

Huntingdonshire District Council

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

Environmental pressures and sustainability challenges

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

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

2019/20 actions

✓

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

✓

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

✓

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

✓

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

✓

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

✓

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

2020/21 actions

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

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

2020/21 achievements

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

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

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

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