



A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **LANCASTER & STIRLING, CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) meeting held on 2nd July 2026.

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. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 9 - 24)

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

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

4. ANNUAL CLIMATE REPORT 2025-26 (Pages 25 - 66)

The Panel is invited to comment on the delivery of the Climate Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26 and to note the progress made by the Council towards achieving net zero by 2040.

Executive Councillor: Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce.

Contact Officer: H Robinson
01480 388513

5. HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (Pages 67 - 74)

The Panel is to receive an update on Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnerships and to determine the scope of a Working Group to progress the work of the Partnership and its benefits to communities.

Executive Councillor: Cllr D Mickelburgh

Contact Officer: C Deeth
01480 388233

6. CCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

To receive a verbal update from Councillor A Bulat following the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9th July 2026.

Contact Officer:

25 day of August 2026

Michelle Sacks

Chief Executive and 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](#)

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Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer, 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 (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in LANCASTER & STIRLING, CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 2 July 2026.

PRESENT: Councillor T Alban – Chair.

Councillors A Bulat, M J Burke, S Claffey, J Francis, C Innes, S Lancaster, C Lowe, S Mokbul, N Sarkies and M Young.

APOLOGIES: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor S Bywater.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor D McIlwain as substitute for Councillor Bywater and Councillor D Mickelburgh.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th June 2026 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

10. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

11. ONE LEISURE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS UPDATE

By means of a report and presentation from the Head of Properties, Facilities and Health and Safety (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book), the update on the One Leisure Solar Installations was presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard that the original specification had been based on 12 months of half hourly site data and optimising the install with sufficient to be able to run the site rather than excess. It was noted that if excess were generated the payback from the grid was approximately 30% of it's worth. Whilst batteries were also considered they were not felt to offer value for money at the time of the installation. It was noted that the payback period of under 10 years was achievable with the installation, however had the panels been increased, this would have been extended into a longer payback period. It was further observed by officers that the project offered good value for money as the return on investment is maximised at each site along with the generation capacity. Data would be sought from other Councils to give some comparison on the efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

It was clarified that the project at One Leisure St Ives had included a grant from Sports England towards the total cost of the project which

allowed for additional improvements to be added to the project and an alternative with the carpark canopy panels. This meant a longer payback period however this was considered to be acceptable within the detail of the project.

It was advised that due to emerging technologies the payback period of the One Leisure St Ives Outdoor site had changed since the initial plan, however this was still felt to represent good value for money and well within good practice, it also allowed for other opportunities to be explored such as utilising excess energy at other Council sites.

It was agreed that an update on changes to energy contracts and the impact on costs would be sought and communicated back to the Panel. It was noted that the projected figures were very conservative and that it was anticipated this would shorten the projected payback periods as a result.

It was observed that the previous expected payback period for solar panels had been 25 years so that the projected 7 years for the project was much improved. It was also encouraged that options for battery storage be developed in order to maximise efficiencies. It was noted that the One Leisure St Ives Outdoor site generated more electricity than it used during the day, therefore batteries had been investigated in order to store the generated energy to be utilised in the evening when energy would not be generated.

The Panel heard that lessons had been taken away from the project and were useful in informing best practice and maximising opportunities for future projects. It was noted that the opportunity to install panels at Pathfinder House was currently underway along with identifying additional sites to maximise opportunities.

It was noted that the costs predicted did not include disposal of the units once they had reached the end of their lifespan, however it was noted that all components were recyclable. It was also noted that no issues with the panels had been reported during the extreme summer temperatures experienced and that it had not been too sunny or hot for operations to continue.

It was requested that future calculations include the carbon footprint of the panels at point of purchase as it was noted that they were imported from overseas as well as ethical considerations of the country of origin. It was noted that even if a panel is manufactured within the UK, the components may still have the same country of origin as the complete panels.

12. COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WEALTH STRATEGY UPDATE

By means of a report and presentation from the Head of Communities and Operational Housing (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book), an update on the Community Health and Wealth Strategy was presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard that where applications did not meet the criteria for funding, Officers liaised with applicants with wraparound support to either revise and finesse their application or signpost to alternative and more suitable funding opportunities. The Panel also heard that

applications did not have to fill every box of the criteria but a scoring approach was undertaken to assess viability.

It was advised that the team were mindful of the impending Local Government Reorganisation timelines and that clear guidelines were set with successful applicants relating to timescales for funding and achievability of projects within those timeframes. Work was also being undertaken to future proof the scheme so that it could continue longer term and that this would be monitored to ensure viability continued for as long as possible.

It was noted that as part of the project and working alongside partners, work was undertaken to support young people into employment as well as supporting residents in crisis.

The Officers undertook to supply further details to Councillors to empower them in supporting the scheme within their wards.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

An overview of the Panel's requests for topics to be discussed was given alongside a rationale to show the consideration of these.

An update was given on the agreed project to look at Community Safety Partnerships and Councillors Bulat, Burke, Bywater and Francis volunteered to be part of the Working Group over the summer, with a view to receiving an update report at the September meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Alban expressed his view that updates on One Leisure and Hinchbrook Country Park activities should be sought with a view to them being planned into the October agenda. It was also noted that following a request on an update for the alternative fuels used by Operations, this would be brought to the October agenda.

It was noted that two or three scrutiny topics per year was a sustainable number to sit alongside the pre-planned Council reports and scrutiny work.

Councillor Alban reminded the Panel of the invite to the Great Fen project in September which had been arranged following requests from scrutiny.

Chair

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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026-27 - Environment, Communities and Partnerships

Forward Agendas

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review
3 rd September 2026		• Annual Climate Report • Community Safety Partnerships • Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 9th July)
1 st October 2026	• One Leisure Commercial Opportunities Report (Private) • Commercial Sustainability Report – Parks and Open Spaces • Social Value Policy	• Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 1st October)
5 th November 2026	• Council Tax Support 2027/28 • Homelessness Strategy	• One Leisure 2025-26 Performance Review • Alternative Fuels – 12 month Review
3 rd December 2026		Food Waste Collections – 6 month Review
4 th February 2027		Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 16 th December)
4 th March 2027		Armed Forces Covenant Annual Update Report
1 st April 2027		Update on CCC Health Scrutiny Committee (meeting 30 th March)

Unscheduled Agenda Items

Item	Notes	Progress
CPCA	• Request for the Mayor to attend to update the Panel on his plans for investment, environment and leisure in the district • Noted that some subjects may fall under the O&S P&G Panel	DSO to reach out to CPCA to gauge viability and reassess progress once that is advised.

O&S Topics Identified For Further Consideration

Subject	Brief	Status
Disabled Facility Grants	• Would like to discuss with CCC to hear the obstacles they have encountered. • Working group on DFGs has previously been undertaken and is now concluded. • DFG performance is published within the Corporate Performance Quarterly reports on O&S P&G	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Black Cat Junction Infrastructure	• Concern with the impending completion of the junction improvement works that Buckden village will be used as a cut through in the event of main road congestion • What is the environmental impact of this?	DSO to pick up with relevant Officers for a response to the Councillor.
Great Fen Project	• Request for a site visit to understand the work being undertaken.	DSO has arranged a site visit for all members
Immigration Reforms	• National reform on this is due Autumn 2026 – concern that this will have an increased impact on homelessness and crisis payments due to more people not having recourse to public funds • Potential increase in pressure on Local Authorities. What is the projected scale of this?	To remain on the work programme topics identified list and revisit once the national work on this has been completed.

One Leisure	• Update on the impact of concessionary services inc financial and social values, the return for the Council. • Concern about accessibility for eligible residents in rural areas	DSO to arrange meeting for the relevant Officers and Councillor to discuss.
Recycling and Waste	• What is the take up on recycling services? • Concern that HMOs and Flats with communal bins experience barriers to the service • General overview on the recycling service • How much waste is collected across the service and what amount is rejected? What happens to rejected waste?	DSO to liase with relevant Officers to arrange meeting and visit to Eastfield House for the relevant Councillors.
Alternative Land Management	• Alternative planting schemes in the district – does this include native species to encourage pollinators? • Noted that a report had previously been presented to O&S E,C&P	DSO to provide links to the previous report and if still necessary request more info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
Shared Services	• How will this look after LGR? • Noted that this may be covered by the LGR Scrutiny Committee	DSO to request more info and scoping from the Cllr to refine the request
Climate Strategy	• Contractors costs from the Climate Strategy. • Advised that the Annual Climate Report will be seen at O&S (E,C&P) Panel in September which may satisfy the request NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme	DSO to review with Councillors following the September meeting that questions have been answered or to seek further clarity on the request.

One Leisure	• Request for more information • Noted that One Leisure is covered by O&S (E,C&P) Panel as well as the One Leisure Shadow Leisure Board. NOTE This item has been moved from the O&S P&G Work Programme	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request
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Items identified for Member Briefings

Item	Notes	Progress
Playgrounds	• Village playparks and open spaces – how do Parish Councils access funding for installation and maintenance? • How do parishes earmark suitable land for installation? • Noted that the Council have a Play Sufficiency Report and approved Strategy	DSO to liase with relevant Officers and schedule onto the All Member Briefing.

Working Groups

Items identified for Working Groups

Item	Notes	Progress
Hydro-electric and small wind turbines	• Noted that a pub in St Neots has a very small hydro electric system in place • How can HDC influence the community to invest in these projects? • Available grants?	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic

Air quality and congestion	How does the Council monitor Air Pollutants in the district?	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	• What is the Council doing on this? • Is the focus on business or residential? • What gives good value for money? • Noted that the matter has previously been reviewed by the Climate Working Group but that an update on developments would be wise.	DSO to discuss with relevant Officers and bring to the Climate Working Group as a topic

Climate Working Group
Members: Cllrs T Alban, A Bulat, S Claffey, C Lowe, S Mokbul and S Lancaster Lead Officer: Adjusted to suit the topic, enquiries to B Buddle
Progress: Ongoing group which meets as required to look at specific topics August 2025: Group met twice to discuss both the Energy Strategy and the Fleet Decarbonisation Project for initial feedback prior to their inclusion in the democratic cycle of meetings over Autumn 2025 February 2026: Group invited to comment on the Interim RECAP Partnership Waste Strategy. This will be brought to Members through the Members Briefing. August 2026: Meeting of the Group to comment on the Annual Climate Plan prior to it's consideration by the Panel at the September meeting. Next Steps: Meetings to be scheduled as required to allow involvement in proposed works. Topics identified for future meetings; hydro-electric power, air quality in the district, Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Update

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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: 17 August 2026
For Period: 1 September 2026 to 31 December 2026

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Page 15	Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place
		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
	Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce
		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN E-mail: Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor L Dewey-Beckett	Executive Governance Services	Councillor for and Democratic	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Email: Liam.Dewey-Beckett@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor J Harvey	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Jo.Harvey@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor N Hunt	Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Nathan.Hunt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor J Kerr	Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07906 899425 E-mail: Julie.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Councillor B Mickelburgh	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration and Housing	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor D Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01733 794510 E-mail: Debbie.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Executive Councillor for Planning	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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).

A 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.

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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.

- 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.

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	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 To present the pre-submission Local Plan to 2046 for approval for publication for statutory consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for examination in public.	Cabinet	9 Sep 2026		Clara Kerr, Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection, Tel: (01480) 388430 or email Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel: (01480) 387104 or email Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	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
Car Parking Strategy To provide details and seek endorsement of a new off street parking strategy following a significant local change with the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in 2025. It is envisaged that the new strategy reflects on the current position and use of car parks, whilst informing and providing clear direction for the service and guiding future courses of action.	Cabinet	15 Sep 2026		George McDowell, Parking and Markets Manager Tel: (01480) 388386 or email George.McDowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Kerr	Performance & Growth
Strategic CIL Funding Allocation*** To decide on round 1 of Strategic CIL funding 2026-27 for applications over £100,000.00.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Row Lyons, Funding Project Manager Tel: (01480) 388782 or email Row.Lyons@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Harvey / T Sanderson	Performance & Growth

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	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
Commercial Sustainability Report – Parks & Open Spaces*** To provide an update to Council on Phase 1 which was presented in March 2026 and to propose Phase 2 and the capital funding required to deliver the outcome which work towards removing the cost of the parks and open spaces by 2029/2030.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and Environment, Tel: (01480) 388157 or email Gregg.Holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk Jo Peadon, Active Lifestyles and Health Manager, Tel: (01480) 388048 or email Jo.Peadon@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		D Mickelburgh	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	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
One Leisure Commercial Opportunities***## To propose a new commercial leisure opportunity that could support the financial sustainability of One Leisure.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Leigh Allaker, OL Business and Operations Manager, Tel: (01480) 388796 or email Leigh.Allaker@huntingdonshire.gov.uk Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and Environment, Tel: (01480) 388157 or email Gregg.Holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		D Mickelburgh	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
NDR Rural Settlements List 2027/28*** Annual review of Rural Settlements to facilitate the award of Business Rates Relief.	Executive Councillor and S151 Officer	11 Nov 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	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
Council Tax Support 2027/28*** Annual review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.	Cabinet	17 Nov 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Council Tax Base*** to set the Council Tax Base for 2027/28.	Chair of Corporate Governance and S151 Officer	17 Dec 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	

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Informal Cabinet – 20th July 2026
Overview & Scrutiny – 3rd September 2026

Report by: Harriet Robinson – Place and
Climate Lead

Lead Cllr: Executive Councillor for Climate,
Transformation and Workforce



Wards
All

Open / Exempt
Open

Key Decision?
No

Annual Climate Report 2025/26

Executive Summary: *Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has continued to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency and strengthen resilience across council services while delivering the Climate Action Plan within budget.*

Strategic Objectives:

- *Achieving net zero carbon Council operations by 2040*
- *Ensuring Council policies support emission reductions and set positive examples for others*
- *Continuously consider environmental impacts in all policymaking and asset management*
- *Collaborating with partners to address environmental issues*
- *Supporting schemes that benefit our residents:*
 - *Continuing to prepare our communities for the effects of a changing climate*
 - *Continuing to secure opportunities for residents to access energy efficiency and green technology funding – lowering their energy bills*

*This third Annual Climate Report of HDC's **Climate Action Plan**, covers all climate-related activities undertaken between April 2025 and April 2026. This follows HDC's adoption of a Climate Strategy in 2023, which established a framework for improving the efficiency, resilience and environmental performance of council services.*

*The delivery of the Council's Climate Strategy, through the action plan, also addresses the Council's Corporate Plan priority of **Creating a Better Huntingdonshire for Future Generations**, particularly the objective of **Lowering Carbon Emissions**.*

This report emphasises the importance of continued adaptation to use modern technologies and approaches. This will maintain momentum towards improving energy efficiency, reducing operational costs and meeting HDC's 2040 carbon reduction commitment.

Monitoring and Evaluation

HDC monitor progress via quarterly tracking of actions, benchmarking against neighbouring local authorities, hosting our Annual Climate Conversation event and annual greenhouse gas reporting. For further content, our Online Climate Hub is being refreshed for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The Climate Action revenue budget for 2025-2026 was £140,000. Spending in 2025-2026 was below budget. The Climate Action revenue budget for 2026-2027 is £92,750.

Key achievements:

- 1. **Emissions Reductions:** from March 2019 to March 2026, HDC has achieved an estimated reduction of 2,429.83 tCO₂e*. This 66.211% decrease primarily covers Scope 1 and 2 emissions and is largely thanks to switching our fleet’s fuel from standard diesel to HVO.
- 2. **Fleet Transition:** HDC initiated a pilot project to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel, which is estimated to reduce our fleet’s greenhouse gas emissions by 82% or 1,110 tonnes tCO₂. The fleet transitioned to HVO following the procurement process in June 2025. There has been a reduction of 960.1 tonnes of CO₂ year on year (a 74% reduction). This transition was undertaken without reducing operational capability and forms part of maintaining an efficient and resilient fleet.
- 3. **Facilities Upgrades:** Between April 2025 and June 2025, the One Leisure sites had their roof mounted solar panels installed. Roof-mounted solar installations generated **409,490 kW** of electricity during the year, delivering **£86,978** of avoided energy costs and reducing HDC’s exposure to future energy price increases. More details are included in **Appendix 3**.
- 4. **Green Tariffs:** All of HDC’s main corporate sites (including One Leisure) moved onto green energy tariffs from September 2024. This means the gas and electricity are from renewable sources, resulting in a 0% tCO₂ for Scope 2 emissions.
- 5. **Community engagement:** HDC’s 3rd Annual Climate Conversation entitled “Together For Tomorrow” in November 2025 brought together residents, businesses, landowners, parish councils and experts to discuss practical approaches to reducing energy costs, improving resilience and protecting local environments.

*These figures will be updated in September 2026 when the latest conversion factors become available.

Recommendations

- 1.1. To comment on the delivery of the Climate Action Plan for the financial year of 2025-26.
- 1.2. To note the progress made by HDC towards achieving net zero carbon Council operations by 2040.

Key Corporate Plan Priorities	
1	Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations
2	Lowering carbon emissions Improving housing
Place Strategy Priorities	
1	Pride in Place
2	Inclusive Economy

Report Author(s)

Harriet Robinson, Place and Climate Lead, harriet.robinson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress of the delivery of the Council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan since its adoption in February 2023. Key areas of success in this report will cover the 2025-2026 budget year.
- 1.2 This report will also present a summary of progress, highlighting the current position of HDC, demonstrating actions undertaken for the Council to be:
- **A positive example** through its actions to be a net zero carbon Council by 2040
 - **An enabler** supporting action within our communities and across our partners
 - **an encourager** to ensure the efforts of those that live, work and visit Huntingdonshire help to reduce carbon emissions

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 2.1 In October 2022, HDC passed a **Cost of Living and Climate Change Motion**. This recognised the importance and positive impact of action benefitting the environment and tackling the rising costs of living by reducing consumption of natural resources, shifting to renewables and producing less carbon.
- 2.2 HDC adopted the **Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan** in February 2023.
- 2.3 HDC hosted its first **Annual Climate Conversation** in November 2023, its 2nd in November 2024 and its 3rd in November 2025. The themes of the events were the following:
- 2023 – HDC's 1st climate event – a general focus on local biodiversity, as well as-Climate related issues
 - 2024 – Home Energy and retrofit – an emphasis on changes residents, businesses and beyond can make to reduce their carbon footprints
 - 2025 – Together for Tomorrow – how communities, Councils, businesses and beyond can work together to combat climate change

3. CLIMATE STRATEGY

- 3.1 HDC's Climate vision: we will be a Council that proactively tackles the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency, collaborating closely with partners, leading by example to be a net zero carbon Council by 2040, and supporting Huntingdonshire to achieve the same goal.
- 3.2 Climate Objectives: we are working to achieve our vision, responding to the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency and are continuing to place focus on the following:
- Achieving carbon net zero for HDC's own operations by 2040
 - Ensuring HDC policies and projects enable reduction of carbon emissions and provide positive examples for businesses and residents
 - Continually demonstrating that we consider environmental impact in all policymaking and our stewardship of council assets and resources

- Influencing our updated Local Plan and working closely with the Planning Service to reflect the priorities outlined in our Climate Action Plan
- Maximising the opportunities to work with others collaboratively to address environmental issues

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 Strategic priorities – HDC has been tasked to demonstrate its commitment to reducing carbon emissions in the District. It has continued to engage in several key activities and projects in response to the strategic priorities agreed in the Climate Strategy.

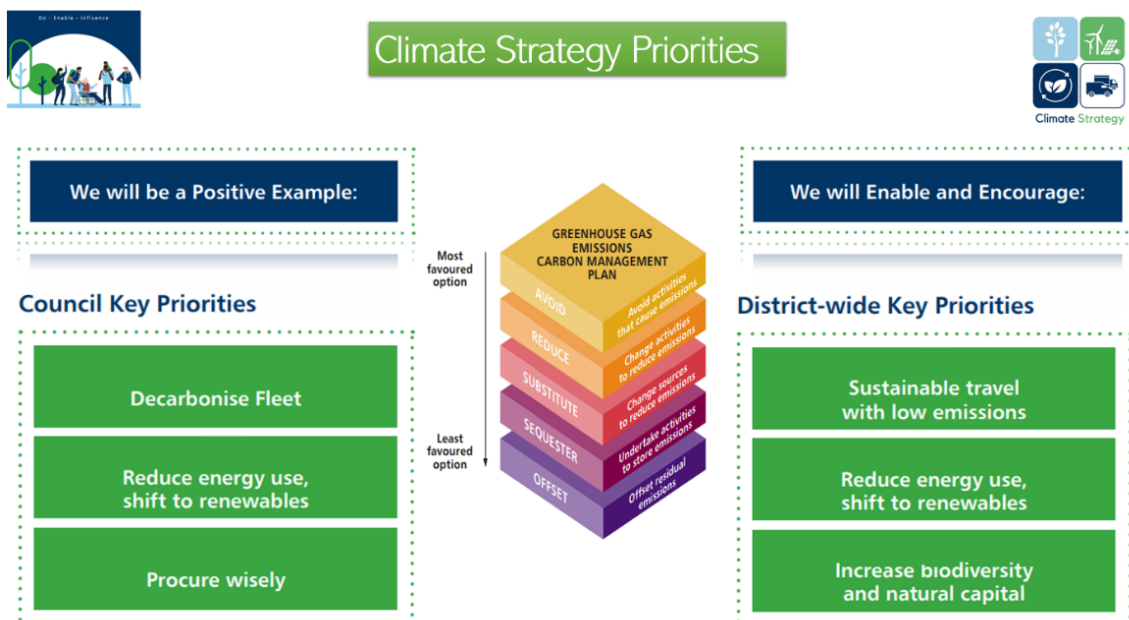
We will be a 'Positive Example' through our direct Council emissions.

- Decarbonise Fleet.
- Reduce Energy use, shift to renewables.
- Procure wisely.

We will 'Enable & Encourage' our wider District

- Sustainable Travel with Low Emissions.
- Reduce energy use, shift to renewables.
- Increase Biodiversity and Natural Capital.

4.2 Table 1: HDC's Key Climate Strategic Priorities



4.3 The Climate Strategy includes a detailed Action Plan which sets out our actions to deliver net zero carbon emissions both in terms of HDC's own services and to support local communities to do the same.

4.4 **Appendix 7** summarises the detailed progress against the Climate Actions set for 2026 and beyond. **Appendix 6** is a copy of the latest Climate Action Plan, which was issued in June 2025. The actions within the plan have been characterised by theme area:

- Buildings
- Energy and renewables
- Nature
- Travel and transport
- Waste, recycling and resource management
- Community

5. CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The Corporate Plan 2023-2028 places strong emphasis on HDC's commitment to delivering its reduced carbon emissions target

- Priority 1: improving quality of life for local people
- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations
- Priority 3: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations

Items 42-53 in the Corporate Plan highlight the 'lowering carbon emissions' actions and their progress. This table can be found in **Appendix 5**.

6. HUNTINGDONSHIRE FUTURES PLACE STRATEGY

6.1 Huntingdonshire Futures sets out a vision to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work and visit over the next 30 years. Over the last 3 years, HDC has continued to collaborate with communities, resident groups, service providers and businesses, which has threaded in to its 'environmental innovation' pillar.

6.2 Further information of this work can be summarised in **Appendix 1**

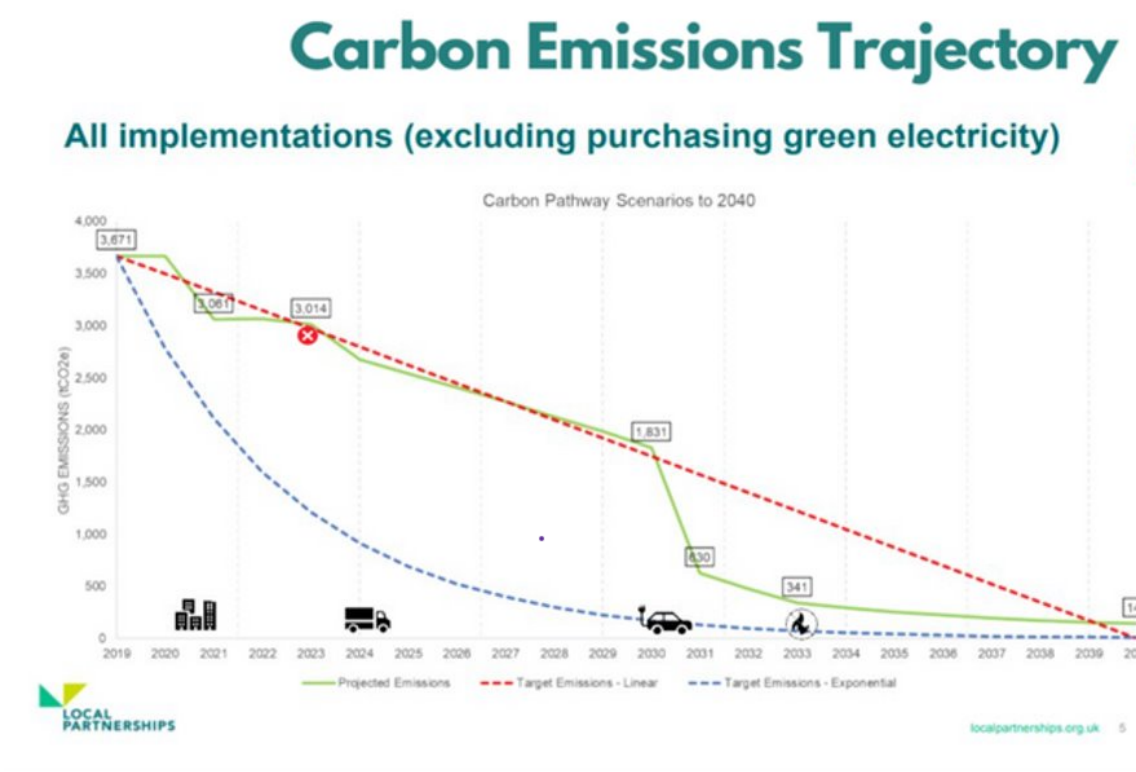
7. MONITORING - CARBON ACCOUNTING

7.1 The Climate Strategy set a carbon trajectory based on our target to achieve net zero Council operations by 2040.

7.2 The conversion factors for the latest greenhouse gas reporting will be published in September 2026. The greenhouse emissions in this report are a guide using last year's conversion factors. Final figures will be released in Q3 2026/27.

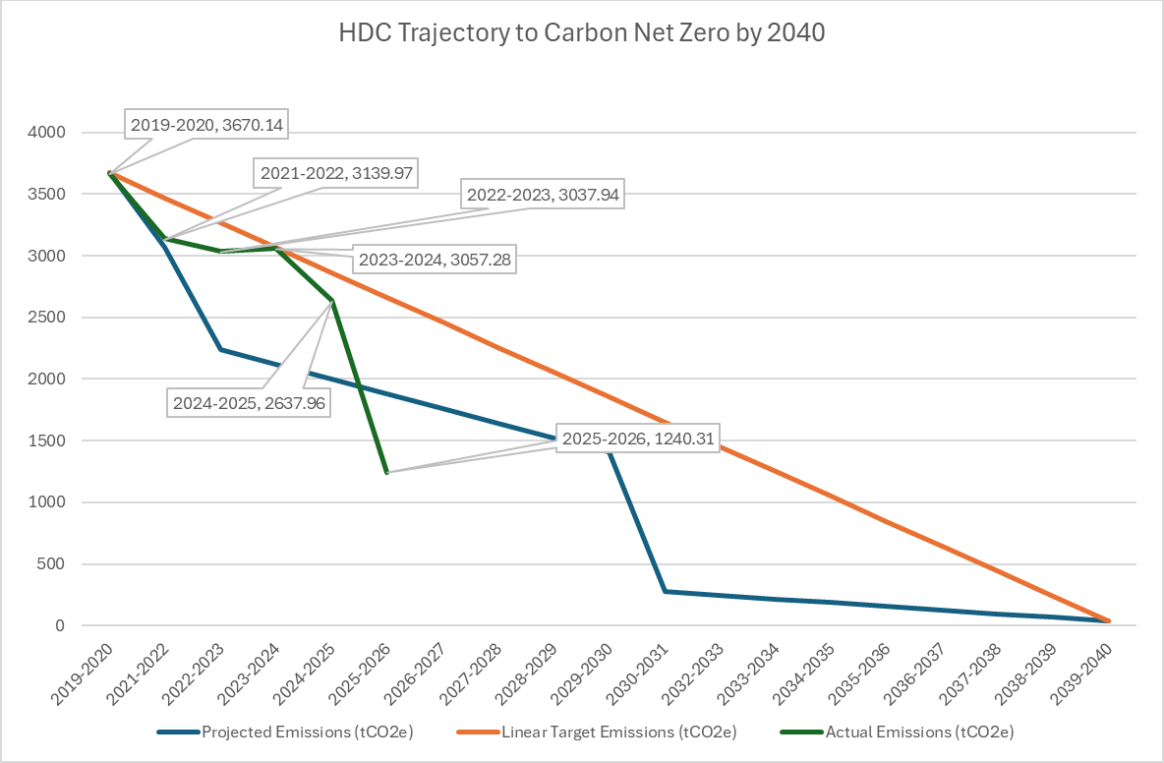
7.3 The greenhouse gas update below shows 2 graphs. Graph 1 is the 2023 model trajectory of emissions provided key steps are taken. Graph 2 shows HDC's actual carbon emissions from April 2019 through to 31st March 2026. This has enabled HDC to understand and plot its progress towards reducing its carbon emissions.

7.4 Graph 1: Model Climate Strategy Trajectory



The light green line in Graph 1 shows the 2023 model, with anticipated timing and impact of planned changes to reduce emissions. If financially prudent opportunities arise to accelerate progress (such as purchasing green electricity), HDC will those opportunities.

7.5 Graph 2: Estimated HDC Trajectory to Carbon Net Zero by 2040



The dark green line in Graph 2 represents actual carbon emissions from HDC operations.

- 7.6** This report discusses Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions.
- Scope 1 Emissions – direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by HDC e.g. company vehicles
 - Scope 2 Emissions – indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy that an organisation consumes e.g. electricity or heat
 - Scope 3 Emissions – all other indirect emissions that occur across an organisation’s value chain. This includes both upstream (e.g. supply chain) and downstream (e.g. product use) activities.
- 7.7** Estimated total carbon savings from Council emissions (Scopes 1, 2 and some 3) between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2026 are 1,138.7 tCO₂e.
- 7.8** HDC Scope 1 emissions consist of fuel and heating.
- 7.9** Despite increased footfall following HDC’s 2025 policy of requiring all staff to be in the office twice a week, HDC’s gas consumption reduced from 5,648,500 kW in 2024-2025 to 4,632,993 kW in 2025-2026. This was due to a warmer summer and autumn so less energy was required to heat the buildings. Alongside this, the combined heat and power (CHP) utilised at One Leisure sites had intervals where it was not working and did not require the gas to power it.
- 7.10** HDC’s recorded Scope 2 emissions are made up of electricity, of which a green tariff has been secured across all main HDC corporate sites including One Leisure. Green tariffs reduce HDC’s electricity to zero emissions due to it being obtained from renewable sources. HDC has the relevant renewable energy guarantees of origin (REGO) confirming its electricity is from renewable sources.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- 8.1** The Climate Action Plan has been reviewed quarterly with oversight from both the Corporate Leadership Team and Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 26 th August 2025 | Quarter 1 (Apr – June 2025) |
| • 25 th November 2025 | Quarter 2 (July – Sept 2025) |
| • 21 st April 2026 | Quarter 4 (Oct 2025 – Mar 2026) |
- 8.2** A summary of the quarterly progress in 2025/26 is shown below, illustrating positive progress through its updated actions in the latest version of the Climate Action Plan.

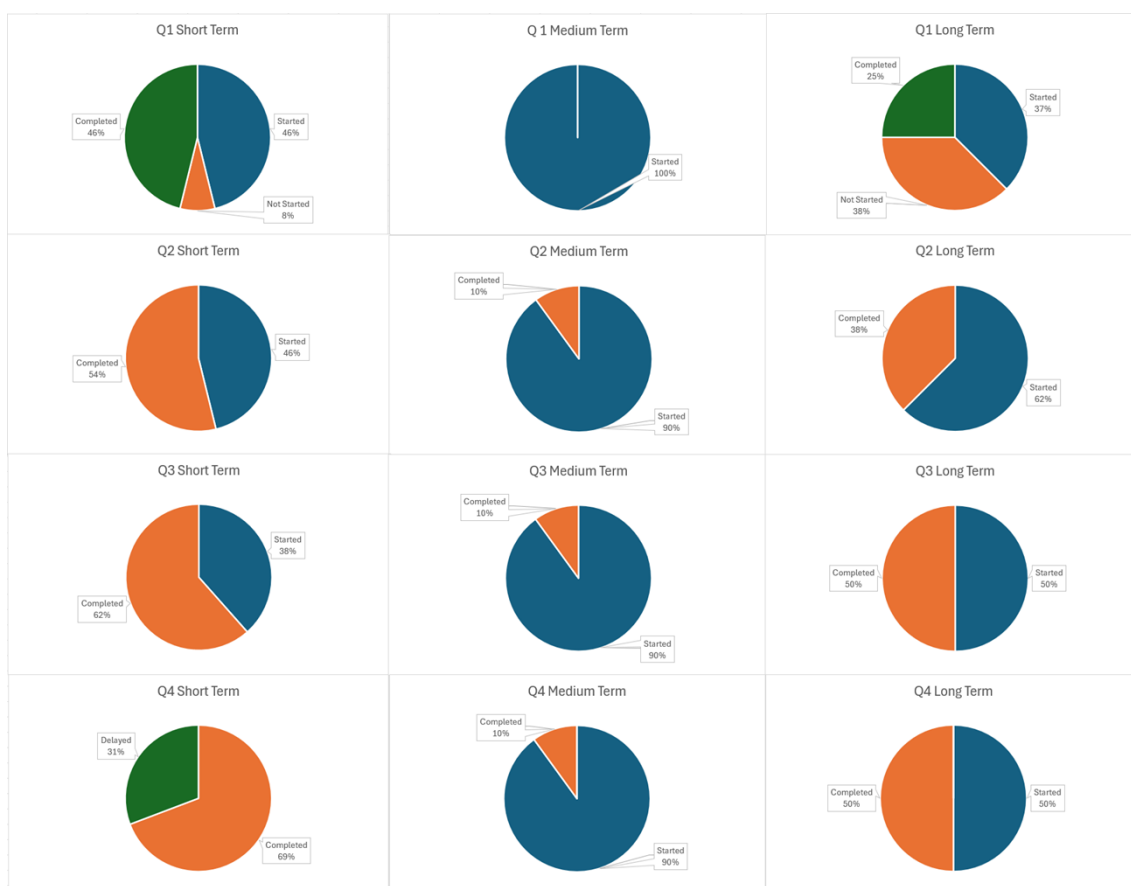


Table 2 identifies the delayed items, reasons for the delays and the mitigations that have been put in place to address them:

Table 2: Delays and Mitigations of Climate Actions

Delayed Action	Reason	Mitigation
Understand sources and availability of data for Scope 3 reporting	Delays due to procurement process for this work taking longer than anticipated	Partner now secured and work will begin in June 2026
Agree Scope 3 emissions approach and include emissions sources for reporting	As above	As above
Enabling communities to deliver climate change activities through community action plans	Delayed to allow time to gather baseline data and better understand community needs	Team has contacted all town and parish councils concerning planning for these action plans with a focus on community energy
Engage with local businesses to explore ways the Council could support them to have less climate impact	Thermal Imaging Camera events owing to staff changes at Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Events also needed to take place in winter	Events now scheduled and planned for November 2026, which is carbon literacy action week

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & NOT RECOMMENDED

- 9.1** Without a strategic framework, HDC would have less ability to monitor energy use, identify operational savings opportunities, secure external funding and coordinate activities that improve resilience to flooding, heat and future energy price volatility.
- 9.2** The absence of a programme would risk fragmented activity, reduced oversight of performance and fewer opportunities to secure external investment which benefits Huntingdonshire residents and businesses.

10. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

10.1 NA – to be confirmed on 3rd September 2026

11. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

11.1 NA

12. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

12.1 Council Key Priorities and Performance

- *Improving quality of life for local people*
- *Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations*
- *Doing our core work well*

12.2 Financial Implications

12.2.1 The Climate Action revenue budget for 2025-2026 was £140,000 (£80,000 budget with a carry-over of £60,000 from 2024-2025).

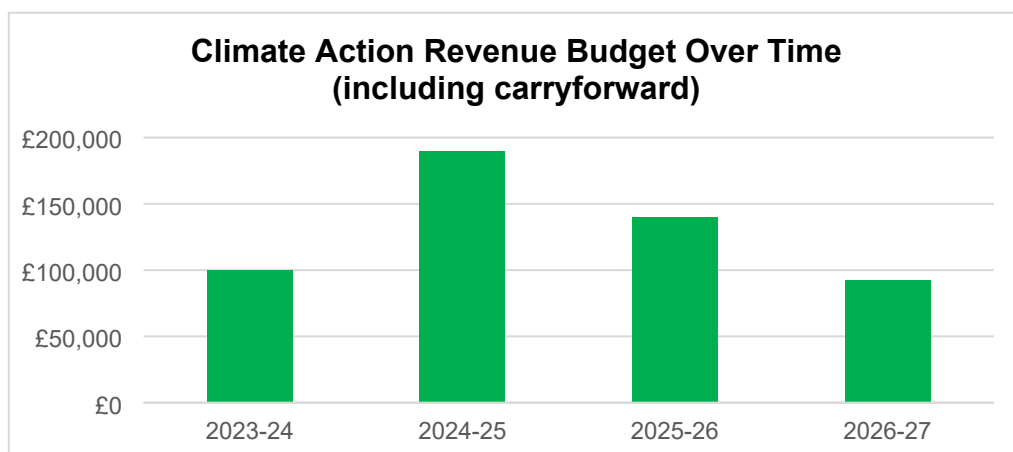
12.2.2 The £60,000 carried forward from 2024-2025 was specifically earmarked for the following:

- £40,000 to support a role in the waste team tasked with tackling the challenges of communal waste collections (i.e. shared bin collections in blocks of flats).
- £15,000 to support research into alternative power sources (e.g. solar) for CCTV cameras. After a procurement process, the implementation costs proved prohibitive and this project did not continue.
- £5,000 for surveys towards the natural flood defences project. Actual spend was lower than expected costs.

12.2.3 The Climate Action revenue budget for 2026-2027 is £92,750. It is made up of:

- £50,000 approved at Full Council in February 2026 as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- £42,750 carried forward from the previous financial year.

12.2.4 Spending on Climate Action continues to decrease as Climate Action Plan objectives are completed.



12.2.5 There is no capital budget for Climate Action in 2026-27.⁸⁰

12.2.6 Table 3 - Allocated contractor spend in 2025-26

Amount	Contractor and Project Name	Purpose
£15,000	Glendale Countryside – Natural Flood Defences	Part of the bid for the Natural Flood Defences (successful funding awarded from the CPCA's Climate Opportunities fund) required a 10% investment from HDC of the overall project cost. This was allocated to hydrological studies to determine the progression of installation of a wet woodland on the Spring Common site.
£18,500	Endotherm – heat treatment	Collaboration with Facilities team. Funding allocated to procure energy-saving additive for wet heating systems that improves heat transfer. Space-heating energy consumption is reduced and comes with an estimated cost saving of 15% on energy bills
£30,000	Eden Seven – Scope 3 Emission work	Tool will be used to track and record all Scope 1, 2 and 2 emissions as well as identify opportunities to reduce costs where possible.
£1,100	Cambridge Carbon Footprint – resident thermal imaging camera training	To train residents how to use a thermal imaging camera, allowing them to borrow these to detect areas of efficiency improvements in their homes to reduce costs on energy bills and subsequently lower carbon emissions. This was completed in Great Paxton and Warboys.

12.2.7 Anticipated revenue costs included in the existing 2026-27 Climate Action budget include:

- 1.5 full time staff working on Climate Action Projects
- Further investigation of Scope 3 emissions and potential routes to Scope 3 emission reductions.
- Contribution towards the 2026 Huntingdonshire Business Awards
- 4 Thermal Imaging Camera training evenings for local businesses in Ramsey, St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon

12.3 Policy Implications

12.3.1 This report supports delivery of HDC's adopted Climate Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Corporate Plan and Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy. The report does not propose any changes to existing policy and is presented to provide an update on progress against previously approved commitments.

12.4 Legal & Constitutional Implications

12.4.1 This report is for information and monitoring purposes and does not create any new statutory duties or legal obligations for HDC. The activities described in the appendices document (provided with this report as an attachment) support compliance with existing legal requirements relating to environmental management, carbon reporting, procurement and promoting environmental wellbeing.

12.4.2 Delivery of individual projects and programmes within the Climate Action Plan will continue to be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislative, procurement, planning, health and safety and data protection requirements.

12.4.3 This report supports HDC's contribution towards national environmental objectives established through the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) and [Environment Act 2021](#)

12.4.4 Any procurement, grant allocation or project delivery arising from the Climate Action Plan will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the [Procurement Act 2023](#) and other applicable legislation.

12.5 Community Impact

12.5.1 Outcomes from the completion of several Climate Action Plan items have led to significant community impact – especially:

- Community-led improvements to green spaces and nature enrichment
- Investment in council-owned parks to boost biodiversity, increase visitor enjoyment and encourage active lifestyles
- Funding to retrofit community buildings providing security for the future and reductions in energy bills
- Home Energy funding to retrofit residential homes where occupants are on oil and in receipt of certain benefits
- Annual conference for communities to share their challenges with adapting for the future and to share their solutions with peers
- The HDC Place & Climate team, along with service areas across the council, continue to support Climate events in and around the District.

12.6 Environment & Climate Change Implications

- 12.6.1** The environment and climate change implications have been explained in the monitoring section of this report.

12.7 Equality & Diversity Implications

- 12.7.1** Many actions within the programme support residents who are most exposed to high energy costs, inefficient housing and flooding risk.
- 12.7.2** Programmes that improve energy efficiency can provide particular benefits to vulnerable residents and households on lower incomes.

12.8 Implications on Resources

- 12.8.1** The delivery of the Climate Action Plan, Climate Strategy, Corporate Plan carbon-reduction actions and Home Energy strategies is managed primarily by the Place & Climate Lead – Harriet Robinson.
- 12.8.2** The Place & Climate Lead drives HDC's climate agenda and organises the Annual Climate Conversation conference. She works strategically across services to embed and strengthen climate action, while ensuring effective performance oversight, opportunity identification and continuous improvement. She also provides leadership and support to key programmes, including "Biodiversity for All" and "Home Energy." She maximises impact and ensures delivery of the Council's climate commitments.
- 12.8.3** During 2025-26, additional support has been received from a project support officer and a policy and project officer. The Resident Advice Team has also assisted with resident queries concerning the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme.

12.9 Health & Wellbeing Implications

- 12.9.1** Extreme weather events, including flooding, drought and periods of high temperature can affect infrastructure, housing and public health. HDC programmes that improve resilience help communities prepare for these risks.
- 12.9.2** The ability to cool our living environments is becoming increasingly important, along with water security in Cambridgeshire, one of the driest regions in England. Higher temperatures can also disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our communities.
- 12.9.3** Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy use choices can result in exceptionally large gains for health, particularly through reduced air pollution.
- 12.9.4** The positive impacts of cleaner and greener places and improved biodiversity are well documented. Addressing the impacts of climate change, and supporting adaptation, improving residents' health and wellbeing now and in the future.

12.10 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications

- 12.10.1** The outcome of LGR geographical options is expected to be announced in July 2026. This will dictate Huntingdonshire's new geography in a new unitary authority. Any future

unitary authority will inherit significant property assets, vehicle fleets and operational infrastructure. The work undertaken to improve efficiency, reduce energy consumption and strengthen asset resilience provides a stronger baseline for future service delivery.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1 The principle risks relate to funding availability, organisational capacity and changing national policy. These could affect the timing and delivery of some projects and limit the achievement of anticipated savings and operational improvements. Progress continues to be monitored through established governance arrangements.

14. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Climate actions undertaken by Place Strategy Journey
- Appendix 2 – Summary of climate action undertaken categorised by Climate Strategy theme
- Appendix 3 – detailed climate actions by Climate Strategy Theme
- Appendix 4 - HDC sites that are on a green energy tariff
- Appendix 5 - Carbon reduction actions in the latest Corporate Plan 2023-2028
- Appendix 6 – updated Climate Action Plan

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS– LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

15.1 Table 4 – Relevant files to support this report

Document List	Custodian	File Location
Climate Strategy (including Declaration of a Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency)	Place & Climate Lead	Full Council – February 2023
Climate Action Plan (last updated June 2025)	Place & Climate Lead	Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities & Partnerships) Panel - June 2025
Motion: Climate Change and the Cost-of-Living Crisis	Place & Climate Lead	Full Council – October 2022
Building Energy Strategy	Facilities Manager	Cabinet - September 2025
Local Area Energy Plan: Huntingdonshire Local Area Report (Version C)	CPCA Executive Director Place and Connectivity	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority - Growth Committee – March 2026
Habitat Banking Report	Biodiversity for All Project Manager	Cabinet – February 2026

Appendix 1

CLIMATE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN CATEGORISED BY PLACE STRATEGY JOURNEY

PRIDE IN PLACE



- Solar panels are now on all One Leisure sites, which has saved nearly £87,000 in energy bills for HDC allowing reinvestment into leisure services
- As part of Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership collaborated on producing a local action energy plan
- 20 tonnes of WEEE collected
- HDC provided equipment and collection services enabling 200 litter pick ups
- 2,249 trees planted in the District by HDC's arboriculture team
- HDC received 4 Green Flag awards for 4 of its parks in Huntingdon and St Neots

TRAVEL TRANSFORMED



- HVO fuel now in all standard diesel vehicles across the HDC fleet, which has so far saved 960 tonnes of CO2. Partnerships continue with the police and fire service

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION



- HDC's electricity is on a green tariff on its main sites from Sept 2024. This has resulted in 0% emissions for Scope 2 for 2025-2026
- Bio4All programme has concluded delivering diverse range of initiatives to enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and better connect communities with nature across Huntingdonshire
- HDC established in-house habitat banking programme to support biodiversity net gain delivery across the District
- HDC held its 3rd annual climate conversation entitled 'Together for Tomorrow'

HEALTH EMBEDDED



- Total of 41 ECO 4 FLEX applications submitted allowing boiler upgrades for eligible residents
- 14 Warm Homes Upgrade Grant Grants (WHUG) awarded in Year 1
- (of 3) allowing retrofit on eligible properties
- Continued partnerships with nappy recycling and Mooncup schemes
- Food for Nought programme has prevented an estimated 14.3 tonnes of CO2 emissions through the community fridge network
- Laptop upcycling enabled them to be passed to vulnerable residents assisting them in various ways

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



- Partnership with Cambridgeshire Carbon Footprint providing training and use of thermal imaging cameras. Further partnerships planned with small businesses for end of 2026
- Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme - CPCA funding aiming to help rural communities to reduce their carbon footprint. 11 projects successfully completed reducing carbon emissions, energy bills and bringing communities together
- 7 community chest applications were aimed at 'lowering carbon emissions'

2025-2026

Appendix 2

CLIMATE ACTION UNDERTAKEN CATEGORISED BY CLIMATE STRATEGY THEME

 BUILDINGS	 ENERGY & RENEWABLES	 NATURE	 TRAVEL & TRANSPORT	 WASTE, RECYCLING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	 COMMUNITY
• All HDC One Leisure sites now have solar power • Feasibility study underway to assess solar capabilities on the roof of Pathfinder House • One Leisure St Ives solar canopy live from April 2025 generating over £35,000 in cost savings • Building Energy Strategy completed in October 2025 and is now live on HDC's website • Endotherm chemical being trialled - aims to reduce time taken to heat water in radiators	• Total of 41 ECO 4 FLEX applications submitted • Currently into Year 2 of Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG) scheme being managed across the Climate and Resident Advice teams • As part of CERP, partnered on producing a retrofit guide, led by South Cambs DC and funded by the CPCA • Finalisation of the locally determined contributions project, funded by Innovate UK	• Green Flag Awards: HDC received 4 awards for their parks in St Neots and Huntingdon • Community chest grants awarded included providing a green space for wellbeing and providing community allotment compost bins • 1 Huntingdonshire Futures grant awarded for funding environmental innovation • Habitat banking work has begun to support biodiversity net gain across the District • 13 leaky dams installed as part of the NFD project	• HVO fuel now in all standard diesel vehicles across the HDC fleet, which has so far saved 960 tonnes of CO₂. • Partnerships continue with the police and fire service	• 20 tonnes of WEEE collected • Continuation of nappy recycling and Mooncup schemes • HDC provided equipment and collection services for 200 community litter picks • 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ estimated to be saved from food waste	• Continued partnership with Cambridgeshire Carbon Footprint providing training and use of thermal imaging cameras for residents and businesses • Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme - CPCA funding aiming to help rural communities to reduce their carbon footprint - 11 successfully completed projects • 3rd annual climate conversation attended by 150+ people • Soft launch of Council tax e-billing with 1,100 bills delivered electronically
2025-2026					

Appendix 3

Buildings

Facilities

The Facilities team have initiated several projects throughout 2025-26 as set out in the Climate Strategy. The Building Energy Strategy was completed back in October and can be accessed on the HDC website [here](#). The strategy outlines the steps HDC needs to take to reach its net zero target by 2040. The strategy relates to corporate buildings. The next step is to pursue feasibility studies on additional properties within HDC's estate.

Between April 2025 and June 2025, the One Leisure sites had their roof mounted solar panels installed. The figures below are a comparison of 2024 to 2025 electricity consumption

Site	Electricity Saving	Cost Saving	Daytime kw costing*
One Leisure St Ives	177,319kW	£35,917	20.25p/kW
One Leisure Ramsey	65,970kW	£14,274	21.63p/kW
One Leisure St Neots	117,829kW	£25,283	21.45p/kW
One Leisure Huntingdon	24,326kW	£5,368	22.06p/kW
One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	24,046kW	£6,136	25.52p/kW

*These figures are solely on daytime kW and each kW costing as specified above per site

The Council also made a capital investment for Pathfinder House to have roof mounted solar installed. A business case is currently being developed to establish payback periods, generation forecasts and long-term operational savings.

The Facilities team held a meeting with the NHS in 2025 with regards to a product called Endotherm. This is a substance that is added to closed water systems allowing the system to reach temperature more quickly. This results in less energy required to heat the system, which will give HDC estate sites a financial saving. Across all the sites, Endotherm is expected to recover costs in 18.5 months and continue generating savings for approximately 10 years. Paybacks vary due to size of systems and volume of water in the system. Further information will be available in the next annual climate report.

All HDC's electricity has been on a green tariff since October 2024. This includes all corporate sites, bus stations and One Leisure sites. A list of these can be found in **Appendix 4**.

Reduce energy use, shift to Renewables

Home Energy

Home Energy work continues through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP). Consisting of all authorities in Cambridgeshire, CERP has run various energy schemes through its 'Action on Energy Cambridgeshire' network.

Scheme		Status	Huntingdonshire Home Retrofits Funded in 2025-26
Energy Company Obligations FLEX	ECO FLEX	Open	41
Home Upgrade Grant 2	HUG2	Closed	24
Warm Homes Upgrade Grant	WHUG	Open	14 (completed in Year 1)

HDC's Home Energy work has taken advantage of the ECO scheme, which is funded by energy suppliers. The ECO FLEX fund allows local authorities to refer residents to retrofit funding grants. This is specifically for private-tenure households that might be living in fuel poverty, on low incomes or are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold house, but do not receive benefits required to qualify for existing ECO funding schemes.

The HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant) scheme provided energy efficient upgrades and lower-cost and more energy efficient heating systems to low-income households living in off-gas homes in England. The HUG2 scheme has now closed and has been replaced with the Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG) scheme.

Under WHUG, depending on eligibility, free energy saving improvements can be made to homes and is only available in England. The programme is now in its 2nd year, having been launched in the last financial year. This 3-year programme received £8.5 million worth of funding to retrofit properties across Cambridgeshire as a whole, which was less than initially bid for. A further request for an additional £2 million of funding is currently pending.

Through the WHUG scheme, Huntingdonshire homes have added cavity wall insulation, solar PV, PV batteries, air source heat pumps and digital/smart controls.

Local Area Energy Plan

The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) aims to define the extent of future electricity network requirements needed to support housing growth, business investment and increasing energy demand. The partners in the production of the Cambridgeshire LAEP were:

- Cambridgeshire County Council (Lead Partner),
- the Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CPCA)

- Cambridge City Council,
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council,
- HDC

HDC's participation has ensured that Huntingdonshire remains part of the solution - leading the way in planning for the future and tackling Climate Change. The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) went out to tender and CAG Consulting were chosen to conduct stakeholder engagement and Mott Macdonald was the preferred supplier to create the actual plan.

For Huntingdonshire, the LAEP sets out a strategic, evidence-based roadmap to transition the district to a low carbon, resilient energy system by 2045. By developing this in partnership with other Cambridgeshire authorities, it ensured Huntingdonshire was contributing to actively shaping and **enabling** the region's response to climate change, while supporting sustainable growth.

The LAEP confirmed that improving energy affordability and strengthening long-term energy security will require a whole-system transformation, spanning how energy is generated, distributed and consumed across homes, businesses and transport. It identified the scale of change, infrastructure requirements and investment priorities needed to deliver this transition in a coordinated and locally responsive way. A link to the final report, 'Huntingdonshire Local Area Report (Version C)', is provided in Section 15.1 of the main report.

LAEP Progress and emerging challenges

Existing grid constraints risk delaying development and business investment unless capacity issues are addressed. Huntingdonshire as a District has already achieved a 38% reduction in emissions since 2005, reflecting national grid decarbonisation and local efficiency improvements. However, future progress will be more complex. Emissions are now dominated by transport and domestic energy use, highlighting the need for **place-based** interventions that directly affect how people travel and heat their homes.

Scale of transformation required

The LAEP highlights the significant scale of change needed across all sectors:

- Heat decarbonisation is the greatest challenge, with 91% of homes still reliant on fossil fuels and substantial investment required in heat pumps and low carbon systems.
- Energy efficiency remains critical, with around 47% of homes below EPC C, requiring large-scale retrofit to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
- Electricity demand is expected to at least double by 2045, driven by electrification of heat and transport.
- Transport will require rapid electrification, including a major expansion of EV charging infrastructure.

This reinforces that achieving net zero will require system-wide change at pace, rather than incremental improvements.

Infrastructure and investment priorities

A key message of the LAEP is the need for proactive, forward-looking infrastructure planning:

- Existing grid capacity constraints risk limiting growth and decarbonisation unless addressed early
- Close coordination with network operators will be essential to ensure timely investment in electricity networks
- Huntingdonshire has strong potential to contribute to renewable energy generation, particularly through solar and wind

This supports the principle that infrastructure must be planned ahead of demand to enable sustainable growth.

Place-based delivery

The LAEP emphasises a targeted, locally tailored approach:

- Focused retrofit activity is needed in areas with lower EPC ratings and higher fuel poverty, including parts of Ramsey and Elton.
- Heat networks and shared energy solutions may be viable in higher density urban areas such as Huntingdon and St Neots.
- Industrial areas present opportunities for low carbon transition and future energy innovation.

This reflects that delivery must respond to local characteristics, infrastructure and community need.

Wider benefits

The LAEP reinforces that the transition to net zero is also an opportunity to:

- Reduce fuel poverty and energy costs
- Improve health and air quality
- Support green economic growth and jobs
- Deliver a fair and inclusive transition for communities

Locally Determined Contributions (previously known as CANFFUND)

The locally determined contributions (LDC) project puts local decision-making at the heart of climate action. Building on the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it enables councils to set their own realistic carbon reduction targets while aligning with national ambitions. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, LDCs provide a practical framework that allows local areas to decide what works best for their communities, with transparent reporting that improves accountability and tracks progress.

Delivered between February 2024 and July 2025 through a partnership of Cambridgeshire councils, the University of Cambridge, Collaborate CIC and funded by Innovate UK, the project developed and tested a toolkit for place-based climate action. Co-designed with almost 200 representatives from local

government, business, academia and community organisations, it provides a consistent method for planning emissions reductions, improving resilience, identifying wider benefits such as better health and reduced inequality, and giving investors greater confidence that local projects can deliver measurable outcomes.

The project has positioned Cambridgeshire as a leader in a practical, scalable approach that bridges the gap between national targets and local delivery. It offers a clear framework that any future unitary councils in Cambridgeshire could adopt, strengthens governance and transparency, and ensures climate action is driven by local priorities while making the best use of public and private investment.

Nature - Increase Biodiversity and Natural Capital

Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes

The Biodiversity for All (Bio4All) programme concluded in October 2025, delivering a diverse range of initiatives to enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and better connect communities with nature across Huntingdonshire.



Over the course of the programme, more than 1,387 trees and shrubs were planted across Council-owned sites, improving habitat connectivity, increasing carbon sequestration and contributing to a more resilient landscape. In addition, over 856 square metres of wildflower habitat were created and enhanced, providing important forage for pollinators and boosting the diversity of plant species within parks and open spaces.

Significant work was undertaken to improve aquatic and wetland habitats through the restoration and creation of ponds at multiple locations. These interventions support amphibians, invertebrates and other wetland species, while also contributing to natural water management. New hedgerow planting and enhancement further strengthened ecological networks, offering shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife while enhancing the character of the local landscape.

The programme also delivered community-focused initiatives, including the establishment of new community orchards such as a cherry orchard, which increased opportunities for local food production, biodiversity and community engagement. Green Skills programmes were delivered across 10 sites, enabling residents and volunteers to develop practical conservation and habitat management skills. In total, 37 volunteers were supported to gain qualifications and hands-on experience, helping to build local capacity for environmental stewardship and contributing to the growth of the green economy.

Bio4All secured an additional £50,000 from the Biodiversity Audit Grant programme (funded by the CPCA) to better understand and enhance the biodiversity value of Council landholdings in St Ives. Natural flood management

measures were implemented, including the installation of 13 leaky dams at Fox Brook in St Neots, helping to slow water flow and improve resilience to flooding.

Across two funding rounds, the programme also supported 17 community-led biodiversity projects. Overall, Bio4All has created a lasting legacy by improving habitats, increasing biodiversity, empowering communities to take positive environmental action and laying strong foundations for future nature recovery and **helping create a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.**

Habitat Banking and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

During 2025/26, Huntingdonshire District Council made significant progress in establishing an in-house habitat banking programme to support the delivery of BNG across the District. Following the introduction of mandatory BNG requirements under the Environment Act 2021, the Council identified an opportunity to make more effective use of its landholdings by delivering measurable biodiversity enhancements while generating income to support long-term habitat management and broader environmental priorities.

Initial work centred on exploring opportunities for natural carbon sequestration and Biodiversity improvements across Council-owned land. This work developed into a more strategic Habitat Banking approach, recognising the wider benefits of habitat creation, including biodiversity recovery, climate adaptation, natural flood management and carbon storage.

Over the reporting period, the Council identified and assessed a number of suitable sites for Habitat Banking and BNG delivery. Phase 1 activity was completed, including ecological assessments and the preparation of Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans (HMMPs) for initial pilot sites at Huntingdon Riverside Park, St Neots Riverside Park and Barford Road Pocket Park. Alongside this, a Biodiversity Net Gain implementation plan was submitted, establishing the framework for delivering BNG units from Council land.

An in-house operating model was also developed, allowing the Council to retain greater control over habitat delivery, long-term stewardship and the financial returns associated with BNG units. Building on this progress, Phase 2 proposals have been advanced, identifying additional sites across the district with the potential to generate biodiversity units and support local nature recovery priorities.

The Habitat Banking programme represents an innovative and strategic approach to environmental management in Huntingdonshire. By creating and managing habitats that deliver measurable biodiversity gains, the Council is supporting sustainable development while generating long-term environmental, social and financial benefits. The programme remains in development, with further ecological assessments, legal arrangements and habitat creation works planned to enable the registration and future sale of BNG units.

.A link is provided in Section 15.1 of the main report.

Grant Schemes: Huntingdonshire Futures and Community Chest

Community Chest

The community chest scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to help HDC achieve the following priorities set out in our Corporate Plan:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

During 2025/26, there were 7 grants awarded under the 'lowering carbon emissions' priority:

Place	Project Description	Amount
Spaldwick Community Allotment Association	Community Allotment Compost Bins	£1,000
Great Staughton Playing Field Committee	Battery Storage Provision	£2,000
CARESCO Centre	Guttering and Corridor heater	£560
The Community Hub Little Paxton CIO	Install PV system	£1,000
Citizen Hub St Neots CIC	Green Space for Wellbeing	£1,500
Hilton Community Garden	Polytunnel refurbishment	£1,000
Houghton and Wyton Timebank	Playing field green area planting	£500

Huntingdonshire Futures

The Huntingdonshire Futures grant scheme was run in a similar way to the Community Chest but aligns with the key journeys set out in the Pride of Place strategy. Applicants were able to request grant funding providing it helped improvements through at least 1 of the 5 journeys:

1. Pride in Place
2. Inclusive Economy
3. Health Embedded
4. Environmental Innovation
5. Travel Transformed

There were a total of 19 grants issued, one of which encompassed the 'Environmental Innovation' journey as well as 'Place.' The Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) was awarded £2,500. GOVT set out to encourage people from all backgrounds, who might not otherwise be aware of the landscape on their doorstep, to experience what Huntingdonshire has to offer and to improve physical and mental health.

Previous Huntingdonshire Futures grants, awarded before 2025-26, included a green weekend for crafts and workshops at Godmanchester Plant Nursery, a 1-day event to inspire connection with nature in Huntingdon and funding for planting of hedging and a wildflower meadow in Alconbury.

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme was launched in 1996 and is managed by the charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. 2,250 parks across the UK were named, which was the highest number ever recorded.

HDC once again received awards for 4 parks: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (Huntingdon), Paxton Pits, Priory Park and Riverside Park & Regatta Meadow (all in St Neots). To have these awards recognises the vital role these parks and celebrating spaces that are cared for and are accessible and rich in natural value.

Travel and Transport - Decarbonising our Fleet

HVO Fleet Trial and subsequent adoption

HDC declared a climate emergency in 2023. As part of the Climate Strategy, research showed that CO₂ emitted from HDC's fleet contributed to 36.7% of HDC's total greenhouse gas emissions. A pilot project was agreed on in November 2023 through to June 2024 to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to standard road diesel in a controlled group of vehicles, plants and machinery.

Calculations for the reduced emissions of using this fuel have been calculated at an 82% reduction. All vehicles which ran on standard diesel fuel were switched over to HVO in June 2025 (2.5 months into the financial year). 960 tonnes of CO₂ have been saved, which is a 74% in reduction YoY. A full year's figure concerning total carbon savings from HVO will be able to be given next financial year.

557,000 litres of HVO was purchased for the 2025-26 financial year. This cost £1.34 per litre, 35p lower than the current market price (last checked in July 2026) which demonstrates a significant cost saving.

The initial trial involved a partnership with HDC, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue and Cambridgeshire Constabulary and they are continuing to use the HVO stored at HDC's depot. They have procured 8,978 litres 4,971 litres respectively for a selection of their vehicles

Tree Planting

Between April 2025 and March 2026, 2,249 trees were planted across the District. These continue to enhance Biodiversity, restore woodland and create wildlife-friendly hedgerows using native species including hawthorn, holly and hazel. Each location supports a different function from rejuvenating degraded woodlands to forming pollinator-rich, climate-resilient hedges along roadsides

and rivers. The mix of evergreen and deciduous species offers year-round habitat and food for birds, insects, and mammals, while improving air quality, soil health, and carbon storage. The trees were planted in the following locations:

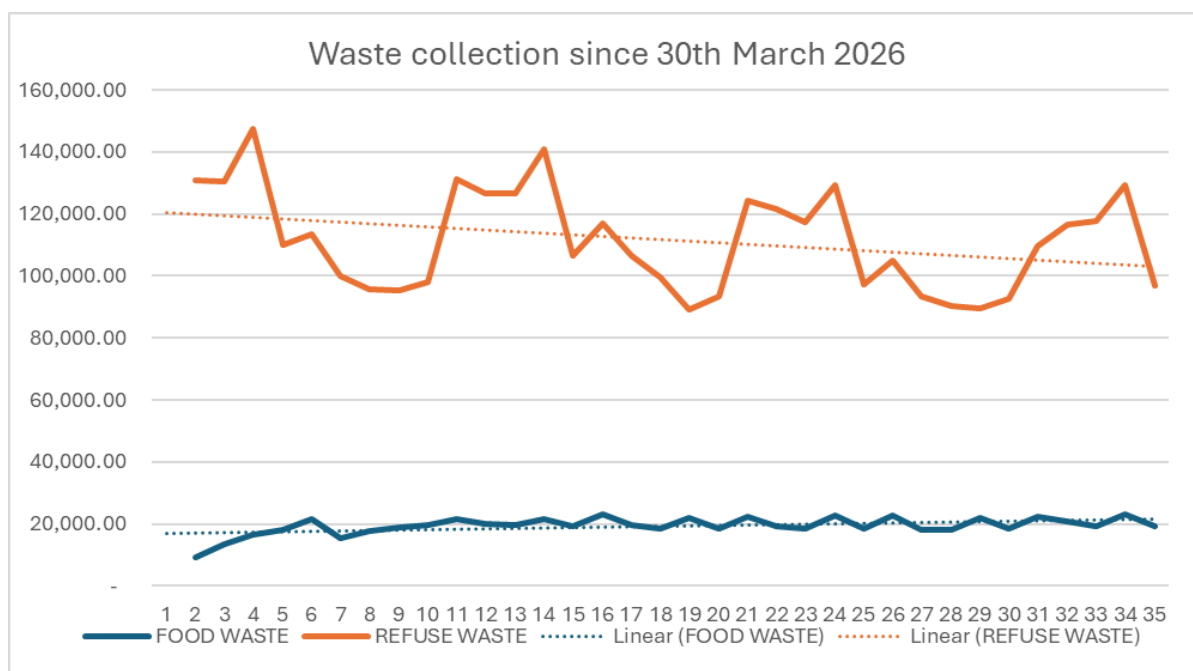
Location	Tree Species	Quantity
St Ives Green Corridor	Field maples	26
	Scotts Pine	10
	Silver Birch	13
	Cherry Trees	3
Orchard creation - Brampton	Bramley	2
	James Grieve	2
	Cornice Pear	2
Donation – Buckden town	Hawthorn	250
	Hornbeam	5
	Holly	50
	Blackthorn	100
	Hazel	50
	Birch	2
	Mountain Ash	1
	Viburnum latana	2
	Viburnum opulus	2
	Ribes sanguineum	2
Fence to hedges – various projects across Huntingdonshire	Beech	300
	Hawthorn	200
	Holly	400
Sawtry Tree Donation	Mixed hedge species	827

Waste, Recycling and Resource Management

Over the last financial year, the waste minimisation team has delivered and supported on a wide range of waste reduction and sustainability initiatives, with the lead achievement being the launch of Huntingdonshire's new weekly food waste collection service.

This new statutory food waste service went live in the week commencing 30th March 2026 meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements. As it stands, HDC is currently collecting about 20 tonnes of food waste per day.

Graph 1: Waste Collection since 30th March 2026



Drawing on the capability, opportunity and motivation (COM-B) behaviour change model, HDC has been testing 3 different communication materials specifically for food waste in order to ascertain which method is most impactful for further deployment. The Council is also doing the same for recycling: targeted communications were informed by waste analysis that identified how and where contamination occurs. An example of this is retired residents being more likely to contaminate with plastics, enabling low-cost, focussed interventions to try and prevent this.

Collection services and non-statutory provision remained strong. Textile and Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste banks were increased – textile banks in 6 new locations and WEEE in 3 new locations – with 20 tonnes of WEEE collected over the year. Textile collections continue to rise and more information will be made available in further waste buster meetings, dates of which can be accessed on the HDC website.

The waste minimisation team continued to support approximately 200 community groups with litter-picking equipment and collections and continued to offer the reusable nappy scheme and discounted reusable menstrual cups via the £5 Mooncup partnership. Home composting was encouraged through discounted compost bins (£10 plus delivery via GetComposting) and free fortified earth for residents.

Social media presence has grown by 17.84% from 4,691 members of the 'Huntingdonshire Recycles' Facebook group in 2024-25 up to 5,528 in 2025-2026. Estimated tonnes of CO₂e avoided via food waste is approximately 15 tonnes of CO₂ per day, an estimation of nearly 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. This is the equivalent of 70,000 miles of train travel.

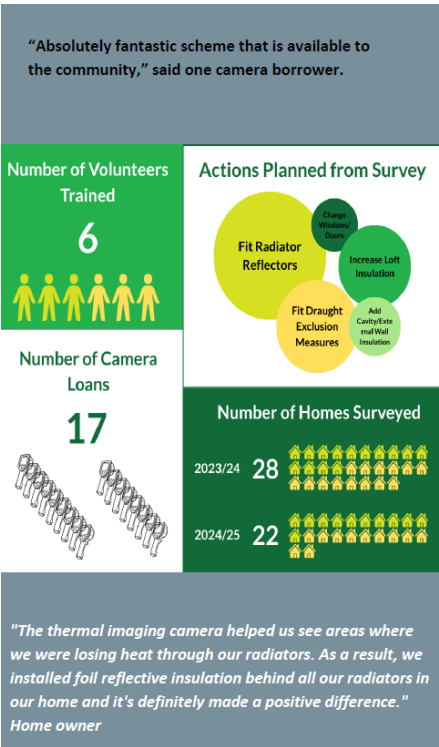
Progress has been made in reviewing technology and alternative approaches to reduce emissions in street cleansing, including exploring a potential partnership with TerraSort. Efforts to improve household waste outcomes show that, as of

March 2026, 25% of domestic waste is recycled, 22% composted, and 53% landfilled, which highlighted ongoing challenges in diversion from landfill. To address this, a wide range of communications have been delivered to residents including leaflets, letters, targeted stickers, and a forthcoming video campaign with CookieCutMedia. This will aim to improve awareness, particularly around correct use of food waste caddies.

Engagement with the community and key stakeholders has increased through school outreach and attendance at local events, including parish council meetings, with participation averaging 88 residents per month since monitoring began in 2026. Looking ahead, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is expected to reduce plastic waste generation, while recycling performance is anticipated to remain stable due to continued high levels of home deliveries and strong use of the blue bin service. Work is also ongoing with property managers to expand and improve recycling provision in communal areas, supporting broader access to recycling services.

Community

Community Engagement – Cambridge Carbon Footprint partnership



HDC partnered with Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) in 2025-2026 loaning 2 thermal cameras to residents in Warboys and Great Paxton. A case study was written for Warboys, which was produced in July 2025.

Thermal imaging cameras are used to find locations of heat loss in a building. Once the leak is found, improved insulation and draught excluders can significantly reduce heat loss and cut utility bills.

56 Huntingdonshire residents attended training and 43 of them borrowed a camera. Following this success, Great Paxton and Warboys continued the thermal camera loan scheme during the winter of 2025-26.

A further partnership between CCF and HDC has developed within HDC's economic development team. In Winter 2026, 4 events will

be held in St Ives, St Neots, Alconbury Weald and Ramsey for local businesses to learn how to use the thermal cameras and borrow them if they wish. The aim of this is to **enable** and support businesses to explore ways in which HDC can support them to have less climate impact.

Procuring Wisely

HDC is in the process of developing an approach on how the Council uses its procurement processes to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the Procurement Act 2023. This will seek to embed a stronger focus on maximising public benefit, requiring contracts to consider outcomes such as local employment, carbon reduction, sustainable practices and community impact.

A key element is intended to be the integration of environmental considerations into procurement decisions, including reducing carbon emissions, promoting sustainable supply chains and supporting climate resilience. Social value is applied proportionately across all procurement activity, from encouraging local suppliers and small businesses in lower-value contracts to setting clear social value objectives and performance measures for higher-value contracts.

The Council aims to adopt an in-house framework to guide delivery, requiring suppliers to demonstrate how they will contribute to social value outcomes. These may include measurable environmental benefits such as emissions reductions, alongside broader community and economic impacts. Performance is intended to be monitored through key indicators and reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability.

Overall, this work will support the Council's climate and sustainability ambitions by using procurement as a strategic tool to reduce environmental impact, support local green economies and deliver long-term social and environmental value for communities. Part of the basis of developing this framework has been from the training received from Anglia Ruskin University which has helped in understanding UK policies, regulations and global best practices in sustainable and circular procurement. Using the information provided in these lectures has **enabled** the development of this policy.

Council Tax E-Billing

In February 2026, the Revenues Team introduced Council Tax e-billing through a soft launch. The initiative enabled residents to sign up to receive their Council Tax bills electronically via email and manage their accounts through an online self-service portal. The scheme saw strong early adoption, with more than 1,100 bills successfully delivered electronically within the first six weeks of launch.

E-billing provides a range of benefits for both residents and the Council. Residents receive their bills instantly, can access account information online at any time, and are less likely to misplace important documents. For the Council, e-billing reduces printing and postage costs, supports environmental sustainability by reducing paper consumption, and improves the efficiency of bill delivery and customer communications. Increased digital engagement also helps customers self-serve, reducing demand on telephone and face-to-face services.

The Revenues Service has introduced a Council Tax text message reminder service as an early intervention measure to encourage timely payments and reduce the need for statutory recovery action. Alongside the rollout of e-billing, these digital initiatives have improved the customer experience, increased operational efficiency, and generated savings through reduced printing and

postage costs. The reduction in paper correspondence also supports the Council's environmental objectives. As part of the Council's Climate Action Plan, work is underway to quantify the carbon savings associated with the shift to e-billing. While a definitive carbon saving figure is not currently available, further analysis during the next financial year will provide an estimated assessment of the environmental benefits delivered through these digital service improvements.

Food for Nought

Food for Nought continued to deliver significant social, environmental and community value across Huntingdonshire during 2025/26. The volunteer-led community fridge network redistributed over 7 tonnes of surplus food, equating to approximately 13,600 meals and an estimated value of £17,900, while supporting more than 4,500 resident interactions. The initiative also contributed to environmental sustainability by preventing an estimated 14,330 kg of CO₂e emissions.

Operating from two locations, Oxmoor (Huntingdon) and Yaxley, the network provides accessible, stigma-free food support within local communities. Beyond food provision, community fridge sessions act as trusted spaces that foster social connection, reduce isolation and enable informal access to wider support and advice services.

The project plays an important role in supporting financial resilience by helping households manage living costs, while also contributing to prevention and early intervention through open-access, community-based support. Delivery is underpinned by strong volunteer involvement and partnership working, strengthening local capacity and community ownership **improving the quality of life for local people.**

Food for Nought aligns closely with the Council's priorities and the emerging Crisis Resilience Fund, demonstrating how low-cost, community-led initiatives can provide effective early support while reducing pressure on more intensive services. There are opportunities to further strengthen the model through improved data consistency, expanded partnerships and enhanced links to advice and wellbeing services.

Overall, the programme highlights the value of community-led approaches in addressing food insecurity, reducing waste and building long-term resilience across Huntingdonshire.

Appendix 4

HDC sites that are on a green energy tariff

Site Name	Site Name	Site Name
One Leisure Huntingdon	Tebbutts Road Car Park	St Neots Mobile Home Park
One Leisure St Ives	Trinity Place Car Park	St Benedict's Court Water Feature
One Leisure St Neots	Cross Hall Road Car Park	
One Leisure Ramsey	Feeder Pillar – Market Square	
Pathfinder House	Hill Rise Park	
Eastfield House	Hinchingbrooke Countryside Centre	
Brook Street Car Park	Hinchingbrooke Visitors Centre	
Butts Grove Way Car Park	Huntingdon Bus Station	
Cattle Market Car Park	St Ives Enterprise Centre	
Great Northern Street Car Park	Haweswater Cycleway Lighting	
Ingram Street Car Park	Mayfield Road Lighting	
Mayfield Road Car Park	Wertheim Way Cycleway	
Mill Common Car Park	Little Paxton Education Centre	
Multi Storey Car Park	Little Paxton Visitors Centre	
Swallow Bush Car Park	St Ives Market Hill	
Princes Street Car Park	St Neots Market Square	
Priory Lane Car Park	Priory Park Pavilion	
Riverside (Huntingdon) Car Park	Sapley Park Pavilion	
Riverside (St Neots) Car Park	Hartford Road Pavilion	
Tan Yard Car Park	St Ives Sheep Market	

Appendix 5

Carbon reduction actions in the latest Corporate Plan 2023-2028

DO	Action	Progress
42	Maximise opportunities to expand the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel where there is social, environmental or financial justification to do so.	Continually ongoing
43	Maximise decarbonisation of our fleet where there is a social, environmental or financial justification through our fleet strategy	Continually ongoing
44	Minimise use of fossil fuels for energy where there is a social, environmental or financial case	Continually ongoing
45	Showcase and encourage community action to lower carbon emissions	Continually ongoing
46	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact	Currently ongoing
47	Delivery of Climate Awareness Training across the Council	Completed
48	Maximise use of roof top solar on the Council's operational buildings (PROJECT)	Currently ongoing
49	Improve household recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reducing food waste through implementation of household food waste collections (PROJECT)	Currently ongoing

Enable	Action	Progress
50	Support community projects that reduce carbon emissions. Net Zero Villages (PROJECT).	Completed
51	Enabling community action and engagement to achieve greater biodiversity. Biodiversityt4All extension to pilot urbane nature corridors and natural flood prevention (PROJECT)	Completed

Influence	Action	Progress
52	Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value	Currently ongoing
53	Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	Currently ongoing



Climate Action Plan

Issued June 2025

Actions	Priority	Action	Theme	Portfolio	Target Completion Date
	Medium	Explore options for offsetting emissions (natural carbon capture)	Biodiversity	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
	Low	Deliver programme of biodiversity gain with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to include Community and Council Open Spaces	Biodiversity	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
	Low	Support delivery of the Great Fen	Biodiversity and Planning	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	2027 onwards
	Medium	Include climate considerations within all key strategies and governance documents	Business Transformation and PMO	Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning	31/03/2026
	Medium	Undertake annual review of the completion and progress of service plan actions that deliver net zero carbon by 2040	Business Transformation and PMO	Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning	31/03/2026
	Medium	Research into alternative power sources (solar) for CCTV cameras	CCTV	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
	Low	Understand sources and availability of data for scope 3 reporting	Climate	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
	Low	Agree scope 3 emissions approach and included emissions sources for reporting	Climate	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
	Low	Enabling Communities to deliver climate change activities through Community Action Plans	Communities	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
	Low	Support and participate in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Change Commission and Action Plan delivery	CPCA	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2027
	Low	Work with partners and responsible transport authorities to promote active, net zero carbon travel	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards

Actions

Low	Continue to engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to reduce waste, recycle more	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2026
Low	Engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to have less climate impact	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2026
Low	Support capital grant development (where government grant funding becomes available) to encourage businesses to lead in green credentials	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Identify actions to increase resilience to disruption to Council services from extreme weather	Emergency Planning	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Reduce the carbon emissions of the Council's commercial estate	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Promote high quality design in the Council's commercial estate that incorporates net gain to biodiversity	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Use EPC ratings to monitor our own Commercial estates	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
High	Develop plan for the Council to use 100% renewable energy	Facilities	Property and Facilities	31/03/2026
Medium	Develop an Energy Strategy	Facilities	Property and Facilities	31/03/2026
Medium	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include them in reporting	ICT	ICT Management	31/03/2026
Low	Enhance environmental aspects of the Local Plan where possible to do so	Planning	Planning	2027 onwards
Medium	Provide housing association landlords with information/advice on energy saving to support their tenants	Regeneration and Housing	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2027

Actions	Medium	Engage with key registered providers of housing, to give tenants information that encourages them to reduce their carbon emissions	Regeneration and Housing	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2027
	Medium	Quantify carbon savings from the Council's shift to E-billing	Revenues and Benefits	Customer Change	31/03/2027
	Medium	Review technology and alternative ways of working to plan emissions reduction in Street Cleansing	Street Cleansing	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Reduce waste collected from households through kerbside collections	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase understanding and engagement in waste and recycling for local community and key stakeholders	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase our measured household recycling rate	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase our recycling service for communal areas	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027

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Annual Climate Report 2025-26

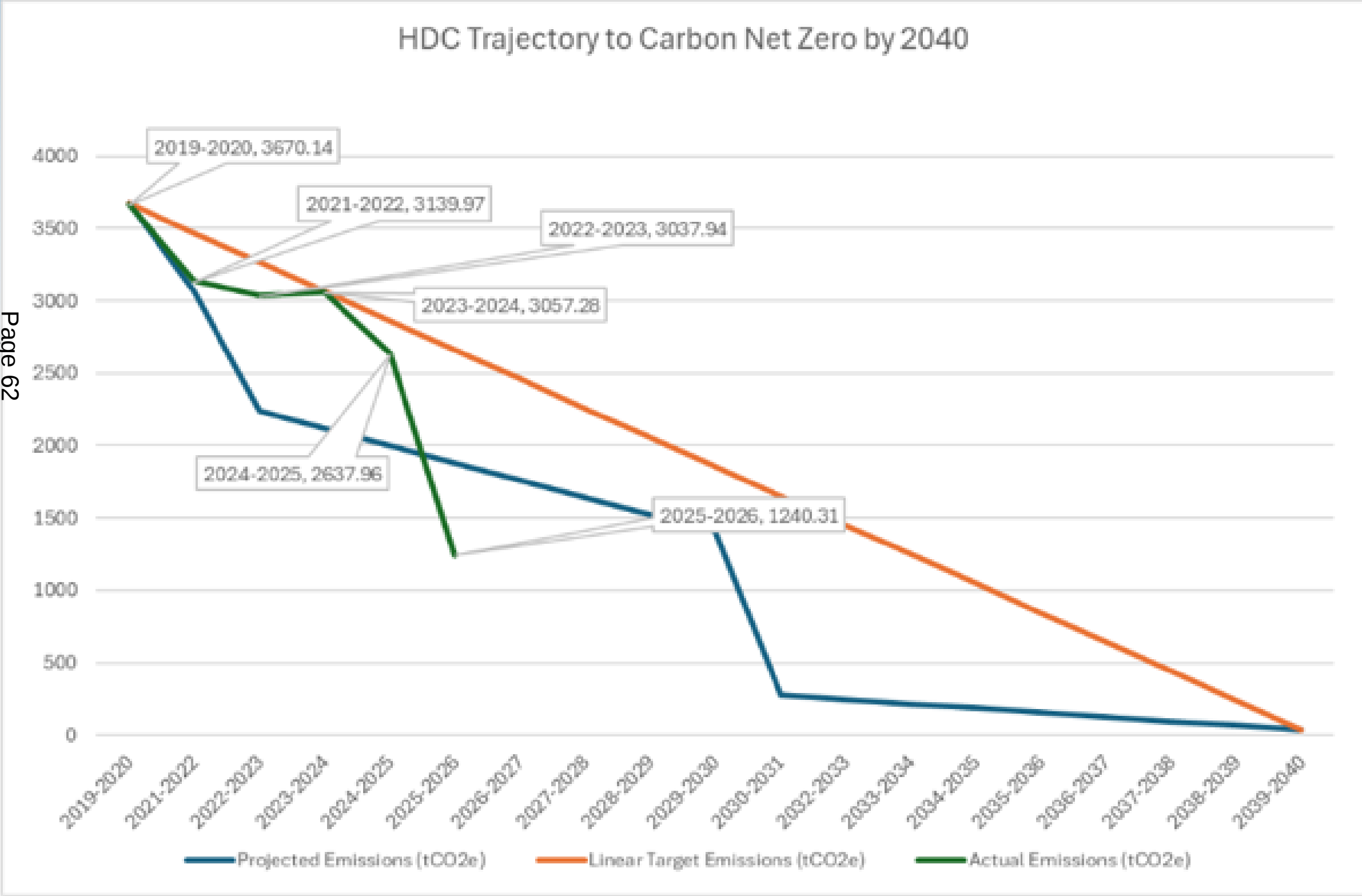
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Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Thursday 3rd September 2026
Environment, Communities and Partnerships



GHG Emissions

HDC Trajectory to Carbon Net Zero by 2040



Estimated total carbon savings from Council emissions (Scopes 1, 2 and some 3) between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2026 are 2,429.86 tCO2e. This is the equivalent of producing over 467,000 t-shirts.

- Combination of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Scope 1 - direct emissions from our owned or controlled sources
 - Scope 2 - indirect emissions e.g. from the generation of purchased energy
 - Scope 3 - all other indirect emissions in a company's value chain

Our recorded Scope 2 electricity emissions have been purchased from a Green Tariff, which have reduced those emissions to 0. HDC has the relevant energy guarantees of origin (REGO) confirming the electricity is from renewable sources.

Key Achievements

Emissions Reductions:

From March 2019 to March 2026, HDC emissions have reduced by 2,429.83 tCO2e* (66.211%). This primarily covers Scope 1 and 2 emissions and is largely thanks to switching our fleet’s fuel from standard diesel to HVO and switching to green energy tariffs.

Fleet Transition:

HDC initiated a pilot project to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel, which is estimated to reduce our fleet’s greenhouse gas emissions by 82% or 1,110 tonnes tCO2. The fleet transitioned to HVO following the procurement process in June 2025. There has been a reduction of 960.1 tonnes of CO2 year on year (a 74% reduction without a full annual set of data). This transition was undertaken without reducing operational capability and forms part of maintaining an efficient and resilient fleet.

Facilities Upgrades:

Between April 2025 and June 2025, the One Leisure sites had their roof mounted solar panels installed. Roof-mounted solar installations generated 409,490 kW of electricity during the year, delivering £86,978 of avoided energy costs and reducing HDC’s exposure to future energy price increases. More details are included in Appendix 3.

Green Tariffs:

All of HDC’s main corporate sites (including One Leisure) moved onto green energy tariffs from September 2024. This means the gas and electricity are from renewable sources, resulting in a 0% tCO2 for Scope 2 emissions.

Community engagement:

HDC’s 3rd Annual Climate Conversation entitled “Together For Tomorrow” in November 2025 brought together residents, businesses, landowners, parish councils and experts to discuss practical approaches to reducing energy costs, improving resilience and protecting local environments.

*These figures will be updated in September 2026 when the latest conversion factors become available.

Net Zero Villages



The Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme is a CPCA-provided fund aiming to help rural communities reduce their carbon footprint. A total of £257,376.60 was available for grant distribution, which ranged in amounts between £5,000 and £50,000.

The 11 successful applicants were located in: Yaxley, Great Staughton, Bluntisham, Little Paxton, Southoe, Fenstanton, Catworth, Great Gransden, Ramsey, Warboys and Stilton.

Ongoing Project Monitoring

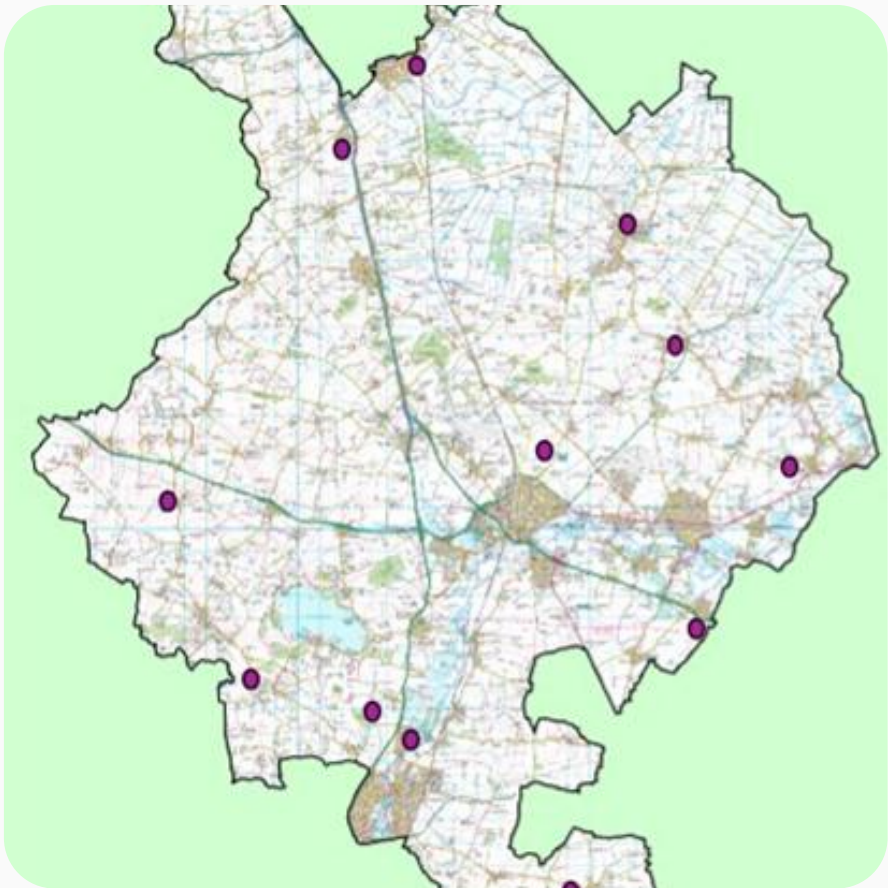
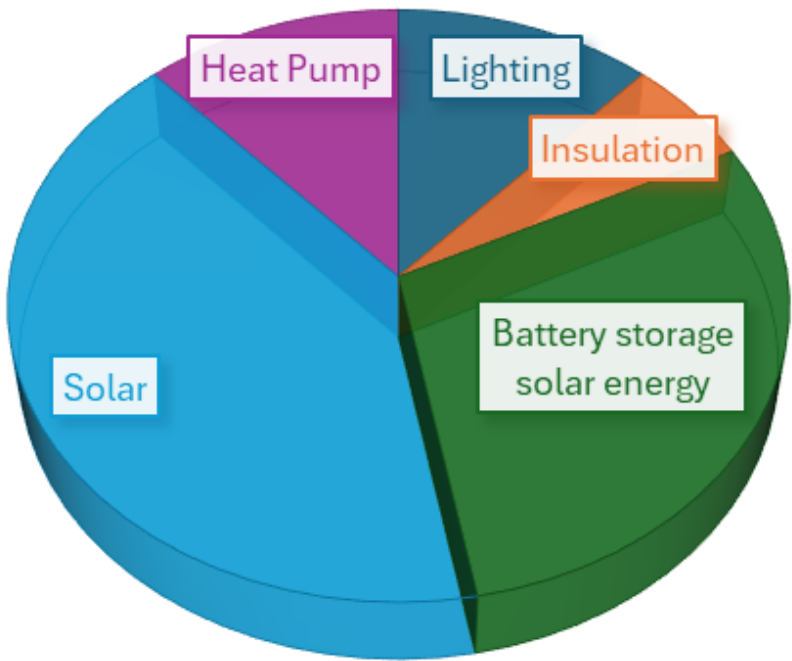
Monitoring will take place 12 months after completion and review:

- Reduction in carbon emissions.
- Reduction in energy consumption.
- Reduction in the running costs of community facilities.
- Improved access to public transport, local services, or active and low-carbon transport options.

Projects will be asked to provide qualitative and quantitative evidence where available, including energy bills, carbon savings estimates, user feedback, case studies, and examples of behaviour change or wider community benefits.

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TACKLING ENERGY USE



Plus one project enabling access to public transport

Annual Climate Conversation 2025-26 •

HDC hosted its third Annual Climate Conference on 5th November 2025. Over 120 people gathered to hear from a variety of keynote speakers, engage in workshops and attend question a panel of experts. There was a wide variety of stallholders from local energy companies to wildlife trusts, providing information, advice and giving out freebies – showcasing their work and contributions to the agenda.



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Overview & Scrutiny: 3rd September 2026

Report by: Rob Mitchell

Head of Service: Claudia Deeth

Lead Cllr: Debbie Mickelburgh
Communities, Health & Leisure



Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
ALL	Open	No

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the journey of Community Safety Partnerships following the Crime and Disorder Act receiving Royal Assent in July 1998 through to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the new powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 followed by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and more recently the Domestic Abuse Act in 2021 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Acts 2022 that introduced the Serious Violence Duty in 2023.

The report details the role and responsibilities of the six statutory partners of which the District Council is one of them and the collaborative approach needed to help tackle issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour across the district.

Recommendations

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the ever-changing landscape for Community Safety Partnerships and the additional responsibilities placed on them without accompanying funding provision.
2. That the Panel recognises the progress made by the HCSP despite the complex challenges faced by the organisations within their own sector and the recognition of what has been achieved by working collaboratively.
3. That the Panel use the information provided within this report to determine the scope of the Member Working Group and the issues that they wish to tackle.
4. Determine the part that Members can play in progressing the work of the Partnership and ensuring that the benefits are felt within their communities.

	Key Corporate Plan Priorities
1	Improving quality of life for local people
2	Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

	Place Strategy Priorities
1	Pride in Place
2	Health Embedded

Report Author(s)

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Rob Mitchell, Community Resilience Manager (robert.mitchell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an overview of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP), including its statutory role, governance arrangements, current priorities and key areas of activity. The report also outlines the partnership's achievements and challenges and considers the potential implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and wider devolution in relation to future community safety governance and partnership arrangements.

2 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

2.1 OVERVIEW

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutory multi-agency partnerships established to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, reoffending and more recently serious violence. They bring together identified public sector organisations to map local community safety issues and develop coordinated responses to identified local concerns. Data and information from a number of sources is used to identify trends, hotspots and patterns in behaviour, all of which is used to develop an annual strategic assessment which helps guide where the CSP targets their resources, projects and initiatives.

2.2 HISTORY

The concept that more could be achieved by working in partnership on community safety issues emerged during the 1980s and 1990s, recognising that crime and disorder could not be addressed by the police alone and should be considered in all decisions made by statutory organisations. This led to the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on local agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder. The Act required the establishment of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Community Safety Partnerships in Wales, with the term CSP later becoming the standard name across England and Wales.

The responsible authorities within a CSP now include:

- Police
- Local Authorities (District & County)
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Health Partners
- Probation Service

These organisations work collectively to assess community safety needs, undertake strategic assessments and develop and deliver local action plans. The CSP function is a shared responsibility with no one organisation having greater authority than the other. There are also a number of other organisations who have

been identified as being able to add value who have been co-opted onto the Partnership, for example Support Cambridgeshire and Places For People.

2.3 Introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

A significant change occurred following the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which introduced Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The first PCC elections were held in November 2012, replacing Police Authorities with directly elected individuals responsible for setting local policing priorities and holding Chief Constables to account.

The introduction of PCCs amended the governance arrangements for Community Safety Partnerships by creating a formal relationship between PCCs and CSPs. Funding that had historically been allocated by the Government on an annual basis to CSPs was now to be held and managed by the PCC. Funding needed to deliver local initiatives required a bidding process by CSPs to the PCC introducing scrutiny and the ability to allocate funding as they deemed appropriate.

Key changes included:

- CSPs must have regard to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan when developing local priorities.
- PCCs must consider CSP priorities when setting force-wide policing objectives.
- PCCs gained powers to call CSP representatives to meetings and request reports on partnership activity.
- PCCs can provide funding to CSPs and support local crime reduction initiatives.
- Both PCCs and CSPs have a statutory duty to cooperate with one another.

2.4 ROLE OF A COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

CSPs remain the primary local mechanism for coordinating community safety activity. Their work commonly focuses on:

- Crime reduction
- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse including Violence against women and girls
- Serious violence prevention
- Substance misuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Safeguarding vulnerable people and communities

CSPs provide the local, place-based response to these issues, while PCCs provide strategic oversight, commissioning and funding across the wider police force area.

2.5 HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership priorities are set for 2025-2028 and collectively reviewed on an annual basis. The HCSP's Strategic Assessment, published in 2024, prioritised four crime types, these being:

- violence against the person
- child sexual exploitation
- sexual offences
- shoplifting

Following a further breakdown of these crime types, the Partnership created five action plans, each with an organisational lead with an aim of focusing on:

- serious violence duty
- support to town centres & shoplifting
- child criminal exploitation
- nighttime economy
- crisis prevention through early intervention

2.6 HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORT

Huntingdonshire District Council hosts and administers the Community Safety Partnership on behalf of the responsible authorities. The Council's Community Safety Team provides coordination, project management, performance monitoring, funding administration, strategic assessment development and partnership support functions.

The Council also leads on a range of community safety initiatives, working closely with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, health partners, probation services, voluntary sector organisations and town and parish councils to address local community safety concerns and deliver the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.

2.7 DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS

A statutory function of the CSP is to determine when the threshold has been met for a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review, formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR). This is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves.

Since 13 April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria. Members of the CSP are required to share information held on the individuals involved and receive learning points following the review being signed off by the Home Office, this in turn forms an action plan for implementation and oversight by the CSP.

2.8 LOOKING TO LGR

Community Safety Partnership arrangements are under review as part of the transition to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Several county-wide working groups have been established to consider future governance arrangements and partnership structures. Once decisions have been made regarding the new authority boundaries, further work will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate model for the new authorities.

As part of the wider LGR review, consideration will also be given to the future role and relationship with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Whilst the PCC has no formal role in determining Local Government Reorganisation proposals, community safety governance, commissioning arrangements and partnership arrangements will need to be considered within any future local authority structure.

As part of LGR it is indicated that policing and crime responsibilities are expected to transfer from Police and Crime Commissioners to Mayoral Combined Authorities. Part of our role within the LGR Subgroups will be to ensure Community Safety Partnership arrangements are aligned with both Local Government Reorganisation and the broader devolution agenda across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3 COUNCIL KEY PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE

The work of the Community Safety Partnership contributes directly to several of the Council's strategic priorities, particularly those relating to creating safe and resilient communities, protecting vulnerable residents, supporting health and wellbeing and maintaining attractive town centres and places.

The partnership supports the Council's ambition to work collaboratively with partners to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, exploitation and violence.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Safety Partnership receives funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to support the delivery of local community safety activity that contributes towards the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Funding is available via an application process and must evidence how it will assist the PCC in meeting their priorities.

For 2026/27, Huntingdonshire District Council secured £47,500 of PCC funding to support the work of the Community Safety Team and the delivery of local community safety initiatives across the district. This funding is subject to annual review and performance reporting requirements aligned with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. The Partnership is eligible to make additional applications to the PCC to fund projects and initiatives that tackle local issues of concerns, these are subject to grant agreements and formal monitoring arrangements.

5 LEGAL & CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The District Council is one of the six statutory organisations that make up the CSP and are required to consider issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in all the decisions that they make. In delivering these responsibilities, we are required to utilise legislation that has the ability to stop and or prevent certain behaviours in identified locations as well as prohibit identified residents from doing certain things. Policies and procedures are in place for the correct application of legislation as well as delegated authority for decision making and the use of powers.

6 COMMUNITY IMPACT

The activities of the Community Safety Partnership contribute positively to how someone feels about where they live, work and visit, confidence and wellbeing across Huntingdonshire. Through targeted interventions and partnership working, the CSP seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, exploitation and violence whilst supporting vulnerable individuals and communities.

7 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety Partnership activity seeks to support and protect individuals and communities that may be disproportionately affected by crime or anti-social behaviour.

The partnership considers equality impacts when developing priorities, commissioning activity and delivering interventions to ensure services remain accessible and inclusive.

8 HEALTH & WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

There is significant evidence that demonstrates that where someone lives and how safe they feel within their home or local community has an impact on their health and wellbeing. We also know that levels of crime and the perception of crime are higher in areas of deprivation, where residents are also more likely to be experiencing issues of poor mental or physical health.

The Partnership is passionate about early intervention and prevention activity that aims to improve mental and physical wellbeing, resilience and community cohesion. Alongside this, the Partnership recognises the value of diversionary activity and changing repetitive familiar cycles of behaviours that result in poor outcomes.

9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety Partnership arrangements will form part of ongoing Local Government Reorganisation discussions. Future governance structures, geographical boundaries and partnership arrangements may require review to ensure statutory community safety responsibilities continue to be delivered effectively within any new local authority arrangements. At this stage no decisions have been made regarding the future of Community Safety Partnership structures or models across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Demand exceeding available funding

Risk that demand outstrips available budget.

Mitigation: Prioritisation and ongoing review of spend.

Inconsistent data and reporting

Risk that impact is not fully evidenced.

Mitigation: Clear reporting requirements and support to organisations.

Delivery capacity of organisations

Risk that projects do not deliver as expected.

Mitigation: Ongoing monitoring and engagement.

Sustainability beyond funding

Risk that outcomes are not sustained.

Mitigation: Exploration of partner commitment and longer-term options.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Document List	Custodian	File Location
n/a		

12 LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

N/A