

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	6 January 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Interim Progress on Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### Purpose of this Report

1. To provide an update interim progress report on the development of a climate change strategy and action plan following the declaration of a climate emergency on 18 July 2019 and the endorsement of the Hampshire 2050 Commissioners Summary report on 23 September 2019.
2. To gain approval for the proposed climate mitigation and resilience targets for the strategy.
3. To highlight some early activity and outcomes including putting forward some proposals for quick wins.

### Recommendations

4. That Cabinet approves the target of carbon neutrality by 2050 for the wider Hampshire area which aligns with national government target.
5. That Cabinet notes the existing target for carbon neutrality by 2050 for the County Council's own estate and approve the inclusion of some wider indirect emissions (see paragraphs 33 &34).
6. That Cabinet approves the target for resilience to plan for impacts of a two-degree Celsius rise in temperature (see paragraphs 40-43).
7. That Cabinet notes that any emerging opportunities to progress delivery against the proposed targets will be expedited and maximised where feasible and affordable.
8. That Cabinet endorses the approach set out in the report for the development of the strategy, action plan and reporting.
9. That Cabinet approves the resource and governance structures set out in the report.
10. That Cabinet approves the proposal to establish a Salix De-carbonisation Fund of £1million to fund a range of energy saving initiatives on the County Council's corporate built estate. The fund will comprise a £500,000 allocation from the remaining £1.1million of County Council funding identified for energy saving

initiatives with match funding of £500,000 from Salix. The £1million to be added to the Policy and Resources Capital Programme.

11. That Cabinet approves a programme of tree and wildflower planting on highways amenity land, which will be funded by ringfencing 100% of capital receipts from the sale of surplus highways land.
12. That Cabinet approves the revocation of the 2013 Executive Member for Policy and Resources Wind Policy prohibiting large wind turbines and wind farm developments on county land as this does not support the principles of the climate change strategy. Any decisions on changes to County Council land use will be subject to the normal approval processes and will be assessed on their own merits.
13. That Cabinet approves the review of all County Council policies and strategies over the next five years, prioritising areas of high impact within the first two years, to take into account the impacts of climate change and to actively contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience.
14. That Cabinet approves the requirement for all decision papers to include an impact assessment on climate change mitigation and resilience (as is currently the case for equalities).

### **Executive Summary**

15. This paper seeks to provide an interim progress report on the development of a climate change strategy and action plan for the County Council, following the climate emergency declaration on 18 July 2019 and the final recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry.
16. This paper provides an overview of the proposed strategy, what it will cover and the key principles it will seek to deliver. An overview of the action plan is also set out including an outline of the activity and how these will be measured, monitored and reported.
17. The report will also highlight some initial activity that has taken place since July 2019 and some proposed early actions for approval.

### **Contextual information**

18. The County Council declared a climate emergency on 18 July 2019 committing “to develop an action plan to provide a meaningful and effective set of measures to ensure that Hampshire moves towards carbon neutrality and greater resilience to the effects of climate change”.
19. On 23 September 2019 the final report of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry was presented to the County Council. Whilst agreeing and delivering the potential actions are a matter for a wide range of partners and other organisations across the County and wider region, the County Council is committed to supporting the overall programme, not least in the area of climate change.
20. To meet the net zero carbon by 2050 target set by government in 2019, and fully respond to the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission, the County Council will

need to ensure that reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and increasing climate resilience of both our own assets and the wider Hampshire area is central to the work of the organisation and embedded within the delivery of key objectives in all departments. To support this a climate change strategy and action plan are being developed.

### Previous Achievements

21. The County Council has been engaged with climate change issues for many years, beginning with the Climate Change Commission of Inquiry in 2007, and has been taking active steps to respond, both in terms of making Hampshire more resilient to the known impacts and mitigating future climate change through reducing carbon emissions. The County Council was an early signatory to the Nottingham Declaration and the Aalborg Commitments as well as the Local Government Association's Climate Local initiative.
22. Hampshire County Council has taken an innovative and long-term approach to reducing carbon emissions from its estate and assets since Cabinet approved a Strategic Plan in July 2010. The original targets set for the Council's buildings, street lighting and business travel at that stage were:
  - a. Phase 1 20% reduction by 2015.
  - b. Phase 2 40% by 2025.
  - c. Carbon Neutral by 2050.
23. Over the last 9 years, a significant reduction of over 43% has been achieved. The first phase target was exceeded, and the second phase target achieved early in 2018 – 7 years early. Members have approved a new stretching target of 50% by 2025. Progress to date would indicate confidence that that can be achieved.
24. Carbon emission reductions of 21,800 tonnes of carbon have been delivered to date – equivalent to planting a forest of trees covering 8,700 acres or 4,300 football pitches.
25. Phase 1 of the Plan achieved energy savings of around £30million including reductions in the school estate. Phase 2 has achieved a further £1.96million in the County Council's corporate estate and street lighting. In addition, a total of nearly £400,000 in Carbon Tax savings has been achieved.
26. The Carbon Reduction programmes have delivered other wider benefits in addition to cost savings including reduced reliance on grid energy and cleaner air quality in the County. Further details can be found in Appendix 1.
27. The Property Services Energy Team has regular engagement with Government departments, the Carbon Trust and the industry advising on best practice and Hampshire is seen as a leading Council in this field. The Team continues to expand its offer to include Partners like Fire and Police as well as Academy Trusts and other local Councils like Southampton City Council.
28. Community schemes such as Insulate Hampshire in 2011/12 and Switch Hampshire 2013/14 engaged with Hampshire residents offering free loft and cavity wall insulation and a collective switching service respectively.
29. The County Council continues to embed climate change adaptation measures and considerations throughout the policies, processes and daily work of the

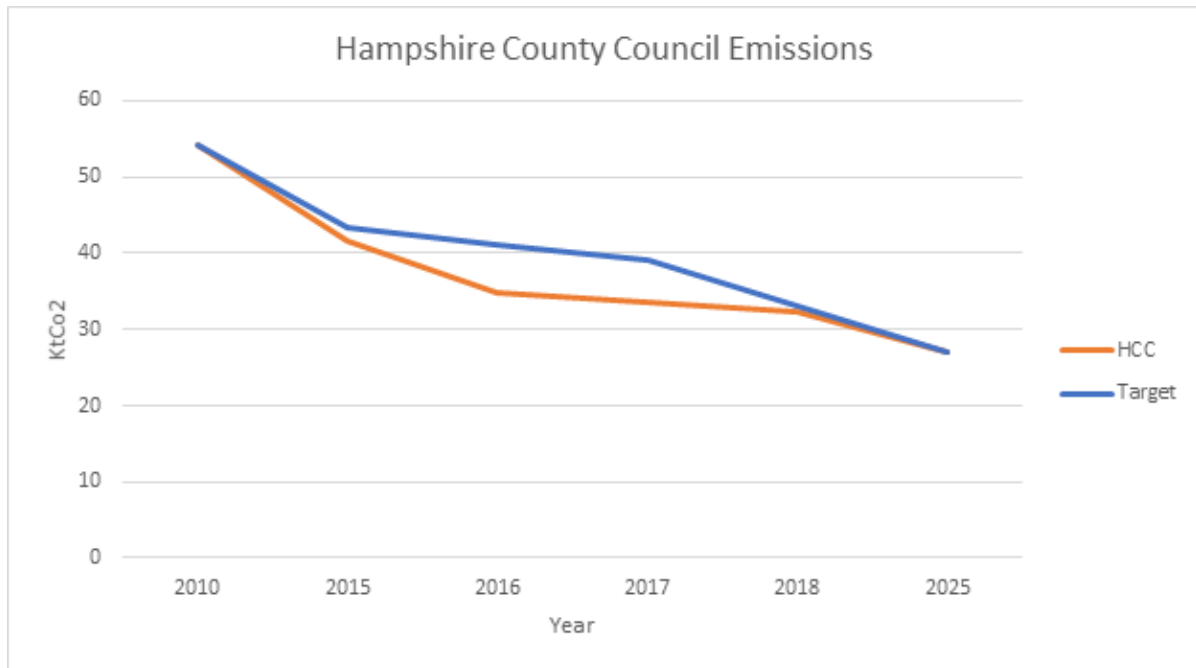
County Council, to ensure that the County Council and its services are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.

30. Achievements to date include key policies and documents which now include adaptation. Examples include the Strategic Asset Management Plan and Corporate Decision-Making Report templates. The County Council has also made adaptation tools available to residents and organisations through its webpages. These include an interactive resilient buildings WebApp, Climate Change Risk Assessment tool and the Performance Acceleration Climate Tool (PACT) which helps assess and improve organisations' capacity to respond to climate change. The County Council also sits on the DEFRA-led Local Adaptation Advisory Panel which, amongst other actions, helped to develop the National Adaptation Programme for the UK.
31. A further £1.1million of investment in Solar PV, EV Infrastructure and battery technology was recommended for approval by the Executive Member Policy and Resources and Cabinet this Autumn. This will ensure the momentum in delivery of work programmes is maintained and includes a proposal to establish a Salix De-Carbonisation Fund of £1million to invest in energy efficiency and carbon reduction initiatives across the County Council's corporate built estate.
32. The work above has largely been undertaken by the CCBS Property Services and Energy Teams and the Strategic Environmental Team in ETE. There are other examples across the County Council of climate change activity, however a step change is required. Mitigating climate change and responding to future impacts cuts across all the County Council departments and services and the emerging strategy and action plan will need to reflect the breadth of response required.

#### Mitigation and Climate Resilience Targets

33. The climate emergency declaration set the intention for the County Council to become carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of climate change. The County Council already has a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 – this covers only the County Council's own assets, which represents less than 1% of the total Hampshire emissions (e.g. energy use, buildings, fleet and streetlighting - see Figure 1 for how this has progress since 2010) and not the emissions generated from delivering our services such as household waste disposal or highways maintenance. There are currently no other targets for mitigation or resilience.

Figure 1

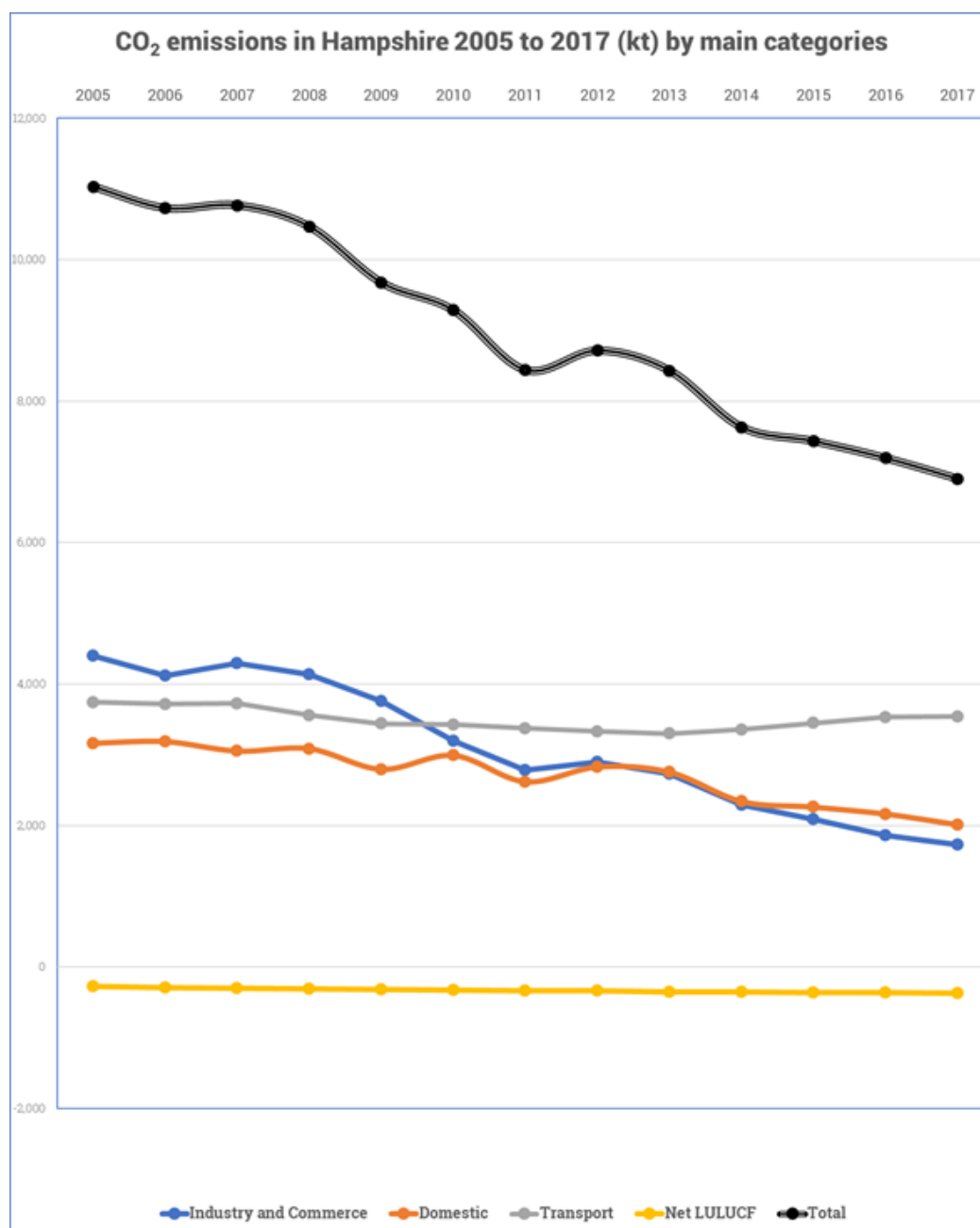


34. It is therefore proposed that the strategy sets a target for the County Council to be carbon neutral by 2050 which will cover all direct and indirect emissions from the activities of the organisation (e.g. fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles, electricity purchased and used by the organisation, business travel, procurement, waste and water).
35. As the climate emergency declaration also pertains to the wider Hampshire area, a complimentary target of carbon neutrality by 2050 is proposed to cover this and which aligns with the national government target.
36. On 12 June 2019 the UK government committed to a UK net zero emissions target by 2050. This target will deliver on the commitment the UK made by signing the Paris Climate Agreement and cover all sectors of the UK. Several policies and pathways are and will continue to be updated to support this target. For example, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) are currently consulting on proposed options to increase the energy efficiency requirements for new homes. The Future Homes Standard will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency by 2025. The Industrial Strategy has set a target, as one of their 'Grand Challenges' for the future, to at least half the energy use of new buildings by 2030. The Environment Bill, which was introduced to Parliament in October 2019, will enable a step-change in environmental protection and recovery. Through the Bill the role of local leaders on tackling environmental issues is bolstered by providing additional powers and flexibilities to deliver action.
37. Aligning with the governments' target is therefore the most effective approach as Hampshire will be able to take advantage of changes in national policies and new initiatives, such as those set out above, that will enable the County Council to take action in areas where it has influence but limited direct control. Overall emissions in Hampshire have been declining slowly for a number of years, mainly due to the phasing out of coal and the closure of key major industrial

installations (for example the closure of the Ford Southampton plant in 2013). It is unlikely however that the recent reductions will continue at the same rate without major further intervention, especially on transport emissions which are now by far the major category of emissions in Hampshire (see Figure 2)

38. It is therefore proposed that any emerging opportunities to progress delivery against the proposed targets will be expedited and maximised where feasible and affordable.

Figure 2



Source Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (N.B. Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF))

39. As a community leader it is also important for the County Council to set this target to unify the ambition for Hampshire and create a nexus around which public and private sector partners and residents can engage and deliver action.

40. Building resilience is the second key component of the County Council's response to climate change. Mitigation and resilience go hand in hand - there's no point building an energy efficient house that could be washed away in a flood. The Environment Agency, for example, is preparing for 4C of warming in planning the UK's flood defences<sup>1</sup>. Though the Paris agreement aims to limit warming to no more than 2C above pre-industrial levels, even in the lowest-emission scenario presented by the UK Climate Projections report (2018), average annual temperatures are expected to be up to 2.3C higher by the end of the century.
41. The impacts of this rise in temperature includes heatwaves, floods, wildfires, increased storminess, rising seas, shifting crop patterns, the spread of disease - all of which will affect Hampshire residents and the ability to effectively deliver the County's services. The economic and social costs of dealing with the aftermath of these events are also substantial. For example, the 2013/14 floods in the Buckskin area of Basingstoke resulted in at least 88 properties being flooded; 80 households were evacuated, leading to displacement, lack of access, and loss of property and valuables, all of which caused residents significant distress. Therefore, it is vital for the future economic and social sustainability of Hampshire that action is taken to build resilience to these impacts in tandem with mitigating them through carbon reduction.
42. To ensure that Hampshire is sufficiently resilient to the impacts of climate change, a target for this is also proposed. Based on the above information it is proposed that a target of preparing for a two degree rise in temperature is set for Hampshire. This will provide a robust level of resilience for residents and services.

### Strategy and Action Plan

43. The strategy will need to be cross-cutting to be effective and it should therefore be developed through cross-departmental engagement, which is already underway.
44. It is also critical that key partners externally including the wider public sector and community groups are also engaged in the development of the strategy and in particular the action plan as they will have direct responsibility for some the actions. This process has also begun.
45. The proposed structure for the strategy will cover both mitigation and resilience, for both the County Council's own assets and operations and the wider Hampshire area (see Figure 3).
46. The strategy will cover all the services within the County Council, placing climate mitigation and resilience as key considerations in all strategies, policies and decision-making. To meet the targets proposed, services will need to consider how they will actively contribute to reducing emissions (including carbon sequestration) and building resilience. It will be essential to ensure that activity is embedded into business as usual and that self-funding/sustainable models are used as much as possible.

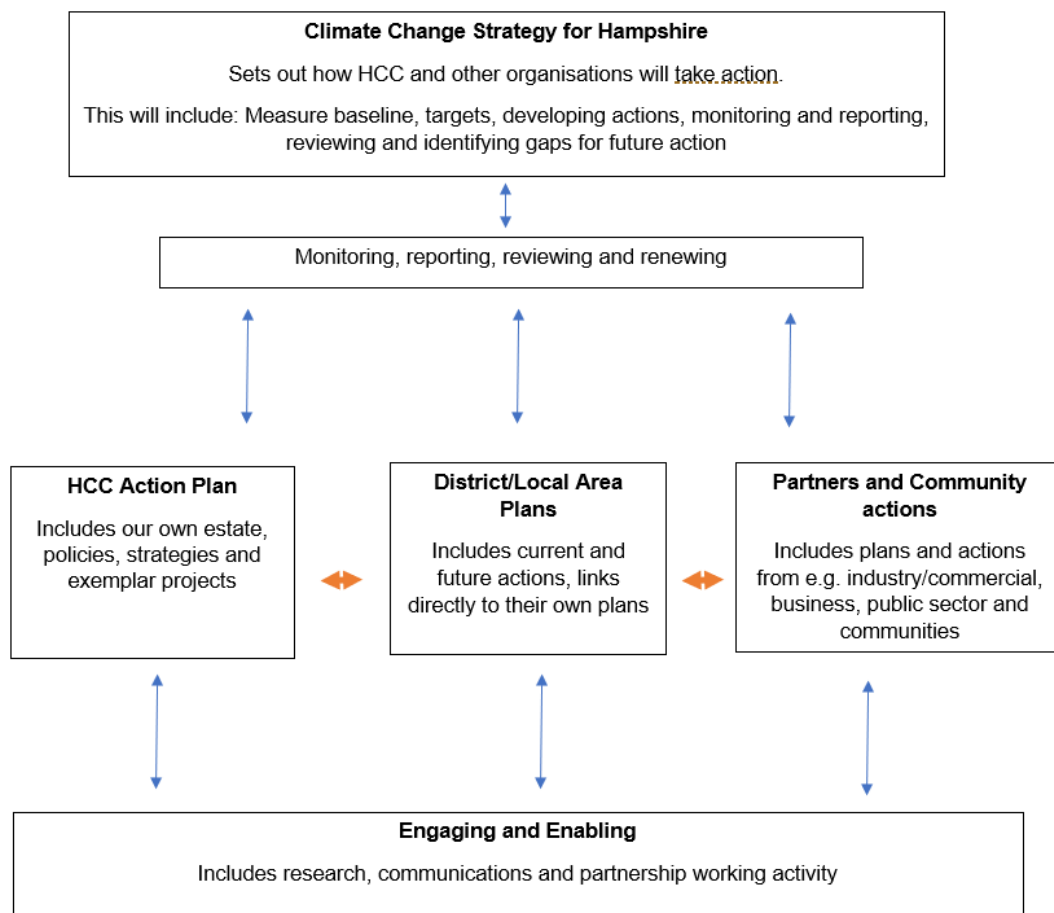
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england>

47. Emissions and resilience across the wider Hampshire area will likely be structured by key themes including for example: built environment; energy; waste management; transport; industry; agriculture, and green spaces. A further section on behaviour and lifestyle changes will also be required.
48. Engagement with external partners and experts will form a critical component of the strategy along with engagement of residents and community groups which has already begun. As the County Council has limited control over a significant proportion of the emissions (see Figure 2) and resilience activity that will be required to meet the targets, responsibility for aspects of the strategy will reside with residents and other bodies such as the wider public sector, industry and businesses.
49. Residents in particular have a key role to play in reducing emissions from their own homes and through lifestyle choices, or as communities taking local action. There are many examples of successful community energy projects demonstrating the ability of communities to take direct action.
50. Ensuring the strategy considers all these elements will require careful engagement during the development of the strategy and action plan and continued partnership working and management during implementation. To provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement a multi-agency governance model is also being developed. This would be made up of relevant professionals, academics and community representatives from a range of organisations across Hampshire and would support and enable climate change action in Hampshire.
51. A dedicated communications strategy will form an integral part of the overall strategy which will cover both internal staff and external partners and communities. The County Council is also interested in the potential to influence and encourage people to make small, easy changes to their everyday behaviours which, cumulatively, have the potential to achieve large scale change across communities. As such, the Climate Change Strategy and Action plan will include the development of measures to influence specific behaviours of residents, staff and organisations. This could include targeted communications and campaign activities, as well as wider interventions. The approach taken will apply tested behaviour change methodologies based on principles of audience profiling and segmentation, behavioural insight, co-design and evidence-based interventions.
52. Opportunities to work with the University of Winchester and their journalism department will also be explored to support the communications work.

Figure 3 is a simple representation of the strategy and action plan.





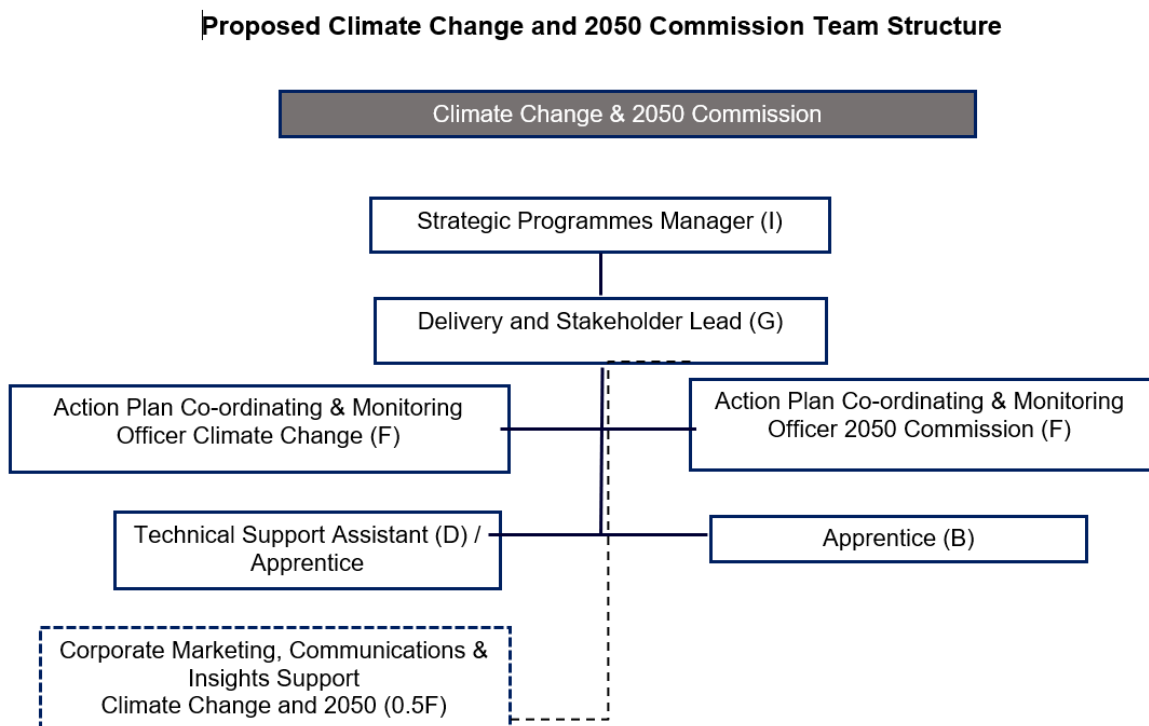
### Measurement & Reporting

53. In order to measure progress against the targets, mechanisms for measurement and reporting will be required. There are several established tools available to support carbon budgeting and reporting which can be accessed. Many Districts and Boroughs have also declared climate emergencies and will also be measuring progress and reporting against their targets. It is therefore proposed that whatever methodology is chosen, it is shared widely with partners, to try and ensure a unified approach, and also to be able to identify gaps and avoid duplication of efforts.
54. There are also existing frameworks and guidelines available which can be adapted to measure the progress of building climate resilience across Hampshire.
55. It is proposed that the strategy initially covers a five-year period with a pathway to 2050, supported by a five-year action plan, with a focus on establishing the key protocols within the first two years. It is also proposed that progress is reported on a 6-monthly basis, with an annual review of both the strategy and the action plan to ensure that they are up to date with the fast pace of change. Appropriate scrutiny will be provided through select committees and Cabinet.

### Resourcing

- 56. The County Council not only declared a climate emergency committing to take action on climate change but also agreed to take on a leadership role in introducing the Commission’s report to potential delivery partners, advocating the commissioner’s conclusions, and preparing a County Council Plan of direct actions to be taken to deliver relevant aspects of the Report.
- 57. The management and implementation of both these areas, in particular ensuring that as far as possible actions taken are embedded into business as usual, enabling cross-departmental working and to avoid duplication, will require an appropriate resource structure.
- 58. A paper is being submitted to the Leader’s Policy and Resources decision day on 14 November 2019 to approve the funding for the team as set out in Figure 4.

Figure 4 The proposed resource structure.



- 59. The team will be responsible for the development, monitoring, implementation and review of the Climate Change and the 2050 Commission strategies and action plans to ensure delivery against the Corporate climate change targets and Commission recommendations. The team will be responsible for establishing the necessary baseline data needed to enable measurement and reporting against these targets and recommendations e.g. carbon budgets and measures of climate resilience.
- 60. The team will also develop and maintain a network of internal and external stakeholders to support the delivery of actions across Hampshire for both the climate change and commission action plans. This will include working with all Hampshire District, Borough, Unitary and Parish Councils. The team will establish specific stakeholder forums e.g. experts, community groups and youth engagement panels; organise and attend events and workshops to support

delivery of the action plans and will represent the County Council at a local, regional and national level.

61. This will foster & maintain expert knowledge and contacts across the wide range of issues to support policy development and action plan delivery. The team will also work with Corporate Communications and Marketing Teams to develop and deliver targeted, behavioural insights led, communications to a range of audiences including residents.
62. The team will provide the resource to ensure central co-ordination to a corporate function. It will depend on each department leading and resourcing their own areas of activity to deliver their elements of the overall action plans.

### Performance

63. Following the climate emergency declaration and the endorsement of the 2050 Commission's recommendations, work has been progressing on the development of the climate change strategy and action plan. This section outlines some those activities and also sets out some proposals for some quick wins.
64. The focus of most the activity to date has been on engaging with key partners. The outcomes/feedback etc. of all the meetings/events outlined below will be incorporated into the emerging strategy and action plan.
65. A number of officer level meetings with District, Borough and Unitary partners and the wider public sector have taken place to begin to discuss priorities, activities, issues and possibilities for joint working on climate change. A desire for the sharing of tools and methodology has come through strongly and the priority areas of planning, transport and engaging with residents have also been identified.
66. A workshop was held for the re-purposed Hampshire Partnership Board now known as the Hampshire 2050 Board on 26 November 2019 on the 2050 Commission with a focus on climate change. The Board consists of Leaders and Chief Executives from all Hampshire Districts, Boroughs and Unitaries, as well as the wider public sector. The workshop asked delegates to identify their top three priorities for action in Hampshire on climate change, what their role might be and who the key players are.
67. Parish Councils will also be engaged in a briefing on 9 January 2020. The briefing will focus on the recommendations of the 2050 Commission, with a specific emphasis on climate change. The aim of the event is to understand their priorities and key issues, and what action they can take within their communities to deliver tangible outcomes.
68. There are many community groups that are actively working on climate change issues in Hampshire, engaging with residents and businesses. An event was held on 22 October 2019 to engage with these groups to map out existing activity, identify gaps and explore how these groups can actively contribute to the strategy and action plan. The event was chaired by Councillor Jan Warwick, the Council's Climate Change Champion.
69. The proposals for a further £1.1million of investment in Solar PV, EV Infrastructure and battery technology, recommended for approval by the Executive Member Policy and Resources and Cabinet this Autumn, included a

proposal to establish a Salix De-Carbonisation Fund of £1million to invest in energy efficiency and carbon reduction initiatives across the County Council's built estate. The fund will comprise a £500,000 allocation from the County Council funding identified previously for energy saving initiatives with match funding of £500,000 from Salix.

70. The proposed De-Carbonisation Fund will provide flexibility to support and respond to changes within the built estate and the opportunity to blend energy and carbon saving works with existing programmes of planned maintenance to deliver comprehensive solutions for the harder to reach buildings in the estate.
71. Use of the Salix De-Carbonisation Fund increases the level of funding available to the County Council to invest in energy saving measures without incurring the additional costs of capital employed. Salix also offers the benefit of a full governance structure and quality assurance process that supports the assessment and selection of investment priorities and provides a level of independent assurance to the work undertaken by the County Council within the wider context of climate change. Further detail on the proposals for the De-Carbonisation Fund are provided at Appendix 2.
72. Given the significant interest in tree planting as part of the response to climate change through carbon sequestration, it is important to establish that tree planting is only one component of carbon reduction through landscape planning and management. A Tree Strategy for the County Council is therefore being developed to bring together all these priorities to ensure a holistic approach is taken. This work will facilitate policies and strategies across the County Council that touch on tree planting/landscape management etc. to be aligned towards shared objectives and outcomes. Engagement with both the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust is also ongoing to support the creation of a "Strategic Alliance" to enable the Tree Strategy to be implemented in the most effective way.
73. One example of a proposed action that would support the work on tree planting is to approve a programme of tree and wildflower planting on highways amenity land, which could be funded by ringfencing 100% of capital receipts from the sale of surplus highways land. This would secure funding for this activity and enable better delivery.
74. Another proposed action would be the revocation of the County Council's Executive Member for Policy and Resources (EMPR) 2013 Wind Policy prohibiting large wind turbines and wind farm developments on county land. The 2013 EMPR decision report makes it clear that the prohibition of wind farms etc. on County Council owned land was in effect for a snapshot in time, and that the position might change in the future. To support the aspirations of the climate emergency declaration it is important that the County Council is actively promoting the use of its land to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change where appropriate. This policy goes against the key principles of the declaration and the emerging strategy and revoking it would send a strong message that the County Council is taking this issue seriously. Any decisions on changes to County Council land use will be subject to the normal approval processes and will be assessed on its own merits. There are many options to reduce carbon and increase Hampshire's climate resilience through land use, for example, other type of renewable energy generation, rewilding or tree

planting, and all relevant issues will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of Hampshire residents.

75. Another key area of activity is the review of key corporate strategies, policies and decisions in light of climate change. It is proposed that all County Council policies and strategies are reviewed over the next 5 years, prioritising areas of high impact within the first two years, to take into account the impacts of climate change and to actively contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience. This would ensure that activity is embedded into business as usual and that self/sustainable funding models are used as much as possible to support delivery. It is critical that the County Council takes this approach to place climate change at the core of its activity.
76. Work has begun to review the Local Transport Plan in light of both climate change and the 2050 Commission. This review provides an opportunity to look at significant issues such as demand management, public transport, use of road space, and appropriate patterns and forms of development that could contribute significantly to both climate mitigation and resilience and the wider 2050 Commission recommendations. A review and update of the County Council's own corporate travel plan is also underway and will seek to minimise the carbon impact from transport whilst balancing this with the efficient operation of council services.
77. The Health and Wellbeing Board Business Plan is also currently being finalised and this will now include climate mitigation and resilience and core principles.
78. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is also being updated. The new strategy will tie up very closely with the climate change agenda as it will cover resilience, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, community support, forward strategic planning of developments and reducing risk in the most vulnerable areas whilst working with partners (e.g. Environment Agency, water companies, blue lights, districts etc).
79. A review of the County Farms Estate policies and procedures is also underway to ensure a sustainable policy that aligns with wider corporate strategic objectives and the need to ensure a viable framework for County Farms service delivery in relation to emerging policies on Brexit, mitigation, climate change and the 2050 Commission.
80. A proposed action that would support the review of strategies and policies is to reinstate the requirement for all decision papers to include an impact assessment on climate mitigation and resilience (as per for example the equalities impact assessment). This is a simple way of demonstrating that as an organisation climate change is a key consideration of every major decision. It will also support a positive shift in planning and delivery of actions across all departments on climate change.
81. Also underway is the development of a suite of reports on the state of the environment, economy and society, providing a baseline from which progress can be measured. Following the outcomes of the 2050 Commission, these reports will establish a robust baseline which will ensure that information is clear and transparent and allow progress to be accurately measured. The environment report will be prioritised to reflect the urgent nature of this work. Data will also be gathered from other organisations to measure progress.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

82. The Climate Change Strategy and accompanying Action Plan will include actions which are likely have both positive and potentially negative impacts on equalities issues. These include, but are not limited to, social justice in terms of carbon and climate resilience and fuel poverty. A key strand of developing the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be to fully assess the potential impacts of the actions and incorporate mitigation measures as necessary. However, as this paper is an interim update on progress, therefore no equalities impacts have been identified.

## **Conclusions**

83. There has been significant progress in the development of a climate change strategy and action plan since the Climate Emergency declaration in July 2019 and the 2050 Commission outcomes reported in September 2019.
84. A clear structure for the strategy and action plan have been developed along with key proposals for targets, measurement and reporting.
85. Engagement both within the County Council and externally has been a clear priority to ensure buy in and active participation and ownership of any targets set. Key events have taken place or are planned to support this with a range of partners including District, Borough and Parish councils as well as the wider public sector and communities.
86. Work has also begun in a number of areas, progressing early activity to support the emerging strategy and action plan including reviewing key County Council strategies and policies, developing a new Tree Strategy and establishing robust data driven baselines for key areas of the environment, economy and society.
87. Approving the recommendations set out in this report will enable the strategy and action to be driven forward and deliver immediate outcomes towards the objectives of the climate emergency and the 2050 Commission.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> Climate Emergency Motion	<u>Date</u> July 2019
Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry	September 2019
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> Climate Change Act	<u>Date</u> 2008
National Adaptation Programme	2018
Environment Bill	2019

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) 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.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The Climate Change Strategy and accompanying Action Plan will include actions which are likely have both positive and potentially negative impacts on persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic. These include, but are not limited to, social justice in terms of carbon and climate resilience and fuel poverty. A key strand of developing the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be to fully assess the potential impacts of the actions and incorporate mitigation measures as necessary. However, as this paper is an interim update on progress, no equalities impacts have been identified.



## **Appendix 1 – Previous Achievements on Hampshire County Council's Carbon and Energy Programme**

1. To date, £6million of up-front capital investment has been committed over the last 9 years; all of which will be paid back through energy savings over a relatively short period of time – typically between 5 and 8 years. This has been committed based on a robust business case in a number of phased Energy Performance Programmes including:
  - a. LED lighting replacement
  - b. Solar PV Installations
  - c. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging procurement and installation
  - d. EV small vehicle fleet replacement
  - e. Insulation and draft-proofing programmes
  - f. Heating improvements through optimisation and controls upgrades
2. Savings have also been achieved by a programme of office accommodation utilisation studies, leading to a 25% reduction in occupation over 10 years as a result of flexible working and transformation of accommodation. A programme of behaviour change – ‘Do your Energy Bit’ – has also been led by Property Services with good contributions from a network of Energy Champions across departments.
3. The funding from the County Council has, in many cases, been topped up by interest free loans from Salix – a Government sponsored initiative to facilitate carbon and energy savings. To date, some £603,640 has been accessed to deliver more programmes and greater scope of works.
4. A further £1.1million of investment in Solar PV, EV Infrastructure and battery technology is recommended for approval by the Executive Member Policy and Resources and Cabinet this Autumn to ensure the momentum in delivery of work programmes is maintained. This includes the proposal to establish a Salix De-Carbonisation Fund of £1million for investment in energy saving and carbon reduction measures across the County Council's corporate built estate as set out in Appendix 2.
5. The original Energy Budget established in 2013 will now be spent. Further funding will be considered as part of the Climate Change Action Plan and the review of Capital priorities in advance of County Council Budget Setting in February 2020.
6. Further details of the excellent progress in achieving success in these programmes are as follows:
7. All streetlights in Hampshire have been converted to modern energy efficient lamps as part of a long term Private Finance Initiative contract. Together with a programme of dimming and switching off, this has achieved a significant reduction of 60% emissions since 2010 – over 15,000 tonnes of carbon. A further outline business case has been undertaken to investigate the feasibility of converting lamps to the latest LED technology. The Director of Economy Transport and Environment has concluded that significant energy

and carbon savings could be achieved by conversion of high energy units on main roads. This will be subject to a revision of the contract with the lighting provider and approval by the Executive Member Economy Transport and Environment.

8. A total of 65 PV Installations on roofs consisting of 31 on corporate buildings and 34 on schools. More is planned subject to approval of further investment referred to above. A detailed business case is currently being drafted for a programme of major Solar PV installations on community schools where the buildings are owned and managed by the Council. The outcome of this and the funding will be considered as part of the Capital Priorities exercise and in the context of the Climate Change Action Plan.
9. A corporate programme of LED lighting replacement has achieved nearly £200,000 of savings to date and more is planned. This is one of the most fruitful initiatives in terms of return on investment and there are further significant savings with further investment in this area.
10. Property Services have procured a Vehicle Charge Point framework that is available to public sector bodies in the central South of England. This is an efficient route to market which gives access to a private sector installer and a bulk-buy discount for those taking part. To date, 39 Councils have signed-up and are active in using the framework to deliver charge points across the region. To date some 297 points have been installed. By the end of 2019 calendar year, the County Council will have a network of 129 points (119 for fleet use and 10 public). Significantly more are planned in future years. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will have the first public charging hub in Hampshire installed using the framework.
11. The provision of charging points goes hand-in-hand with the conversion of the small vehicle fleet to electric. The strategic plan is to replace all 150 plus fossil fuel vehicles with electric on a phased basis as each comes to the end of its lease or purchase arrangement. It is estimated this will save around £240,000 a year on fuel (over 90% of the costs) and will have other benefits including zero emissions and advertising the Councils commitment to greener travel. By the end of the year, the Council will have 39 vehicles in the electric fleet including Highways, Asbestos and Countryside Services.
12. The County Council continues to have a close relationship with schools. The estate is very significant and there have been many opportunities to provide support, advice and technical installations to reduce energy costs. This has included a programme of boiler controls, energy performance programmes and PV installations. Property Services have built up a capacity and technical expertise that is offered to schools on a cost recovery basis. There is mutual benefit beyond the financial ones for both parties. Schools have a particular interest in the educational and community leadership benefits which flow from the Climate Change agenda. Property Services aim to continue to be at the forefront of this engagement with schools which goes beyond energy savings and aims to demonstrate relevance to them in challenging times – reinforcing the 'extended organisation' vision of the County Council.

## Appendix 2 – Salix De-Carbonisation Fund Proposals

1. Salix are the delivery body for the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), providing interest free loans for public sector energy projects. The County Council has used Salix loan arrangements to fund energy saving measures under previous phases of its energy saving programme and officers in Property Services are in regular contact with Salix and the County Council is regarded as a leader in public innovation and investment in energy saving initiatives.
2. Salix is about to launch a revised De-Carbonisation Clean Growth Recycling Fund where an authority provides match funding for a Salix loan to set up a fund which is used to deliver energy saving works. The revenue cost of energy saved is returned to the fund and is re-used to invest in further energy saving opportunities.
3. As part of the County Council's wider carbon and energy reduction programme, it is proposed to establish a Salix De-carbonisation Fund to deliver further energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures across the built estate. This investment will target new opportunities that have arisen following completion of condition improvement works, an increased certainty on the future retention of certain buildings and reduction in the cost of some technologies.
4. The programme will incorporate a range of energy saving measures and will be linked to planned maintenance programmes of work to maximise opportunity to deliver more challenging solutions for energy and carbon reduction whilst improving buildings' operational environment. It is envisaged that the measures included in this programme will include:
  - a. **Solar PV** – A programme of Solar PV across the corporate estate was delivered previously. Further opportunities for PV installations have now arisen due to roof condition improvements and certainty on the retention and future use of some specific buildings. The costs of purchase for Solar PV continues to reduce and schemes previously not viable can now be considered. The Salix De-Carbonisation Fund supports projects with a return on investment period of up to 10 years. Combined with continued reduction of the costs of purchase for Solar PV, schemes that were previously not viable can now be considered.
  - b. **Building Fabric and Heating Improvements** – Incorporating heating controls, thermal insulation and draft proofing improvements into planned maintenance projects has proven a cost effective approach to delivering energy and carbon reductions alongside other positive outcomes.
  - c. **LED Lighting** – A significant programme of LED lighting was undertaken across the corporate estate as part of Energy Performance Programme Phase 4. However a number of buildings were excluded due to operational constraints or uncertainty of future. These will be revisited and combined with planned maintenance programmes to reduce costs and disruption to building users.
5. It is envisaged that repayments from schemes completed in the first years of the programme will be reinvested in the fund to deliver further schemes. The

period over which repayments continue to be reinvested will depend on the opportunities identified across the estate and can be extended or reduced accordingly.

6. Use of the Salix De-carbonisation Fund increases the level of funding available to the County Council to invest in energy saving measures without incurring the additional costs of capital employed. The Salix De-Carbonisation fund also includes the benefit of full a governance structure and quality assurance process including a range of compliance tools that validate assumptions and calculations and an audit programme. These tools provide a valuable resource to support the assessment and selection of investment priorities by Property Services' officers as well as providing a level of independent assurance to the work undertaken by the County Council within the wider context of climate change.
7. The Decarbonisation Fund will help to ensure flexibility is provided to support and respond to changes within the estate which create further carbon reduction and energy saving opportunities using the opportunity to blend energy and carbon saving works with existing programmes of planned maintenance activities to deliver comprehensive solutions for the harder to reach buildings in the estate.