

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2023** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) meeting held on 1st December 2022.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

3. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 9 - 18)

A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

Contact Officer: H Peacey
01480 388169

4. CLIMATE STRATEGY (Pages 19 - 70)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Climate Strategy.

Contact Officer: N Sloper
01480 388635

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 71 - 74)

- a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

23 day of December 2022



Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

Filming, Photography and Recording (including Live Streaming) at Council Meetings

This meeting will be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items. If you make a representation to the meeting you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. By entering the meeting you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding the streaming of Council meetings, please contact Democratic Services on 01480 388169.

The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No: 01480 388008/e-mail Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 1 December 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair

Councillors T Alban, M J Burke,
S Bywater, S J Criswell, J E Harvey,
N J Hunt, M Kadewere, C Lowe,
S R McAdam and D J Shaw.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor G J Welton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S W Ferguson.

18. MINUTES

The final paragraph of Minute 22/15 was amended to read;

Following the discussion, the panel were informed that their comments would be added to the cabinet report in order for the cabinet to make the decision on the recommendations.

after which the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

20. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023.

21. BUSINESS RATES RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

By means of a report by the Revenues and Benefits Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Business Rates Rural Settlement List Report was presented to the Panel.

Following an enquiry from Councillor Criswell, the Panel were advised that whilst the list could only be amended once annually, there was scope to reverse amends or adapt as circumstances change.

Councillor Shaw questioned how the population figures had been established, citing the specific example of Buckden. The Panel heard that the County Council had provided the figures, with a population of 2,758 being given for Buckden. It was also advised that the 2021 Census figures were still being processed so were not yet available.

The report was praised by Councillor Alban whose ward is comprised of villages who all fall within the parameters of the report. Following a question from Councillor Alban about how businesses apply for relief, the Panel heard that the Business Rates team were proactive. The team work closely with businesses to ensure that they receive support that they are entitled to and are signposted to further support as applicable.

Having welcomed the report, it was thereupon

RESOLVED

that Cabinet be encouraged to endorse the recommendations within the report.

22. CHANGE TO PANEL NAME

Following recent discussions it had been proposed to change the name of the Panel to Environment, Communities and Partnerships.

Councillor Alban observed that the proposed name may be considered unwieldy but did encompass all aspects of the Panel's Roles and Remits.

Councillor Hunt stated that encompassing Environment within the Panel name, strengthened the importance of the topic and it's role within the Panels Remits for the future.

It was observed by Councillor Criswell that Environment holds importance in everything the Council does and questioned whether having this within the Panel name blurred the remits between the two Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Having discussed the change to the Panel name, the Panel unanimously

RESOLVED

to adopt the new name of Overview and Scrutiny (Environment,

Communities and Partnerships).

23. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel.

Following discussion from the Panel, it was agreed that future agenda planning be added to the agenda of the January meeting of the Panel.

Chair

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NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by: Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 22 December 2022
For Period: 1 January 2023 to 30 April 2023

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD E-mail: Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Ferguson	Executive Councillor for Customer Services	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor M Hassall	Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	Care of Huntingdonshire District Council St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07825 193572 E-mail: Martin.Hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	2 Grainger Avenue Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Pitt	Executive Councillor for Community & Health	17 Day Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DF Tel: 07703 169273 E-mail: Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	29 Burmoor Close Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

Notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
 - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

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- Notes:-
- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
 - (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2022/23	Grants Panel	11 & 18 Jan 2023 1 & 15 Feb 2023 1, 15 & 29 Mar 2023		Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager Tel No: 01480 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		B Pitt & M Hassall	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Place Strategy Update	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Kate McFarlane, Corporate Director (Place) Tel No: 01480 388719 or email: Kate.McFarlane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	Performance & Growth
Climate Strategy	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Neil Sloper, Assistant Director Strategic Insights and Delivery Tel No: 01480 388635 or email: Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		L Davenport-Ray	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Local Plan Review and Proposed Update	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Clara Kerr, Service Manager - Growth Tel No: 01480 388430 or email: Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Sustainability Appraisal Coping report***	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Clara Kerr, Service Manager - Growth Tel No: 01480 388430 or email: Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Statement of Community Involvement***	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Clara Kerr, Service Manager - Growth Tel No: 01480 388430 or email: Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Great Gransden Neighbourhood Plan Examination Outcome and Progression to Referendum***	Cabinet	24 Jan 2023		Natalie Elworthy, Assistant Planning Policy Officer Tel No: 01480 388433 or email: Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Final 2023/24 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2024/25 to 2027/28) including Capital Programme	Cabinet	7 Feb 2023		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services Tel No: 01480 387072 or email: Karen.Sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		B Mickelburgh	Performance & Growth

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
2023/24 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies	Cabinet	7 Feb 2023		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services Tel No: 01480 387072 or email: Karen.Sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		B Mickelburgh	Performance & Growth
Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy	Cabinet	7 Feb 2023		John Taylor, Chief Operating Officer Tel No: 01480 388119 or email: John.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Ferguson	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Market Towns Programme - Spring Update	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Place Strategy	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Kate McFarlane, Corporate Director (Place) Tel No: 01480 388719 or email: Kate.McFarlane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	Performance & Growth
Corporate Plan	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Dan Buckridge, Business Intelligence and Performance Manager Tel No: 01480 388065 or email: Dn.Buckridge@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	Performance & Growth
Huntingdonshire UK Shared Prosperity Funding - Update	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Kate McFarlane, Corporate Director (Place) Tel No: 01480 388719 or email: Kate.McFarlane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Tenancy Strategy	Cabinet	18 Apr 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 07874 887465 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Ferguson	Performance & Growth

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title: Climate Strategy

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) – 5th January 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor Climate & Environment
– Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray

Report by: Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery
– Neil Sloper

Wards affected: All

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on formal recognition of a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency in Huntingdonshire, the Council's proposed Climate Strategy and the initial Climate Action Plan from the Cabinet report attached.

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title: Climate Strategy

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny - 5th January 2023
Cabinet - 24th January 2023
Council – 22nd February 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor Climate & Environment
– Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray

Report by: Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery
– Neil Sloper

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Executive Summary:

This report presents the formal recognition of a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency in Huntingdonshire and the adoption of a Climate Strategy that sets out the priorities to achieve the commitment of a net zero carbon Council by 2040.

Tackling climate change and caring for the environment is a key strategic objective of the Council which is committed to **proactively tackling the climate crisis and ecological emergency**. The Council agreed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion on 12 October 2022, recognising that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses.

Informed by the evidence and consultation presented, the strategy identifies the priority actions for the Council to **be a positive example** through in its own actions by reducing the consumption of energy and fossil fuels, replacing what we use with alternatives that reduce carbon emissions:

- Make improvements to Council buildings to improve their energy efficiency and by 2040 stop using gas for heating.
- Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation and consider renewable energy supply and resilience.
- Establish a plan that reduces Council vehicle emissions to zero by 2040.

The Council will **be a positive example** responding to the ecological emergency by delivering increased biodiversity across its own and managed land:

- Management of amenity grass for the benefit of nature and carbon capture
- Developing and implementing plans across parks and open spaces (in addition to Countryside Sites), with our communities, to increase the tree canopy and biodiversity. This will include supporting others to do the same.

The Council will be **an enabler**, supporting action within our communities and across our partners to deliver climate action across Huntingdonshire by:

- Supporting development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work
- Supporting schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy
- Seeking funding and working with partners to enhance the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel
- Improving information, knowledge and advice to achieve >60% diversion of waste from landfill and improve the quality of the recycling material

The Council will also act as **an encourager**, promoting actions amongst communities and businesses that will reduce carbon emissions across Huntingdonshire:

- Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice.
- Sharing guidance and advice to residents and businesses to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating and renewables
- Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices for the environment and climate
- Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes

The Strategy sets out the way in which the Council will monitor and regularly review actions, recognising that new technology and approaches will develop through the lifetime of the strategy. Establishing an annual Climate Conversation will:

- ensure our partners, businesses and communities to share and learn best practice
- allow the Council to show what it has achieved, the progress towards the Council's net carbon zero target
- check our priorities and actions, ensuring they reflect changes in technology, the environment and amongst our communities.

The outcomes will be reported including an update of the Council's Climate Action Plan.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is

RECOMMENDED

To approve:

- A) The formal recognition of a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency
- B) The adoption of the Council's Climate Strategy in response to the Climate Emergency
- C) The adoption of the initial Climate Action Plan proposed, endorsing its annual refresh in association with our communities, businesses and partners through the Climate Conversation.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Formal recognition of a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency and the Council's response.
- 1.2 To present the evidence and consultation that has informed the Council's Climate Strategy.
- 1.3 To present the Climate Strategy for adoption so that the Council is:
 - a **positive example** through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040.
 - an **enabler** supporting action within our communities and across our partners
 - an **encourager** to those that live, work and visit Huntingdonshire to take climate action and reduce carbon emissions.

BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has considered the importance of the environment in its past activities:
 - The **Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036** (HLP2036) - sets out 8 key policies which better shape our future environment for the benefit of nature and the reduction of carbon emissions.
 - Waste minimisation strategy and action plan in 2020 – targeting over 60% recycling rates
 - Tree strategy and action plan 2020 - managing 9000 individual trees, tree groups, shelterbelts, and woodland – a 400Ha tree canopy
 - Enhancing nature and environment introducing pictorial meadows and site management plans in award winning parks - 1,534 hectares of green space, 42.8 hectares of woodlands.
 - Reducing CO2 from energy consumption in buildings – 790 tonnes of CO2
 - Proactively managing fuel efficiency – saving 17,000 litres of fuel and 44 tonnes of CO2
 - Enhancing our electric vehicle charging offer within car parks to 13 chargers that enabled 100,000 miles of emission-free travel.
- 2.2 The Council adopted a set of environmental principles in October 2021 that established the Council's net zero carbon target of 2040 for its own operations and:
 - To encourage carbon emission reduction across the district
 - To protect, enhance and restore existing nature areas (green space) and create new ones (where it is viable to do so).
 - To pursue the ambitions of 'A green Future: Our 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment' and that new development should be designed with a view to minimising and mitigating the effects of Climate Change.
 - Ensuring existing and new communities see real benefits in their well-being from living in Huntingdonshire.
 - Using natural resources wisely.

- 2.3 The Council's Joint Administration set out its objectives in May 2022 to work towards a greener and fairer Huntingdonshire. This set out 5 key objectives of focus including **tackling climate change and caring for the environment**, recognising the need to declare a Climate Emergency and set out a clearly prioritised Climate Strategy.
- 2.4 The Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion on Wednesday 12 October 2022. This recognised the importance and positive impact of action for the benefit of climate and the environment in tackling the rising costs of living by reducing consumption of natural resources, shifting to renewables and reducing carbon emissions.

3. CLIMATE STRATEGY

3.1 Policy Context

The UK Government amended the Climate Change Act 2018 in 2019 by introducing a target of at least a 100% reduction in the net UK carbon account (i.e., reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. This is otherwise known as the national 'net zero' target.

The Government's 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment – A Green Future published in 2018 sets out long term targets and approach to protecting and enhancing natural landscapes and habitats in England for the generation – its goals are:

- cleaner air and water
- plants and animals which are thriving
- a cleaner, greener country for us all.

The Environment Bill completed its passage through Parliament in November 2021 where it was confirmed that requirements would be set for biodiversity net gain for new nationally significant infrastructure projects in England.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF - 2021) included a number of amendments and updates relating to climate change mitigation for new development including reference to UK signing up to “17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.”

3.2 Huntingdon Futures

Huntingdonshire Futures is a new Place Strategy that is a shared vision for the future of Huntingdonshire for the next 30 years - considering its unique features, location, planned future growth, infrastructure requirements and technological advancements.

At the heart of Huntingdonshire Futures is understanding what is most important to residents, communities and stakeholders within our key towns and rural areas across Huntingdonshire. The specific insight

relating to the Environment (Appendix 3), one of the four themes, has been used to inform the Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan to ensure it delivers on the Environmental vision for Huntingdonshire. These have been combined with the results of specific consultation regarding our Climate Strategy derived from Huntingdonshire’s Climate Conversation.

3.3 Climate Conversation

A Climate Conversation consisting of a series of engagements with residents and communities between February 2022 and October 2022 was undertaken to establish the priorities of the Climate Strategy:

Resident Survey	Establishing Climate Priorities	February to March 2022
Parish Forum	Test and Refine Climate Themes	July 2022
Councillor Workshops	Test and Refine Climate Themes	August 2022
Student Research	Engagement with younger adults	September 2022
Stakeholder Engagement	Confirmation of final themes/priorities	September to October 2022

The Climate Conversation indicated a strong support from residents for the Council acting on climate change. Residents thought it is most important that the Council support them to reduce their emissions, but there is also strong support for the Council prioritising reduction of its own Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The Conversation identified six key themes (Section 4.6) for the Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

3.5 Additional Research

The Council has commissioned two sets of research through Cambridgeshire County Council’s academic partnership with Cambridge University, to support the development of the strategy (Appendix 4).

Climate Change Challenge Consultation – September 2022

To understand how young people in the district can be encouraged to take climate-positive actions and be part of a wider ambition for the district to be carbon neutral. Work has been undertaken, to understand how young people can be engaged with climate issues at a District wide level.

Climate Change Challenge Consultation – November 2022

Using their researching and scoping skills to help us to discover what may be the best practices to help with the implementation of the climate strategy and tackling carbon emissions as a community.

This work is an initial phase to develop a toolkit of actions to test with our communities to enable and encourage them to contribute to achieving a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire by 2040. The second phase will begin early in 2023.

4.0 CLIMATE STRATEGY

4.1 Vision and Objectives

The objective of a net carbon zero Council by was adopted by the Council in October 2021. The Council's Vision and objectives to achieve this was set out within the Joint Administration's Agreement.

Climate Vision:

We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency. Working closely with partners, we will become a carbon net zero Council by 2040. Through leading by example, we will encourage and enable people across our district to take action.

Climate Objectives:

We will achieve our vision to respond to the climate crisis and ecological emergency by:

- Achieving net zero carbon for the Council's own operations by 2040
- Designing Council policies that enable reduction of emissions and provide positive examples for businesses and residents
- Demonstrating that we consider environmental impact in all policymaking and our stewardship of council assets and resources
- Influencing our updated Local Plan to reflect the priorities outlined in our Climate Strategy
- Maximising the opportunities to work with others collaboratively to address environmental issues

The Climate Strategy (Appendix 1) and Climate Strategy on a Page (Appendix 2) articulate the approach and priorities that the Council will adopt to deliver its vision and objectives. These will be delivered through a Climate Action Plan (Appendix 5).

4.2 A Net Carbon Zero Council

The Council will **be a positive example** through its approach to making decisions with due regard to environmental impact and how it continues to improve its operations to achieve the net carbon zero target.

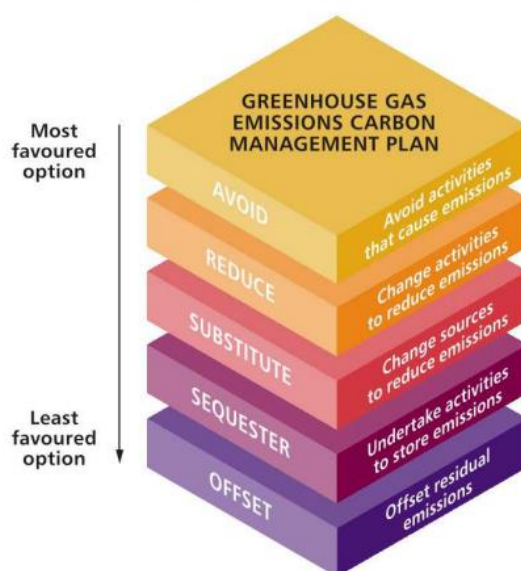
The Council has worked with Local Partnerships, a joint venture between HM Treasury, the Local Government Association and Welsh Government. Local Partnerships developed a tool to calculate local authority carbon emissions, and this has been used to identify the key sources of carbon emission, set out the pathway we need to follow to achieve our net zero carbon target and establish a mechanism to continue to monitor our emissions.

Council owned vehicles generate the largest proportion of CO2 emissions (36.7%), then heating (34.8%) and then electricity (25%).

The carbon emissions of the Council set clear strategic priorities:

- **Fuel**, the amount used in our operations to deliver Council Services given the rural nature of our district.
- **Energy**, the amount of electricity and use of gas to deliver our services, particularly buildings including Leisure Centres.
- **Procurement**, to achieve net carbon zero for any services we buy.

The Council's Strategy will follow a hierarchy of action as set out below:



The Council will follow a hierarchy of action, prioritising reduction in emissions through changing activity and demand for energy and fossil fuels, then replacing fossil fuels. Recognising the importance of carbon sequestration and the high value placed on our natural and biodiverse environment, the Council will increase the natural capture of carbon through changed land management regimes and tree canopy enlargement. The Council will only consider carbon offset as a very last resort as this does not address the need to reduce and adapt consumption that the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency require.

Additional actions are underway across all services and are reflected in the full action plan (Appendix 5), where every service has a recognised action that supports our net carbon zero target. This responds to the view of our communities that there is also strong support for the Council prioritising reduction of its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

4.3 Pathway to Net Zero Carbon for Huntingdonshire District Council

A pathway to achieve a net carbon zero Council has been set out. This considers the changes in technology and the supply of renewable energy.

Whilst the Council would like to move its fleet to renewable fuel, the technology, practicalities of service provision in Huntingdonshire and costs of this mean that this must be planned as the market and technology develops. For example: an electric refuse freighter would be unable to

perform the service that a fossil fuelled vehicle does in rural Huntingdonshire today. Actions have therefore concentrated on fuel efficiency, lower carbon impact fuels and starting to develop a plan for phasing to non-fossil fuel.

The Pathway to Carbon Net Zero by 2040 (Appendix 1) shows the anticipated timing and impact of the changes we plan to make. Progress will be tracked annually and adjusted to take account of the cost and availability of technology. If opportunities arise to achieve this sooner, within the financial considerations of operating the Council's services, they will be taken.

FUEL Work is underway to identify the steps and business case for de-carbonising the Council's fleet which will set out the options and current business case for investment in alternative fuels and reducing 'tailpipe emissions'.

ENERGY The Council has recently concluded a de-carbonisation programme of our main office and sports centres. The latest work will reduce carbon emissions by a further 440 tonnes of CO2 every year. The options to extend the use of renewable electricity are now being developed with plans for the elimination of gas for heating to follow.

PROCUREMENT Sustainability in procurement is already identified as a key action for the Council. This will be developed further to ensure the carbon impact of contracted services is fully reflected in any purchasing decisions.

4.4 Huntingdonshire – An Ambition for District-Wide Climate Action

Whilst the Council's own emissions are a very small – less than 2% of the Carbon Emissions for Huntingdonshire as a place, the Council has a key role as an **enabler** to support action within our communities and across our partners and an **encourager** to ensure the efforts of those that live, work and visit our district help reduce Huntingdonshire's carbon emissions.

The strategic priorities for **enabling** and **encouraging** positive action are:

- **REVIEW AND RENEW THE LOCAL PLAN** - supporting the response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency
- **MORE BIODIVERSITY** – implementing environmentally positive land management to increase the natural capture of carbon through changed land management regimes and tree canopy enlargement that also increases biodiversity in response to the ecological emergency.
- **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT** - work with partners to identify and encourage solutions that reduce 'tailpipe' emissions.

These are evidenced by the sources of carbon emissions for Huntingdonshire (Appendix 1) as calculated by the department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Transport represents the most significant source of controllable emissions (34%), followed by Land Use Changes (21%) and Domestic Energy (13%).

Our consultation identified community priorities of:

- Supporting residents with advice about insulation
- Tree planting/restoring nature
- Advice about recycling/waste reduction
- Encouraging sustainable development through planning

4.5 Climate Adaptation

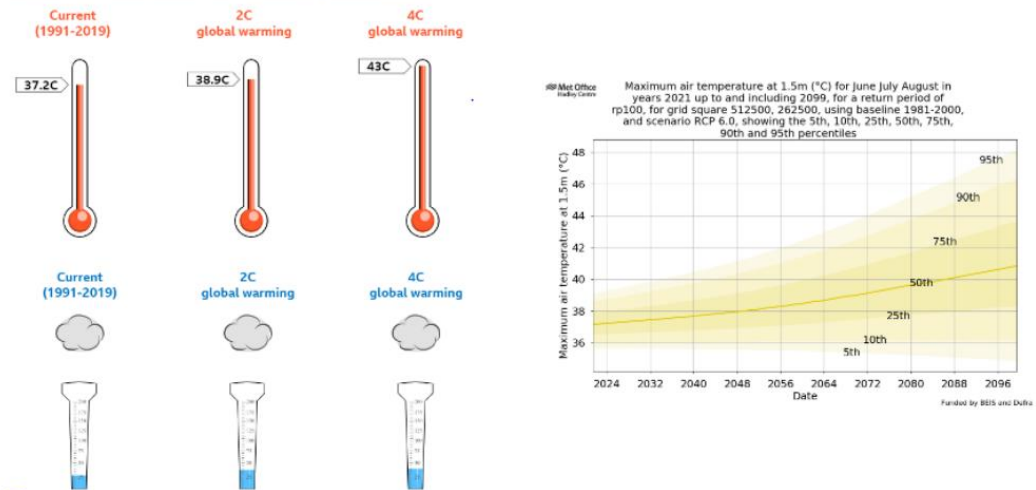
The Council will set a positive example by reducing its carbon emissions whilst **enabling** positive actions and **encouraging** positive choices to support climate action across Huntingdonshire.

There are however, approximately 60 identified risks for the UK (Independent Assessment of Climate Risk CCRA3) which local authorities in their role as place shapers and providers of key services and infrastructure have a role in, that result from the changing climate. For example, the response to extreme weather events and how they affect our service delivery.

The Met Office has identified the regional impacts of the global rise in temperatures – warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers. The predicted impact that Huntingdonshire’s hottest Summer day could be 38.9°C has already been reached when residents experienced a temperature of 39°C in July 2022.

What will the climate be like in Huntingdonshire in the future?

UKCP18 outputs for Huntingdonshire



The Council has developed a climate adaptation risk register (Appendix 6) with mitigating actions to ensure continued adaptation to the changing climate. This will be included within the Council’s service planning process and refreshed in line with our action plan.

4.6 Climate Themes

Combining the main sources of carbon emission for the Council, our district and the priorities identified by our communities led to the identification of six themes within the Council's Climate Strategy (Appendix 1)

- Created Environment

78% of residents said the Council should change the rules so new developments meet sustainability standards

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our wellbeing. They are also a significant source of emissions. For the Council, 60% of our emissions come from heating and using electricity in our buildings.

- Energy Consumption & Renewables

73% of residents said the Council should develop renewable energy

Energy is one of the most significant contributors to our emissions. Factors outside of our control, such as recent energy prices rises and the war in Ukraine, highlight the need for us to increase the resilience of our local energy supply, and reduce our consumption.

- Natural Environment

83% of residents said the Council should restore nature and plant trees

Nature benefits health, as well as being a haven of biodiversity, and important natural processes. Huntingdonshire has a wealth of green spaces and natural assets, rich in biodiversity providing a home for many native species and a link to the natural environment for our residents.

- Travel & Transport

Residents feel they are unable to take some of the actions, most commonly reducing their travel by car. 46% of residents said that the Council should switch to electric vehicles.

We need to consider how we travel and how the food we eat and the products we buy reach us. We will work with our partners, the highway and transport authorities to support more environmentally sustainable choices through the infrastructure they provide.

- Waste, Recycling & Resource Management

80% of residents said the Council should improve recycling rates.

We generate waste as a by-product of almost all activities. Resource management describes how we can work together to consume less,

reduce waste and recycle the valuable resources we have more. Huntingdonshire residents already recycle more than 50% of their waste, but the recycling rate has plateaued.

- Community

The activity identified by residents as most important for HDC was to support them to reduce their emissions. The action which residents most want to receive advice is about recycling / waste reduction and home insulation.

The many communities of Huntingdonshire have a significant role in responding to climate change. The Council must work with our communities to build resilience to future extreme weather events, support community initiatives to benefit the climate and ecology whilst enabling more positive impact to achieve net carbon zero

The key actions of the Climate Strategy have been listed under these themes. The role of the Council is also identified (**to be a positive example** by its own actions, an **enabler** to support action within our communities and across our partners and an **encourager** to make the case for positive change).

5.0 COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

5.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

6.0 RISKS

6.1 The Climate Strategy includes the creation of a Climate Adaptation Risk Register using the Local Government Association's Climate Adaptation Tool Kit (Appendix 6) which will set out the key risks and mitigations to the Council's services and district associated with climate change. This register will be produced and then reviewed alongside the Climate Action Plan.

6.2 The most significant risks are associated with the changing climate requiring adaptation to warmer and wetter conditions – the impact on nature, our businesses and communities.

6.2 The Council's specific project – Biodiversity for All – responds to the significant impact on nature of the changing climate by calculating biodiversity and then working through options to enhance it through changes which are supported by our communities. The project includes our own land and supporting others to do the same.

6.3 Changing the way in which amenity grass is managed is a significant action responding to the ecological emergency; increasing biodiversity, capturing more carbon from the environment and improving the ability of amenity land to respond the shift to a wetter climate.

- 6.4 The Council has been working closely with the Local Lead Flood Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, to respond to issues which have made the impacts of localised intense rainfall more acute. This is supported by Community Flood Groups and we will continue to support community groups with help and advice to protect their homes from the increased risk to flooding.
- 6.5 The Council has consistently identified and responded to Environmental Sustainability as an Annual Governance Risk termed Environmental Pressures and Sustainability Challenges – specifically based on the long-term sustainability and attraction of our area. This is detailed in Appendix 7 – Annual Governance Statement Environmental Risk. This corporate risk has informed the work of the Council’s services to ensure a sustainable and affordable approach to climate change was in place.
- 6.6 The risk of not achieving the Council’s target of a net carbon zero Council by 2040 is addressed through the Climate Strategy priorities and actions. The Climate Action Plan lists the actions recorded in service plans across the Council that support the achievement of the Council’s strategic objective of **tackling climate change and caring for the environment**.
- 6.7 Given the changing nature of the climate crisis and ecological emergency, the Climate Action Plan and its priorities will be reviewed annually with our community within an annual Climate Conversation Event. Given the rapid development of technology, this is essential so that the right investment is made at the right time. This will ensure effort and impact remains focussed on the right priorities.

7.0 MONITORING PROGRESS

- 7.1 Our climate and environment are changing quickly. The solutions available to address carbon emissions are also changing at pace. Given this, an annual Climate Conversation is proposed which will:
- **Enable and encourage** our communities and partners to share their activity and success, to learn and support each other.
 - **Enable and encourage** our communities to reflect on the priorities and actions to achieve a net zero carbon council by 2040.
 - **Be a positive example** by sharing progress and achievements and revise the climate action plan as required.
- 7.2 An annual report will capture the outcomes of the Climate Conversation alongside the formal reporting of the Council’s achievement against its action plan, including progress against the net carbon zero target for 2040.

8.0 LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The Corporate Plan 2022/23 sets out the Council’s objectives:
- Tackling climate change and caring for the environment

- Enhancing employment opportunities and supporting businesses
- Supporting the needs of residents
- Improving the housing situation
- Strengthening our communities

Specifically, the objective to **tackle climate change and care for the environment** sets out that the District Council will proactively tackle the climate crisis and ecological emergency. We will act upon this by:

- declaring a climate emergency to help focus minds and urgently implementing a Climate Action Plan.
- designing council policies that enable cutting of emissions and provide positive examples for businesses and residents
- considering environmental impact in all policy-making and our stewardship of council assets and resources
- ensuring our updated Local Plan reflects the priorities outlined in our Climate Action Plan

9.0 CONSULTATION

As set out in section 3 of this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications from this report.

11. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The delivery of the Climate Action Plan is supported by a new role of Climate Coordinator. This role will lead on the Climate Conversation, report service progress against the Climate Action Plan and refresh it annually.
- 11.2 A climate reserve of £100,000 is proposed to support Council services to accelerate the development and delivery of priority climate actions. Services will be able to use this reserve to develop the businesses cases for projects that deliver progress to net carbon zero, providing access to specialist services where needed ensuring the right investment at the right time.
- 11.3 At a time when all services are under inflationary pressures and some face growing demand to support residents and businesses, investments to deliver a net zero carbon Council and the aspiration of a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire will require business cases to ensure sustainable progress. Feasibility studies will be needed to ensure the right measures are taken at the right time whilst ensuring that the Council is still able to deliver efficient and effective services with a balanced budget. For example: whilst the Council would like to utilise fully electric refuse collection vehicles, they are currently unable to fulfil the role of the Council's existing vehicles. The annual refresh of the action plan will ensure consistent review and budget provision at the right time.

11.4 The Council is working collaboratively with other partners to secure external funding opportunities to support the delivery of a net carbon zero Council and our aspirations for Huntingdonshire. Recent successes include:

- Lottery Funding – Together Our Planet
- UK Shared Prosperity – Active Travel Feasibility Projects
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Funding – Biodiversity for All and Electric Vehicle Charge Points
- Government Funding - Sustainable Warmth Scheme
- RetroFit Funding – Building De-Carbonisation

12.0 HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The positive impacts of a cleaner and greener place are well known. The Council's Healthy Open Spaces Strategy and action plan (2022) identified:

- 90% of our community believe parks, play areas and open spaces improve their mental health and well-being
- 78% actively visit them for this purpose
- 64% of our community say parks and open spaces are essential to their quality of life.

A Climate Strategy for Huntingdonshire will continue to support the Council's commitment to encourage a healthy and active community.

13.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 As set out in the report.

14.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

14.1 none

15.0 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

15.1 The adoption of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan is a response to the formal declaration of a climate crisis and ecological emergency.

15.2 The Strategy and Action plan set out how the Council will:

- **Be a positive example** through its own actions, becoming a net carbon zero Council by 2040.
- **Enable and encourage** climate action across Huntingdonshire, through its policies and activities with partners and communities.

16.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Climate Strategy
2. Climate Strategy on a Page
3. Huntingdonshire Futures – Climate Opportunities

4. Cambridge University Research Proposals
5. Climate Action Plan
6. Climate Action Adaptation Toolkit
7. Annual Governance Statement of Environmental Risk

17.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Environmental Principles – Cabinet Oct 2021

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s117526/4.%20Environment%20Principles%20Report.pdf>

OxCam Environmental Principles

[Issue details - OxCam Environmental Principles*** - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/issue-details/-/OxCam-Environmental-Principles***-Huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Huntingdonshire District Council - Healthy Open Spaces Strategy
<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s111005/Appendix%202%20-%20HDC%20Healthy%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%20and%2010%20Year%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

CPCA Independent Climate Commission Report 2021
https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT_Final.pdf

Oxfordshire-Cambridgeshire Arc Spatial Framework
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-spatial-framework/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-an-introduction-to-the-spatial-framework>

Environment Bill 2020-21 and 2021-22
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

25 year Environment Plan for England
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111187654_en.pdf

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Climate Strategy ◀

Foreword

As global temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, the most vulnerable suffer and are least able to adapt. Huntingdonshire's residents and wildlife already feel the effects and more dramatic changes are likely in the decades to come. This Council must consider its duty of care and use its position of influence to act. **We therefore declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency.**

This Climate Strategy outlines the Council's vision for addressing that emergency with an Action Plan designed to lead us to a net zero carbon council by 2040 and to strongly influence district-wide action on emissions and biodiversity. The five objectives reflect the priorities of our residents and the strategic goals of this council.

Actions required by council service areas will be delivered through spending wisely and systemic change. Capital investments will require individual business cases.

The participation of our local communities will be essential. Local people want to take action, but look to this council for leadership. Therefore, we will bring together our parish councils, local businesses and environmental interest groups each year in a Climate Conversation summit. This will provide a platform for knowledge sharing as well as signposting to resources and funding. We will check in with our stakeholders, share our council's progress and review our plans.

Our response to the climate and ecological emergency will be embedded into every action taken and each decision made by this council. Together with the help of local people, we will support the recovery of Huntingdonshire's ecology and play our part in tackling climate change.

Lara Davenport-Ray
Executive Councillor for
Climate & Environment



We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example



BUILDINGS

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. We need to ensure what is built is as environmentally sustainable as possible



ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

We need to reduce emissions caused by our activities and ensure that our energy is from renewable sources



NATURE

We know our residents highly value the open spaces and natural environment in Huntingdonshire. We need to protect, restore and improve our environment, and build resilience to extreme weather events



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where our residents are able to access what they want locally, with effective lower carbon transport options and safe cycling routes



WASTE, RECYCLING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where much less is thrown away



COMMUNITY

Our communities should shape the places they live in to be better adapted to the future climate

The Climate Strategy is the Council's response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency. It sets out what we will do to play our part in addressing climate change. We will be a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service to the changed climate, an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners, and an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Carbon Net Zero council by 2040.

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ACTIONS



POSITIVE EXAMPLE

Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings, and by 2040 stop using gas for heating
Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change

Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings
When buying energy consider renewable energy supply and resilience

Deliver community developed plans for biodiversity gain, more trees and re-wilding on our land

Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040
Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions

Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission

Openly share progress against our climate targets
Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making



ENABLER

Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work

Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy

Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity

Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure
Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel

Improve information, knowledge and advice to achieve >60% diversion of waste from landfill and improve the quality of the recycling material

Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities



ENCOURAGER

Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice
Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change

Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables

Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects

Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices

Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products

Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district

Vision and Objectives



"77% OF RESIDENTS SAID IT IS 'VERY IMPORTANT' OR 'ESSENTIAL' THAT WE TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE"

Why? – Evidenced Priorities

Impacts of the climate crisis and ecological emergency are visible across the world and within Huntingdonshire. All of us need to take action. This Council has an important role in leading this action. This strategy sets out what we will do to improve our own operations, but also how we will work with others to ensure district-wide change. Our approach will also reflect the importance of supporting our residents and businesses at a time of increasing cost of living.

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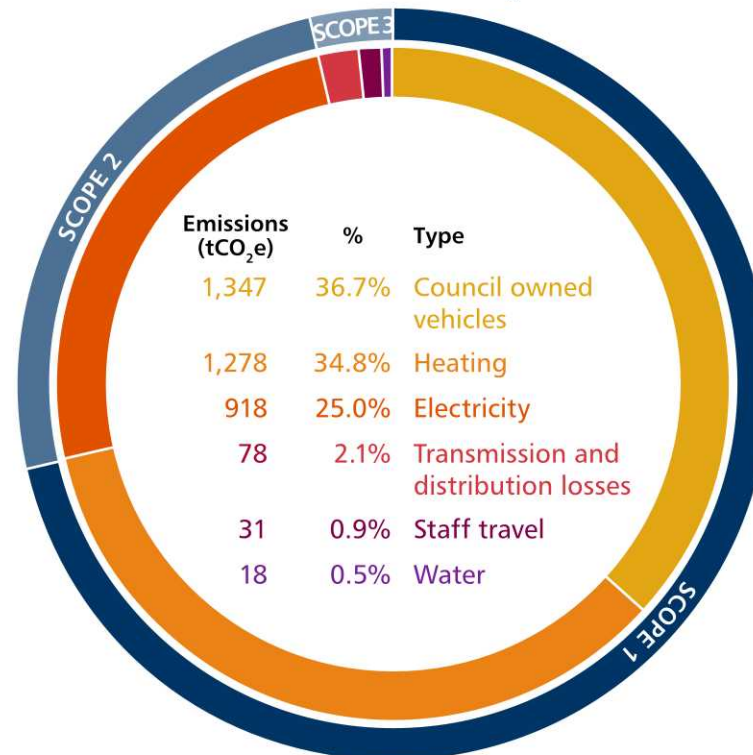
Council Key Priorities

1
Decarbonise Fleet

2
Reduce energy use,
shift to renewables

3
Procure wisely

What Causes the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions of 3,670 tCO₂e?

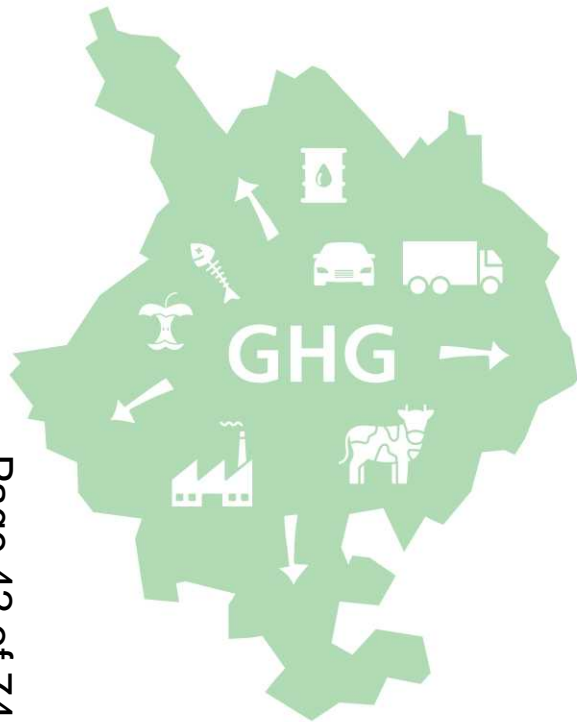


SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS
Direct emissions from the Council's owned or controlled sources. This includes on-site energy, e.g. natural gas and fuel

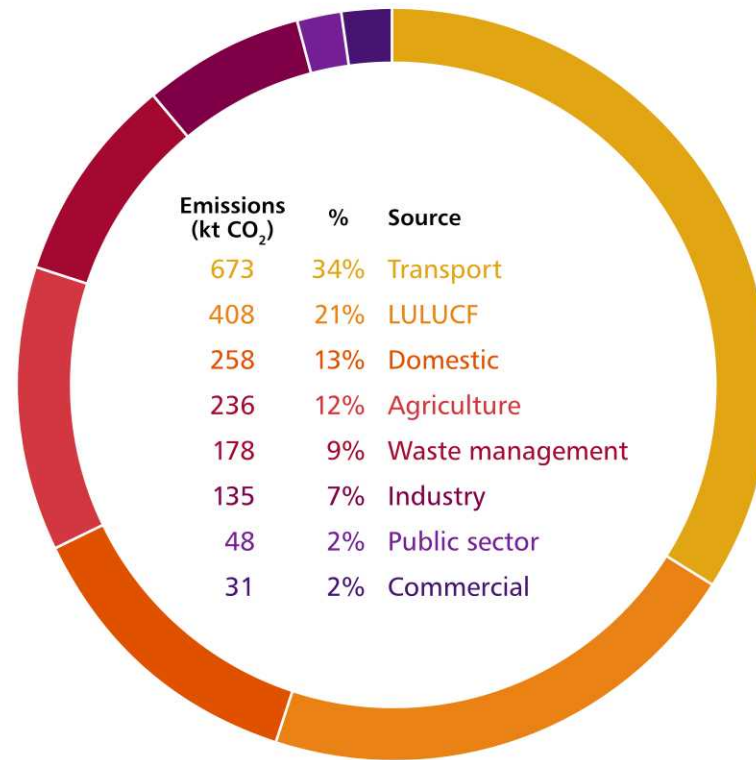
SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS
Indirect emissions from purchased or acquired energy, e.g. electricity, steam, heat, or cooling

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS
All indirect emissions that occur in the value chain e.g. the emissions resulting from staff travelling to work

"32% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL'S HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE ITS OWN EMISSIONS"



What Causes Huntingdonshire’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions of 1,966 kt CO₂?



“40% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL’S HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS”

District-wide Key Priorities

- 1 Sustainable travel with low emissions
- 2 Reduce energy use, shift to renewables
- 3 Increase biodiversity and natural capital

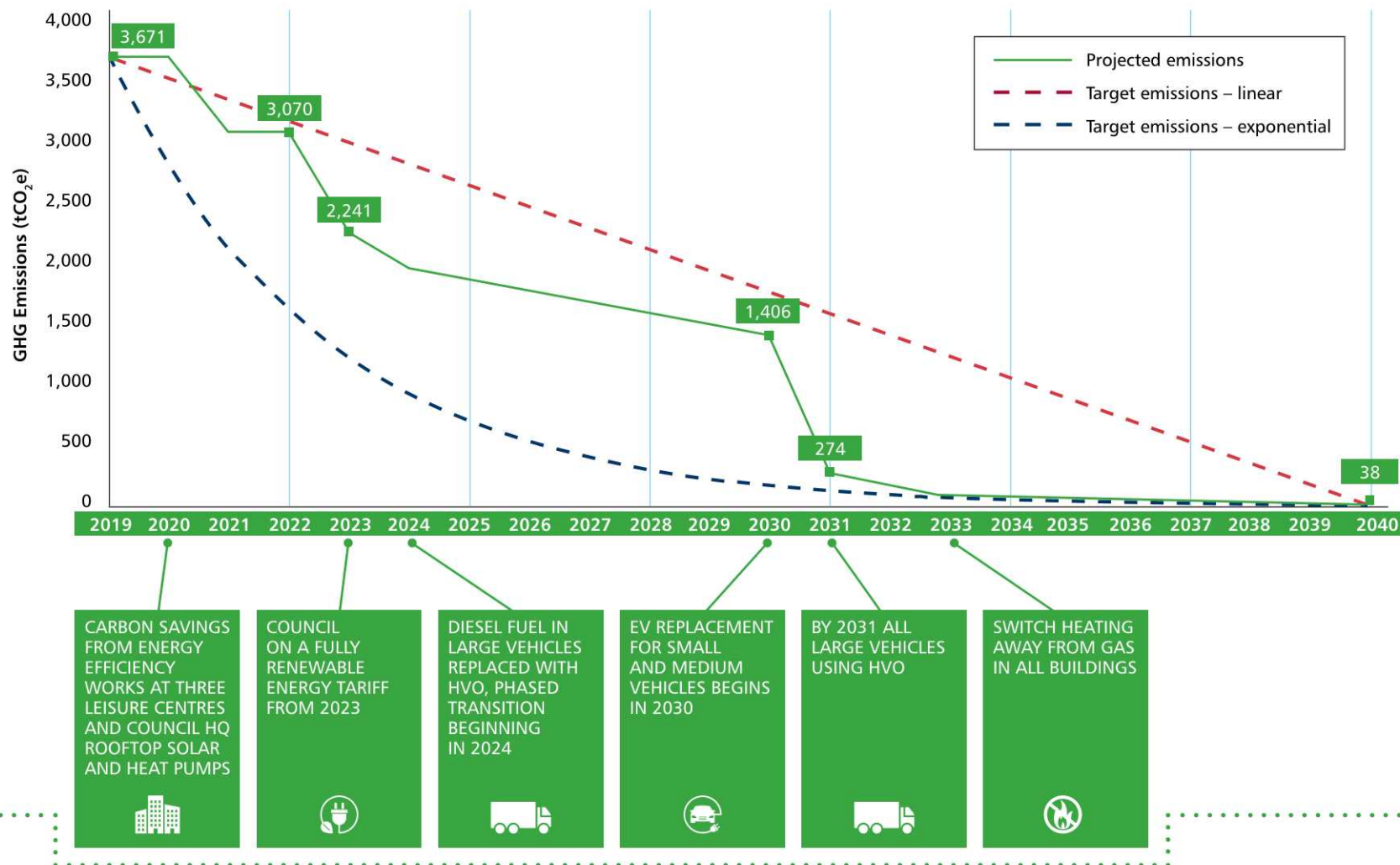
Our Pathway to Carbon Net Zero 2040

The red and blue show two target lines we could follow.

Green shows the impact of the changes we expect to make through our current action plan to reduce emissions, based on what is currently known about improving technology.

Our action plan will be revisited annually, if opportunities arise that improve the business case for action, we will reduce our carbon emissions earlier.

Carbon Pathway Scenarios to 2040



Our Priority Actions

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We will be a Positive Example:

Key Climate Actions



Review our assets to understand opportunities to improve the building fabric, energy efficiency and carbon impact of our buildings

Undertake a fleet review to determine when our vehicles should be switched from petrol/diesel to low carbon alternatives

Define a pathway for the council to move to 100% renewable energy usage

We will Enable and Encourage:



Enhance environmental aspects of the Local Plan where possible to do so

Deliver programme of biodiversity with the CPCA to include Community and Council Open Spaces

Work with partners to promote and support more active and net zero carbon travel

How we will Achieve our Objectives?

The Council will be a positive example in its approach to making decisions with due regard to the impact on climate and environment.

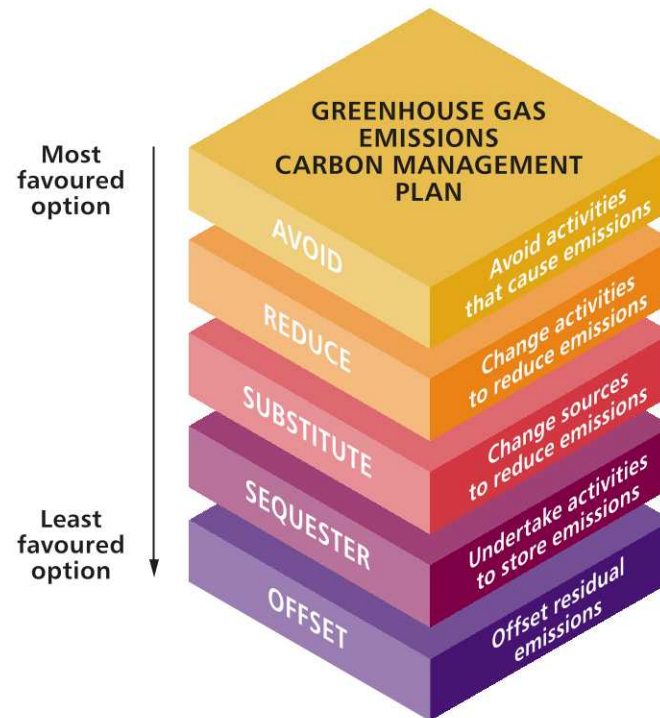
By focussing on our key actions we will make progress towards our Carbon Net Zero council 2040 target. We will track progress against our pathway, calculated using the Greenhouse Gas emissions calculating tool, developed by Local Partnerships and the Local Government Association. This will be updated and shared with our community and partners at Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation summit.

Actions required by council service areas will be delivered through spending wisely and systemic change. These will be included in the budget for each service area and be subject to the annual budget-setting of the Council.

Capital investments will require individual business cases to ensure prioritised and economically sustainable investment.

The Council will follow a hierarchy of action, prioritising reduction in emissions through changing activity and demand for energy

and fossil fuels, then replacing fossil fuels. Recognising the importance of carbon sequestration and the high value placed on our natural and biodiverse environment, the Council will increase the natural capture of carbon through changed land management regimes and tree canopy enlargement. The Council will only consider carbon offset as a very last resort as this does not address the need to reduce and adapt consumption that the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency require.



Priority Actions by Theme



Buildings

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. They are also a significant source of GHG emissions. For the Council 60% of our emissions come from heating and using electricity in our buildings.

“78% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD USE PLANNING RULES SO NEW DEVELOPMENTS MEET SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS”



Positive Example

Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings and by 2040 stop using gas for heating.

Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change.



Enabler

Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work.

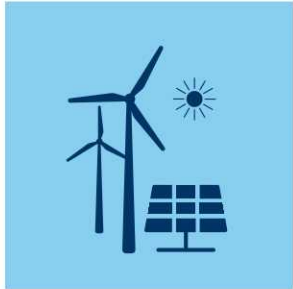


Encourager

Use the Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice.

Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change.

Priority Actions by Theme



Energy and Renewables

Energy is one of the most significant contributors to our emissions. Factors outside of our control, such as recent energy prices rises and the war in Ukraine, highlight the need for us to increase the resilience of our local energy supply, and reduce our consumption.

“88% OF RESIDENTS SAID THEY HAVE REDUCED THEIR ELECTRICITY USE WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES”

“73% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY”

★ Positive Example

Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings.

When buying energy consider renewable energy supply and resilience.

🔌 Enabler

Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy.

👍 Encourager

Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures that they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables.

Priority Actions by Theme



Nature

Nature benefits health, as well as being a haven of biodiversity, and important natural processes. Huntingdonshire has a wealth of green spaces and natural assets, rich in biodiversity providing a home for many native species and a link to the natural environment for our residents.

★ Positive Example

Deliver community developed plans for biodiversity gain, more trees and re-wilding on our land.

🔌 Enabler

Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity.

👍 Encourager

Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects.

“83% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD RESTORE NATURE AND PLANT TREES”

“20% OF RESIDENTS SAID THEIR HOME OR BUSINESS HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY EXTREME WEATHER”

Priority Actions by Theme



Travel and Transport

In response to climate change we need to consider how we travel and how the food we eat and the products we buy reach us.

We will work with our partners and our transport authorities to support more environmentally sustainable choices through the infrastructure they provide.

“46% OF RESIDENTS SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD SWITCH TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES”



Positive Example

Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040.

Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions.



Enabler

Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel.



Encourager

Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices.

Priority Actions by Theme



Waste, Recycling and Resource Management

We generate waste as a by-product of almost all of our activities. Resource management describes how we can work together to consume less, reduce waste and recycle the valuable resources we have. Huntingdonshire residents already recycle more than 50% of their waste, but the recycling rate has plateaued.

“80% OF RESIDENTS SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD IMPROVE RECYCLING RATES”

“93.6% OF RESIDENTS SAID THEY WERE MAXIMISING THEIR OWN RECYCLING”

★ Positive Example

Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission.

⏻ Enabler

Improve information, knowledge and advice to achieve >60% diversion of waste from landfill and improve the quality of the recycling material.

👍 Encourager

Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products.

Priority Actions by Theme



Community

The many communities of Huntingdonshire have a significant role in responding to climate change. The Council must work with our communities to build resilience to future extreme weather events, support community initiatives to benefit the climate and ecology whilst enabling more positive impact to achieve Carbon Net Zero.

“12% OF RESIDENTS THINK THE COUNCIL SHOULD PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FUNDING FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO HELP THEM ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE”



Positive Example

Openly share progress against our climate targets.

Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making.



Enabler

Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities.



Encourager

Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district.

Monitoring Progress Together

We will **enable** our communities, businesses and partners through an Annual Climate Conversation event to showcase their efforts, share what has worked, challenges and priorities.

We will continue to **encourage** action through the event and sharing the positive impacts for Huntingdonshire's climate and environment.

We will openly share our own progress in this conversation, but also to listen to changing challenges and priorities which may need to be reflected in revised actions.

The inaugural event will be an opportunity to share progress and seek input on our priority actions:

- Biodiversity for All Programme
- Local Plan Revision
- Sustainable Travel

Feedback from the Climate Conversation will be captured in an annual report. This will sit alongside formal annual reporting of the Council's achievements against its action plan and any revisions that are recommended.



Further Information



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Climate Strategy on a Page

We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example

BUILDINGS	ENERGY AND RENEWABLES	NATURE	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT	WASTE, RECYCLING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY
The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. We need to ensure what is built is as environmentally sustainable as possible	We need to reduce emissions caused by our activities and ensure that our energy is from renewable sources	We know our residents highly value the open spaces and natural environment in Huntingdonshire. We need to protect, restore and improve our environment, and build resilience to extreme weather events	We want to see a Huntingdonshire where our residents are able to access what they want locally, with effective lower carbon transport options and safe cycling routes	We want to see a Huntingdonshire where much less is thrown away	Our communities should shape the places they live in to be better adapted to the future climate

The Climate Strategy is the Council's response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency. It sets out what we will do to play our part in addressing climate change. We will be a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service to the changed climate, an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners, and an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Carbon Net Zero council by 2040.

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ACTIONS	POSITIVE EXAMPLE	ENABLER	ENCOURAGER		
<p>Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings, and by 2040 stop using gas for heating</p> <p>Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change</p>	<p>Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings</p> <p>When buying energy consider renewable energy supply and resilience</p>	<p>Deliver community developed plans for biodiversity gain, more trees and re-wilding on our land</p>	<p>Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040</p> <p>Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions</p>	<p>Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission</p>	<p>Openly share progress against our climate targets</p> <p>Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making</p>
<p>Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work</p>	<p>Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy</p>	<p>Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity</p>	<p>Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure</p> <p>Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel</p>	<p>Improve information, knowledge and advice to achieve >60% diversion of waste from landfill and improve the quality of the recycling material</p>	<p>Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities</p>
<p>Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice</p> <p>Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change</p>	<p>Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables</p>	<p>Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects</p>	<p>Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices</p>	<p>Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products</p>	<p>Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district</p>

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Appendix 3

Huntingdonshire Futures

What is Huntingdonshire Futures?

Huntingdonshire Futures is a new Place Strategy that is intended to shape a shared vision for the future of Huntingdonshire for the next 30 years. It will articulate Huntingdonshire's aspirations and ambitions - taking into account its unique features, location, planned future growth, infrastructure requirements and technological advancements.

At the heart of Huntingdonshire Futures is understanding what is most important to residents, communities and stakeholders within our key towns and rural areas and across Huntingdonshire. This insight will enable the strategy to articulate our ambitions and aspirations for our place, people, economy, and the environment.

The current challenges

While Huntingdonshire is endowed with many assets which make it a special place, it also faces a number of challenges. We have heard and collected the key challenges outlined below, which will be essential to address to achieve our aspirations for Huntingdonshire.

People and Communities

1. Unequal access to social infrastructure, education and employment opportunities between areas
2. Isolation and loneliness affecting certain groups particularly in more rural areas
3. Not enough for young people to do
4. Lack of investment in voluntary sector and decreasing trends in volunteering activity
5. Poor collaboration between the public sector, businesses, educators, and residents

Place

1. No distinct identity for Huntingdonshire
2. High car dependency, bus services do not meet needs, particularly in rural areas and pedestrian and cycle networks are not always in place or joined up
3. Rural areas feel left behind
4. Growth of new housing is not matched by sufficient new and/ or improved infrastructure
5. House prices are rising and there is a lack of affordable housing, particularly for young people

Economy

1. The decline of the high street, particularly retail, leisure and evening economy in the market towns
2. Talent and knowledge drain to Cambridge, Peterborough and Bedfordshire, which attract skilled workforce through greater variety and higher paid jobs
3. Changing demographics including shrinking of the working age population and an increasingly ageing population
4. Rising building costs and land values putting pressure on the provision of employment land and space
5. Need for the right training opportunities to match the job market demand

Environment

1. There is a lot of talk about climate change but no action
2. New housing developments planned and delivered not ambitious enough in their environmental performance – including locations in flood risk areas, lack of renewable energy generation or electric vehicle charging
3. Environmentally friendly behaviours can be too expensive and there is a lack of investment and support
4. Huntingdonshire experiences the effects of climate change including flooding and heat waves
5. Increasing demand for water from population growth and agriculture sector, coupled with water scarcity especially in the dry months of summer

Huntingdonshire's Opportunities

People and Communities

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Big Ideas and Aspirations for the Future

People and Communities

What if nobody was lonely here?

What if we guaranteed an opportunity for everyone at every age and stage of peoples lives?

What if there was a way to harness young people's talent?

Big Ideas

- Make the District one of the top 10 places to live in the UK in the happiness index, offering an exceptional quality of life for its residents
- Set up flexible lifelong learning schemes for people of different ages and backgrounds to enable them to integrate into employment opportunities, by collaborating with the industries
- Support existing and new volunteering schemes by providing funding, grants and resources to fulfil their initiatives and encourage people to participate
- Establish better communication with the different communities, engage all groups, especially the most vulnerable, to establish trust and work together to define common priorities
- Encourage shared community responsibility for the upkeep of green and open spaces to foster a sense of ownership and social interaction

Place

What if organisations were incentivized to look after their own patch?

What if we made it easy to not use a car?

What if we build houses with character?

Big Ideas

- Extend the Ting Bus demand-responsive service to rural areas and improve the existing bus service including the Guided Busway to better connect villages and towns
- Establish car free days in the towns to encourage people to explore more sustainable travel options and unlock spaces for people without the dominance of the car
- Create more community and cultural events, particularly for young and older people
- Make all roads and pavements safer for pedestrians and cyclists by ensuring their high standard and reducing the speed limit for cars
- Encourage evenings out in the market towns by encouraging retail and leisure activities to take place later in the day including evening markets

Economy

What if our economy was a green economy?

What if we kept investment local?

What if we became the destination for slow tourism?

Big Ideas

- Make the District a pioneer in the transition to the circular economy where robust infrastructure and systems are in place to support it, drawing from its positioning within the Eastern Powerhouse
- Establish training and upskilling programmes as well as collaborations between businesses and local schools and colleges, in order to create responsive links between the local skill set and local jobs and tap into the diversity of the workforce
- Prioritise digital infrastructure improvements across the District for the best possible digital connectivity, including free public Wi-Fi in town and village centres
- Establish Time Banks where people can exchange their skills with hours as the currency and create reciprocity based work
- Promote the creation of collaborative and flexible spaces for working in the town and village centres

Environment

What if we produced all our energy within the district?

What if all the food we bought was grown fresh and local?

What if good things for the environment were cheaper?

Big Ideas

- Encourage rewilding and biodiversity in both public and private spaces and promote mass tree planting within towns and villages
- Roll out a comprehensive building stock retrofit programme, including insulation and smart water meters installation, to improve its environmental performance
- Ensure that all new development creates carbon neutral housing and the social and physical infrastructure cost is factored into the price of development
- Roll out an education and behaviour change programme for both people and businesses to underline the urgency for a shift to more sustainable practices
- Grow and harvest reed mace to protect peat soils, store carbon and produce housing insulation

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Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHoKE)

Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHoKE) is an innovative platform, enabling students to apply problem-solving techniques and make a personal social impact by collaborating with our partner organisations.

At the Heart of our project is a diverse, rapidly growing community of several hundred volunteer students who are personally motivated to make a positive difference in the world, through Knowledge Exchange activities with our partners.

Projects typically focus upon organisational challenges relating to social value initiatives and sustainability. Teams perform ideas generation, scoping, analysis and research, formally presenting their findings at the end of the project with a presentation and report.

Challenge 1

Understanding youth engagement in Huntingdonshire around climate change

- Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are developing an environmental strategy which will set out how the council will achieve net zero, as well as providing a framework for activity around climate change.
- HDC has surveyed residents, but there has been limited engagement with young people in the district, and HDC is concerned that their views may not be taken into account in the development of the environmental strategy.
- HDC also wants to understand how young people in the district can be encouraged to take climate positive actions to be part of a wider ambition for the district as a whole to be carbon neutral.
- Work has been undertaken through the County Council's academic partnership with Cambridge University, CUSPE, to understand how young people can be engaged with climate issues at a Cambridge wide level, and HDC are keen for further analysis of this CUSPE dataset to inform actions they can take at the district level for young people in Huntingdonshire.

Challenge 2

To Identify Best Practice for Community Toolkit for Climate Action

- Huntingdonshire District Council has an ambitious target to achieve carbon net zero by 2040. To do so there is an active role that organisations, businesses, and individual residents need to take, and all will need advice and support on the most impactful way to do this. There is a need to identify best practice models and/or toolkits to support a local community to create and measure a carbon reduction action plan, which supports organisations and residents alike.
- Based on research, the identification of potential elements that could form a toolkit to support a local community to create and measure a carbon reduction action plan.
- Support local communities to understand the local challenge of net zero and the potential active steps they can take to reduce their carbon footprint, along with the impact their actions will have on carbon emissions.
- To stimulate the development of community carbon reduction plans which support a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire.
- Toolkits and models primarily to be focussed on lower-level actions that can be undertaken by an individual or a localised community.

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Huntingdonshire District Council Climate Action Plan

Issued January 2023

Priority*	Action	Theme	Target Date
High	Review Council assets to establish further opportunities to improve insulation, energy efficiency and adaptation to reduce their carbon impact	Energy and Renewables	01/02/24
High	Develop plan for the Council to use 100% renewable energy	Energy and Renewables	01/02/25
High	Undertake a fleet review, to plan reduction in fossil fuel use in Council vehicles	Travel and Transport	01/02/25
Medium	Appoint a Climate Co-ordinator	All	01/02/24
Medium	Set the Council's emissions baseline and continue to report on an annual basis	All	01/02/24
Medium	Update Procurement Rules to ensure new contracts/services minimise negative impact on the Climate	All	01/02/24
Medium	Adopt a methodology to report on carbon emissions derived from flexible/home working	All	01/02/24
Medium	Implement impact assessments for all key decisions to ensure climate implications are considered	All	01/02/24
Medium	Develop an approach to capturing carbon emissions in reports and business case development	All	01/02/24
Medium	Set a carbon budget (exponential) that aligns with the UK Government carbon budgets and future budget cycles	All	01/02/25
Medium	Review existing spend on good and services, to establish opportunities to reduce climate impact	All	01/02/25
Medium	Undertake annual review of the completion and progress of service plan actions that deliver net zero carbon by 2040	All	01/02/25
Medium	Provide housing association landlords with information/advice on energy saving to support their tenants	Buildings	01/02/27
Medium	Engage with key registered providers of housing, to give tenants information that encourages them to reduce their carbon emissions	Buildings	01/02/27
Medium	Develop an Energy Strategy	Energy and Renewables	01/02/25
Medium	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include them in reporting	Energy and Renewables	01/02/25
Medium	Sustainably dispose of IT equipment where possible reduce climate impact	Energy and Renewables	01/02/25
Medium	Quantify carbon savings from the Council's shift to E-billing	Energy and Renewables	01/02/27
Medium	Review technology and alternative ways of working to plan emissions reduction in Street Cleansing	Energy and Renewables	01/02/27
Medium	Identify opportunities to work with other public sector organisations and communities to support environmental activity	Community	01/02/24
Medium	Deliver the communications plan for the Climate strategy	Community	01/02/24
Medium	Include all services in the Climate Conversation to ensure objectives in services plans achieve carbon net zero by 2040	Community	01/02/24
Medium	Include climate considerations within all key strategies and governance documents	Community	01/02/24
Medium	Deliver learning and development for all Council employees to be climate and carbon emissions aware, to support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan and its annual review	Community	01/02/25
Medium	Research into alternative power sources (solar) for CCTV cameras	Community	01/02/27
Medium	Explore options for offsetting emissions (natural carbon capture)	Nature	01/02/25
Medium	Conduct a staff travel survey on employee commuting, to assess climate impact	Travel and Transport	01/02/24

Medium	Collect information on staff travel (business mileage) from payroll to enable accurate emissions reporting.	Travel and Transport	01/02/25
Medium	Implement a real nappy initiative scheme	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/24
Medium	Reduce waste collected from households through kerbside collections	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/27
Medium	Increase our measured household recycling rate to 60%+	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/27
Medium	Achieve a greater than 60% diversion of waste from landfill, based on the amount of waste presented for recycling.	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/27
Medium	Increase our recycling service for communal areas	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/27
Medium	Increase understanding and engagement in waste and recycling for local community and key stakeholders	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/27
Low	Agree scope 3 emissions approach and included emissions sources for reporting	All	01/02/25
Low	Establish data on F-gas emissions leakage from equipment and include in emissions reporting	All	01/02/25
Low	Understand sources and availability of data for scope 3 reporting	All	01/02/25
Low	Engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to have less climate impact	All	01/02/25
Low	Commission a provider to offer expert net zero business planning advices to SMEs and access to capital match funding grants for implementation	Buildings	01/02/24
Low	Promote high quality design in the Council's commercial estate that incorporates net gain to biodiversity	Buildings	01/02/26
Low	Use EPC ratings to monitor our own Commercial estates	Buildings	01/02/26
Low	Reduce the carbon emissions of the Council's commercial estate	Buildings	2027 onwards
Low	Enhance environmental aspects of the Local Plan where possible to do so	Buildings	2027 onwards
Low	Support capital grant development (where government grant funding becomes available) to encourage businesses to lead in green credentials	Buildings	2027 onwards
Low	Research external bodies and funding opportunities to support carbon reduction (e.g. Net Zero Enterprise Fund)	Community	01/02/24
Low	Complete adaptation risk registers for each service area	Community	01/02/25
Low	Enabling Communities to deliver climate change activities through Community Action Plans	Community	01/02/25
Low	Support and participate in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Change Commission and Action Plan delivery	Community	01/02/27
Low	Deliver programme of biodiversity gain with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to include Community and Council Open Spaces	Nature	01/02/25
Low	Identify actions to increase resilience to disruption to Council services from extreme weather	Nature	01/02/25
Low	Support delivery of the Great Fen	Nature	2027 onwards
Low	Undertake a behavioural study/survey on EV choices and charging in Huntingdonshire	Travel and Transport	01/02/24
Low	Commission a feasibility study to look to expand the Council's existing network of EV Charging, exploiting any funding opportunities that become available	Travel and Transport	01/02/24
Low	Develop an EV strategy for Huntingdonshire	Travel and Transport	01/02/24
Low	Work with partners and responsible transport authorities to promote active, net zero carbon travel	Travel and Transport	2027 onwards
Low	Keep recycling contamination rate below 7%, through rigorous benchmarking and monitoring	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/24
Low	Engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to reduce waste, recycle more	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	01/02/25

*Priority The priority order relates to the impact and hence importance in reducing the Council's carbon emissions



CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT
For local authorities



- CONTENTS
- INTRODUCTION
- 1 FIRST STEPS
- 2 CURRENT CLIMATE VULNERABILITY
- 3 FUTURE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY
- 4 ADAPTATION OPTIONS
- 5 MONITORING & EVALUATION
- RESOURCES
- GLOSSARY
- GET IN TOUCH

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Environment Agency's latest [Living Better with a Changing Climate](#) adaptation report, shows that England will inevitably face significant climate impacts, and that early action is essential.

We need to find creative solutions to the challenges that arise from these impacts, and take advantage of any opportunities – in short, we need to adapt.

ADAPTATION TOOLKIT



The Adaptation Toolkit is a 5-step process to help you prepare for the impacts the current and future climate could have on your organisation and the services you provide. Whether you are new to climate change, have started the adaptation journey, or are looking to further enhance your action on adaptation, the Toolkit can help you to:

- raise awareness and priority of local climate change risk management and adaptation measures you can take
- make the case for adaptation in your organisation, including assessing your vulnerability to climate change
- access information and resources to help you
- produce a climate risk register specific to your organisation
- develop a climate-adaptation/resilient strategy, programme and project
- embed climate adaptation into business as usual decision making and risk management, and written into council policy (all service areas)
- access a dynamic, simple and workable decision-making tool

This toolkit has been structured to guide you through each stage of developing a strategy and action plan for adaptation, as a facilitation tool that seeks to bridge the technical guidance from the Climate Change Risk Assessment 3 (CCRA) and the practicalities of local government. Each stage outlines what you can do, what information you need to gather, some guiding questions, and how to record the information. Whilst the toolkit is presented in a linear way, your actual adaptation decision making may require you to jump back and forth between stages. This toolkit is intended to be read and used alongside other existing guidance documents (including the CCRA) to aid you develop your understanding of climate risk and resilience for your organisation. There is a list of [resources available here](#).



Link to toolkit - [Climate Adaptation Toolkit - Local Partnerships](#)

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Huntingdonshire District Council

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

Environmental pressures and sustainability challenges

Challenges to the long-term sustainability and attraction of our area.

There is growing recognition of the significant consequences of a failure to properly account for human actions, and wider climactic events which are becoming increasingly common. The national risk register includes flooding and severe weather events as risks that as a country we should prepare for. We also recognise the health impacts of pollution and poor human behaviour in terms of pollution and improper handling of waste as key challenges to the beauty and sustainability of our area.

2019/20 actions

✓

To maximise the recycling rate within our district, seeking to reduce contamination, and deliver the highest possible rate of recycling and reuse of our recycled materials.

✓

Develop proposals around improving the movement around the district, by way of modal shift and improved public transport. To promote sustainable transport options, including the provision of charging points for electric cars, and through encouraging walking and cycling as safe and practical alternate travel options.

✓

To ensure the Digital agenda remains at the core of new infrastructure projects, allowing for flexible working where possible, minimising the need for am/pm peak travel.

✓

Maximising the use of renewable energy technology in all suitable locations across the Council's assets and achievable land opportunities and pursue technologies that allow us to minimise use of utilities.

✓

Ensuring new residential developments are environmentally sustainable and make best consideration of key environmental factors during both the design and build stage and ongoing liveability.

✓

Maximising the impact of our green space, by investing in and expanding green spaces across the district and seeking to achieve net-gain biodiversity where possible.

2020/21 actions

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

-	Implementing a strategy to limit single use plastics across our estate. Removing such items from our cafes.	✓
✓	Working with parish and town councils to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans reflect the growing environmental and sustainability agenda.	✓
--	Working to understand our communities' ambitions on the sustainability agenda and supporting this through the way we undertake our business.	✓
--	Work with the CPCA to frame and deliver the ambition of the Climate Change Commission and the Electric Vehicle strategy.	✓

2020/21 achievements

A new Waste Minimisation Strategy and a Waste Minimisation Action Plan were approved at Cabinet in December 2020. Projects are in place to support the objects set out in the strategy:

- Reduce the amount of waste that is collected from households through our kerbside collections.
- Achieve a greater than 60% diversion of waste from landfill in line with the council's manifesto pledge.
- Improve the quality of the recycling material we collect by maintaining contamination levels below 7%.

Electrical Vehicle Charging points have been installed across car parks in St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon. The charging points are already being used and have provided the following energy to vehicles so far: April: 836kWh, May: 324kW. With EV cars travelling between 2.8 & 3.5 miles per kWh, this means that our total of 1,160 kWh supplied has enabled over 3,248 miles of cleaner travel in the 5-6 weeks they have been in operation.

[Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Performance and Growth

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Review of External Appointments to Outside Organisations	Cllrs S Cawley, S J Corney, I D Gardener and S A Howell	TBC	<p>Summer 2022: Terms of Reference have been established. Questionnaire has been sent to all relevant boards and organisations. Regular meetings are established from September.</p> <p>September 2022: Evidence and information gathering underway.</p> <p>November 2022: Information gathering completed.</p> <p>Next steps: Draft report underway</p>

Environments, Communities and Partnerships

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Climate	Councillor T D Alban Councillor J Kerr Councillor C Lowe Councillor D Shaw	Neil Sloper	November 2022: Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. Next Steps: Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed.
One Leisure and Burgess Hall	n/a	Gregg Holland	Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on future plans for One Leisure and Burgess Hall. February 2023: Business Plan updates for the services will be presented to the Panel
Flooding	n/a	Oliver Morley	Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on how effective the measures which were put in place in July 2021 following a Flooding Task and Finish Report have been. Spring 2023: An update will be presented to the Panel.

Warm Spaces	n/a	Liz Smith	<p>Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on the Warm Spaces Project.</p> <p>November 2022: The Warm Spaces Project was presented to the Panel.</p> <p>Spring 2023: An update on the Warm Spaces Project will be presented to the Panel following the winter season.</p>
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