

APPENDIX A

Harborough District Council Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 to 2025

Harborough District Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, recognising that there is a need for urgent action to reduce emissions and to ensure that communities are prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change. The Council has committed to reducing its own emission to zero, as far as practically possible, by 2030.

The Council has identified six key commitments where the Council has the opportunity to act:

1. The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change
2. The Council commits to managing its own assets and services, with the aim of reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical
3. The Council commits to working with residents and communities to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change
4. The Council commits to working with businesses to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change
5. The Council commits to ensuring that new development is designed to mitigate emissions and be resilient to the impacts of climate change
6. The Council commits to working in partnership to promote resilient natural systems that will help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

APPENDIX A

Commitment 1: Demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change.		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Climate Change will be the specific responsibility of one lead cabinet member, but will be part of the corporate responsibility of all teams	<p>The Environment Cabinet Member has responsibility for Climate Change, although the cross cutting nature is recognised and the Environment Co-ordinator sits in Regulatory services and works closely with strategic planning team, Corporate Assets and Health and Wellbeing Partnership.</p> <p>Environmental impacts are now considered in all council business.</p>	<p>Consultation and engagement with local residents and community groups to inform the Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>Climate change on-line training for all council staff and members</p>
Communication plan will include communicating the progress of reducing carbon emission and becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Climate change is a specific area and is being continually developed.	<p>Climate Emergency activity reported annually</p> <p>Specific communication linked to occasions such as Earth Day.</p> <p>Communication also linked to local issues such as flooding</p>
The progress on reducing emissions will be monitored and reported annually	<p>Annual Progress Report on Climate Change published on Website.</p> <p>Information on projects is reported.</p> <p>Social media used for specific campaigns</p>	<p>Develop and publish Climate Emergency Action Plan – June 2020.</p> <p>Report on emissions across the district, including from waste, transport, housing and</p>

APPENDIX A

		business
Leading by example	<p>A number of electrical vehicle charging points have been introduced across the district in Council car parks.</p> <p>HDC has taken the lead on the ERDF/Business Rates Pool bid to install electrical charging points across the County in each district locality</p>	<p>HDC will review all internal processes to identify savings that would reduce carbon emissions, including sustainable travel, use of paper and other resources.</p> <p>HDC will investigate projects and funding that could showcase innovative approaches to reducing emissions</p>
HDC as a statutory authority will lobby National Government to encourage it to tangibly adopt a low carbon agenda		<p>Links with local MPs</p> <p>Support LGA offer to Councils</p>

APPENDIX A

Commitment 2: Manage assets and services to reduce carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical.		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Ensure council owned or managed buildings and services are continually monitored for energy and water usage and improvements are undertaken appropriately	All buildings are monitored quarterly and monthly, with some more detailed monitoring in specific buildings. Emissions have reduced by over 40% since 2008. Waste services have procured Euro VI vehicles and include driver training and monitoring to reduce fuel use	Survey of council assets to inform the work required to meet carbon neutrality to be part of the Corporate Assets Strategy. New projects would include whole life cost assessments as part of the procurement process.
Encourage Staff and members use resources efficiently	Single use plastics have been reduced and reusable or recyclable products are used for promotions	Council processes audit to identify opportunities reductions, including move to paperless processes Green Travel Plan will encourage staff to use sustainable travel, including walking and cycling
Environmental implications are embedded in all council actions and activities		Review of Council Priorities to reflect the commitments made by declaring a climate emergency. Review and realignment of all policies to address Green House Gas (GHG) to include and assessment of cost and technology implications

APPENDIX A

		Climate emergency implications should be included on all committee report templates
Procurement processes will incorporate specific requirements to ensure that any service or product will minimise emissions and environmental impacts	Recent HDC building projects have delivered buildings built to high environmental standards. The Move on Space, for example was built to BREEAM “Excellent”	Whole life costs and impacts to be considered in any procurement process and specific clauses included in tenders to reduce emissions and improve resilience. This would include, for example, recruitment, waste and leisure services, as well as construction projects

Commitment 3: work with residents and communities to help them reduce their emissions and improve their resilience to climate change		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Encourage the uptake of all schemes promoting energy efficiency to residents	In 2018/19 509 homes received energy efficiency measures (loft and cavity wall) saving over 22,000T of CO ₂ over 20 years.	Continue to promote ECO uptake to eligible residents, including updating the Statement of Intent on Flexible Eligibility, when necessary. Work closely with partners including public health to promote warm homes Investigate opportunities to promote energy efficiency measures to those who are able

APPENDIX A

		to pay.
Support vulnerable people in fuel poverty.	<p>HDC Statement of Intent on flexible eligibility has ensured that residents in need can more easily access funding for free loft and Cavity wall insulation.</p> <p>Partnership with Public health through First Contact Plus and the Npower Help to heat project has allowed vulnerable residents to access additional support or free boiler repairs and replacement (5 boiler replacements in 2018)</p> <p>Collective Switching has been set up as a Switch and Save scheme to facilitate switching to cheaper bills for those who are reluctant to engage with the energy market.</p> <p>Lightbulb provides help with heating and bills advice to people returning from hospital or requiring home mobility upgrades.</p>	<p>Collective Switching for December 2019, update and promote more widely.</p> <p>Work closely with partners including public health to promote warm homes</p>
Encourage all residents to reduce their carbon footprint	<p>Promotion of the Plastics pledge with community groups to reduce plastic waste.</p> <p>Harborough District has achieved</p>	<p>Carbon calculator and advice on website.</p> <p>Harborough District will become a Sustainable Food Place, working with Leicestershire County Council Public health</p>

APPENDIX A

	<p>domestic recycling rates of 45.7%, including the well used green waste scheme.</p> <p>Harborough District is a pilot area in promoting Sustainable Food Places, with the aim of achieving bronze status.</p> <p>Engagement in ECO question time events</p>	<p>and partners, promoting local food growing projects and reduction of food waste at home.</p> <p>Promotion of EV home charging grants and incentive schemes.</p>
<p>Promote of lower carbon transport options for personal/business journeys</p>	<p>Additional charging points installed across the district</p>	<p>Cycling and Walking funding will be investigated. Cycling and walking will be promoted as part of the Tourism strategy.</p> <p>Opportunities for increased walking and cycling for work investigated as part of the health and wellbeing projects.</p> <p>Further development of local EV charging point network</p> <p>Work in partnership with other authorities and agencies on the strategic approach to infrastructure development for electric vehicles.</p> <p>Feasibility study for promoting Work place</p>

APPENDIX A

		charging points will be undertaken Explore opportunities for working with certain trades e.g. taxi trade on the use of ULEVs – local incentives through the licensing regime
Investigate the opportunities for community owned low carbon electricity and heating to be retrofitted in off gas village locations	Harborough Energy have two community owned PV projects in the district	Investigate opportunities for innovative approaches to reducing high monetary and environmental costs for heating homes.
Encourage the uptake of flood warden positions and promote the Red Cross community reserve volunteer scheme	13 communities with community emergency plans	Work with communities to update and test plans.

Commitment 4: Work with business to reduce their carbon emissions and become more resilient to climate change		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Encourage Local Business to reduce its impact	Harborough District Council Business Waste service offers waste and recycling to 814 businesses, 769 have a general waste service, 420 have a recycling service Green Belle grants enabled grants of over £48,000 for LED and energy	Promote business waste service to all Harborough businesses

APPENDIX A

	efficiency measures for Harborough businesses.	
Promote Local Food economy	HDC working with Leicestershire Public Health to develop a Local Food Plan. Local grower groups working to promote a local food offering, including through Taste Harborough offering local tastings as part of events	Local Food closely linked to tourism offer Further promotion via tourism
Lead by example in good practice in workspaces	Council buildings including HIC and Move on Space all have recycling containers to reduce waste. The Market has been used to promote low waste options, including reusable bags. Market promoting new low waste “eco” traders. HIC and Move on Space developed to high environmental standards (BREEAM excellent) and include provision for cycling and electric vehicle charging.	
Work with Businesses to ensure they are able to deal with the issues raised by climate change		Work with businesses to help them ensure business continuity in the event of an issue such as flooding

APPENDIX A

Commitment 5: Ensure development is designed to be low carbon and resilient to climate change.		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Monitor the effectiveness of the local plan to deliver carbon emission reductions and resilience	Policies already require developers to identify where they can save carbon (https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=fd66dbe5-2b88-4acf-b927-256a82db9abe Rising to the Climate Crisis)	Lutterworth East in partnership with LCC, to be encouraged to develop as exemplars Supplementary planning guidance to support
Investigate whether some inducement can be offered to developers who deliver higher standards to reduce emissions, through Section 106 or similar process		Procure a Study of the use of inducements and penalties to affect the approach to low carbon resilient design
Review of the Local Plan will investigate opportunities to improve the expected performance of buildings		Investigate opportunities for low carbon standards, local energy supply infrastructure and reducing risks from overheating
Investigate opportunities for council and partners to deliver low carbon projects	Building on the Grow on Space low carbon development for exemplary buildings	Scope out New development sites in the district for affordable housing and HDC backed development, including leisure
Work with partners to ensure	Joint evidence such as the Flood Risk assessment done	

APPENDIX A

that the Strategic Growth plan has low carbon resilient design at its heart	across Leicestershire	
Review flood risk to built up areas and investigate resilience measures for homes businesses and communities		Work with partners to identify solutions to areas with increased flood risk to mitigate the effect of climate change

APPENDIX A

Commitment 6: Develop resilient natural system that ensure that the impacts of climate change are minimised		
Specific action	Measure and Progress to date	Possible Future actions and timescales
Promote the use of natural river processes to reduce flooding	Natural Flood Management has been used on Soar and Welland tributaries to hold up water on flood plains. Working with the catchment partnerships and Rivers Trusts. Monitoring is included.	Large scale NFM project being led by the EA due to deliver some NFM on farms in the west of the district in 2020/21
Promote greater tree planting	As part of the Catchment based approach trees have been planted to help retain water on the land	Identify critical areas for tree planting (using biodiversity action plan) and investigate opportunities to buy land or work with land owners, including in partnership. Use of section 106 to fund critical areas for additional tree planting and biodiversity improvements
Ensure sustainable drainage is well designed and delivers multiple benefits on new development sites and protects sites upstream,	Monitoring of effectiveness of policy in LP	Guidance for developers, to ensure that biodiversity and flood benefits are maximised on sites
Ensure local green space and urban trees offer multiple benefits of cooling, biodiversity enhancement and storage for large rainfall events	Tree planting and use of wildflower meadows enhance biodiversity and improve the sense of place	Assess all HDC assets for opportunities for tree planting, wildflower meadows and retrofit Sustainable drainage.