**WBCIR:17233**

1. How many councils have you formally collaborated with on climate action initiatives in the past 12 months?

**Specifically within the climate emergency team, we have directly collaborated with 5 other Councils on projects over the past 12 months. This does not include the wider projects from the climate emergency action plan (CEAP), being delivered by other teams within Wokingham Borough Council, that may have collaborated with other local authorities to delivery those.**

1. Do you have a formal process for sharing information and best practices with other councils? If yes, please provide a link to the documentation outlining this process.

**There is no formal process for this within the climate emergency team. However, in order to work best with our other local councils in this area there is an established “Berkshire local authorities working group”, through which the 6 Berkshire Local Authorities meet on a regular basis to discuss relevant projects which overlap Council boundaries and can benefit from collaborative working.**

1. Do you have a dedicated team or individual responsible for monitoring climate action initiatives undertaken by other councils?

**The council has a climate emergency team, who work to support delivery of the actions within our climate emergency action plan (CEAP). This covers a wide variety of projects and includes all officers having a role in ongoing research and cooperation with other councils for relevant projects.**

1. Do you subscribe to any databases, newsletters, or other resources that provide updates on other councils' climate actions? If yes, please list them.

**As a climate emergency team we receive regular updates on other councils climate projects from: the Local Government Authority, the Local Enterprise Partnership, direct climate newsletters from other local authorities, and the climate emergency scorecards website, which acts as an independent benchmarking tool.**

1. How many public consultations or surveys related to climate action have you conducted in the past 12 months?

**Specifically within the climate emergency team, there have been 2 engagements of this nature over the past 12 months. This included workshops with community representatives and a survey under the ‘Lets Talk Climate’ programme. We also run a feedback survey as part of our climate newsletter to gather readers’ feedback on the newsletter itself.**

1. What percentage of businesses in your jurisdiction have been formally engaged in your climate action plans?

**The Council does not FORMALLY engage with businesses on our Climate Action Plan. While the % is not possible to calculate at this stage due to the variety of factors, 9,106 people are signed up to our regular “Business Matters” newsletter. This contains climate updates and projects run by the Council and funding opportunities relevant to them.**

1. Do you have a scoring or ranking system for prioritising climate actions? If yes, please provide a link to the documentation outlining this system. If no, how do you currently prioritise potential actions?

**Within the CEAP, the majority of actions are being progressed simultaneously, towards the 2030 carbon neutrality goal. There is therefore no prioritisation of these actions, but each has its own deadline, project plan and RAG rating system in place to monitor progress. More detail on this can be found in the full plan below. The 3rd edition is currently out, but the updated 4th version will be available over the next couple of months.**

[https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/climate-emergency](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wokingham.gov.uk%2Fclimate-emergency&data=05%7C01%7CSabrina.Chiaretti%40wokingham.gov.uk%7Cb1cd31aa936448edad8f08dbb9b87b04%7C996ee15c0b3e4a6f8e65120a9a51821a%7C0%7C0%7C638307974229236628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZcPcYJZy6%2BGUFnFTRPO2KoHc8z%2FroDUZYjlmz6LNeaE%3D&reserved=0)

1. What are the most significant barriers you face in implementing climate action initiatives?

**There are a number of significant barriers we face as a Council to implementing further climate action initiatives. These include:**

* **lack or limited availability of national government funding to deliver climate projects**
* **No statutory powers to enforce or prosecute anti-climate behaviours or initiatives**
* **Limited officers time and capacity to support the delivery of climate projects outside the Climate Emergency Team**
* **Conflicting priorities between the Council’s carbon neutrality ambition and the need to minimise spending**
* **Overcoming misinformation around the climate emergency**

1. Do you have a formal process for discovering, evaluating and adopting climate solutions from private sector suppliers? If yes, please provide a link to the documentation outlining this process.

**There is no climate specific formal process. All council projects follow the Council’s internal democratic process.**

1. How many people in the council have roles that focus on environmental issues? Please provide job titles and an indication of whether they are part or full time roles. If these could be listed in order of seniority it would also be helpful.

Within the council there are 2 teams which primarily focus on the environment/climate. These are detailed with job titles below:

**Climate Emergency Team:**

**Climate Emergency Service Manager - FT**

**Specialist Climate Emergency Officer - FT**

**Climate Emergency Project Officer - FT**

**Climate Emergency Engagement Officer - FT**

**Blue and Green Team:**

**Head of Environmental Services – FT**

**Trees and Landscape Service Manager – FT**

**Senior Ecology Officer – FT**

**Ecology Officer – FT**

1. What percentage of your annual budget is specifically allocated for climate action initiatives?

**£38 million is currently allocated for current financial year (23/24) within the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan, which is (37.45)% of the total. The figure includes projects that have a climate element to them, and mainly covers large social housing retrofit and energy-reduction projects.**

1. Do you have a sustainable procurement policy? If yes, please provide a link to the policy document.

**As a council we have a procurement strategy, which includes mention of sustainability. This can be found at the below link.**

[**https://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49665/Enc.%201%20for%20Procurement%20Strategy.pdf**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwokingham.moderngov.co.uk%2Fdocuments%2Fs49665%2FEnc.%25201%2520for%2520Procurement%2520Strategy.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CSabrina.Chiaretti%40wokingham.gov.uk%7Cb1cd31aa936448edad8f08dbb9b87b04%7C996ee15c0b3e4a6f8e65120a9a51821a%7C0%7C0%7C638307974229236628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o8X3737Y8vQfAY9e%2Br2E53HM5kfDNL8dGZJ30KgQCTk%3D&reserved=0)

1. Do you have any case studies highlighting successful climate action initiatives? If yes, please provide links.

**All the progress and successes achieved each year on related projects are reported within the CEAP, with each having individual successes along the way. The 3rd edition is currently out, but the updated 4th version will be available over the next couple of months.**

[https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/climate-emergency](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wokingham.gov.uk%2Fclimate-emergency&data=05%7C01%7CSabrina.Chiaretti%40wokingham.gov.uk%7Cb1cd31aa936448edad8f08dbb9b87b04%7C996ee15c0b3e4a6f8e65120a9a51821a%7C0%7C0%7C638307974229236628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZcPcYJZy6%2BGUFnFTRPO2KoHc8z%2FroDUZYjlmz6LNeaE%3D&reserved=0)

**Also, please find below our answers to the survey:**

1 = Not beneficial at all, 2 = Somewhat beneficial, 3 = Don’t Know, 4 = Very beneficial, 5 = Extremely beneficial

Please also feel free to add comments – the more we know about what you need, the better!

**For the below comments we have used the wording above to try and reduce any confusion. However, it appears these scores may have become mixed up somewhere as the wording of ‘somewhat beneficial’ could be higher than ‘don’t know’, in which case these should be switched.**

1. Centralized Collaboration Platform: Susie (the Sustainable Society Insight Engine) will serve as a centralized hub where councils can collaborate on climate action initiatives, share best practices, and coordinate efforts, thereby reducing duplication and increasing efficiency. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
2. Data-Driven Decision Making: The platform will provide analytics and key performance indicators (KPIs) that councils can use to measure the effectiveness of their climate action initiatives, enabling data-driven decision-making. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
3. Streamlined Public Engagement: Susie will offer tools for managing public consultations and surveys, making it easier for councils to engage with their communities and gather valuable feedback on climate action plans. **3 Don’t Know**
4. Knowledge Repository: The platform will feature a comprehensive database of case studies, academic research, and government guidelines, serving as a one-stop-shop for all information related to climate action. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
5. Vendor Marketplace: Councils will have access to a curated list of private sector suppliers offering innovative climate solutions, complete with reviews and ratings to help in the decision-making process. **4 Very Beneficial**
6. Sustainable Procurement Guidance: Susie will offer resources and tools to help councils develop and implement sustainable procurement policies, aligning their purchasing decisions with their climate goals. **4 Very Beneficial**
7. Funding Opportunities: The platform will provide information on available grants, subsidies, and other funding opportunities for climate action initiatives, helping councils secure the necessary resources. **4 Very Beneficial**
8. Real-Time Updates: Councils will receive real-time notifications on new climate action initiatives, research publications, and funding opportunities, helping them stay up-to-date with the latest developments. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
9. Customized Recommendations: Using AI algorithms, Susie will offer personalized recommendations for climate action initiatives based on each council's unique needs and circumstances. **3 Don’t Know**
10. Transparency and Accountability: The platform will feature dashboards that display the progress of various climate action initiatives, enhancing transparency and accountability. **1 Not Beneficial at all**
11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Susie will offer guidance on how to comply with national and international climate regulations, reducing the risk of legal issues. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
12. Community Building: The platform will enable councils to create digital interest communities and working groups, facilitating more focused and effective collaboration. **3 Don’t Know**
13. Skill and Knowledge Sharing: Councils can share their expertise and learn from others through webinars, forums, and other educational resources available on the platform. **2 Somewhat Beneficial**
14. Reduced Operational Costs: By streamlining various processes and offering a centralized platform for multiple needs, Susie can help councils reduce operational costs. **1 Not Beneficial at all**
15. Global Network: Councils will have the opportunity to connect with international counterparts, fostering a global community focused on climate action. **1 Not Beneficial at all**
16. Have we missed anything? Please tell us about any other benefits that you’d like to see from the platform. **The biggest obstacle the Council is facing in the delivery of climate projects is lack of funding from the national government, along with limited officers time. While this platform could be helpful, we feel that it would primarily be used as another research tool, as there are existing processes to deliver much of the above internally.**