

NON EXEMPT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

8 September 2021

**Havant Borough Council Climate Change and Environment Strategy
2021 to 2026**

FOR DECISION

Portfolio: Climate Change and Environment

Cabinet lead: Cllr Julie Thain- Smith

Executive Director: Simon Jenkins

Key Decision: No

Report No: HBC/012/2021

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1. On 08 May 2019 Havant Borough Council published a climate statement. This paper presents a draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy for the next 5 years 2021-2026 developed to implement commitments made by the statement.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1. That Havant Borough Council Cabinet recommend Havant Borough Council's adoption of the attached Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021 to 2026.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1. Following the publication of the 'climate statement' mentioned in 1.1 above, Havant Borough Council leadership appointed a cabinet lead for the climate and environment, Councillor Julie Thain-Smith in July 2020. Consultation events in December 2020 and March 2021 with residents and Havant Borough Council members raised priorities for Havant Borough Council and shaped the attached Climate Change and Environment Strategy document.
- 3.2. The strategy sets out the Council's vision, approach and priorities for addressing climate and environment challenges we all face, and links to national and international commitments for climate mitigation.

- 3.3. An Action Plan itemising individual initiatives will follow the adoption of the strategy. See priority HM on page 14.

4.0 Additional Budgetary Implications

- 4.1. None directly arising from this report. Each initiative identified and linked to the priorities in the attached climate change and environment strategy will be evaluated and funding identified with separate business cases. (Similar to the approach taken in East Hampshire District Council under their adopted Climate & Environment Strategy.)
- 4.2. For the current financial year 2021/22, there is no budget. Some joint initiatives with East Hampshire District Council, climate awareness programme for staff and Councillors, and zero cash initiatives for example community engagement, tree planting and policy updates will be the focus for the next (the first) 6 months. These are necessary foundation initiatives and will allow subsequent years budget to be planned.
- 4.3. Since the approach for addressing climate change is to integrate objectives and actions across all services, budgets and budget planning processes must identify options for Havant Borough Council to become carbon zero, with associated marginal costs -if any- of migrating to low carbon operations.
- 4.4. S151 Officer: It is clear that this report and the strategy cause no direct financial implications for the Council. Furthermore, any proposed, specific actions arising from the strategy will be fully costed and a business case for funding will be presented for consideration before any additional costs are incurred.

5.0 Background and relationship to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1. The corporate strategy already contains reference to environmental sustainability and climate change. This strategy put those references into context, and provides a comprehensive set of priorities to guide the organisation's plan for action.

6.0 Options considered and reasons for the recommendation

- 6.1. Hampshire County Council, the Solent LEP and all neighbouring local authorities have identified climate change as a priority. The Climate Change Act 2008 has a legally binding target for the UK to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Therefore the options under consideration are concerned with the time frame for reaching net carbon zero. This strategy represents the first five year period and is aligned with national carbon reduction targets.

7.0 Resource Implications

- 7.1. The strategy does not in itself have any additional resource implications. Each initiative will be proposed with a business case to evaluate resource implications and options for delivering specified outcomes. The Climate and Environment Lead officer is a dedicated resource to coordinate the delivery of the strategy objectives.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Gina Homewood – 1 June 2021. The adoption of the strategy itself does not have any significant legal implications, but as each initiative is brought forward for implementation any specific legal implications will be addressed in the appropriate reports.

9.0 Risks

- 9.1. The risks posed by the climate crisis are well documented: scientific evidence demonstrates action must be taken immediately to reduce greenhouse gases and avoid catastrophic impacts of severe weather events and damage to ecosystems that will have an adverse and irreversible impact on everyone.
- 9.2. Without a plan of action based on adopted strategy the organisation risks failing to deliver. Council service areas need this strategy to deliver the changes we need. Services must embed climate and environment criteria in business plans, decision-making, and across the range of policies that underpin service delivery.
- 9.3. Swift and easy zero-cost opportunities risk being missed. For instance, we risk lost opportunities for building collaborations with other public bodies including Hampshire County Council and influencing positive change through our role as a planning authority for residents communities and enterprises.

10.0 Consultation

- 10.1. The Cabinet Lead for Climate and the Environment has hosted two (online) events in December 2020, and March 2021. Attended by approximately 60 people including local residents, and fellow Councillors, these events have helped to identify priorities and have shaped the attached climate change and environment strategy.
- 10.2. The consultation activity has forged links with local community groups concerned about local impacts of the climate crisis. The strategy is aimed at enabling everyone to play their part in addressing climate and environment.

11.0 Communication

- 11.1. Internally, the strategy identifies a need to embed climate and environment awareness for all staff and Councillors. An initiative is already specified to deliver this through a Climate Awareness Programme (to be provided online via MS teams).
- 11.2. Externally, a communications plan identifies key stakeholder groups, and most appropriate channels for one to many, and many to many communications messages. A collaborative and inclusive approach is envisaged. Support from the communications team to update and maintain information on our web pages is in hand.

