



Portsmouth City Council

*Carbon Maturity
Assessment Report 2021*



CITY SCIENCE
endless possibilities

Date issued: 15/10/2021
 Document status: Final
 Version number: 1.2

Document history:

Author	Version	Change reference
Jade Baker-Edwards	1.0	Consolidated Survey Analysis
Laurence Oakes-Ash	1.1	Review
Laurence Oakes-Ash	1.2	Final version following feedback

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 This report provides an analysis of the current decarbonisation activities being progressed by Portsmouth City Council. The report is based on responses provided through a guided interview with council staff undertaken on the 21st September 2021. The report presents a snapshot of the activities being progressed today, however reference is made to initiatives that are in development, where these have been communicated.
- 1.1.2 Overall, Portsmouth City Council is performing well and has a comprehensive range of programmes and activities addressing areas of Net Zero. Portsmouth City Council is performing particularly well (60%) at Level 2, due to the presence of a comprehensive strategy that covers the majority of key areas. At Level 4, Portsmouth is performing ahead of the peer group with respect to approaches to procurement and internal business cases.
- 1.1.3 The Carbon Maturity Assessment has identified 7 potential areas for improvement which are summarised in the recommendations section. The key recommendation is that strategies and plans are supported by quantified pathways broken down by sector and emissions sources. Improved quantification is expected to support management, prioritisation, coordination and monitoring of activities across sectors and departments while also supporting funding bids and business cases. Further opportunities include engagement, reporting and freight as set out below:
- 1.1.4 **Engagement:** Portsmouth City Council already has lots of touch-points with communities through its extensive programmes of work. These engagement pathways provide a solid foundation and strong opportunity to increase engagement on climate-related issues. This could be enabled through a series of targeted dialogues, consultations, survey or wider engagement programme.
- 1.1.5 **Reporting:** Portsmouth City Council is including carbon in its procurement policies which should deliver clear impacts across the supply chain over time. There is an opportunity for the council to further increase its influence by including the scope of supply chain emissions within its targets. This will also support improved monitoring of the supply chain.
- 1.1.6 **Freight:** Portsmouth also has an opportunity within the decarbonisation of freight, an area that not many authorities are addressing and that currently isn't referenced in the Net Zero Strategy. Through partnership with the wider Solent LEP, Maritime Enterprise Zone and Solent Future Transport Zone there may be a range of opportunities for freight innovation and trials, supported by funding which could also support wider (e.g. electrical) infrastructure needs. Adding freight into the strategy may therefore provide a 'quick win'.

2 Carbon Maturity Model Background

- 2.1.1 This Carbon Maturity Model was developed to support local authorities in understanding their current approach to decarbonisation. The process was developed following on from research by the DecarboN8 network (<https://decarbon8.org.uk/>) which identified a diversity of responses across local authorities to the challenge of decarbonisation. The Carbon Maturity Model provides a tool through which local authorities can assess their current position across a range of decarbonisation activities.
- 2.1.2 The assessment covers five broad levels of activities which are categorised into ‘levels’. A brief summary description of what each level covers is set out below (Figure 1). In practice we find that local authorities often have activities within each levels, but performance in some areas will be stronger than in others. The assessment therefore provides an analysis of the strengths and improvement areas within each level with the aim of helping local authorities identify opportunities to strengthen their climate response.
- 2.1.3 Input Data for this report was provided through a guided survey session with the Portsmouth team. The analysis shown within this report is enabled by a careful categorisation of each survey question into associated ‘basic’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘advanced’ activities within each level.

<p>Level 1 Climate Aware</p>	<p>Climate Aware organisations have declared a climate emergency and have developed clear targets for their regional response</p>
<p>Level 2 Carbon Conscious</p>	<p>Carbon Conscious organisations have developed a Net Zero Strategy, have quantified the impacts of different activities and established a monitoring and review process</p>
<p>Level 3 Carbon Activist</p>	<p>Carbon Activist organisations have developed a funded, multi-year pipeline of activities to deliver Net Zero across all sectors</p>
<p>Level 4 Carbon Leader</p>	<p>Carbon Leader organisations have embedded Net Zero thinking in all processes, policies and activities and as a result are leaders in their response to climate change</p>
<p>Level 5 Carbon Influencer</p>	<p>Carbon Influencer organisations have fully formed external programmes and are influencing and innovating to deliver change in hard-to-decarbonise sectors</p>

Figure 1: Summary of the Levels of Assessment within the Carbon Maturity Model

- 2.1.4 Further details on the Carbon Maturity Model can be found [here](#).

3 Analysis Overview

3.1.1 Figure 2 shows the summary analysis for Portsmouth City Council. This aggregate view masks the detailed scores in each Level. Here we find that Portsmouth scores very highly on the Foundational questions across each level, indicating a solid foundation upon which to build. Portsmouth City Council is performing particularly well (50%) at Level 2, due to the presence of a comprehensive strategy. At Level 4, Portsmouth is performing ahead of the peer group with respect to approaches to procurement and internal business cases. Portsmouth is also showing strength at Level 5 due to a comprehensive series of existing externally-focused programmes and activities.

3.1.2 Scores at Level 1 could be improved through stronger quantification of targets and activities, linking these through to specific sectors and emissions sources. This would also support improvements at Level 3 and higher, enabling Portsmouth to quantify the full costs of delivering Net Zero and wider co-benefits such that the internal business case can be made for long-term funding.

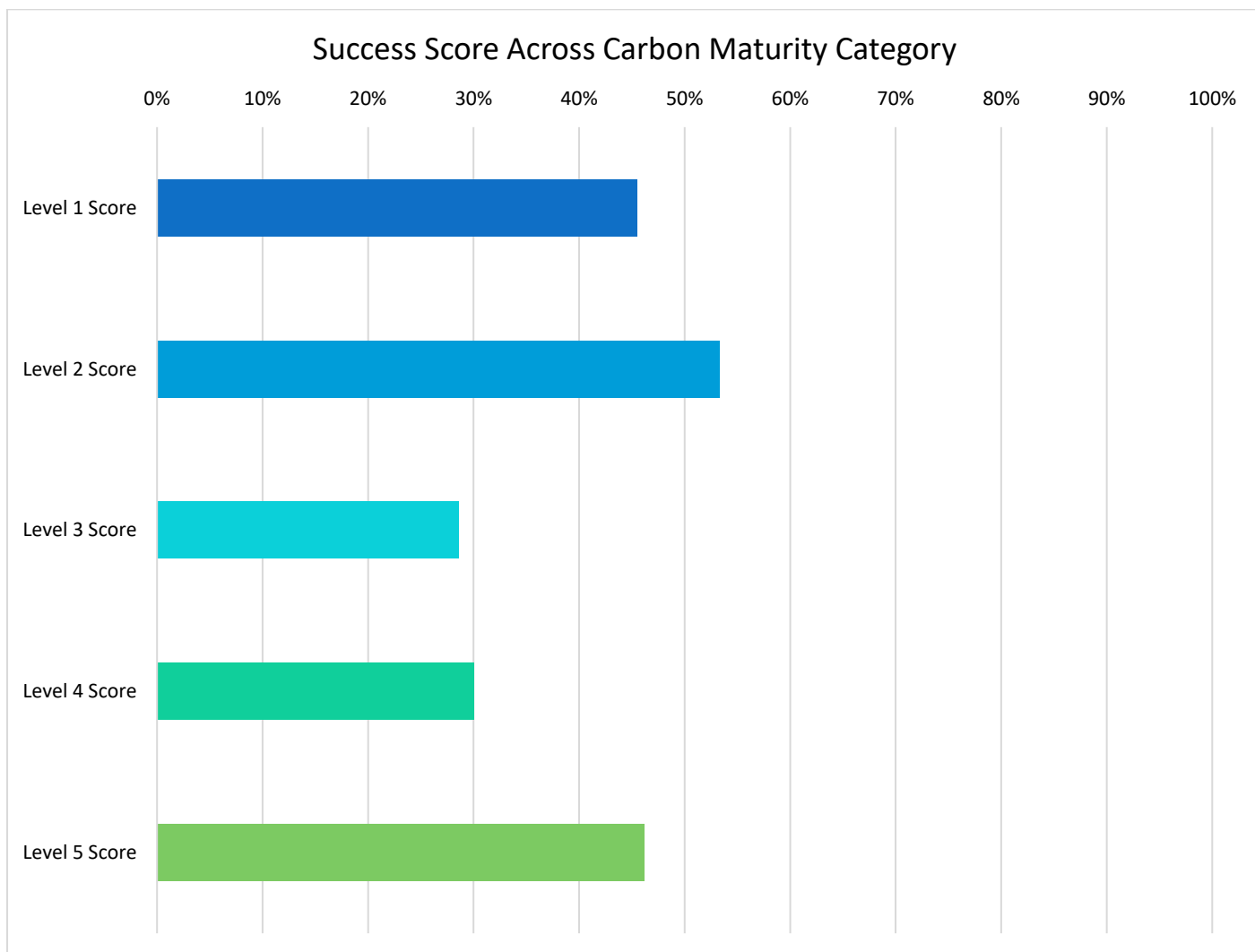


Figure 2: Success Score Across Carbon Maturity Category / Level

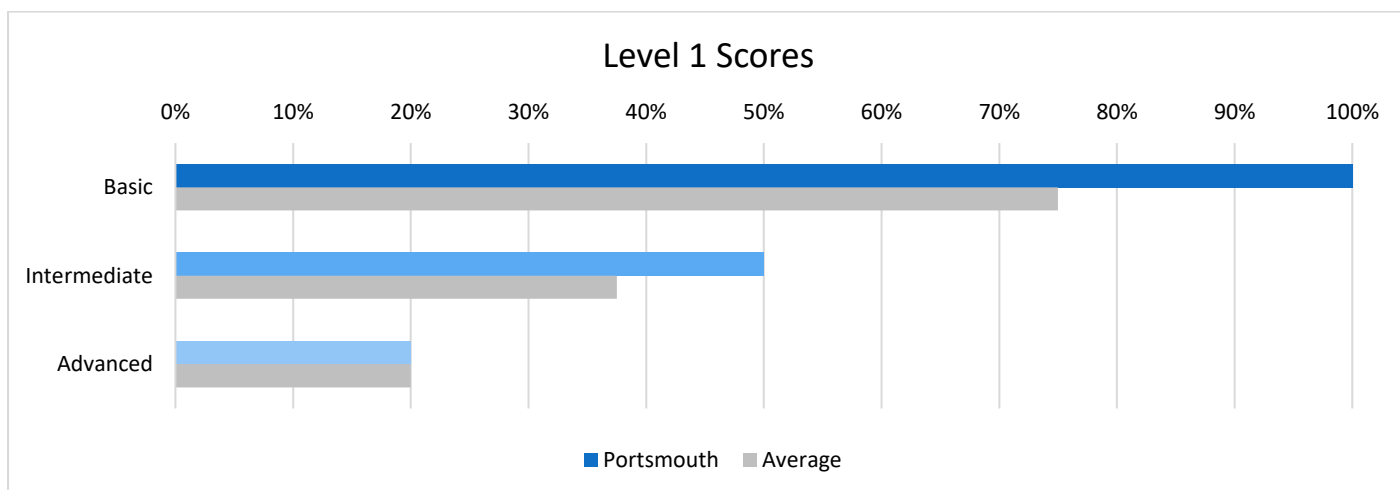
4 Detailed Summary by Level

4.1 Level 1 Activities

Level 1

Climate Aware

Climate Aware organisations have declared a climate emergency and have developed clear targets for their regional response



4.1.1 Level 1: Summary of Current Position

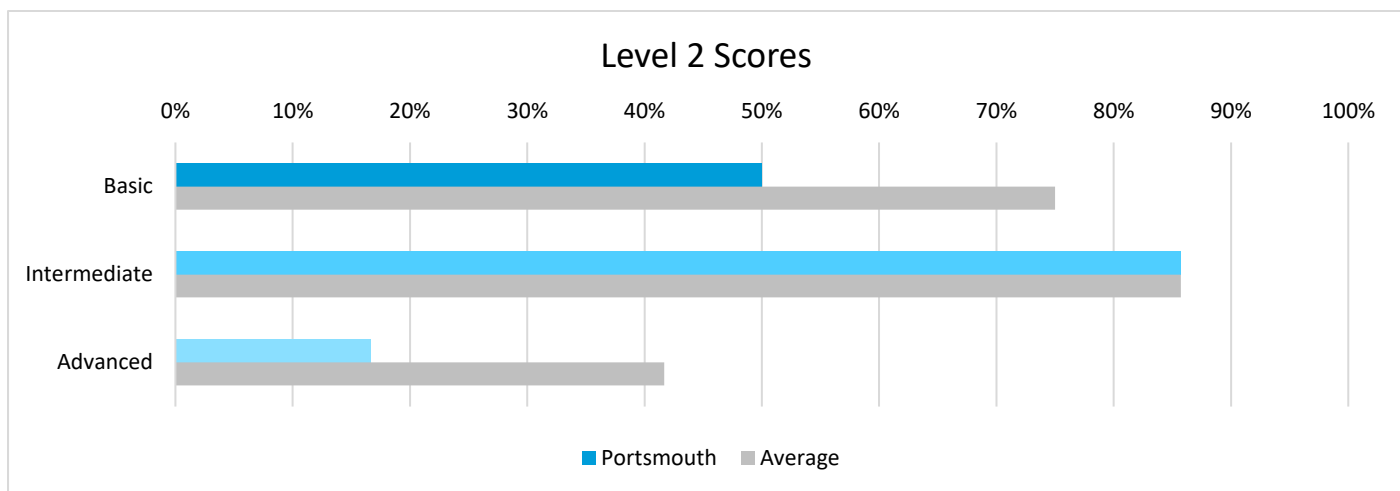
Level 1 Summary	
Basic Level	Portsmouth has declared a climate emergency and developed Net Zero targets for the region.
Intermediate Level	<p>Portsmouth’s targets cover Scopes 1, 2 and 3 and includes target carbon emissions for the corporate estate. Targets could also be strengthened through the development of interim targets, for example aligned to the Government’s own interim target for a 78% reduction by 2035, which will help with monitoring and management of progress over the nearer-term.</p> <p>The City has not yet consulted on regional targets, surveys could also be undertaken to assess current views. Further consultation could provide an opportunity to engage communities in the shared responsibility to decarbonise.</p>
Advanced Level	At the advanced level, Portsmouth has identified data that covers all GHG emission sources across the region. This information could be used to develop targets for individual sectors which could support roll-out of quantified action plans across transport, housing and businesses. A further opportunity is to consider the role of wider emissions from consumption and the influencing role the council can have.

4.2 Level 2 Activities

Level 2

Carbon Conscious

Carbon Conscious organisations have developed a Net Zero Strategy, have quantified the impacts of different activities and established a monitoring and review process



4.2.1 Level 2: Summary of Current Position

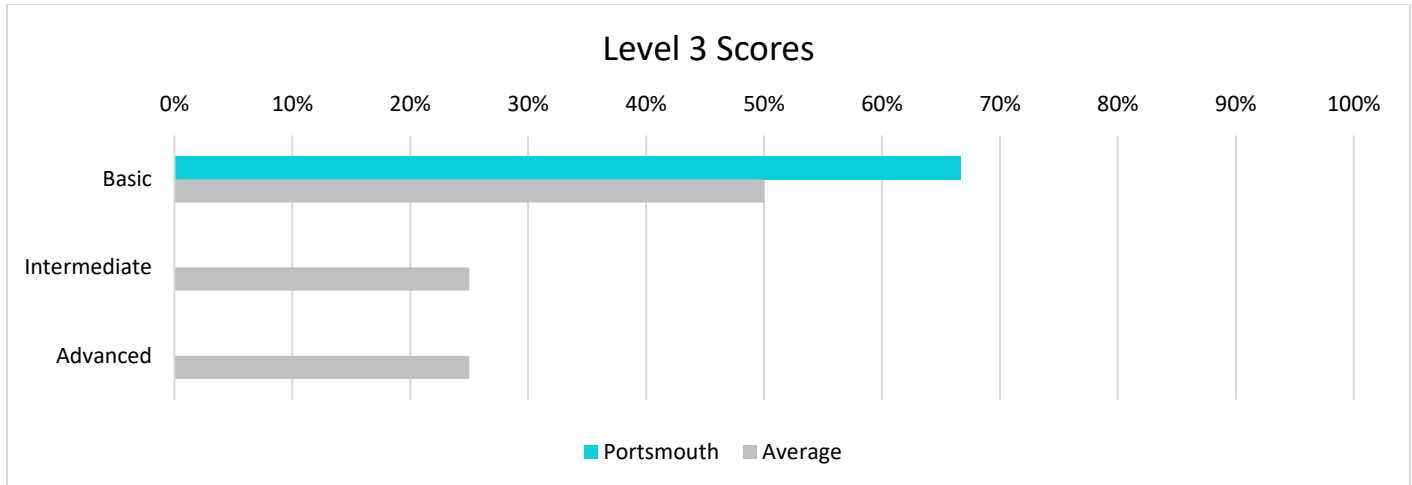
Level 2 Summary	
Basic Level	Portsmouth has developed a Net Zero Strategy and but has not undertaken citizen engagement to understand local climate issues.
Intermediate Level	Portsmouth’s Net Zero Strategy is broad and covers emissions from social housing, private housing and businesses. Portsmouth is also translating the strategy into carbon budgets/targets for individual departments within the Council. Transport decarbonisation and electric vehicle strategies exist, however the breadth could be extended by developing a strategy for decarbonising freight, with the opportunity to link to the decarbonisation plans understood to be in development at the Port.
Advanced Level	A regular reporting, monitoring and evaluation process is in place to ensure timely delivery of Portsmouth’s Net Zero Strategy. At the Advanced Level, the Net Zero strategy could be strengthened by quantifying key emission drivers and developing pathways for individual sectors and emissions sources. This would support coordination, delegation of responsibilities and more granular monitoring and evaluation.

4.3 Level 3 Activities

Level 3

Carbon Activist

Carbon Activist organisations have developed a funded, multi-year pipeline of activities to deliver Net Zero across all sectors



4.3.1 Level 3: Summary of Current Position

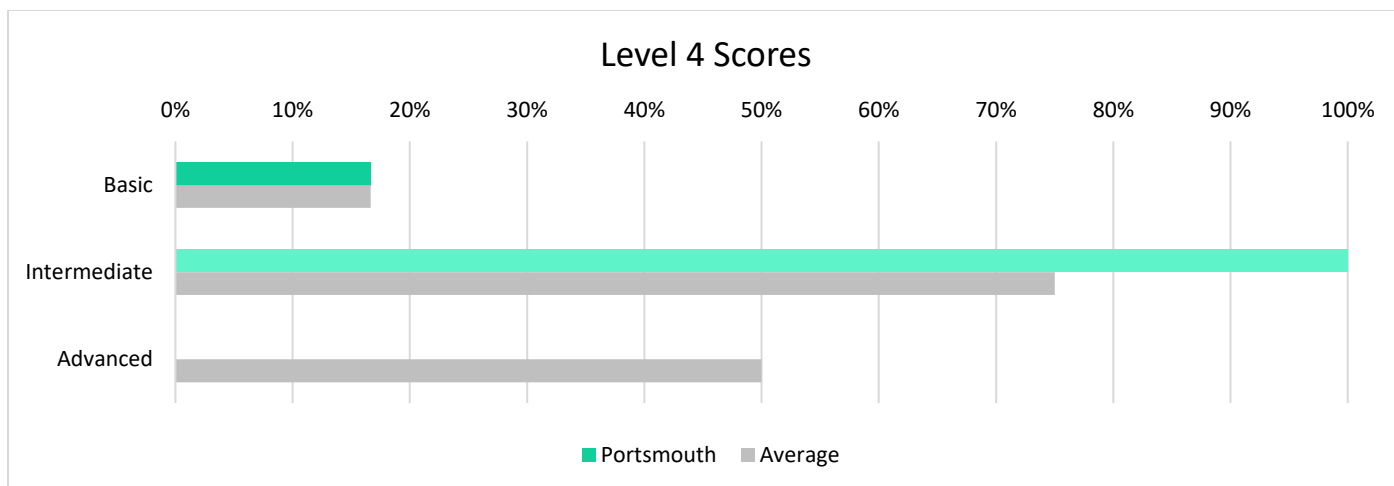
Level 3 Summary	
Basic Level	Portsmouth has a defined and resourced a clear set of decarbonisation activities for the next two years. The funding and resources required for the activities have been committed, however, the associated carbon savings have not been fully estimated.
Intermediate Level	The City has not defined the required decarbonisation activities beyond the next two years and has not quantified the full cost of delivering the Net Zero target. Authorities scoring highly in this area are creating a clear link between delivery of the Net Zero target and annual updates to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
Advanced Level	Currently, funding activities are not being undertaken to secure funding to cover the costs of delivering the Net Zero target. Additionally, no annual monitoring and forecasting processes are in place to ensure continued funding and delivery. Authorities scoring highly in this area are creating a clear link between delivery of the Net Zero target and annual updates to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and exploring a wide range of funding mechanisms to support delivery of Net Zero.

4.4 Level 4 Activities

Level 4

Carbon Leader

Carbon Leader organisations have embedded Net Zero thinking in all processes, policies and activities and as a result are leaders in their response to climate change



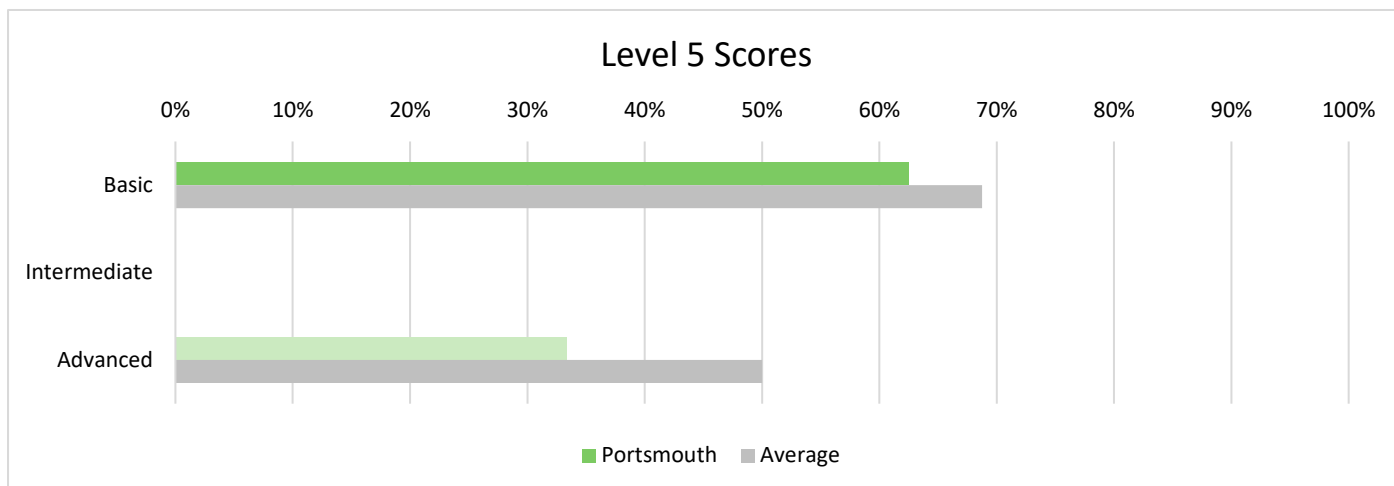
4.4.1 Level 4: Summary of Current Position

Level 4 Summary	
Basic Level	<p>Portsmouth has a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which covers the full extent of the authority. Portsmouth is systematically updating policies in light of Net Zero strategy and targets but has not yet completed a full policy review to ensure alignment.</p> <p>Policy alignment could be supported through quantifying the carbon impacts of both the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan and through the development of a Clean Growth Strategy.</p>
Intermediate Level	<p>Portsmouth has embedded Carbon Impact Assessments in all business cases. The Council positively impacts the region’s wider carbon footprint by adhering to procurement policies that monitor and encourage decarbonisation of the supply chain.</p>
Advanced Level	<p>Portsmouth has not developed a reporting framework for GHG emissions that is aligned to recognised standards. Standards such as ISO 14060 or the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, can be used to provide clarity and consistency in quantifying, monitoring, reporting and validating and verifying GHG emissions. To embed carbon literacy across all functions on an ongoing basis, a skills plan could be developed to support staff in understanding how the Net Zero law is likely to increasingly impact their work.</p>

4.5 Level 5 Activities

Level 5
Carbon Influencer

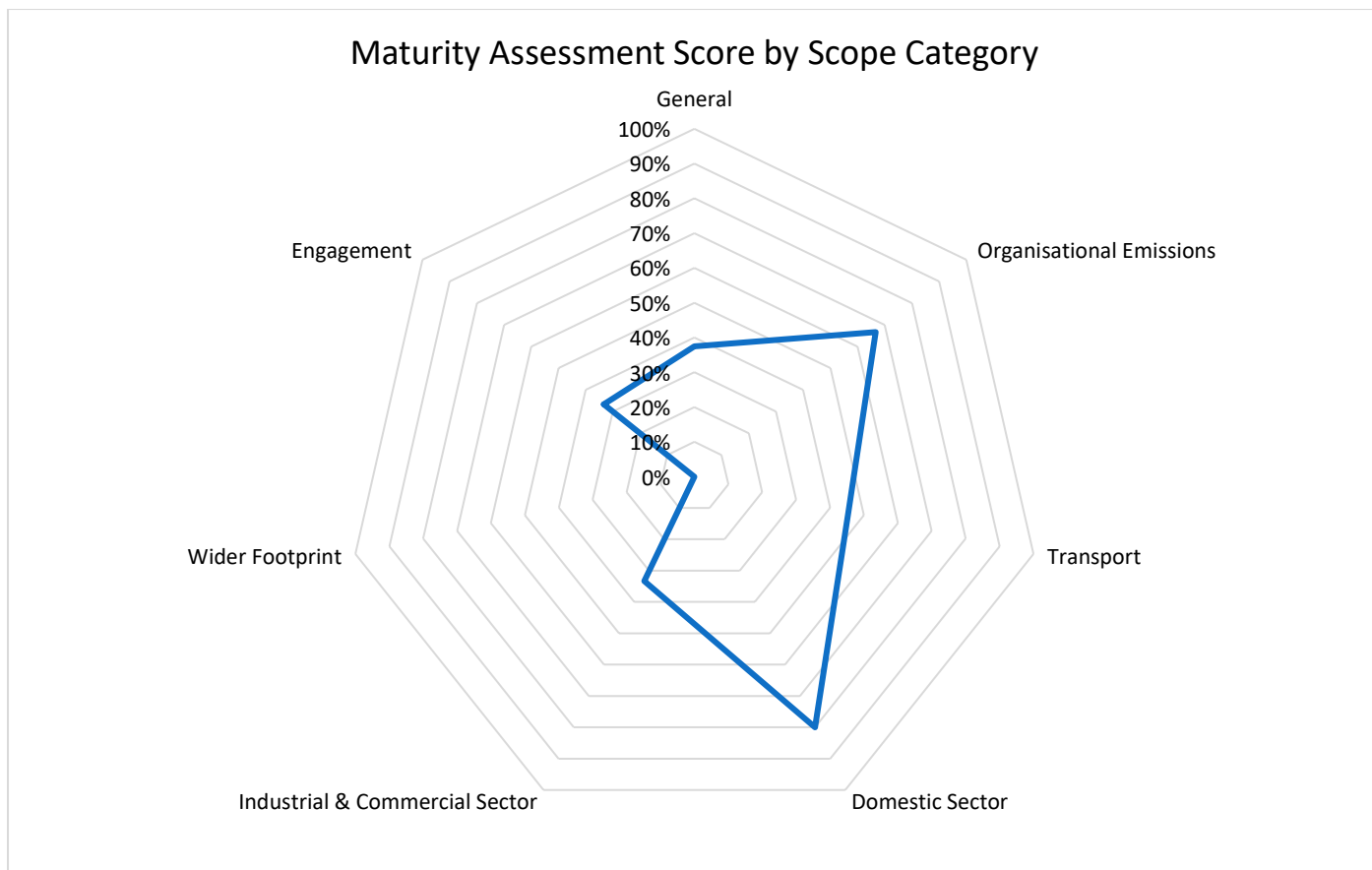
Carbon Influencer organisations have fully formed external programmes and are influencing and innovating to deliver change in hard-to-decarbonise sectors



4.5.1 Level 5: Summary of Current Position

Level 5 Summary	
Basic Level	<p>Portsmouth has a broad base of externally-focused programmes with coverage including the domestic sector, social housing, private dwellings, personal transport planning, modal shift and vehicle electrification.</p> <p>Decarbonisation can be further supported by developing externally-focused programmes for businesses, commercial and industrial sectors, Travel Demand Management and opportunities for Offsetting/Insetting.</p>
Intermediate Level	<p>At the Intermediate level, Portsmouth could consider undertaking a gap analysis to identify additional powers and delivery mechanisms that are required to reach Net Zero. External dialogue activities could be undertaken to encourage buy-in and support other sectors in addressing structural delivery gaps and challenges.</p>
Advanced Level	<p>A programme of engagement to support industrial and commercial stakeholders in decarbonisation is in place. To improve at Advanced level, a strategic programme of innovation projects could be utilised to unlock new delivery mechanisms. Additionally, engagement with central government to ensure the powers and funding required to deliver Net Zero are provided will be beneficial.</p>

5 Summary of Activities by Type



Summary by Sector	
General	Portsmouth has a comprehensive range of activities underway that will support Net Zero. The predominate areas for improvement relate to the quantification of reduction pathways for individual sectors that will improve the council’s ability to manage and monitor change. There is also an opportunity to strengthen all programmes by ensuring long-term funding is understood and allocated.
Organisational Emissions	The organisational activities are strong, including specific targets for the organisation and carbon being considered in business cases and procurement policies. Further improvements could include corporate reporting in line with a recognised standard and skills development to support carbon literacy.
Transport	There are clear strengths to the response to transport – for example, Portsmouth has an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. To strengthen activities in this area it will be beneficial to quantify the GHG emissions within the Local Transport Plan and Local Plan linked to a quantified pathway for the sector.
Domestic Sector	Portsmouth considers the role of social housing and private dwellings within the Net Zero strategy and has activities to support decarbonisation in these areas. The score could be improved by ensuring the decarbonisation pathway for these sectors is quantified and linked to the delivery plans.

Industrial & Commercial Sector	While the Industrial and Commercial Sector is included in the Net Zero Strategy, responses indicate that alongside further quantification of the pathway in this area, activities could be expanded to provide wider support.
Wider Footprint	Portsmouth is including carbon in its procurement policies which should deliver clear impacts to the supply chain. However, Scope 3 emissions and emissions from consumption are currently not included in targets or reporting. There is an opportunity for the council to increase its influence by including these and monitoring the progress of its supply chain.
Engagement	Portsmouth has a comprehensive range of activities underway and multiple channels where it is engaging with specific sectors. These engagement pathways provide a solid foundation and strong opportunity to increase engagement on climate-related issues. This could be enabled through a series of targeted dialogues, consultations, survey or wider engagement programme.

6 Recommendations for Next Steps

6.1.1 Level 1 Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1:** Portsmouth has a comprehensive plan and set of existing activities. Improved quantification will support these activities by providing the council with the tools to manage, prioritise, coordinate and monitor activities across sectors and departments. This will also support funding by evidencing the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- **Recommendation 2:** Portsmouth has lots of touch-points with communities through its extensive programmes of work. These engagement pathways provide a solid foundation and strong opportunity to increase engagement on climate-related issues. This could be enabled through a series of targeted dialogues, consultations, survey or wider engagement programme.
- **Recommendation 3:** Portsmouth is including carbon in its procurement policies which should deliver clear impacts to the supply chain. However, Scope 3 emissions and emissions from consumption are currently not included in targets or reporting. There is an opportunity for the council to increase its influence by including these and which can also improve monitoring of the supply chain.

6.1.2 Level 2 Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 4:** Portsmouth has an opportunity to be a leader in the decarbonisation of freight, in partnership with the wider Solent LEP and Maritime Enterprise Zone. Inclusion of freight within the Net Zero strategy, is likely to be a necessary step to achieving Net Zero, but also a source of opportunities and funding.

6.1.3 Level 3 Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 5:** Financial support for Net Zero delivery programmes will be essential for success. As a first step, Portsmouth should seek to quantify the likely costs of a programme over the next 2 years, next 5 years and into the longer-term. The 5-year projections should be consulted on internally and agreed funding included in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This analysis will also inform the scale of external funding that will be needed.

6.1.4 Level 4 Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 6:** Adoption of a recognised international reporting standard will demonstrate local leadership and support wider understanding of the core emissions sources and progress towards Net Zero.

6.1.5 Level 5 Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 7:** Portsmouth could benefit from a policy review to ensure alignment of all existing policies to Net Zero. This could include a gap analysis to identify additional powers and delivery mechanisms that will be required to fully achieve local aspirations.