

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
<b>Date:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Environment Strategy
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability approves the preparation of an environment strategy for the County Council in consultation with key partners and organisations which will contribute to the County Council's climate change objectives.
- 1.2. That the proposed environment strategy should be prepared on the basis set out in the report and presented to the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability at a future decision meeting for approval to adopt the strategy.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The County Council has long recognised that a healthy environment is vital in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the county. The outcomes of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry and the County Council's Climate Change Strategy highlight this. The experience of the environment, or place, is also central to the newly launched The Hampshire Story.
- 2.2. The third strategic outcome of the County Council's proposed new Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 provides a strong alignment to the key corporate programmes relating to climate change and place shaping. Importantly, it includes a reference to striving for Environmental Net Gain – defined by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government as the aim to reduce pressure on and achieve overall improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver for people and nature.
- 2.3. Ensuring that the environment continues to thrive and prosper is also central to the vision of the County Council's Climate Change Strategy and the environment strategy will be key to embedding climate resilience and mitigation across key policies and sectors, working with communities across Hampshire.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. The options of not developing an Environment Strategy at this time, or of preparing separate natural and built environment strategies were rejected on the basis that this would not fulfil the need for the overarching, high level, strategy considered necessary to provide a consistent, coordinated and coherent framework for the County Council's activities or meet the challenge of the growing number of strategic environmental initiatives at the local, regional and national level.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**29 July 2021**

**Executive Member for Climate Change and  
Sustainability  
Councillor Jan Warwick**