

4 December 2020

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 7 December 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS ENCLOSED

Item 7. Climate Change and Environmental Emergency Action Plan - six monthly scrutiny (Pages 3 - 20)

TO: Councillors Gomer, Cross, Asman, Broadhurst, Couldrey, Doguie, Duguid, Grajewski, Groves, Jurd, Pragnell, Tyson-Payne and Tidridge

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POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

7 DECEMBER 2020

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Report of the Climate Change Manager

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Policy & Performance Scrutiny Panel:

- (1) note the contents of this report and make recommendations as appropriate.
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Summary

On 7 November 2019 the Council approved a Climate and Environmental Emergency Action Plan, in response to the Emergency declaration on the 18 July 2019. This report sets out mid 20/21 progress against many of the actions in the plan.

Statutory Powers

Local Government Act 2001

Strategic Implications

1. Climate breakdown and negative environmental impacts are the biggest challenge facing the long-term future of residents and businesses of Eastleigh. There is a direct link to all areas of the Corporate Plan. The achievement of the Action Plan appended to this report will directly support the Council's environmental objectives such as tackling congestion and creating an Excellent Environment for All. Responding to the Climate Emergency is critical to secure the long-term health and wellbeing for residents and the local economy.

Introduction

2. The climate breakdown is widely considered to be the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. In response to the October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stating that there was less than 12 years to respond to this emergency a cross-party motion was unanimously agreed at the 18 July 2019 Full Council to address the issue locally.

3. The declaration sets out the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2025 and to support communities and businesses across the Borough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
4. This report sets out mid-year progress during 2020/21.

Progress on the Action Plan

5. The Council approved the updated action plan in June 2020. This report highlights areas of progress alongside additional actions added to the plan. (see Appendix A for further details).
6. The Climate Change Manager has been recruited and is now in post and will work with the Climate change and Environmental Emergency Action Board to oversee delivery of the action plan. This Board mirrors the other Project Boards which the Council has and will be attended by Councillor Kyrle as the Environment Portfolio holder.
7. Delivery towards some actions in the plan have experienced delays due to COVID19, these include:
 - **Communications:** Prior to the first national lockdown the Council launched a public engagement programme, which was subsequently put on hold as it was felt the timing was not right to run a large campaign during the pandemic. Environmental messaging has continued as usual and there are plans in place to relaunch the campaign once the timing is appropriate.
 - **Estates:** The Facilities team has been significantly involved in the operational response to the COVID19. Moving forwards additional resources have been placed in the team, recruitment will shortly take place for a Green Energy Manager and the Council is in the processes of bidding for grant funding to accelerate the energy efficiency programme.
 - **Sustainable Travel:** The Sustainable Travel Manager has been spearheading council efforts to support Eastleigh Town Centre during COVID19, this has led to an unforeseen delay in strategic work. As the town centre programme moves into a new phase the strategic programmes can be taken forwards.
8. Update on Progress:
 - **Communications:** The behaviour change campaign supporting the Climate and Environment Emergency was paused due to Covid-19. Environmental tips and positive actions such as the Recycle More campaign and Green Homes Grant scheme continues to be promoted. South East Climate Alliance recently reviewed Local Authority websites and declared Eastleigh Borough Councils to be the best in the region.

- **Ecology:** In November 2020 the scope was agreed for the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- **Estates:** Energy Audits of two sites carried out, funding bid submitted to carry out audits across most of the Council's estate.
- **Operational Equipment:** Over 50 petrol powered hand-held tools replaced with electric variants.
- **Pollution:** In October 2020 the scope was agreed for Pollution Strategy and Action Plan.
- **Trees:** The creation of a tree nursery was agreed by Cabinet in July. Site now established at Horton Heath and first trees have been planted.
- **Trees:** In September 2020 the scope was agreed for Tree Strategy, Policy, SPD and Action Plan and further developed by P&P working Group.
- **Waste and Fleet:** In July 2020 a new Waste Policy was agreed at Cabinet.

9. New Actions:

- **Estates:** Action around PV business cases completed, a new action to continue this programme has been added to the plan (Action 39).
- **External:** Promotion of Green Homes Grant (up to £5k/household), plus joining scheme to provide Local Authority Delivery Funding (up to £10k/household) for residents in Fuel Poverty.
- **External:** Review of Grants available to maximise environmental potential.

Financial Implications

10. The Climate Officer role has been funded through a £60K growth in the Environment Portfolio budget. The Green Energy Manager will be funded through revenue savings.
11. Most of the activities set out in the action plan are either being carried out through existing allocated resources or require further investigation before funding is to be allocated. Where additional resource is required a business case will be drawn up and approval obtained before commencement.
12. It is clear that there will need to be significant investment for the Council to meet its operational Carbon Neutral target and put actions in place to support the borough towards reaching neutrality by 2030. As the activities in the action plan are further developed detailed businesses cases, including sources of funding will need to be developed too.

Risk Assessment

13. There are significant risks should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that the residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.

Equality and Diversity Implications

14. The Equality Act is relevant to the decision in this report as the decision relates to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people in the following ways: the various impacts and responses to climate change are likely to disproportionately impact on people with protected characteristics.
15. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to support the Climate and Environmental Programme in November and this has been used to refine the approach set out. In summary the EqIA shows that care will be needed to ensure that actions to mitigate climate change do not lead to discrimination and that opportunities to reduce existing inequality are maximised. As the action plan is further developed there will need to be further engagement with key stakeholders and representatives of protected groups to ensure that actions are compliant and where possible reduce existing inequality
16. Actions linked to the review of procurement policy and increased training will support the Council's efforts to eliminate Modern Slavery. All activities considered in the action plan will need to take Modern Slavery into account.
17. Expanding upon the core equality considerations, this report further refines the approach for the Council to respond to the challenge of climate and environmental degradation to support the wellbeing of future generations.

Climate and Environment Implications

18. Climate Change and the environment is relevant to the decision in this report as the decision relates to activities that release Greenhouse Gases, resilience to environmental impacts or impacting on ecology in the following ways: The report is further refining the Council's Strategy for reducing its contribution to climate change and negative environmental issues, providing a programme of activity towards Carbon Neutrality for the Council and a framework for borough wide activity.

Conclusion

19. The Climate and Environmental Emergency presents significant risk to residents and businesses. This report provides further detail on the Action Plan that will enable the Council to respond effectively to this emergency.

ANDY BRENNAN
CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGER

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Appendices: 1 - Mid 2020/21 Action Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.

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Appendix A - Climate and Environmental Emergency Action Plan: Mid 2020/21 Update – December 2020

	Programme	Action	Impact	Target	Progress
1	Ecology	Ecology - Carbon Sequestration Schemes - Work in partnership to develop proposals for large scale habitat creation projects and secure funding to deliver schemes that can sequester carbon.	Localised carbon offsetting, habitat creation and reducing localised nutrient budgeting issues.	Proposals for schemes by end of 2020/21.	So far two funding bids have been submitted for schemes. Linkages are being made with Carbon Offsetting, Tree programme, Housing and the Biodiversity plan development actions
2	Ecology	Ecology - Monitoring ecological mitigation actions. Review funding made available through planning conditions, including ensuring that it can allow the commissioning of independent monitoring of planning applications as a condition of approval.	To assess the impact of adopted mitigation measures on biodiversity through independent monitoring.	A review of capacity was completed by March 2020.	Completed: The review identified a need for greater Ecology resources and the team has been expanded from one officer to four. The team are working with HCC to cost up and develop the methodology.
3	Economy	Business - Development of a climate / environmental behavioural change programme for businesses and local employees	Lowering business emissions from the business sector.	Programme to Launch in September 2020.	Environmental Business practice has been one of the Councils Annual Business awards. A communications package will be developed with more detailed guidance. This work has been delayed due to Covid-19 and will be reviewed in January and taken forward as businesses start to re-open.

4	Ecology	Establish ecological baseline - In partnership with key bodies, establish an ecological baseline for the borough.	Enable the Council to measure the impact of activities.	by September 2020 the team will have a costed programme with a more detailed methodology to monitor actions.	The team are working with the County Council's Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) to establish baseline. Due to be complete in early 2021.
5	Ecology	Produce a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - Creation of a comprehensive Biodiversity strategy and action plan which will identify responses to species at risk. This will supersede the less broad Biodiversity Action plan and sit alongside the other Climate and Environmental sub strategies.	Strategy and Plan will provide a coherent long-term response to environmental degradation.	Consultation by end 2020.	Report taken to Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel on 23 November to start the process of creating a new Biodiversity Strategy and action. Now likely to be completed by June 2021.
6	Sustainable Transport	Transport - Business - Develop a plan to increase take-up of zero carbon "last mile" sustainable delivery services used by local businesses. Increasing the number of final deliveries from distribution centres to businesses and from businesses to local customers that are made by zero emission transport.	Work with local transport organisation to expand scheme into Eastleigh to reduce local fuel consumption and improve air quality.	Plan to be out on consultation by September 2020.	Delayed due to resources focusing on COVID19. Whilst the plan is under development, several schemes have been awarded funding in partnership with HCC & SCC. There has been continued engagement with local businesses on Travel Planning.
7	Energy and Offsetting	Transport - Electric Vehicle Charging - Install further public electric vehicle charging points in the borough.	Supporting businesses and residents to move to electric vehicles will lead to a reduction in local and national pollution.	First rapid charger to be installed by October 2020.	Contractual and supply issues led to an initial delay. By Feb 2021 eight rapid and fast chargers will be installed across Romsey Road Car Park, Channon Retail Park and Chestnut Avenue Retail Park. A new ultra-rapid charger, one of only a few in the South will be installed in Places Leisure.

8	Sustainable Transport	Transport - Sustainable Transport Strategy - Development of a Sustainable Transport Strategy to include the council's approach for public transport, travel plans, commercial fleet, taxis, low emission vehicles, cycling and walking, which will then inform the action plan.	To reduce fuel consumption and air quality issues in the area, through modal shift to more sustainable travel.	Cycling and Walking element of the strategy consultation by March 2021. Overall strategy by September 2021.	Programme delayed due to a focus on responding the health crisis, project to be picked up at an appropriate time. Work on the Strategy will recommence in November as work on the Eastleigh Town Centre scheme reduces. This will include an initial community consultation and development of the draft strategy.
9	Housing	Supplementary Planning Policies - Developing Council supplementary planning documents relating to biodiversity and environment net gain, efficiency of development sites, climate adaptation and strengthening the Council's position on tree replacement planting including numbers, species and sizes of trees	Policies will support Environmental and Climate mitigation/adaptation improvements.	First policies by March 2021.	Planning inspector recommendations for the Local Plan means that SPDs will need wait until later in the year to be consulted on. In the meantime, several are under development, in particular Trees.
10	Internal Training	Training - Staff Training - Develop and deliver a comprehensive training programme to support all staff and Councillors to embed Climate and Environmental considerations into all decisions.	Improved decision making will lead to positive impacts across the board.	Programme to begin in June 2020.	The Council is the first Local Authority to partner with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment to launch a formerly accredited Climate and Environmental Training programme. The programme has been delayed due to the recruitment of the Climate Change Manager. Training will start from January 2021.

11	Energy and Offsetting	Partner - Working with partners, including parish, county and neighbouring councils, to encourage positive environmental behaviour and organisation engagement.	To support the ambitions of Eastleigh Borough Council.	Programme to Launch in September 2020.	Engagement has begun with Parish and other community groups, however, launch and training has had to be delayed due to COVID19.
12	External	Resilience - Assessment of resilience to climate - Carry out a Social Justice and Climate Change assessment of the borough to increase the level of understanding of residents' exposure and potential responses to future climate impacts.	Improved resilience to future climate impacts.	Assessment carried out by end March 2021, with a more detailed review by September 2021.	Activity being taking forward in partnership with other local authorities in region.
13	Comms	Behavioural Change Programme - Launch of a climate/environmental behavioural change programme for staff.	Support wider Council improvements.	Programme to Launch in January 2020.	Campaign launched in January 2020, with a new champions group formed. Action has been delayed due to office closure. .
14	External	Communications - Public Reward - Working with Southern Water to launch a pilot of the Green Redeem, positive environmental behaviour reward scheme	Reduction in water consumption, alongside other positive environmental behaviour.	Pilot area to launch by January 2021.	Programme initially delayed by Southern Water due to scheduling, uncertainty if this will now take place due to business restructure.

15	Comms	Residents engagement - Launch of a climate/ environmental behavioural change programme for residents with the community engagement.	Lowering lifestyle emissions across the borough.	Programme to Launch in January 2020.	<p>Programme has included:</p> <p>Behaviour Change campaign was paused due to the pandemic as it was unlikely to gain traction and influence.</p> <p>Good environmental tips and positive action the Council is taking on climate change continued to be shared on channels.</p> <p>Recent action:</p> <p>Green homes grant – Facebook ads reached 23K users, generating 1.3K clicks to EBC website and a further 1.4K clicks through to .gov application page</p> <p>Joint clean air project - Initial promotion of joint wood burning project. Press release sent and first social media posts around bonfire night posted.</p> <p>Food waste restart - Promotion through owned channels and BN front page. 3.5K pageviews to date. 5.6K reached through FB posts.</p> <p>Recycle more campaign – final stages of campaign in YWBN - over 15K responses to weekly email quiz to date. Valuable insights gained in terms of what knowledge residents have about which materials can be recycled.</p>
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16	Procurement	Procurement - Detailed appraisal of the Council's procurement to identify opportunities to reduce the environmental impact and emissions of spend.	Council procurement is estimated to equate to a third of the Council's emissions.	Updated Procurement Policy and guidance by September 2020.	New Procurement Officer has been appointed. Training on sustainable procurement and decision-making tools will take place in January.2021.
17	Estates	Green Lease Clauses - Development and phasing in "Green Clauses" (such as requiring energy efficiency improvements) into the Council's rental leases.	Improve environmental performance of buildings throughout whole life cycle of buildings by working collaboratively with occupiers/businesses	New Clauses to begin introduction by September - December 2020.	Progress slowed due to impact of COVID 19 and changing priorities for Asset Management Service. Negotiation of green lease clauses considered on new lettings and lease renewals on a case by case basis.
18	Estates	Energy - Review of previous Solar PV (Photovoltaic) business cases, including the potential for installing large scale schemes.	Increased local renewables will reduce demand for Fossil fuel power.	More detailed business cases to be considered by October 2020.	Completed: Several initial Business cases have been put forward and more detailed work is being carried out. The IVCP PV Farm to be reconsidered as part of the IVCP Strategic scoping. The new Green Energy manager will take a more active role in this in future (New Action)

19	Estates	Energy - Asset Management - Develop plan for improving energy efficiency and sustainability for operational buildings.	Improve environmental performance throughout whole life cycle of operational buildings	Report by end April 2021.	Partially completed: Assessments have been carried out across two sites. Progress delayed as Green Energy Manager has yet to be recruited. A funding bids has been submitted to carry out further assessments and complete a further funding bid to carry out the measures.
20	Energy and Offsetting	Energy - Green Supply - All Council purchases of electricity will be "Green" renewable energy.	Utilising purchasing power to shift the UK power supply to renewable energy, reducing GHG emissions nationally.	100% Green Electricity by April 2020.	Completed, all sites now supplied with renewable energy.
21	Energy and Offsetting	Energy - Green Supply - Investigate the potential for the Council to move to a Green gas supplier.	Utilising purchasing power to shift the UK power supply to renewable energy, reducing GHG emissions nationally.	Investigation by April 2020	Completed: Actions to be taken forward by the Green Energy Manager once then come into post.
22	Energy and Offsetting	Offsetting - CarbonFREE - Investigate the use of a Carbon Trust accredited scheme to immediately offset the Councils emissions. Then develop a plan to locally offset the Council's operational and outsourced emissions, including from energy consumption and Council development projects	Ensure that Council responds to its emissions whilst work is carried out to reduce the impact of operations.	Initial offsetting proposal by November 2019, local scheme developed by September 2021.	Completed: Initial proposal set out in November 2019; Initial investigation carried out, including creating a formerly accredited offsetting scheme. A more detailed scheme will be set out by the new Climate Manager once they are in post.

23	Fleet and Waste	Staff working Group/Facilities Management - Develop a waste management plan for the Council's operational properties	Waste reduction, recycling and responsible waste management.	Review to be completed by March 2021 with a full package delivered by the end of 2021.	Delayed due to COVID19 response, to start in the new year.
24	Energy and Offsetting	Offsetting - Relaunch External CarbonFREE	Local offsetting programme will support further mitigation and adaptation aims.	By March 2021.	Delayed: Initial investigation has taken place, the workstream will be developed upon appointment of the new Climate Manager once they are in post.
25	Pollution Strategy	Pollution Strategy - Development of a Pollution Strategy, including noise/nuisance, dust, land and overarching the Air Quality Action Plan which will be completed by March 2020.	Reduction in local pollution issues.	Project scoping by end of October 2020. Publish Strategy by end of May 2021.	The scope of the pollution strategy agreed at October Policy and Performance Panel, working group currently supporting development.
26	Ecology	Ecology - Trees - Develop a strategy to ensure that there is effective protection of existing trees through the use of Tree Protection Orders (TPO) and effective enforcement, tree planting/replacement programme including maintenance regime for tree stock across the Borough.	A robust tree planting programme will support habitat creation and offsetting.	Strategy, SPD and Policy agreed by March 2021.	Tree Policy, Strategy and SPD development agreed with P&P in September 2020, currently under development.

27	Fleet and Waste	Transport - Fleet - Develop an action plan to transition the Streetscene fleet to Electric or Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) by 2025.	Reduction in operational emissions, improvement in air quality and reduction in water consumption	Business case developed by September 2020.	Trial of electric waste vehicles due to take place in December 2020. Plans in place to install further chargers for fleet, with orders for vehicles for street scene soon to go in.
28	Ecology	Ecology - Trees - Exploring the development of locally grown trees and plant stock with consideration of a peat free Council tree and plant stock nursery.	Early planting of trees reducing the cost and carbon footprint importing mature trees to improve coverage across the borough.	Investigation completed by June 2020.	Completed: The creation of a tree nursery was agreed by cabinet in July. Site now established at Horton Heath and first trees have been planted.
29	Ecology	Ecology - Wildflowers - Introduce more wildflower areas across the borough, including mixture of ornamental and native wildflowers and areas which are left with minimal maintenance to increase biodiversity.	Reduction in GHG emissions and decrease in local air pollution.	By end 2021	Wildflower planting was delayed due to Covid 19. An agreement has been reached with HCC regarding the approach to move this forward and streetscene and the Local Areas have started to identify locations for further wildflower areas.
30	Energy and Offsetting	Resources - Grey Water - Investigating potential to move to grey water harvesting for use in mechanical and compact sweepers	Grey water usage will lead to a significant GHG and cost reduction for the Councils streetscene services.	Plan by March 2021.	Two sites have been located, feasibility assessments to be carried out.

31	Operational Equipment	Resources - Handheld Streetscene equipment - All handheld petrol driven Streetscene equipment (such as strimmer's) will transition to electric, 50 separate items of equipment by 2021.	This activity will reduce council vehicle movements and facilitate further uptake of food waste across Hampshire.	Study to be completed by June 2020.	Completed: Over 50 petrol powered hand held tools have been replaced saving over 1600L of fuel.
32	Fleet and Waste	Waste - Commercial Food Waste Collections - Council to assess the potential and develop a plan to introduce food waste collections for businesses in the Borough	Reduction of waste to incineration, creation of green gas from waste.	Plan development during 20/21.	To be considered as part of the New Ways of Waste Programme.
33	Fleet and Waste	Waste Strategy - Develop a strategy to reduce waste and improve recycling throughout the Borough. To include domestic and commercial activities.	Waste reduction, recycling and responsible waste management.	By August 2020.	Completed: New Waste Strategy Agreed in November 2020. Proposals to be considered in December 2020 to increase frequency of Glass & Battery and roll out food collections for flats. Review will continue to identify improvements.
34	Fleet and Waste	Waste - AD - Eastleigh is the only Council in Hampshire to collect food waste from residential properties. Currently waste is processed outside of the Borough. A business proposal will be developed for building an anaerobic digestion facility within the borough.	Reduction in operational emissions and increased areas for biodiversity.	Business case developed by October 2020.	The programme has been scheduled for a later date as the Council is partnering with another Local Authority to carry out this review. Funding has been set aside to support the assessment.

35	Housing	Housing - activities around zero carbon development and biodiversity net gain in Eastleigh delivered schemes.	Net Zero carbon consideration through development and supporting local biodiversity	All new Eastleigh developments to factor in Zero carbon.	The housing development team has carried out several assessments and has climate and ecological matters within their programme. The environmental specialist team have been working with the One Horton Team on the first phase of the development.
36	External	Water Fountains – Assessment of locations and where feasible installation of public water fountains across the borough.	Reduction in waste, resilience to heatwaves lower emission water usage.	Business case for consideration by August 2020.	Delayed due to COVID19. Scheme has been costed, with initial locations identified. A more detailed proposal is under development with a future decision needed regarding funding.
37	Nutrient Budgeting	Nitrates – Scheme to manage Nitrate issues in the borough.	Ecological improvements supporting local biodiversity.	Nitrate offsetting agreed already started.	Report taken to committee with an initial offsetting scheme agreed. Work is being carried out to identify land for further ecological improvements.
38	Fly-tipping	Fly-tipping – Reduced environmental pollution through a new approach to tackling fly-tipping.	Reduction in local pollution and littering.	New procedures in place by March 2021, Launch Fly-tipping campaign in June 2021.	Delayed due to COVID. A new working group in place, new project being launched with improvements set out across a range of council activities.

39	Estates	NEW: Energy - Review of previous Solar PV (Photovoltaic) businesses cases, including the potential for installing large scale schemes.	Increased local renewables will reduce demand for Fossil fuel power.	More detailed business cases to be considered by March 2021.	Further business cases under review.
40	External	NEW: Review Council Grant funds	Increase public awareness and maximise ecological and environmental improvements	Review of funding and launch in 21/22	Early review carried out.
41	External	NEW: Council supporting delivery of Green Homes Grant for residents including Local Delivery Funding with Partner Authorities	Energy efficiency and dealing with Fuel Poverty.	Funding Launched	First Community engagement carried out. Eastleigh residents now able to access Local Delivery funding, doubling the funding up to £10k per household in Fuel Poverty.