

**CABINET**

**DATE OF MEETING: 6 FEBRUARY 2020**

**TITLE OF REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

**Report of: Head of Environmental and Technical Services**

**Cabinet member: Councillor Alan Oliver, Environment**

**I PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the Draft Climate Change: Carbon Reduction Action Plan.

**2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the draft Climate Change: Carbon Reduction Action Plan attached at Appendix I be approved

2.2 That a 2020/21 budget growth bid be approved to comprise:

- a An initial £55k to fund the first stage of the delivery of the action plan.
- b £45k to fund consultants to produce a fully costed plan to setup a building insulation grants scheme for residents on low income as proposed in action E3.

**3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 In response to the national declaration of a climate change emergency in May 2019 and subsequent amendment to the Climate Change Act. At its meeting in September 2019 Cabinet agreed to prepare a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan based on the Council becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2040 at the latest.

3.2 A cross party Working Group was established, and this has met 5 times since September with minutes of each meeting being reported to Cabinet. The Action Plan has been informed by this Group as well as by:

- Discussions with internal officers across the organisation;
- A discussion session attended by nine Town and Parish Councils;
- Discussions with other partners including Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, SERCO and Everyone Active;
- Hampshire wide events, attendance at the Sustainable Business Network and other relevant events by the Sustainability officer.

3.3 Work undertaken by Hart to date to ameliorate against climate change includes:

- Replacing the majority of lighting in the civic offices with energy efficient LED lighting, and increasing the insulation in the roof to improve the buildings heating efficiency.
- Installing solar PV on the roofs of both the council leisure centres.
- Specifying a combined heat and power plant in the design for the new Fleet leisure centre.
- Established two new country parks in the district.
- Making a commitment to reduce carbon emissions from the waste and recycling service by 32% over the course of the next contract.
- Facilitating the installation of two new rapid electric vehicle charger points in Church Road car park, Fleet.
- Supporting the local sustainable business network which enables environmentally committed businesses to share ideas and build working relationships.

3.4 Harts Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its January 2020 meeting and following debate agreed their support for the report's recommendations to Cabinet.

## **4 CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Climate Change Action Plan Scope and Objectives**

4.1 The Working Group agreed that the focus of the climate change response should be on reducing the Council's operational carbon emissions. It agreed the following objectives as set out in the Action Plan in Appendix I:

- To deliver net zero carbon emissions from Hart District Council operations by 2040 at the latest; and
- To provide community leadership to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions across the District.

4.2 This first Action Plan will initially cover a three-year period up to 2023. The first review will be in October 2020 (and October annually thereafter) so that actions can be considered in the Council's budget setting and service planning processes. Work on a Climate Change strategy currently being prepared by Hampshire County Council and any new Government initiatives can also be taken on board at that time.

4.3 Whilst the Action Plan focuses on targets to ensure that the Council's operations are zero carbon by 2040, the Council's wider role in supporting carbon emission reductions across the District are also recognised.

4.4 In the light of the timescales for preparation of this first Plan, a number of first actions relate to establishing baseline data and feasibility studies to establish costs and benefits of initiatives to be undertaken in future years. The options generated by this baseline work will be fed in to the first review of the Plan in October.

4.5 Following agreement to the Action Plan, a stakeholder launch event will take place. This will be followed by individual stakeholder discussions. It is expected that additional actions and amendments to the Action Plan will be proposed from these.

Additional actions will be considered by the Working Group on a quarterly basis for inclusion in the Plan. If these actions can be progressed within the overall budgetary and staff resource constraints to meet our Climate Change objectives, then they will be progressed in advance of the annual review. This is in line with the Working Groups desire for this Action Plan to be a working document that takes best practice and new developments on board in a timely fashion.

### **Proposed Actions 2020 - 2023**

4.6 Actions are set out under a number of themes, although many actions are interrelated. A summary of Actions is set out below:

#### Strategy

- Embed carbon reduction objectives into all decision-making processes in the Council
- Embed carbon reduction objectives into the Councils procurement process
- Raise staff awareness
- Implementation of relevant Development Plan policies
- Investigation of commercialisation opportunities

#### Energy

- Energy audit to be carried out on Hart operational buildings
- Feasibility study for self-generation of electricity
- Support energy efficiency schemes through for example raising awareness of grant funding
- Investigate options for 100% renewable electricity supplier

#### Transport

- Development of the Green Grid Strategy supporting sustainable travel options for modal change
- Costings for HDC vehicles to be zero emission (Infrastructure and vehicles)
- Identify and support grant funding with partners
- Feasibility study for community bus on demand scheme
- Review options for taxi licensing to incentivise zero emission vehicles

#### Nature

- Site search for greening opportunities (green roofs/walls etc) and pilot project
- Completion of Tree Strategy and tree canopy survey in settlements

#### Community Leader and Partnership

- Working with our operational partners to minimise carbon emissions
- Working collaboratively with local businesses
- Working collaboratively with Town and Parish Councils
- New climate change webpages/promotion of issues/funding/events

#### Adaptation

- Preparation of an Adaptation Action Plan

Monitor

- Commitment to annual monitoring of the Action Plan

**5 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Is the proposal identified in the service plan?	No
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	Part
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for the proposal?	Part

- 5.1 The Action Plan identifies the resources required to initiate the first set of actions. As set out above, further baseline data and feasibility studies are required before more detailed costings can be provided for some of the options that might be taken forwards. This information will be available for the first review in October.
- 5.2 Delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan will require the additional resources in the form of a new Sustainability Officer post and consultancy support and this report recommends that £55k is allocated within the 2020/21 budget to fund this.
- 5.3 It is estimated that consultancy support to produce a fully costed plan to setup a building insulation grants scheme, for residents on low income will cost a further £45k. a recommendation of this report is that funding for this will be allocated in the 2020/21 budget.

**6 ACTION**

- 6.1 Subject to Cabinet’s agreement to the attached Action Plan and Council agreeing a 2020/2021 budget allocation, officers will work with the Climate Change Member Working Group to start implementation. A Climate Change stakeholder event is planned for March to launch the Action Plan and to build stronger collaborative working with an internal briefing for officers also being organised. Climate change meetings with Town and Parish Councils are to be arranged at quarterly intervals.

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix I – Hart Climate Change Action Plan: Carbon Reduction 2020 - 2023

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet Report: Climate Change Response – 5 September 2019  
Draft minutes of Hart Overview and Scrutiny meeting – 21 January 2020

## **Hart Climate Change Action Plan**

### **Carbon Reduction**

### **February 2020 – October 2023**

This Hart Climate Change Action Plan sets out the pathway of actions that will be taken in order for the Councils operational carbon emissions to be net zero by 2040 at the latest. From adoption of this Action Plan the Council will embed carbon reduction considerations into the day to day work of the Council including in its decision making process. This Plan is the Councils response to the declaration of a national Climate Change emergency in May 2019. It will be updated annually to cover a rolling three year period.

In addition to the reduction in the Council's own operational carbon emissions, the Action Plan sets out how the Council will work with stakeholders to support reductions in emissions across the District. Whilst this Action Plan focuses on carbon reduction, it identifies further actions to be undertaken to develop an adaptation and mitigation programme.

### **Background**

Following the declaration of the national Climate Change emergency, the Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 to set a target for the United Kingdom of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In September 2019 Hart District Council formally recognised the serious impact of climate change globally and the need for urgent action. It was agreed that a Climate Change Action Plan be prepared based on Hart District Council becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2040 at the latest.

### **Vision and Objectives**

In addition to supporting the national declaration of a climate change emergency, this Action Plan supports the Hart Vision 2040, which is for Hart to become:

**'The best place, community and environment to live, work and enjoy'.**

Measures to achieve this include enhancing the environment with one of the ways in which this will be delivered being:

**'Reducing the impact of climate change by building in sustainability to any new developments, encouraging re-wilding and using new technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change.'**

The **Objectives** of the Hart Climate Change Action Plan are:

- To deliver net zero carbon emissions from Hart District Council operations by 2040 at the latest; and
- To provide community leadership to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions emissions across the District.

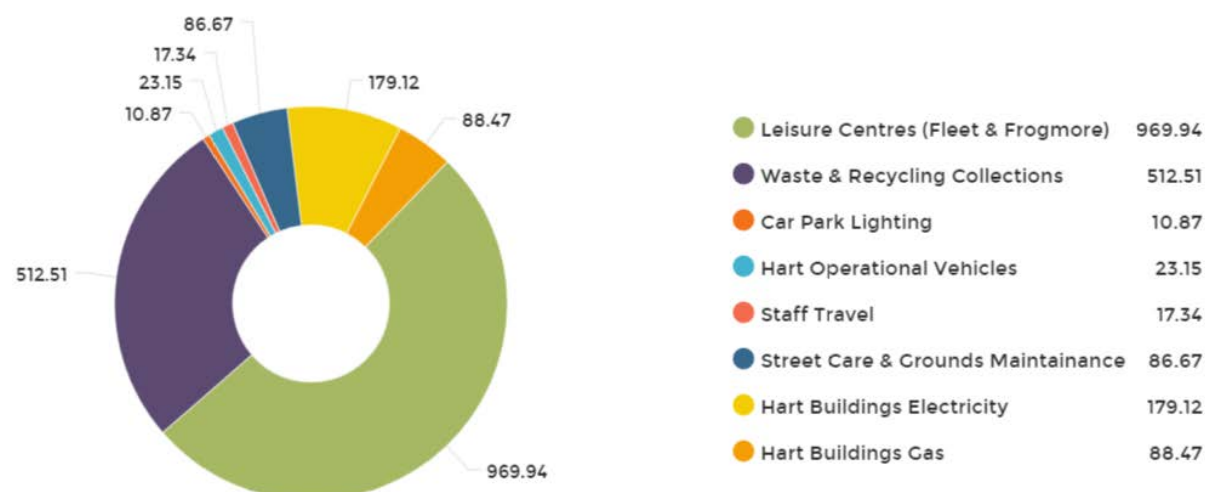
### **Carbon emissions**

The Councils operational carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e) at the time of preparing this Action Plan (2019) is set out in the Figure below and arises from a range of activities including running of the Council offices, staff travel and operation of the leisure centres.

The Council has been tracking its own direct emissions (scope 1) and those created from the energy it consumes (scope 2) over several years, as well as services that are run on behalf of the Council in the district, such as waste and recycling collections, street cleaning & ground maintenance and the leisure centres in Fleet and Frogmore.

Emissions stand at 1888.07 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) for 2018/19 (latest compiled data, subject to revision). While this data is comprehensive, it does not include emissions from all areas of the Council's activity, in particular the Council's procurement activity.

**Hart District Operational Carbon Emissions 2018/19 in tCO<sub>2</sub>e Total = 1888.07tCO<sub>2</sub>e**



(Figures in tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Council operations only comprise a small proportion of total carbon emissions across the District. Across the District as a whole, carbon emissions have been reducing. Government statistics<sup>1</sup> show the changes in per capita carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions for each local authority. This reduction is in line with other authorities and with Hampshire as a whole (5.0 tCO<sub>2</sub>), but our emissions remain higher than some of our neighbouring authorities and others in Hampshire. The highest contributor of carbon emissions in the District is from road transport followed by domestic emissions.

The Council will work closely with other partners including Hampshire County Council, businesses and local communities to support District wide reductions. Engaging with stakeholders will be a focus of the first 6 months of the Action Plan in order to inform the first review in October 2020.

**Monitoring and Review**

This Action Plan will be updated annually to include a rolling three year period of actions. The annual review will include information on progress against each action and an update on the reductions achieved in the Councils carbon footprint. It will also include additional actions for the following three year period.

The first review will be in October 2020 and each October thereafter. This allows the actions to be considered in the Councils annual budget and service planning processes. The first review in October 2020 will set a three year rolling carbon reduction target.

The revised Action Plan will be agreed annually by the Council's Cabinet.

<sup>1</sup> UK local and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005 – 2017 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017> , June 2019

## Action Plan Targets 1-3years (2020 – 2023)

To be adopted March 2020 unless otherwise stated, to be reviewed October 2020

Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
	<b>Strategy</b>					
S1	Analyse different pathways to emission reductions	Calculate annual CO <sub>2</sub> e saving and Cost/Payback for each action where feasible.	Populate additional Cost/Payback column in action plan. Produce costed pathways to meet carbon reductions target. Annual CO <sub>2</sub> e reduction target to be set and agreed.	First annual review	Staff time External consultants (£5,000 12mth limited budget to support as required)	Sustainability Officer
S2	Maximise opportunities across all areas of Hart District Council responsibilities	Relevant action to be reflected in each service plan with agreed targets	Service plans to be completed.	Service plans to be set by April 2020. To be reviewed annually.	Staff time	Heads of Service
		Identify and if necessary review key Council strategies and policies likely to have an impact on climate change.	Identify key strategies and policies to be reviewed, Policies to be update to be agreed and time date policies	Oct-2020 Apr-2021	Staff time	Corporate Strategy and Policy Manager

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Embed Climate Change objectives into all new key corporate projects and strategies, including procurement and include as a standard item in the Cabinet decision making process.	Procurement policy updated, to add carbon emission and sustainability as consideration.	First annual review	Staff time	Contracts and Procurement Manager
			Amendment to all report templates	Immediately following adoption of the Action Plan	Staff time	Committee Services Officer
		Organise staff awareness of mitigation measures they can put in place and training for key staff with particular relevance to climate change.	Information in Staff newsletter, promote training events	Sept-2020	Staff time and trainer as required (Approx. £1,000)	Communications and Media Manager & Sustainability Officer
		Use climate action to improve environment, society and economy. Through use of Co-benefits toolkit	Assess additional environmental, social and economic benefits for each action where applicable. Add to action plan where applicable.	First annual review	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
			Staff working group			
Hart Development Plan (including the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans) including policies supporting renewable energy, water & energy efficiency, minimising flood risk and promoting sustainable travel.	To be monitored through the annual Authorities monitoring report.	On-going	Staff time	Planning Policy Manager		



Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
S3	Identify commercialisation opportunities	Identify opportunities that will support climate change targets and put together business plan	EV charge points	2020/21	Staff time (Charge points £10-15,000 per car park for x2 22kW charger, grants available)	Commercialisation Manager
			Energy Storage	2020/21	Staff time (Approx. £500,000 to £1,000,000 per MWh, Sizes range from 5MWh to 50MWh)	
			PV Solar Installation	2020/21	Staff time (Approx. ~£1,000,000 per 5MW commercial installation)	
			White label energy supply / EV leasing	2020/21	TBC	
	<b>Energy</b>					
EI	Reduce emission from Hart DC operational energy consumption (Operational Emissions)	Energy Audit to be carried out on Hart DC operational buildings.	Create plan identifying potential energy saving with associated costs and timeframe to implement and estimated payback.	Oct-2020	External consultants  (Est £1,500 for Civic Offices)	Sustainability Officer

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Put together and cost plan for rolling program to convert HDC car park light to LED lighting.	All car park light to be LED lights.	Apr-2021	Approx. £40,000 for all car parks (~£360 per lamp including labour)	Infrastructure Manager
		Countryside rangers to trial hand held electric tools and machinery.	All hand held equipment to be electric where practicable.	Oct-2020	Costs included within Countryside budget.	Countryside Manager
E2	Increase % of Hart DC energy consumption from renewable sources (Operational Emissions)	Feasibility study for self-generation: Rooftop Solar PV, Micro Wind and energy storage	Fully costed feasibility study	Oct-2020	Staff time  (Approx. Civic Offices rooftop PV ~£50,000 for 50kW)	Sustainability Officer
		Investigate options for 100% renewable electricity supplier	Compare options through current contract	Jan-2020	Staff time (Approx. £TBC extra per year)	Business Support, Facilities & Data Manager
E3	Support reduced emission from energy consumption of residential (Hart District Emissions)	Work with private sector housing and external partners such as Housing Associations to support energy efficiency schemes, such as retrofit schemes in domestic and non-domestic buildings and	Identify external energy efficiency grant funding	on-going	Staff time	Head of Community and Housing
			Produce full costed plan to setup building insulation grants scheme, for residents on low income	Apr-2023	External consultants (Approx. £TBC)	

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		encourage take-up of renewable energy.	Assess options for bulk purchase of energy efficiency products, passing on saving to residence			
			Monitor and report uptake of energy efficiency measures, any grants and advice			
		Signpost community groups, businesses and residents to sources of support and funding.	Build webpages to promote energy efficiency information and resources	Oct-2020	Staff time	Communications and Media Manager & Sustainability Officer
	<b>Transport</b>					
T1	Encourage modal shift to more sustainable transport options (Hart District)	Develop a Green Grid Strategy including first stages of implementation to encourage better sustainable transport links between settlements and public transport hubs	Prepare Green Grid Strategy	2020/21	Green Grid Strategy - Officer time/ Consultation costs (Initial consultation already funded)	New Settlement Manager
			Implement Green Grid project between Hartland Park and Fleet Train Station			
T2	Transition Hart DC fleet vehicles to ultra-low / low emission vehicles. (Operational)	Produce a costed proposal covering investment need of both infrastructure and vehicles to introduce zero emission vehicles to HDC fleet. Looking at both associated carbon emission saving and air pollution improvements.	Reduce emission from Hart DC Fleet vehicles	Oct-2020	Consultants, Staff time  (EV Charge points at Civic Offices: x2 £12,844.66) x4 £18,802.66)	Sustainability Officer

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Reduce emissions from Grey Fleet (staff vehicles) and commuting	Promote sustainable transport options to staff, such as cycle to work scheme	1-3 years as required	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
	Arrange trials of EVs to relevant departments to identify suitability					
	Staff travel survey					
	Review staff travel policy to consider vehicle emissions, and encourage public transport		Oct-2020	Staff time	Human Resources and Customer Service Client Manager	
	Review working from home policy to reduce staff commuting					
		Encourage use of video / telephones for meetings conferences and ensure technology is available with training.	Oct-2020	Staff time, resources to be incorporated within Digital Strategy	Change and Digital Manager	
T3	Promote and encourage of ultra-low and low emission vehicles in Hart. (Hart District)	Identify grant funding	Complete application for OLEV grant funding for off-street electric vehicle charging in HDC owned car parks.	Apr 2020 for 2020/21 OLEV grant allocation	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
			Continue to review available grant funding options	1-3 years on-going	Staff time	Sustainability Officer

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Support and promote shared ultra-low and zero emission transport options	Feasibility study for community bus on demand scheme, with available technology options	Oct-2020	Consultants	Infrastructure Manager
	Review and update Low CO <sub>2</sub> emission parking season ticket discount scheme.		Apr-2020	(Current cost ~£500pa, already budgeted)	Infrastructure Manager	
	Identify options and locations for ultra-low and zero emission shared ownership/pool cars		Oct-2020	Staff time	Infrastructure Manager & Sustainability Officer	
	Use of licensing powers to incentivise the use of ultra-low and zero emission vehicles, and/or rolling phase out of older vehicles through raising of emission standards.	Review taxi licencing conditions	1 year	Staff time (target cost neutral)	Head of Place	
	<b>Nature</b>					
NI	Offsetting projects	Planting wild gardens, urban trees, living walls in car parks, green/living roofs.	Survey of HDC owned car parks, sites and building that could be suitable for greening	Oct-2020	Staff time	Countryside Manager
			Creation of plan showing cost, air pollution and carbon reduction, submitted for consideration as a pilot project once suitable site found.	Oct-2020		
		Planting of trees to offset carbon emissions	Identify suitable land/sites and funding. Including completion of	Oct-2020		

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
			tree canopy mapping in settlements.		Area tree canopy survey £2,500 & Staff time	
			Identification of pilot project	Apr-2021		
			Completion of tree strategy and costing for public tree planting scheme.	Oct-2020		
	<b>Community Leader &amp; Partnership</b>					
PI	Collaborative partnerships (operational)	Engage with operational partners to work towards meeting 2040 target. To be fed back into action plan.	Waste & Recycling (Serco) – Joint working to meet 32% CO <sub>2</sub> e reduction by 2026	Oct-2020	Staff time and consultancy support. Energy audit of both leisure centres (Approx. £4,000)	Sustainability Officer
			Leisure Services (Everyone Active) – Joint working to establish costed actions and targets	Oct-2020		Sport and Leisure Manager
			Street care and grounds maintenance (BDBC) – Joint working to establish costed actions and targets	Oct-2020		Countryside Manager
P2	Collaborative partnerships (stakeholders & community)	Identify community climate change groups / champions	Parish councils - Setup collaborative working arrangement	Apr-2020	Staff time	Corporate Strategy and Policy Manager
			Seek expression of interest	Oct-2020		

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Hart climate change charter for local businesses and organisations to sign up to	To be agreed by cabinet			Sustainability Officer, Economic Development Officer & Head of Place
			Seek collaborative partners through Hart news, press release			
			Engage with local groups			
P3	Strategic Partnership	Link Hart DC Action Plan with Hampshire wide 2050 net zero carbon target.	Establish dialog with HCC regarding 2050 climate plans.	On-going	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
			Link in Action plan objectives with HCC for funding/resources	Oct-2020	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
			Hart DC to influence where we can through partnerships	On-going	Staff time	All
		Engage with the Enterprise M3 activities	Link in Action plan objectives with HCC for funding/resources	On-going	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
P4	Support local businesses to help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions	Raise business awareness through events and information.	Continue to support and promote events through sustainable business network	On-going	£1,000 per annum & Staff time	Sustainability Officer & Economic Development Officer
			Engage with local businesses		Staff time	
			Meet with partners to explore potential to expand network, and identify Climate Change business champions.		Staff time	
			Working with EM3 LEP to deliver the clean growth economy, and support business to access clean grown and energy efficiency grant funding			

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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
		Work with local business and suppliers through procurement activities to encourage a lower climate impact.	Through the procurement activities we undertake, encourage local business and suppliers to lower their climate impact.	Dec-2020	Staff time	Contracts and Procurement Manager
P5	Increase awareness of opportunities to reduce carbon emissions across the District	Promote the consumption of food which has a low climate impact	Promote through communications and Hart news	On-going	Staff time, cost of publicity, land for urban gardens	Corporate Communications Officer
			Promote and support urban / community gardens			Countryside Manager
		Sharing advice and expertise with communities	Promoting climate change and sustainability in Hart through improved website / events	Oct-2020	Staff time, cost of publicity	Corporate Communications Officer
		Continuing to raise awareness and education on waste minimisation	Increase recycling rate, and reduce general waste	On-going	Staff time, cost of publicity	Waste & Recycling Manger
P6	Reduce emission of public events	Work with local events to reduce emission and waste from events	Good practice guide	Oct-2020	Staff time	Head of Place
	<b>Monitor</b>					
M1	Monitor Government announcements and initiatives	Create awareness of new initiatives and funding amongst staff, the local community and businesses.	Monthly reviews	On-going	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
M2	Monitor and Report on progress	Produce an annual report on climate change targets and actions and refresh a further 3-year work programme.	Annual	Oct-2020	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
	<b>Adaption</b>					



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Ref	Objective	Action	Target	Timeframe to implement	Resources	Lead
AI	Reduce impact of climate change on Hart's operations and the district.	Understand impact to operational and district	Climate change risk assessment to be carried out by each department	Apr-2020	Staff time	Sustainability Officer
			Work with local communities to increase resilience to future impacts of climate change			
			Adaptation action plan			

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