composted. It will typical end up in your black bin)

Yes

No

Question 3c: Circular Economy - Promote more sustainable food choices

Yes

No

Question 3d: If you do not agree with the Circular Economy theme objectives, what would you replace?

The theme objectives are not broad enough or deep enough but should include, inter alia;

- 3a Elimination of residual waste, increase in recycling
- 3b Strongly promoting plant based diets and related infrastructure
- 3c Developing a green economy locally

Question 3e: Energy - Reduce energy demand

Yes

No

Question 3f: Energy - Decarbonise supply

Yes

No

Question 3g: Energy - Increase renewables generation

Yes

No

Question 3h: If you do not agree with the Energy theme objectives, what would you replace?

3f should be altered to “Decarbonise both supply and demand”

Question 3i: Natural Environment - Protect and enhance our natural environment

Yes

No

Question 3j: Natural Environment - Green our towns and urban areas

Yes

No

Question 3k: Natural Environment - Increase awareness of biodiversity

Yes

No

Question 3l: If you do not agree with the Natural Environment theme objectives, what would you replace?

The first objective should be a lot stronger and wider and seek to restore and protect native biodiversity, habitat and our natural environment.

The final objective should be stronger and aim to work with residents as an extension of our programme to restore and protect our restore and protect native biodiversity, habitat and our natural environment.

Question 3m: Transport - Improve health and wellbeing and reduce environmental impact through active transport (cycling and walking)

Yes

No

Question 3n: Transport - Enable the transition to more sustainable transport use

Yes

No

Question 3o: Transport - Support integration of transport options and support innovative smart mobility solutions

Yes

No

Question 3p: If you do not agree with the Transport theme objectives, what would you replace?

These themes are not ambitious enough to allow residents and the Borough to get to net-zero carbon emissions before our Carbon budget runs out.

I would include the following;

- 3m – Promotion of active transport including cycling and walking
- 3n – Complete decarbonisation of transport in the Borough
- 3o – Promoting useful, green, integrated, regional, low cost transport systems and solutions to enable residents to cut vehicle ownership to minimal levels

Question 4: Are there other areas you would consider a priority to tackling climate change in the borough that fall outside of these?

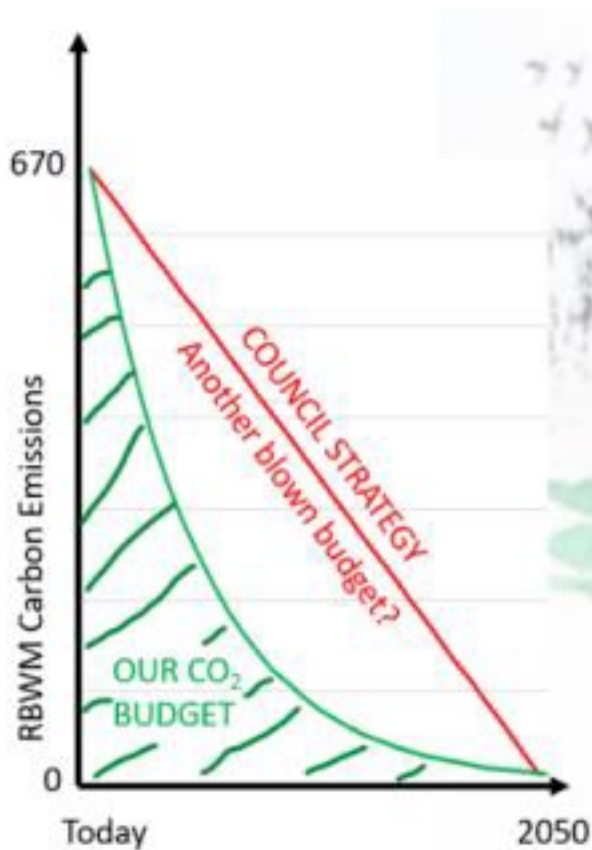
See responses to other questions

Trajectory to net zero

The Council has committed to reviewing the trajectory set out in the Strategy to ensure it is as ambitious as possible whilst remaining achievable.

Question 5: Is there a specific approach or issue to consider when devising a revised Paris-agreement aligned trajectory?

- Big reductions need to be achieved in the early years i.e. a logarithmic curve with 99% completion by 2028
- See proposed trajectory produced by RBWM Climate Emergency Coalition



Question 6: Please provide links to further evidence you believe the council should consider when reviewing the trajectory.

Initial Action Plan 2020-25

Actions have been assigned to each of our four themes. Each of the four themes contains a key action.

Circular Economy - To review household waste collection regime to deliver increases in recycling

Energy - To work with residents/businesses to enable them to reduce carbon emissions in their buildings and review planning policy to improve the energy efficiency of new builds

Natural Environment -To implement a new Natural Capital programme to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain

(Definition: Natural Capital refers to the physical, natural resources such as forests, land and the benefits that these resources provide)

Transport - To prepare a new Local Transport Plan to support carbon reduction targets

Question 7a: Do you agree with the key action of the Circular Economy theme? (To review household waste collection regime to deliver increases in recycling)

Yes

No

Question 7b: If you do not agree with the key action for the Circular Economy theme, then what should it be?

Each of the three ideas I have noted above carry more or less equal weight with regard to the reduction of carbon so, there should be three key actions relating to;

- Elimination of residual waste, increase in recycling
- Strongly promoting plant based diets and related infrastructure
- Developing a green economy locally

Question 7c: Do you agree with the key action of the Energy theme? (To work with residents/businesses to enable them to reduce carbon emissions in their buildings and review

planning policy to improve the energy efficiency of new builds)

Yes

No

Question 7d: If you do not agree with the key action for the Energy theme, then what should it be?

To ensure we do not use up our Carbon budget, all new buildings should be passivhaus standard i.e. net zero from the outset both in operational terms and during the build process

Question 7e: Do you agree with the key action of the Natural Environment theme?

(To implement a new Natural Capital programme to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain

(Definition: Capital refers to the physical, natural resources such as forests, rivers, land and the benefits that these resources provide))

Yes

No

Question 7f: If you do not agree with the key action for the Natural Environment theme, then what should it be?

- Our ambition for Biodiversity should be for rigorous protection of what we've got and, large scale habitat restoration and recreation including urban greening and, no building on greenbelt (immediate stop)

Question 7g: Do you agree with the key action of the Transport theme? (To prepare a new Local Transport Plan to support carbon reduction targets)

Yes

No

Question 7h: If you do not agree with the key action for the Transport theme, then what should it be?

- 1) To work with neighboring local authorities to create a low cost, green, integrated, regional transport plan with zero-carbon emissions to include a new Local Transport Plan to target zero-carbon emissions by 2030, which fits in the regional solution

Question 8: Are there actions that the Royal Borough could undertake in the next five years you believe are vital to the success of the strategy that have not been included?

The single more important item is to ensure that we include a logarithmic target to achieve 95-99% carbon reduction by 2028.

However, also important are the needs for Baseline Studies and Metrics in each of the four suggested areas or net-Zero Carbon, Biodiversity, Climate resilience and, Pollution elimination.

Prioritising Actions

Actions will be evaluated against 5 criteria to determine their degree of priority and the order in which they will be carried out.

Criteria 1: Those with the highest potential to meet the aims set out in the strategy (e.g. contribute most to carbon reduction, contribute to biodiversity net gain) will be prioritised.

Criteria 2: The feasibility of the action (e.g. availability of internal funds)

Criteria 3: The opportunity for accessing external funds to carry out the action

Criteria 4: The risks/costs of inaction

Criteria 5: The compatibility with council function

Question 9: Are there any additional criteria you would like to see included to improve our approach?

- 1) Our ambition for Biodiversity should be for rigorous protection of what we've got and, large scale habitat restoration and recreation including urban greening and, no building on greenbelt (immediate stop)
- 2) Conduct the baseline studies to identify habitat and each of the species (our asset base)***
- 3) Develop and apply metrics that allow us to calculate the biodiversity value of each asset (e.g. each tree) in our biodiversity asset base e.g. the work of Cllr Da Costa with Natural England can help facilitate this and, help developers submit planning application with greater certainty for all***
- 4) Identify which ranges of species and habitat we should target for restoration***
- 5) Prepare and implement a plan, a thorough Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to include wildlife corridors,
- 6) Harness businesses and residents in a citizen science program
- 7) Create natural capital and urban greening progamme in a way that fits in with the BAP
- 8) Stop building on the green belt and green spaces including Maidenhead Golf Course and edge of settlement areas between Windsor and Holyport
- 9) Facilitate and develop Citizen Science programs with TVERC and other biodiversity databases, and designed by scientists and ecologistscitizen science
- 10) Include robust requirements for developers to create large amounts of habitat which can be repurposed as the BAP is developed
- 11) Develop a strategy that addresses all land in the Borough with plans to work with landowners to achieve biodiversity net gain across all areas, not just those opportunities that appear through the planning process
- 12) Focus on Priority Habitats, coupled with targets for priority species, as the best vehicle to deliver biodiversity net gain. Ensure that these sites are effectively monitored to ensure they all achieve net biodiversity gain
- 13) Engage much more proactively with local environmental groups to develop and implement local biodiversity action plans. Support these groups to conduct species and habitat surveys, write wildlife conservation management plans , run conservation work parties
- 14) Create a Biodiversity Specialist group involving the Council, environmental groups and local experts
- 15) Conduct a review of priority species records by January 2021, including the 128 priority species noted by Wild Maidenhead's Maidenhead's Nature Matters report

- 16) Set up a deeper relationship with TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) to ensure up to date ecological data is provided to help inform planning decisions and to enable the Council to report annually on its biodiversity performance
- 17) Ensure that all Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are positively managed to conserve and enhance the site in line with the criteria set for them and are surveyed at least every five years.
- 18) Implement a Pollinator Action Plan for RBWM in partnership with local environmental bodies and beekeepers to help deliver increases in pollinator populations locally. This could be along the limes of the Buglife B-Lines initiative.
- 19) Pursue carbon capture through the large-scale development of habitat and tree planting. However, we need to ensure we map, log, assess (for Carbon storage, carbon sequestration and biodiversity value), protect every tree in the Borough, measure tree loss (e.g. due to land clearance and disease) and, plant sufficient trees whose total value (Carbon storage, carbon sequestration and biodiversity value) are massively in excess of the carbon loss (assumed emitted) plus carbon sequestration loss plus biodiversity loss.
- 20) Deep collaboration with residents including the creation of a Citizens Assembly programme such as the one being discussed by Cllr Wisdom Da Costa with Professor Tom Oliver and Defra
- 21) Deep collaboration with scientists and authorities such as the work of Cllr Da Costa with Natural England to help facilitate the development and use of Blue and Green Infrastructure Indicators ***
- 22) All of RBWM's policies and reporting should be geared towards the objectives in the Environment and Climate Strategy especially Planning Regulations
- 23) As our four objectives (Net-Zero Carbon Emissions, Biodiversity, Climate Change Resilience, Pollution) need to be applied to every area of operation and responsibility. To ensure that we can do this, all officers, especially senior officers, should be equipped by funding training to a high level on the four core issues and metrics. I am a great believer that if we train them, our officers will come up with the ideas to push us further. Let's make them the environment and climate change evangelists.
- 24) Create a Fundraising team to actively secure funding from;
 - a) External sources such as DEFRA
 - b) Working with Academia to find fully funded opportunities that fit in with our strategy e.g. the work of Cllr Wisdom Da Costa with Professor Tom Oliver from the University of Reading
 - c) Implement congestion charging in Windsor and Maidenhead
 - d) Tax beneficial securities
 - e) Local businesses
 - f) Local philanthropists
 - g) Increasing S106 and CIL rate, especially in areas where pollution
- 25) Pursue carbon capture through the large-scale development of habitat and tree planting. However, we need to ensure we map, log, assess (for Carbon storage, carbon sequestration and biodiversity value), protect every tree in the Borough, measure tree loss (e.g. due to land clearance and disease) and, plant sufficient trees whose total value (Carbon storage, carbon sequestration and biodiversity value) are massively in excess of the carbon loss (assumed emitted) plus carbon sequestration loss plus biodiversity loss.
- 26) To work with neighboring local authorities to create a low cost, green, integrated, regional transport plan with zero-carbon emissions to include
- 27) To prepare a new Local Transport Plan to target zero-carbon emissions by 2030, which fits in the regional solution
- 28) Use available laws to deter vehicles powered by fossil fuels and, use those funds to pay for the Environment & Climate Strategy

***** This has to be done working with scientists, local authorities, specialist interest groups, and DEFRA (there is much funding available from Defra via say Reading University!!!)**

Action on Climate Change

Question 10: What are you already doing to tackle climate change?

Increasing plantings, reducing car use, changed to renewable supplier. Looking at changing from gas to electricity and installing solar panels and other renewable power generation plus, swapping to electric vehicles.

Question 11: Please tell us what you/your organisation would be willing to do to help deliver the objectives set out in the strategy?

I will continue to work as a Councillor to educate, inform, and empower residents

Question 12: Do you have any suggestions as to how we can involve more local people in tackling climate change?

Create the Citizens Assemblies suggested by Professor Tom Oliver and Cllr Wisdom Da Costa

Treat people as equal to you who, like you, are part of the solution rather than the problem

Engage openly, honestly and, fully

Run classes

Question 13: What do you think will be the biggest benefit to residents of the Royal Borough in acting on climate change?

Continued life at a reasonable level of quality

Tackling climate change is recognised to have many co-benefits, which, if any, do you find most compelling?

Question 14a: Tick each Economic co-benefit you find most compelling

Clean and inclusive growth in the local economy

Reduced energy costs

Increased energy security

High quality employment

Reduced congestion

Social co-benefits

Question 14b: Tick each Social co-benefit you find most compelling

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29 September 2020

Improved air quality

More active, outdoor lifestyles

Healthier diets

Warmer, healthier homes

Quieter, safer streets

Environmental co-benefits

Question 14c: Tick each Environmental co-benefit you find most compelling

Protection against biodiversity loss and environmental degradation caused by climate change

Healthier water

Reduced risk of flooding, heatwaves and extremes

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29 September 2020

Question 15: Do you have any other comments you would like us to take into consideration?

No, if you consider with an open mind, my comments above, especially to 1 and 9

Please indicate if you would like to remain updated on progress or to get more involved in tackling climate change in the borough?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide contact details below: