

Deputation to FBC CCSP 4th July 2023 by Andy Rolfe, Fareham PO14 3ER, representing G&FFoE

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at today's scrutiny panel. It is heartening to see the commitment of everyone here to achieve the FBC target of carbon neutral by 2030, and to lead and inspire broader change across the whole Borough.

Previous deputations given by GFFoE to the CCSP have been reinforced by another warning about the impacts of anthropomorphic climate change and the actions to address it. Today, I draw your attention to a statement from the independent Climate Change Committee.

The government doesn't have credible plans for over four-fifths of the cuts in emissions needed. Worryingly, almost half of these cuts either have plans with significant risk or no credible plans at all.

*The outgoing CCC chair Lord Deben has stated that the biggest lesson of his 10 years at the CCC is that **early action benefits the people of this country** and helps us to meet the challenges of the coming decades more cheaply and more easily.*

The energy price shock of last Winter would have been much less if we had made more progress on reducing our dependence on fossil fuels?

For tonight's agenda, we wish to highlight the following points for your consideration.

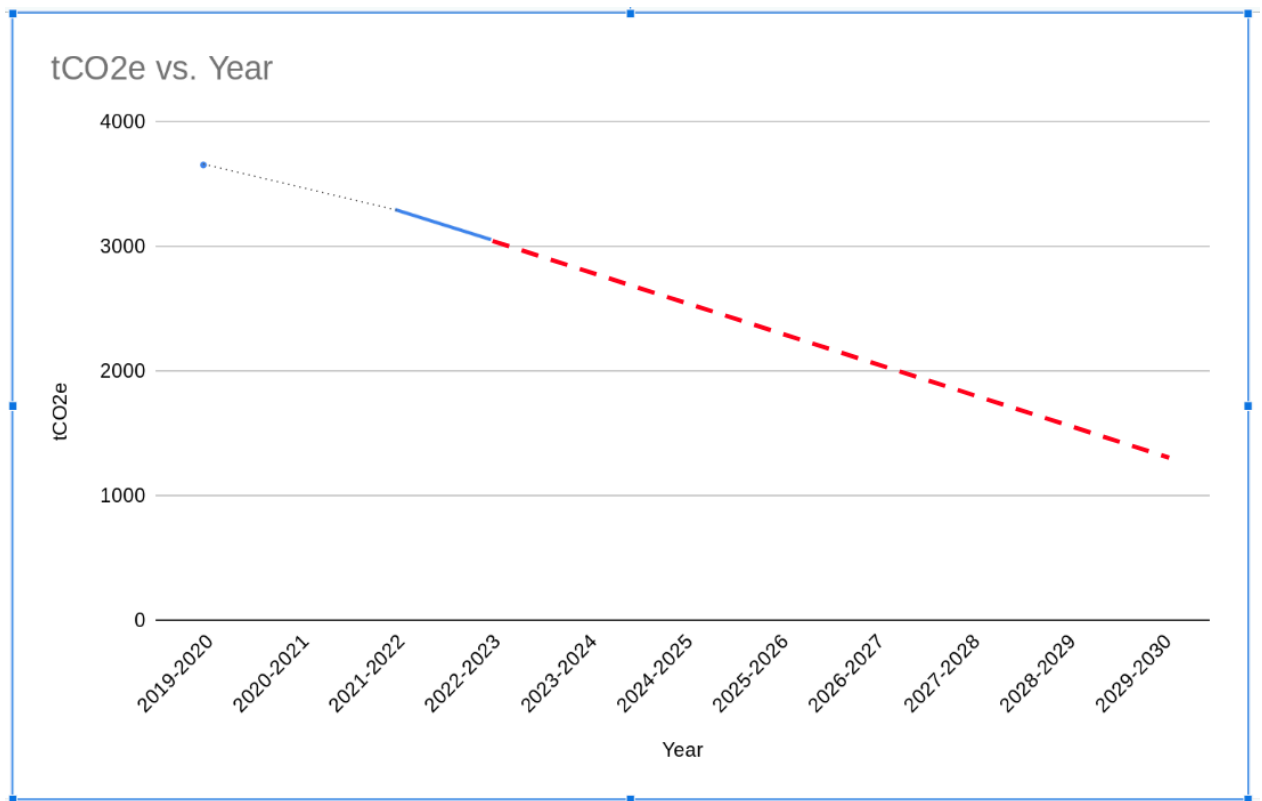
[Agenda details](#)

Agenda Item 2.

At the last CCSP we received a detailed presentation from the Head of Building Control Partnership, providing an overview of the building regulations that are being introduced by the government to reduce the carbon footprint of new and existing buildings. This prompts mention of Reading Borough Council's Local Plan which already requires new residential developments of ten or more homes to be built to zero carbon standards. Can this CCSP challenge the FBC local plan to match this?

Agenda Item 6. Carbon Footprint

Whilst the data for 2022 / 23 shows a continued improvement in the carbon footprint, the current trend implies that the 2030 target will not be met. This is further compounded by the fact that it will become more difficult to cut emissions as time goes on because we will have already tackled the 'easy' changes that can be made (for example switching to a renewable energy provider, reducing energy use by retrofitting insulation etc).



Agenda Item 7. Climate Change Action Plan Update

We welcome this update, showing progress in reducing our carbon footprint and also encouraging biodiversity.

We ask the CCSP to consider if the rate of progress is sufficient and whether the remaining work is credible in terms of finance, technology and timescales.

Agenda Item 9: Executive Business.

It's been previously stated - "Members queried their ability to influence the Executive to make changes to the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)."

Many previous Scrutiny Panels have concluded with "There were no items of Executive Business for the Panel to consider" and yet all Council decisions will have some bearing on emissions and therefore relate to the performance of the CCAP and our progress towards our net zero target.

Is the Scrutiny Panel confident that the Executive are being guided by the CCAP in all they do, or do they put it aside due to other priorities? If this Scrutiny Panel does not hold the Executive to account over this no one else will. Does anyone on the FBC Executive have a clear remit for Climate Change?

Thank you for this opportunity and your kind attention.