

# January 2024 Update to The Climate Change Deep Dive Audit Committee Report 31 July 2023

## Copy of Report Presented 31 July 2023



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### Officer Resource

The original report highlighted the very limited officer resource at the Council to drive forward the climate action agenda i.e., 2 full time officers on temporary contracts – A Climate Action Officer and a Climate Action Intern.

Since the original deep dive report, the Climate Action Intern has left the council for a permanent role in a neighbouring authority, leaving only one full time officer remaining on a temporary contract until June 2024. There are no proposals to replace the Climate Action Intern, as there is no funding available. However, we are in the process of presenting an Operational Decision form to make the Climate Action Officer post permanent based on bringing work to produce decarbonisation plans for Highways schemes back in house and other income available in relation to the introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure.

It should however be noted that some of this work will add additional responsibilities to the Climate Action Officer, limiting the amount of work they can do in other areas. Adding to this the loss of the Climate Action Intern post, going forward the Council will be limited on the amount of community engagement work it can achieve.

### Update re Actions

Since the last audit committee deep dive report presented to Audit Committee on 31 July 2023, we can report the following progress: -

- The Council Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022/23 ([Bury Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022/23 - Bury Council](#)) has been published showing that the greenhouse gas emissions from Council activities have reduced by 68% since our base year of 2008/09. This shows good progress. However, further progress will be much more challenging as we will need to decarbonise all our heating and transport. This will mean phasing out gas boilers and moving our vehicles to electric and other zero emission solutions. The difficulties in this transition were outlined in the original deep dive report. It is also important to note that the council's greenhouse gas emissions represent only 1-2% of the total borough emissions and therefore we have a much bigger challenge in moving our whole borough to carbon neutrality.
- TfGM have installed 3 Rapid Charging Hubs for taxis at the following locations.
  - Trinity Road Car Park
  - Foundry Street Car park
  - Whitefield Park and Ride.

Each hub has two rapid chargers reserved for taxi use only.

- Currently, 77% of the council fleet are Euro 6 or electric. We have taken delivery of 115 new vehicles, 10 of which are fully electric.
- We completed a video promoting the success of the Community Climate Action Fund, which has been published on YouTube. [Climate Change Fund | Bury \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Completed reports on 20 Council assets to investigate the feasibility of installing Solar PV to generate renewable energy. We are looking to appoint a supplier for 10 of these assets early in 2024.
- Producing a climate action training video for remote staff.
- Bury Council have been awarded £82,900 of Government grant funding to carry out a feasibility study for a heat network in Bury town centre which could help provide decarbonised energy for a number of existing buildings and proposed redevelopments.