

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	9 February 2021
Title:	Climate Change Work Programme 2021-2025
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. To update the Cabinet on the latest position on reducing UK emissions following the publication by Government of the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and the publication by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) of the 6th Carbon Budget - the next phase in the transition of the UK to net zero by 2050.
2. To present to Cabinet for approval the climate change work programme 2020-2025 for the key areas of the Strategic Framework that will help to deliver the climate change targets set by the Council (Appendix 1).
3. To present to Cabinet for approval the proposals for the allocation of the climate change budget to support the ongoing delivery of the climate change activity.
4. To update Cabinet on the ETE pilot of the two decision-making tools to assess the impact of decisions on carbon emissions and on resilience to climate change.
5. To update Cabinet on key areas of activity since September 2020 on climate change across the organisation.

Recommendations

6. That Cabinet approves the climate change work programme 2020-2025 for the key areas of the Strategic Framework as set out in Appendix 1.
7. That Cabinet approves the proposals for the allocation of the climate change budget to support the ongoing delivery of the climate change activity as set out in this report.
8. That Cabinet notes the key areas of activity since September 2020 on climate change across the organisation.

Executive Summary

9. This paper seeks to set out the work programme for 2020-2025 in line with the Strategic Framework agreed by Cabinet in September 2020. This work programmes sets out significant new areas for action to help the Council meet its 2050 targets.

10. Following completion of the climate change strategic framework and action plan, consideration of the proposed work programme (2020-2025) will mark the end of the first developmental phase of the County Council's Climate Emergency response. In the next phase the emphasis will need to move to delivery, and to encompass reducing emissions for wider Hampshire, rather than the County Council itself.
11. As previously agreed, climate change actions and responsibilities will sit with mainstream programmes of work and activity across the County Council, such as transport or economic development, but the focus of the corporate Climate Change team and budget will be the delivery of the work programme for residential emissions and energy generation and distribution, as these key areas do not sit within existing services within the County Council. The Climate Change team will also be responsible for work on the overall co-ordination, reporting and monitoring of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
12. This report sets how it is proposed to utilise the current climate change budget to support the ongoing delivery of the work programme and to outline what the budget has funded to date.
13. Significant activity on Climate Change is taking places across the Council, the full detailed extent of which is not reflected in this report. This paper provides an update on the key areas of relevance at this stage:
 - the ETE pilot of the decision-making tools;
 - update on the Government Green Homes Grants;
 - progress on the four community projects launched in July 2020;
 - the first meeting of the Climate Change Expert Stakeholder Forum; and
 - update on communications activity.

National Context

14. In November 2020, the Government set out its Ten Point Plan - the foundations for a Green Industrial Revolution. It sets out the approach Government will take to build back better, support green jobs, and accelerate our path to net zero. It will mobilise £12billion of government investment, and potentially 3 times as much from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs. The ten points focus on the following areas:
 - advancing offshore wind;
 - driving the growth of low carbon hydrogen;
 - delivering new and advanced nuclear power;
 - accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles;
 - green public transport, cycling and walking;
 - 'jet zero' and green ships;
 - greener buildings;
 - investing in carbon capture, usage and storage;
 - protecting our natural environment; and
 - green finance and innovation.
15. The UK was the first major economy to embrace a legal obligation to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Government has also committed to establishing a Task Force Net Zero to take forward this national priority.

Through the UK's Presidency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021, the UK will urge ambitious action from countries, businesses, cities, and investors alike.

- a) On 9 December 2020, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) released the 6th Carbon Budget, the next phase in the transition of the UK to net zero by 2050 at the latest. The CCC recommends a 78% reduction in carbon emissions when comparing 1990 to 2035 – speeding up the UK's net zero plans by 15 years.
- b) The report is supposed to act as a blueprint for how the UK can effectively achieve net zero, making sure that the suggestions are at the upper end of what is feasible for the nation.
- c) The Sixth Carbon Budget can be met through four key steps:
 - take up of low-carbon solutions - people and businesses will choose to adopt low-carbon solutions, as high carbon options are progressively phased out. By the early 2030s all new cars and vans and all boiler replacements in homes and other buildings are low-carbon – largely electric. By 2040 all new trucks are low-carbon;
 - expansion of low-carbon energy supplies – by expanding the UK's already extensive low-carbon energy supplies, the UK can produce more of its energy in a sustainable way;
 - reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities - the UK can ensure that it does not waste energy by reducing its dependence on carbon-intensive tasks such as driving, food consumption and building more energy efficient homes; and
 - land and greenhouse gas removals - there is a transformation in agriculture and the use of farmland while maintaining the same levels of food per head produced today. By 2035, 460,000 hectares of new mixed woodland are planted to remove CO₂ and deliver wider environmental benefits. 260,000 hectares of farmland shifts to producing energy crops. Woodland rises from 13% of UK land today to 15% by 2035 and 18% by 2050. Peatlands are widely restored and managed sustainably.
- d) The annual net cost across the 30 years to 2050 is projected as £10billion, or about 0.5% of GDP, and does not include the benefits of new jobs or better health as air pollution and damp, cold homes are reduced.
- e) The CCC has also set out that National Government policy must also join up with local, regional, and devolved policy to create a just transition and protect those that are vulnerable from the costs of the transition.
- f) The CCC report still supports a 2050 target and also sets out that if there is comparable action from other developed countries, with developing countries following slightly later (i.e., where they generally adopt low-carbon measures later, achieve lower percentage reductions to 2030 and reach Net Zero emissions after 2050) this would limit warming well below 2°C. This reinforces the County Council's climate change targets for net zero by 2050 and building resilience to a 2 degree rise in temperature.

- g) The priorities set out in the County Council's Strategic Framework also align with the proposals set out in both the Government's Ten Point Plan and the CCC's 6th Carbon Budget, in particular the focus on reducing residential and transport emissions and generating low carbon/renewable energy.
- h) In Hampshire it is recognised that these new pathways to 2050 will need to be delivered in partnership with both the public and private sector. Key to this will be to ensure that Hampshire's economic recovery from COVID19 is aligned to this agenda through the development of a green recovery framework for the whole Hampshire area. To deliver this the County Council will be working with The New Economics Foundation (NEF), a think-tank that aims to create a "new model of wealth creation, based on equality, diversity and economic stability".
- i) The green recovery framework will build on the Hampshire 2050 recommendations, aligning them with the national climate change pathway and working with our Hampshire 2050 Partnership to ensure that Hampshire is prepared to lead and respond.
- j) The Partnership for South Hampshire is also developing 'A Greenprint for South Hampshire' for the South Hampshire sub-region, which the County Council is actively involved in. This work will support the County Council's aspirations for the whole Hampshire area.
- k) The national context on climate change is rapidly developing and sets out an ambitious and challenging commitment and prioritisation of this agenda across all sectors of the economy, society, and environment. Hampshire County Council's Climate Change Strategy and Strategic Framework demonstrates clear alignment with these agendas and sets us on the right pathway for delivery.

Framework for Strategic Programmes

- 16. In July 2020, Cabinet approved the Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025 which set out how the Council would meet the two targets of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and to build resilience to a two-degree rise in temperature. An extensive Action Plan was included with the Strategy which represents the significant amount of activity being undertaken across the Council to mitigate against and build resilience to climate change across each of the strategic priorities set out in the Strategy.
- 17. In September 2020, Cabinet also approved an additional section of the Action Plan referred to as the "Framework for Strategic Programmes" which sets out significant new areas for action to help the Council meet its 2050 targets.
- 18. The Framework is based on the Strategic Priorities within the Climate Change Strategy - Transport, Residential, Buildings & Infrastructure, Energy Generation & Distribution, Waste & Circular Economy, Natural Environment and Business & Green Economy and identifies the key gaps and areas for action which will be required to meet our targets.
- 19. Since the previous Cabinet update on 29 September 2020, further work has been undertaken to develop more detailed milestones and establish the scale of ambition and carbon savings that each of the programmes could achieve by 2050. This work has been done with the Carbon Trust and provides a clearer understanding of what actions are needed to deliver against our 2050 targets

and the detailed planning for implementation. This work programme is set out in Appendix 1.

20. This paper focuses specifically on the main programmes for reducing carbon emissions in wider Hampshire as this is the most significant challenge to meeting the 2050 target. It is worth noting that the Framework does also cover the resilience areas needed and work on this will be undertaken in parallel.
21. The carbon savings set out in the Framework are based on estimates from the Carbon Trust using a range of information such as established data, where available, or proxies and case studies from across the UK.
22. The carbon metrics for some programmes such as the green economy and skills (for example including retrofit training) is not easily quantifiable so other metrics such as green jobs creation, skills development and technological developments are being developed as appropriate.
23. For programmes, such as Transport, Residential, Buildings & Infrastructure and Energy Generation & Distribution wider factors will also need to be considered as they will play a very significant role such as the national de-carbonisation agenda. Recent announcements from Government on the Ten Point Plan included commitments such as a ban on new combustion engine sales by 2030, a ban on gas boilers in new-build homes by 2023 and retrofit schemes to improve energy efficiency of existing households. For context, the initial £2billion Government funding in 2020 for improving energy efficiency of households, is expected to result in 650,000 warmer homes across the UK (for context, there are 800,000 homes in Hampshire alone). This shows the reliance there will necessarily be on national policy and funding to deliver significant emissions savings.
24. The Climate Change team is working with colleagues across the County Council to ensure that the new actions set out in the Framework are incorporated within existing services and work programmes where appropriate.
25. As per the carbon emissions baseline, the breakdown of Hampshire's emissions has driven how the work programmes within the Framework have been developed. Two of the top emissions profiles – Commercial & Industrial and Transport – will be led by Economic Development and the Transport teams. The third highest emissions came from the Residential sector which alongside the Energy Generation and Distribution will be led by the Climate Change team. Energy Generation and Distribution cuts across a number of areas and has a key objective of increasing the amount of renewable energy generated in Hampshire, thereby reducing the dependency on fossil fuels, and creating greater energy resilience.
26. For the Commercial and Industrial area, significant new work is needed to support businesses in the transition to low carbon. The programmes focus on supporting the development of a green economy and the necessary skills required for this. This work is in its early stages of development, including work with the New Economic Foundation on developing a green recovery framework and roadmap covering the whole County, alongside initiatives led by other key organisations and partnerships like the Partnership for South Hampshire and the LEPs, which typically cover parts of Hampshire. Further updates on this will be provided in future reports.

27. For Transport, the Local Transport Plan 4 will define the over-arching pathway to reducing carbon emissions from the transport sector, though the rail system and Highways England's strategic road network will also have critical roles to play. This work is developing rapidly with significant steps already being delivered in recent months.
28. As set out in Appendix 1 work programmes for each area are presented as five-year programmes in line with our Strategy. The milestones for the first five years are set out, alongside the key dependencies.
30. For the Residential programme, the work programme focuses on delivering a large-scale energy efficiency and retrofit programme for private households across Hampshire that fall below the Band D¹ Energy Performance Rating (EPC). Actions in the first five years would include working closely with the District and Boroughs (who have lead responsibility for most retrofit programmes) to map the energy efficiency of Hampshire housing stock, understand the potential for improvement and target energy efficiency solutions, design a retrofit programme and identify potential sources of funding.
31. The recent announcements from Government on Grant funding to improve energy efficiency of homes will play a role in this programme and the County Council is in discussions with Government on how to best make use of those grants in Hampshire. The funds are being targeted to District and Borough councils (as set out in the section on National Funding) however Hampshire County Council could play a role in providing a more strategic approach. It is also acknowledged that the current grant funding provision will not deliver significant outcomes and other options will still need to be explored.
32. The second priority programme for the Climate Change team is the Renewable Energy programme. This area is split into two programmes:
 - renewable energy accelerator; and
 - community energy support and scale.
33. In the renewable energy accelerator programme, actions in the first five years would include mapping of opportunities for renewable energy generation across the County, identifying key stakeholders, partners, and business decision-makers for opportunities for joint working, liaising with the LEP's, Energy Hubs and others to identify funding opportunities, partnerships and expertise, plus setting up monitoring and reporting structures to identify how many feasibility studies are converted into firm proposals and how many are delivered.
34. For the Community energy support and scale actions for the first five years would include continuing to support the four community pilot projects (see Section on Progress with Community Projects), reviewing the outcomes of Community Energy South project to identify opportunities for new community energy projects, designing a targeted technical support programme around the findings, building awareness for community groups, and providing information on financing routes.

¹ An EPC rates a property in bands from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) and is valid for 10 years from the date it is issued.

35. As the strategic programmes within the Residential and Energy Generation & Distribution areas are not covered by any existing services or departments within the Council, these two areas are the least developed.
36. Given the complexity and magnitude of these programmes, it is critical that the Council takes a robust approach to how these will be planned and delivered, alongside the other major priorities and issues over which the Council has direct responsibility, and in light of the financial pressures, including COVID19.
37. Officers will continue to consider how the County Council can progress the wider areas of activity including prioritising programmes, identifying who will be responsible for delivery and identifying dependencies, options for external funding, challenges, and opportunities.

Climate Change Budget

38. The corporate Climate Change Team is funded for 2 years through the Investing in Hampshire Fund.
39. There is a further £2million allocation for climate change actions. To date the £2million has been used to fund a number of projects (see below) leaving approximately £1.6million in the budget (see Appendix 2). Projects funded to date include:
 - the work by the Carbon Trust to establish the baseline emissions for the County area, develop the 2 decision tools, establish the Strategic Framework and accompanying carbon estimates;
 - the four climate change Community projects launched by Cabinet on 14 July 2020;
 - the first year of the purchasing of a Corporate “green” electricity through the “Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin” certificate (REGO);
 - a pilot scheme for residential on-street electric vehicle charge-points; and
 - a commission with the New Economics Foundation to develop a framework and roadmap for Green Recovery on a whole County basis (cost tbc).
40. The Climate Change team has several responsibilities which enable the County Council to deliver against its commitments on climate change. These include, but are not limited to:
 - developing the Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and Strategic Framework and ensuring these are regularly reviewed and kept up to date;
 - annual progress reporting to Cabinet on all activity by the County Council towards meeting its two targets;
 - working across the Council to engage services to ensure climate change is embedded into every aspect of the County Council’s work, including the management of the internal governance arrangements;
 - developing the two innovative climate decision tools and managing the corporate roll-out as of 1 April 2021;
 - leading on the delivery of the Residential and Energy programmes in the Strategic Framework as set out in that
 - of the report;

- managing the delivery of the existing four community projects and the development of new projects and initiatives;
 - developing and delivering communications and marketing activity and campaigns to support delivery of actions and engage with residents;
 - managing the Hampshire public sector climate change networks;
 - engagement with and representing Hampshire on key stakeholder boards, networks and groups at national government, regional and local levels; and
 - management of the newly established Expert Forum.
41. The Climate Change team is also responsible for the ongoing management and delivery of the Hampshire 2050 work.
42. As the Climate Change team is only funded until 2022, funding beyond this timeframe will be required to support the significant activity required to meet the targets as set out in this paper.
43. Given the scale of the programmes identified in the Framework, the climate change budget will be prioritised to support preparatory and feasibility work to ensure that the Council is ready to take advantage of any opportunities to bid for external funding that arise such as Government programmes. The budget will also continue to be used to fund demonstration/pilot projects that will help kick start activity within Hampshire promoting those that focus on proof of concept and scalability at County scale.

44. It is recognised that the scale of resources needed to deliver the large countywide programmes will require significant external resources and cannot be delivered within the County Council's own budgets. This position is further reinforced by the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the County Council and the recently announced savings programme to be delivered by 2023.
45. To continue to deliver at the quality and pace to date, and recognising the scale of the developing work programmes, it is proposed that the Climate Change team is funded for a further two years from April 2022-April 2024 from the remaining £1.6million budget. The total budget allocation required to fund the Climate Change team for a further two years is £500,000 which would leave approximately £1.1million in the climate change budget for the activities set out above (see Appendix 2).

Decision-Making Tools

46. As outlined in the previous Cabinet report of 29 September 2020, to support an evidenced based and transparent monitoring and reporting process, two decision-making tools have been developed to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impact for all "significant" decisions.
47. These tools provide the County Council with a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the climate change targets. The objective is for the tools to begin to be used at the project initiation stage, building in climate change right from the start, allowing for mitigations and adjustments to be made to achieve the best outcomes.
48. The tools will also act as a way of raising awareness of staff on how to take account of climate change within every part of the organisation. Alongside this

an e-learning package on climate change is also in development which will provide a broader understanding of climate change and why the County Council is responding to this issue.

49. The tools will support the decision-making process within the Council by being a mandatory element of all Executive Member Decision Days, Committees, Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council. All reports going to these meetings will be required to complete both tools.
50. To support the implementation of the tools, and as a trial ahead of Council-wide mandatory rollout in April 2021, the tools are being trialled within ETE. This has begun by retrospectively applying the tools to a selection of the Decision reports going to the November and December ETE Executive Member Decision Days to test and refine how they will be represented within decision reports.
51. The tools have now been embedded within the templates of ETE Decision Day Reports from January 2021, whereby the written outputs from the tools will be published from this point onwards for ETE.
52. The Climate Change team provided training sessions on the tools to the authors, showcasing how the tools work and how they can be applied to their projects. This process allowed for feedback to be gathered, ahead of wider rollout, which helped the Climate Change team make refinements to the tools with the Carbon Trust. This included aesthetic changes and the development of additional guidance on how climate variables can impact projects.
53. Case study examples from the initial piloting phase were used to support the authors of ETE Decision Day Reports for January 2021 to complete the tools and write outcomes for their projects. To ensure consistency and high-quality reporting, the Climate Change team has reviewed the written outcomes of all reports in close liaison with democratic services, who the Climate Change team has also been working with closely to update reporting templates.
54. Communications are also underway, such as via senior management briefings, to raise awareness that moving forward the tools should ideally be completed at the project initiation stage and be used to enable carbon mitigations and adaptations to be embedded within projects where possible. Materials are also being pulled together to brief members under the new administration in the spring about the tools and outputs.
55. For the corporate implementation beyond ETE, further case studies are being gathered from across other departments within Hampshire County Council, with the support of democratic services. This will test a variety of projects, policies and initiatives through the tools and will provide a wide-ranging collection of examples of completed tools and outputs to support the whole organisation roll-out from April 2021. The tools and associated how-to guides, tutorial videos and case study examples are now on a dedicated SharePoint site for users to download.

Response to Energy Efficiency and Government Grants

55. In the summer of 2020 Government announced that £3billion would be spent on improving energy efficiency in the next year, £1billion on public buildings such as schools and hospitals and the rest in vouchers of up to £10,000 for households, which is expected to result in 650,000 warmer homes and support 140,000 jobs.

Green Homes Grant

56. In July 2020, the Chancellor announced a £2billion Green Homes Grant to upgrade homes across England which covered two schemes as set out below.

Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD)

57. Under this, £500million funding was allocated to local authorities through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme, to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping reduce fuel poverty, phasing out high carbon fossil fuel heating, and delivering progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.
58. In the initial competition (Phase 1A), launched in August 2020 with a delivery deadline of March 2021, the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) allocated £76million of funding to 57 LA projects.
59. In the second phase (Phase 1B) BEIS has invited LAs, working with their local partners, to apply for funding.
60. For both phases 1A and 1B, BEIS is targeting District and Borough Councils, trying to build on their knowledge of their local housing stock, local housing providers, low-income households and building a more direct relationship with residents. The numbers are thought to be more manageable at that scale as only households with a gross income below £30,000 and lower energy performance ratings (EPC bands D-G only) are eligible.
61. BEIS is also planning however to allocate a further £300million through Local Energy Hubs for regional delivery commencing in 2021 in LAD Phase 2 (LAD2).
62. LAD2 will not be a bidding process, instead funding will be allocated to the Energy Hubs to be distributed to Local Authorities. The allocation by the Hubs will be based on which local authorities they have worked with to develop viable programmes.
63. BEIS has requested that each of the Energy Hubs put together a Sourcing Strategy for the Green Homes Grant LAD Phase 2. The Sourcing Strategy will set out the high-level requirements for delivery, for example, the number of homes, the range of property types, and how the retrofit might be delivered.
64. Hampshire County Council has been working closely with BEIS and the Energy Hubs towards supporting a County-wide programme for Phase 2, bringing together as many of the Hampshire Districts and Boroughs thereby providing a more effective, comprehensive, and scaled programme.

Homeowners and Landlords Green Homes Grant

65. BEIS also launched the £1.5billion Green Homes Grant scheme in September 2020, which allows homeowners and landlords in England to apply for vouchers to pay for green improvements, such as insulation and draught proofing. The grant covers two-thirds of the cost up to £5,000 per household. For households on low incomes, the scheme can fully fund energy efficiency measures of up to £10,000.
66. Hampshire County Council has been supporting this through communications and working with community projects.

Progress with Community Projects

67. Nearly 24% of Hampshire's total carbon emissions come from domestic energy, and energy bills are a significant outgoing for most households.
68. As part of the wider climate change programme therefore, the County Council launched four residential projects in July that will address this and support Council's efforts in reducing residential emissions and Hampshire-wide carbon emissions.
69. The four projects not only support the Council in delivering against its carbon and adaptation targets but also work together creating a cohesive programme of activity around residents and communities/community groups.
70. To capture progress and maximise the effectiveness of all projects, the Climate Change team are establishing monitoring processes with each of the project suppliers which will also seek to include carbon savings, where possible.

Greening Campaign

71. Hampshire County Council is supporting the roll-out of this grassroots climate change campaign for Hampshire residents "The Greening Campaign". This campaign offers a 'blueprint' for community groups to develop community engagement, behaviour change, community sustainability and adaptation to the changing climate through a phased and locally driven approach.
72. The roll out has received significant support from Parish, Town, District and Borough Councils who are actively engaging with their communities on this. The Greening Campaign has adapted to the needs of the communities and, despite COVID19, is proving extremely popular. Since adapting to hosting events online throughout 2020, the Greening Campaign has been gaining greater attendance, extending its reach, and becoming more accessible. Five Hampshire communities (Crookham, Herriard, Clanfield, Hursley and Hambledon) are currently active, and a further (approximate) 25 communities have outlined their interest.
73. Communities have also expressed their interest in moving into more detailed action particularly around retrofit, energy efficiency, behaviour change and renewable energy which has coincided with the Government grants set out above. The Greening Campaign also links well with the other projects set out below, and work is underway to ensure the projects work together to complement each other and maximise opportunities (such as grant funding) and co-benefits.
74. In addition, the Greening Campaign also continues to gain interest nationwide, for which the model adopted for rollout and engagement in Hampshire is being showcased.

Telephone and Online Advice for Residents on Climate Change and Sustainability

75. Based on previous experiences with the Greening Campaign, residents can sometimes become frustrated if they do not know who to approach for advice and support that they can trust on how to take action in their homes on climate change and wider sustainability. This could be anything from energy efficiency advice to insulation etc. Insights into changes in lifestyle and behaviour have also shown that the easier it is to make a change the more likely it is to happen.

76. Based on this evidence, and in support of the Greening Campaign, Hampshire County Council funded the Environment Centre to set up a freephone advice line (launched on 5 October 2020) to provide simple straightforward advice and support to residents, available for two days per week, with an answerphone service available 24/7.
77. This service will be gradually phased out through the development of online resources such as a website, webchat, and chat bots and the work could also grow to support other initiatives and offer advice on more complex areas such as renewable energy, travel and other key areas of lifestyle change needed to transition to a low carbon future.
78. In addition, this project is also being used to support the Green Homes Grant, complementing with the other projects where suitable, aimed at homeowners by providing residents with a trusted source on how to apply for and benefit from the available grants. In further support of this, the County Council also created a bespoke marketing campaign to support the Green Homes Grant to ensure that we are getting the message out to Hampshire residents.
79. Through recent discussions with the Greening Campaign, the Environment Centre is now also looking to develop further tailored, practical and timely advice for communities at the further stages of the Greening Campaign, particularly around retrofit and energy efficiency. This advice is likely to be provided via an online webinar to outline what options may be available for communities to progress to installation once at this point.

Establishing a Community Energy Network across Hampshire

80. 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. For the County to reach carbon neutrality, local renewable energy will be essential, and it would also build energy resilience in Hampshire.
81. Hampshire County Council will not be able to fill this gap on its own, it does not have the financial or technical resources to do so at the scale required. The County Council can support and enable renewable energy in Hampshire and one way of doing this is through supporting community energy.
82. Based on this information, Hampshire County Council has funded Community Energy South (CES) to deliver a project to stimulate the growth of a Community Energy Sector across Hampshire. The overarching project would consist of two work streams:
 - the CES Pathways to Community Energy;
 - a village wide community energy pilot project;
83. The emphasis is on enabling local communities to build their own self sustainability capacity to achieve on-going, ground level emissions reductions and CES will act as a support mechanism to establish and support a network of community energy groups. The pilot project will work alongside this to identify start-up projects for community groups which can then be used as a testcase for county-wide project development support.

84. To date, an initial online survey, 'Enabling Community Led Renewable Energy', was sent by CES, via Hampshire County Council, to all approximately 350 Hampshire Parishes and interested community groups.
85. The survey was designed to engage with local groups and individuals in Hampshire that are interested in community energy and to begin to understand the current renewable energy and energy efficiency project opportunities. Specifically, information was also collected for CES to undertake a high-level assessment on current projects and existing skills, and to identify what support individuals and groups may need to further develop the community energy sector in Hampshire.
86. The survey was open from 14 September - 23 October 2020 to allow Parishes to report back after their monthly meetings and received 80 replies (23% response rate).
87. Key messages returning from the survey were that the overwhelming number of respondents wanted to contribute to local actions on climate change, less than half had been involved in or had any plans for local community energy projects, most respondents would be interested in receiving guidance on funding and technical assistance in order to develop a community led renewable energy projects and the majority of responses also indicated a lack of existing skills and training relating to energy amongst communities.
88. The next stage of the pathway project is for CES to host a community energy start-up 'master class' via a webinar with those who were interested in receiving further information. This will provide practical support to interested groups and individuals on essential advice to progress their group / scheme. Topics will include, amongst others, identifying the optimum legal structure, providing a technical advice, and advising on governance and funding options.
89. This project is also complementing the work of the Greening Campaign by supporting those communities that are ready to take the step towards developing community energy, and tEC will also be engaged to ensure residents can access a trusted source of advice where needed.
90. In support of its work, CES has also been proactively engaging established Hampshire groups such as the West Solent Renewable Energy Coop, Energy Alton and Climate Strategy for Petersfield (PeCAN) and potential regional partners such as Southern Gas Networks (SGN) and Southern and Scottish Electric (SSE).

Targeted Solar Group Buying Scheme for Hampshire

91. The County Council is working with iChoosr to deliver a targeted 'Solar Together' group-buying scheme in Spring 2021, to give residents, homeowners and non-domestic small and medium-sized enterprises the opportunity to buy high quality solar panels and optional battery storage at a highly competitive price.
92. Targeted to around 125,000 able to pay residents, the auction is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins and the winning bid sets the price for all solar systems. All suppliers will be pre-vetted and must comply with criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer.

93. The Climate Change team is currently working with iChoosr, the Hampshire District and Borough Councils and Hampshire County Council's Corporate Communications and Marketing teams to deliver a communications plan to raise awareness of the scheme prior to and during the registration period from 15 February to 23 March 2021 (in addition to the targeted letters). This will include leaflets, print ready posters and social media content which will also be aimed at wider groups not targeted by letter.
94. This scheme also works well with all the projects outlined above, maximising opportunities to engage with residents on energy savings, efficiencies, cost savings and generating local renewable energy.

Climate Resilience and Mitigation Projects

95. There are a large number of projects and activities underway across the Council delivering outcomes on either mitigation or resilience, however two projects have been highlighted in this section that are tackling both issues simultaneously – tree planting on the highway and coastal restoration.
96. Hampshire Highways has deployed new and enhanced tree planting as part of a wider approach to tackling climate change to both help sequester carbon and to support the reduction of impacts of climate change such as heat and flooding.
97. To date, the planting of standard trees on the highway (a standard tree is normally approximately 5 - 10 years old at planting stage, subject to species) has increased by 90% this year compared to last year, with 1240 new standard trees.
98. Based on information provided by Forest Research, a 10/12 standard tree will have absorbed around 36kg of carbon dioxide to reach its current dimensions at the time of planting. On this basis, this year's 1240 trees will have absorbed around 44000 kgs of co2 to date and, again based on Forest Research calculations, assuming each one of these trees reaches 40cms diameter (an estimated 20 years growth) the 1240 new trees will have absorbed 17,386,331.4 kgs of co2. Many are expected to live far longer than this and therefore will continue contributing to carbon sequestration beyond this time.
99. The trees will also provide multiple additional benefits including helping to reduce the impact of increased temperatures in the summer through shading, improved air quality and reduced impacts from flooding. The trees will also help increase biodiversity by supporting a range of wildlife. All these benefits are critical in building our resilience to climate impacts.
100. Early scheme involvement in relation to the protection of existing trees and opportunities for new trees is a priority and liaison with our engineers and developers in this regard is continuing positively.
101. In November 2020, the Environment Agency launched the new Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. The programme is seeking applications from Lead Local Flood Authorities and Coastal Protection Authorities across England to fund projects demonstrating how practical innovative actions can work individually and in combination to improve resilience to flooding and coastal erosion. The Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme has allocated £150 million and it is expected that 25 selected partnership projects will receive on average £6 million between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2027. Applications for the programme will close on the 15 January

2021 and the successful projects will be announced in spring 2021. The County Council is working with partners on the preparation of two potential expressions of interest.

102. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council is proposing a project that will trial innovative ways of monitoring and understanding the interrelationship of watercourses, natural and man-made, in the River Itchen catchment area. The approach will encompass the whole water cycle taking a water stewardship approach. In demonstrating innovative practical resilience actions, the project will include not only flooding but water use, water quality and biodiversity. The County Council has also offered its support as a partner to a proposed coastal resilience and adaptation project - Phase 3 of the Beneficial Use of Dredgings (BUDS3). More information about this project can be found at http://www.solentforum.org/services/Current_Projects/buds/, however, in summary, the project seeks to deliver habitat restoration and increased resilience in the Western Solent (Keyhaven / Lymington area) through the application of beneficial use of dredging's. Improving the internationally designated but failing saltmarsh in this location will deliver a range of benefits such as coastal protection, carbon sinks, fish nursery areas and amenity, through a nature-based solution.

103. It is intended that the Solent Forum will manage the project if the bid is successful. The County Council is a founding member of the Solent Forum and the organisation is hosted by the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. The department has therefore been closely involved with the Forum, and as a member of the Solent Forum Steering Group, in the development of the BUDS project so far and will continue to lead this area of work on behalf of the County Council should BUDS3 be successful at expression of interest stage.

Climate Change Expert Stakeholder Forum

104. As set out in the 29 September 2020 Cabinet report, a Climate Change Expert Stakeholder Forum has been established following a very successful wider stakeholder engagement event in August 2020.

105. Significant action will be required by the whole Hampshire community, to meet the challenging climate change targets. To support the County Council, an Expert Stakeholder Forum has been established to help challenge and inform our approach and to bring together experts to help with engagement and delivery of actions across Hampshire. Councillor Jan Warwick is the Chair of this Forum.

106. The Forum is made up of representatives from each of the organisations listed below:

- Community Energy South;
- The Greening Campaign;
- Extension Rebellion;
- Hampshire Climate Action Network;
- Southern Gas Networks;
- The Environment Centre;
- The Sustainability Centre;
- Solent University;

- Southampton University;
- Friends of the Earth Hampshire;
- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce;
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust;
- Hampshire National Farmers Union;
- Hampshire Youth Parliament;
- Scottish and Southern Electricity;
- Portsmouth University; and
- Winchester University.

107. The role of the forum is to:

- advise the County Council on its progress in delivering against its targets and commitments within the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan;
- provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement and challenge to inform the County Council's approach;
- support the County Council in delivering actions across the County, through members' own activities; and
- disseminate information and engage with members' communities and networks to enable better awareness and involvement across the County.

108. The group will meet up to 4 times per year, with one of these meetings joining up with an annual wider stakeholder event like the one held in August 2020.

109. The first meeting of the Forum took place on 8 December 2020 and was extremely well attended. The event focussed on agreeing the key priorities for the work programme and exploring opportunities for joint working and pilot projects.

110. Several key areas emerged from the discussions, which will be explored and developed further, including:

- developing a clear message around attracting private sector investment into Hampshire towards green and renewable energy which aligns with the Strategic Framework priority around energy and the national context.
- a statement from each partner about what unique skills/expertise/networks they bring to the partnership and how they can use that to respond to our Strategy, what actions they can take, including identifying common ground and lobbying for change with gatekeepers in government/industry and other key players.

Climate Change Communication

111. To engage with residents, staff and partners, a regular flow of communications is programmed. For example, the climate change website has undergone recent extensions, including the creation of dedicated webpages about the community projects, the Environment Centre's page now also includes information about the Green Homes Grant to support residents in applying for funding and a page titled 'who are we working with' has also been created to highlight our partnerships and the outcomes from the Climate Change Expert Consultative Forum.

112. A campaign in early November also promoted the launch of tEC's advice line centred around 'preparing for winter' to help residents consider ways to save on

their energy bills and a Facebook advert, consisting of an animated video depicting an energy metre in the snow, was live for two weeks and linked through to the climate change website.

113. To complement these actions, information about tEC's phone line, the Green Homes Grant and energy saving tips were also shared in a press release and via internal staff communications.
114. Work is now focussing on the next campaign which will focus on the natural environment, highlighting the extensive work across the Council on this (e.g., tree planting, carbon sequestration, habitat and biodiversity management and enhancement etc.) and to engage residents to play a part.

Climate Change E-learning

115. Work is also currently being undertaken to provide all Hampshire County Council staff with an e-learning package on climate change.
116. The e-learning will be an animated package including a summary of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry, the climate change strategy and action plan, each individual's responsibilities in embedding the principles of climate change and will also link to the climate change decision making tools.
117. The e-learning is being developed with colleagues in the Workforce Development and Marketing teams and it is planned that it will be rolled out from April 2021.

Conclusions

118. The national context on climate change is rapidly developing with the recent publications of the Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and the Climate Change Committee's 6th Carbon Budget. These announcements set out an ambitious and challenging commitment and prioritisation of this agenda across all sectors of the economy, society, and environment. Hampshire County Council's Climate Change Strategy, Targets and Strategic Framework demonstrate clear alignment with these agendas and sets it on the right pathway for delivery.
119. The actions set out to deliver against the "Framework for Strategic Programmes" for the next five years have been developed at a detailed level setting out the key steps needed to enable the Council to meet its targets. This work represents a significant step change in the authority's approach to climate change and also highlights the resource requirements.
120. The County Council will need to focus its resources on the County-wide programmes and initiatives set out in the Framework which will benefit the whole Hampshire area. The Climate Change team will be instrumental in both co-ordinating activity across the whole Council and leading two of the key areas of residential emissions and energy generation and distribution. As the Climate Change team is only funded until 2022, funding beyond this timeframe will be required to support the significant activity required to meet the Council targets and to continue to deliver at the quality and pace to date.
121. The two decision-making tools are also a significant achievement and will ensure that climate change is truly embedded within our decision-making processes in a transparent and robust way and demonstrate Hampshire's leadership approach and commitment to the climate change agenda. These

tools will also help to upskill the County Council staff's ability to take account of climate change, resulting in embedding climate change considerations at the beginning of our projects/policy development and at the core of everything we do.

122. Significant activity is taking place across the Council, the full extent of which is not reflected in this report. The report highlights some key areas of particular relevance around the county-wide emissions. The annual progress report due to be presented to Cabinet in October 2021 will reflect the full breadth of activity and progress.
123. A separate report from CCBS is being presented to this Cabinet which covers the progress being made against the County Council' own emissions (i.e., Scope 1 and 2) which represents approximately 1% of the total emissions within the Council's target.

Appendix 1 Strategic Framework 2020-2025



Appendix 1 Strategic
Framework 2020 2025

Appendix 2 Climate Change Budget



Appendix 2 Climate
Change Budget Cabin

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>	<u>Date</u>
Climate Emergency Motion	June 2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Climate Change Act	2008
National Adaptation Programme	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:

The Climate Change work programmes will include actions which are likely have both positive and potentially negative impacts on persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic. These include, but are not limited to, social justice in terms of carbon and climate resilience and fuel poverty. The strategy has a key principle that states that action taken must be proportionate, affordable and equitable. As a local authority it is important to recognise our wider role to society in delivering public services for the public good. Any actions taken on climate change must be in line with this and would therefore have to adhere to the principles of proportionality, affordability and be equitable. A key strand of implementing the Framework will be to fully assess the potential impacts of the actions and incorporate mitigation measures, as necessary at the action level. At this stage, no impacts have been identified.

