

Response to recent Council Climate Action Scorecards

Briefing Note No. 23 - 32

Service: Climate

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We wanted to provide an update on the Council Climate Action Scorecards that were recently confirmed.

Background

The scorecards are a wholly independent assessment of the climate plans and strategies of councils around the country by Climate Emergency UK. Councils are marked and scored on their climate action based on 89 questions, separated into seven sections – building and heating; transport; planning and land use; governance and finance; biodiversity; collaboration and engagement; and waste reduction and food. These assessments cover a period from January 2019 until March 2023, but questions involving national data may be calculated until August 2023.

Scorecards for this year have assessed local authorities on their overall climate actions, whereas the previous year focused on climate strategies only.

How did Wiltshire Council do?

Overall Wiltshire Council scored above average compared to other local authorities in the single tier category. We're also pleased that when the data is broken down into the urban and rural areas within single tier authorities Wiltshire Council is among the top five in the country.

Overall, the council received a 40% score, with the average among single tier local authorities, being 35%. The original information released placed us in a league table alongside London borough authorities or city unitaries, but those sorts of comparisons are ultimately meaningless and not comparable. Among single tier like for like authorities we excelled under the areas of building and heating (the council scored 72% when the average was 47%) and collaboration and engagement (the council scored 75% when the average was 53%). The council was scored average for Planning and Land with 35% and well above average for Governance Finance (41% score against 23% average). The council was also above average on the biodiversity section (31% against 27%) but below average on transport and waste. You can see the full table of like-for-like single tier authorities and the urban/rural authorities further down this briefing.

It's clear in looking at the scorecards across the board from other authorities in the country that there are clear and common challenges to overcome.

Our careful planning, underpinned by our Business Plan and Climate Strategy, keeps us on track and confident that we're making excellent progress. We'll take any lessons from the scorecard assessment, particularly where we fell below the average, and continue to work hard internally and externally to make a positive difference.

More information on the scorecards can be found at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>.

Sustainable transport portfolio

To ensure our climate work remains at the heart of everything we do as a council and that the momentum we're making continues, 'sustainable transport' has been added to Cllr Tamara Reay's portfolio. Therefore, Cllr Reay will now be Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Sustainable Transport, working alongside Cllr Nick Holder in his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and with Cllr Caroline Thomas in her role as Cabinet Member for Transport.

We see sustainable transport playing a key role in our efforts to tackle the climate emergency and this change will ensure greater focus in this area in order to further look at all the opportunities available.

Progress we've made

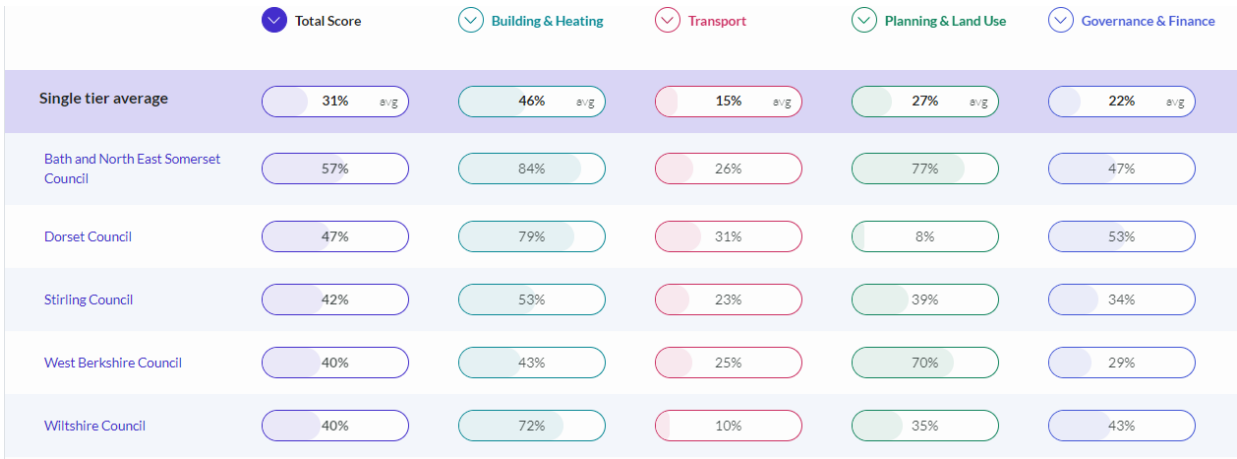
As stated in our recent [six-month update](#) to Cabinet and Full Council on our ongoing response to the climate emergency, we are working on a huge number of projects that will reduce the council's own carbon footprint as well as that of the county's, and we remain committed to driving this work forward. That's demonstrated by the fact that the amount of renewable energy produced on our own estate has trebled in the last year alone.

As an organisation, we are on track to being carbon neutral by 2030 and we'll continue to look at ways to help the county and set an example for others to follow. This is not a responsibility we can carry alone but we're committed to doing what we can to lead the way.

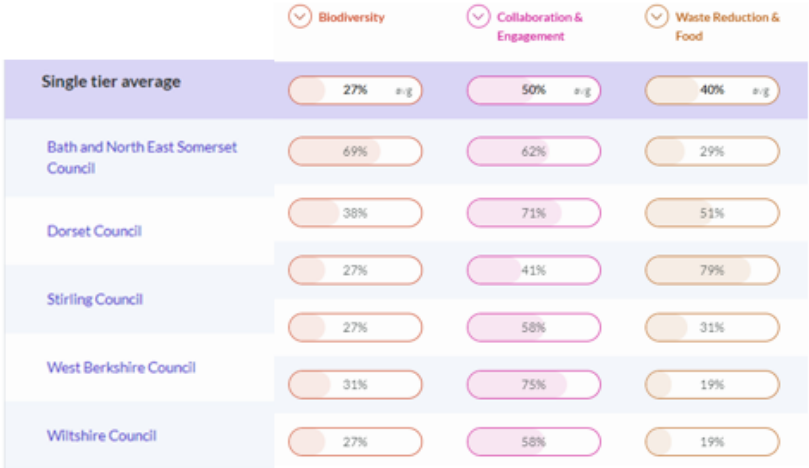
In our recent six-month update, we confirmed that we are on track to be a carbon neutral organisation and that the amount of renewable energy produced on our own estate has trebled in the last year from 550,000 kWh in 2021-22 to 1,745,060 kWh in 2022-23. This helps the council to be more self-sufficient, reducing its overall energy bill and adds more renewables into the electricity system. In addition, council carbon emissions have been reduced below the target for 2022/23 (3750t CO₂e). This, and the many programmes and projects underway all contribute to the council being on track to be carbon neutral by the start of the next decade.

Looking ahead, we will continue to develop a strategy for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, due to be delivered in 2024, and look at climate risk and resilience and development Adaptation Action Plans in 2024. A key area of work is carbon literacy and embedding climate considerations into all areas of the council's service delivery, procurement and supply chains.

Council Climate Action Scorecard – single tier – urban with rural areas



Cont'd



Council Climate Action Scorecard – single tier authorities

Council	Buildings & Heating (%)		Planning & Land Use (%)		Governance & Biodiversity (%)		Collaboration & Engagement (%)	Waste Reduction & Food (%)		Total Score
	Heating (%)	Transport (%)	Land Use (%)	Finance (%)	(%)	(%)	Food (%)	(%)		
Bath and North East Somerse	84	26	77	47	69	62	29	57		
Bristol City	80	36	23	72	31	88	56	55		
Cornwall	68	20	80	53	31	83	31	52		
South Gloucestershire	69	21	41	43	42	60	42	44		
Dorset	67	31	8	53	38	71	51	44		
Herefordshire	68	18	36	49	15	77	31	43		
Wiltshire	72	10	35	43	31	75	19	40		
North Somerset	51	10	59	41	23	87	23	40		
Central Bedfordshire	66	11	36	45	27	58	19	38		
West Berkshire	36	25	70	29	27	58	31	38		
Cheshire West and Chester	47	14	33	28	31	76	42	36		
City of York	59	33	21	28	19	57	12	35		
Shropshire	47	2	54	24	35	47	42	33		
Cheshire East	46	11	28	26	38	54	29	31		
Swindon Borough	39	5	26	36	54	50	19	30		
Bedford Borough	32	11	40	33	15	55	12	27		
Northumberland	48	28	-2	11	31	42	12	26		
East Riding of Yorkshire	39	24	-3	20	8	53	27	24		
Rutland County	26	4	6	20	15	2	10	13		
Single Tier Average	47	22	35	27	27	53	37	35		

Recent progress we've made as a council and for the county

Supporting Wiltshire to become carbon neutral

Updated: October 2023

243

energy efficient measures installed in council houses, including insulation and solar panels

£978k

of funding received to create new cycling and walking routes in the county.

Working with schools and pupils to create toolkit to raise awareness of climate change, air quality and impact of transport

RECYCLING
Let's sort it!

Recycling: Let's Sort It campaign launched – supporting the county to recycle as much as possible

5 new Wiltshire Connect bus services launched

Wiltshire Connect

£480k

funding awarded to catalyse delivery of local electric vehicle charging points

Tree warden scheme launched following successful bid for almost £300k

700+

residents expressed interest in purchasing solar panels for their homes via Solar Together

Consultation on the council's Air Quality Action Plan completed

#WiltsCanDoThis

Wiltshire Council

Our progress to becoming a carbon neutral organisation

Updated: October 2023



Council greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 85% since 2014- on track to be carbon neutral by 2030



1,745,060 kWh

The amount of renewable energy produced from council buildings has trebled in the last year - from 550,000 kWh to 1,745,060 kWh



Highways contractor using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil for their fleet - reducing emissions by 90%



100+

members of staff complete carbon literacy training to help them become more energy efficient in their work and lives



Installing 12 electric vehicle charging points at a leisure centre powered from solar panels



284kw

Have installed solar canopies at a leisure centre car park - generating 284kw of power and reducing costs by more than 10%

#WiltsCanDoThis

Wiltshire Council