

Havant Borough Council
Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026

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Foreword by Julie Thain-Smith, Cabinet Lead

I am pleased to introduce the Havant Borough Council Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026.

In developing this strategy, we have made a determined effort to explore what is within Havant Borough Council's sphere of influence to drive the change we need. We will collaborate with others on how this is achieved. It is essential that all potential effects and impacts on the environment are mandated as material considerations in all decisions, policies or guidelines that Havant Borough Council makes or produces.

This strategy will evolve as we deliver it, learning as we go, leveraging influence and working collaboratively across our Borough.

The decisions that we make as an organisation over the next five years have the potential to have a far-reaching and positive impact on our climate. With this strategy, guided by the science, and based on evidence for optimising outcomes, we will strive for the best outcomes for the climate and environment.

The prize is a future for the next generation of Havant residents which embraces a low-carbon economically-vibrant, inclusive community, and where health and wellbeing is enjoyed by everyone.



Julie Thain-Smith, Cabinet Lead

Endorsement of the Chief Executive

The Leadership of Havant Borough Council recognises that the climate crisis poses a key risk for the authority. The first step was taken in May 2019 with a motion that recognises that we all have a part to play in reducing harmful emissions and improving the environment.

My role as Chief Executive is to take that mandate and embed behaviours across the whole organisation to tackle the climate crisis.

This Climate and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 firmly establishes a collaborative and integrated approach that embraces how I lead the officer team to deliver all our services, including those provided through our strategic partners.

The first objective laid out in this document is for the Council to reach carbon net-zero operation by or before 2050. But the challenge is greater than that: we also need to use our influence as community leaders and the planning authority to deliver carbon net-zero development, whilst securing a vibrant low-carbon economy.

The second objective in the strategy is to protect and enhance the local natural environment. It is crucial to take an inclusive approach to deliver compelling opportunities for active travel, appreciation and enjoyment of the coast, beaches and open green spaces. Sea water and freshwater quality is an integral part of this priority, and we will continue to work with partners to deliver improvements, such as the Environment Agency and Southern Water.

Gill Kneller, May 2021

1. Executive summary

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a clear statement of the Council's climate change and environment objectives and identify priorities that will drive action and promote accountability.

There is irrefutable scientific evidence that climate change is having serious negative impacts on our livelihoods and communities.

We are all partners in the delivery of this strategy as individuals, families, communities, organisations, schools, colleges and enterprises across the Borough.

In May 2019, the Council acknowledged that Havant needs to respond swiftly to the nationally recognised need to reduce harmful carbon emissions. The wording of the motion to the council can be found in Annex 1.

This Climate Change and Environment Strategy has been shaped by stakeholder engagement with (virtual) open events held in December 2020 and March 2021.

The strategy provides a vision for Havant Borough Council and its priorities for the focus of the next five years. A delivery Action Plan will follow, to identify initiatives, and be implemented by business cases. By mainstreaming climate priorities across the organisation, the Council will report on progress and be accountable in our annual review.

The strategy describes two high level objectives for the strategy, to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050, and to protect and enhance the local natural environment. It covers spheres of influence to drive change and lift the level of ambition for a future where people and nature thrive. We want to take an inclusive approach, so everybody takes action to tackle the climate crisis.

2. The climate crisis

Climate change is a large-scale, long-term shift in the earth's weather patterns because of increasing average global temperatures. The results are seen in ever increasing severity and frequency of extreme and unpredictable weather events. Flash floods, storms and high winds, heatwaves, wildfires, summer droughts and coastal incursions have caused the climate challenges we face.

Human activity is responsible for the climate crisis: burning fossil fuels, intensified agriculture, polluting industrial processes and land-use change, clearance of vegetation increases green-house gases, changing the atmosphere, and altering the climate.

The impact is recognised globally. Everyone has a responsibility to take action, urgently.

3. National and International Policy context

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in October 2018 which concluded that we have less than 12 years to act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The report highlights several climate impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. It

suggests that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action by governments that signed the Paris Agreement.

This was strengthened by the IPCC *Sixth Assessment Report* published August 2021, which stated that human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.

In June 2019, the UK government amended the Climate Change Act 2008, committing to a net-zero carbon target by or before 2050. The UK as a whole must eliminate climate emissions from energy use in homes, transport, farming industry, and from all public services.

The UK government envisage local authorities as catalysts of change. Councils are experts in understanding their local areas, and delivering action mandated through national policy.

In October 2017, the government adopted the Clean Growth Strategy, proposing measures for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s. It explains how the whole country can benefit from low-carbon opportunities, while meeting national and international commitments to tackle climate change. Amendments to this strategy have brought forward timescales for instance, banning the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030.

In January 2018, the 25-year Environment Plan confirmed the government's aim to take all possible action to mitigate climate change by continuing to cut GHG emissions, while adapting to reduce its impact through risk assessments and responses to floods, heatwaves, new pests and disruption to food production.

More recently, despite the impact of Covid-19, we have seen proposals and policies for a Future Homes Standard, Build Back Better, Living with Beauty and Active Travel (links to references provided [below](#)).

4. Local context and key challenges

Havant Borough Council is set on the south coast of England between Chichester to the east and Portsmouth to the west. It is located on the coastal plain between the South Downs National Park and the Solent. It comprises five areas: Emsworth, Hayling Island, Waterlooville, Leigh Park to Havant and Bedhampton in the centre. It is home to around 129,000 people (2017 estimate).

The existing cycling and walking network is extensive, and the flat landscape topography lends itself to active travel. Bicycles go free on local ferry services connecting Hayling Island.

Havant railway station is the best connected in South Hampshire and has direct services to London, port cities of Southampton and Portsmouth, and good connections to the east. Road links connect the borough east-west M27/A27 and northeast-southwest A3M.

The economy has moved from a largely manufacturing base with marine and technology businesses, towards more service-based economy with a focus on tourism and retail. Windsurfing has its origins on Hayling Island, and Beachlands continues to

be a popular location for the sport. Many higher skilled workers commute in to the Borough for work, whilst 59% of residents commute out for work (2019 estimates).

Of the 51,300 households in Havant (2018 census) more than 20% do not have an EPC Energy Performance Certificate. We know that almost 50% of EPCs are rated D or below. The Clean Growth Strategy set a target to upgrade as many houses as possible to EPC Band C by 2035. Since carbon emissions from domestic properties are one of the biggest contributors in Havant, it is likely that over 12,500 homes will need retrofitting over period of this strategy. This translates to around 2,500 homes every year.

There is only one 'neighbourhood' plan drafted (2021) in Havant's area: Emsworth. Additional funding from house-builder contributions (CIL & S.106) are made available to places with an adopted neighbourhood plan. The challenge is to support communities to develop neighbourhood plans, to give communities funding to address the climate crisis.

5. How to make a difference

You can make a difference:

- At home or at work, reduce energy use by making buildings energy efficient.
- Switch to renewable sources of energy.
- Choose locally produced food; reduce meat and dairy consumption.
- Switch to active travel: walk and cycle more, drive and fly less.
- Use resources more efficiently: avoid waste, reuse and recycle.
- Help us increase tree cover by planting a tree near to where you live.
- Join a local team keeping our coastline, open green-space and woodlands healthy.

Help by talking to friends and family about making small changes, they add up to influencing the future for good.

More information can be found by searching for Havant Climate Alliance and the Action Network. (Link 2021: <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/havant-climate-alliance>)

6. The Impact

Without action, rising global temperatures will increase the frequency and intensity of unpredictable weather events. The natural environment will be affected, with the loss of many species of flora and fauna. Ecosystems and the ecosystem services they provide will change and have an adverse impact on our economy and food supply chains.

The IPCC predicts:

- Climate change is expected to magnify regional differences in Europe's natural resources and assets. Negative impacts will include increased risk of inland flash-floods, more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion.
- Glaciers will retreat and snow cover will reduce affecting winter tourism. There could be extensive loss of plant and animal species.
- In Southern Europe, climate change is projected to worsen conditions (high temperatures and drought) in a region already vulnerable to climate variability

and to reduce water availability, hydropower potential, summer tourism and, in general, crop productivity.

- The Panel also anticipate that there will be increased risks to health associated with heat waves, in particular for the young and the elderly.

For Havant, the impact of climate change will likely mean hotter drier summers with more chance of heat waves and drought and wetter, milder winters with more storms and increased risk of river and coastal flooding.

7. Tackling Climate Change

Our response to climate change will be managed on two fronts:

Mitigation: Taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Adaptation: Being prepared for the impacts caused by changes in our climate.

By developing a coherent approach to mitigation and adaptation, everyone in Havant will benefit by saving energy and money, and improved environmental performance.

Our residents and businesses benefit through an improved quality of life and being more prepared for the threats posed by the changing climate.

Through Havant Borough Council's Climate Change Motion and the production of this Climate Change and Environment Strategy, the Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by or before 2050 in line with national legislation.

You can keep in touch with the latest initiatives, with the Council's Community Climate Conversation initiative. Your Council wants to work with everyone for a sustainable future.

8. Havant Borough Council's Vision

The adoption of the strategy means the following statements will be true:

Havant Borough Council operations and services are delivered with net-zero carbon emissions. Changes to our policy framework are made soon as reasonably practicable, ahead of, or in line with national legislation.

Collaboration and cooperation with relevant agencies, partners, enterprises, and communities actively support the net-zero carbon ambition in all sectors.

Havant Borough Council members actively identify policy obstacles and lobby for change to address the climate and ecological crisis.

Havant is a carbon net-zero Borough, with the council enabling everyone to play their part, and to benefit from a sustainable, economically-vibrant society, where good health and wellbeing means that people and nature thrive in harmony.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a clear statement of the Council's climate and environment priorities for tackling the Council's direct impact. Working with our

public and private sector partners and our communities, the Council will use its mandate to influence outcomes to accelerate and embed low-carbon outcomes.

9. Havant's strategic objectives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. CLIMATE

To reduce carbon emissions in line with the Climate Change Act 2008 to net-zero carbon by 2050 for all Council services, whether they are delivered by us, or through a partnership. To use the authority's mandate as Planning authority for sustainable development. To influence and support our residents and enterprises in every sector to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. ENVIRONMENT

The ecosystem services provided by the natural environment represent a life-support system we all rely upon. Havant Borough Council works in partnership to protect, improve and enhance our natural environment locally for biodiversity net gain.

10. Scope and influence of the strategy

This strategy is for Havant Borough Council. Figure 2 covers the spheres of influence: ranging from direct control over emissions from its own operations through the strong influence on the area through the Local Plan. The council has no mandate or direct influence on the wider public sector policy formation other than as a statutory stakeholder. And the council influences local communities and enterprises through a process of consultation, cooperation and collaboration.

The strength of influence indicated in level to reflect the ability of the council to them influence actions to mitigate climate change.

Figure 1 Spheres of Influence

Havant Borough Council	Strategic Partners, procured services	Development and Regeneration	Public Sector policy Framework	Local Community and Enterprises
The Council has <i>overall direct control</i> over its own operations, and the policies it adopts.	The Council has a <i>significant control</i> through specification of procured services, and strategic partners delivering services on behalf of Havant borough council	The Council's Local Plan has a <i>strong influence</i> on development and regeneration in Havant Borough Council	The Council is a statutory stakeholder for national policies framing our operating environment. <i>Some control</i> is provided through consultation or lobbying.	The Council influences the local community and enterprises through, <i>consultation-operation and collaboration</i> .



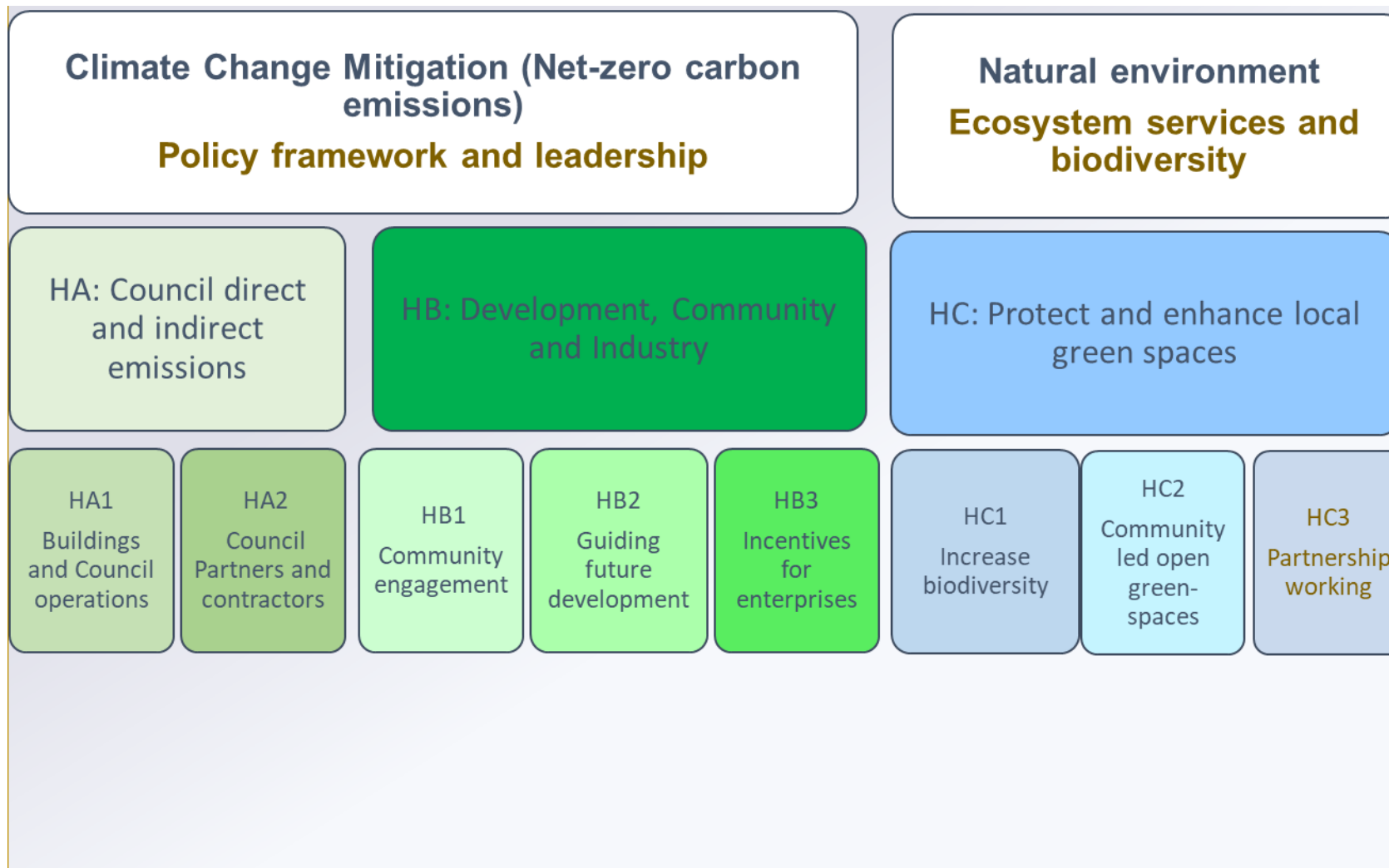


Figure 2 Overview of Havant BC Climate and Environment Objectives and Initiatives

11. Priorities

HA: Priorities to tackle Council's estate and operations emissions

Emissions attributable to Council's own operations are only a small proportion of all climate emissions in the borough, perhaps 1 or 2% of the total. We have direct influence over these, so we are putting these first to demonstrate leadership by tackling our own emissions as a priority.

HA1: Priorities for tackling the emission from Council Estates and operations	
HA1i	Reduce emissions from Council buildings and vehicles to zero by or before 2050 by switching to renewable energy and EVs
HA1ii	Harness new technology for a transition to innovative low-carbon on-line and cloud-based working practices. Reduce office space requirements and move to hybrid in-person and virtual meeting arrangements.
HA1iii	Amend the Constitution, procurement processes and investment appraisal tools to mandate inclusion of criteria to mitigate the climate crisis.
HA1iv	Change the culture of the organisation with carbon literacy awareness at all levels

HA2: Priorities for tackling the emissions from our partners and contractors	
HA2i	All new or reviewed contracts and procurement will embrace the net-zero by or before 2050 target from 2021
HA2ii	Strategic long-term partners' emissions will be managed to net-zero by or before 2050 within existing contracts e.g., in leisure centres and from refuse collection.
HA2iii	Lobby staff pension providers to eliminate fossil fuel investments.

HB: Priorities for Development, Community and Industry

We will use our channels of communication and networks in the community and across our local economy to present everyone with the opportunity to make the changes we need to see to reach net-zero carbon emission for the whole district by or before 2050.

HB1: Priorities engaging positively with residents and our local community	
HB1i	Promote climate messages to raise awareness and stimulate public engagement to foster change, including active travel, improving recycling rates, reducing energy demand, and looking after the natural

	environment.
HB1ii	Promote retrofitting for existing homes to reduce energy demand and save money on heating. Tackle fuel poverty and identify funding for schemes offering installation of energy-efficiency measures, including insulation and smart thermostats.
HB1iii	Engage and facilitate a network of 'Green Groups' to enable effective sharing of successful initiatives for behaviour change. Initiate climate conversations and consult with residents and enterprises for lifting and accelerating ambition for net-zero carbon.

HB2: Priorities for guiding future development e.g., through the planning system

HB2i	Minimise the climate impact of new development through our Local Plan policies and development management decisions. Embrace and enforce polices to reduce energy demand in dwellings such as the Future Homes Standard, Living with Beauty, and others as appropriate. Leading by example, minimise the climate and environmental impacts of Havant Borough Council's own projects.
HB2ii	Adopt approaches for delivery of new homes that meet or exceed energy standards. Seek better protection for households through engagement with housebuilders, social landlords, and through effective, resourced enforcement.
HB2iii	Reinforce and implement policy and initiatives for low-carbon transport. Prioritise compelling options for active travel, walking and cycling, and insist on best practice for infrastructure design and paths. Ensure alternatives to fossil fuels through promoting investments in infrastructure for electric-vehicles, and green hydrogen hubs for HGVs

HB3: Priorities for providing incentives for businesses and enterprise

HB3i	Encourage the switch away from internal combustion engines (ICE).
HB3ii	Mandate that Climate Change and Environment criteria and impacts are material considerations when awarding or supporting grants and funding
HB3iii	Celebrate best practice amongst our local businesses and shops, for instance to improve energy efficiency, or innovation to address climate issues
HB3iv	Embrace Build Back Better ¹ and promote jobs in 'green' sector

HC: Priorities to Protect and enhance the Natural Environment.

Promote inclusive access and enjoyment of the natural environment alongside sustainable management.

HC1: Priority for the local Natural Environment	
HC1	In line with Havant Borough Council's Biodiversity Strategy (Jan 2019), support and promote initiatives that halt biodiversity loss, support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems, and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better spaces for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

HC2: Priority for Community led open green-spaces.	
HC2	Enhance and extend the process for residents and community groups to adopt land owned by Havant Borough Council for planting wildflowers, trees and improving local biodiversity.

HC3: Priorities for partnership working	
HC3i	Work with our partners and Hampshire County Council to eliminate routine use of pesticides in public open spaces
HC3ii	Work with Hampshire County Council to develop and promote active travel. Seek funding to connect cycling and walking infrastructure across and within the Borough to connect neighbouring settlements and employment hubs.
HC3iii	Work with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Portsmouth Water and other agencies to deliver schemes to improve provision of water supply*, freshwater quality, coastal (seawater) quality, and mitigate nitrate pollution. * including addressing use of freshwater springs to protect aquifer function.
HC3iv	Collaborate with the Coastal Partnership on adaptation. Support proposals to minimize carbon emissions from implementation of the shoreline management plan.

HM: Priorities for Reporting Metrics and Accountability

Havant Borough Council has committed to adopting this policy and the priorities for period 2021 to 2026. Accountability for delivery of initiatives will be mainstreamed and business cases scrutinised and made public through the Annual Report, using

metrics consistent with statutory reporting and Hampshire County Council methodologies.

An Action Plan itemising individual initiatives will follow the strategic priorities, with envisaged timetables and reporting metrics.

HM	HM Metrics and Accountability Priority
HMi	Align with Hampshire County Council methodology for reporting on carbon emissions. Undertake a verifiable and objective reporting against the indicators listed in the Action Plan.
HMii	Publish a narrative for actions and progress undertaken as part of the Annual Report every year
HMiii	Update our independent Integrated Impact Assessment to include climate and environment criteria and ensure that the key indicators are prioritised

Supplementary information

Glossary and abbreviations

Carbon, Carbon Dioxide	C; CO ₂ ; CO ₂ ^e	Carbon and Carbon dioxide is the biggest contributor to GHG in the atmosphere by volume, responsible for global warming. Carbon in fossil fuels generates CO ₂ when burned. Other gases are expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents CO ₂ ^e : Methane 21 times the impact on atmospheric warming
Council Services		Havant Borough Council is a District authority within Hampshire County. Services include bin collections, benefits and housing, communities, economic development licensing, parking services, Council Tax collection and planning applications.
Carbon capture and storage	CCS	Processes which 'suck' carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, make a chemical or physical change and stores it so it cannot escape back into the atmosphere. Only small-scale schemes have been proven as reliable. Only to be used as a last resort in any hierarchy.
Climate Emissions		Emissions of gases that increase the greenhouse effect. They include carbon, methane, nitrous oxide and many more. See GHG; CO ₂ ; CO ₂ ^e
Direct and indirect emissions		Direct emissions are those produced directly by an organisation; indirect emissions are made by a contractor or supplier on behalf of an organisation
Ecosystem Services		Ecosystem services are provided free of charge by our natural environment, sometimes referred to as 'natural capital'. Ecosystem services are our life-support system and enable us to thrive. Ecosystem Services include Provisioning services, fresh water, food and materials, timber and minerals, Supporting services, functions that underpin all the other ecosystem services, like soil formation, nutrient and water cycling, and biodiversity. Regulating Services of natural processes for good air quality, water and soil quality, water flow and flood control, and pollination. And finally, Cultural services, the

		'non-material' benefits from our interaction with the natural environment, offering inspiration, tranquillity, recreation, and cultural heritage. We must look after our environment; after all, it looks after us.
Electric Vehicles	EV	Zero emission cars and vans using battery power.
Greenhouse gas	GHG	Atmospheric gases which cause global warming, principally carbon dioxide, but includes methane, nitrous oxide, and many others. GHG are used to quantify emissions and for carbon budgets.
Hampshire County Council	HCC	Hampshire County Council is the transport Authority, and waste disposal authority. Havant is a Borough Council within Hampshire.
Local Plan		The Local Plan is the overarching planning policy strategy that guides how development is delivered in a planning authority area.
Net-zero		The target of net-zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions, to as close to zero as possible, and offsetting the remaining emissions to prevent global temperature rise. It means the same as 'carbon neutral'.
Resource efficiency		Avoiding waste, reusing, or recycling materials and things.

References and further Reading

Climate change and the EU's response	EU Commission	November 2007	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_07_515
UK Climate Change Act	UK Government	November 2008	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents
Sustainable development goals 2030	United Nations	May 2015	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
The Paris Agreement/Accord	United Nations Committee on Climate Change	November 2016	https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement
Sixth Assessment Report	UN IPCC	August 2021	https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/
Clean Growth Strategy	UK Government	October 2017	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy

25 Year Environment Plan	UK Government	January 2018	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan
Green Finance Strategy	UK Government	July 2019	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820284/190716_BEIS_Green_Finance_Strategy_Accessible_Final.pdf
Hampshire CC strategy/vision	Hampshire County Council	January 2020	https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/07012020ClimateChange
Havant BC Biodiversity Strategy	Havant Borough Council	January 2019	https://cdn.havant.gov.uk/public/documents/Havant%20Borough%20Biodiversity%20Strategy.pdf#:~:text=The%20strategy%20will%20enable%20Havant,taking%20a%20collective%20approach%20to
Local Plan - Statutory policy framework for development	Havant Borough Council	May 2020	https://www.havant.gov.uk/localplan
Living with Beauty Report	Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission	January 2020	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/861832/Living_with_beauty_BBBBC_report.pdf
Future Homes Standard	The Future Homes Standard: changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings	Consultation January 2021	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/956094/Government_response_to_Future_Homes_Standard_consultation.pdf
Local Plan	The statutory Policy covering development in Havant 2036	(To be adopted in 2021)	https://www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan
Coastal	(Various) plans for protecting the coastline		https://coastalpartners.org.uk/

Annex 1 Climate Statement May 2019

Motion to The Council 8 May 2019

<https://havant.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=212&MID=10584#A114876>

Proposed by Councillor Francis and seconded by Councillor Pike, it was

RESOLVED that

This Council recognises that residents, businesses, community groups and public bodies all have a part to play in reducing harmful emissions and improving our environment.

As a Council, we wish to see a reduction in carbon emissions across the Borough, and new dwellings that have a reduced impact on the environment.

Our draft Local Plan 2036 gives clear leadership to sustainable housing, increasing use of renewable energy and electric vehicles. We call upon housebuilders to comply with and exceed these new standards which will significantly reduce the environmental impact of new housing.

As a Council, we are providing leadership in environmental standards by, for example, investing in electric vehicles for HBC services, electric vehicle charging points in our car parks, better cycling and walking routes, high standards of building and green spaces in our regeneration plans and increasing our recycling rates.

There are many steps that property owners can take, for example, solar PV/solar tiles, solar assisted water heating, individual room thermostatic heating controls, exterior wall insulation, double/triple glazing, electric car charging points and other low carbon and energy saving measures.

This Council urges all residents, businesses and other public bodies to work with us to reduce our collective impact on the environment.