

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	12 October 2021
Title:	Climate Change Annual Report
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on progress on Climate Change over the last 12 months, highlight some examples of best practice and outline the focus for the year ahead.

Recommendation

2. That Cabinet approves the first annual update on progress on Climate Change over the last 12 months (July 2020- July 2021) and agrees the focus for the year ahead on the “Year of Climate Resilience”.

Executive Summary

3. This paper seeks to present the first Annual Report that sets out progress that has been made on climate change over the past 12 months, since the Climate Change Strategy was approved in July 2020.
4. This paper also provides an update on the climate change budget, overall performance (including COVID19 impacts) and the next steps.

Annual Report

5. In July 2020, the Climate Change Strategy was approved by Cabinet, where it was also agreed that an annual report on progress would be presented to Cabinet.
6. The Annual Report (appended) is the first of these and covers progress made between July 2020 and July 2021 on Hampshire-wide emissions and resilience.
7. The Annual Report covers a number of areas of progress as set out below:
Update on progress on embedding climate change across Hampshire County Council. This section covers the work that has been done on the new mandatory Decision Tools, the work of the Climate Change Board, the new

staff e-learning and the new climate change procurement guidance. Highlights of the significant progress made by the CCBS-led internal climate change programme is also provided.

Update on key programmes within the Strategic Framework. The main part of the Cabinet report focuses on the Strategic Framework which was developed to bridge the significant gap between the action plan and meeting the targets set. Progress here highlights the significant work that is taking place in programmes on Residential, Transport, Energy Generation & Distribution, Natural Environment, Waste & Circular Economy, Buildings & Infrastructure and Business & Green Economy. It also includes the addition of a new section to the Strategic Framework on Public Health.

Update on Networks & Partnerships. This section provides an update on the very successful Expert Forum and the achievements it has made. It also covers the considerable activity and collaboration with the County Council's local, regional and national partners and networks, to learn from, share best practice and to promote Hampshire's leadership approach.

Update on Communications & Marketing. This outlines the insights-led behaviour change programmes to engage residents, including campaigns such as "Swap one to Local" designed to coincide with the easing of restrictions and encourage carbon-saving actions that were becoming apparent during lockdown. This part of the report also highlights the Climate Change Website which has been critical to communicating the extensive work being done by the County Council.

Update on progress with the implementation of the Action Plan. This section highlights the wide range of climate change actions taking place across the whole organisation through over 200 actions. It provides some highlights and case studies showcasing best practice on actions and programmes to reduce emissions and build resilience across key sectors in each department. It also provides a brief update on emissions reporting.

8. The 4 Appendices to this report are as follows:
 - Appendix 1 - Infographics of key areas of progress – these Infographics provide summaries of notable progress made in the following areas:
 - Transport emissions & resilience
 - Highways emissions & resilience
 - Environment emissions & resilience
 - Residential emissions & resilience
 - Energy & green economy
 - Engaging with Hampshire Residents
 - Appendix 2 - Annual Report – this is the full annual report that provides detailed updates on progress that has been made on climate change over the past 12 months, since the Climate Change Strategy was approved in July 2020.

- Appendix 3 - Progress on Strategic Framework – provides detailed updates in key programmes on Residential, Transport, Energy Generation & Distribution, Natural Environment, Waste & Circular Economy, Buildings & Infrastructure and Business & Green Economy.
- Appendix 4 - Progress on Action Plan – provides detailed updates on each of the 200+ actions on climate change taking place across the whole organisation.

Finance

9. The Climate Change Team was first funded for 2 years through the Investing in Hampshire Fund from 2020-2022. A further £2million was also allocated to the climate change programme.
10. As the Climate Change team was only funded until 2022, approximately £500,000 was then allocated from the £2 million to fund the climate change team for a further 2 years to 2024 to support the significant activity required to meet the targets. This was agreed at Cabinet in February 2021.
11. To date the £2million has been used to fund a number of projects to support the development of the County Council's Climate Change programmes and implementation of key programmes within the Strategic Framework. Projects funded to date include:
 - the work by the Carbon Trust to establish the baseline emissions for the County area, develop the 2 decision tools, establish the Strategic Framework and accompanying carbon estimates.
 - the four climate change Community projects launched by Cabinet on 14 July 2020 – the Greening Campaign, Hampshire Solar Together, Community Energy Network and The Environment Centre support. To note only Phase 2 of Greening Campaign has had funding and this Phase was only launched in the summer of 2021.
 - the first year of the purchasing of a Corporate “green” electricity through the “Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin” certificate (REGO).
 - a pilot scheme for residential on-street electric vehicle charge-points.
 - a commission with the New Economics Foundation to develop a framework and roadmap for Green Recovery on a whole County basis.
 - Funding the Future Energy Landscape work with University of Southampton.
12. Total agreed allocated expenditure to date for both the projects and staff costs outlined is £1,056,142 leaving a balance of £943,858. See Table 2 for full details.

Table 2 Climate Change Budget

Expenditure of Investing in Hampshire £2 million to date	
Carbon Trust	£98,928
Baseline emissions, action plan, strategic framework, and decision tools	
Community Projects	
Community Energy South	£46,000
iChoosr	£47,000
the Environment Centre	£48,000
The Greening Campaign (Phase 2)	£99,999
Pilots/Demonstration Projects and schemes within HCC	
REGO (first year)	£32,000
EV Charging Pilot	£100,000
University of Southampton	£18,000
Strategic Energy Landscape Review	
New Economics Foundation	£65,000
Development of a Green Recovery framework for Hampshire	
Cabinet agreed staff costs for additional 2 years (February 2021)	£501,215
2022-2024	
Total agreed allocated expenditure to date	£1,056,142
Current Balance	£943,858

Performance

13. Overall considerable progress has been made on the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and Strategic Framework as outlined in this report. The progress is reported from the date the Strategy was adopted (July 2020), but the Strategic Framework, a very significant component, has only been in place since February 2021.
14. Within the Strategic Framework, progress made on transport and residential emissions and resilience in particular has been significant. The LTP4 is making good progress and has already delivered some key outcomes like the transport carbon calculator. As set out in this report, our work with communities across Hampshire through the community projects is progressing extremely successfully despite COVID-19 due to the flexibility

and adaptations made to the projects to quickly enable them to respond to the challenges.

15. A substantial amount of activity has also taken place within the County Council to embed climate change into every aspect of what we do. This has been demonstrated in this report through the work on our Decision Tools, E-learning and Procurement Framework, etc.
16. A lot of work has also been delivered in engaging with our residents and partners, through our networks and partnerships and the very successful insights-led campaigns.

COVID-19

17. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the County Council and its services over the year of reporting. As demonstrated throughout this report, the impacts have been felt across the organisation from Public Health to Waste to our own corporate services and resources. This has led to some inevitable delays to progressing actions to climate change.
18. There have also been some positive outcomes as a result of COVID-19 that have meant that some areas have accelerated. Transport, for example, saw a dramatic reduction in car use but as outlined in previous sections, these behaviours may not be sustained as “normality” returns. Other areas like increased home working, however, indicate the changes are here to stay. Green recovery is another very positive outcome that is now embedded into future economic policies.
19. Digital enabled care and digital communication across Children’s Services and Adults Health and Care has also been accelerated during COVID-19. For example, an Artificial Intelligence driven welfare automated system used across Hampshire to make contact and support 83,000+ people through COVID-19 provided an elegant and efficient link to human call handlers for those people requiring support. This is a great example of the positive side and is being awarded global Public Sector Digital most valued deployment award by Amazon Web Services.
20. Going forward it will be important to understand the implications following COVID-19. Understanding our resident’s appetite for sustaining good behaviours developed will also be key and is already being tested through, for example, new active travel schemes and the Swap one to Local communications campaign.

Programme for Year 2 of delivery – Year of Climate Resilience

21. The Climate Change Committee’s latest report published in June 2021, highlighted how important adaptation is, and how it is currently under prioritised across England.
22. Given its unique position in having a target for climate resilience, this presents an opportunity for the County Council to widely promote its unique approach, what it is doing to build resilience, and to develop some showcase projects in partnership key stakeholders on climate resilience.

23. It is therefore proposed that the focus for the 2nd year of delivery of the County Council's Climate Change work is on a "Year of Climate Resilience".
24. Further work will be done to fully develop the programme to support this focus.
25. Work will also continue to be delivered as set out in the Action Plan and Strategic Framework. Some examples of other areas of activity for the next year could include:
 - Community projects - extending reach and pilots for more Hampshire communities.
 - Work with iChoosr to offer a 2nd Solar Together scheme and a possible energy switching scheme for Hampshire residents.
 - Progress to next steps based on the recommendations from the University of Southampton Energy Landscape work.
 - Implement the recommendations of the NEF Green Recovery work and incorporate findings into the emerging Economic Strategy.
 - Explore the opportunity to develop a joint project on social justice and climate change with the Winchester Institute for Climate and Social Justice at University of Winchester.

Equalities Impact Assessment

26. This decision relates to an annual monitoring report and does not result in any changes to services, so has been assessed as having a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

27. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
28. This report is an annual progress update on both climate change mitigation and resilience, for the Hampshire area and across the whole organisation, and demonstrates that significant action is being taken to address climate change mitigation and resilience. It also demonstrates that climate change is being embedded across all our services and that climate change is a key priority for Hampshire County Council. Carbon savings where possible are provided in the Appendices to the report. Overall, the report shows that significant headway has been made towards the County Council's climate change targets.

Conclusions

29. There has been considerable progress made on actions and programmes to reduce emissions and build resilience despite the significant impact of COVID-19.
30. Climate Change continues to be a top priority for the County Council, and this is reflected in the work set out in this report and the future plans for the second year of implementation.
31. The next annual report for 2021-2022 will include an update on the baseline carbon emissions.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Climate Emergency Motion Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry Climate Change Strategy Climate Change Action Plan Climate Change Strategic Framework	<u>Date</u> June 2019 September 2019 July 2020 September 2020 February 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> Climate Change Act National Adaptation Programme	<u>Date</u> 2008 2018

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.)

<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:

- 2.1. This decision relates to an annual monitoring report and does not result in any changes to services, so has been assessed as having a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.