

Board/Committee:	CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD
Date of meeting:	11 th November 2021
Title:	Framework for updated Climate Change Strategy
Author:	Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

This report sets out proposed framework that will be used to update the Climate Change Strategy, for approval by members.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the framework set out in this report, which will then guide an extensive update to the Climate Change Strategy.

1.0 Background

1.1 A Climate Change Strategy with an action plan was developed by the Climate Change Working Group, and approved by the Policy and Organisation Board on 4th February 2020. This Strategy covers a three year period to 2023, subject to an annual refresh, and is a 'living document'.¹

1.2 Since approval of the Strategy, new guidance, information, resources, policies and best practice have emerged and the Council utilises this information/learning to develop its approach and practices. Based on this information and approach, an extensive update to the Strategy is proposed (see paragraph 3.4) to ensure that it and the associated Action Plan reflect this developed understanding and benefit from the latest best practice and guidance.

1.3 If the framework set out in this report is approved then an updated Strategy will be submitted to the next Climate Change Board meeting, and then if appropriate presented to Full Council for approval on 2nd February 2022.

2.0 Climate Change Strategy best practice guidance and examples

2.1 A strong Climate Change Strategy is important, both to drive effective action on climate change and to help communicate the approach that the Council will take and the reasoning behind it.

¹ A living document is one that is expected to evolve over time. Living documents typically have an associated process to manage updates and provide version control.

- 2.2** The Council's understanding of the aspects that are important for a strong Climate Change Strategy has been evolving since the current Strategy was approved last year. Dedicated officer resource has allowed more focused activity on Climate Change with further research and analysis being undertaken to allow utilisation of new guidance/information at both a local authority and national level (e.g. from the Local Government Association).
- 2.3** Furthermore, national and regional policy developments indicate a need to enhance the Strategy. For example, the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget sets a target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels by 2035. Meeting this target will require sufficient action by local authorities, so it is reasonable for the Strategy to aim for the Council's actions to be consistent with the target. Hampshire County Council also published a Climate Change Strategy in July 2020 and an Action Plan in September 2020, providing opportunities for joint working, co-ordination and alignment.
- 2.4** A recently emerging useful source of guidance is the Local Authority Climate Plan Checklist published by Climate Emergency UK. While this document is published by a campaigning organisation, it is the only known attempt to provide clear guidance specifically on creating and delivering on strong Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans. The document has been produced in collaboration with several other organisations who have considerable expertise in local authority practical considerations (e.g. the Association for Public Service Excellence and the Centre for Alternative Technology).
- 2.5** The checklist can be treated as providing guidance on the factors that are deemed to be necessary in an ideal Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. It is not practical to follow all recommendations immediately, but a phased approach towards this ideal, through the annual refresh, is a viable way forward.
- 2.6** The framework set out in paragraph 3.4 will allow the Strategy to include key factors for local authority Climate Change Strategies (that are feasible to implement), based on the Climate Plan Checklist, climate change strategies published by other local authorities, and other information and guidance on climate change action, and will allow the Strategy to take into account recent changes in national and regional policy.

3.0 Recommended framework for the Climate Change Strategy

3.1 The current Climate Change Strategy has the following structure, and was deliberately concise to improve its accessibility.

1. A foreword from the Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group.
2. Context for the Strategy.
3. An assessment of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the Council and community.
4. Targets for reducing the Council's emissions and supporting emissions reductions in the community.
5. The approach the Council will take.
6. Areas of focus.
7. Principles that guide prioritisation of actions, delivery and governance.

3.2 The current Strategy addresses many of the principles that are reflected by the latest best practice but will need to be expanded to cover other principles, such as ensuring equitable outcomes, maximising co-benefits, working on timescales long enough to tie in with the 2050 net-zero target, and clarifying long-term support at political and senior management level.

3.3 In addition, some principles are partially covered, but an expanded Strategy could make it clearer how these will be addressed and help to ensure that all aspects of the principles are considered. These include ensuring that actions necessary to adapt to climate change are taken as well as those to reduce emissions, being realistic about what the Council is able to achieve, and ensuring that actions identified are deliverable.

3.4 The following framework is therefore proposed for the updated Climate Change Strategy.

1. Forewords
 - a. A statement by the Climate Change Board Chair.
 - b. An endorsement or statement of intent signed by all party leaders.
 - c. An endorsement or statement of intent signed by the Chief Executive or Assistant to the Chief Executive.
2. Scientific and policy context
 - a. A summary of the causes and impacts of climate change, including expected impacts for Gosport.
 - b. International, national and regional targets and commitments.
3. Strategy for the Council's own operations
 - a. Summary of current emissions.
 - b. Target for emissions reductions, clearly stating what is and is not covered by the target.
 - c. Priority areas, themes and approaches
 - i. Priority areas for action.
 - ii. Short, medium and long term measures in each area.
 - iii. How actions in each area will be identified and prioritised.
 - iv. How measures will be costed/funded.

4. Strategy for Gosport's emissions and resilience to climate change
 - a. Summary of current emissions.
 - b. Vision and approach.
 - i. A positive vision of what net-zero and the journey to it will mean for Gosport.
 - ii. Target for emissions reductions, clearly stating what is and is not covered by the target.
 - iii. A realistic summary of what the Council can and can't do; how the Council will do the things it can; how the Council will involve others where it doesn't have direct influence.
 - c. Priority areas, themes and approaches to reduce emissions
 - i. Priority areas for action.
 - ii. Short, medium and long term measures in each area.
 - iii. How actions in each area will be identified and prioritised.
 - iv. How measures will be costed/funded.
 - d. Priority areas, themes and approaches to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change
 - i. Priority areas for action.
 - ii. Short, medium and long term measures in each area.
 - iii. How actions in each area will be identified and prioritised.
 - iv. How measures will be costed/funded.
 - e. Partnerships, engagement and communications activities to support action in areas where the Council does not have direct influence, and to inform future updates to the Strategy and Action Plan.²
5. Principles guiding delivery, governance and financing mechanisms.

3.5 This proposed framework will result in a significantly longer Strategy document. However, the clear structure will help to maintain accessibility and this will be backed up by a table of contents and other navigational aids. The layout and design will also be improved to aid accessibility, and a glossary will be added.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The annual refresh process presents an opportunity to utilise the latest best practice information, reflected in the proposed framework which will strengthen the Strategy.

4.2 If the framework set out here is approved by Members, an updated Strategy based on these will then be submitted to the next Climate Change Board meeting.

² The Climate Change Partnership has established a sub-group which could facilitate this, although it may not be in a position to assist in time for the forthcoming update to the Strategy.

Financial Services comments:	The proposed framework aims to set a strategic direction but at this stage there is no specific request for additional budget. Requests for budget arising from this framework will be addressed in separate reports as required.
Legal Services comments:	No further comments
Equality and Diversity:	See Appendix 1.
Climate Change implications:	See Appendix 1. The proposed principles will help ensure the Climate Change Strategy focuses action on those areas will have the greatest impact in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.
Crime and Disorder:	N/A
Service Improvement Plan implications:	Actions required are already integrated into Service Plans.
Corporate Plan:	Updating the Climate Change Strategy based on the proposed principles will help deliver the strategic priority of responding to the challenges of climate change.
Risk Assessment:	Low: there will be no cost other than staff resource to updating the Climate Change Strategy based on the principles set out in this report.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Climate Change Strategy: https://www.gosport.gov.uk/media/2996/Climate-Change-Strategy/pdf/Climate_Change_Strategy.pdf • Climate Emergency UK Local Authority Climate Plan Checklist: https://www.climateemergency.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/V8-Checklist-for-Council-Plans-16052021.docx.pdf
Appendices:	
Appendix 1	Integrated Impact Assessment
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Tim Pratt, 023 9254 5573

Gosport Borough Council
Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Completion Instructions for IIA Leads:

Use this IIA **during development** to initially assess the likely impact, on both customers and staff, of a proposed new policy, strategy, function or service or a proposed change to an existing one. This IIA aims to provide an early warning of any potential issues that could adversely impact our customers or staff or result in costly errors in terms of financial or reputational management. Evaluating the proposed changes against our key considerations regarding equality & diversity and climate change allows us to modify or mitigate any adverse impacts **before** implementation. It also demonstrates transparency in the Council's decision making. It is a working document with named Subject Expert Officers (SEOs) who can support you - as the IIA Lead, through this process. Please do ask the SEOs for advice about potential impacts.

Impacts in the template are marked: +ve (positive) -ve (negative) or neutral. Once completed the IIA must be signed off by your Head of Service and a summary copy attached to the Board or Committee report. Officers have a Duty to ensure that Councillors/decision makers understand the impact of decisions before those decisions are made.

Policy/Strategy/Function/Project	New	Existing	IIA Lead	Contact Details	Date
Climate Change Strategy		✓	Tim Pratt	023 9254 5573	8/10/21

What is the aim of this policy/strategy/function/project? What will it change?

To provide strategic direction to the Council's actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The

Climate Change Strategy will be regularly updated to reflect changes to national, regional and Council policy and best practice guidance. The Climate Change Strategy is publicly available to provide accountability of the Council's response to climate change, and to aid with engagement activities aimed at strengthening this response. This IIA relates to the proposed framework for the Strategy update due to be published in February 2022.

Has any consultation been undertaken on this proposed change? **No**

If yes, summarise the methods used and results of the consultation:

A. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010. The Duty requires the Council to have due regard to the following three aims:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equal opportunities between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

Having due regard means considering how this policy, strategy, project or function has or will advance equal opportunities for each of the protected groups below.

Please note: If this proposal means a change in the availability, degree of provision or access to a service, benefit or facility for any group of people, then this Equality & Diversity impact assessment must be completed to assess if this proposal could be deemed unlawfully discriminatory.

SEO for support to complete this section- Mandy Baggaley, CPCS, x5695 mandy.baggaley@gosport.go.uk

Protected Characteristic	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Age			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is expected to have a positive impact, by prioritising actions to address climate change impacts such as extreme heat whose health implications are related to age, and actions promoting energy efficiency which will also help reduce the health impacts of cold weather. The proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it. The proposed framework for the updated Climate Change Strategy specifies that engagement and communication activities will be covered. Due regard will be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Council when drafting the update to the Strategy, and the framework does not prevent any measures required to ensure full accessibility to these activities regardless of age.
Disability			✓	The proposed framework for the updated Climate Change Strategy specifies that engagement and communication activities will be covered. Due regard will be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Council when drafting the update to the Strategy, and the framework does not prevent any measures required to ensure full accessibility to these activities regardless of any protected characteristic.
Gender reassignment			✓	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			✓	
Pregnancy			✓	
Race (ethnicity, nationality, colour)			✓	
Religion or Belief (and lack of belief)			✓	
Sex			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
<p>The Armed Forces Bill places a new duty on public bodies to have due regard to ensure those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved. Please refer to these resources for more information about the needs and characteristics of the armed forces community and our commitment to the Covenant. GBC Covenant Agreement 2020 Local AFC Profile, needs assessment, resources</p>				
Section of the Armed Forces Community	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
All			✓	The Updated Climate Change Strategy is not expected to promote

				any actions that have disproportionate impact on serving or discharged members of the armed forces.
Are there any other groups which could be impacted (e.g. socially or financially excluded) by this item? If yes, identify below:				
Financially excluded			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is expected to have a positive impact, by prioritising actions that will help to reduce fuel poverty. The proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
What actions will be taken to address/ mitigate potential negative impacts identified:				
Action	By whom		By when	

B. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Consider how this change will have an impact with regard to

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Waste Management
- Air Quality
- Natural Environment

SEOs for support to complete this section- Tim Pratt, CPCS, x5573 tim.pratt@gosport.gov.uk

Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Things to consider	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Emissions from buildings	Gas or electricity use and provision of renewable electricity, by GBC or others			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is expected to have a positive impact, by prioritising actions that will have the greatest impact on emissions in all areas. The proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
Emissions from transport	Amount of travel (including goods transportation), travel modes and fuels used, by GBC or others			✓	
Emissions from agriculture and land use	Creation or removal of carbon sinks in Gosport, and changes to food consumption			✓	
Embedded emissions	Emissions from manufacturing goods and materials used by GBC or others			✓	
Climate Change Adaptation	Things to consider	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Vulnerability to storms	Flood prevention and extent to which buildings, habitats and species would be affected by flooding and high winds			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is expected to have a positive impact, by ensuring that all likely impacts of change are identified and addressed. The proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
Vulnerability to heat waves	Provision of shading, ventilation and insulation in buildings, and extent to which habitats and species would be affected by heat			✓	
Vulnerability to drought	Water use in buildings, agriculture, and industrial processes, and extent to which habitats and species would be affected by drought			✓	
Vulnerability to food insecurity	Opportunity for local food production			✓	
Waste Management	Things to consider	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Amount of waste generated	Levels of consumption by GBC, households and businesses, and extent to which materials used are reusable			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy may promote measures that have a positive impact on waste management, for example by

Proportion of waste recycled	Recyclability of materials used by GBC, households and businesses, and provision of recycling services			✓	increasing reuse and recycling. This will be determined when drafting the updated Strategy, and the proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
Air Quality	Things to consider	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Emissions of key pollutants from transport	Amount of travel (including goods transportation), travel modes and fuels used, by GBC and others; impacts on congestion and amount of idling of more vehicles			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is likely to have a positive impact, by prioritising measures that help to reduce travel and promote sustainable travel modes. This will be determined when drafting the updated Strategy, and the proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
Emissions of key pollutants from industrial processes	Emissions from chemical processes			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is unlikely to have any significant impact on emissions of pollutants from industrial processes or other sources, since measures to address these are unlikely to have any significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions or resilience to climate change.
Emissions of key pollutants from other sources	Domestic and other fires			✓	
Impact of key pollutants	Rate at which pollutants are absorbed or dispersed			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy may promote measures that have a positive impact, for example by increasing tree cover. This will be determined when drafting the updated Strategy, and the proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.

Natural Environment	Things to consider	+ ive	- ive	Neutral	Explanation of Impact
Sustainability of public spaces	Amount of vegetation and maintenance			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy may promote measures that have a positive impact, for example by increasing tree cover. This will be determined when drafting the updated Strategy, and the proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
Biodiversity and quality of habitats	General impacts on habitats and direct impacts on species of concern			✓	The updated Climate Change Strategy is expected to have a positive impact, by ensuring that risks to habitats and biodiversity from climate change are identified and managed, and may also lead to improved habitats and biodiversity as a result of measures to adapt to other impacts and to increase carbon sequestration. The proposed framework to which this IIA relates enables this positive impact but does not in itself guarantee it.
What actions will be taken to address/ mitigate potential negative impacts identified:					
Action		By whom			By when

C. IIA SUMMARY				
Have any positive or negative impacts been identified in sections A and B?				
Subject	+ ive	- ive	Explanation	
A. Equality & Diversity	No	No		
B. Climate Change & Environment	No	No		
Can any negative impacts be mitigated?				
Subject	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation
A. Equality & Diversity			✓	No negative impacts identified.
B. Climate Change & Environment			✓	
Is further assessment in either subject area necessary to conclude this assessment?				
Subject	Yes	No	If yes, timetable for completion	
A. Equality & Diversity		✓		
B. Climate Change & Environment		✓		

D. IIA CONCLUSION

This IIA is complete. No further assessment is required if identified actions are undertaken. This summary can be included with Board or Committee reports.

This IIA identified further assessment should be undertaken in the identified areas before implementation of this proposed change.

Signed by Head of Service:



Date: 21/10/21