Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy Action Plan

Approved 2020

Environment

Biodiversity

Climate Change

Adaptation

Hertfordshire County Council
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sustainablehertfordshire

Hertfordshire

Purpose of the document

In response to our Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019, Hertfordshire County Council has developed a Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy that has set out our initial policies and strategies needed to embed sustainability across all council operations and services throughout the county.

This document outlines the actions we will take as an organisation to deliver the strategy, specifying what will need to be delivered by our directorates and services in order to meet our ambitious sustainability programme moving forward.

Our strategy has been developed upon the following three areas of influence in order to achieve our wider environmental aspirations:

Lead	Enable	Inspire
To be a leader in our operations including:	To enable a sustainable county with our programmes and policies. This includes: our programmes and policies. This includes:	To inspire businesses and residents to act and thrive. This includes: residents to act and thrive. This includes:
• How we manage our estate • How our staff travels • How we manage the land we own • How we manage our energy use in our buildings	• Effective, safe and low carbon transport networks • Our planning policies • How we dispose of the county's waste	• Helping residents lead more sustainable lives • Working with our partners to act together • To establish a culture of sustainability in Hertfordshire

To deliver the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy, we have committed to achieving the following ambitions:

1 To be **carbon neutral** in our own operations by 2030

2 Our operations and services are ready for **future climates**

3 **Improve nature** on our own land by 20% by 2030

4 Reduce what we **throw away** Send nothing to landfill by 2030

5 **Net zero greenhouse** county by 2050

6 Our communities are ready for **future climates**

7 **Improve wildlife** on our land and water by 20% by 2050

8 **Clean air** for all by 2030

9 Increase **resource efficiency** threefold in Hertfordshire by 2050

Action Plan: Definition of Terms and Table Key

This Action Plan has been developed to outline how the council plans to deliver on the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy ambitions. This document has a section for each of the nine ambitions outlined within the Strategy and lists the actions needed to meet that ambition. The document is presented in the following format:

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Service Area that has been identified to lead on the action	Services and Directorates that have been identified as key to supporting the Lead Service Area	Action to be delivered in order to achieve ambition	Confirmation if Evidence Gathering is required to deliver the action	Please see key below for more information	How long the implementation of the action is expected to take (See key for more information)

Key: Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions

For the ambitions 1. Carbon Neutral in our own operations by 2030, 2. All operations and services are ready for future climates and 4. Reduce what we throw away. Send nothing to landfill by 2030, column 5 of this action plan specifies what the potential impact on reducing carbon emissions will be against the following thresholds*:

- Low = It is estimated that implementing this action has the potential impact of reducing carbon emissions by less than 100,000 kg of CO_2

- Medium = It is estimated that implementing this action has the potential impact of reducing carbon emissions by less than 250,000 kg of CO_2

- High = It is estimated that implementing this action has the potential impact of reducing carbon emissions by more than 250,000 kg of CO_2

* Please note that the thresholds quoted are specifically in reference to delivering the ambition 1. Carbon Neutral in our own operations by 2030. As such, thresholds for future ambitions are likely to change upon conclusion of the councils evidence and data gathering exercise.

Please note ambitions 8: Clean air for all by 2030 and 9: increase resource efficiency threefold in Hertfordshire by 2050 require additional evidence gathering in order to accurately estimate their potential impact on air quality emissions and waste management respectfully.

Please note that this is a live document. Where "Evidence Gathering" is referenced next to an action, the potential impact and estimated timescale for that action has been left blank. Each action will be updated once sufficient evidence has been gathered to make an accurate assessment against the identified thresholds.

Key: Potential Positive Contribution to the Ambition

For the ambitions 3. Improve nature on our own land by 20% by 2030 and 7. Improve wildlife on our land and water by 20% by 2050, column 5 of this action plan specifies what the potential positive contribution this action will have in helping to deliver improved biodiversity in Hertfordshire. This is measured against the following thresholds:

- Low = Areas of green space that are either small, of high existing value or with significant site constraints to its enhancement*
- Medium = Areas of green space of lower value and some site constraints to its enhancement
- High = Large area of green space of predominantly low value with no constraints* to its enhancement

* Potential constraints include the existing habitats already being of high value for biodiversity and / or restrictions as to how the land can be managed due to its current layout or uses.

Key: Timescales

Column 6 of this action plan specifies the expected timeframe for the delivery of each action, measured against the following threshold:

- Short = The implementation of this project is expected to take place by the end of 2022.
- Medium = The implementation of this project is expected to take place post 2025.
- Long = The implementation of this project is expected to take place post 2030.

Ambition 1: Carbon neutral in our own operations by 2030

Hertfordshire County Council as an organisation is committed to be a leader and a role model in its fight to tackle the climate crisis and embed sustainable, green infrastructure across the County.

Paramount to achieving our ambitions outlined in our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy will be delivering a carbon neutral organisation by the year 2030. We will be carbon neutral in our buildings and schools, our public realm and in our staff business travel across the County and be more efficient with the energy we use.

Our actions include:

Reviewing our office and property portfolio baseline:

To identify and deliver on opportunities to **modernise our sites and energy efficiency** opportunities

Delivering green energy in our operations:

We will **procure renewable energy** from sustainable sources for all of our sites by 2022

To encourage sustainable travel in our business operations:

We will review our business travel policy, encouraging and incentivising staff to utilise **active travel and carbon reduction practices** when travelling for business
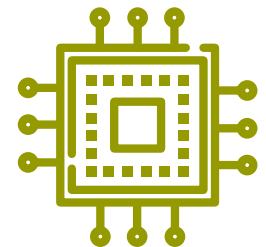
Decarbonisation of our fleet:

We our committed to delivering the **decarbonisation of our operational fleet,** identifying more sustainable options for our services, including Fire & Rescue

Maximise modern technology:

To **utilise modern technology,** improved organisational infrastructure and our future workforce strategy to support **staff to work remotely** and in a more efficient manner

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Resource and Performance	ACS	Gather energy data to provide a baseline for all HCC owned and leased property	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	ACS	Develop an approach for effective delivery of heating electrification projects across all HCC owned and leased property	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	ACS, CS, E&I WMU, E&I Highways, RES	Optimise the purchasing of energy from renewable sources	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	ACS	Develop asset management plans across all directorates to better understand the carbon impact (including energy usage) of services used by Hertfordshire residents		Medium	Medium
Resources and Performance	ACS	Offer incentives for council employees who run electric or low-carbon vehicles.	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	ACS, E&I CRoW, SH	Identify opportunities for rationalised larger estate to host solar panels or other energy generating equipment		Low	Medium
Resources and Performance	CS	Deliver a pilot scheme which identifies 100 council-maintained schools where carbon performance could be improved through efficiency measures to lighting and heating systems.		High	Long

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Property	CS, RES	Utilise energy performance and other data to assess the existing school estate and inform a further investment strategy		High	Long
Resources and Performance	E&I WMU, RES, LH	Implementation of the HCC Energy Strategy including demand reduction, renewable energy procurement, energy generation, community and infrastructure development		Medium	Long
Resources and Performance	ACS, CS, RES	Develop and implement HCC commuter travel plans for HCC main sites	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH	Undertake baseline assessment with consistent methodology for carbon footprint for all Service Areas	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH	Measure the amount of carbon in the products and services that we buy and develop a strategy to reduce these wider emissions	Evidence gathering		
Education, Libraries & Localism	CS	Include sustainability criteria in new school sponsorship competitions	Evidence gathering		

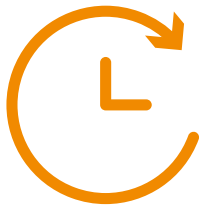| Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Community Safety & Waste	E&I Comm, E&I Highways	Develop an Equipment plan which identifies more sustainable options for operational equipment (including battery operated equipment and replacement of diesel operated equipment	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW, E&I Spatial Planning, E&IST, RES	Review and develop a business travel policy. Including introducing a travel hierarchy scheme for staff business travel, promoting meetings via video conferencing or teleconferencing, or travelling by walking, cycling and public transport wherever possible	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW	Improve networking between volunteers and promote car sharing and take-up of active travel options for volunteering activities	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW	Encourage active travel by establishing a HCC presence on fitness apps, inspiring participants and enable monitoring of their individual progress		Low	
Highways and Environment	E&I Highways	Explore opportunities to further develop / improve the Street Lighting service		Medium	Medium

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways and Environment	E&I Highways	Implement methods to optimise works scheduling on a route-based option to improve efficiency and reduce wasted journeys		Low	Medium
Highways and Environment	ACS, CS, E&I Comm, E&IWMU, E&I CRoW, E&I Highways, E&IITU, RES	Undertake a feasibility review through the vehicle replacement programme for replacement of all HCC fleet with low carbon (including electric, hybrid and hydrogen) vehicles going forward		High	Long
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Investigate a common purchasing framework with neighbouring local authorities to service through consolidation centres	Evidence gathering		

Ambition 2: All operations and services are ready for future climates

The effects of extreme weather are already something that is familiar to Hertfordshire's communities. Whether it is the impact caused by hotter, drier summers or by increased flooding due to heavier downpours, more extreme weather conditions are happening now and are likely to become more common in the future.

We recognise that these future circumstances will change the way we operate and the service we offer, meeting the demands of our future service users, in a manner that is both sustainable and able to respond to Hertfordshire's future climate.

Our Actions Include:

Preparing our operations and services for the future:

Conducting risk assessments and workshops to test and **prepare the resilience of our organisation's services** and **infrastructure**

Preparing our investments:

Specifying that all **new investments** to be ready, or easily adaptable to future climates

Strategy Development

To develop far reaching strategies that will **increase the resilience of our future services,** in the face of changing climates

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways and Environment	ACS, E&I CRoW	Undertake a Climate Change risk assessment and workshop to review HCC assets and operations and implement climate resilient actions	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I GIU	Develop the emerging Guide for Developer Contributions to ensure that costs for each service are up to date and reflect the ambitions in the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy	Evidence Gathering		
Highways and Environment	E&I Highways	Develop and implement the Future Depot Strategy	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH	Specify all new investments to be ready, or easily adaptable for future climates	Evidence Gathering		

Ambition 3: Improve nature on our own land by 20% by 2030

As a large landowner, we recognise the importance of plant and animal wildlife within our County, establishing an ecosystem that enables all life to flourish. We want to protect Hertfordshire's natural beauty by starting with our own actions as a Council.

Our actions will include embedding national green infrastructure standards across Hertfordshire, exploring opportunities for the development of agri-environmental schemes and identifying areas for developing habitat banks to provide compensation for current and future growth projects across the county.
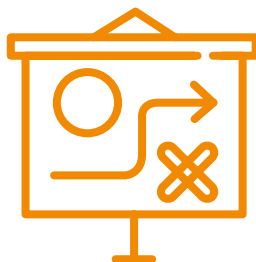
Our Actions Include:

Establish a biodiversity baseline

Utilising the assessment criteria set out by Natural England, we will **establish a baseline for biodiversity across the county**

Embedding biodiversity standards

Adopting and embedding the national **Green Infrastructure standards**

Developing a biodiversity strategy

Developing a Council **biodiversity strategy**

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
All	RES, SH	Develop a consistent baseline for biodiversity using the assessment method set out by Natural England (Biodiversity Metric 2.0) for the Council land and the county as a whole		High	Medium
All	ACS, CS, E&I Comm, E&I WMU, E&I CRoW, E&I ERP, E&I GIU, E&I Highways, E&I ITU, E&I Spatial Planning, E&I ST, PH, RES, SH, HR, LH	Develop an overarching biodiversity strategy. This would set overarching objectives/targets and allow all departments to understand how they can contribute to this overarching strategy		High	Long
All	E&I CRoW, RES, SH	Identification and set up of habitat banks to enable development and deliver biodiversity net gain		Medium	Medium
All	E&I CRoW, RES, SH	To review the development of a Natural Capital investment Plan, unlocking investment in natural capital assets to support continued economic and social success		High	Long

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
All	SH	To incorporate biodiversity net gain into county and district plans and policies in a coordinated way		High	Short
Property	RES, SH	To change existing maintenance or contacting tenants to explore whether they would be able to change their management practices to enhance biodiversity		High	Long
Highways and Environment	E&I Highways, SH	To change the way highways estates are managed to reflect a more focused approach for delivering biodiversity		High	Medium
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I (ST), SH	To explore opportunities to create greener towns and enhancing opportunities for active travel		High	Long

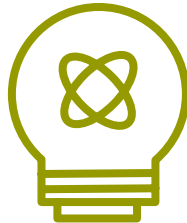# Ambition 4: Reduce what we throw away. Send nothing to landfill by 2030

As an organisation, we want to continue our good work in avoiding and reducing waste we generate and then send to landfill.

To achieve our ambition of sending nothing to landfill by 2030, we will review what we buy as an organisation, incorporating sustainability criteria into our buying decisions, cutting down the waste we generate as an organisation and support reuse and recycling initiatives across the county.

Our actions include:

To understand our needs for the future

Researching and embedding new technologies across our organisation to **maximise waste recovery** and reuse across our sites

Drive towards paperless offices

To maintain our work in delivering a **paperless office,** reducing printed publications and encouraging **virtual meetings** across all HCC sites

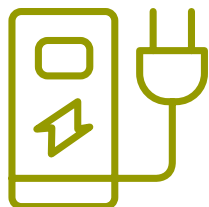| Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Property	E&I WMU, RES, SH	Identify and understand what we buy and our waste streams with a view to develop an action plan to avoid and reduce material use and waste generated at HCC properties, based on our spend and our waste audit	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW	Establish material and specification options which will help to minimise our environmental impact	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Review District and Borough Planning applications to encourage reuse and recycling of materials on site	Evidence Gathering		
Property	E&I WMU, RES, SH	Develop an action plan to reduce material use and waste generated at HCC properties, based on our spend and our waste audit	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Support new technologies for waste recovery and reuse in order to avoid disposal to landfill and limit residual waste	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Produce a sustainable design guide to provide a framework for sustainable construction of waste management operations	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Ensuring that HCC continues to have an active role in ensuring sustainable design and construction of HS2	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I	Ensure all service waste disposal follows the reduce, reuse, recycle principles	Evidence Gathering		
Property	E&I WMU	Continue to play an effective role in the Leading by Example campaign to encourage sustainable waste behaviours among employees	Evidence Gathering		
HR	RES, SH, HR	Reduce the purchase/issue of non-recyclable promotional items and helium balloons at HCC events	Evidence Gathering		
IT	ACS, CS, E&I Comm, E&I WMU, E&I CRoW, E&I ERP, E&I GIU, E&I Highways, E&I ITU, E&I Spatial Planning, E&IST, PH, RES, SH, HR, LH	Drive towards paperless offices, reduction of printed publications and virtual meetings aligned to our Future Workplaces strategy and our Smart Working practises	Evidence Gathering		

Ambition 5: Net zero greenhouse County before 2050

The Sustainable Hertfordshire strategy outlines our commitment as an organisation to enable and inspire our partners and residents to help encourage a collaborative approach to tackling climate change and, deliver sustainable development across Hertfordshire.

Essential to this work will be Hertfordshire's role in becoming a net zero greenhouse gas county by 2050. In keeping with national government legislation, we are ready to play our part to deliver on this objective, utilising our role as a strategic planning authority and community leader to create a platform for our partners to build on and inspire our local communities to work with us, in order to imbed a culture of sustainability in Hertfordshire.

Our Actions Include:

Develop an electric vehicle charging network in Hertfordshire
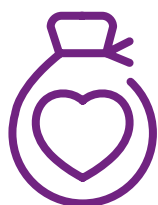
To work with our partners to ensure a **comprehensive EV charging network** is in place in Hertfordshire, meeting the needs of our various communities across the county

Preparing our towns for the future

In line with our **Local Transport Plan (LTP4) strategy,** HCC will be working with our partners to prepare our towns and villages to meet future transport demands, through the delivery of **sustainable transport**

To support sustainable growth through our planning policies

To work with our local authority partners to ensure future local plans deliver on the **twin objectives of sustainable development** and good growth

To develop a Hertfordshire wide energy strategy

Work with our partners to develop and implement a **County net zero energy strategy**

Create an active travel network

To deliver a culture of **sustainable transport usage in Hertfordshire,** establishing active travel networks, increased usage of public transport and widespread behavioural change

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Work with the district and borough Councils, largest energy users and energy companies to develop and implement a regional net zero energy strategy		High	Medium
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I ST	Work with District and Borough Councils to develop a County wide Electric Vehicle charging strategy and network	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	E&I GIU, E&I Spatial Planning, SH	Deliver a County wide behaviour change and mobility management programme to promote home working, sustainable travel, electric vehicles and car sharing around - seek to lock in some of the positive behaviour changes brought about by COVID-19 lockdown measures	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	ACS, E&I ITU	Facilitate electric vehicles (or low carbon options) for all our care workers through access to corporate schemes	Evidence gathering		
Children Services	CS, E&I ITU	Review arrangements for transporting children to school to identify opportunities to make the service more sustainable	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	CS, RES	Develop new school designs in line with Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and the Sustainable modes of travel to school strategy	Evidence gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU, E&I ITU	Review and assess options to decarbonise contracted fleet and equipment	Evidence gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I WMU, E&I CRoW, E&I Highways, E&I ST	Continue to engage residents in opportunities for walking in Hertfordshire (Hertfordshire Health Walks) and promote benefits of active travel	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Highways	Establish and implement a suitable scheme carbon calculator tool for highways projects	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Highways, RES	Continue to develop a Future Mobility Strategy and to look ahead and determine future travel trends and ways to encourage smart and sustainable transport across the County	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I CRoW, E&I ST	Implement initiatives to support delivery of sustainable transport programme to support residents and businesses	Evidence gathering		
Resources and Performance	RES	Further explore the feasibility for a 22MW solar farm in Hertfordshire	Evidence gathering		
Sustainability	SH	Track County wide greenhouse gas emissions and report progress on a regular basis through Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership	Evidence gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	RES, SH	Investigate and develop a business plan for a County green bank to mobilise private investment to deliver the private and public finance	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I GIU, E&I ITU	Investigate/trial the provision of Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) to replace rural services were demand is low/sporadic	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I ITU, E&I ST	Investigate the potential of adapting existing services or introducing Park + Ride sites to cater for incoming demand to discourage car travel	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I ERP, E&I ST	Investigate via HCCSP the opportunity for all new taxis and private hire vehicles to be zero emission capable	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Ensure planning policy in the new Local Plan demands best practice in sustainable transport accessibility with high quality walking, cycling and public transport links	Evidence gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment		To review third party bus and coach transport services to ensure the inclusion of low carbon vehicles such as Electric Vehicles and / or Euro 6 standard vehicles during the tender process	Evidence gathering		
Community Safety and Waste		Investigate the use of local landfill gas electricity supply for the Ware supersite and the proposed Eastern Transfer Station		Low	TBC
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy & Highways and Environment		Ensure school and Reg 3 applications are supported by sustainable transport networks, have secure cycle and scooter storage facilities, with shower facilities for users	Evidence gathering		
Highways & Environment		To monitor and investigate the potential to enable carbon capture technologies to take place at the point of production for all of Highway's main materials as the market develops	Evidence gathering		

Ambition 6: Our communities are ready for future climates

The impacts of climate change have already begun to affect our local communities in Hertfordshire, with extreme weather events putting pressure on our residents and businesses.

It is essential, therefore, that we work together to prepare our local communities for the expected future climates, whilst also continuing to look for opportunities to prevent future irreversible change to our climate. HCC aims to offer support to our local partners, developing policies and strategies to enable preparations around flood defences, water management and sustainable planning. Equally, we will engage with our local communities, helping residents better understand the risks they face and steps they can take to prevent against these risks.

Our Actions Include:

Focused communications campaigns

To stay **connected with all our local communities,** businesses and partners; providing information around **sustainable planning,** future actions and engagement activities

To embed climate change policy in strategy development

To work with all Hertfordshire Local Authorities to ensure that climate change and sustainability policies are embedded in strategy documents, both **protecting and preparing local communities** for future pressures

Embedding sustainability in local plans

We will be working with our fellow local authorities to ensure all local plans are in keeping with the **Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy**

To develop a Countywide Risk assessment and adaptation plan

We are committed to utilising our expertise in **preventative and resilience management** to work with the wider County to identify and respond to risks and opportunities from our **future climate**

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, SH	Develop a comprehensive communications strategy to engage all stakeholders (including households) with key sustainability initiatives, including water and energy efficiency	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Work with Countywide stakeholders (e.g. District and Borough Councils, water companies, and public authorities) to update the climate risk assessment and adaptation plan	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy		Ensure planning applications incorporate flood risk assessments and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in order to ensure new developments address future climate scenarios	Evidence gathering		
Community Safety	E&I Comm, RES, SH	Implement sustainability advice in all that we do in future for example advice to the public, partners and businesses through Trading Standards	Evidence gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW, RES	Engage directly with HCC farm tenants to provide advice on environmental land management opportunities in support of the climate adaptation plan, and work to develop scheme applications	Evidence gathering		
Highways and Environment	E&I ERP	Continue to actively work with the EA, other organisations and communities to implement the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and review emergency flood procedures	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I ERP	Continue to actively engage with District/Borough Councils and developers regarding Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes via Local Plan and Planning Application consultations	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I GIU, E&I Spatial Planning	Influence local planning authorities to develop policies relating to sustainable infrastructure delivery	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I GIU	Develop a county infrastructure pipeline project outlining the variety of different infrastructure projects required to mitigate the impact of good growth	Evidence gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Implement planning policies to ensure consideration of climate resilience strategies for new developments	Evidence gathering		
Highways & Environment	RES	Hold Climate Resilience discussions with District and Borough Councils and neighbouring authorities to identify ways to share best practice, networking and joint initiatives through Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership	Evidence gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Revisit the Local Engagement Document with all District and Borough Councils to ensure Local Plans are aligned to the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and incorporate a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Evidence gathering		
Highways & Environment		Ensure sustainability is embedded into the Road in Hertfordshire Design Guide to improve design and build schemes on our network	Evidence gathering		

Ambition 7: Improve wildlife on our land and water by 20% by 2050

It is essential that Hertfordshire maintains its diverse wildlife as we move towards the second half of the next century. The positive steps that we take now will be vital in ensuring that wildlife in this county is not only protected, but also flourishes in the future.

Through working with our key partners, including the Local Nature Partnership, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and our District & Borough partners, we aim to deliver a refreshed biodiversity strategy which will deliver a 20% increase based on Defra's biodiversity metric. This policy will also include the protection of woodland and our plant based eco system in Hertfordshire.

Our Actions Include:

Establishing a biodiversity strategy for Hertfordshire

We plan to work with our partners across Hertfordshire to establish a **Countywide biodiversity baseline** and accompanying strategy to deliver on **wildlife and biodiversity** net gain

Explore opportunities for land recovery

To explore the opportunity for land recovery in Hertfordshire, collaborating with our partners to establish **nature recovery networks,** habitat banks and green space action plans across the county.

Establish a habitat bank

Establish a network of **habitat banks** on our land to provide **biodiversity compensation** alongside other ecosystem services and potential carbon capture schemes in support of the **county's growth aspirations**

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, RES, SH	Work with partners across the County to establish a County wide Biodiversity baseline in order to measure improvements in wildlife and biodiversity net gain. Defining a clear approach for measuring this across the County	Evidence gathering		
Highways and Environment & Resources and Performance	SH	Work collaboratively with our district and borough councils, major landowners, water companies, Natural England, the Environment Agency to develop a refreshed biodiversity strategy which will deliver 20% increase based upon DEFRA's biodiversity metric	Evidence gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW	Extend comprehensive green space opportunity "wilding" audit to all District and Borough Council partners' greenspace portfolios and establish part of a Nature Recovery Network		High	Short
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW	Continue provision of free land management advisory service to promote positive land management for biodiversity, access and community engagement to landowners across the county, including advice on tree health and invasive species		High	Short

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, SH	Work with other regulatory bodies and water companies to achieve Water Framework Directive 'good' condition by 2030 for Hertfordshire chalk rivers and streams		High	Short
Highways & Environment/ Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW	Ensure programmes of work increase tree and woodland resilience, improve habitats and maximise delivery of associated public goods		High	Short
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, Res	Establish a network of habitat banks on our land to provide biodiversity compensation alongside other ecosystem services and potential carbon capture schemes in support of the county's growth aspirations. Integrate this facility with a collaborative planning approach to Biodiversity Net Gain policy delivery through development, evaluation and financial and monitoring systems		High	

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	E&I, CS, CRoW	Improve knowledge and awareness of the sustainability and biodiversity agenda among school children		Low	Short
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, E&I ERP	Develop a Natural Capital Investment Strategy for Hertfordshire via the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, including the Local Enterprise Partnership, creating a link between Hertfordshire's environment and its economic and social prosperity		High	Short
Highways & Environment	E&I ERP	Explore opportunities for biodiversity net gain, biodiversity offsets, and potential carbon capture schemes through collaboration Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership and other organisations		High	
Highways & Environment	E&I ERP, E&I Spatial Planning	Promote the importance of historical and archaeological assets and their contribution to biodiversity in local plans and planning applications		Low	Short

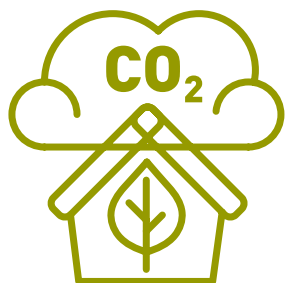| Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	E&I Spatial Planning	Ensure opportunities to implement the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy are incorporated through emerging local plans. Including through adoption of the National Green Infrastructure Standards, biodiversity net gain targets and to conserve and enhance biodiversity and the quality of the natural environment, and potential carbon capture schemes		High	Medium
Resources and Performance	E&I CRoW	Ensure continued implementation of the County-wide Pollinator Strategy		Medium	Short
Highways & Environment	SH	Work with Public Health to carry out a "Natural Health Strategy" review– identifying and recommending how access to nature and open spaces can play a key role in county health and in delivering HCC's services		Medium	Short
Highways & Environment	SH	Work with Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership to create 'green high-streets' to maximise biodiversity opportunities and encourage active travel		Medium	

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Contribution to Biodiversity Ambition (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	SH, CRoW	Consider a Hertfordshire information and advice scheme to work with key partners to facilitate/incentivise positive environmental land management at a local scale (e.g. SME's)		High	
Highways & Environment	SH	Incorporate biodiversity net gain into County and district plans and policies in a coordinated way. This could take the form of a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) shared across each district		High	
Highways & Environment	SH, CS	Work in partnership with institutions, schools, businesses and community groups, to raise awareness and encourage wider biodiversity action across the County		High	
Highways and Environment & Resources and Performance	SH	Develop an overarching tree strategy for the whole of Hertfordshire, addressing both planting of new and management of existing woodland and trees		Medium	Short

Ambition 8: Clean Air for all by 2030

We are committed to improving air quality standards across Hertfordshire, recognising the positive impact clean air has not only on our environment but also on the physical health of our local communities.

We recognise that we must work closely with our public sector partners to reduce pollution hotspots and exposure in our local communities, developing a countywide air quality strategy in order to bring about significant improvements in air quality across the county. We plan to actively communicate with our residents, making them engaged with air quality issues in their communities and informing them on mitigating actions, they themselves will be able to deliver.
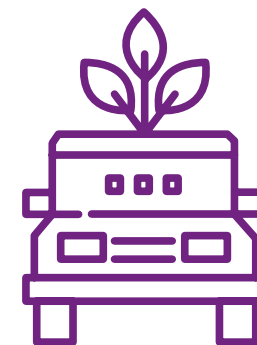
Our Actions Include:

Continuation of the Air Quality Strategy

To continue our work in delivering our **air quality strategy,** working with our partners to collect baseline data to map air quality performance across the county and identify work programmes to **improve air quality standards**

To promote sustainable travel in Hertfordshire

We aim to **reduce air pollution in Hertfordshire** by improving sustainable travel in Hertfordshire. We will encourage our local communities to adopt alternative, sustainable forms of travel to **reduce carbon emissions**

To deliver behavioural change campaigns

To use targeted behavioural change campaigns to **improve air quality standards.** This includes Anti-idling campaigns, education platforms and promotion of public transport providers

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Air Quality Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	PH	Work together with Districts and Borough Councils to develop a County wide air quality strategy to reduce pollution hotspots, exposure and deliver Air Quality action plans to ensure improved local and regional air quality	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I Highways, PH, SH	Continue the implementation of Hertfordshire County Council's Air Quality Strategy with a focus on behavioural change, education and use of data	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Incorporate the use of webcams, live capacity information and anti-idling at Recycling Centres so people can assess how busy they are in order to reduce queuing and vehicle emissions	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I Highways, PH, SH	Undertake a series of air quality audits to identify priorities for action near schools, in partnership with Hertfordshire's Local Authorities	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I Spatial Planning, E&I Highways, SH	Promote the use of alternative, sustainable forms of travel, promote use of public transport, cycling and hybrid/electric vehicles both within and the wider County	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Air Quality Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning, PH	Include a policy within emerging Local Plans to ensure protection of health and wellbeing which requires proposals to demonstrate how potential health impacts have been addressed	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	CS, CS, E&I WMU, E&I Highways, E&I ST, PH	Implement targeted Anti-idling campaigns (including around schools and Recycling Centres)	Evidence Gathering		
Public Health & Prevention	SH	Develop a spatial planning informative note for new developments which covers air quality	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	ACS, SH	Provide input into Adult Care Services Health and Wellbeing Strategy to ensure alignment with the Air Quality strategy and wider Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	ACS, SH	Review the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to reflect the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy with Public Health		Medium	TBC
Highways & Environment	ACS, PH, SH	Work with Adult Care Services and Public Health to explore the opportunities and lessons learnt from the COVID pandemic, particularly around behaviours that have emerged and a reduction in Air Quality	Evidence Gathering		

Ambition 9: Increase resource efficiency threefold in the County by 2050

We recognise the need to improve our resource efficiency as a County, minimising the use of 'single-use' items as to avoid the materials used and the money spent in their creation.

In keeping with the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and its emerging resources and waste strategy, HCC will work with our partners and local communities to improve the efficiency of materials used within the County. As outlined in our strategy, examples include eliminating avoidable waste by 2050, continuing to provide high quality recycling centres and exploring more sustainable options for dealing with the County's waste.
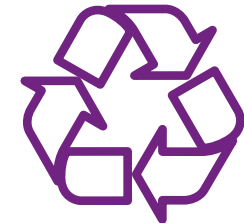
Our Actions Include:

Waste management prevention

To continue the council's good work in implementing its waste **management prevention agenda** and related projects

Increase research in recycling waste

Work with our partners to develop a plan detailing how we will get improve our resource efficiency threefold in the wider County and promote **greater resource efficiency**

Improve waste management transportation

We will work to ensure that waste management facilities are developed close to the origin of waste in order to **reduce the amount of transportation** involved in the process

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Waste Management (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Working with key stakeholders, such as Herts Waste Partnership and Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, to promote greater resource efficiency and develop a 'route map' outlining how Hertfordshire's resource efficiency target will be met. Set performance measures to benchmark success	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Increase segregation and recycling of bulky waste	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU, SH	Promote the implementation of the waste hierarchy within County and District/ Borough local plans and via consultation on planning applications	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Continue to work with the Waste Aware campaign to engage with and to discourage waste generation among residents and continue to assist schools to manage their waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Implement initiatives to increase reuse at high quality recycling centres including establishing 'repair cafes' and 'upcycling workshops' at certain Household Waste Recycling Centres to increase reuse of items and resource efficiency	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Waste Management (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Investigate new materials for recycling such as carpets and mattresses	Evidence Gathering		
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU	Research potential 'scrap stores' for schools and community groups in order to reuse local business waste	Evidence Gathering		
Resources & Performance	E&I WMU	Establish 'bulk purchasing' waste recycling options for Children Services (including schools) and Adult Care Services properties including care homes to improve waste management and increase resource efficiency	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	E&I CRoW, SH	Continue to secure external funding and support wider district and borough councils and private landowners, to maximise delivery of positive outcomes for access, land management and community engagement	Evidence Gathering		
Highways and Environment	E&I RES	Enhance our food security by making land available for community / social enterprise food-growing and small holding initiatives	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	In line with the emerging Waste Local Plan, ensure waste management facilities are developed close to origins of waste in order to reduce transport movements of waste	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Waste Management (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning, SH	Produce a Circular Economy Framework (to sit on the HCC webpages) to guide planning applications in driving waste to follow the waste hierarchy, reducing waste generation and increasing reuse.	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning, SH	Push Circular Economy concepts and Circular Economy statements as key considerations in the planning process	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I Spatial Planning	Include a policy within the emerging Minerals Local Plan which supports the use of secondary and recycled materials to contribute to improved resource efficiency	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Provide training and guidance to District and Borough officers as well as developers on the principles and best practices of a Circular Economy. This will outline clearly what is required of applicants when preparing a Circular Economy Statement	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Work with Local Enterprise Partnership to use the circular economy as a business growth opportunity for business	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Waste Management (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Community Safety & Waste	E&I WMU, SH	Implement the Waste Management Prevention agenda and related projects	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	E&I WMU, SH	Ensuring that HCC continues to have an active role in ensuring sustainable design and construction of HS2, including waste management	Evidence Gathering		

Ambition 10: Supporting the delivery of all ambitions

We recognise that there are work programmes that we can deliver as an organisation that will help us to meet all the ambitions we have outlined as part of our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy.

This includes embedding a culture of sustainability throughout the services that we deliver, sustainable procurement, identifying opportunities to encourage greater involvement across the public and private sector with sustainable initiatives, establishing a culture of engagement and challenge around issues of sustainability within our local communities and, exploring opportunities to imbed better sustainable practices across the county.

Sustainability Actions that fall under ALL LEAD ambitions

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Resources and Performance	ACS, CS, E&I Comm, E&IWMU, E&ICRoW, E&Ihighways, SH, RES	Introduce and implement a council-wide Sustainable Procurement Strategy to ensure purchasing and procurement processes consider the amount of carbon in key products and services that we buy. Set standards which align with the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and incorporate sustainability requirements in contracts (for example; local/sustainable sources and material specifications)	Evidence Gathering		TBC

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Resources and Performance	SH, RES, E&I GIU, CS	Implement the Shaping our Future vision (including a review of COVID changes to working operations and behavioural change to support strategy ambitions i.e. potential changes to working operations / working from home)	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	SH, CS	Establish a working group to lead ideas on behaviour change, campaigns and incentives	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	SH, RES, CS	Review existing data and where required undertake a detailed baseline study to assess current environmental impacts and to help identify areas for improvement to achieve wider council objectives	Evidence Gathering		
All	SH, RES, HR, E&I Highways, E&I Comm, CS	Raise awareness, understanding of sustainable behaviours and future climate impacts within HCC (for example driver training)	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH, E&I CRoW	Continue to promote our sustainability efforts and achievements through our social media platforms and review and update all online content to promote the work of the service	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH, E&I ERP	Review the content, modules and delivery mechanism of Building Futures to replace current approach with a signposting service	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH, RES, E&I CRoW, CS, ACS	Introduce 'sustainable requirements' into leases and tenancy renewal granted by HCC in line with the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH, RES, ACS	Incorporate sustainability questions and criteria for Design and Capital Delivery and Facility Management tenders	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	LH, SH, RES, E&I Comm, ACS	Review and advise on Building Futures principles for sustainable design, for example, advocate sustainable school, fire station, archive buildings design and construction	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Highways & Environment	SH, E&I Comm, CS	Establish a cross service-area sustainability working group to deliver and oversee the SH ambitions, co-ordinate actions, approaches and realise synergies between investment strategies	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	ACS, CS, E&I Comm, E&I WMU, E&I CRoW, E&I ERP, E&I GIU, E&I Highways, E&I ITU, E&I Spatial Planning, E&I ST, PH, RES, SH, HR, LH	Incorporate Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy priorities on the agenda at all future team meetings and appoint a sustainability champion to promote best practice within each Service Area.	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	SH	Convene an expert Climate Change/ Sustainability Commission to advise Hertfordshire on fast action and be an impartial counsel on HCC progress	Evidence Gathering		

Sustainability Actions that fall under ALL ENABLE AND INSPIRE ambitions

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Children, Young People & Families	HR, SH, RES, E&I Highways, E&I Comm, CS	Raise awareness, understanding of sustainable behaviours and future climate impacts within the wider County (for example educating children and helping to raise climate skills amongst residents, communities and the workforce)	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	SH	Work with the wider County through Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership and the Local Enterprise Partnership to establish Hertfordshire as a leading "Sustainable County" with a view to attract inward investment and businesses	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH, RES, E&I Comm, ACS	Develop briefs for Consultants to advise on sustainability aspirations/design principles for new developments	Evidence Gathering		
Resources and Performance	SH, RES	Influence and educate others, including contractors on sustainable design, construction and practises	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment	SH, CS	Establish communication channels for engaging with and obtaining young people's views to tackle climate change and other sustainability issues	Evidence Gathering		

Lead Service Area	Service Collaboration	Action	Status	Potential Impact on Carbon Emissions (Low, Medium, High)	Timescale (Short, Medium, Long)
Children, Young People & Families	SH, CS	Engage with all relevant school stakeholders to promote the green agenda including school buildings, curriculum and student parent behaviour	Evidence Gathering		
Highways & Environment		Identify further opportunities to inspire County residents and businesses to adopt better sustainability practices	Evidence Gathering		
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy	SH	Lobby to affect positive changes to public policy and government spending priorities which reflect ambitions of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy	Evidence Gathering		
Adult Care & Health, All	SH, ACS, RES	Maximise joint-working opportunities with respective organisations to share best sustainability practises including to reduce travel (for example with the NHS and care providers)	Evidence Gathering		

Monitoring and Implementation

Hertfordshire County Council is committed to delivering robust monitoring frameworks, to ensure the successful implementation of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and corresponding Action Plan. The purpose of the monitoring framework will be to determine the success of the Strategy, reviewing the impact of delivered actions, calculating carbon efficiency savings delivered and ensure accountability throughout the process. Hertfordshire County Council will ensure that clear and measurable outcomes are imbedded with the proposed monitoring framework, against which the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan can be assessed.

Our Monitoring and Implementation procedures are as followed:

Now that the Action Plan has been approved, a series of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-based (SMART) targets can be established. These contextual indictors will be used to assess the implementation of the Strategy and report on progress. This framework will allow HCC to assess the delivery of actions and overall effectiveness of the Strategy, allowing for the documents to be reviewed and updated if necessary, to ensure the stated ambitions are achieved.

Glossary of terms

Service Collaboration Abbreviations	
ACS	ACS - Adult Care Services
CS	CS - Children Services
E&I Comm	E&I Comm – Environment & Infrastructure - Community Safety
E&I WMU	E&I WMU – Environment & Infrastructure - Waste Management Unit
E&I CRoW	E&I CRoW – Environment & Infrastructure - Countryside Management and Rights of Way
E&I ERP	E&I ERP – Environment & Infrastructure Environmental - Resource Planning
E&I GIU	E&I GIU – Environment & Infrastructure - Growth and Infrastructure
E&I Highways	E&I Highways – Environment & Infrastructure - Highways
E&I ITU	E&I ITU – Environment & Infrastructure - Integrated Transport Unit
E&I Spatial Planning	E&I Spatial Planning – Environment & Infrastructure - Spatial Planning
E&I ST	E&I ST -Environment & Infrastructure - Strategic Transport
PH	PH - Public Health
RES	RES - Resources
SH	SH - Sustainable Hertfordshire team
HR	HR - Human Resources
LH	LH - Libraries and Heritage

Glossary of terms

Key Phrases	
Adaptation	This involves actions taken to counteract new or changing environmental challenges and reduce the vulnerability of people and places to the effects of climate change. It can take place in anticipation of an event or as a response to it and can include both physical and behavioural changes
Agri-environment scheme	This involves actions taken to counteract new or changing environmental challenges and reduce the vulnerability of people and places to the effects of climate change. It can take place in anticipation of an event or as a response to it and can include both physical and behavioural changes
Bee hotels	Bee friendly spaces and habitat for bees to live and nest
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in a particular area, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
Biodiversity compensation	Also known as biodiversity offsetting. Practice in which the loss of habitat in one place is compensated for by the creation of a similar habitat elsewhere
Carbon	Used as abbreviation for carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalent. This is one of the main greenhouse gases (see below) which is mainly released when carbon rich fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas are burned for fuel
Offset	To compensate for a negative environmental impact e.g. loss of habitat or the increase in carbon emissions by investing in projects that result in a positive environmental impact and would not occur without this investment, e.g. conservation projects or carbon reduction projects. Carbon reduction project include protecting forests and developing clean energy sources.
Carbon neutral	Where action has been taken to reduce carbon emissions and the remaining emissions are offset by natural carbon sinks and/or carbon reduction projects
Clean growth	Economic growth which does not increase carbon emissions

Glossary of terms

Key Phrases	
Climate resilience	The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a (climate –related) disruption (e.g. extreme weather)
Climate skills	The ability, coming from one's knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to apply Climate Change knowledge for improvement
Climate vulnerable developments	A development that is sensitive to changes in climate and easily disrupted, e.g. housing or infrastructure in flood-prone areas
Circular economy	An economy in which resources are kept in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life
Climate Change	A pattern of change affecting global or regional climate, as measured by parameters such as average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions. This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity. Global warming is one aspect of climate change
Decarbonisation	The reduction or removal of carbon dioxide from energy sources, such as through using more renewable energy to produce electricity
DEFRA's biodiversity metric	A way of measuring and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains resulting from development or land management change
Energy management plan	System in which an organisation measures and develops methods and initiatives to systematically reduce its energy usage
Fossil fuels	Natural resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, containing hydrocarbons. These fuels are formed in the Earth over millions of years and produce carbon dioxide when burnt. As they are non-renewable, this means that their supply is limited, and they will eventually run out with continued use

Glossary of terms

Key Phrases	
Future climates	How our climate is predicted to be in the future as concentrations of greenhouse gases continue
Governance	The process of governing, including accountability, interaction with the public etc
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Any gas that absorbs heat and then emits it. These gases prevent heat from leaving the Earth's atmosphere, can lead to global warming and climate change. Common greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, water vapour and methane
Greenhouse gas footprint	A way of measuring someone's or business impact on the planet in terms of greenhouse gases that are released. Almost everything we do releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, from how often we fly, to the type of shampoo we use. The result of all these actions combined is your greenhouse gas/carbon footprint, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO2e
Green Infrastructure	A network of multi-functional green space and other green features (or water), urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities
Habitat banks	A biodiversity compensation mechanism that is based on the concept of biodiversity offsets. Habitats are created and then credits are sold
Heat pumps	An electrical device which transfers heat from a warmer to a colder place. Used as a low-carbon option for indoor heating
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnerships - business led partnerships between local authorities and local private sector businesses
Local Nature Partnership	Partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring improvements in their local natural environment

Glossary of terms

Key Phrases	
Low emission vehicles	A vehicle that emits relatively low levels or no levels of carbon emissions e.g. a car or van that emits 75g/km CO_2 or less or is a pure electric vehicle
Material efficiency	To minimise and optimise use of materials in order to prevent or reduce the environmental impact of its use and waste
Natural capital (assets)	Natural assets, such as fresh water, minerals and biodiversity which confer a benefit to humans. These benefits are expressed in terms of their monetary value
Net Gain for Biodiversity	Where the impacts on biodiversity are outweighed by measures taken to avoid and minimise the impact, to restore affected areas and finally to offset any remaining impacts, so that the gain exceeds the loss e.g. Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before
Net zero (carbon)	This should primarily be achieved through a rapid reduction in greenhouse emissions doing away with fossil fuels and other sources of emissions wherever possible. Where zero carbon cannot be achieved, for every remaining tonnage of CO_2 we emit must be matched by that which is removed from the atmosphere e.g. through carbon offsets
Pollinator	A species – usually insects such as bees – which transfer pollen from one plant to another
Protected species	A species of animal or plant which it is forbidden by law to harm or destroy
Renewable energy	Any naturally occurring, theoretically inexhaustible source of energy. Renewable energy can be produced from a variety of sources, such as wind, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and biomass

Glossary of terms

Key Phrases	
Resilience	See 'climate resilience'
Resource efficiency	See 'material efficiency'
Retrofit	To furnish (something, such as a boiler) with new or modified parts or equipment not available or considered necessary at the time of manufacture. Usually to reduce the environmental impact of the equipment when operational
(Environmental) sustainability	Living within the means of our natural resources
Sustainable drainage systems (SuDs)	Systems which use the natural water cycle to manage water, rather than piped systems
Waste hierarchy	Ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment, giving top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal
Whole life impacts	Life cycle analysis is a way of looking at the environmental impact of a product or activity throughout its entire life. For example, to estimate the carbon footprint of a laptop, you'd need to consider the extraction and processing of raw materials, the manufacturing, transport, use and end of life
Zero carbon	An activity which does not emit any greenhouse gases, this term does not allow for the use of offsets