



PORPSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

# Climate Change Strategy

2022

Version 1





# Contents

<b>Figures .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Abbreviations &amp; acronyms .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Glossary of climate change language .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1 The climate change challenge.....	9
1.2 Climate change in Portsmouth .....	10
1.3 Climate emergency declaration.....	11
1.4 The role of local authorities .....	12
<b>2 Our guiding principles.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3 Strategic priority areas.....</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Portsmouth City Council .....	17
3.2 City-wide.....	18
<b>4 Our Approach .....</b>	<b>24</b>
4.1 Climate change mitigation .....	25
4.2 Climate change adaptation .....	34
4.3 Governance .....	37
<b>Contact us .....</b>	<b>39</b>

# Figures

Figure 1 Carbon scopes by The Greenhouse Gas Protocol.....	6
Figure 2 Possible direct and indirect impacts of climate change.....	10
Figure 3 Local authority scale of influence .....	12
Figure 4 Guiding principles for climate action planning (taken from UN Habitat) .....	15
Figure 5 Carbon management cycle.....	25
Figure 6 Carbon mitigation hierarchy .....	26
Figure 7 Climate change adaptation cycle .....	34
Figure 8 Climate Change Strategy governance structure .....	37
Figure 9 Climate Change Strategy governance structure: stakeholders, roles and responsibilities.....	38

# Foreword



**Councillor Kimberly Barrett, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment**

Climate change is one of the most important and complex challenges society has ever faced. That is why Portsmouth City Council has responded by declaring it will become a net zero carbon organisation by 2030 and is supporting the city on the same journey. We believe this target is fair in recognising our city's contribution to historical emissions, and ambitious as it is a full 20 years earlier than the UK's national target.

At the heart of this strategy is an approach which recognises that we need to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate, but we can do so in a manner that positively addresses wider socio-economic inequalities and environmental challenges in the city.

As a coastal city, the health of our infrastructure, economy and the natural environment are all strongly linked to our climate. We already have an indication of this in the impact of extreme weather and coastal erosion on our waterfronts, and we are currently working hard to protect our city against this. As a community, we have already made great strides towards reaching these goals, but we all have a role to play to continue this work and ensure Portsmouth is a thriving and resilient city for future generations to inherit.

Our city is a richly woven and diverse community with innovative industries, education and training services, highly engaged community groups, and passionate younger generations wanting more ambitious efforts from all of us. The strategy is our commitment to you and a call to action to our businesses, services, and residents to work together to help transform our city.



**David Williams, chief executive officer, Portsmouth City Council**

I am proud of our ambition to be a net zero carbon council and city by 2030, but I recognise there is still a lot more we can do. As a major employer, buyer, and influencer in Portsmouth, we are tasked with a great responsibility to green our organisation from the inside out as we define new ways of working and delivering for Portsmouth.

Taking positive action to tackle climate change is a priority for Portsmouth City Council and our refreshed Climate Change Strategy is the cornerstone for its delivery. To me, this is central to the way we work.

The strategy highlights just a few areas where council teams, our contractors, and partners have already been delivering together to help address the climate emergency. I am grateful for all they have achieved, and we look forward to further improving the wellbeing of our residents, enhancing our natural resources, and creating a more sustainable future for generations to come.

# Abbreviations & acronyms

Abbreviation or Acronym	Definition
CCS	Climate Change Strategy (this document)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HVO	Hydrotreated vegetable oil
PCC	Portsmouth City Council

# Glossary of climate change language

A lot of specialised language is used to talk about climate change. Here is a description of some of the key terms used.

## Climate change mitigation

Climate change mitigation means reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), or reducing their concentration in the atmosphere.

## Climate change adaptation

Climate change adaptation refers to actions we can take to make our society and environment more resilient to climate change impacts. These are actions which typically reduce damage, encourage recovery more quickly or make us better prepared.

## Net zero

Carbon reduction terminology has subtle differences. PCC use a net zero carbon target, meaning all emissions will be reduced to the lowest amount and then balanced to "zero" with removals.

Removals from the air can be through more natural storage in soils and vegetation, offset schemes or technological solutions. PCC's approach to reaching net zero carbon is detailed in section 4.1.

## Carbon

The term "carbon" is often used, but it is a collective term for seven GHGs. Each of the GHGs have varying abilities to trap heat in our atmosphere. They are all converted to a single measure called "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

## Carbon scopes

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol<sup>1</sup> is the current best-practice guidance for developing a carbon inventory. The carbon inventory is a backward look at the emissions generated from activities. The protocol provides guidance on how to group activities by type, which are called "scopes".

Scopes 1 and 2 are relatively easy to quantify and monitor. Scope 3 can often be complex and difficult to obtain data for, and guidance exists to help identify the most relevant sources<sup>2</sup>.

### SCOPE 1

- Direct emissions
- From: owned or controlled assets
  - Land-use
  - Facilities and building fuel combustion
  - Vehicle fuel combustion
  - Fugitive gasses

### SCOPE 2

- Indirect emissions
- From: energy purchase
  - Purchased electricity
  - Purchased steam
  - Purchased heating
  - Purchased cooling

### SCOPE 3

- All other indirect emissions
- From: third parties
  - Upstream activities such as purchased goods and services
  - Downstream activities such as third-party waste treatment or employee commuting

**Figure 1 Carbon scopes by The Greenhouse Gas Protocol**

<sup>1</sup> WBCSD & WRI (2021). Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Available: [https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/GPC\\_Full\\_MAS-TER\\_RW\\_v7.pdf](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/GPC_Full_MAS-TER_RW_v7.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> WBCSD & WRI (2013). Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions. Available: [https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Scope3\\_Calculation\\_Guidance\\_0.pdf](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Scope3_Calculation_Guidance_0.pdf)



# 1 Introduction



This Climate Change Strategy (CCS) is a high-level communication to establish the urgency of climate change action in Portsmouth, and our role in supporting the city to mitigate and adapt to the risks.

Achieving a net zero carbon Portsmouth which is adapted to thrive in future climates will require commitment, innovation and collaboration from all authorities, organisations, businesses, and residents in Portsmouth.

Developing and implementing this CCS is our commitment to Portsmouth.

This strategy has been developed to build upon earlier declarations and ambitions, and be transparent in our commitments, principles, and approach. It will be underpinned by carbon action plans that will be revised and published regularly to detail progress and new actions.

## 1.1 The climate change challenge

Greenhouse gasses (GHGs) are a collective term for gases in our atmosphere that result in a warming effect and have kept our planet able to sustain life. However, since industrialisation (generally considered to be before 1900, depending on the country), humans have been emitting too many GHGs into our atmosphere, causing global warming and the climate to change. The sources of these GHGs are from burning fossil fuels, industrial activity, agricultural and waste practices, and through damaging natural habitats that naturally store carbon.

So far, this has resulted in a 1°C increase in average global temperatures since 1880. Temperatures will continue to rise until we can reduce the concentration of GHGs in our atmosphere. This means urgent and transformational change in the way we live and work so that we can reduce the GHG concentration in our atmosphere (called "mitigation") and build our resilience to the impacts of a warming planet (called "adaptation").

Climate change and inequality are strongly linked<sup>3</sup>. The negative effects of climate change are more likely to impact disadvantaged groups such as those experiencing poverty and social exclusion by inhibiting access to alternative housing, energy or transport types, insurance, and information on how to adapt.

The need for climate change action provides a unique opportunity to meet the challenge while also addressing some of our city's health, social and economic inequalities. The importance of taking dual climate action is bound into Portsmouth City Council's (PCC) corporate plan, the City Vision<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (2017). *Climate Change and Social Inequality*. Department of Economics and Social Affairs. Available: [https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152\\_2017.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152_2017.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2021). *City Vision. Imagine Portsmouth 2040. Our vision for Portsmouth's future*. Available: <https://imagineportsmouth.co.uk/>

## 1.2 Climate change in Portsmouth

Like most of the UK, modelled projections of our future climate show:

- Summers will be warmer and drier, meaning an increased chance of drought, wildfires, and heat stress, particularly to those who are more exposed, such as outdoor workers, or community members who are more vulnerable such as older people and babies, and those with underlying health conditions<sup>5</sup>.
- Winters will be warmer and wetter, meaning an increased frequency and severity of flooding.
- An increased frequency of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, heavy rain, storms and extreme cold.
- As a low-lying coastal city, Portsmouth is at risk from continually rising sea level.

The impacts from these climatic changes will be determined by how we prepare and take actions to build our resilience. Negative impacts may vary, with potential for direct impacts to human health, ecosystems and biodiversity, which can then cause further economic and social impacts ("Figure 2 Possible direct and indirect impacts of climate change"). At times, there may be some indirect benefits such as reduced risk of health impacts from colder winters and reduced heating need in winter.

### Direct Human Impacts

- Physical injuries.
- Mental health.
- Heat-related illnesses.
- Sickness and allergies.

### Direct Environmental Impacts

- Change and damage to ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Reduced crop yields and watering needs.
- Reduced fish catch.
- Reduced air and water quality.
- New range of mosquito and water-borne disease.

### Indirect economic and social impacts

- More human sickness from disease, reduced air and water quality.
- Reduced availability and increased costs of food.
- Financial costs of repairs and adaptation.
- Disruption or failure of commercial and public services.
- Power cuts.
- Travel disruptions.
- Increasing numbers of climate refugees.

**Figure 2 Possible direct and indirect impacts of climate change**

## 1.3 Climate emergency declaration

The Climate Change Act 2008<sup>6</sup> (UK government, 2008) legislates climate action in the UK with targets to reduce its emissions. The act was amended in 2019 to legislate for net zero carbon emissions by 2050<sup>7</sup>.

In 2018, PCC made it a corporate priority to make our city cleaner, safer and greener. To strengthen this and support national priorities, in March 2019, PCC declared a local climate emergency. In doing so, the council has resolved to<sup>8</sup>:

- Make Portsmouth City Council operations “net zero carbon” across all scopes by 2030.
- Pledge to support efforts to make Portsmouth city net zero by 2030, ahead of the national 2050 target.
- Develop a city-wide carbon strategy and implementation plan.
- Provide annual reports of city-wide carbon emissions.
- Support the establishment of a Portsmouth Climate Change Board.
- Lobby central government for additional powers, funding, and support from ministers.
- Develop a community engagement plan.

It is important to note that net zero carbon targets are interim targets before a net negative is achieved, where removals of carbon are greater than that emitted. Net negative is required to reduce the elevated concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere causing climatic changes. This CCS will be adapted in the future to determine new net negative targets.

<sup>6</sup> UK Government (2008). *The Climate Change Act 2008*. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

<sup>7</sup> UK Government (2019). *The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019*. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1056/contents/made>

<sup>8</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2019). *Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Guildhall Portsmouth on Tuesday, 19 March 2019 at 2.00 pm*. Available: <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s22583/Draft%20Council%20Mins%20March%20202019.pdf>



**Figure 3 Local authority scale of influence**

## 1.4 The role of local authorities

PCC is a unitary authority, meaning it is responsible for delivering the full range of services including education, public health, transport, planning, fire and public safety, social care and housing, libraries, waste collection and disposal, and trading standards. Through these operations, local authorities are typically responsible for approximately 2-5% of their jurisdictional area's emissions<sup>9</sup>.

As one of the largest employers in Portsmouth and a public service provider, PCC has a responsibility to lead by example and manage reductions of our own carbon emissions. These operational activities are mostly under our direct control. Through PCC's statutory powers and responsibilities, we also manage important levers to reduce emissions with city-wide policies, standards, and enforcement powers. Outside of these powers, PCC's ability to influence carbon reduction are much more limited and are reliant on meaningful community engagement,

partnerships and collaboration with businesses, residents, and other public service providers. The benefits of partnerships and collaboration are a key opportunity to realise wider climate change mitigation and adaptation in Portsmouth and are described further in sections 4.1.3 and 4.2.2.

The national Climate Change Committee estimates that local authorities are typically able to influence approximately one third of the jurisdictional area's total emissions<sup>10</sup>. Through all spheres of influence, our ambitions are linked to additional funding, powers, incentives, and policies developed by central government.

<sup>9</sup> Climate change committee (2020). Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget. Available: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Climate Change Committee (2020). Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget. Available: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>



# 2 Our guiding principles



To frame PCC's approach to responding to climate change, we have adopted underlying principles from the UN Habitat<sup>11</sup> that will guide our underlying action planning.



**Figure 4 Guiding principles for climate action planning (taken from UN Habitat)**

Action planning will need to be dynamic but will be led by these guiding principles. It will need to evolve around changing circumstances (such as shocks like COVID-19 and energy crises), emissions profiles, new technologies and available funding. Our targets are ambitious, but PCC is determined and hopeful about what can be achieved with the support of our community.

# 3 Strategic priority areas



### 3.1 Portsmouth City Council

PCC will become a net zero carbon organisation which will lead by example in implementing and promoting sustainable, climate-resilient, low carbon practices across our operations. To achieve this, we will ensure climate change is embedded within our procurement and funding activities, commissioning principles, and that all our staff understand the importance of reducing our operational emissions and increasing our resilience.

The strategic operational priorities to address the challenges of climate change are founded upon understanding changing risks and developing dynamic action plans to meet them. Access to finance will be key to realising meaningful

and equitable climate change actions in Portsmouth. As a local authority, PCC will work on providing opportunities for stable and innovative funding for residents, businesses and for us to deliver climate change-ready public goods and services. We will continue to assess opportunities for cost savings in our operations through renewable and lower carbon energy systems.

Although addressing climate change adaptation in Portsmouth is not part of our climate emergency declaration (section 1.3), this strategy aims to have a longer-term outlook and ensure all climate change thinking is proactively embedded into PCC decision-making.

#### Mitigation

Reduce carbon emissions through:

- Ensuring we have committed and united net zero carbon leadership with a clear system of accountability.
- Engaging all PCC staff and councillors to ensure net zero carbon is aligned to all decision-making.
- Building a robust understanding of our emissions profile.
- Reduce emissions in all scopes to meet net zero carbon in 2030.
- Increase energy micro-generation within our estate.
- Seeking funding for carbon reduction activities from internal and external sources.
- Increase green infrastructure within our estate and marine/coastal land that we manage.
- Identifying training opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge within PCC and with councillors to match net zero carbon ambitions.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks, potential impacts and any opportunities to our operations.
- Build resilience in our operations and assets.
- Seeking funding for resilience-building activities from internal and external sources.
- Increase green infrastructure within our estate to reduce urban heating, risks of flooding, stabilise soils and benefit resilience of our biodiversity.
- Identifying training opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge within PCC to match climate resilience ambitions.

## 3.2 City-wide

### 3.2.1 Travel and transport

In line with its City Vision, Portsmouth wants greener and better-connected journeys, and active, healthy lives. Action is needed now to shape a future that accommodates changing travel patterns and the city's growth in a more sustainable way. Through the Portsmouth Transport Strategy<sup>12</sup> and Implementation Plan<sup>13</sup>, PCC is striving to create an environment that allows everyone to travel as sustainably as possible when making every-day journeys around Portsmouth.

The provision of a safe, convenient, and efficient transport network is key in helping to build vibrant local communities, enable regeneration and achieve an environmentally sustainable future. The Portsmouth Transport Strategy includes the vision that "by 2038, Portsmouth will have a people-centred, connected, travel network that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport to help deliver a safer, healthier and more prosperous city". There are four

strategic objectives within the strategy, three of which directly play a role in supporting greener and better-connected journeys, namely:

- Deliver cleaner air.
- Prioritise walking.
- Prioritise cycling.
- Transform public transport.

Travel and transport measures will be designed to support modal shifts to lower carbon transport options but also increase their affordability and help to improve air quality. As stated in our guiding principles (section 2), the approach needs to demonstrate fairness in addressing health inequalities relating to travel, since lower income households are often exposed to greater transport-related emissions.

#### Mitigation

Reduce carbon emissions through:

- Enabling walking and cycling (active transport) infrastructure.
- Enabling shared transport modes (eg car clubs, bike and scooter hire).
- Enabling affordable and well-connected public transport services within Portsmouth and to other areas.
- Promoting use of and enable more infrastructure for lower carbon fuel and energy sources (eg electric vehicle charge points).
- Promoting local production of materials and products to reduce transport distances.
- Working with our road contractors to support lower carbon construction and maintenance requirements.
- Working with businesses to create innovative transport solutions.
- Use of our regulatory and permitting powers, such as traffic and parking management, road design and planning.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks and any opportunities to improve our travel and transport activities and assets.
- Building resilience into assets, materials, and services.

<sup>12</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2021). Local Transport Plan 4 2021-2038. Available: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/74.633-Local-Transport-Plan-2021-Final-Accessible.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2021). Portsmouth Transport Implementation Plan 2022/23- 2024/25. Available: <https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/74.602-Local-Transport-Plan-4-Implementation-plan.pdf>

### 3.2.2 Homes, buildings and other infrastructure

In line with the City Vision, Portsmouth residents want good quality homes. Efforts to support the transition to a low carbon future and be “future-fit” for changing climates needs to be enhanced for both existing homes, buildings, and other infrastructure but also in new development projects. When we think about being “future-fit”, we need to consider the lifetime of that structure and how well suited it is for the future, both in terms of carbon

emissions and climate change. This means taking transformative actions to modify existing structures and thinking about how to create new ones.

The benefits of applying climate change thinking in this area are substantial, from reducing the use of higher carbon energy sources, reducing energy and fuel poverty, and improving indoor and outdoor air quality.

#### Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Promoting increased domestic and commercial energy efficiency and usage reduction.
- Promoting decarbonisation of our utility services.
- Promoting lower carbon fuel and onsite renewable energy sources.
- Enhanced PCC planning requirements for low carbon and carbon neutral development for new developments and existing build enhancements, that also support low carbon travel and transport.
- Promoting measures to reduce water usage and water waste.
- Promoting measures to increase re-use or recycling of building materials and reduce waste.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks and any opportunities to our homes, buildings, and infrastructure.
- Building resilience into our homes, buildings, and infrastructure.
- Enhanced planning requirements to demonstrate climate change resilience.
- Community resilience and planning.
- Improving the provision of advice to building users around heat waves and increasing temperatures.



### 3.2.3 Business and the green economy

In line with the City Vision, Portsmouth wants a thriving economy with clean growth and culture-led regeneration, supporting young people, learning and skills, recovery from the pandemic, and creating opportunities for employment.

#### Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Promoting increased commercial energy efficiency and usage reduction.
- Promoting lower carbon fuel and onsite renewable energy sources.
- Use of our regulatory and permitting powers to support local green growth.
- Promoting a more sustainable tourism industry.
- Identifying training requirements and opportunities to enhance skills, knowledge, and the local supply chain in our community to match net zero carbon ambitions.

In pursuing economic growth for the city, the council expects development proposals to incorporate "clean growth" principles to protect and enhance the natural environment and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks and any opportunities to our businesses and economy.
- Building resilience into our businesses and economy.
- Identifying training opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge in our community to match climate resilience ambitions.

### 3.2.4 Waste and consumption

In line with the City Vision, Portsmouth wants a green city with clean growth.

#### Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Promoting initiatives to reduce consumption of materials and products.
- Development of green infrastructure to provide a source of locally grown food.
- Promoting local production of materials and products to reduce transport distances.
- Promoting measures to increase re-use or recycling of materials and reduce waste.
- Supporting and enabling lower carbon waste management infrastructure.
- Use of our regulatory and permitting powers to support a more circular economy in Portsmouth.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks to our waste service industry and availability of quality and affordable products.
- Building resilience into our waste services and products.

### 3.2.5 Natural environment

In line with the City Vision, Portsmouth wants a green city. Green infrastructure is a network of natural assets which includes:

- Terrestrial green spaces such as parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, and private gardens.
- Other features such as street trees, hedgerows, green roofs, and walls.
- The carbon locked into freshwater, coastal and marine areas.

PCC has ambitious plans to increase the amount of greenery

in the city, including a commitment to double the number of trees over the next 25 years.

Natural environment measures will be designed dually to increase our natural sinks of carbon but also improve the quality and quantity of public spaces, natural spaces and assets, increase food security, and address the nature emergency<sup>14</sup> and Ocean Recovery Declaration<sup>15</sup>.

#### Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Promoting green infrastructure.
- An annual increase in tree canopy cover.
- Supporting and encouraging local food production.
- Use of our regulatory and permitting powers to protect, enhance, and increase green infrastructure.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

- Understanding the climate change risks to and opportunities in our natural environment.
- Promoting green infrastructure suitable for changing climates.
- Enhanced flood protection and water management.

<sup>14</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2022). Full Council Items, Tuesday 15th February 2022. Portsmouth City Council. Available: <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/eListDocuments.aspx?Cld=146&Mld=4634&Ver=4>

<sup>15</sup> Portsmouth City Council (2022). Agenda Item 16 (a) - Motion for the ocean and our coastal communities. Available: <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s38309/AI%2016a%20Motion%20for%20the%20ocean%20and%20our%20coastal%20communities%20Heaney-Smyth%20Amendment.pdf>

### 3.2.6 Engagement and partnerships

This Climate Change Strategy is to be delivered through the subsequent carbon action plans by PCC in partnership with the Climate Action Board. Engagement and support from residents, large employers and anchor institutions such as the University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth colleges, Ministry of Defence, the NHS, utility companies, as well as charities and community groups are critical to its successful development and implementation.

PCC will build upon our existing partnerships such as that through the Civic Partnership Agreement with the University of Portsmouth, the Large Estates Forum, and through the Partnership for South Hampshire.

#### Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Enhanced climate change communication to businesses, residents, and organisations in Portsmouth.
- Continued work with existing partners.
- Identifying partners to help deliver similar goals.
- Lobbying central government for enhanced powers and long-term sustainable funding.
- Lobbying central government to enhance their climate change ambitions.
- Providing support for businesses to access decarbonisation initiatives.
- Supporting partners to develop skills training with local providers.

#### Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

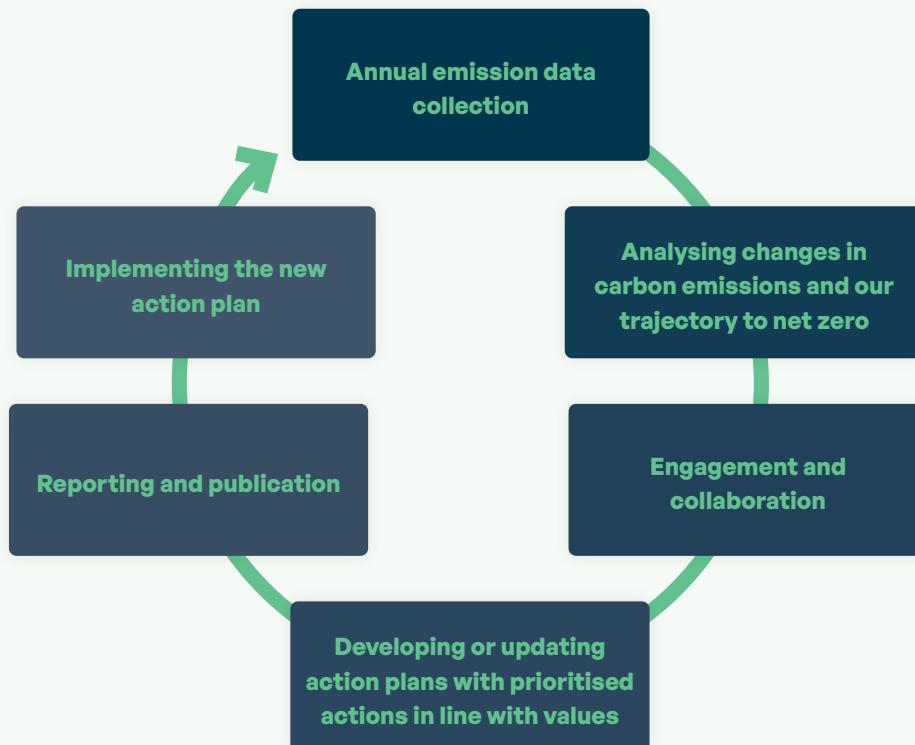
- Enhanced climate change communication to businesses, residents, and organisations in Portsmouth.
- Lobbying for enhanced powers and long-term sustainable funding.
- Identifying partners to help deliver similar goals.
- Providing support for businesses to access decarbonisation initiatives.
- Continued work with the Climate Action Board.
- Supporting partners to develop skills training with local providers.

# 4 Our Approach



## 4.1 Climate change mitigation

The overarching approach to carbon management will be cyclical, with continuous monitoring, reporting and engagement to adapt to Portsmouth's changing needs.



**Figure 5 Carbon management cycle**

### 4.1.1 Emission data collection

The approach to data collection will be to always use the best available data and current emission factors, following the standards of the GHG Protocol. Specific methodologies and data sources will be detailed within each carbon action plan. Where data is missing, estimates or proxies will be used to fill gaps with professional judgement and work will be undertaken towards gathering data in the next iteration. We will always be transparent about our methods and data limitations.

### 4.1.2 Data analysis

We will examine our data in a number of ways to understand what sectors, activities or buildings are "hot spots" for carbon emissions, the results of which will be used to guide engagement and develop carbon action plans (section 4.1.4).

### 4.1.3 Engagement and collaboration

Success will only be possible with engagement and collaboration. Understanding our emissions, opportunities, values, and limitations are the foundation for action. PCC recognises that it needs to play a leadership role, working within our community in the city. We will work with Portsmouth's Climate Action Board to help us influence the wider city. Engagement and collaboration will need to be adaptive and recognise that Portsmouth's groups and neighbourhoods have varying barriers, concerns, wants and needs. A carbon action register will be used as the basis to identify, evaluate, and provide accountability over opportunities raised during engagement.

#### 4.1.4 Action plans

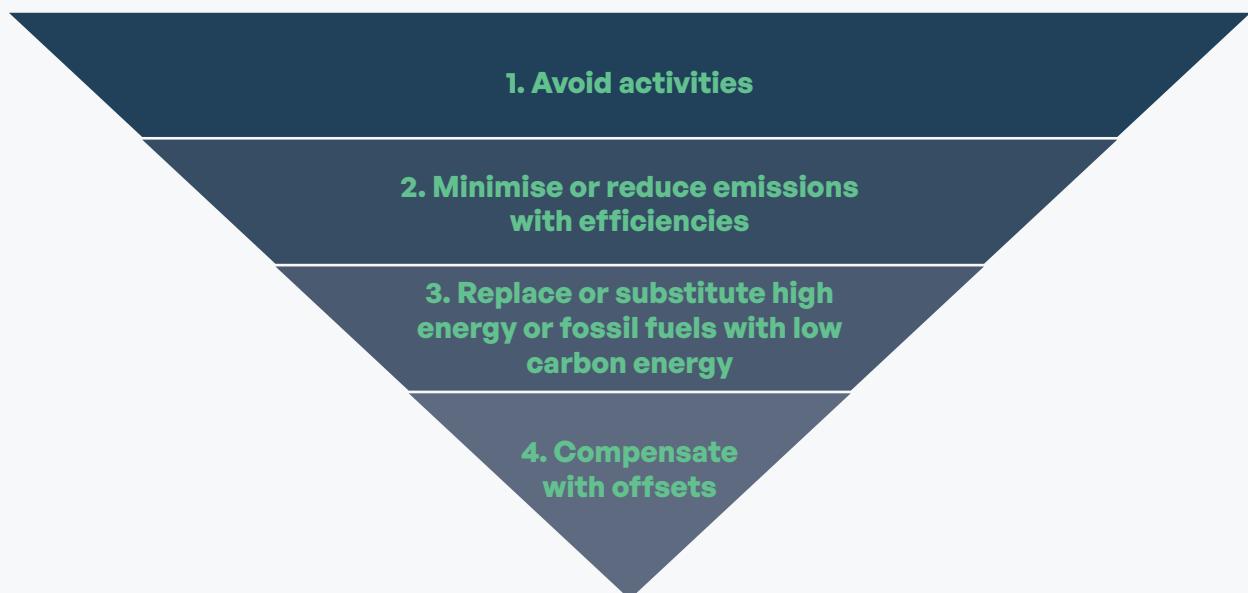
Action plans will be developed on the basis of current emissions and through engagement and collaboration within the council and in the community. Sectoral action plans may need to be developed to address complex areas. With limited resources, we will prioritise carbon mitigation actions and initiatives that will prioritise the greatest impacts, both climatically and with other socio-economic and environmental benefits that are important to our communities. Such benefits may include green job creation and transition to a greener economy, air quality, human health, fuel poverty and community engagement.

Carbon reduction actions will follow a hierarchy of preferences. Where possible, avoiding activities that produce emissions will be undertaken first and where these activities

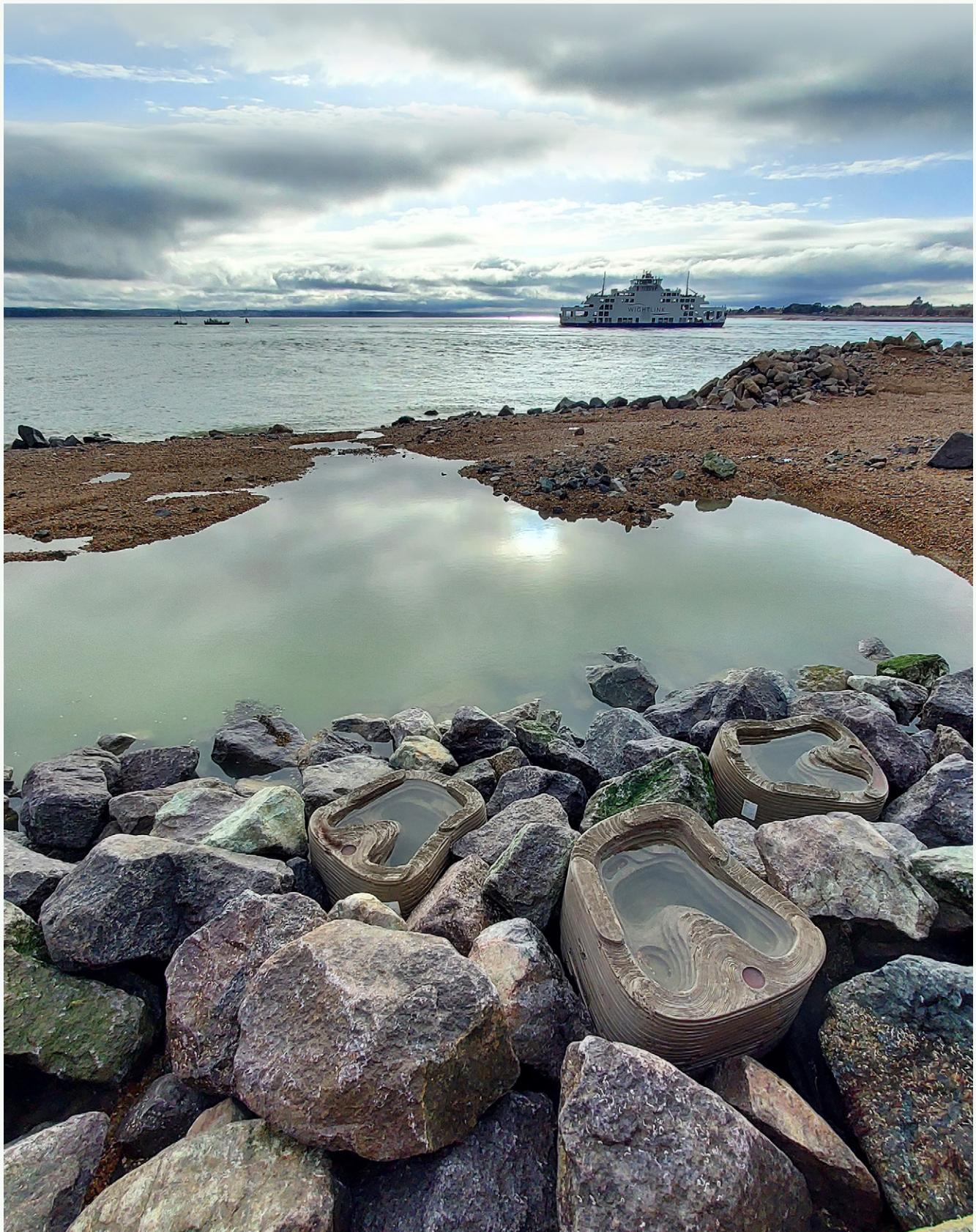
cannot be avoided, they will be reduced where possible and then replaced with lower carbon energy alternatives.

The carbon action plans will demonstrate in a transparent way all the costs and benefits of the actions proposed, how they will be monitored for success, and who is responsible for its implementation. We will also use the City Vision 2040 consultation to make sure these actions and initiatives are in line with our values.

By 2030, some residual emissions (which cannot be avoided, reduced, or replaced) may still occur. To reach net zero carbon, some compensation through offsetting or insetting may be required. This option is the least preferable and an offsetting strategy will be developed prior to implementation.



**Figure 6 Carbon mitigation hierarchy**



#### 4.1.5 Previous initiatives

Portsmouth City Council has already been actively undertaking initiatives that reduce carbon emissions associated with our activities and in our city.



##### COUNCIL

###### Decarbonisation of our travel and transport

- Own and lease 16 electric or hybrid vehicles (with nine more on order).
- Installation of seven electric vehicle (EV) charging points at our facilities.
- Provision of staff bicycles to travel to our other sites.
- Hydrogen gas harnessed from solar panels to power a Port work boat (Clean Maritime Demonstration).
- Installation of batteries to help charge the EV fleet.
- Cycle to Work scheme, travel and biking discounts, secure bike and shower facilities at the Civic Centre.

##### COUNCIL

###### Decarbonisation of our buildings and assets

- Improved insulation and windows.
- Building management systems and enhanced equipment controls.
- Solar power and solar battery storage systems.
- Replacement LED lighting in buildings, floodlights at Portsmouth International Port, and 15,000 streetlights.
- Existing heating systems replaced with more efficient ones.
- Installing motion sensors on lighting.
- Seawater flushing toilets, seawater heat transfer pumps and roof wind cowls for natural ventilation at the new Portsmouth International Port passenger terminal.

**COUNCIL****Decarbonisation through our decision-making**

The carbon impacts of decision-making are accounted for through:

- the application of capital funds.
- the integrated impact assessment processes.
- Major Project Board and gateway approvals.

**COUNCIL****Decarbonisation through greening our lands**

- Re-wilding projects at 17 sites.
- New wildflower meadows at 22 urban sites and seven along roads.
- Over 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower meadows and 34,000 new plants added to our social housing properties between 2019-2021.
- 788 new trees planted during 2020/2021.

**COUNCIL****Decarbonisation through engaging our staff and contractors**

- Providing accessible information on how we become a green council, including our sustainability principles, and how we can apply them in our roles.



## CITY

### Decarbonisation of our city's travel and transport

- As of March 2022, 191 out of 228 of our city's bus fleet have been converted to lower emission standards ('Euro VI').
- Delivered the VOI electric-scooter rental scheme.
- 36 electric vehicle charging points (On-Street Residential Chargepoint scheme).
- Cycling support ("Be Bright, Be Seen" campaign, guided rides, marked quieter cycle routes, on-street bike hangers).
- Pompey Monster Walk to School challenge.
- Working with the Joint Air Quality Unit, Department for Transport and Defra to deliver and administer the Clean Air Zone in the city.
- Electrification of vessel berths at Portsmouth International Port.



## CITY

### Decarbonisation of our city's buildings and infrastructure

- Retrofitting our social housing (Wilmcote House, 90% saving in annual heating costs).
- Free home energy advice (Local Energy Advice Partnership).
- Free loft and cavity wall insulation to 2,000 social housing properties.
- Free insulation to 70 private properties (ECO 3).
- Free insulation to community schools, community centres and commercial buildings.
- Free energy efficient measures (Warmer Homes, and the Emergency Boiler Replacement scheme).
- Installing LED lighting in our schools.





## CITY

### Decarbonisation through supporting our businesses and the green economy

- PCC is a signatory to the Civic Partnership Agreement, together with large employers in the city, committing to sustainability.
- PCC is in partnership with the European Regional Development Fund to deliver Low Carbon Across the South and East programme providing grant funding to decarbonise our businesses.
- Providing bid support to the City of Portsmouth college to gain funding to develop the NetZero Training Hub.

## CITY

### Decarbonisation through waste and consumption reduction

- Introduction of a city-wide food waste and used battery collection service.
- Food waste is recycled through anaerobic digestion.
- Diesel-powered waste collection fleet switched to HVO biofuel, reducing carbon emissions by 90%, harmful particulate matter by 85%, and nitrogen oxides by 30% (another harmful GHG).
- Introduced three carton recycling banks and 20 mixed plastics recycling banks.



## CITY

### Decarbonisation through greening our city

- Assisting with landscape design at Queen Alexandra Hospital, St. James' Hospital and eight local schools.
- Working with Wilder Portsmouth, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, and the Tree Council to provide technical assistance, bid support and community engagement.

## CITY

### Decarbonisation through engaging and partnering in our city

- Holding Portsmouth Climate Festival in 2021.
- Hosting 'Shining a Light on Social Value' in 2022.
- Climate action e-newsletter.
- Advice to the Climate Action Board.
- Strategic partnership with the University of Portsmouth 2021.
- Member of the Civic Partnership with the University of Portsmouth.
- Member of the Partnership for South Hampshire.

## 4.1.6 Other initiatives

We have also been working hard to strengthen our carbon reduction ambitions on an international scale and in 2022, PCC has joined several initiatives.

Through the Climate Disclosure Platform, we have joined a number of international campaigns that include:

**CDP Cities and CDP Matchmaker.** A platform for cities to disclose their environmental data, and showcase urban infrastructure projects to the green finance markets.

**Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.** This is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, bringing together over 11,000 cities and local governments. Portsmouth joins 61 other local authorities in the UK.

**ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.** A number of initiatives, including the Transformative Actions Program to help access climate finance and attract investment; Green Climate Cities offering individual guidance; EcoMobility Alliance to support sustainable mobility; and the carbonn Climate Registry.

**United Nations' Race to Zero.** This is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from sub-national entities to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Led by the UN High-Level Climate Champions, all members are committed to the same overarching goal: to accelerate the delivery of climate action in line with halving global emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.



The Climate Action Board partners have also supported community projects:

- Cargo bike hire scheme at Southsea Cycles.
- Wilder Eastney, an acre of community-led urban rewilding with fruit trees, raised beds, wildflowers, and relaxed mowing. Crowdfunding greening projects at Bramble Infant and Manor Infant schools.
- Development of a business carbon emissions toolkit.
- Supporting the creation of Christian Climate Action group, a non-denomination faith-based group.
- Awareness raising material for local climate change risks.
- Awareness raising material for the local carbon challenge within Portsmouth's newspaper, The News.

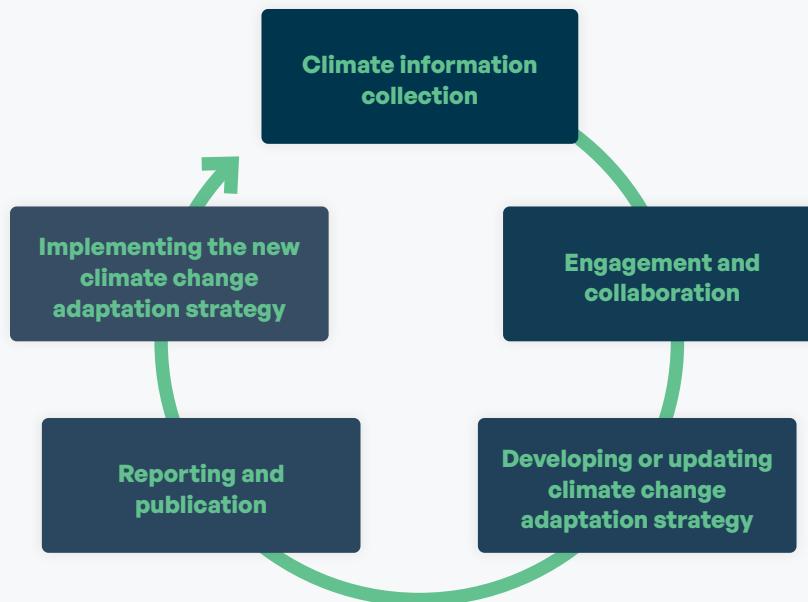
## 4.1.7 Reporting

This Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed annually, and any necessary updates made. The council and city-wide carbon action plans will be published annually and detail the results and revised action plans. Sectoral action plans will also be developed where necessary.

## 4.2 Climate change adaptation

Our overarching approach to climate change adaptation will also be cyclical, with continuous monitoring, reporting and engagement to adapt to Portsmouth's changing needs.

Outside of this cycle, we will also ensure climatic adaptation considerations are integrated into PCC policies and decision-making.



**Figure 7 Climate change adaptation cycle**

### 4.2.1 Climate information collection

Understanding climate change risks is built upon understanding our current climate and how that is projected to change, and then understanding how these risks could impact our city. We will always be transparent about our methods and data limitations.

### 4.2.2 Engagement and collaboration

Fully understanding and adapting to climate change risks cannot be successful if we do not engage and collaborate with our community. Understanding the risks, how they could impact our community and our values for the future are essential for climate change adaptation. We recognise that PCC needs to play a leadership role. We will work with Portsmouth Climate Action Board to help us influence the wider city.

### 4.2.3 Climate change adaptation strategy

The climate change adaptation strategy will be developed based on our knowledge and understanding of climate risks and how they could impact our city. With limited resources, we will focus on adaptation actions and initiatives that will prioritise addressing the greatest risks, capitalising on any opportunities or co-benefits.

#### 4.2.4 Previous initiatives

PCC has been actively undertaking initiatives that directly or indirectly increase our resilience to climate change risks to our organisation and our city.



##### COUNCIL

###### **Dynamic working**

- Where roles allow, PCC has supported its staff working outside the office with new systems and equipment.



##### CITY-WIDE

###### **Surface water management plan**

- Identification of the most at-risk areas for surface water flooding in Portsmouth.



##### CITY-WIDE

###### **North Portsea Island scheme**

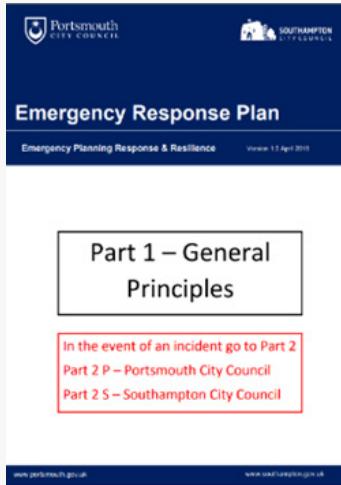
- 8.4 km of new flood defences, reducing the risk of flooding to over 4,000 homes and 500 businesses for the next century.



##### CITY-WIDE

###### **Southsea coastal scheme**

- 4.5 km of new flood defences, reducing the risk of flooding to over 8,000 homes and 700 businesses for the next century.



## CITY-WIDE

### Risk and preparedness plans

- Development of risk assessment and emergency preparedness plans, training, and exercising, by our Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response team together with partner response agencies from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, including:
  - Heatwave plan.
  - Water disruption plans.
  - Cold weather and snow plans.
  - Flood response and recovery plans.
  - Business continuity plan.
  - Rest centre plan for the city.



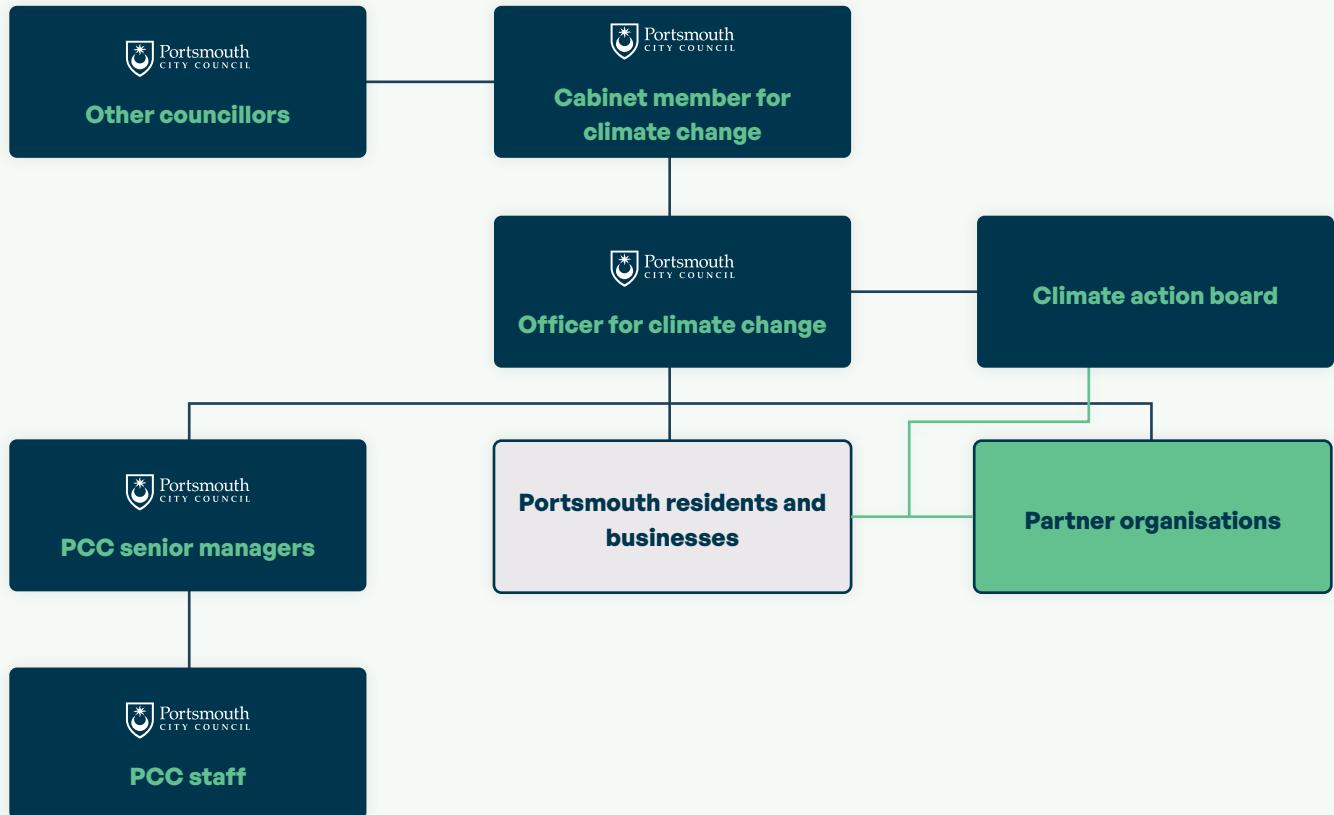
Through the Climate Disclosure Platform, we have joined: **United Nations' Race to Resilience**. This campaign aims to catalyse a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience, aiming to strengthen the resilience in vulnerable communities by 2030.

### 4.2.5 Reporting

The climate change adaptation strategy will be reviewed annually, and any necessary updates will be made. The climate change adaptation strategies will each be published biennially and detail the results of engagement and risk analyses.

## 4.3 Governance

The governance structure for the CCS is described and illustrated below. This reinforces the need to ensure accountability, publicly demonstrate the progress to our net zero carbon goals and emphasise the importance of all roles and stakeholders.



**Figure 8 Climate Change Strategy governance structure**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Role Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Portsmouth city councillors	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment	The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment has responsibility to provide strong leadership, direction within their portfolio and ensure a climate change lens is applied in cabinet decision-making.
	Other councillors	The council leader has responsibility to provide strong climate change leadership and direction. Other cabinet members have responsibility to apply a climate change lens within their portfolio.  The opposition councillors have responsibility to ensure the cabinet is accountable and assist meaningful, equitable and transformative climate change action in the city.
Portsmouth City Council staff	Lead officer for climate change	Responsibility for developing, implementing, and maintaining this CCS and carbon action plans. Responsible for working with PCC staff, external stakeholders and partners. Responsible for reviewing progress to targets.
	Senior managers at PCC	Senior managers have the responsibility to ensure climate change considerations are being incorporated into their area of work, and that their teams understand the challenge.
	All of PCC	It is the responsibility of all PCC staff to support our net zero carbon goals and enable through embedding climate change thinking into all decision-making.
Climate Action Board		To support the development and implementation of city action plans, through inspiration, engagement, and community support <sup>16</sup> .

**Figure 9 Climate Change Strategy governance structure: stakeholders, roles and responsibilities**

<sup>16</sup> Portsmouth Climate Action Board (2019). Appendix 3- Portsmouth Climate Action Board Terms of Reference. Available: [https://www.portsmouthclimateaction.org.uk/assets/documents/response-to-climate-emergency-strategy\\_appendix-3.pdf](https://www.portsmouthclimateaction.org.uk/assets/documents/response-to-climate-emergency-strategy_appendix-3.pdf)

# Contact us

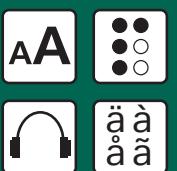
If you have any comments, feedback, suggestions, or questions on this Climate Change Strategy, please contact us on

**[climateaction@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:climateaction@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

# Climate Change Strategy



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL



You can get this information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 023 9284 1193