

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 22 Sept 2021

Councillor Julie Thain-Smith

Cabinet Lead – Environment & Climate Change

1. Adoption of the climate change and environment strategy 2021 to 2026 progress

I am grateful to my Councillor colleagues on the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny panel for their constructive feedback on the draft strategy. The strategy has been shaped by helpful and positive 'climate conversations' with our local community and has been guided by colleagues and partners in identifying and shaping the priorities. It represents the first stage to provide Havant Borough Council with a mandate to take action on climate change and to improve the local natural environment.

In anticipation that the strategy is adopted following Cabinet's recommendation, I will be developing a proposal for the governance structure. The first task will be to evaluate all the initiatives and identify which ones should be tackled first.

2. Domestic retrofit for energy efficiency

Every installation of cavity wall insulation, loft insulation or more efficient heating systems represents a carbon saving as well as saving money.

There are three funding streams;

- a. The energy company obligation **ECO3 programme** continues, and I'm pleased to report that we have secured additional resources to process claims which will help build resilience in the officer team, allowing the climate lead officer more time to focus on business cases in other priority areas.

The value of retrofit measures provided by local installers under this Ofgem approved scheme was £450K in Q1 2021-22. Since the beginning of September, we have seen just over £180K approved.

- b. **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Programme Phase 1 (GHG LAD 1)** Funding from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through partners Portsmouth City Council and Agility ECO. Phase 1 has been extended to December 2021. We anticipate that our share of benefits for Havant Borough Council residents will be in the region of £50K.

- c. Phase 2 (**GHG LAD 2**) is led by BEIS Regional Energy Hub for the South West. The allocation of funding is based on an evaluation of energy performance certificates of the housing stock in Havant Borough Council. The procurement of a managing agent to oversee this scheme has been completed and details are emerging as to how the council will promote this scheme to all relevant residents.

Subsequent funding under GHG LAD: The officer team anticipate funding for subsequent phases of GHG LAD to be focused on homes with energy performance certificates of D, E and F (the worst performing homes), and for households on incomes less than £35,000. The government target is to have all homes improved to energy performance certificate level C by 2030. Therefore, we are scoping a piece of work to analyse the housing stock and identifying a pipeline of eligible homes.

Additionally, there is an important role for the council in communicating these funding opportunities, and matching approved installers with homes and householders.

We also want to engage with the 'able-to-pay' market, to offer Havant residents compelling ways to play their part in tackling climate emissions by making their homes more energy efficient. The emerging communication strategy for the climate change and environment strategy will include this aspect.

3. Transport & travel

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transportstrategies>

The Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Havant has been published, and sets out a recommended approach to planning networks of walking zones and cycling routes which connect places.

The LCWIP can be found on the Hampshire County Website, and the consultation runs until the end of October. <https://havantlcwip.commonplace.is/>

4. Havant Borough Big Green Week,

Organised by members of our community from 18th - 26th of September 2021 and incorporates events supported by 33 different organisations and includes people of all ages and backgrounds.