

Appendix C

CDP reporting - benchmarking the Council's sustainability activity

1. Introduction

The aim of Solihull's Climate Change Prospectus is to articulate Solihull's low carbon vision - ensuring that we are at the forefront of the UK's transition to a low carbon economy.

In order to ensure this is done effectively, it is useful to benchmark or review the plan and its delivery against an externally verified 'standard'.

The CDP scheme has been identified to assess the overall performance of the borough in 'transitioning to a low carbon, climate resilient borough'.

2. Carbon Disclosure through the CDP

The CDP runs a global scheme for participants to 'disclose' their environmental impacts, approach to climate change and, more specifically, their carbon emissions, therefore allowing them to be benchmarked across their peers. It is a voluntary scheme that has no charge to participate in.

CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts.

There are two schemes that are available:

- Company
- City (or administrative area)

The company scheme is for commercial operations. It is set up specifically for businesses, and can include the supply chain.

The city (and administrative area) scheme is applicable to areas like Solihull MBC and cities such as Coventry and Birmingham have submitted a disclosure, with Coventry meeting the criteria to be included in the A-list for 2019.

CDP covers a wider suite of environmental impacts at this wider region.

The scheme requires self-assessment through a questionnaire on the following areas:

- Governance and data
- Climate hazard and vulnerability
- Adaptation
- City wider emissions
- Emissions reductions
- Energy
- Transport

- Food
- Waste
- Water

Participants can take part with making a full public disclosure. The CDP will also work with the Council on both its submission and the assessment.

Those cities (including metropolitan boroughs) who score highly are put on their Cities A List. Otherwise participants receive a score and areas of improvement identified.

3. Current assessment

On an initial assessment, the Council does not collect all of the information at the borough wide level and may be weak on some activity such as climate change adaption.

Some of the information is collected nationally such as the 'city wide emissions', however other information requires work to collect.

Generally, the Council has a strong approach, perhaps stronger than we are fully aware without a full audit of activity – especially true for climate adaptation.

Other councils have signed up to the scheme-however have not yet made their performance available, suggesting that they have not responded fully to the questionnaire.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council takes the following approach:

- Initial assessment and make a private submission in summer 2022
- Aim to make a full submission by 2023, and consider making it public

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