

# Environmental Sustainability at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Reigate & Banstead  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate



# Background

- **Reigate & Banstead Corporate Plan 2025:** commitment to consider environmental responsibility and sustainability
- **RBBC Environmental Sustainability Strategy:** agreed in summer 2020, accompanied by action plan
- **New sustainability team:** established within the Council in late 2020 to facilitate Strategy delivery

# Our ES Strategy approach

- Includes four categories:
  - Energy & carbon
  - Low impact consumption
  - Biodiversity & the natural environment
  - Implementation (cross-cutting)
- Areas of focus:
  - Organisational (what we do as a Council)
  - Borough-wide (supporting residents and businesses)
  - County-wide (working together with Surrey County Council and other Borough and District Councils)
- Responsibility for Strategy implementation – rests with teams right across the Council



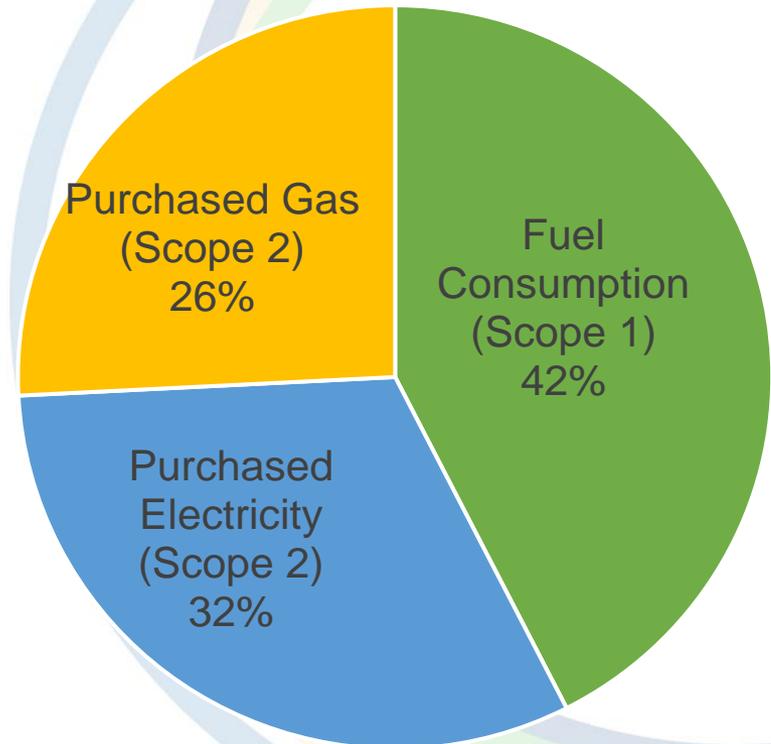
# RBBC Action Plan

Theme	Energy & carbon	Low impact consumption	Biodiversity & the natural environment	Implementation (cross-cutting)
Objective	<p><b>Energy minimisation &amp; renewables</b> – install measures on council property &amp; promote behaviour change</p> <p><b>Low carbon transport</b> – transition council fleet to electric, install electric vehicle chargers, promote active transport</p> <p><b>Embodied Carbon</b> (2023/24 onwards)</p>	<p><b>Waste reduction</b> – waste avoidance in council buildings, reducing SUPs, promoting behaviour change, meet recycling targets</p> <p><b>Water efficiency</b> – install measures on council property &amp; promote behaviour change</p> <p><b>Responsible sourcing</b> – opt for ethical and/or low environmental impact solutions</p>	<p><b>Ecological enhancement</b> – improve tree cover, increase soft landscaping and pollinator/native species planting</p> <p><b>Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)</b> – increase SuDS &amp; permeable surfaces</p> <p><b>Environmental impact and pollution prevention</b> – minimise use of pesticides and peat-based compost</p>	<p><b>Communications</b> – provide information related to energy reduction and renewables</p> <p><b>Partnership working</b> – work with broad range of stakeholders on sustainability issues</p> <p><b>Planning</b> – reflect sustainability issues in planning documents</p> <p><b>Procurement</b> – take sustainability into account as part of process</p>

# Carbon Targets

- RBBC's total carbon footprint 2018/19
  - 1,492 tCO<sub>2</sub>
- Equates to approx. 0.2% of borough emissions
- ES Strategy target is to achieve carbon neutrality (scope 1 and 2) by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality including scope 3 (indirect) emissions as soon as possible thereafter

RBBC's Scope 1 and 2 Emissions  
2018-19 (tCO<sub>2</sub>)



Source: RBBC ES Strategy 2020

# The Journey So Far

- Positive progress has been made and solid foundations laid since our Strategy was adopted
- Sustainability is being weaved throughout Council activities, through training, internal communications and new reporting procedures
- A full report on our progress to date will be published later in the year, but some highlights include:
  - New sustainability web resource for residents and businesses
  - Sustainable construction planning guidance and checklist adopted
  - Council's energy supply carbon neutral (renewables tariff 33%; offsets 66%)
  - £10m Green Homes Grant Fund for Surrey (54 properties in R&B upgraded so far)
  - 800+ residents signed up to Solar Together scheme
  - EV charging points in Horley, funding secured for 6 charge points in Banstead
  - Project initiated to roll EV charging points out to other Council-owned sites
  - 13 low-emission vehicles within the Council's fleet (10% of total)
  - 181 trees planted on council land; community tree planting guide published and workshops held