

Part I
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WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER GROUP
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING
AND GOVERNANCE)

*STRATEGIC CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS FOR TRANSPORT, WATER AND
CARBON REDUCTION*

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership's (HCCSP) Strategic Action Plans for Transport, Water and Carbon Reduction and sets out the steps for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to, as appropriate, provide final comments ahead of adoption by HCCSP.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Climate Change Member Group notes the three thematic Strategic Action Plans.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership's (HCCSP) consists of all 10 districts and the county council, plus the Local Enterprise Partnership. HCCSP is a strategic group which acts as the lead partnership organisation for partners to collaborate and identify joint work programmes on environmental, climate change and wider sustainability issues.
- 3.2 The following three Action Plans have been prepared and final comments sought ahead of adoption by HCCSP. Copies of the plans are included as appendices:
- Strategic Action Plan: Transport 2021
 - Strategic Action Plan: Carbon Reduction 2021
 - Strategic Action Plan: Water 2021
- 3.3 Each plan's development has involved engagement with key partners including the Hertfordshire Sustainability Officers Group's (HSOG) and relevant stakeholders such as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Highway Authority. Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council officers have been involved in the plans' development as members of the thematic sub groups.

Strategic Action Plan for Transport

- 3.4 The Strategic Action Plan for Transport outlines the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership's (HCCSP) ambition to ensure that transport of all forms in Hertfordshire is sustainable and contributes towards the county's carbon reduction aspirations, moving towards net zero carbon where possible.
- 3.5 The Plan's development has been led by officers from Hertfordshire County Council and East Hertfordshire District Council, with input from a number of other boroughs and districts.
- 3.6 The Action Plan covers a number of areas including provision of transport in new developments, increased uptake of active travel and public sector transport use. Section 3 of the Action Plan includes a series of actions split between those where public bodies have direct control (e.g. through their own vehicle fleets), those where public bodies have some regulatory powers (e.g. through transport provision to new development) and those where public bodies need to play an encouraging, influencing or facilitating role (e.g. through promotional campaigns or similar). These will be kept under review with an annual assessment, and a progress report will be presented to HCCSP annually.

Strategic Action Plan for Carbon Reduction

- 3.7 The Strategic Action Plan for Carbon Reduction has been developed to identify actions and areas of synergy where Hertfordshire's local authorities can work collaboratively to deliver on the shared ambition to deliver a net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the county by 2050. This gives the opportunity for joint working across the county which will bring carbon reduction in Welwyn Hatfield and across Hertfordshire.
- 3.8 Some actions identified in the HCCSP action plan resonate with actions already undertaken by Welwyn Hatfield and officers have shared their experience in the HCCSP forum. Whilst several of the actions requiring active work from the council, in many cases the action is led by third parties.

Strategic Action Plan for Water

- 3.9 The Strategic Action Plan for Water outlines HCCSP's ambition to ensure the clean and plentiful supply and sustainable management of Hertfordshire's water resource. The Plan seeks to address challenges around high levels of water consumption and abstraction, faulty or inappropriate infrastructure, increased water stress from future development, and pollutants entering the waterways.
- 3.10 The Plan's development has involved engagement with key partners including the HSOG water sub-group, including Welwyn Hatfield. Feedback has also been incorporated from the three water companies, Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Environment Agency.
- 3.11 A single action relates to the Council making change to assets, premises or services, it involves a commitment to assess water consumption across the estate and putting in place measures and targets to achieve substantive reductions. Several actions require the Council to use its regulatory powers and

these relate to Planning. The actions that relate to encouraging and influencing relates to the activities of the Council Communications Team.

Actions

- 3.12 The Plans identify which organisation(s) are required to deliver the actions. Not all require Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to take action, but where they do, relevant officers are aware.
- 3.13 In many cases, the action is such that there is no additional impact as it is something which is already being done, e.g. emissions monitoring. In a small number of these actions, the action is not appropriate to Welwyn Hatfield's circumstances and in these cases, these caveats have been identified and it is proposed to include these in the Council's response on the action plan to HCCSP.
- 3.14 At the time of preparing this report, officers from the Welwyn Hatfield Climate Change Officer Group have not identified any other comments to make on the Action Plan. Should any comments be subsequently received they will be reported verbally to members.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Any comments provided by members will be forwarded to those co-ordinating development of the action plans.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Climate Change Member Group notes the Strategic Action Plans for Transport, Water and Carbon Reduction.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are a number of direct cost implications and resourcing implications of the three action plans.

Transport Action Plan

- 6.2 The delivery of a carbon natural fleet by 2030 may have cost implications. This will coincide with the procurement of the refuse fleet at the end of the current contract with Urbasser, for which one of the actions is to consider joint procurement where possible. With the exception of refuse, the remainder of the council's fleet is quite small and electric vehicles could be purchased next time that there is a requirement.
- 6.3 The review of fleet hub infrastructure, including draft an implementation plan for the provision and installation of EV/Hydrogen charging points to service fleets may have cost implications, but the council does not currently have a fleet management hub.

- 6.4 By committing to the action plan, the council will be committing to supporting communication campaigns and driving behavioural changes with staff. It is not clear at this stage what level of involvement would be required, but it is likely that communication would be through existing digital means and would likely be delivered within the existing team.
- 6.5 A number of actions such as the delivery of new strategies may not have cost implications, the strategies may do once drafted and approved. Any cost implications will be presented alongside these future strategies. This includes items such as the EV Strategy, learning from cycle hire schemes and developing plans for accessible EV hubs.

Water Action Plan

- 6.6 Whilst a number of the actions within the action plan would fall to a developer (either through completion of additional documentation or in the development of schemes to specific standards), there are also a number of areas within these recommendations which could have a direct financial/resource implication for the council.
- 6.7 The first is the action that the council will commit to “assessing water consumption across its estate and putting in place measures and targets to achieve substantive reductions”. It is unclear at this stage what the Council’s current consumption is, what is considered to be a substantive reduction, and whether a substantive reduction is possible. Should a reduction be possible, it is not clear at this stage how that would be achieved, and this may involve the allocation of resources, as the council does not currently have budgets for this purpose.
- 6.8 The actions also include an action to review the feasibility for local planning authorities to consult the LLFA on surface water management for all developments (not just major developments) in priority flood risk areas. The action plan suggests that this will have resource implications for the LLFA, and that they would seek to implement a charging mechanism between the council and the LLFA. It is not clear what these charges would be, and what the financial implications would be for the council.
- 6.9 By committing to the action plan, the council will be committing to supporting communication campaigns around water saving activities and meter uptake. It is not clear at this stage what level of involvement would be required, but it is likely that communication would be through existing digital means and would likely be delivered within the existing team.
- 6.10 The other activities that the council would be involved in, such as changes to planning policy, assessments of additional information submitted with planning applications, co-ordinating discussions between water companies and housing associations, would mainly be resourced through officer time, and is expected to be met from existing resources.

Carbon Emission Reduction Action Plan

- 6.11 Similar to the other plans, the council will be committing to supporting communication campaigns and driving behavioural changes of residents. It is not

clear at this stage what level of involvement would be required, but it is likely that communication would be through existing digital means and would likely be delivered within the existing team.

- 6.12 A number of actions such as the delivery of new strategies may not have cost implications, the strategies may do once drafted and approved. Any cost implications will be presented alongside these at a future date. This includes items such as the identification of new carbon reduction projects and business support proposals.

7 Risk Management Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications associated with this report.

8 Security and Terrorism Implications

- 8.1 There are no security or terrorism implications associated with this report.

9 Procurement Implications

- 9.1 There are no procurement implications associated with this report.

10 Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 The Council has declared a climate change emergency and set ambitious objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is considered that the recommendations of this report will have positive climate change implications.
- 10.2 The Action Plans of the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) are central to the Council's response to the Climate Change emergency. The Action Plans seek sustainable use and management of scarce resources and to reduce the carbon emissions associated with these activities.

11 Human Resources Implications

- 11.1 There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

12 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 12.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications associated with this report.

13 Communications and Engagement Implications

- 13.1 The action plan includes some promotional campaigns which would be undertaken during the life of the plans. The Council's communications team would likely be involved in these.

14 Link to Corporate Priorities

14.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Business Plan 2018-2021 and particularly Priority 2 Our Environment, Priority 1 Our Community and Priority 2 Our Environment

15 Equalities and Diversity

15.1 Equalities Act 2010 places statutory responsibility on the Council to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic, on the one hand and those who do not share it, on the other hand. .

15.2 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) Strategic Action Plan: Transport 2021
- Appendix 2: Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) Strategic Action Plan: Carbon Reduction 2021
- Appendix 3. Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) Strategic Action Plan: Water 2021