COMMIT REPORT

15/10/2025

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan

Bi-annual Update

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
15/10/2025

PART I

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

(DfE)

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the council's performance against the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027 (Appendix 3) and its associated Action Plan detailed at Appendix 2.

1.2 Council emissions have reduced by 8% compared to 2018/19, with key reductions driven by upgrades to council buildings. Emissions from council-owned buildings have dropped 13% since 2018/19. Of 23 council emissions actions, 12 are complete, 8 are on track, 2 are retired and just 1 is at risk. Emissions in Three Rivers have decreased by 15.47% from 2018/19 to 2022/23, with the largest reductions in industry (-24.6%) and domestic buildings (-23.1%).

1.3 Since March 2025 Three Rivers District Council officers have secured £420,804 external funding to support the delivery of the strategy.

1.4 Climate and sustainability terminology used throughout the report are hyperlinked to the glossary, which can be found at the end of this document, in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee:

2.1. Notes the progress made in delivering the strategy.

2.2. Agrees to the addition of new actions as outlined at paragraph 3.27.

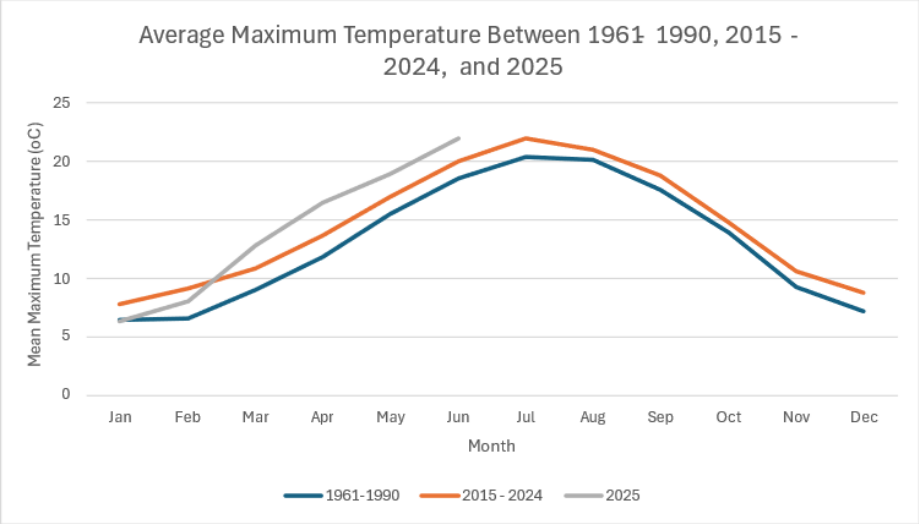
2.3. Give delegated authority to the Director for Environment, in consultation with the Lead Member and Director of Finance, to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000 for delivery of actions within the strategy, subject to securing external funds to facilitate projects and budget being agreed to support the implementation of the Committee agreed Climate Action Plan.

3. Details

3.1. Following a declaration of a Climate Emergency in May 2019, the council adopted its first Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy in 2021. Since 2021, the council has worked to deliver the aims and objectives of that strategy to meet its ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and to support the district in being net-zero carbon by 2045.

Climate Change in the South-East Region

3.2 **Figure 1** below shows the average maximum temperature change in the South- East Region between 1961-1990 and 2022-2025. Temperature data is provided by the Hadley Centre and is released daily.[1; 2; 3.]



3.3 Average maximum temperatures in the South East of England have increased by 1.5°C between 1961–1990 and 2015-2024; with 2025 being even warmer. Some climate change effects are already locked in, so temperatures are likely to keep rising. Even if the world reached net zero tomorrow rising temperatures pose serious risks to residents, infrastructure, food, water, and local wildlife, and highlight the importance of this action plan.

Council Operation Emissions

3.4 The Council's scope 1,2 and 3 emissions over the last 7 years are shown in Figure 2 below. Emissions are calculated from council-owned sites' electricity, gas and water usage and fuel usage of council vehicles. Tonnes of CO_2 e are calculated using conversion factors published annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero[4]**.**

Figure 2:

Year	Tonnes CO_2e	% Annual Reduction from base year 2018/19
April 2018-March 2019 (BASELINE)	2,227	

April 2019-March 2020	2,390*	+7%
April 2020-March 2021	2,153**	-3%
April 2021-March 2022	2,113	-5%
April 2022-March 2023	2,100	-5%
April 2023-March 2024	2,159	-3%
April 2024-March 2025	2,044	-8%

*2019/20 Scope 1&2 CO_2e fell, but the leisure centres (scope 3) increased by 26%[6,7]

**Covid 19 lockdown commenced March 2020

3.5 Council emissions are now falling as the actions taken since 2019 are beginning to show results. Notable progress includes the installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) at Three Rivers House and 500 solar panels at William Penn Leisure Centre (WPLC) in November 2024, both of which deliver measurable carbon savings.

3.6 The current action plan focuses on council-owned buildings, where emissions have decreased by 13%, from 1,370tCO_2e in 2018/19 to 1,191tCO_2e in 2024/25. Figure 3 illustrates the carbon impact of the ASHP, showing 80tCO_2e less than in 2018. The rise in emissions between 2023/24 and 2024/25 is due to the police expanding into an additional area of the building, increasing energy consumption by approximately 20tCO_2e.

3.7

Figure 3: Carbon impact of the air source heat pump at Three Rivers House.

Tonnes CO2e	**18/19**	**19/20**	**20/21**	**21/22**	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**
Gas	53	61	55	38	82	0	5
electricity	147	132	79	90	102	106	116
total	200	193	134	127	184	106	121

Figure 4: Utility Cost for Three Rivers House

Year	Gas	Electric	Total
2022/23	£18,000	£122,523	£140,532
2023/24 ASHP installed	£0	£164,677	£164,677
2024/25	£1,304*	£145,115	£146,418

3.8 The total utility cost is £6,000 higher than in the pre-installation year 23/24, primarily due to the police expansion. Additionally, standing charges have increased by £7,500 since 22/23. While the unit cost of electricity decreased from 36p per unit in 22/23 and 23/24 to 24p in 24/25, the overall utility cost remains elevated. Although TRDC owns and operates Three Rivers House building, energy consumption by tenants is outside the council's direct control. To enable more accurate emissions allocation, the Facilities Team is currently exploring the installation of electric submetering.

Progress against the 2024-2027 Council Emissions Action Plan

3.9 Appendix 2 gives a detailed view of current actions and their progress, with Figure 5 below providing an overview of Action Progress regarding Council Emissions

Figure 5

Council Emissions Action Progress	Building, Emissions and Energy	Travel and Air Quality	Waste and Resources	Nature and Water	Adaptation and resilience	Other	**Total**
Delayed and vulnerable to not happening	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Delayed but still progressing	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
In Progress - On Track	4	2	0	0	1	1	**8**
Completed	3	2	2	1	1	3	**12**
Not Started	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Retired	0	1	0	1	0	0	**2**
Total	**7**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**21**

3.10 The single red RAG-rated action is that relating to the council fleet. Due to upcoming service and infrastructure changes, anticipated as a result of Local Government Reform, and barriers around finance and technology, the implementation of this action has been delayed.

3.11 Further information on progress against Council emissions can be found on the website here.

Council Emission Highlights from February – July 2025:

3.12 A costed Building Decarbonisation Action Plan for the Council's core buildings has identified 7 priority projects for the next three years; rooftop solar panels on Three Rivers House and South Oxhey Leisure Centre, cavity wall insulation for Three Rivers House and Watersmeet Theatre, efficiency measures at William Penn Leisure Centre , and 3 car park solar canopies (all of which are subject to acceptable business cases and committee approval).

Figure 6: William Penn Solar PV Performance January – June 2025.

	Utility Bill Savings	T CO2e Saved
Forecast	£15,846	45
Actual	£17,373	50
+/- Forecast	£1,527	5

3.13 An initial feasibility study, funded by the Community Energy Fund, on 7 TRDC-owned car parks assessed as having the most potential for solar canopies was completed. A further £75,000 grant from the Investment Readiness Service Grant, provided by the Greater South East Net Zero Hub was obtained to develop detailed financial and technical feasibility studies for the three most viable car park sites (South Oxhey Leisure Centre, William Penn Leisure Centre, and the Rose Garden car park at Three Rivers House).

3.14 Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCP) installations have started in several car parks across the district. Funding was secured from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles' On-street Residential Charge point Scheme and from the Community Infrastructure Levy. There is also a contribution from Blink Charging, the chosen Charging Point Operator. Details of the sites in progress are shown in figure 7 below.

Figure 7 – EVCP Locations

Location	Expected number of charging sockets	Progress
Community Way Car Park, Croxley Green, WD3 3HF	7.4kW chargers x4	Undergoing further review by the project team to enable the required grid connection works to take place.
High Street West Car Park (adjacent to M&S), Rickmansworth, WD3 1AY	7.4kW chargers x4 50kW x2	Installation in progress – awaiting connection works
Talbot Road West, Rickmansworth, WD3 1HD	7.4kW chargers x4	Installation in progress – awaiting final commissioning
Henbury Way Car Park, South Oxhey, WD19 7EP	7.4kW chargers x4 50kW x2	Complete
Ferry Car Park, Lower Road, Chorleywood, WD3 5LB	7.4kW chargers x6 50kW x2	Complete

Causeway House Car Park, High Street, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AN	7.4kW chargers x6 50kW x2	Complete
William Penn Leisure Centre, Mill End, WD3 8JN	7.4kW chargers x8 (of which 4 are blue badge holders only) 50kW x2	Installation in progress – awaiting connection works
South Oxhey Leisure Centre, Gosforth Lane, WD19 7AX	7.4kW chargers x6 (of which 3 are blue badge holders only)	Complete
Three Rivers House (lower deck), Rickmansworth, WD3 1EA	7.4kW chargers x4 50kW x2	Complete

3.15 Further to the withdrawal of Public Sector Decarbonisation Funds announced by Salix on 12/06/25 after the Government's Spending Review, the business case to install a Ground Source Heat Pump at William Penn is no longer viable, and so this project will not progress at this time.

Next Steps to progress Climate Emissions actions: July 25 – March 26

3.16 Subject to approval at Policy and Resources Committee in September 2025, installation of rooftop solar PV will take place at South Oxhey Leisure Centre and Three Rivers House.

3.17 Detailed business cases for the installation of solar canopies to the car parks at Rose Garden, South Oxhey and William Penn Leisure Centres will be completed and are expected to report to the Committee in Summer 2026.

3.18 An Offsetting Principles report will be presented to the Committee in January 2026, outlining officers' proposed approach to the offsetting any of the Council's residual operational emissions to support the attainment of net zero. The report will identify challenges and opportunities for offsetting within the district.

District Emissions

3.19 The Department of Energy and Net Zero annually publishes territorial emissions by local authorities; this report is published with a 2-year lag, with the most recent publication releasing the figures for 2023.

3.20 Between 2022 and 2023, greenhouse gas emissions decreased in 340 of the 361 local authorities in the UK. This is consistent with the 4% fall in overall UK emissions in 2023, largely considered to be a result of a reduction in fuel use to heat buildings[1]. Figures 8 and 9 below displays the Greenhouse Gas Emissions change in Three Rivers District between 2018 and 2023. Between 2022 and 2023

they fell by 4%[1]. The significant fall in emissions in 2020 was caused by COVID-19 lockdown, then a return to 'normal' 2021.

Figure 8: District Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Figure 9: District Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

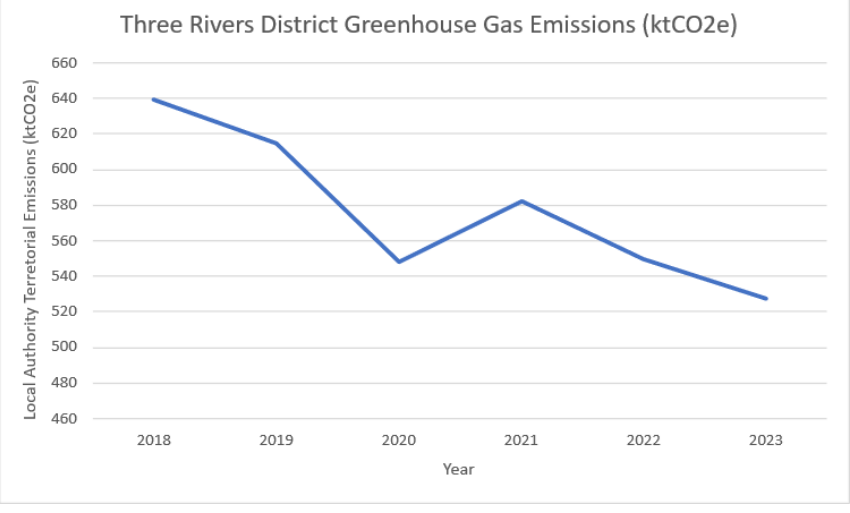
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	By sector crease/decrea se reduction 2018 vs 2023
Agriculture	2834	2686	2687	2793	2529	2523	-10.95%
ommercial	51831	44435	38500	44675	47711	41969	-19.03%
Domestic	154543	148093	146210	149462	129988	118906	-23.06%
Industry	56388	58365	52146	59205	45424	42540	-24.56%
LULUCF	-7079	-7268	-7227	-7047	-6831	-6839	-3.40%
Public Sect or	17198	16507	16188	18626	15100	13829	-19.59%
Transport	333195	320246	271303	288003	290012	287676	-13.66%
Waste	50.90	50	45	48	48	48	-6.48%
Total	**615960. 90**	**586114**	**521852**	**560765**	**534981**	**520652**	**-15.47%**

3.21 Domestic buildings are showing the second largest net decline of all sectors, the national average reduction of 22.8% with Three Rivers tracking slightly faster at 23.06%[1].

3.22 Transport is the largest sector and since a decline in emissions in 2019 arising from Covid19, transport-related emissions have stabilised around 10% less.

3.23 Appendix 2 presents the detail on progress on district actions, with a summary below:

Figure 10: Overview of Action Progress – District Emissions Action Plan.



District Emissions Action Progress	Building, Emissions and Energy	Travel and Air Quality	Waste and Resources	Nature and Water	Sustainable Living	Adaptation and resilience	**Total**
Delayed and vulnerable to not happening	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Delayed but still progressing	1	1	0	1	0	0	**3**
In Progress - On Track	5	5	1	8	3	2	**24**
Completed	5	2	3	6	6	6	**28**
Not Started	1	0	1	4	0	0	**6**
Retired	1	0	1	0	1	0	**3**
Proposed Actions	3	3	0	3	3	1	**13**
Total							**77**

3.24 Actions which are delayed but still progressing are a result of change in Officer resource, and withdrawal of government funding schemes.

3.25 The 6 actions “not yet started”, are those where there is currently not officer capacity available, but these actions are still due to be completed within the timeframe of the Strategy, or they relate to actions which cannot currently be commenced as they will follow the completion of other works.

3.26 The 3 “retired” actions are a result of duplication or changes of ownership, with responsibility now resting with other stakeholders such as community groups or Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership.

3.27 The action in Row 5 has been amended to reflect the restructuring the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) into a Three Rivers Energy Plan.

Proposed new actions for District Emissions - full details can be found in Appendix 2.

3.28 **10 new actions are proposed to be added to the Action Plan:**

3.28.1 Support the delivery of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy as a member of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Partnership agreed by this Committee in July 2025.

3.28.2 Build a network of local businesses and support them to decarbonise non-domestic buildings with technical support and support to bid for external funding where possible.

3.28.3 Work to secure feasibility funding for a Heat Network powered by the recently approved data centre in Abbots Langley.

3.28.4 Develop a sustainable travel communications plan for encouraging active travel, EVs and public transport.

3.28.5 Facilitate the establishment or re-invigoration of at least one community garden or biodiversity hub on non-Council-owned land in each parish in Three Rivers, maintained by volunteers.

3.28.6 Support *Services for Young People* to create and maintain gardens/growing spaces in West Hyde Youth Club. Explore opportunities with Three Rivers local schools, youth councils and scout groups, as part of Community Growing Spaces Working Group.

3.28.7 Re-design Environmental Forum with residents and key stakeholders to maximise participation and engagement with hard-to-reach groups.

3.28.8 Establish a "Three Rivers Green Champions Awards" and a prize for winners and nominees, annually until 2028.

3.28.9 Encourage and promote environmental and sustainability focused volunteering by promoting the GoVol Herts volunteer database to potential volunteers and charities seeking volunteers, and signposting opportunities clearly on TRDC website.

3.28.10 Embed Climate adaptation consideration into procurement tenders.

Highlights from District Emissions Action Plan February – July 2025:

3.29 Development funding of £736,515 has been awarded by the Heritage Fund to help Three Rivers progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant of £4m in the future for the Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing at Rickmansworth Aquadrome project.

3.30 The Three Rivers Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was adopted at Full Council on the 25 February 2025. This document details an approach for developing a public charging network covering council owned car parks and on-street residential parking.

3.31 The updated LCWIP following public consultation was agreed for adoption by TRDC at Full Council on the 22 July 2025. Next steps are for HCC to adopt this and detail design proposals to be developed for interventions.

3.32 A Careers fair was held in March 2025, in partnership with Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire Futures for Secondary Schools across Watford and Three Rivers. Over 1000 students and job seekers attended to speak to local businesses including Warner Brothers, Skanska, Asos, and Woodoaks Farm,

there was also significant representation from Three Rivers Council. While the Careers Fair was a general one, Green Careers were highlighted and promoted.

3.33 Your Tree our Future was exceptionally popular in 2025 with over 7902 trees ordered. They are due to be collected on 6th December 2025 at Woodoaks Farm.

3.34 In the 2025 round of Solar Together Three Rivers had 454 registrations for solar and/or batteries, with 82 residents paying deposits. Installations are underway. Of the Hertfordshire residents who declined the offer and completed the survey, the three most common reasons for declining were: higher costs, personal financial situation, and no reason, in that order.

3.35 Draft net-zero policies for new build energy efficiency standards above current Building Regulations have been progressed through the Local Plan Committee and have been incorporated into the Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation which commenced July 2025. These draft policies aim to secure highly energy efficient new housing which is more closely aligned with net zero targets than current Building Regulations under the Future Homes Standard.

3.36 Secured £3.75 million for Three Rivers district and Watford Borough from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Warm Homes Local Grant scheme. The scheme aims to improve approximately 127 lower-income and energy inefficient privately rented and owner-occupied homes in the district from 2025-2028.

3.37 The Council endorsed the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy at the Climate Change and Leisure Committee on 02/07/25, committing to be part of a coordinated countywide approach to advance domestic retrofit and address climate change in Hertfordshire.

3.38 The Fast Followers project totalling £298,000 funded by Innovate UK, completed on 30th June 2025 (full project report will be circulated via Members Information Bulletin when available)

3.39 A Retrofit One Stop Shop (ROSS) service was trialled with the National Energy Foundation; service was trialled with the National Energy Foundation; delivery of 100 subsidised Home Energy Retrofit Options (HERO) plans to homeowners in "hard to treat" properties. This resulted in 24 residents proceeding to retrofit their homes (22 of which were classified as "hard to treat"). The conversion rate is slightly better than other retrofit advice services NEF have delivered in the past (20% conversion from plan to retrofit measures being installed). The success of the pilot service has helped to establish a blueprint for a similar retrofit advice service to be scaled across the county as part of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy, in the future.

3.40 Grand Union Community Energy progressed recognition of community energy as a finance solution for community building and school decarbonisation and trialled the

Transition Streets programme as an approach to sustainable behavioural change. Three neighbour-based groups (comprising 22 residents) in Chorleywood, Moor Park, and Rickmansworth completed the programme (as well as a TRDC staff group which is in progress, and a neighbour-based group in nearby Watford) and implemented a variety of positive changes to their homes, gardens and lifestyles as a result – more information will be available in the report to be circulated in the Members Information Bulletin.

3.41 Officers evaluated and identified the most impactful and viable decarbonisation projects for its own buildings. Seven of the most impactful and viable near-term projects have been selected for further business case development and implementation from 2025-2028.

3.42 The externally funded "Community Conversations" climate change consultation completed. 20 'conversation starters' from Three Rivers had 92 discussions with friends, family and neighbours about what would make Three Rivers an even better place to live in the future, and how the Council and community can work together to positively respond to climate change locally. This community consultation was an additional project which was fully funded by the Fast Followers programme and delivered by public participation charity, Involve. The outcome of the exercise was the creation of a positive vision for Three Rivers in 2045 and a set of near-term recommendations for action for the council to consider – all entirely authored by the resident participants. The viable recommendations have been incorporated into this Action Plan update, following consultation with relevant officers.

3.43 A Film screening of Ocean with David Attenborough was held at Watersmeet Theatre on 12 June as part of Great Big Green Week. The screening was fully booked, with over 300 people attending on the night to understand more about harmful, unsustainable fishing practices.

3.44 The Three Rivers Energy Plan (formerly the Three Rivers LAEP) is currently being developed. Business engagement has commenced, with in person meetings and a survey being shared with local businesses to gather information on their current and future energy use. We have responded to the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) to inform regional infrastructure plans. Furthermore, we are working on providing the local District Network Operator – UK Power Networks, with information on any upcoming large developments or significant Low Carbon Technology deployment (such as Solar, Heat Pumps or EV charge points) in order to plan the necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades into their work plans.

3.45 We have applied for £100k feasibility funding for a Heat Network powered by the waste heat from the recently approved data centre. The application included letters of support from Watford Burrough Council, NHS England on behalf of the new Watford Hospital, Watford Community Housing Trust, and the developer Greystoke.

Next steps to progress District Emission actions: July 25 – March 26

3.46 Delivery of the 2025/26 tranche of Warmer Homes Local Grant (WHLG) (£345,803) will take place for approximately 22 eligible privately rented and owner-occupied homes in Three Rivers. The funds double in year 2 and 3 allowing approximately 50 eligible Three Rivers properties per year to be supported.

3.47 Continue partnership working with Grand Union Community Energy to promote energy efficiency initiatives to residents and community organisations in the district and deliver Transition Streets to approximately 10 more groups.

3.48 Support the implementation of the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy through active participation in discussions and sharing the learnings of our Retrofit One Stop Shop (ROSS).

3.49 Consultation is currently underway on new draft net-zero and energy efficiency policies as part of the Local Plan.

3.50 Officers will continue to develop draft Three Rivers Energy Plan utilising feedback from local businesses, information from the proposed Local Plan, and data from the UK Power Networks. Local Business Engagement will increase to understand current and future energy use and needs to help inform electrical infrastructure upgrades. Questionnaires are being sent to local businesses, targeting industrial estates previously identified, and will be shared via the TRDC Business Newsletter with over 1000 recipients. More in-depth conversations will happen with key businesses with higher energy use. The relationships built through this engagement will be used to support local businesses to decarbonise in the future.

4. Options and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed a strategy in 2021, which was revised in 2023. It was agreed on adoption of the strategy that a report would be brought to the committee bi-annually to report on progress against the strategy and its action plan. No other option was therefore considered.

4.2. When external funding is received, the turnaround time for acceptance of funds and delivery of projects is often short and would be delayed by waiting for committee cycles for approvals. It is for this reason that delegation is sought regarding acceptance and spend of external funds secured to deliver the agreed action plan.

5. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

5.1. The recommendations in this report are within the council's agreed policy and budgets. The budgets associated with the actions are identified within the report and its appendices. Most identified actions are achievable within existing budgets; except where additional external funding is required or business cases are required to be submitted to Policy and Resources against the capital programme budget. The sustainability revenue budget is being used to secure external funds and deliver against agreed net zero projects as outlined in this report. Officers will report in further detail on 2025-26 spend in the March committee report.

5.2. The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators:

- CP50 District carbon emissions reported as tCO_2e equivalent.
- CP52 Council Operations Carbon emissions reported as tCO_2e equivalent.

5.3. The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

- The Actions and progress against these KPIs are our road map to reducing both the council's own operational emissions and supporting the district in reaching net-zero, and therefore achieving the PIs.

6. Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

Legal Implications

6.1. Contract work will be required on certain projects, and these will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

6.2. Under the Council's Constitution, committee approval is required to enter *any* contracts above the value of £25,000. The recommendations request Director delegation of this, under specified circumstances, namely in relation to externally funded projects properly procured.

Equal Opportunities Implications

6.3. A Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment has been completed and can be found at Appendix 4. There are no negative impacts identified as arising from the proposals within the Action Plan and its delivery to date. Equality Impact Assessments will be conducted for specific actions and proposals on a project-by-project basis.

Staffing Implications

6.4. All service areas are and will continue to be involved with the delivery of the Action Plan, supported by the Climate Change team.

Environmental Implications

6.5. The Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan reported in this report supports the Council and District to reduce emissions to net-zero carbon and increase sustainability across a wide range of areas. Furthermore, the Action Plan will support the mitigation of the impacts of the Climate Emergency.

6.6. A sustainability impact assessment can be found at Appendices 5 resulting in a score of 3.8/4.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.75
Travel	3.33
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.50

6.7. Achieving the actions in this Action Plan will improve community safety across the district through reducing the risks associated with the Climate Emergency, including wildfires, floods, and heatwaves.

Public Health implications

6.8. The Action Plan will contribute to the prevention of deterioration of health and well-being issues arising from the consequences of climate change such as overheating, skin cancers, decline in productivity, and respiratory illnesses.

6.9. Improvements in Home Energy Efficiency through retrofit work will improve environmental quality within homes and reduce energy bills, thereby assisting in reduction of financial anxiety related to household bills and benefitting physical health by improving the warmth and air quality within homes and preventing damp and mould.

Customer Services Centre Implications

6.10. Customer Services are briefed on a project-by-project basis.

Communications and Website Implications

6.11. The website is crucial to this strategy as the repository for the information regarding all relevant projects and initiatives.

6.12. The district emissions ambition in the strategy demonstrates the need for sustained engagement with the residents, businesses, and communities in the district to encourage a shift to more sustainable behaviours. The climate change team works closely with the communications team and will continue to do so.

6.13. Briefings are held with members as required to optimise the chances of success of the various initiatives.

6.14. Active engagement will continue to be essential with the Local Strategic Partnership, parish councils, schools, resident associations, housing associations, activist, and conservation groups.

Risk and Health & Safety Implications

6.15. The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at http://www.threerivers.gov.uk. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

6.16. The subject of this report is covered by the Climate and Sustainability service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response	Risk Rating
The Council fails to act to reduce its' CO2 emissions	The Council Net Zero target of 2030, Corporate Framework net zero carbon theme and requirements of the Climate and Emergency Sustainability Strategy are unlikely to be met unless a coordinated programme of activity is implemented. And importantly the Council will not be addressing the Climate Emergency and thus will contribute further to the increase in global warming	For the Committee to note and continue to provide a mandate for officers to progress the actions identified.	Treat	6

	and its' consequences.			
The Council fails to consider adaptation requirements to climate change	Services provided by the council are disrupted by extreme weather conditions, some of which could have been avoided with pre-planning. Customers are impacted by extreme weather conditions, some of which may have been avoidable with pre-planning	Continue to measure the risks and implement the actions associated with the risk register.	Treat	6

6.17. In the officer's opinion the risk that the Council fails to act to reduce its emissions would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and therefore presents a strategic risk.

6.18. The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

7 Data Quality

7.1 Data Sources cited in the report are:

1. Parker, D.E., T.P. Legg, and C.K. Folland. 1992. A new daily Central England Temperature Series, 1772-1991. Int. J. Clim., Vol 12, pp 317-342

2. Legg, T. et al. (2024) 'An update to the central England Temperature Series—hadcet v2.1', Geoscience Data Journal, 12(1).

3. National Climate Information Centre (2025) Hadley Centre Central England Temperature (hadcet) dataset, Met Office Hadley Centre observations datasets. Available at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadcet/ (21 July 2025).

4. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, GOV.UK. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting (Accessed: 21 July 2025).

5. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025); UK greenhouse gas emissions: Local Authority and regional, data.gov.uk. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics (Accessed 03 July 2025)

6. Three Rivers District Council Carbon Dashboard

7. (2022) Three Rivers District Council – District Wide Carbon Emissions and Net Zero Trajectory. rep. ASPE Energy. Available at: https://cdn.threerivers.gov.uk/files/2023/02/f4f79320-aba6-11ed-870e-5570abac2882-apse-energy-three-rivers-district-wide-footprint-baseline-report.pdf.

Data checked by:

Rory Shenton

Data rating:

1	**Poor**	
2	**Sufficient**	**X**
3	**High**	

8 Appendix 1: Glossary of Environmental Terms and References

Adaptation (Climate Adaptation)
Actions that reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts by adjusting infrastructure, ecosystems, or human behaviour.

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)
A low-carbon heating technology that extracts heat from outside air to heat buildings and water, even in cold temperatures.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO_2e)
A unit used to measure the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases, expressed as the amount of CO_2 that would have the same impact.

Community Energy Fund
A government grant to support the development of community-led renewable energy projects.

Decarbonisation
The process of reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from activities such as transport, heating, and power generation.

Emissions Scope (1, 2, 3)

- **Scope 1**: Direct emissions from sources controlled by the council (e.g. gas boilers, fleet vehicles).
- **Scope 2**: Indirect emissions from purchased energy.

- **Scope 3**: Indirect emissions from activities not owned or controlled by the council, like procurement or business travel.

Fast Followers Programme
An Innovate UK-funded programme supporting local authorities in accelerating climate action and delivering replicable, scalable climate solutions.

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)
Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change, including CO_2, methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O).

Ground Source Heat Pump
A renewable heating technology that extracts heat from the ground for use in heating buildings.

Heat Network
A system for distributing heat generated in a centralised location to residential and commercial buildings through a network of insulated pipes.

Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)
A data-driven framework to plan for the energy transition at the local level, considering future electricity and heating needs.

Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs)
Technologies that produce less greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional fossil fuels, e.g. solar PV, heat pumps, and EVs.

Mitigation (Climate Mitigation)
Actions that reduce the amount or speed of future climate change, usually by cutting emissions or enhancing carbon sinks.

Net Zero Carbon
Achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those removed or offset.

Carbon Offsetting
Compensating for carbon dioxide emissions resulting from council operational activity by investing in projects that reduce or remove emissions elsewhere, such as tree planting or renewable energy production.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)
A UK government funding programme supporting energy efficiency and low-carbon heat in public sector buildings.

Retrofit (Home Energy Retrofit)
Improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings through insulation, heating system upgrades, glazing improvements, etc.

Retrofit One Stop Shop (ROSS)
A comprehensive technical advice service for homeowners in the district that offers free, independent guidance and support on planning retrofit, identifying funding and finance options for retrofit and finding accredited installers.

Solar Canopies
Structures installed over car parks or other open spaces with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate renewable electricity.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV)
A renewable energy technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity using solar panels.

Solar Together

Solar Together is a **group-buying scheme**, delivered by iChoosr and in partnership with all 10 Local Authorities in Hertfordshire, that enables homeowners to register for free and, through a reverse auction, secure **high-quality solar PV panels** (and optional battery storage or EV charge points) at **competitive prices**—all while being supported throughout the process by vetted installers and dedicated helpdesks. It has been run three times across Hertfordshire to date.

Standing Charges
Fixed daily charges applied to energy bills, regardless of how much energy is used.

Sustainable Travel
Transport options that are environmentally friendly, such as walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicles.

Territorial Emissions
Greenhouse gas emissions from sources located within a specific geographical area, excluding imports and exports.

Transition Streets
A community-led behavioural change programme encouraging sustainable living by engaging small groups of neighbours in actions to reduce carbon footprints.

Tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO_2e)
A standard unit for measuring carbon footprints, representing one metric tonne of CO_2 or its equivalent in other GHGs.

Utility Costs

The costs associated with electricity, gas, water, and other essential building services.

Background Papers

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Glossary of Environmental Terms and References

Appendix 2: Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2024 - 2027

Appendix 3: TRDC Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2023 - 2027

Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Outcome Assessment

Appendix 5: Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

THREE RIVERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL