

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Date:	7 November 2022
Title:	Climate Change Annual Report
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on Climate Change activity across the County Council over the last 12 months from July 2021 to July 2022.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability approves the annual report on progress on Climate Change over the last 12 months (July 2021- July 2022), which also includes an update on the Hampshire county-wide baseline emissions.

Executive Summary

3. This paper seeks to present the Annual Report that sets out progress that has been made on climate change over the past 12 months, since the last annual report from July 2021- July 2022.
4. The paper outlines some key highlights of progress across the priority areas for action towards meeting the County Council's climate change targets and also presents the first baseline emissions update for the Hampshire area since 2020.

Contextual information

5. In July 2020, the Climate Change Strategy was approved by Cabinet, where it was also agreed that annual progress reports would be prepared.
6. The Annual Report (appended) is the second of these and covers progress made between July 2021 and July 2022 on Hampshire-wide emissions and resilience.

7. The Annual Report covers a number of areas of progress as set out below:

- Progress on ensuring corporate awareness and accountability on climate change This section covers the work that has been done on supporting staff within the County Council to use the new mandatory Decision Tools, the work of the Climate Change Board, and the Action Plan. Highlights of the progress made by the Culture, Communities and Business Services (CCBS)-led internal climate change programme is also provided.
- Highlights of key programmes in Strategic Framework. This forms the main part of the report and focuses on the Strategic Framework which was developed to bridge the significant gap between the action plan and meeting the targets set. Progress here provides highlights on some of the key priority programmes on Residential, Transport, Energy Generation & Distribution, Green Economy, Natural Environment, Buildings & Infrastructure.
- 2022 Year of Climate Resilience. The County Council declared 2022 the Year of Climate Resilience because it recognises that building climate resilience is crucial, in light of the climate impacts already being felt in Hampshire and around the world such as rising temperatures, increased flooding and more extreme weather events, including the heatwaves of the summer of 2022. This section provides an update on some of the activities underway to support this which includes a new video showcasing ongoing activity across the County Council which can be viewed here: [Why are we acting on climate change? | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/why-are-we-acting-on-climate-change). Work on the Year of Climate Resilience will continue to the end of 2022.
- Progress on Networks and Partnerships This section provides an update on the Expert Forum and also covers the considerable activity and collaboration with the County Council's local, regional and national partners and networks, to learn from, share best practice and to promote Hampshire's leadership approach.
- Progress on Communications and Marketing This outlines the insights-led behaviour change programmes to engage residents, including an information campaign on energy price rises. This part of the report also highlights some key engagement events that took place including for COP26 and the Hampshire 2050 Partnership.

8. There are 4 Appendices to this report, as follows:

- Appendix 1 - Annual Report – this is the full annual report that provides detailed updates on progress that has been made on climate change over the past 12 months between July 2021 – July 2022;
- Appendix A – Baseline Emissions Update Report – this provides the first update on the Hampshire area baseline emissions since 2020. This update is linked with the national emissions update, which is updated every year. Overall, the net county-wide carbon emissions estimates for Hampshire in 2019 were 6,482.93 ktCO₂. This includes -377.14 ktCO₂

accorded to sequestration through land use and represents a reduction of 40.88% since 2005 and 5.13% since 2017;

- Appendix B -Progress on Action Plan – provides detailed updates on each of the 200+ actions on climate change taking place across the whole organisation; and
- Appendix C - Progress on Strategic Framework – provides detailed updates on key programmes including Residential, Energy Generation & Distribution, Green Economy, Transport, Natural Environment etc.

Finance

9. In December 2021, Cabinet agreed to support the County Council's continuing commitment to deliver on its climate targets and proposed to fund the Climate Change Team within the revenue budget on a permanent basis.
10. A one-off budget of £2million was also allocated to the climate change programme to support the significant activity required to meet the targets.
11. Table 1 below sets out a summary of the agreed committed expenditure on projects since the budget was allocated in 2020. This is because a number of projects from 2020 and 2021 are still ongoing.
12. Since July 2021 the climate change team has successfully secured the following grant funding:
 - £30,000 from the South West Energy Hub to support the work by Parity Projects on the analysis of the retrofit needs for the whole of Hampshire's housing stock; and
 - £211,000 from the Community Renewal Fund to support ongoing activity by the Greening Campaign (GC) and Community Energy South (CES).
13. The climate change team was also asked to undertake some consultancy work for New Forest District Council to support it on the development of its climate change action plan.
14. As the Community Renewal Funding (CRF) needed to be spent by October 2022, some of the previously agreed expenditure for CES and the GC will resume after this period and will likely continue into 2023.
15. Other projects will be starting later in 2022 or early in 2023 – e.g., University of Winchester (Supporting rewilding skills for incarcerated men) and University of Southampton (Energy Strategy Evidence Phase One).
16. The remaining budget of £933,983 includes approximately 10-15%

contingencies for each of the projects. This contingency may not be needed but is currently allocated from the budget. Once projects are complete the contingencies, if not used, will be reflected in the updated available budget.

Table 1: Summary Project Committed Budget to March 2023

Agreed allocated expenditure to 3/2021		
Community Energy South	£46,000	Complete
EV Charging Pilot	£100,000	Ongoing
iChoosr (Solar Together Round One)	£47,000	Complete
New Economics Foundation (Green Economic Recovery)	£65,000	Complete
REGO (first year)	£32,000	Complete
The Carbon Trust (Baseline Data)	£98,928	Complete
the Environment Centre (Telephone and Online Support)	£48,000	Ongoing
Subtotal	£436,928	
Agreed allocated expenditure 4/2021 - 3/2023		
University of Southampton (Energy Landscape)	£18,000	Complete
Greening Campaign (Phase One)	£99,999	Ongoing
Parity Projects (Household-level Energy Efficiency Mapping)	£45,000	Complete
the Environment Centre (Website)	£24,000	Ongoing
University of Winchester (Supporting rewilding skills for incarcerated men)	£37,000	Due late 2022 / early 2023
Community Energy South (CRF Funded)	£100,750	Ongoing
Greening Campaign (CRF Funded)	£97,000	Ongoing
Parity Projects (Retrofit Programme Development)	£60,000	Ongoing
University of Southampton (Energy Strategy Evidence Phase One)	£130,000	Due late 2022 / early 2023
Revolving Community Energy Fund (Allocated for investment)	£250,000	Ongoing
Subtotal	£861,749	
Other Expenses (Marketing/Events etc.)	£13,020	
Total Expenditure	£1,311,697	
Income		

SW Energy Hub (Offsets Parity Projects Phase One)	(£30,680)	
District Contributions (Offsets Parity Projects Phase One)	(£4,000)	
Community Renewal Fund (Offsets CRF Funded Projects)	(£211,000)	
Solar Together Referral Fees (Offsets iChoosr)	TBC	
Subtotal	(£245,680)	
Current available balance	£933,983	

Performance and Next Steps

17. Overall considerable progress has been made on the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and Strategic Framework as outlined in the annual report.
18. Within the Strategic Framework, significant progress has been made on developing the energy programme with a strong evidence base now in place.
19. A lot of work has also been delivered in engaging with residents and partners, through the community projects, networks and partnerships and the very successful insights-led campaigns.
20. Based on the research and analysis undertaken over the last 12 months the key areas identified as priorities going forward are energy, behaviour change and resilience;
 - develop an energy strategy that can provide the framework for future generations, including distribution; efficiency; guidance for future programmes and investments by all key stakeholders in the Hampshire area to meet the Net Zero target;
 - develop a Hampshire-wide approach to retrofit;
 - continue to support communities in Hampshire to engage on energy issues from efficiency to local community renewable energy generation through existing programmes like Community Energy South Pathways and Solar Together;
 - develop a better understanding of the commercial opportunities available through Green Finance;
 - continue to deliver outcomes and raise awareness during the Year of Climate Resilience;
 - continue to work with the Greening Campaign and Community Energy South to deliver on-the-ground actions to support residents to make lifestyle and behaviour changes;

- continue to deliver Solar Together schemes to support residents to install Solar PV at no cost to the County Council helping them make lifestyle choices that build their energy resilience;
- explore new and innovative funding opportunities; and
- continue to deliver targeted insight-led communications and marketing campaigns.

Consultation and Equalities

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

Climate Change Impact Assessments

22. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

Climate Change Adaptation

23. This report is an annual progress update on both climate change mitigation and resilience, for the Hampshire area and across the whole organisation. Therefore, even though the tools were not applicable, the report demonstrates that significant action is being taken to address climate change mitigation and resilience. With 2022 being declared the Year of Climate Resilience more work has been undertaken to identify actions on resilience and showcase them to different audiences. Overall good progress on resilience is being made across the authority.

Carbon Mitigation

24. This report is an annual progress update on both climate change mitigation and resilience, for the Hampshire area and across the whole organisation, and demonstrates that significant action is being taken to address climate change mitigation and resilience. It also demonstrates that climate change is being embedded across all our services and that climate change is a key priority for Hampshire County Council. An updated baseline emissions report for the Hampshire area emissions is included. The latest baseline figures were taken from 2019, due to a two-year lag between the recording of emissions and publication. The baseline shows that the carbon dioxide emission estimates for Hampshire were 6,482.92 ktCO₂. This represents a reduction of 5.13% since 2017. Overall, the report shows that significant

headway has been made towards the County Council's climate change targets.

Conclusions

25. Progress made on energy and residential emissions in particular has been significant over the last 12 months and this work has helped build a robust evidence base to support the development of a clear programme for energy, as a major priority area.
26. The work underway to develop a county-wide retrofit programme is a very important step towards tackling one of the highest emission sources and also to support residents through the energy prices and cost of living crisis.
27. Continuing to engage and support residents on behaviour and lifestyle changes has been another focus area for the last 12 months.
28. Delivering insight-led communications and marketing campaigns and events have also been a key priority.
29. July 2022 was just over halfway through the Year of Climate Resilience, and to date a lot of the evidence gathering has helped showcase resilience to a range of audiences. The resilience videos are an innovative and compelling tool that will help to raise awareness of how to build resilience and how important it is to our future. Further work on resilience will be taking place during the rest of 2022.
30. In 2023 there will need to be a stronger focus on inequality. This aligns with pressures on all services and the energy and cost of living crisis. It will be important to ensure that the most deprived and vulnerable members of our community do not inevitably become the most impacted.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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

Other Significant Links

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

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

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

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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

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

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

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

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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