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# Climate change annual report 2020- 2021



## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 1</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Developing a Strategy, Action Plan and Strategic Framework</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 2</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Ensuring corporate awareness and accountability on climate change</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1 Climate change decision tools .....	6
2.2 Climate change board .....	7
2.3 E-learning and staff briefings .....	7
2.4 Procurement guidance on climate change .....	8
2.5 Policy and Strategy .....	8
2.6 Hampshire County Council's emissions .....	9
<b>Section 3</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Progress on the Framework for Strategic Programmes 2020-2025</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1 Residential emissions and resilience .....	11
3.1.1 <i>The Greening Campaign</i> .....	12
3.1.2 <i>Community energy</i> .....	13
3.1.3 <i>Hampshire Solar Together</i> .....	15
3.1.4 <i>Climate change/sustainability advice</i> .....	15
3.1.5 <i>Government's domestic energy efficiency funding</i> .....	16
3.2 Transport emissions and resilience .....	18
3.2.1 <i>Highways maintenance emissions and resilience</i> .....	21
3.2.2 <i>Micheldever recycling facility</i> .....	23
3.3 Energy generation and distribution .....	23
3.4 Natural environment .....	24
3.5 Waste and circular economy .....	26
3.6 Buildings and infrastructure .....	27
3.6.1 <i>Planning and public health position statement</i> .....	28
3.7 Business and green economy .....	29
3.8 Public health (new) .....	30
<b>Section 4</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Progress on networks and partnerships</b> .....	<b>31</b>
4.1 Expert forum .....	31
4.2 National/regional networks .....	32
4.3 Local partnerships .....	32

<b>Section 5 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Progress on communications and marketing.....</b>	<b>34</b>
5.1 Insights-led behavioural change.....	34
5.1.1 Swap one to local campaign.....	34
5.1.2 Preparing for winter campaign.....	35
5.1.3 Informational adverts.....	35
5.2 Climate change website .....	35
5.3 Climate change identity guidelines.....	36
<b>Section 6 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Summary of progress on the Action Plan 2020-2025.....</b>	<b>37</b>
6.1 Summary.....	37
6.2 Highlights of carbon mitigation actions.....	37
6.2.1 Transport.....	37
6.2.2 Energy.....	38
6.2.3 Waste.....	38
6.2.4 Natural Environment.....	38
6.3 Highlights of resilience actions .....	39
6.3.1 Transport/highways infrastructure .....	39
6.3.2 Buildings and infrastructure.....	39
6.3.3 Natural environment.....	39
6.3.4 Organisational.....	39
6.3.5 Children's' Services – school engagement.....	40
6.4 COVID-19 impacts .....	40
6.5 New actions .....	41
6.6 Completed actions .....	42
6.7 Reporting on emissions reductions .....	42
<b>Section 7 .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Summary and Next Steps .....</b>	<b>43</b>
7.1 Summary.....	43
7.2 COVID-19 .....	43
7.3 Programme for Year 2 of delivery – Year Climate Resilience .....	44
7.4 Conclusions .....	45

## **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on progress that has been made on climate change over the past 12 months, since the Climate Change Strategy was approved in July 2020. The report provides an update on progress on:

- Embedding climate change across Hampshire County Council.
- The implementation of the Action Plan including some highlights and case studies showcasing best practice on actions and programmes to reduce emissions and build resilience across key sectors.
- Detailed updates on key programmes within the Strategic Framework.
- Networks & Partnerships, Communications & Marketing.
- The climate change budget.

The report also sets out the areas of focus for the next 12 months on Climate Resilience.

# Section 1

## Developing a Strategy, Action Plan and Strategic Framework

In June 2019 Hampshire County Council declared a climate emergency and in January 2020, the County Council, uniquely, set two targets for the whole Hampshire area: to be carbon neutral and to build resilience to a 2°C rise in temperature by 2050.

Once the [targets](#) were set it was important that a clear strategic direction was set for the Council and its key partners and stakeholders that provided a comprehensive and integrated approach, drawing together all the key priority areas. The idea was to bring together key projects and programmes like parts of a jigsaw, that worked together, complemented each other, and together created a stronger response to the key issues the Council had prioritised. Some of this work was also internally focussed, making sure the Council held itself accountable and truly embraced climate change across everything it is does.

Before a Strategy could be developed, the Carbon Trust was commissioned to establish our carbon pathway and carbon budget and undertake a climate risk assessment to establish the route map to meeting the targets set.

In July 2020, Cabinet approved Hampshire [County Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025](#), setting out how we are going to meet our targets across our strategic priorities - transport; buildings and infrastructure; residential; energy generation and distribution; natural environment; business and green economy; waste and circular economy. The Strategy outlines our guiding principles, such as equitability and delivering co-benefits, which are a key part of projects and programmes outlined in this report.

An extensive [Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025](#), with over 200 actions across all departments, covering both mitigation and resilience, was also published, with indicators and outcomes set against each action.

Recognising that this extensive action plan would still not be sufficient to meet our targets, a [Framework for Strategic Programmes 2020-2025](#) was also developed. This Framework sets out significant new programmes for action, on each of the strategic priorities addressing key gaps in mitigation and resilience. Projected carbon savings by 2050 for each programme were also developed with the Carbon Trust.

## **Section 2**

### **Ensuring corporate awareness and accountability on climate change**

#### **2.1 Climate change decision tools**

To ensure the Council held itself accountable and truly embraced climate change, the Carbon Trust was also commissioned to support the County Council in developing two ground-breaking decision tools. The outcomes of these climate impact assessments are now a mandatory part of our public-facing key decision reports, ensuring services are working to a common goal – our climate change targets. The tools have also been shared with all the Hampshire District and Borough Councils.

The tools were rolled out corporately on 1st April 2021, following a pilot phase within ETE from January-March 2021. The Climate Change team have worked closely with Democratic Services to update the corporate template, which now includes a climate change impact assessment section for all executive member decisions. Collaborating with democratic link officers from each department has ensured a smooth roll-out across all departments. 14 ETE Decision Day reports took part in the pilot phase, and since the tools were rolled out across the County Council on 1st April 2021, 5 proposals have used the climate change adaptation tool and 3 have also used the carbon mitigation tool.

Inclusion of a climate change impact assessment has enabled report authors to understand both how their decision impacts on climate change, and how climate change will impact upon their decision. For example, the 'Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations' Decision Day report weighed up how carbon emissions could be mitigated through encouraging sustainable travel options of walking and cycling to household waste recycling centres, but also acknowledged how these travel options could result in less bulky items being delivered for recycling.

The 'Woodhouse Meadows Phase 2' Decision Day report, using the Climate Change Adaptation Tool, recognised the vulnerability of the housing development to climate variables, albeit low, such as heavy rainfall and flooding, and sea level rise and coastal flooding due to its location. Alongside increasing awareness of climate change impacts, the tools are key for recognising mitigating/adaptation actions. For the aforementioned report, a site-wide drainage strategy was referenced in response to building resilience to the identified vulnerabilities.

Several of the reports related to strategic decisions which were not applicable for use with the tools. However, the climate change impact assessment has helped report authors to assess where climate change considerations fit within their overall strategy and where they should be assessed in more detail at future stages of their decision. For example, the assessment for the 'Chichester and Langstone Harbours - Natural Capital Plan': stated that "Meeting the challenges of

climate change is a key driver for the development of a long-term plan. It is therefore recognised that work on the plan will be guided by climate change considerations and, in due course, specific elements / interventions of it will be assessed using the decision-making tools or equivalents agreed as part of the governance arrangements.”

Selected case study examples across departments will continue to be added to the Climate Change Tools SharePoint site to facilitate future report authors. Colleagues without decision reports are also being encouraged to utilise the tools from the start of projects to embed climate change resilience and carbon mitigation considerations from the beginning.

## **2.2 Climate change board**

To further support embedding climate change across all services a Climate Change Board was created, chaired by the Director of ETE and with representation from each County Council department. The Board has oversight on the delivery the Strategy and of key projects and actions. Board members are also responsible for disseminating information within their departments on relevant climate change issues, policies, projects etc.

Key areas discussed and proposed at the Climate Change Board have included: Providing steer on the development of the initial Hampshire wide carbon baseline methodology and the early development of the strategic framework of programmes with the Carbon Trust. Proposing the establishment of a cross departmental Emissions Liaisons Group, to progress the County Council’s owned emissions footprint.

Approving and providing oversight to all the climate change projects funded through the Investing in Hampshire £2 million budget allocation. Being kept well informed and providing steer on key work programmes such as the development of LTP4 and the Corporate Procurement Framework. Exploring opportunities to develop further work – for example, Microsoft previously presented on Technology for Sustainability to the Board.

## **2.3 E-learning and staff briefings**

A new E-Learning module was also developed to give Hampshire County Council staff a short introduction to climate change. It provides a quick overview of some of the projects and partnerships that have been developed to support the work, and highlights staff responsibilities in embedding the principles of climate change into their work, as well as where to find further information. So far, 268 staff have completed the e-learning.

The Climate Change team have taken opportunities to provide briefings to staff at various internal meetings such as Lunchtime learning sessions, Departmental Management Meetings and Hampshire Leaders Network events on various

aspects of the climate change work and how staff can get involved. A Climate Change “Yammer” page is also widely used by staff to discuss climate change issues and share ideas and information.

## **2.4 Procurement guidance on climate change**

Our spending power has the potential to significantly reduce carbon emissions, increase resilience and build sustainability in communities and places and maximise other co benefits, whether environmental, social or economic. Our purchasing power and influence will also help stimulate the market, providing certainty on the long-term benefits of investing in and providing more low carbon, resilient goods and services.

The County Council therefore has a responsibility to consider how we can incorporate climate change considerations into our procurement in a way that is proportionate and relevant.

Reducing emissions from our procured goods and services is therefore a new significant part of our climate response. These emissions referred to as Scope 3 emissions (indirect emissions that occur in the value chain) are much more significant than the emissions from our own energy use (i.e., Scope 1 - direct emissions from owned or controlled sources and Scope 2 indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling). To look into this area in more detail and develop a comprehensive response, an Emissions Liaison working group has been formed as a sub-group to the Climate Change Board with relevant representation from across the County Council.

To further support this work, new climate change procurement guidance has been developed and embedded within the Procurement Best Practice Guide. This was launched to all staff in June 2021. The guidance helps staff to understand how to consider climate change when procuring goods or services. Further work on procurement best practice is ongoing with the Climate Change Board.

## **2.5 Policy and Strategy**

In January 2020, the County Council approved an early action to review all key policies and strategies from a climate change perspective as key priority area. Several policies have already been updated such the Local Flood and Water Management Strategy, Air Quality Management Plan, and the Highways Network Resilience Plan. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is currently being updated to include climate change as a key consideration.

The significance of the County Council's commitment to address climate change is reflected both in the new Serving Hampshire Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and its accompanying corporate Performance Management Framework. Securing carbon neutrality and resilience to a two degree rise in temperature has been included as a specific priority for the County Council under its Strategic Plan outcome 'People

in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment'. Working towards securing carbon neutrality for Hampshire by 2050 and becoming resilient to a two degree rise in temperature – leading and collaborating on climate change action, ensuring climate change is embedded into everything we do.

To further embed oversight of the Climate Change strategy in the new Strategic Plan, this annual monitoring report has also formally become an element of the revised corporate performance monitoring framework.

Two new significant strategies are also currently being developed which will have climate change as key priority – an Environment Strategy and Economic Strategy.

## **2.6 Hampshire County Council's Emissions**

This report focuses on the county-wide emissions and resilience activities, however it is worth noting that significant progress has also been made within our own estate emissions and resilience. This work led by CCBS and has a separate reporting cycle (see [Greenhouse gas emissions | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)).

Highlights of actions progressed since July 2020 include:

- Agreed policy change committing to the default approach of replacing cars and small vans in the HCC fleet with Electric vehicles (EVs).
- After initial success with 4 vehicles, Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) pilot expanded to all non-EV fleet vehicles. The pilot could achieve 88% emissions reduction for in-scope vehicles (scheduled to start in August).
- Transition to EVs for the corporate pool car scheme, reducing the fleet from 23 diesel vehicles to 6 electric vehicles.
- Provision of renewable energy added to the energy framework. HCC Corporate Estate obtaining energy from Renewable Energy of Guaranteed Origin (REGO) as of October 2020. Schools continue to sign up.
- Almost £30m secured through Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to deliver a range of energy improvement projects to reduce emissions across corporate and schools' estate. Projects include solar PV installation, window replacements, heating controls, etc.
- Continue LED lighting conversion programme across corporate estate, saving 600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by March 2021.
- Five schools completed the Energy Performance Programme during 20/21. A further 6 schools are lined up for 21-22. Over 1.25 million kWh have been saved as a result of the schools' Energy Performance Programme so far and emissions reductions so far total ~390 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Programme of projects – valued at £1.2m - developed to contribute to climate change objectives across several areas including natural environment, building resilience, education and alternative fuels.

- Engagement and education projects developed to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change at customer-facing sites including trialling menu interventions at Country Parks to encourage a reduction in meat-based food choices.
- Runway's End Outdoor Centre achieved carbon neutral status.

## **Section 3**

### **Progress on the Framework for Strategic Programmes 2020-2025**

The Framework for Strategic Programmes was developed to bridge the significant gap between the Action Plan and meeting the targets set. To tackle the key sources of emissions and build resilience, new significant programmes are needed.

This first iteration of the Framework to 2025 focused initially on transport and residential emissions, as well as energy generation and distribution. In April 2020, influenced by the growing impact of the pandemic on the economy, a Hampshire 2050 workshop was held to discuss Green Recovery. This workshop was the starting point for another programme of activity within the Framework focused on the green economy.

Infographics providing updates on key areas can be found in Appendix 1. Progress across the main programmes is provided below and the full detail is in Appendix 3.

#### **3.1 Residential emissions and resilience**

Through our baseline emissions work we know that residential emissions accounts for almost 25% of the Hampshire area emissions.

In June 2021, the Committee on Climate Change published their annual assessment of UK progress in reducing emissions and biennial assessment of progress in adapting to climate change. They reported that “reducing emissions and adapting to climate change will require a whole-of-society endeavour. Success will require the public to be engaged in the challenge, building public consent for the changes with a broader understanding of what is required and why.”

The County Council recognises that our residents and our communities have a critical role to play in building resilience and reducing emissions in their own homes and through lifestyle choices, or as communities taking local action together. There are many examples across Hampshire of successful community projects demonstrating the ability of communities to take direct action, but there is still more that can be done.

[Community engagement](#) is therefore a key component of our climate change work and significant progress on this has been made this year.

Since July 2020 we have launched four community projects:

- The Greening Campaign

- Building a Community Energy Network
- Freephone Advice Line for Residents on Energy and Sustainability
- Solar Together Bulk Buying Scheme

### **3.1.1 The Greening Campaign**

The Greening Campaign (GC) offers a blueprint for stimulating grassroots community engagement, behaviour change, sustainability, and adaptation to climate change and over the last 12 months the Greening Campaign has provided support and advice to 40 Hampshire communities, despite COVID-19.

The County Council recognised that the relationship between the GC and local councils is critical to its success, and ensures the whole community is engaged and the work is integrated into formal decisions for each communities' future – this is why the model we developed whereby we have linked communities with Town/Parish and District/Borough Councils works well in Hampshire. It is important that communities feel part of something that is being driven by their community leaders and that also offers a supportive and clear framework to work within.

The GC provides support to communities to work through a step-by-step process to change their behaviour in light of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The GC starts with Phase 1 (Community Engagement / behaviour change), whereby households choose several climate change actions from a GC card and subsequently display this in their window. Phase 1 targets very simple actions at the household level, using unique methods designed to ask people to make small behavioural changes, whilst creating momentum for change within their community. This Phase creates a strong community base for further structured action in subsequent phases.

Feedback from communities across Hampshire who are engaging with the first phase of the GC has been overwhelmingly positive which allowed the County Council to launch Phase 2 in June 2021.

Phase 2 is being developed to focus on actions to reduce emissions from households through retrofit, looking at how our natural environment can play a significant role both in mitigating and building resilience to climate change through rewilding and raising awareness on the impacts of climate change on health & wellbeing.

In the last year, the GC has received interest and engaged with 40 groups in Hampshire. Of these, 16 groups are currently active, and 2 groups have completed Phase 1 – and these groups have already outlined their interest to commence Phase 2. The groups are distributed across the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Fareham Borough Council, Hart District Council, Gosport Borough Council, New Forest District Council and Winchester City Council areas.

### **3.1.2 Community energy**

One of the major gaps in Hampshire is the limited amount of renewable energy generated in the County which is currently less than 3%. The opportunity to generate our own energy that is low carbon and local is significant however the path to viable, funded schemes is complicated and not that simple to navigate without extensive experience. Community energy can have a huge impact on the generation of renewable energy, to enable and support this the County Council launched a project with Community Energy South to develop a pathway to community energy in Hampshire.

The Community Energy South (CES) project provides the essential starting point for a county-wide community energy network to grow and develop in a self-sustaining and viable way. This project reacts to local needs and interest in achieving net zero.

To engage with groups and individuals to establish the level of interest in community led energy projects and to find out what plans, ideas and skills were already in place Hampshire, the CES project started with a survey which was sent to approx. 350 groups across Hampshire. The survey was live from mid-September to mid-October 2020 and received 80 responses. The survey results helped to identify five groups for 'first-steps' business development support and aided CES to develop training and guidance to provide support for new groups and projects.

These groups were Energy Alton, Greener Brockenhurst, Hambledon Greening Campaign, Petersfield Climate Action Network & Green Campaign and Sustainable Overton. One further group for first-steps business support will also be selected (currently tbc) from either Burghclere Parish Council, East Hants Climate Change Network and Wood Green Parish.

CES also hosted an online 'Masterclass' on 12 May 2021 to share the training, guidance and best practise across all Hampshire groups. The afternoon session was attended by up to 90 participants and received excellent feedback. The webinar was recorded and remains accessible to all groups, together with CES's monthly masterclasses for the wider community energy sector.

As the final stage of the current project, CES are now working with the most developed group identified for 'first-steps' development, Sustainable Overton, to assist them to take their community projects to the next stage. Sustainable Overton have identified two viable sites for roof mounted Solar PV, have secured Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) funding for feasibility, and are establishing a Community Benefit Society, with a community shares offer, to fund the potential install.

CES will continue to support the group through the technical and feasibility aspects, project financing and financial feasibility, production of a business plan and the establishment of a legal entity. Other frontrunner communities will also be supported as the Sustainable Overton project progresses through the

development of a bespoke 'Kick-Start' mentoring package and sharing of best practise.

Some communities in Hampshire are already further advanced in their climate response. For example, prior to the CES project, and having grown out of the Greening Alton and Holybourne campaign in 2009, Energy Alton, which aims to help people reduce energy costs, increase comfort and wellbeing, reduce fossil fuels and promote renewables became a Community Interest Company in 2014.

Energy Alton offers free home energy surveys, energy-saving and renewable energy workshops, previously run a high street advice centre, offered free loft insulation and installed 10Kw of Solar PV on the roof of Alton library in 2016. Energy Alton are also associated with the wider Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) which brings together people from Alton and surrounding villages to take action to improve biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions from food, transport, energy and purchasing.

As part of their continuing first-steps development with CES, Energy Alton intend to focus on energy saving work, with new group intending to set up a Community Benefit Society, with the aim to install community owned renewable energy.

As a further example, and also being supported by CES, Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN) officially launched on 6 June 2021. PeCAN's aims are to reduce carbon emissions in Petersfield and the surrounding villages, mitigate the effects of climate change on the natural environment and increase biodiversity.

Alongside undertaking a detailed analysis of the group, providing advice and reviewing funding opportunities, CES provided pilot funding for the Petersfield Area Super Homes project, a non-profit service offering tailored whole-home retrofit assessments. Success from the pilot has now helped to establish a longer project in partnership with the National Energy Foundation and Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) to offer subsidised whole home retrofit assessments to local households on a non-profit basis.

With CES's support, PeCAN are also beginning to develop a business plan to advise on the long term need to develop a Community Benefit Society and are providing advice to The Petersfield School Academy to explore a potential solar generation / retrofit project.

Further to continuing to support these communities, it is also important that the County Council uses its limited resources to support those communities that are less advanced to ensure that there is a good spread of action across Hampshire's communities.

### **3.1.3 Hampshire Solar Together**

In March 2021, the County Council together with iChoosr launched the first Solar Together Campaign in Hampshire.

Solar Together Hampshire is a scheme that offers high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. The scheme brings Hampshire homeowners and small-to-medium sized enterprises together, to install solar panels at a competitive price. The County Council partnered with independent and trusted experts, iChoosr, to help make the switch to clean energy as cost effective and easy as possible, helping residents through the process and keeping them informed at every stage.

The County Council sent out 170,000 targeted letters to homeowners across Hampshire who would be most likely to pursue the installation of Solar PV on their property. This was additionally supported with wider communications, in liaison with the Districts and Boroughs, such as press releases and social media, as anyone could register their interest in the scheme.

Registration was open from the 15 February to the 23 March and 8,007 residents registered for the scheme. The supplier auction was then held on the 23 March which resulted in securing a 36% discount across all systems compared to prevailing market rates. 1,436 registrants accepted their Solar PV quotation and 131 accepted their quotation for battery installation. The number of acceptances, representing an approximate conversion rate of 1%, is on target, and as anticipated.

Detailed surveys are now being undertaken by the winning installer and installations are planned to be completed by the end of October 2021.

### **3.1.4 Climate change/sustainability advice**

For the last of the four projects, we have partnered with The Environment Centre (tEC) to provide free, trusted and straightforward advice about climate change and sustainability over the phone and online.

This project is mainly seen as key support for the other community projects, linking with the offered approaches by the GC and CES and iChoosr. The project has also been extremely timely in being able to respond to enquiries around the Government's Green Homes Grant schemes.

To date tEC have responded to 376 telephone calls, have received 688 unique website views and have facilitated wide social media engagement (approx. 55k 'impressions' (views/likes etc.))

The greatest proportion of enquiries were in relation to the Government's Green Homes Grant schemes (308), followed by energy efficiency (224) and renewable energy generation (98), (some calls generate multiple enquiries). Approx. 40% of

both energy efficiency enquiries and renewable energy generation enquiries were subsequently referred for further specialist installation advice.

Moving forwards, tEC plan to dedicate more time towards their digital content and will also look to progress webinar opportunities with the GC, particularly in relation to residential energy efficiency retrofit. tEC will also be working closely with the Energy Hubs to support the roll out of Government funding for retrofit of low-income housing in Hampshire as set out below.

### **3.1.5 Government's domestic energy efficiency funding**

The Conservative manifesto committed £9.2bn to energy efficiency of home and public sector buildings, this included the £2.5bn for the Home Upgrade Grant and £710m for social housing decarbonisation fund. The Sustainable Warmth Strategy (February 2021) further sets out plans to invest a further £60 million to retrofit social housing and £150 million in the Home Upgrade Grant, alongside the £2 billion Green Home Grant.

In July 2020, the Chancellor's Summer Economic Statement announced £2bn of support through the Green Home Grant as part of the Covid-19 recovery stimulus package. The target is to make over 600,000 homes more energy efficiency and support over 100,000 jobs in green construction, cutting carbon emissions and saving households money on their energy bills.

The Green Home Grant was to comprise £1.5 billion of support through the voucher scheme and £500 million of support through the Local Authority deliver (LAD) scheme, of which £200 million was allocated to phase 1 for direct applications from local authorities and £300 million to be administered by the Local Energy Hubs through phase 2. A further £50m was announced for a social housing decarbonisation fund.

In November 2020, the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan allocated a further £320 million, extending the Green Home Voucher scheme to March 2022. The Comprehensive Spending review 2020 has allocated an additional £150m for the Home Upgrade Grant, extended the Green Home Grant voucher scheme with £320m and provided a further £60m to retrofit social housing. It has committed to spending £3bn on building decarbonisation over the course of this parliament.

The Green Home Grant Voucher scheme was scrapped in February 2021, allowing voucher applications to 31<sup>st</sup> March and for works to be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

See Table 1 summary of these funds below.

**Table 1 Summary of Funded Programmes**

<b>Domestic Energy Efficiency Programmes</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
<b>Green Home Grant Voucher Scheme</b>	£2 billion £320 million (extension)	Launched in December 2020 to March 2021, extended to March 2022. Scheme was scrapped in March 2021, with delivery to October 2021)
<b>Green Home Grant LAD1A</b>	£74 million	Launched in August 2020 for delivery to March 2021, extended to June 2021
<b>Green Home Grant LAD1B</b>	£126 million	Launched in November 2020 for delivery to June 2021, extended to September 2021
<b>Green Home Grant LAD2</b>	£300 million	Launched in February 2021 for delivery to December 2021
<b>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund</b>	£50 million £60 million	Demonstrator launched Sept 2020 (2020/21 delivery), phase 2 to launch Autumn 2021 (2022/23 delivery)
<b>Sustainable Warmth</b>	£200 million LAD3 £150 million Home Upgrade Grant	Launched June 2021, delivery January 2022 - March 2023

Government established Energy Hubs to work with public sector organisations and their stakeholders to support the development and financing of local energy projects. The Hubs are funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. There are five local energy hubs across England, and Hampshire is covered by two – the Greater South East (GSEEH) and the South West (SW Hub).

The £300 million LAD Phase 2 scheme is administered by the Local Energy Hubs, unlike LAD Phase 1 it is not a competitive process and the Energy Hubs have allocated funding to their respective local authorities to enable retrofit to be delivered equitably across England. The Energy Hubs were also tasked with increasing capacity and capability in local authorities and the supply chain to enable retrofit to be delivered at scale, to meet this objective some of the Energy Hubs have undertaken regional procurements to enable the delivery of this programme.

The GSEEH received £78.35 million which has been allocated at a local authority level across 17 consortia areas – of which approximately £2 million will be allocated to Hampshire. A procurement was undertaken for Managing Agents, these are delivery organisations with responsibility for strategic approach, the customer journey, installer contracting and compliance.

The SW Energy hub received £52.95 million which has been allocated at a local authority level across 39 areas of which approximately £3.4 million is allocated to Hampshire (not including Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight). A procurement was undertaken for a Delivery Organisation, with responsibility for the end-to-end process including promotion, the customer journey, installer contracting scheduling and compliance.

The SW Energy Hub also launched a capacity grant fund for local authorities providing up to £25,000 per local authority to support their ability to develop and deliver future retrofit programmes. The County Council applied for funding under this grant to support the Parity Projects work (see Green Economy section).

Going forward, the County Council will be supporting the Energy Hubs and Districts to ensure that Government funding is drawn down to all Hampshire Districts to deliver retrofit across the County area.

### **3.2 Transport emissions and resilience**

Transport is a large contributor of CO2 emissions in Hampshire (37%) from mainly vehicle tailpipe emissions, with over 65% of this from private vehicle use, and therefore a key priority area for reduction.

The impacts of climate change places increased pressure on the maintenance and resilience of our transport network, and without suitable adaptation and mitigation will result in more frequent and severe disruption to the movement of people and goods.

The new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) will supersede the current LTP and will form the primary transport policy for Hampshire County Council to 2050.

LTP4 is aiming to reduce transport-related carbon emissions to net zero (neutrality) by 2050 with these key success factors:

- Carbon emissions associated with the use of all transport modes (including the generation of energy to power them) virtually reduced to zero.
- Any remaining carbon emissions are offset by fully sustainable planting or carbon capture.
- Fewer vehicles, with higher levels of usage (to make most efficient use of road space, and energy required to produce and run each vehicle).
- Less travel overall.

Very significant shifts in travel behaviour are required to reduce emissions in this sector. Car use and ownership is currently high in Hampshire. Research suggests that at least a 10% reduction in car mileage will be required to achieve carbon neutrality, even if we wholly switch to electric or hydrogen-fuelled vehicles. Despite more than 30% of commuting trips in Hampshire being less than 5 miles, 65% of these are undertaken by private car. A large proportion of Hampshire residents live in rural and semi-rural areas, where there are fewer opportunities for shorter journeys and large-scale shift to public transport.

The County Council is driving forward this new LTP4 policy framework for all transport activity and planning despite the pandemic. This approach was seen as critical to help Hampshire “build back” to a better future and to respond not just to the pandemic but to the issues that were driving our agendas before the pandemic - achieving carbon neutrality, managing all pollutants from transport, enhancing our biodiversity, supporting a vibrant economy and quality of life and tackling social inequality.

There has been wide engagement, using innovative digital platforms to gain valuable insight from residents, businesses and other stakeholders on what should be in a new LTP4. Based on this feedback, a new policy framework and LTP4 is being drafted. It is an ambitious and transformational approach to transport that at its heart:

- Seeks to reduce our dependency on the private car by making the alternatives better and cheaper.
- Seeks to create a new movement and place framework which puts people first not vehicles particularly where the need to do so is greatest.

It is planned that towards the end of the year, the new LTP4 will be drafted and then consulted on with a view to adoption in early 2022.

During the last 12 months, significant work has taken place on transport including:

- Research to baseline carbon emissions and forecast how carbon emissions from transport will perform against the 5-year budget periods.
- Continued engagement and development on the LTP4.
- Continued to deliver new schemes and programmes targeted at modal shift.
- Declared our intention to develop an enhanced partnership with bus operators and are drafting a bus service improvement plan.
- Responding to the impact of the pandemic which has presented challenges over time and has the potential to disrupt and transform the way we travel.

A Carbon calculator has been developed to understand future emissions from transport. The headlines of this work suggest that national action to ban sales of internal combustion engine vehicles will make a big difference, but it is not enough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Furthermore, national action does not take effect quick enough. This means that local action is needed now to achieve carbon neutrality. Indications are that that key action needs to include measures which:

- Accelerate the take up of clean fuel technologies and encourage use of smaller cars will make a big difference.
- That emissions from HGV remain stubbornly high even in 2050 and there is a need for a new technology solution to be developed.
- That measure to support bus and active travel and living/travelling locally have an important role to play.
- That demand management of some sort may need to be used to incentive alternative modes to the private car.

Modal shift has a critical role to play in reducing transport emissions. Over the last year the size of the transport and highways capital programme has doubled. Many of the schemes delivered have included or been primarily about modal shift. Highlights include:

- A pilot programme of school streets.
- Delivery of multiple pop-up active travel schemes including further enhancements.
- Beginning the design process on the next generation of ambitious walking and cycling project with the ambition that all parts of Hampshire will be covered by Local Cycling and Walking Implementation plans within the next few years.
- Secured funding of £3.4m toward active travel schemes in the last year and will be seeking a similar sum for next.
- Engaged in multiple town centre and high street regeneration proposals.

The Government have set out a new strategy for buses. In line with this the County Council have declared our intention to enter into a more formal contractual partnership with bus operators. This will require the highway authority to do what it can to support the bus sector through enhancing the infrastructure or other measures but on the agreement that operators will also do their bit to make buses, easier and more attractive to use. This will be consolidated in a bus service improvement plan (BSIP) which is currently being drafted.

A key action for the County Council is in speeding up and improving the reliability of buses and this means putting in place new bus priority infrastructure and enforcing it. A project is under development which is looking at the need (where buses are slowed down by other traffic) and business case to enforce bus priority measures.

The pandemic has disrupted what we knew to be the norm. In early stages of lockdown this materialised in less travel overall and more people travelling locally, walking and cycling. The County Council responded to this by implementing measures at over 40 locations which supported the needs to socially distance.

Public transport use has declined to a fraction of its previous levels, and it will take time for customer confidence to return. The County Council has supported the bus and community transport markets during this challenging time to ensure that

after the pandemic there is still a good public transport offer. As a result, most if not all operators have managed to survive the significant drop in patronage.

Now that social distancing restrictions are being relaxed, vehicle traffic levels have returned to pre-Covid levels during the weekday and now significantly exceed previous weekend flows. The nature and timing of trips has changed, and there is a need to adapt to a very different situation. There is no longer a traditional morning peak hour as commuting to work by car has been replaced for many by homeworking. There is anecdotal evidence that the travel we are all making is now more orientated than ever around, leisure, shopping, socialising and holidaying.

If this current trend for greater car dependency continues this would indicate plans for a “green and healthy” recovery will be much harder to deliver. The County Council will be undertaking research to get more data on this and to consider how it may impact on our transport policies and practices going forward.

### **3.2.1 Highways maintenance emissions and resilience**

Building the resilience of our highways is a key programme and will include:

- Identifying and mapping highway assets most at risk from weather fluctuation.
- Identifying appropriate material treatment and/or mitigation measures.
- Identifying appropriate design standards and materials for new capital infrastructure.
- Embedding life cycle and investment planning across all assets to optimise resilience of the network.

A highway resilient network (including assets) is being reviewed and refined. A draft network has been developed and mapped but further work is necessary to identify and locate specific assets or groups of assets on the resilient network that are at risk from severe weather or other disruptive events. A Resilient Network Plan is also being developed that sets out how the specific asset or groups of assets as well as the strategic network should be managed and maintained in the future to mitigate risks. It will also ensure the most critical parts of the highway network will remain open and enable access to key social and economic services and facilities.

Progress is being made on developing existing highway asset data sets to identify required maintenance interventions:

- Highway asset data is continually reviewed, validated and improved on a routine basis to ensure that the data meets business needs. Work is concentrated on assets where data gaps or improvements have been identified or due to their importance in meeting service objectives.
- Significant work has been undertaken for several years to improve drainage inventory and condition data that enable targeted cleansing frequencies and

schedules that ensure the drainage cleansing service is as efficient as possible.

- All urban and rural grass, shrub areas and hedges has now been mapped to ensure cutting frequencies meet safety needs and service objectives. Highway tree mapping and associated data is continually being collected.
- New carriageway surveys have been implemented that collect data to ensure the correct maintenance interventions and treatments are identified and the most cost-effective programmes of work delivered.

Development of existing highway asset data sets has commenced with improved flood hot spot identification. All Drainage data is routinely being collated, validated and improved. Work to implement a new process that accurately records highway flooding incidents on GIS is on-going. This process will also identify and prioritise drainage schemes and be used to develop long-term programmes of work that mitigate severe weather caused by climate change. A trial is proposed later this year to install a number of sensors in various drainage assets to measure depth of water and silt which will improve maintenance interventions as well as help establish pre-emptive attendance and cleansing at high-risk locations.

The technical guidance documents (TGs) are currently being updated. These detail what the adoptable Highway standards are within Hampshire covering all elements of design including footways, cycleways, layout, alignment, materials, construction, equipment, landscaping, lighting, drainage and the maintenance of all these elements. They tie in to existing and developing policy (e.g., material use, commuted sums, carbon reduction, emerging LTP4) to ensure we are constructing low maintenance and resilient highways which are also high quality, sustainable environments for the residents and visitors to Hampshire. By detailing the requirements of the Highway Authority, it is hoped that the TGs will enable HCC and Developers to deliver projects more efficiently and “right first time”, reducing project resource costs, project durations and expediting highway adoption. As live documents, they are designed to be updated easily to reflect new innovations, policies and standards including reflecting where we have undertaken successful trials of new materials/methods to reduce carbon emissions associated with highway construction and maintenance.

A review of the main carriageway and footway construction materials utilised in both maintenance and new infrastructure has commenced and a number of trials have been undertaken using low temperature asphalts and cold recycled materials which have a lower carbon footprint have proved successful. The review of materials and trials will be written up and included in the department’s various guidance documents, live contracts and into the relevant TGs.

A lifecycle model that predicts future condition of our Intelligent Transport Systems (Traffic signals, pedestrian crossing and the like) has now been developed. All major asset groups on the highway now have lifecycle models and these are being used to develop a cross asset prioritisation. The models are used to inform a comprehensive investment planning process that will optimise available funding and maximise the resilience of the highway assets.

### **3.2.2 Micheldever recycling facility**

Recycling operations have formally commenced at the Micheldever recycling facility in February 2021. The operations undertaken at the facility places the County Council at the forefront of sustainable highway construction, providing the means to reprocess and recycle material generated from road repairs, for re-use in road maintenance and new construction, leading to reduced carbon emissions, costs, and travel miles.

The facility aims to deliver a net reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> of around 67,500kg by reducing the use of virgin aggregates, replacing some warm and hot mix traditional asphalts with cold lay materials and reducing the total miles travelled for material supply. The new facility will also reduce waste construction costs by recycling tar bound material which would otherwise require specialist disposal. The recycled material is laid cold which means specialist insulated lorries are not needed to collect and deliver the material, and there is no waste from unused material. The cold recycled road material uses a fifth of the energy of traditional materials and saves 40 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The site itself has also been recycled, having previously been an asphalt plant up until the late 1990s. The depot has been refurbished and brought up to modern environmental standards. The latest technologically advanced plant and equipment has been brought in to produce the recycled products, and a significant amount of material that had previously been stored on the site, over time, has been recycled during construction of the new plant.

### **3.3 Energy generation and distribution**

Energy is a new area of activity for the County Council, and an extremely complex and challenging one.

It is becoming widely recognised that decarbonising national and local energy systems will be crucial to the successful achievement of the County Council's targets at both the national and local levels.

As previously stated, only 3% of Hampshire's energy needs are met by locally produced renewable energy. Local action is therefore essential, particularly where local socio-economic conditions require locally adapted policy and co-ordinated action to ensure local infrastructure resilience and social inclusivity. It is also clear that this would be best achieved through local open energy systems that enable all 'community' stakeholders to participate in a full range of trading opportunities.

Although this will be a significant challenge, it also presents opportunities for local post-COVID 'green' investment, skills capacity growth and wider socio-economic co-benefits such as improved air quality and associated health.

Ensuring that these opportunities are realised through decarbonising national and local energy systems requires a systemic approach to a future energy strategy. To begin this work, the University of Southampton (a member of the Climate Change Expert Forum) were commissioned in June 2021 to undertake a review of the current and future energy landscape for the wider Hampshire area.

The work will focus on developing a gap analysis as a basis for a future-looking energy strategy. This gap analysis will seek to understand where the opportunities might be for local action to:

- Reduce and de-carbonise industrial, commercial, public and residential energy use across the wider Hampshire area.
- Co-ordinate, attract and retain inward investment in sustainable, zero-carbon energy related commercial activity.

There will also be opportunity to explore using these energy related interventions to achieve outcomes and associated co-benefits such as through the Green Recovery Framework and the Hampshire 2050.

The University of Southampton have appointed two supervising professors and an MSc student to undertake this research as part of their dissertation to produce by September 2021:

- A wide-ranging report on the current and future energy landscape for the wider Hampshire area.
- A focused gap analysis and recommendations for future work packages, including the development of a (sustainable) energy strategy for the wider Hampshire area and assessment of the feasibility of a range of local actions the follow from that strategy.

The work being delivered through the Community Energy South project will also contribute towards the work on energy.

Community energy is being recognised as one of the most important ways in which the UK will meet its carbon targets and indications are that the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy will be seeking to prioritise this over the coming years with further support and funding. The County Council's work with Community Energy South and University of Southampton will therefore be very advantageous going forward.

### **3.4 Natural environment**

The natural and built environments face a plethora of opportunities, challenges and changes associated with climate change, and other human pressures, that are interconnected, dynamic and complex. The following paragraphs set out some of the actions that the County Council is taking to address these.

The Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry identified that Hampshire's natural environment is a significant and valued asset, helping Hampshire to be an

attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit. To inform the County Council's understanding of Hampshire's natural environment, a report providing a high-level 'snapshot' of many key elements of Hampshire's natural environment was prepared with input from partners. The resulting State of Hampshire's natural environment was published in September 2020. A second, and complementary, report looking at the condition of Hampshire's built environment is now being prepared and is expected to be completed later this year.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) purpose is to collect, collate and manage information about Hampshire's biodiversity and is responsible for much of the data in the State of Hampshire's natural environment report. Building on the work done by the County Council for its own estate, and based on its habitat maps, HBIC has helped develop the methodology for carbon storage mapping and applied it to District Councils who want this information for their area. So far maps have been completed for Rushmoor and are in production for Eastleigh and East Hampshire. The maps are based on the HBIC habitat maps.

In 2018, the Government released the National Pollinator Strategy Implementation Plan with the aim of creating increased, improved and more joined up, diverse and flower rich high-quality habitats to support pollinators across the country. The County Council has now adopted its own pollinator strategy and action plan and launched the Parish Pollinator Pledge Project to improve awareness and capacity to make improvements to Pollinator Habitat and connectivity amongst parishes and towns. The Parish Pages website has been developed to promote this and other avenues for raising awareness and educating communities and young people are being developed.

The [Hampshire Tree Strategy](#) was published in early 2020 and sets out the key principles that the County Council will follow to achieve the target of planting one million trees by 2050 and how it will work in partnership to further increase tree planting and cover across the County. A review of tree planting opportunities across the HCC rural estate has identified areas for future schemes to assist in the delivery of the Tree Strategy and mitigate for the impacts of Ash Dieback. A Hampshire Tree Strategy Action Plan is now being developed in liaison with the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust and other partners so that delivery of the strategy will link in with current and emerging policies and requirements around environmental net gain and local nature recovery strategies as set out in the Environment Bill and respond to the effects of Ash Dieback. A bid was submitted to the national Local Authority Treescapes Fund in June 2021 to support the implementation of the strategy through local tree planting and natural regeneration initiatives. Further funding opportunities are being explored.

In July 2021, it was agreed that the County Council would develop an Environment Strategy setting out the County Council's environmental principles and priorities in relation to its activities. This is to ensure that there is an overarching, high level framework, covering both the natural and built environments, to provide a consistent, coordinated and coherent framework. The strategy will contribute to the County Council's climate change objectives.

### **3.5 Waste and circular economy**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated changes in public behaviour has had a negative impact in terms of both recycling and landfill diversion performance across Hampshire as residents spent more time at home and disposed of more waste through their kerbside bins. Whilst a proportion of this increase was seen in the recycling stream this was accompanied by an increase in contamination by non-targeted materials and things such as food waste.

Despite these impacts significant work has been undertaken to deliver long term projects that will deliver a step change in performance in terms of waste for Hampshire.

The County Council, working as part of Project Integra Partnership, have undertaken a detailed review of the existing waste collection and disposal service in the context of the forthcoming Environment Bill 2020 to determine what an optimal system would look like. We worked with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and consultants, Wood, to map the existing collection and disposal service and then compare a number of systems based on four key metrics:

- Carbon Impact
- Whole System Cost
- Recycling Performance
- Resource impact

The systems considered were fully co-mingled recycling collections, twin stream recycling (fibre and containers separated) and full kerbside sort with each considered against the current service as the baseline to determine the relative change that can be expected. In addition, separate weekly food waste collections were modelled alongside these options as this service is set to be required to be introduced across all local authority areas as part of the Environment Bill. The output from this work is being brought together in a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy that is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Alongside the major system change work has been on going on our waste prevention programme 'Smart Living' which focuses on ensuring that we push material as far up the waste hierarchy as possible and seek to prevent the waste being created in the first place through interventions, education and communication. This has the greatest impact in terms of performance and carbon benefit as the material does not have to be transported or processed and therefore does not become part of the waste system.

Two key areas of focus for the Smart Living Team are food waste and bulky waste (furniture). In terms of food waste, the team are working on a number of interventions using behavioural insights to encourage residents to reduce the amount of food that they waste as well as working with District and Borough Authorities who are introducing food waste collections to push waste prevention messages alongside service changes for maximum impact.

Bulky waste remains a significant proportion of the 5% of waste that still goes to landfill in Hampshire, and we are working to develop systems to ensure that is captured and reused or repurposed rather than landfilled. This is in conjunction with colleagues in Adult Services and local Hampshire reuse charities to support Hampshire residents who are in need of essential furniture packs and other bulky household items.

### **3.6 Buildings and infrastructure**

Following on from the Hampshire 2050 Commission, work has progressed on the preparation of a framework for guiding the future of Hampshire's built infrastructure and natural environment. The framework is structured around a baseline of 10 key themes: biodiversity; landscape and seascape; water environment, soils, water resources; transport; air, light and noise pollution; minerals and waste; energy; and telecommunications and broadband.

Each focuses on a different aspect of the natural environment or infrastructure network in Hampshire that would benefit from a shared understanding across the Hampshire authorities. From the baseline, several strategic opportunities will be identified which will help to enhance, connect, and create natural environment or infrastructure provision across Hampshire or across county boundaries. Climate change is a cross-cutting theme that is at the heart of the framework and each strategic opportunity will seek to contribute to carbon mitigation, climate adaptation or climate resilience. The framework will be presented digitally, as a StoryMap using GIS, and is expected to be completed by Summer 2021.

The County Council's Climate Strategy has introduced a set of tools to aid decision making and ensure that opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change adaptation are at the forefront of any decisions taken. Whilst the County Council's Climate Strategy is not a material planning consideration, and planning decisions must be in conformity with national and local planning policies, the Strategy has raised the profile of the issue and has identified the need for the County Council's Minerals and Waste Plan, and district Local Plans, to ensure that its policies are robust in terms of addressing climate change mitigation and resilience. To this end, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers' Group has discussed the need for a working group to look at how planning policies can make a positive impact on delivering the aims and objectives of the Climate Strategy. This will focus on planning for sustainable communities and opportunities to deliver improvements to the environment to mitigate climate change, rather than matters that will be covered by changes to the Building Regulations.

The Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan: Partial Update is currently being developed. The Draft Plan will be available for public consultation later this year, subject to approval. The Draft Plan takes into account the Climate Change Declarations and Action Plans made by the Plan-making authorities. This is reflected in an updated Vision and Plan Objectives as well as a strengthened

Climate Change Policy which requires all applications to include a Climate Change Assessment. The Climate Change Assessment will need to demonstrate that the opportunities to mitigate the causes of climate change and to reduce vulnerability and provide resilience have been considered and where possible, incorporated into a proposal. This may be through where it is located, how it is designed (i.e., use of sustainable resources), how it helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or how it facilitates low carbon technology. The Climate Change Assessment must also outline:

- the current carbon baseline at the site.
- the method for measuring carbon emissions associated with the development for the total life of the proposal (including restoration); and
- a commitment to supply the data to the relevant Hampshire Authority for reporting in the Monitoring Report.

### **3.6.1 Planning and public health position statement**

Given the scientific evidence on the causes of obesity, one of the most important public health problems facing our society, improving the built and transport environment is a key factor in tackling wider determinants of health. As a result, the Hampshire Planning and Public Health Position Statement covers various issues that will tackle these issues whilst providing co-benefits to the climate change agenda. The Position Statement includes a range of such points including working collaboratively with District, Borough and Council planning teams to develop ways of working which address public health objectives through the land use planning process.

To further the conversation about Air Quality and to mobilise action with District Council colleagues, HCC Public Health and ETE organised a workshop facilitated by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) in March 2021 regarding Air Quality in Hampshire, attended by transport and spatial/development planners, environmental, and public health officers from across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. Following this workshop, the TCPA made the following recommendations:

- Strengthen the Local Authority Air Quality Subgroup
- Develop a Technical Research Paper on air quality
- Develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on air quality

The focus will now be on actively seeking ways to embed this, through the Air Quality Sub-group, and the potential of a second Air Quality workshop with the purpose of discussing how to action the recommendations.

### **3.7 Business and green economy**

The economic impacts of Covid-19 in communities across the UK, including Hampshire, provide an opportunity for a much-needed revaluation of how our economy works. There is a growing realisation that pre-pandemic, our economy did not serve all parts of our society or environment. There is also a recognition that both climate change and Covid-19 disproportionately affect certain groups in our society. These challenges need to be tackled together, drawing on new thinking which will pave the way for a green economic recovery.

It is against this background that the County Council is seeking to create a distinctive strategy for green economic recovery which seeks to prioritise inclusivity, quality of life and standard of living as critical components for prosperity and economic growth.

The strategy will have a focus on skills (both new and deficits) within the context of the green economy as well as supporting wider socio-economic drivers and benefits. The Committee on Climate Change report of June 2021 highlighted that “workers will need help to develop the required skills and to fill the jobs created during the transition. Businesses must be encouraged, and in some cases required, to invest in solutions and make low-carbon, climate-resilient choices.”

With these core priorities in mind, [Hampshire County Council has partnered with the New Economics Foundation \(NEF\)](#) to create a framework which addresses the economic rationale for addressing climate change, gives clarity on priorities in the current context, and identifies ambitious ideas for delivering this change.

This work is due to be completed in August 2021 and will seek to strike to a balance between high-level strategic thinking and practical implementation within a defined period (e.g., five years). This will build on the ambitions already developed through the vision setting work of the Hampshire 2050, and the council’s Covid-19 recovery and climate change plans. To achieve these outcomes will not only require a different mix of economic interventions, but also more resilient partnerships to deliver on their potential.

This work with the New Economics Foundation will feed directly into the developing Economic Strategy for Hampshire. This Strategy will seek to reinvent Hampshire’s strong economy, that is already knowledge-intensive and talent-driven, to accelerate positive trends towards a greener, more inclusive, clean and digital economic recovery for Hampshire and the country as a whole.

Two priority areas for a green economic recovery have been identified and key stakeholders who have the power to drive the desired changes under each priority will be engaged in “Policy Labs” sessions, where issues and solutions will be discussed, and action plans developed.

The first priority is “Ways to close the skills gaps in construction and housing retrofit in Hampshire”. This focuses on the supply side, looking at how young people can enter the construction workforce and gain the requisite skills to fill the

sector's requirements in the coming years, including in relation to specific skills for decarbonisation work.

The second priority is "Financing the investment needed to address housing deprivation, fuel poverty and emissions from housing in Hampshire". This looks at how finance can be mobilised to address housing deprivation in Hampshire, which is derived from housing in poor condition, lacking central heating, etc. NEF's recent work looking at financing for home retrofit to reduce emissions identified different approaches that may be relevant to the Hampshire context, including:

- Bringing more central government funding into Hampshire to directly pay for housing improvements.
- Making residents aware of the funding open to them to drive higher uptake.
- Encouraging use of existing social housing maintenance budgets to begin retrofitting as far as possible.
- Encouraging use of existing housing association maintenance budgets to begin retrofitting as far as possible.

To support the implementation of the recommendations from NEF around retrofit, financing and skills, the County Council is developing a project to model options to improve the energy and carbon performance of the existing housing stock across all the Hampshire Districts, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight. This would provide an understanding of the Hampshire housing stock in detail, the ability to identify the measures needed and create a detailed installation programme including investment required and skills needed.

This work would be undertaken by a consultancy called Parity Projects, and funding is currently being sought from the Energy Hubs and our local authority partners. If funding is secured this work would be delivered by Autumn 2021.

### **3.8 Public health (new)**

New programmes are being developed to be included within the Strategic Framework on Public Health. Following discussions with the Director of Public Health and the recognition that Public Health is a key cross-cutting area that should sit within the Strategic Framework, the following new programmes have been added, and will be progressed and reported on in future monitoring reports:

- Through the Health and Wellbeing Board, agree joint priorities between partners that both benefit health and mitigate climate change, including air quality, active travel, healthy homes.
- Use a data-driven approach to identify the most significant inequalities in relation to climate change.
- Take a system approach to climate change with the NHS, working through the Integrated Care System's Prevention and Inequalities Board to identify shared priorities.

# Section 4

## Progress on networks and partnerships

### 4.1 Expert forum

In August 2020, a [Climate Change Expert Consultative Forum](#) was held to bring together relevant professionals, academics, and community representatives from a range of organisations across Hampshire to advise on the development and the delivery of the developing Action Plan.

The event also allowed officers to begin to map existing activity across Hampshire, understand the support that community groups can offer in delivering against the Council's priorities and facilitate future working between community groups and with the Council.

Sixty delegates from across 45 Hampshire organisations and groups attended the event and the outcomes helped shape the programmes within the Strategic Framework.

Following the suggestions at this event an Expert Stakeholder Forum was created with representatives from both the whole of the Hampshire geographical area, and those who also have a wide area of focus / remit, to advise the Council on its progress.

Eighteen organisations are now formal members of this Forum, chaired by Councillor Warwick (Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability) including Universities, Utilities, and other Stakeholder organisations.

The Expert Forum provides invaluable opportunity for discussion and challenge on the climate change work. Having an opportunity to hear from these groups about their priorities and any issues that are coming through from their communities is critical. It is also important that as a County Council we provide opportunities for this type of dialogue and engage with groups that often do not have direct access to this organisation. Climate Change is a complex issue that will require behaviour and lifestyle changes and choices, and the Expert Forum provides an excellent opportunity to engage in a meaningful and productive way.

Three meetings of the Forum have taken place since its establishment, and the detailed discussions from these sessions have been captured and circulated. The forum is not just about discussion, below are examples of key outcomes from this Forum:

- The establishment of a data working group that will support the County Council in reviewing the Hampshire wide baseline emissions for 2022. The Terms of Reference for this group has been developed and work on the data analysis is commencing.

- Work with University of Southampton on the energy pathways project as outlined in the update on the Strategic Framework Energy section.
- Emerging work with the Winchester Institute for Climate and Social Justice at the University of Winchester.

## **4.2 National/regional networks**

The County Council continues to engage and work with a wide range of national networks including e.g., the UK100, the County Councils Network, Defra's Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, the South East Climate Alliance and the Association of Directors for Planning, Environment and Transport.

These networks have provided opportunities to showcase the work the County Council is leading on through presentations, blog posts or case studies – to date these have highlighted the Decision Tools, the community projects, and the iChoosr Solar Together scheme. These networks also provide invaluable opportunity to learn from and exchange best practice on key areas such as energy and procurement.

## **4.3 Local partnerships**

[Engagement with our District and Borough partners](#) is critical to ensuring a comprehensive approach to climate change across the Hampshire area. Engagement takes place through sector specific groups (e.g., Project Integra, Tree Officer Group etc.) where climate change is becoming more and more of a focus. There are also a number of other groups where climate change is the one of the main drivers as outlined below.

There are a number of officer-led working groups that meet to collaborate on joint projects and initiatives, and to share actions and best practice on climate change and sustainability. These include:

- Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group – made up of all the Districts, Boroughs and Unitaries including Southampton, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and its main focus is climate change - more recently delivering against the Climate Emergency declarations.
- Public Sector Sustainable Development Group - includes organisations such as Fire Service, NHS, MoD, University of Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth and Solent Universities, national parks and looks at wider sustainability issues.
- Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership - includes energy, sustainability or housing officers from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, Isle of Wight Council, and district councils within Hampshire and is more focused on energy.

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Planning Officers Group Sustainable Design Subgroup – includes representatives from Local Authorities and aims to share best practice, promote, and inform sustainability through planning.

These groups are critical to share information on issues, projects, funding and opportunities for collaboration. For example, Hampshire's approach to the Government's grant funding for retrofit, the implementation of the community projects and targeted communications around key elements of the community projects (e.g., Solar Together) has been shared through these groups. The climate change decision tools and procurement guidance have also been shared with the Districts and Boroughs to use and implement through the Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group.

# Section 5

## Progress on communications and marketing

### 5.1 Insights-led behavioural change

#### 5.1.1 Swap one to local campaign

A significant part of our behavioural change communications to residents continues to be insight-led. The climate change and behavioural insights report produced by the County Council's Insight and Engagement Unit in 2019, reflects findings from surveys and focus group data, indicating Hampshire resident's willingness to perform 23 different carbon-saving actions, including travel, energy use and consumption.

The insights have informed the design and targeting of a social media campaign during the pandemic, 'Swap One To Local'. The idea for the campaign was envisioned to coincide with the easing of restrictions and encourage carbon-saving actions that were becoming apparent during lockdown. It encourages and informs residents on how to swap one action to a local one. This includes swapping one international holiday for a local holiday, swapping one supermarket food shop to a local shop, supplying locally grown produce, and choosing to make the next purchase a second-hand one, rather than brand new.

As the insights report showed that buying more local produce was the action residents surveyed were most willing to perform (78%), this signalled a need to facilitate this and inform residents.

To delve into this further, the subsequent Hampshire Perspectives survey explored choosing local after Covid-19. It revealed that people were interested in buying local food but did not know where to find it. Further, it indicated that younger residents with a low-to-medium risk for Covid-19 were most likely to be seeking holidays, with outdoor relaxation and nature being a high priority.

This enabled the corporate marketing team to effectively target adverts and shape the animations and messaging in a way that most resonated with residents, to encourage easy behavioural changes.

Swap One To Local had two phases of the campaign: targeting 25–34-year-olds with an interest in travel on swapping one holiday on Facebook, Instagram and Google Display; targeting 35+ years with an interest in food on swapping shopping to local produce on Facebook and Instagram. A/B testing was used to compare messaging and creatives, so a further advert combined the local holiday and local produce message.

The swap one holiday performed well creating an impressive 1,821 clicks through to the website in total. The local produce campaign also created a combined 630 clicks through to the website. The local holiday advert had the strongest reach

(113,752), with the Google platform outperforming Facebook. The local produce advert, in comparison reached 46,422.

All adverts directed users to a bespoke landing page with an overview of benefits of swapping habits and showing residents where they can go on holiday locally, find local produce in Hampshire and find second-hand items within local communities or online. The page links to the main climate change site, Visit Hampshire and Hampshire Fayre.

Local produce generated the most on-site users, with over 50% of those that continuing to click on the outbound site (Hampshire Fayre), demonstrating strong engagement. Those coming from the holiday advert stayed on the page longest with an average session of over two minutes. The holiday/food combined advert had the shortest session duration of 13 seconds which was a useful learning from the A/B testing.

### **5.1.2 Preparing for winter campaign**

With the launch of the Environment Centre's freephone advice line, more people working from home and the Covid-19 pandemic causing financial difficulties, a 'preparing for winter' campaign was developed in November 2020 to help residents find easy ways to save money on their energy bills, whilst reducing their carbon footprint. An animated Facebook advert was live for two weeks, reaching 31,568 residents and generating 553 click throughs to the climate change website.

### **5.1.3 Informational adverts**

In July 2020 to coincide with the Cabinet report and launch of the climate change community projects, two animations were produced by the marketing team to inform residents via social media about the County Council's climate change strategy and the community projects. Together they reached 105,064 residents. These videos have also been a useful tool for informing internal staff.

## **5.2 Climate change website**

The [climate change website](#) is continually updated with our progress to provide a resource for the public as well as the County Council staff. The strategy, action plan and strategic framework have dedicated webpages. Altogether, the climate change webpages have received 12,281 unique views from July 2020 to July 2021, with an average view time of 2 minutes 12 seconds.

Other webpages from across the organisation are linked to the website, to demonstrate the work happening across the County Council on climate change, and to provide residents with the resources to act themselves.

### **5.3 Climate change identity guidelines**

Having a clear and distinctive identity for our work on climate change demonstrates the County Council's commitment to climate change and reflects our reputation.

As action on climate change goes beyond the deliverables of the Climate Change Team and is being embedded in everything we do across all departments, this identity also aims to provide guidance to County Council teams where climate change forms a key part of their project objectives. The climate change identity guidelines include a strapline, colour palette, icons, typography and photography styles. This is so far being utilised within communications such as for waste prevention and for the Electric Vehicles Pilot scheme.

# **Section 6**

## **Summary of progress on the Action Plan 2020-2025**

### **6.1 Summary**

The Action Plan captures information on actions taking place across the whole of the County Council on climate mitigation and resilience, with every department represented in the Action Plan. To monitor progress for this report, the climate change team have liaised with the action leads to provide updates on how actions are progressing, what outcomes have been achieved, any changes to the planned actions and to capture any new actions to be included within the Action Plan.

Progress made on the Framework for Strategic Programmes is in Section 3.

There are 237 actions contained within the Action Plan, consisting of 157 carbon mitigation actions and 80 climate change resilience actions.

Progress on the full Action Plan is in Appendix 4.

### **6.2 Highlights of carbon mitigation actions**

Actions within the Carbon Mitigation Action Plan have shown good progress. Below are just a few examples of carbon mitigation actions that are being progressed across the organisation.

Please refer to Section 3 covering progress on the Strategic Framework for details of more significant programmes in areas like Transport, Energy and Environment etc.

#### **6.2.1 Transport**

Phase 1 pilots for the installation of 50 on-street residential electric vehicle charge points in Winchester and Eastleigh have been completed.

£3.28 million was secured from a successful bid to the Government's Active Travel Fund. 16 schemes have been developed. These schemes sought to enable increases in walking and cycling and facilitate social distancing within various urban areas across Hampshire. In Winchester, for example, the range of measures proposed included reallocation of road space and removal/relocation of parking bays to widen footways and create new cycle lanes in addition to the installation of a modal filter.

HCC has secured significant levels of funding from the Government to deliver numerous active travel and bus scheme around Portsmouth and Southampton

from the Transforming Cities Fund. These schemes are aimed at improving the alternatives to the private car which will assist in decarbonising the transport system. There are 10 schemes around Portsmouth and 12 around Southampton that are planned to be delivered by 2023.

'School Streets' pilots, a trial scheme to reduce vehicle travel and test how a healthier environment for young people walking and cycling to school can be practically achieved by creating car-free areas at the start and end of the school day, is being undertaken with 6 schools, with 3 of these having school street closures.

### **6.2.2 Energy**

13,000 streetlights in Hampshire are LED, and contract negotiations are underway with the street lighting service provider to facilitate the replacement of a further ~12,000 high power streetlights with LEDs.

A pilot trial of solar powered streetlights is also underway.

### **6.2.3 Waste**

In January 2021, the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund awarded funding to 15 projects across Hampshire. These included Reusable Nappy Libraries, a Toy Library, a Community Reuse Shop, a mobile Refill Shop and online cookery classes for low-income residents. The continuing impacts of Covid have delayed some projects, however most are now ready to begin full delivery and have already created over 200 volunteer opportunities, logging 2,000 volunteer hours.

Plans are in place to procure both a digital food waste solution and a practical toolkit for residents on waste prevention.

### **6.2.4 Natural Environment**

1351 trees were planted in the 2020/21 season by ETE Arboriculture team.

Stored and annual carbon sequestration figures and habitat mapping are completed for the whole of the Countryside Service Estate which acts as a baseline for habitat management and how adaptation may be applied where appropriate.

## **6.3 Highlights of resilience actions**

Actions on climate change resilience are also progressing well. Below are some examples:

### **6.3.1 Transport/highways infrastructure**

Mapping has started as part of the highways resilient network review, which also includes assets. Development of existing highway asset data sets has commenced with improved flood hot spot identification.

31 operation resilience schemes to improve drainage systems were delivered 2020/21.

### **6.3.2 Buildings and infrastructure**

A Commitment to building capacity for adaptive approaches has been included within Policy 4 of the new Local Flood and Water Management Strategy.

Major flood alleviation schemes at Buckskin, Romsey and Winchester completed. For example, a major scheme designed to reduce the risk of flooding to 170 properties in the Buckskin Area in Basingstoke was completed in December 2020.

### **6.3.3 Natural environment**

1351 trees were planted in the 2020/21 season. Assuming each one of these trees reaches 40cms diameter (an estimated 20 years growth) the 1351 new trees will have absorbed 18,942,688.5 kgs of CO<sub>2</sub>.

New carbon storage mapping, by habitat type, is now available to inform habitat restoration/re-creation proposals.

A Pollinator strategy has been developed and is being implemented. This involves working to increase pollinator habitats in Parishes, enabling them to locate relevant pollinator information online via the Parish Pages which will be made live this year. Additionally, the Countryside Service have launched a tree project which includes a service-wide system to identify possible tree planting locations within the Countryside Service Estate.

### **6.3.4 Organisational**

All tenders issued by County Supplies are now required to include evaluation criteria and key performance indicators relating to sustainability and climate change.

It has been agreed that we can introduce KPIs and contractual terms for our departmental food frameworks to require packaging to be 100% compostable, recyclable or biodegradable by 2025.

### **6.3.5 Children's' Services – school engagement**

An educational initiative about environmental and climate change issues, covering topics from carbon emissions to endangered species, culminated in an art installation, 'Our Climate Change Forest', which was displayed in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral and The Sir Harold Hillier's gardens to represent the voice of children and young people. Specifically, 3000 pupils from across twenty-eight schools in Hampshire embraced the project. The artwork is a series of structures, symbolic of trees and a forest. Children's messages about climate change were also conveyed using QR codes, which are attached to the railings of the cathedral, explaining the meaning behind each sculpture. Many schools also revised their curriculum planning to include opportunities for further climate change work across a range of other subjects.

## **6.4 COVID-19 impacts**

Twenty-five actions have been delayed or paused due to COVID-19, including for example:

- Staff Incentives - the Policy and Reward (P&R) portfolio is agreed at the beginning of each Financial Year, based on organisational needs and anticipated employment legislative changes. During 2020/21 the agreed schedule of work was disrupted due to the impact of COVID-19 with several important actions/initiatives moved to 21/22, meaning that staff incentives proposals linked to the Climate Change will be considered as part of the planning for 2022/23. The proposals will also be reviewed at this point to ensure that they are in line with and supportive of the County Council's future ways of working.
- Delaying conducting risk assessments for closed landfill and waste infrastructure (HWRC's) due to site visit restrictions as a result of the pandemic.
- Within Children's Services, education of staff, families and children about climate change has been impacted by the COVID-19 response but will resume.
- The proposed trial of re-wilding verges did not take place due to the delays and difficulties with COVID-19 last year, however it is still the intention to re-wild some wide verges in East Hampshire as a trail to establish what works are necessary and understand the impacts on the various verge cutting regimes. The areas (exact locations to be agreed and finalised) will be

prepared later this year and into 2022 with the full trial taking place during next calendar year.

COVID-19 has also accelerated actions, such as flexible working and facilitating digital enabled care and digital communication across Children's Services and Adults Health and Care.

## **6.5 New actions**

7 new carbon mitigation actions have also been added to the Action Plan, including:

- Provision of pilot on-street residential electric vehicle charge points, with phase 2 pilots being designed for Aldershot, subject to a funding bid.
- Highways (traffic) avoiding creating future waste products where feasible, such as with the digital residents parking permit scheme to replace paper-based permits.
- £29.3m has been secured from central Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Programme for Hampshire County Council's corporate estate and school buildings, with projects including window replacements, solar PV installation, oil to gas transition, and heating controls.

Looking ahead, Adults Health & Care intends to develop further its strategic approach to carbon mitigation and resilience, building on good progress made to-date, particularly by Public Health and with the NHS. It is likely that this work will commence in earnest in Spring 2022 given the anticipated operational pressures on staff during the winter period. Ahead of this, a desktop review is planned to identify good practice being undertaken outside of Hampshire, and internationally, within the social care sector. Drawing on this information, and informed by wider sources, a workshop will be held with key individuals across the department to develop options for DMT consideration and approval. In so far as possible, this work will be coproduced with key stakeholders, providers and service users. Areas for consideration may include, for example:

- undertaking the planned review of AHC policy, procedures and guidance through the lens of climate mitigation and resilience;
- considering the impact of personalisation on climate mitigation and how to build mitigations into personalised services;
- exploring opportunities through AHC commissioning and procurement activities, and the contribution of providers;
- maximising digital technology to support service users remotely, thereby reducing their carbon footprints, whilst improving independence and access to services - and maintaining human interaction; and
- investing in smart devices as a means of enabling service users, such as those with limited mobility, to reduce energy consumption through analogue control systems.

## **6.6 Completed actions**

Although the majority of the actions in the Action Plan are longer-term or embedded as part of business-as-usual, 6 carbon mitigation actions have been completed, including:

- All public facing electric vehicle charging points being supplied by a 100% renewable energy provider under the Framework agreement.
- Updating the Procurement guidance to include Climate Change considerations.

## **6.7 Reporting on emissions reductions**

This report does not provide a full report on emissions reductions as our emissions baseline update is linked with the national emissions update, and this is done every two years. The next update will be 2022, and we are working with the Data Working Group (see under Expert Forum) to provide an emissions update in 2022.

Reporting on carbon emissions savings from the wide range of activities set out in the Action Plan is extremely challenging and often not possible due to complexity, lack of data and lack of methodology. Work will continue to ensure that where possible, improvements are made to address these issues. It is recognised that this is an issue for all local authorities, and it is something that Government could seek to address by providing a consistent approach. Some professional sectors like waste, for example, are moving towards developing a methodology for quantifying emissions for various waste streams going through different treatment options. These types of developments will support the County Council's ability to report more effectively on emissions.

Reporting on our own emissions (Scope 1-3) can be found here [Greenhouse gas emissions | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Some highlights are provided in this report of achieved or projected carbon savings where available – please also see the Infographics in the Appendices.

# Section 7

## Summary and next steps

### **7.1 Summary**

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **7.2 COVID-19**

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **7.3 Programme for Year 2 of delivery – Year Climate Resilience**

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.

Given our unique position in having a target for climate resilience, this presents an opportunity for the County Council to widely promote our unique approach, what we are doing to build resilience, and to develop some showcase projects in partnership key stakeholders on climate resilience.

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".

Further work will be done to fully develop the programme to support this focus.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **7.4 Conclusions**

There has been considerable progress made on actions and programmes to reduce emissions and build resilience despite the significant impact of COVID-19.

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.

The next annual report for 2021-2022 will include an update on the baseline carbon emissions.