

Appendix A: Colchester City Council's Full Climate Action Scorecard

Section: Buildings & Heating	
Question	Points scored
1.1 Has the council completed extensive retrofit work on any of its significant buildings to make them low carbon?	1/2
1.2 Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?	0/2
1.3 Are the homes owned and managed by the council energy efficient?	2/3
1.4 Does the council have a target to retrofit all council owned and managed homes and has this been costed?	3/3
1.5 Is the council part of a programme or partnership to support home retrofitting, through providing the skills and training needed or in other ways?	0/1
1.6 Does the council have a staff member employed to work on retrofitting across the council area?	1/1
1.7 Are the homes and buildings in the council area energy efficient?	2/3
1.8 Is the council actively enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes in the private rented sector?	0/2
1.9 Does the council provide a service to support private homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient?	0/1
1.10 Does the council offer funding to private renters or homeowners to retrofit their homes?	1/1
1.11 Does the council have a scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through collective buying?	2/2
1.12 Has the council supported local community renewable energy creation?	0/1
Overall score: 12/22 (45% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Transport	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
2.1 What percentage of the council's fleet are electric vehicles?	1/1
2.2 Has the council set up or supported a shared transport scheme that can be used across their whole area?	4/6
2.10 Has the council supported the expansion of a public network of electric vehicle chargers?	0/2
2.11 Has the council approved, expanded or built a high carbon transport project since 2019? (Negative points question)	0/0 (no penalty points)
2.12a Do the NO2 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods within Council area exceed WHO air pollution guidelines? (Negative points question)	0/0 (but penalty points received)
2.12b Do the PM 2.5 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods in the council's area exceed the safe World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution guidelines? (Negative points question)	0/0 (but penalty points received)
Overall score: 5/9 (56% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Planning & Land use	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
3.1 Is the council's area wide net zero target a strategic objective of the Local Plan?	0/1
3.2 Has the council committed to building all future council owned or managed housing to a high energy efficiency or operationally net-zero standard?	0/2
3.3a Does the council require new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations?	0/1
3.3b Does the council require a fabric first approach for new development?	0/1
3.3c Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero?	0/2
3.4 Does the council require developers to carry out a whole life cycle carbon assessment of new build developments?	0/1
3.5 Does the council require a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes?	1/1
3.6 Has the council removed minimum parking requirements for new residential homes across their area?	0/2
3.7 Does the council include a policy in the Local Plan to create 15/20 minute neighbourhoods?	0/1
3.8 Has the council committed to avoiding new building developments on the functional flood plain?	1/1
3.9 Does the council have a minimum requirement for on-site renewable energy generation for new building development?	0/2
3.10a Does the Local Plan identify suitable areas for new solar energy, wind developments and district heat networks?	0/3
3.10b Has the Council approved any planning applications for new or expanded solar or wind developments, battery storage, or renewable district heat networks since 2019?	2/5
Overall score: 4/23 (15% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Governance & Finance	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
4.1a Does the council's corporate plan include a net-zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?	0/1
4.1b Does the council's medium term financial plan include the council's net zero target and make tackling the climate emergency one of its main priorities?	1/1
4.2 Has the council published a climate change risk register?	0/1
4.3a Is the council reporting on its own greenhouse gas emissions?	0/1
4.3b According to the council's own reporting, have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced since 2019?	0/3
4.4 Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased, according to UK Government data?	1/3
4.5 Has the council adopted a new governance or decision-making process to put tackling the climate emergency at the heart of every council decision made?	1/2
4.6 Has the Council embedded climate action and waste reduction into their procurement policies?	0/3
4.7 Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit?	1/1
4.8 What percentage of the council's overall staff work on implementing their Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects?	2/3
4.9 Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training?	0/1
4.10a Has the council raised income for climate action from property development?	1/1
4.10b Has the council launched a Climate Bond, Community Municipal Investment or equivalent?	0/1
4.10c Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources?	1/1

4.11b Has the council's pensions fund committed to divesting from all fossil fuels?	0/2
4.12 Does the council have direct investments in airports or high carbon intensive energy industries? (Negative points question)	0/0 (no penalty points)
Overall score: 8/25 (38% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Biodiversity	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
5.1 Does the council use peat free compost or soil in all landscaping and horticulture?	0/1
5.2 Has the council banned the use of pesticides on all council owned and managed land?	1/1
5.3 Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife?	1/1
5.5 Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow?	0/1
5.7 Have the council's parks been awarded Green Flag status?	1/2
5.8 Does the council employ a planning ecologist to scrutinise planning reports for biodiversity net gain?	0/1
5.9 Does the council require a higher biodiversity net gain commitment from new developments?	0/1
Overall score: 3/8 (25% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Collaboration & Engagement	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
6.1 Do the council's climate pages include information about behaviour changes that residents can take, and are they easy to find?	1/1
6.2a Has the council published a climate action plan with SMART targets?	1/1
6.2b Has the council published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan?	2/3
6.3 Has the council lobbied the government for climate action?	0/1
6.4 Is the council working with external partners or other councils to seek to influence national governments on climate action, or to learn about and share best practice on council climate action?	1/2
6.5a Does the council have an ongoing way for residents to influence the implementation of the council's Climate Action Plan?	0/2
6.5b Does the council's ongoing engagement with residents include those most affected by climate change and climate action policy?	0/2
6.6 Does the council provide funding for community climate action, for example through an environment fund or climate action fund?	1/1
6.8 Is the council working in partnership with cultural institutions and organisations to encourage decarbonisation within culture and arts locally?	1/1
6.9 Is the council working in partnership with schools or other education settings to deliver climate action that young people can engage with?	1/1
6.10 Is the council working in partnership with local businesses to encourage decarbonisation?	1/1
6.11 Has the council passed a motion to ban high carbon advertising?	0/1
Overall score: 9/16 (54% with weighting accounted for)	

Section: Waste Reduction & Food	
Question and tier of criteria	Points scored
7.1a Has the council banned or reduced single use plastic in its buildings and events?	0/1
7.1b Has the council reduced single use plastic at external events on council land, property or public spaces such as roads and parks?	0/2
7.2 Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally?	0/1
7.3 Does the council support initiatives to redistribute surplus food waste?	0/1
7.4a Does the council have a sustainable food strategy?	0/1
7.4b Is the council part of a sustainable food partnership?	0/1
7.5 Has the council taken steps to support local food growing?	1/1
7.7 Does the council provide kerbside food waste recycling?	0/1 (to be amended shortly after this was queried)
7.8 How high is the councils' area wide annual recycling rate?	1/3
7.9 How low is the councils' area wide level of household waste produced?	1/2
Overall score: 3/14 (17% with weighting accounted for)	