

8 December 2023

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Councillor Roz Chadd, Deputy Leader
Hampshire County Council

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Dear Leader and Deputy Leader

Climate Change Annual Report

I am writing on behalf of the Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee, who on 30 November had the opportunity to scrutinise the *Climate Change Annual Report 2022-2023*. The Select Committee welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise this report and noted their thanks to officers on the clarity and thoroughness of the work undertaken.

The Select Committee had a detailed and rich discussion on the papers before us, and I am writing to you to ensure that Cabinet are apprised of the significant points of discussion in advance of your decision on the report.

Key areas of discussion included:

i) Acknowledgement of breadth and depth of work

Opening remarks from several committee members focussed on the high quality and extensive nature of the work detailed in the report and the committee commended the efforts of everyone involved.

ii) Retrofit

It was recognised by the committee that retrofit is both a huge challenge and a huge opportunity for our residents, businesses and communities, with residents keen to improve their homes but unsure about how to go about it and where to start. The approach currently being taken by the County Council was welcomed, recognising the importance of partnership working and private investment alongside grant schemes available from central government. It was also noted that retrofit can often be a confusing and complex landscape for residents to navigate, and the committee reflected on the importance of signposting to experts, such as the Environment Centre, as well as the important work our Trading Standards teams play in ensuring our residents can buy with confidence. Finally, it was noted that the nuances of messaging to engage with residents in different situations (financial or otherwise) was an important approach to continue developing.

iii) Embedding/Member Engagement

The committee noted the work over the past 12 months to embed the detailed climate change action plan into the accountability of wider organisation. The importance of remaining accountable, both as senior managers and as a public body was recognised, and the role of Members was noted. The approach to embedding climate change thinking set out in the report was commended and the desire to ensure climate change was considered throughout the organisation including with Members was welcomed.

It was requested that an all Member Briefing on climate change would be organised in 2024.

iv) Resilience

It was acknowledged that declaring 2022 as the Year of Climate Resilience was an important step in raising the profile of climate resilience and our target to be resilient to a two-degree rise in average temperatures by 2050. It was noted that Hampshire is already experiencing the effects of climate change and that there is an increasing awareness of the need to embed resilience into our activities, as well as supporting our residents.

v) Youth Engagement

The committee recognised that young people will face the greatest impacts of climate change in their lifetimes and that engaging with young people on this topic must be done with sensitivity. Ensuring that our engagement is focussed on listening to young people and involving them in our efforts to combat climate change rather than merely burdening them with the problem will be crucial.

vi) Future Considerations

Several areas not covered in the report were suggested as future considerations. These included, sustainable farming and food production, blue infrastructure and the blue economy, rental properties and leaseholder flats.

Officers welcomed this feedback and committed to ensure that future annual reports provide this more holistic approach.

On behalf of the Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee, I would like to thank Cabinet for its consideration of the matters raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jonathan Glen
Chairman of Hampshire 2050, Corporate Services and Resources Select Committee