

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	20 March 2017
Title:	Update of the Corporate Sustainability Policy
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to recommend that the Corporate Sustainability Policy be updated and formally adopted to support the County Council's Transformation agenda.
- 1.2. This paper sets out the requirements for a Corporate Sustainability Policy and outlines the financial implications and performance regime if the policy is adopted.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council has long had a commitment to acting sustainably and has embedded many of the key principles of sustainability throughout the organisation. However, in line with other large organisations with the same level of reach and profile, the Council needs to ensure that this commitment is visible and clearly demonstrated to staff, communities, and to potential customers.
- 2.2. At the same time the County Council is embarked on its fourth major cost reduction programme since 2010 known as 'Transformation to 2019' (Tt19). This is likely to require radical and bold solutions to the financial challenge that the Council faces. Within this context charging and trading are likely to be key areas of focus.
- 2.3. In order to put itself in the strongest possible position to capitalise on charging and trading opportunities, Hampshire County Council needs to ensure it employs sound business practices, applying the same standards to itself as it expects from those who work on its behalf. This includes demonstrating a robust commitment to sustainability.
- 2.4. At this stage the County Council does not have a formally adopted Sustainability Policy which demonstrates its commitment and approach to sustainability. The Sustainability and Climate Change pages on Hantsweb

give information on the Council's past work on sustainability and provide links to various relevant areas of work. This information replaced the previous Sustainability Policy and Framework which was based on reporting against the Aalborg commitments. Although this was an appropriate process at the time it was developed, there has been no recent formal reporting against the Aalborg commitments, and the work done since then to embed sustainability throughout the organisation, coupled with current levels of resource available to support this work, means that this approach is no longer fit for purpose.

- 2.5. Therefore it is recommended that the Corporate Sustainability Policy be refreshed to provide a method of demonstrating the Council's continued commitment towards sustainability in a way that is transparent and easily accessible to customers, staff, Members and the wider community, without investing substantial resource into a complex reporting framework.
- 2.6. In addition to demonstrating its continued commitment to sustainability, a refreshed policy will enable the council to celebrate and promote projects that contribute to building a sustainable future for Hampshire, as well as its own aim of being carbon neutral by 2050. Examples include:
 - the installation of a network of Electric Vehicle charge points (seven rapid and five fast charge points) across the County to encourage the take up of low carbon electric vehicles;
 - the successful installation of 23 Solar Photovoltaic systems across the County Council's buildings;
 - Street Lighting improvement programme that has halved street lighting energy consumption since 2010 and
 - an overall reduction in carbon emissions of 35.8% across the estate since 2010.
- 2.7. The recommended Sustainability Policy wording is included in Appendix 1 of this paper.
- 2.8. To ensure the Sustainability Policy is robust, a supporting document outlining how sustainability is embedded within existing policy/strategies from key service areas across the organisation has also been drafted (in Appendix 1 of this paper).

3. Finance

- 3.1. There are limited resource implications involved in adopting a new Sustainability Policy. It is envisaged that it will be a Hantsweb-based self service resource, with some specialist support available from within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.
- 3.2. The Sustainability Policy will require annual review to incorporate any substantial changes to the existing policies/strategies, which is not envisaged to be resource intensive and will not require additional layers of monitoring or performance reporting.

3.3. Service managers across the organisation have been involved in developing the wording in the policy document and have also been canvassed on their views on this concise approach. The general consensus was that the policy would support their service delivery, particularly when bidding for contracts/traded services and that the approach to monitoring was appropriate.

4. Performance

4.1. It is proposed that the new Sustainability Policy wording will be added to Hantsweb and the new approach adopted corporately.

4.2. Arrangements will be put in place for the Sustainability Policy to be reviewed and updated (if applicable) on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current and correct.

5. Other key issues

5.1. In line with the long-term objectives of the Council's Corporate Strategy, the adoption of a corporate sustainability policy will ensure that Hampshire County Council

- is committed to providing efficient and competitive services which deliver economic and social progress
- aims to provide services without compromising the future interests of Hampshire and its communities
- has embedded sustainable principles into key services across the organisation

5.2. To put Hampshire County Council in the strongest possible position to deliver Tt19 and capitalise on charging and trading opportunities, we need to ensure we employ sound business practices.

5.3. In line with most organisations of our size and reach, these practices should include a Corporate Sustainability Policy.

5.4. Given the current and likely future financial landscape in which the Council operates, any Sustainability Policy needs to be resourced efficiently, whilst being robust enough to support the Transformation agenda.

6. Recommendation

6.1. That Cabinet approve the formal adoption of a Corporate Sustainability Policy.

Rpt/ref/CN

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This Policy links a raft of existing HCC policies and strategies which demonstrate the Council's commitment to embedding sustainability in its work, including reducing inequality across the County, an example of this is the Children's and Young People's Plan. The formal adoption of the Policy will help to reinforce and drive future action to tackle inequality.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No impact

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The adoption of a Corporate Sustainability Policy will help to reinforce and drive projects such as the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Energy Strategy

which provide a sustainable, cost effective approach to energy management and consumption.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

To ensure that sustainability of the organisation and services it provides the Council will need to ensure that it is resilient to the impacts of the changing climate. The adoption of a Corporate Sustainability Policy will help to reinforce and drive the incorporation of climate change adaptation measures across the organisation and in the communities it serves.

Sustainability Policy

Sustainability is based on the principle that successful, thriving communities are created by balancing the three key pillars of social, economic and environmental needs. Successful organisations also understand that these pillars are interlinked and equal in importance, and by applying this principle they achieve both profitable growth and positive social impact.

Hampshire County Council is committed to this principle, delivering efficient and competitive services which deliver economic and social progress without compromising the future interests of Hampshire and its communities.

Hampshire County Council has embedded sustainable principles into key services across the organisation. Details can be found in the Supporting Policy Document.

Supporting Policy Document

Sustainability is a central part of decision making across the organisation, and our [Strategic Plan](#) (to be approved by Cabinet in March 2017) outlines our strategy for reshaping our services to create a modern, efficient and resilient organisation for the future. The descriptions and links below outline how the County Council has embedded a sustainable approach throughout the organisation.

Our buildings and estate:

We are working through our [Carbon Management Plan](#) to reduce carbon emissions from our own estate and through our [Strategic Asset Management Plan](#) to ensure that our buildings are energy efficient and renewable energies are used where appropriate and financially viable.

Our [Energy Strategy](#) addresses the three key issues posed by security of supply, affordability and carbon emissions to Hampshire County Council and the communities of Hampshire. By addressing these challenges and opportunities, Hampshire County Council and the communities it serves will continue to be supported by energy in the way we are accustomed to, overcoming the challenges and exploiting the opportunities, in order to maintain and improve current standards. The [Energy Strategy Action Plan](#) aims to deliver high quality and cost effective projects to reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of Hampshire County Council and the wider community.

Contact: Steve Clow, Assistant Director of Property Services

Procurement

We recognise that procurement decisions have major socio-economic and environmental implications, both locally and globally, now and for future generations. Our [Corporate Procurement Strategy](#) helps us promote and deliver sustainability objectives through our procurement activities. We contribute towards carbon reduction targets through the consideration of the costs and benefits of environmentally-friendly goods and services, including minimising 'procurement miles'. We also communicate our sustainability objectives to our suppliers and persuade them to adopt environmentally-friendly processes and supply environmentally-friendly goods and services.

Contact: Holly Humble, Senior Process & Improvement Policy Officer

Education and Families:

Working with partners through our [Children and Young People's Plan](#) we are committed to removing barriers to access, participation and achievement for children and young people, and are taking a sustainable, whole community approach, to make Hampshire an even better place for all children and young people to have the best possible start in life.

Contact: Graham Ferguson, Business Change Manager, Childrens Services

Health and Wellbeing, Social Care and Public Health:

We work with Partners to plan and deliver a sustainable public health and social care system across the county. There is a clear focus on improving health outcomes for local people, reducing inequalities and maximising the future wellbeing of Hampshire residents, including maintaining a sustainable supply of social care. Our [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) is responsible for overseeing this process and works to improve the lives of local people and ensure that partners work together to plan and deliver high quality services.

Contact: Marie-Claire Lobo, Public Health Consultant

Community Resilience

Building resilience is a key part of creating sustainable communities, and many of the services listed in this policy contribute to making stronger, healthy communities with sustainable economies.

Creating resilience to emergency events is a key part of Hampshire County Council's work both internally and within the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum](#) and we work with Hampshire communities to help increase their resilience to emergency situations.

Contact: Ian Hoult, Head of Emergency Planning Resilience, Policy and Governance

Economy:

As well as being a major employer, the County Council has an important role to play in creating the conditions for [Sustainable Growth](#). We aim to do this by working through local partnerships and businesses, equipping the current and future workforce with key skills, encouraging local supply chains and networks and using innovative ways of generating income to pay for new infrastructure. We also have a pivotal role in conserving and using our natural resources more efficiently and balancing [Economic Growth](#) whilst safeguarding Hampshire's environment and quality of life. Our work to increase broadband coverage across the County and projects to create employment opportunities close to people's homes help to create thriving local economics, particularly in rural areas, whilst reducing traffic congestion.

Contact: David Fletcher, Assistant Director Economic Development

Planning and Environment:

Our [Minerals and Waste Plan](#) is based on the principle of delivering sustainable minerals and waste development in Hampshire, ensuring we maintain a reliable supply of minerals and excellent management of our waste, at the right time,

whilst protecting the environment and our communities. Hampshire's [Strategic Infrastructure Statement](#) aims to minimise the risk of a growing infrastructure deficit in Hampshire which is key to ensuring the continued prosperity and sustainability of the county, particularly at this time of major economic challenge.
Contact: Chris Murray, Head of Strategic Planning

Through joint working with our [Project Integra](#) partners, we provide an integrated and flexible solution for dealing with Hampshire's household waste in an environmentally sound, cost effective and reliable way in the best interests of our communities. We now benefit from a suite of waste infrastructure, which, combined with services on the ground and the enthusiastic participation of residents enables waste to be managed in a sustainable manner across Hampshire. Our [Waste Prevention](#) programme aims to engage residents and help them to reduce the amount of waste they generate.
Contact: Sam Horne, Strategic Manager - Waste and Resources

Our role as a [Lead Local Flood Authority](#) means that we work with a range of partners across the region to develop sustainable long term solutions to manage flood risk. These include developing innovative catchment based solutions using the natural flood management, as well as more traditional engineering and maintenance options.
Contact: Clare Mills, Flood Water Manager

Through our [country parks wildlife and heritage sites](#), we provide a wide range of opportunities to visit and enjoy Hampshire's countryside while conserving the quality of our landscape, wildlife and historic places. The County Council works with partner organisations to help improve access to the countryside and green spaces through the delivery of the [Hampshire Countryside Access Plan](#). In addition, the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre in partnership with other organisations also provides a specialist advice and data service which supports the planning system and a variety of projects and initiatives to help ensure that the benefits of [Biodiversity and the Historic Environment](#) are secured and readily available to everyone.
Contact: Jo Heath, Head of Countryside, Nicky Court, Specialist Environmental Services Manager

Transport and Highways:

Our [Local Transport Plan \(2011-2031\)](#) shows how we will improve our transport systems and infrastructure and increase the resilience of our highway network to benefit people living and working in Hampshire and contribute to sustainable economic development. Along with the [My Journey](#) project, the Plan includes actions to improve local travel options, so that public transport, walking and [Cycling](#), on their own or in combination, can provide viable, attractive alternatives to the car. Our [Planned Maintenance](#) schedule continues to make more of Hampshire's roads resilient to the effects of extreme weather and increasingly heavy traffic as part of a long term strategy to 'future-proof' the network, and enables waste prevention by recycling existing road material into highways repairs and new capital schemes. Our highways contracts use local supply chains to

support SMEs where possible and foster social inclusion and increase the skills of our future workforce by offering a range of apprenticeships.

Contact: Colin Taylor, Deputy Director Highways