

<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Cabinet		
<b>Committee Date:</b>	8 November 2023		
<b>Report Title:</b>	Quarterly update on the work of the Climate Change and Environment Panel		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Robinson – Executive Head for Place		
<b>Cabinet Lead:</b>	Cabinet Lead for Planning, Environment and Water Quality		
<b>Status:</b>	Non-Exempt		
<b>Urgent Decision:</b>	No	<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	None		
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Havant Climate Change Strategy <sup>1</sup> Minutes of Cabinet on 15 December 2021 <sup>2</sup>		
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<b>Report Number:</b>	HBC/047/2023		

#### Corporate Priorities:

The delivery of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy is specifically highlighted as an initiative in the Corporate Strategy.

#### Executive Summary:

At this point in the municipal year, two meetings of the Climate Change and Environment Panel have taken place. This report assesses progress against the Action Plan priorities which the Cabinet identified in July 2022.

This demonstrates that implementation of all of these priorities is either complete or significantly underway. Moving forwards, the training and workshops workstream will ensure that further priorities are identified and resourced in order to ensure that continuous progress is being made in this area.

#### Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

- i. Note the work of the Climate Change and Environment Panel to date, including the progress against the priorities identified by the Cabinet on 13 July 2022
- ii. Vary resolution 30 D of the Climate Liaison Panel report to Cabinet of 15 December 2021 to read “decide that the Climate Change & Environment Panel will bring annual update reports to Cabinet”.

<sup>1</sup> [www.havant.gov.uk/climate-change-and-environment](http://www.havant.gov.uk/climate-change-and-environment)

<sup>2</sup> <https://havant.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=128&MId=11334&Ver=4>

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy was adopted on 22 September 2021 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions to net-zero on all Council services by 2050 in line with the Climate Change Act and to influence and support the Borough's residents and enterprises to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 as well. On the environment, the strategy sets out that the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment represent a life-support system we all rely on and so Havant Borough Council works in partnership to protect, improve and enhance our natural environment locally for biodiversity net gain.
- 1.2 Subsequently, the Action Plan was adopted on 13 July 2022 setting out the measures needed to achieve the vision of the strategy with specific priorities for the 2022/23 year endorsed.
- 1.3 As part of the adoption of the Action Plan, the governance structure to shape and steer the action plan was also noted, through the Climate Change and Environment Panel.
- 1.4 The Panel is chaired by the Cabinet Lead. The panel is currently comprised of the members below:
  - Cllr Elizabeth Lloyd (chair)
  - Cllr Neil Bowdell
  - Cllr Lulu Bowerman
  - Cllr Caren Diamond
  - Cllr Paul Gray
  - Cllr Phil Munday
  - Cllr Grainne Rason
  - Cllr Richard Stone
  - Cllr Liz Fairhurst (standing deputy)
  - Cllr Alex Rennie (standing deputy)
- 1.5 This report forms the first quarterly report to the Cabinet confirming the work of the panel and progress being made in implementing the Action Plan.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the time of writing, two meetings of the Climate Change and Environment Panel has taken place in the current municipal year, on 29<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with a further meeting planned for December.
- 2.2 On 13 July 2022, the Cabinet identified five priority actions for the next 12 months. Progress against each is reported below. During the 2023 municipal year, further work is taking place reviewing the Action Plan as set out in more detail in paragraph 2.7. As such, further priorities will be established through this process in due course.
- 2.3 **Priority A - incorporating strong policies in the new local plan –** The Building a Better Future Local Plan consultation which took place in Autumn 2022 set out key proposed policies to address climate change. These included:
- Low carbon design in new housing developments
  - Sustainable construction
  - Drainage and waste
  - Installation of EV charging points in new developments
  - Protecting existing trees, woodland and hedgerows
  - Protecting all existing green infrastructure
- 2.4 The results of the consultation were reported to the Planning Policy Committee on 30 May 2023 and showed that residents also gave clear priority to climate change and the natural environment.
- 2.5 **Priority B - reducing carbon emissions from transport and travel is a priority. Therefore the inclusion of a priority to work with Hampshire County Council (and Transport for the South East, as appropriate) to add specific actions for Active Travel –** a number of projects being led by the Council's Civil Engineering and Landscape Team, funded through Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy from new development are being taken forward including:
- Milton Road – extend and connect the cycle routes along Milton Road

- Bushy Lease – upgrading of existing footpath network with aim to create a direct Havant-Waterlooville active travel route
  - Elmleigh Road – segregated cycle infrastructure linking Havant and South Downs College to the town centre
  - Future of the Hayling Billy Trail – resurfacing and widening to make the trail more accessible
- 2.6 A total of 10 projects are currently being worked on at either feasibility or delivery which all link with the 2036 Aspirational Cycle Map and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- 2.7 **Priority C - internally it is important that the impact of decisions in relation to the climate and environment are considered properly, so a Climate Awareness Programme – Training for staff and Cllrs –** Ashden Climate Solutions has been procured to design and deliver a series of workshops with both officers and members to inform the Action Plan priorities which should be the focus for future years. This includes potentially informing an update of the current strategy and action plan. At the time of writing, these workshops are currently taking place.
- 2.8 The Council's Corporate Performance Scorecard measures the following environmental metrics:
- Percentage of residents who travel to work by foot or bike
  - Available electrical charging points in the Borough
  - Waste contamination rates and percentage of waste sent for recycling
  - Business miles travelled by staff and energy usage in Council offices
- 2.9 **Priority D - Templates for business cases and decision papers should include a heading and guidance for evaluating climate and environment impacts, and their mitigation as appropriate –** Committee templates have been updated to include a mandatory section to complete entitled 'climate and environment' where the implications of the report in question should be highlighted so that informed decisions can be made. This encourages reports to highlight:

- whether the report is likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and if not, why not
- whether it is possible to use renewable energy as part of the proposal
- whether the proposal involves any contracts or procurement and if so whether environmental provisions can be included
- if the proposal involves transport, whether active travel or public transport can be used
- whether the proposal can use equipment or resources that the Council already has

**2.10 Priority E - to ensure pension investments made by Hampshire County Council on behalf of employees are 'climate -friendly'. The aim is to lobby for direct and indirect investments in pension funds are managed to divest from high carbon options eg. fossil fuels** – The Hampshire Pensions Fund, Hampshire Investment Strategy Statement 2022 principles include the following:

- A belief in the importance of Responsible Investment (RI) to include consideration of social, economic, environmental and corporate governance factors
- The Pension Fund commits to the aim for its investments to have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.
- The Pension Fund is working with its specialist RI advisor to develop a plan and trajectory for how it can achieve its net-zero aim.

### **Reporting frequency**

2.11 The work of the Climate Change and Environment Panel is driving forward a key priority in the Corporate Strategy namely the delivery of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy. There needs to be an appropriate balance struck between the need for updates to the Cabinet on the panel's work and the resourcing of such updates.

2.12 Bearing this in mind, it is proposed that a single report is brought to the Cabinet towards the end of the Municipal year (typically between January and March). This would enable the panel to report back to

the Cabinet on the work and achievements during the municipal year which would be coming to a close and propose priorities for the panel's work during the upcoming municipal year.

- 2.13 Whilst this would reduce the number of formal update reports, it should be noted that updates would continue to be provided on a regular basis through the Cabinet Lead updates to the Full Council.

### **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 The report is for noting. As such, there are no options presented.

### **4.0 Relationship to the Corporate Strategy**

- 4.1 The delivery of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy is a specific initiative under the 'Pride in Place' theme, whilst under the 'Growth' theme, referring to measures the Council can take itself, an aim of the Strategy is that *"We will aim to lead our Borough by example in the fight against climate change by reducing our carbon emissions, increasing use of green energy, and improving our buildings and infrastructure"*.

### **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 At this point, the Climate Change Action Plan is a year old. Reassuringly, the priority actions endorsed in July 2022 are either complete or well underway.
- 5.2 Moving forwards, the focus on responding to the climate and ecological crises will continue through the work of the Panel in identifying areas where further focus is needed in 2023 and 2024.
- 5.3 Further quarterly reports will update the Cabinet further on the implementation of the Action Plan.

### **6.0 Implications and Comments**

- 6.1 S151 Comments - The contents of this report have no direct financial implications. However, members should be cognisant of any impacts around Priority E on the Pension Fund investments, the authority we have to enforce this position and any potential it has to restrict the performance of the fund. Neither of these are of any significant concern to me, but we should remain aware of the risks, no matter how small or unlikely.

- 6.2 Remaining on top of climate change and environmental issues could have consequences financially and economically, both negative and positive. Performance and/or conditions, requirements or restrictions in the area could either attract or detract different businesses from investing in our economy. It could impact tourism, housing and/or our ability to secure grant funding. Members should continue to seek evidence and clarity when making associated decisions as to any potential financial or economic impacts.
- 6.3 Financial Implications - it is not considered that there are any financial implications arising from the noting of the report.
- 6.4 Monitoring Officer Comments
- 6.5 The contents of this report have no direct legal or governance implications.
- 6.6 This report does not have any significant legal implications. As each initiative is brought forward for implementation, any specific legal implications will be addressed in the appropriate reports.
- 6.7 Equality and Diversity – it is not considered that there are any equality or diversity implications of the noting of the report.
- 6.8 Human Resources - it is not considered that there are any human resource implications arising from the noting of the report.
- 6.9 Information Governance – it is not considered that there are any information governance implications arising from the noting of the report.
- 6.10 Climate and Environment – the Climate Change and Environment Panel is the mechanism to ensure the delivery and monitoring of the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan. The workstreams of the panel form the basis of the Council’s response to the climate and ecological crises.

## **7.0 Risks**

- 7.1 There are not considered to be any risks arising out of the noting of this report.

## **8.0 Consultation**

- 8.1 No consultation is specifically necessary as a result of the noting of this report. Nonetheless, consultation and engagement are likely to be

required on workstreams which the Panel will be undertaking in due course.

## 9.0 Communications

9.1 There are no communications implications specifically arising out of the noting of this report. Nonetheless, communications on climate change and the environment frequently form part of the Council's communications and social media.

<b>Agreed and signed off by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Cabinet Lead:</b>	Cllr Elizabeth Lloyd	23 August 2023
<b>Executive Head:</b>	Alex Robinson	15 September 2023
<b>Monitoring Officer:</b>	Jo McIntosh	16 October 2023
<b>Section151 Officer:</b>	Steven Pink	26 October 2023