



# An Operational Perspective on Climate Change

June 2024



*Cherwell*

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

# Cherwell District Council

## Cherwell District Council

- North Oxfordshire
- Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington & 60 villages -72,000 properties.
- Until May 2023 – Conservative, now No Overall Control
- Key Council priority is Supporting Environmental Sustainability
- Declared a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019
- Major sources of emissions Sports Centres, Fleet, Buildings
- Climate Actions did exist before July 2019!
- Solar panels on depot, council buildings since 2010
- Electric vehicles been tested since 2007
- First electric van 2013 & several more acquired in 2018



# CDC Climate Action

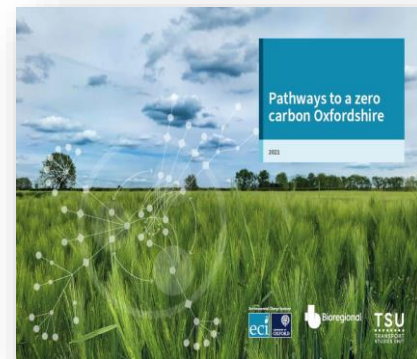
## Context

Key Council Corporate Priority = *Supporting Environmental Sustainability*

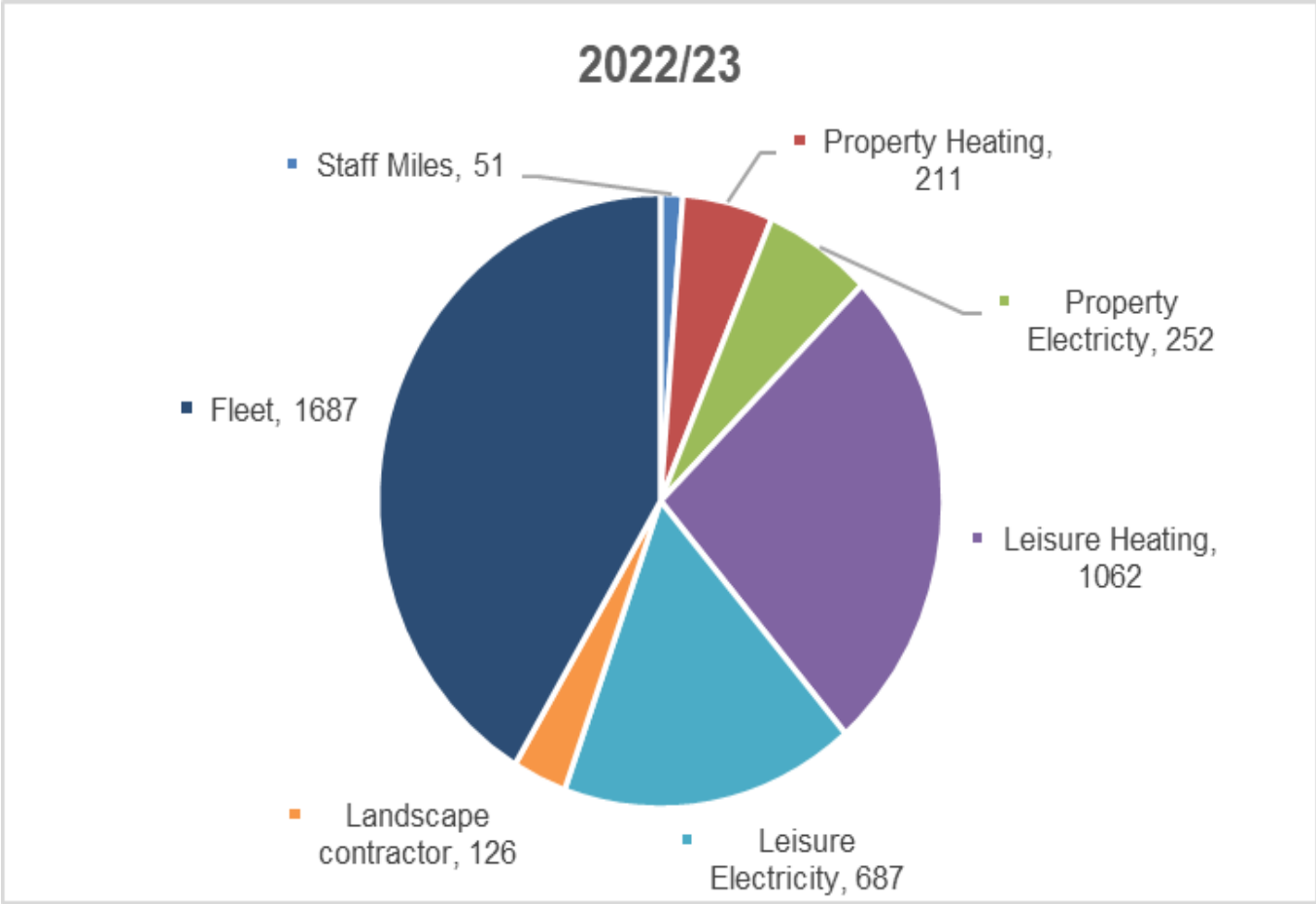
## Our commitments

- We've committed to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.
- We've committed to supporting the district to become net zero.

*(Net Zero = reduce emissions wherever we can and off-set those that we can't).*



# CDC emissions by activity



# CDC emissions by Scope

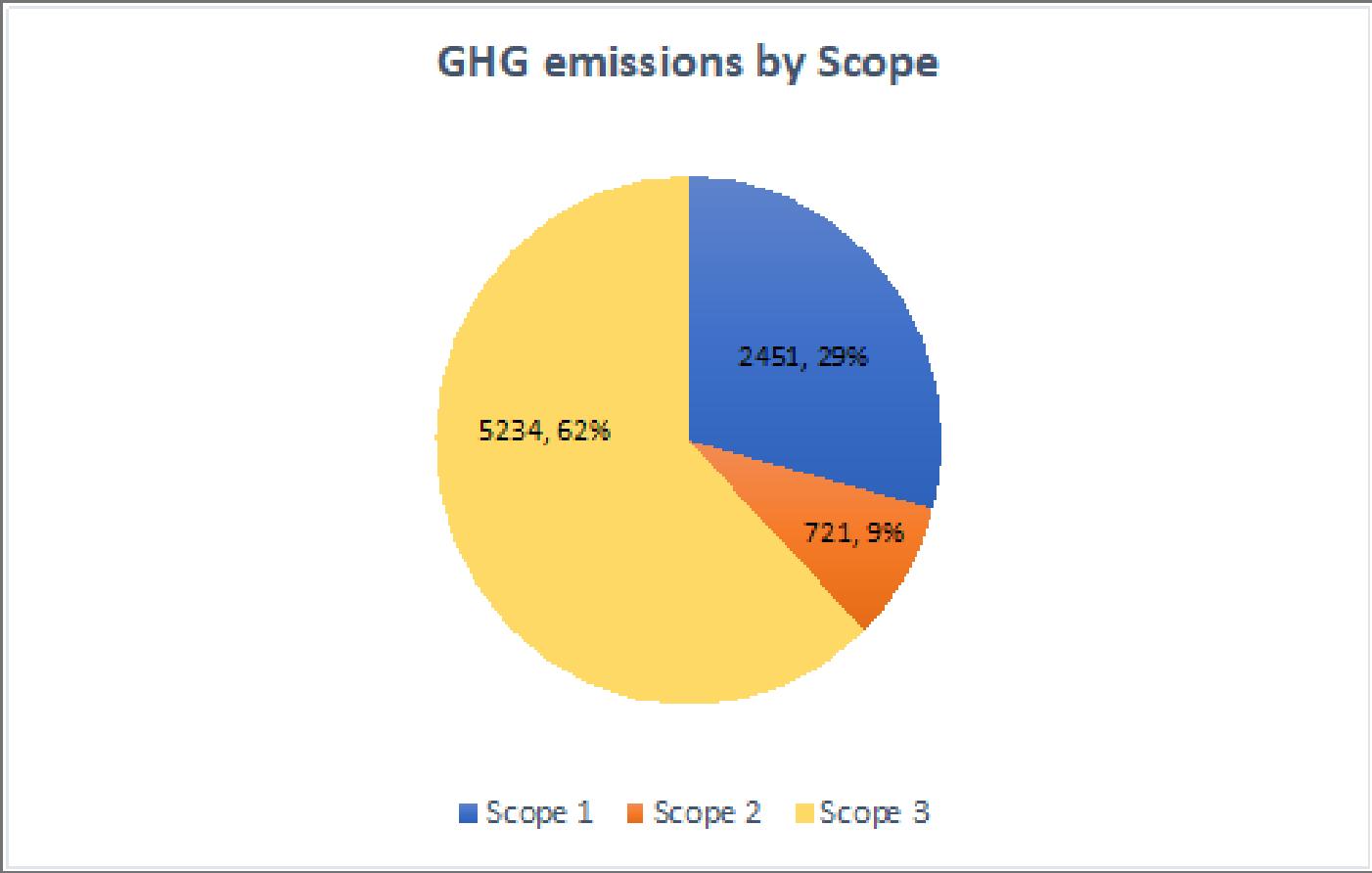


Figure 1: Cherwell District Council's 2022 – 2023 GHG emissions by Scope



# CDC emissions

**Almost 96% of our emissions are from our buildings and our fleet**

- 11% are from Corporate Buildings
- 43% are from Leisure Centres
- 41% are from our Fleet

## **Future Challenges/Opportunities**

- Building a new depot for Bicester
- Electrical infrastructure at our depots
- A growing district requires a larger waste fleet
- Moving our Council offices
- Leisure Centres

# Challenges

## **CDC becoming carbon net zero by 2030 is a key challenge**

- c.4000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e are produced each year
- Recent annual emissions reports show progress, but not sufficient for 2030
- We are procuring studies to help us understand the options for and likelihood of reaching 2030

## **Getting the district becoming carbon net zero by 2030 is *not* achievable**

- c.1.3million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e are produced each year
- Transport is the largest source of Cherwell's emissions where we have limited influence
- We are procuring a study to help us understand what *is* achievable for Cherwell.

# Elected Member Support

Key to gain elected members support through a number of actions:

- Annual report to Executive
- Six monthly report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S)
- O&S sub-group to develop & support the annual action plan
- Committed Portfolio holder
- Supporting Environmental Sustainability is a Council priority

# Partnership Working

Several key areas of climate action are being delivered in partnership across the county.

- Had a joint team with Oxfordshire County Council for three years
- Expanding charging infrastructure for Electric Vehicles
- Pilot study for off-setting using nature-based solutions
- Home retrofit schemes for low-income households
- Pathway to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PAZCO)
- Good communication between all Oxfordshire councils

# Key Issues

- Fleet – most small vans now electric (14 vehicles). Large Goods Vehicles (LGV) make up half the fleet
- Further reducing emissions at Sports Centres.
- Funding – financial challenges
- Supporting Cherwell to adapt to climate change
- Influencing the wider district

# Recent activity

- Engaging the community -Climate Community Networking Event
- New EV pool-car available for staff
- Trial of electric refuse vehicle/food waste vehicle
- Appointed Climate & Nature Environment Officer
- Commissioning a study to further guide how we can decarbonise our fleet
- New study showing potential for Biodiversity Credits at Banbury Country Park
- Improved understanding of CDC's Scope 3 emissions.
- Supporting community groups such as lending a thermal imaging camera
- Secured funding for a Community orchard to be planted this autumn

# Next steps

- Annual delivery plan & development of future annual delivery plans
- New staff resources & enhanced team – Climate Action Manager, Programme Officer & a Nature based officer
- New political administration
- Identify sources of funding to support CDC's decarbonisation plans
- Move to our new council offices late 24/early 25
- Development of a new depot in Bicester – April 26

# Thank you

- Ed Potter [ed.potter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:ed.potter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)
- Jo Miskin [jo.miskin@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:jo.miskin@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

