

Appendix A: Brent's Interim Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan (Winter 2019/20)

1. The Council leading by example

The council's own estate and operations, including council buildings, street lighting and fleet, makes up 1% of overall borough carbon emissions. The Council is committed to playing its part and leading the way on the climate emergency. We will do everything we can to reduce carbon emissions from our own buildings and fleet. We will also work to reduce the environment impacts from the £400m per annum we spend on goods and services.

What we have done

- Between 2010/11 and 2018/19 we reduced our carbon footprint for our corporate buildings, street lighting and fleet by 56%.
- The Brent Civic Centre is one of the greenest public sector buildings in the UK and was awarded BREEAM Outstanding.
- We have installed 20,000 low-energy LED street lamps, reducing annual costs by £850,000 and emissions by 62%: the most energy-efficient in London.

Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Develop a plan to achieve net zero carbon for the Council's own estate and operations by 2030.
2.	Undertake a BREEAM in use assessment to ensure that our Civic Centre continues to be as green as possible.
3.	Develop a sustainable procurement policy that requires sustainable practices through our procurement and contract management procedures.
4.	Remove single use plastics from the council's premises and services.
5.	Update our Corporate Travel Plan to further reduce transport carbon emissions from the Council's own activities and fleet and contribute to staff health by encouraging active travel.
6.	Review our fleet and fleet policies to see how we can introduce greener vehicles.
7.	Review the investments of the pension fund and consider new investments in low carbon, renewable and sustainable funds.
8.	Develop a staff engagement programme to enable all Council staff to contribute to tackling the climate emergency.

2. Strategic planning and infrastructure

As well as leading by example, the Council plays an important role in the borough through strategic planning and identifying and enabling infrastructure improvements. This role encompasses areas such as planning, development and regeneration, transport, energy supply, waste collection and disposal, and parks and green space. Our Local Plan enables a strategic approach to the delivery of environmentally sustainable development and infrastructure in accordance with National Planning Policies to accommodate a population increase without exacerbating existing localised environmental problems and ensuring good environmental quality.

Brent's Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) provides a strategic direction for investment in transport throughout the borough over the period of 2015 to 2035. This is supported by and reflected in a range of other strategies including the Cycling Strategy, Walking Strategy, Parking Strategy and Air Quality Strategy. The majority of Brent is within an Air Quality Management Area and there are ten Air Quality Focus Areas.

Road transport accounts for approximately 23% of borough carbon emissions. Promoting walking, cycling and public transport and low emission vehicles will help reduce these transport-related emissions and improve local air quality.

Brent has a lower percentage of green space at 21.9% of land area, compared to the London average of 38.2%. Over 50% of Brent households live further away from the nearest green space than the London Plan 400m maximum recommended distance.

What we are doing already

Planning and development

- Planning policies in the Local Plan require that all major commercial & residential developments mitigate and adapt to climate change, specifically by being Air Quality Positive or Neutral and managing flood risk, on-site water management & surface water attenuation; major non-residential developments must achieve a BREEAM standard of 'Excellent'. Major developments are encouraged to deliver high quality buildings that reduce the need to use natural resources in the longer term, and deliver spaces and green infrastructure to build a sustainable environment.
- We have secured delivery and plans for Combined Heat and Power Networks in new developments in Wembley and South Kilburn.

Sustainable travel and clean air

- Through the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) 3 and Local Plan, Major developments and Growth Areas are required to connect and contribute to cycling and walking routes; be located in areas with good public transport access; be car-free or car-lite; help to increase coverage of Electric Vehicle charging points; enable broadband access to encourage home working and assist independent living. The overarching aim of the LIP is for 80 per cent of all trips in London to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041, compared to 63 per cent today.
- We have a long-standing policy of emission-based parking permits and introduced a £50 annual diesel surcharge to encourage motorists to switch to greener forms of transport and cut air pollution. Greater parking permit charges on high-emission vehicles have reduced the number of such vehicles by 16% from 2017/18 to 2018/19.
- Visitor permit prices are fixed to match price of public transport alternatives, leading to a reduction in car visits to CPZs of around 800 a day.

- 553 adults and 2,942 children received free cycle training in the last year.
- Eight roads were closed to polluting vehicles for London Car Free Day 2019.
- Brent was the first London borough to introduce Lime Bikes.
- Our anti-idling campaign continues to educate motorists about the harmful effect on local air pollution of idling in a car.
- We've installed 115 charging points for electric vehicles across the borough and aim to add 60 more charge points by March 2020.

Waste management and infrastructure

- The council's nine-year contract with Veolia involves comprehensive waste collection & recycling services and initiatives to encourage commercial & residential waste reduction. Brent recycles 37% of its household waste.
- The West London Waste Authority disposes of Brent's waste. All food and garden waste collected through Brent's Public Realm contract is composted in the UK. Around 96% of west London's residual rubbish is sent to generate energy at Energy Recovery Facilities, which use this waste instead of coal, oil or gas to produce energy.

Green space, biodiversity and ecology

- Brent's seven-mile bee corridor launched in time for summer 2019, the first of its kind in London. The corridor is made up of 22 wildflower meadows, designed to boost biodiversity and help pollinating insects to thrive.
- We received 11 awards for Brent's green spaces at the 2019 London in Bloom awards.
- Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy and Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) monies to contribute towards improving the quality and or accessibility of existing open space provision.
- The Mayor's Greener City Fund continues to plant trees within the borough and the council will continue to support Community Tree Planting Grants through NCIL and Section 106.
- We have an effective maintenance regime for 18,500 trees and achieve a tree-planting target of 520 trees per year.
- We maintain a fully comprehensive register for all Tree Preservation Orders in the Borough.

Public health

- The Brent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provides a comprehensive picture of the current and projected health needs of the local population, encapsulating the main health issues and inequalities which exist in different parts of the borough.

Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Explore developing supplementary planning guidance on sustainability, which could include more specific advice to developers and householders on retrofitting existing properties, including those within Conservation Areas.
2.	Develop a policy and programme for allocating the Brent Carbon Offset Fund for local carbon reduction initiatives.
3.	Develop a borough-wide district energy & renewables strategy.
4.	Review how Brent could achieve a step change in sustainable travel through modal shift and electric vehicle infrastructure.
5.	Review how we can better use green space and the public realm to enhance biodiversity and enable us to adapt to the predicted warmer climate.
6.	Through the emerging Brent Local Plan, ensure that all new developments incorporate sufficient features and associated infrastructure to help reduce the potential for and the need to adapt to climate change.
7.	Include a chapter on Health Impact of Climate Change in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

3. Business and other institutions

Non-domestic buildings including businesses, institutions and schools account for 34% of the borough's emissions. 61% is from electricity use, 30% from gas and 9% from other fuels. Local businesses and other institutions have a major role to play in reducing the borough's carbon emissions and influencing the behaviour and choices of their staff and customers.

Brent is home to a diverse and resilient economy, housing over 14,000 enterprises, employing over 130,000 people, and generating Gross Value Added of over £7.9 billion. Brent town centres comprise 3,376 commercial units supporting 25,400 jobs, which is over 20% of all employment in the borough. 92.2% of businesses in Brent are defined as 'micro' size (0-9 employees) and whilst business births have exceeded business deaths in Brent over the past decade, business death rates have increased, with 12.2% of businesses failing in 2016. Though Brent has a 1 year business survival rate equal to Outer London and higher than London and Great Britain, we have a lower 5 year survival rate than all those 3 other regions.

What we are doing already

- We hold a Small Business Saturday Environmental Awards.
- The Plastic Free Wembley campaign has saved 150 tonnes of plastic, including trialling biodegradable bags, made from potato peels and corn, in Wembley's litter bins.

Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Research the potential to promote and support the green economy in Brent. Complete an analysis of business data to identify local businesses working in the green sector.
2.	Explore joint work with the Brent Business Board, High Street Business Associations, Park Royal Business Group and West London Business to address commercial carbon emissions, air quality, waste and plastic. Identify businesses which are low carbon champions.
3.	We will host a networking event for low carbon businesses at the 2020 Brent Business Expo.
4.	Include sustainability categories in the Brent Business Awards 2020 (and continue to promote the Small Business Saturday Environmental Awards (high street businesses)).
5.	Explore existing programmes of funding and support for the business sector (e.g. Cleaner Heat Cashback Scheme, Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust).
6.	Promote the sustainability agenda through our business newsletter and through the Brent for Business Events programme.
7.	Explore offering a business rate discount for organisations that achieve a significant reduction in their carbon footprint.

4. Schools & young people

The borough's population has continued to grow over the last three years, and the number of children and young people of statutory school age has increased by 5.5 per cent to 42,441. There are 86 state-funded schools in Brent of which 60 are primary, 13 are secondary, two are "all through" and five are special schools. The largest ethnic groups of statutory school age are: Asian Indian (16 per cent), Black Somali (eight per cent), Black Caribbean (seven per cent), White British (seven per cent); Asian Pakistani (six per cent), Iraqi (five per cent) and Asian Sri Lankan (four per cent).

Following the recent nationwide consultation involving 826,000 young people as part of the "Make Your Mark" campaign, climate change was declared the biggest priority for young people across the UK. Brent's young people's turnout (16,456 votes) was in the top three in London, with climate change the top issue voted for in Brent (2,756 votes).

Schools can promote sustainable ways of thinking & living, and this can be reflected in their curriculum, buildings & their relationship to the wider community.

What we are doing already

- Two School Streets pilots, where the roads around a school are closed to traffic during drop off and pick up times to limit toxic emissions. The scheme is designed to encourage parents and kids to walk, cycle and scoot into school.
- 43 schools currently have approved travel plans, of which 31 are rated gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze.
- We have held a Youth Climate Summit with the Brent Youth Parliament, with their ideas and recommendations to be presented to the Brent Climate Assembly.

Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Engage with all Brent's schools seeking information on what they are doing.
2.	Promote the 'whole school approach' to sustainability, involving the curriculum, estates, teachers, governors, pupils and parents.
3.	Invite pupils from Brent secondary schools to the Civic Centre on the National Children's Commissioner Takeover Day, on 22 November 2019, to focus on the climate emergency agenda.
4.	Develop a scheme to help young people connect with nature through community food growing and gardening projects in their schools and local areas.

5. Homes & vulnerable residents

Brent's 121,250 homes account for 43% of Brent's carbon emissions, of which 72% comes from gas and 27% from electricity use. 41% of these homes are owner occupied, 37% are private rented and 22% are social rented. There are around 60 Registered Providers (Housing Associations) who own approximately 17,793 social rented and affordable rented homes. Brent Council's own housing stock consists of 11,378 homes comprised of 7,878 rented and 3,500 leasehold properties. 15% of Brent's homes are estimated to be in fuel poverty (BEIS, 2017).

The most effective way of reducing carbon emissions in the home is by reducing need for heating and to phase out gas. This can be most effectively achieved by installing insulation and switching from gas boilers to renewable systems such as solar water heating and heat pumps. We will ensure that, through our programmes, vulnerable residents have access to affordable warmth and do not end up paying unreasonable costs for energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures.

What we are doing already

- In council owned housing, 77% of cavity walls are insulated, 47% of homes with lofts are insulated and 87% of homes have double glazed windows.
- We are creating a low-carbon heat network in South Kilburn serving 700 homes initially, with plans to extend.
- 766 solar panels have been installed through the council-supported scheme Solar Together, saving 49 tonnes of carbon each year.
- 34,586 residents given tailored recycling advice by the Veolia education team.
- In October 2019, Brent worked with Veolia and the Small Change, Big Difference campaign to highlight how people can make their leftovers go further, rather than waste food.
- Grants of up to £7k for repairs are available to vulnerable owner-occupiers for works that will deliver significant health gains such as boiler replacement.
- We work with private sector landlords to ensure that their properties meet Government minimum energy efficiency standards.
- The Brent Acute Handyman Service includes checks and improvements in relation to home safety, security and energy efficiency.

Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Complete the programme of cavity wall and loft insulation in the Council housing stock, leveraging match funding from energy suppliers.
2.	Develop a programme of home energy advice for households to accelerate the take up of energy efficiency and affordable warmth measures.

3.	Commission a feasibility study to identify packages of measures that can reduce carbon for typical housing types in Brent, and identify funding that can pay for a pilot domestic retrofit exemplar scheme.
4.	Develop a forum with Housing Associations in Brent to share and promote best practice.
5.	Assess the feasibility of achieving net zero carbon for the Council's new build housing schemes and identify funding for a pilot low carbon new build exemplar project.
6.	Review how sustainability is being addressed in residential nursing homes.

6. Supporting communities

Brent is one of the most culturally diverse areas in England. The dynamic mix of communities continues to enrich and inform the social, economic and cultural make-up of the borough. The Council is keen to work together with any groups in Brent who have ideas for projects to green their local area. This may range from local gardening and food growing projects, to clean up days and crowdfunding for local energy projects such as renewable energy for community buildings.

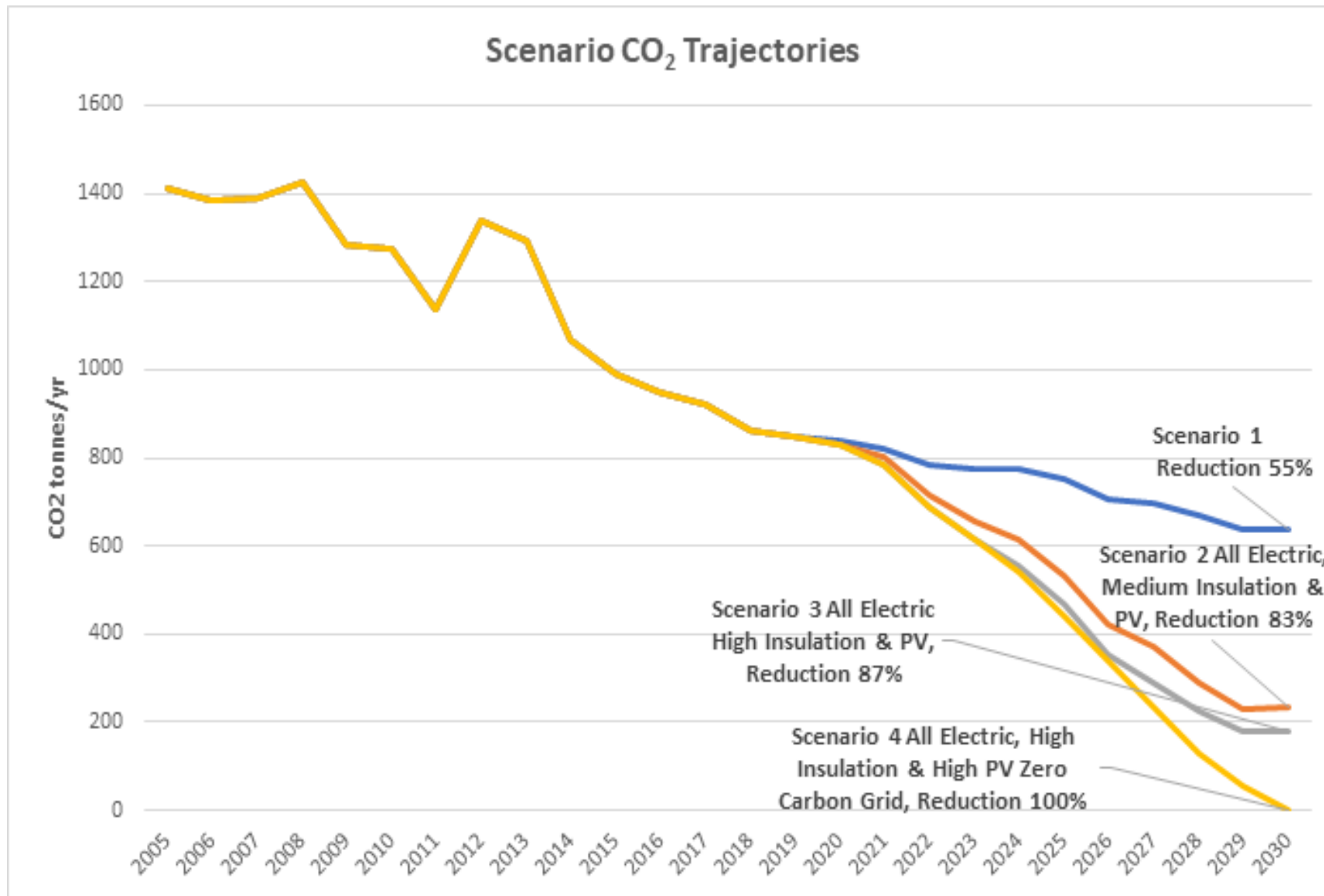
What we are doing already

- This year, the council helped residents to close eight roads for London Car Free Day. The celebrations meant that children could play in their streets without polluting vehicles and demonstrated that there are greener ways to get around.
- We are trialling a locality based approach which aims to address complex issues that exist at a local level through tailoring approaches to meet local needs and working with communities to make them more engaged, connected and resilient.

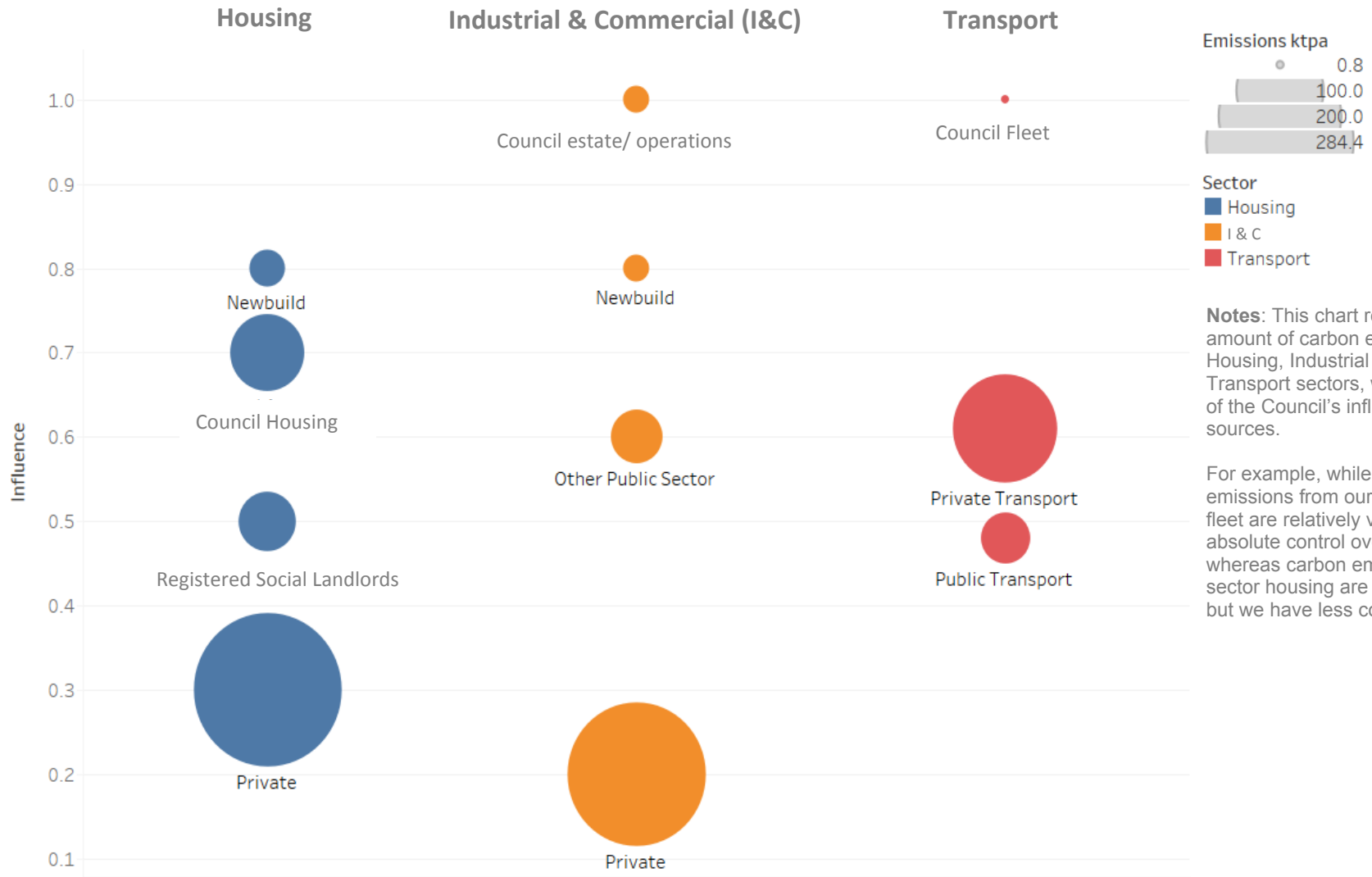
Key actions going forward

	Action
1.	Provide advice for the public to help them assess their own carbon impacts and make informed choices.
2.	Approach potential community partners and develop ideas for bids to environmental funding programmes.
3.	Engage and support local community groups to go green.
4.	Promote climate action as part of the Locality Based Approach this autumn.

Annex 1: Brent Carbon Scenarios 2030 Study – Scenario carbon trajectories (please refer to accompanying narrative in para 5.3)



Annex 2: Council Influence vs Emissions by Sector and Source



Notes: This chart represents the amount of carbon emissions from the Housing, Industrial & Commercial and Transport sectors, with an assessment of the Council's influence over these sources.

For example, while the carbon emissions from our own estate and fleet are relatively very small, we have absolute control over these emissions, whereas carbon emissions from private sector housing are far more substantial, but we have less control over those

Influence for each Sector. Colour shows details about Sector as an attribute. Size shows sum of Emissions ktpa. The marks are labelled by Subsector.