# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword from the Leader</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive summary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background to annual progress report</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers for change</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population and society</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next steps</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword from the Leader

The Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry presented its recommendations in September 2019, and since then the 2050 Commission has continued to grow and influence the way we work, setting a vision and the priorities for Hampshire’s future. The Hampshire 2050 Partnership has embraced the recommendations and, together with the County Council and other key partners, have made significant progress despite the huge setbacks brought about by COVID-19.

Of most significance is what has been achieved on climate change both within the Council and across the county. The 2050 Commission recognised the changing climate as the biggest risk facing Hampshire. The Commission recommended that action on climate change needed to be embedded into everything we do – the way we deliver our services, make decisions, and set policy to ensure a healthy and prosperous future for Hampshire and its residents.

In this report – the first annual report on progress against the recommendations – the focus is very much on climate change. However, progress on the wider drivers for change (environment, economy, population and society and technology) is also provided.

I am extremely pleased to publish this annual report, showcasing all the work that has been taking place but also to reinforce the continued importance of the 2050 Commission’s work. Despite the huge changes and challenges that we are facing from COVID-19, the 2050 Commission’s recommendations remain relevant and are guiding us to a green and sustainable recovery, building back a better Hampshire for our residents and future generations.

Cllr Keith Mans,
Leader of Hampshire County Council
Executive summary

This annual progress report sets out the work, meetings and events that have been undertaken since the Commissioners’ summary report was presented and agreed by Hampshire County County’s Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on 23 September 2019.

The main driver for change and priority that came out of the Commissioner’s Summary Report was the changing climate. This will be the primary focus for this annual progress report, although summaries of actions are also provided against the other key drivers.

Since September 2019, significant work has been undertaken on climate change within the County Council and across the wider public sector. Many organisations declared climate emergencies and began to develop their responses.

Hampshire County Council declared a climate emergency on 18 July 2019, setting two challenging targets for the Council and whole county area: to be carbon neutral by 2050; and to build resilience to a two-degree rise in temperature. Alongside the work on climate change, progress was also being made across the other drivers, particularly on the environment. In March 2020, COVID-19 became a major global crisis. For the ensuing six months, the priority of the Council shifted towards responding to COVID-19 and later to recovery.

Despite the significant challenges of COVID-19, there was also the opportunity to embed and promote climate change and sustainability into the post-COVID-19 recovery. The term ‘green recovery’ started to be discussed widely, calling for ‘building back better’, investing in new ‘green’ jobs, cleaner air and improved health and wellbeing.

This green, low carbon, just approach has been championed by international and national governments, businesses and other organisations (e.g. Petersburg Climate Dialogue, C40 Cities, Committee for Climate Change etc.). According to Ipsos Mori, 58% of UK residents (65% globally) surveyed support a green economic COVID-19 recovery (April 2020). This opportunity has been recognised in the County Council’s own Recovery Plan objectives and approach, agreed at Cabinet in May 2020.

In response to this opportunity, Hampshire County Council partnered with Hubbub to host a Green Recovery event for the Hampshire 2050 Partnership and Commissioners. The outcomes of that workshop are detailed later in this report.

Overall, despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, significant progress has been made on the recommendations of the 2050 Commission. This report provides an overview of that progress.

In addition to this annual progress report, three ‘State of’ reports have been commissioned to cover the economy, natural environment and society. These State of reports are a baseline of the current state of these drivers in Hampshire. They provide a data rich analysis including key findings, trends, and emerging issues within Hampshire. The reports are a starting point from which progress can be measured and are intended to be updated each year.
Background

Background to the Commission

The Commission of Inquiry was established in 2018 to consider evidence, deliberate upon key issues and to make recommendations on a high level and long-term Vision for Hampshire to 2050, which would guide and contribute to the future prosperity, quality of life, protection and enhancement of the character and environment of Hampshire.

Sixteen individuals with broad experience and strong ties to Hampshire were selected and invited by the Chairman to form the Commission.

These Commissioners were asked to consider a range of questions across six themes.

For each theme, a breadth of expert evidence was gathered and presented to the Commissioners at thematic hearings. Following each hearing a summary report of the findings and recommendations was published.

Background to Commissioners’ summary report

The Commissioners’ summary report was published in early September 2019 and is the conclusion of a year’s work. It sets out a compelling narrative to create a unified vision from a wide variety of differing perspectives to achieve continued prosperity for Hampshire towards 2050.

From the thematic hearings, several drivers for change emerged (climate, environment, economy, population, and society and technology), which will force change and will require choices to be made. These drivers then formed the basis of the Commission’s conclusions and recommendations that were outlined in the Commissioners’ summary report.

The summary report is structured around three key sections: Key values and principles; Drivers for change; and Vision, policy and recommendations.

- **Key values and principles** – The Commissioners’ recommendations were shaped by key values and principles that the Commissioners identified as fundamental.

- **Drivers for change** – From the thematic hearings, several drivers for change emerged. These drivers form the backbone of the Commissioners’ summary report from which the recommendations flow.

- **Policy and recommendations** – The recommendations cover each of the five drivers for change and are structured into: Vision statements which set out the overarching conclusion for each driver; policy objectives which set out the desired outcome; and recommendations which set out the more detailed work areas to achieve the outcomes.

---

Background to annual progress report

This is the first annual progress report of the Hampshire 2050 Commission.

This report will be used as an annual reporting tool to update the work undertaken on the drivers and how Hampshire County Council has worked in partnership to implement the recommendations, including highlighting case studies and best practice.

The primary focus of this annual progress report will be on the changing climate driver as it was identified as the highest priority by the Commission. In addition to the changing climate, a summary of wider actions from the other drivers for change have also been compiled.
Climate change

Background

To meet the net zero carbon by 2050 target set by government, and fully respond to the declaration of a climate emergency and the recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission, the Council will need to ensure that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resilience of both our own assets and the wider Hampshire area, is central to the work of the organisation and embedded within the delivery of key objectives in all services.

Following the declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019, two challenging targets were agreed in January 2020 – for the Council and whole County area to be carbon neutral by 2050 and to build resilience to a two-degree rise in temperature.

The Council has taken an innovative and robust approach to reducing carbon emissions from its own estate since its Cabinet approved a strategic plan in July 2010. Over the last nine years a significant reduction of over 40% has been successfully achieved. Having originally set stretching targets of 20% reduction by 2015 and then 40% by 2025, excellent progress has been made and the second target achieved 7 years early. In 2018 the target was increased to 50% by 2025.

However, to meet the challenge of achieving net zero carbon and to ensure that our buildings, infrastructure and communities are resilient and adapted to the impacts of a changing climate, the Council will require a seismic shift in the way it operates as an organisation. It will also require partners, stakeholders, and communities to change their behaviours and invest in new ways of working. Although the move to a zero carbon, resilient Hampshire is necessary and urgent, and will leave a positive legacy for future generations, the process will be complex, time consuming and require substantial investment.

It was recognised that to be able to meet these targets, work needed to be undertaken to establish the baseline emissions for Hampshire to ensure that there was a robust evidence base going forward. This was the first step towards producing a Strategy and Action Plan. A climate change and commission team was also established to oversee and lead the work programmes.
Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025

In July 2020, the County Council published its Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025. The strategy is a significant milestone and a major step forward by the County Council, one year after declaring a climate emergency. The targets set by the Council are challenging and far reaching. It will require significant action to be taken, not just by the County Council, but the whole Hampshire community, including other public sector partners, residents, and businesses. It will also require support from national government.

This strategy provides a clear direction for climate action in Hampshire, establishing the County Council’s leadership and providing an overarching framework for all future action on climate change, including setting out our priorities within each key sector. This will shape our work and our partnerships over the next five years, ensuring we lead by example and create a unified approach to taking real action.

The strategy sets out the carbon emissions baseline, the carbon budget pathway to 2050 and the strategic priorities to deliver against our emissions reduction and resilience targets. These strategic priorities focus on the key sectors that both contribute to carbon emissions and need to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The strategy draws on the Vision, Policy and Approach on Climate Change, which was set out in the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry final report. A set of key principles also underpin the approach taken in the Strategy. These principles will guide and shape the policies, actions and partnerships developed to deliver the climate change targets for Hampshire.

The key principles are:

- carbon hierarchy – this is a simple and effective framework establishing the hierarchy of priority – avoid, reduce, replace and offset;
- co-benefits – many actions to reduce emissions and build resilience if done well can deliver multiple benefits for our communities, such as reducing congestion; improving air quality; improved health; and economic growth;
- proportionate, affordable and equitable – recognising our wider role to society in delivering public services for the public good; any actions taken on climate change must be in line with this and would therefore have to adhere to the principles of proportionality, affordability and equitability;
- accelerate where appropriate – the Council’s carbon neutral for 2050 target was based on national government’s target. It is important to state that any opportunity to accelerate delivery will be taken in line with the other key principles set out in the Strategy, in particular the availability of resources and funding;
- national government – policy and funding – recognising that achieving the targets will require National Government action and changes to the national policy landscape. It will require a clear, funded roadmap to 2050 and support for action at a local level, and;
- digital and innovation – the Hampshire 2050 Commission identified changing technology as a key driver for change in Hampshire. Technology is an enabler that could deliver a significant step change towards a low carbon, resilient Hampshire.

documents.hants.gov.uk/environment/Hampshire-Climate-Change-strategy-2020-2025.pdf
The strategy is focussed on the key sectors that contribute to emissions and where resilience needs to be built. These sectors are the strategic priorities for the Council’s approach. The strategy provides clarity within each sector on what the Council will focus on both for emissions reductions and resilience. The sectors covered are:

- Hampshire County Council’s own operations and assets;
- transport – active and public transport;
- residential – existing and new house housing stock;
- buildings and infrastructure – built environment and other key infrastructure (highways, utilities etc.);
- energy generation and distribution – renewable, clean, local energy;
- waste and circular economy - reduction in waste generated and promote a circular economy approach across all parts of society, from household waste to commercial;
- natural environment – support carbon sequestration and climate resilience, and;
- business and green economy – resilient green growth economy through leadership, technology, innovation.

The strategy identifies existing County Council policies/strategies that contribute towards the delivery of these strategic priorities. Where there are gaps, the County Council will address these with the work going forward. The strategy also covers partnerships; communications; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and governance.
Action Plan and Strategic Framework 2020-2025

The first five-year Action Plan, covering both carbon mitigation and climate change resilience, sets out the actions already underway or planned within the County Council to tackle climate change under each of the strategic priorities of the Climate Change Strategy. It covers every part of the organisation, addressing both the County Council estate and the wider Hampshire area, demonstrating the significant breath and scale of actions on climate change being undertaken. The action plan contains details about the indicators used to assess each action and the target outcome. Despite the significant activity within the Action Plan, it was recognised that this would not be sufficient to meet the challenging targets.

A Framework for Strategic Programmes was therefore developed alongside the Action Plan to bridge the gap and help meet the targets. For each strategic priority, a new Strategic Programme has been developed, identifying actions that will deliver the step change needed in each area to meet the 2050 targets. The Framework sets out the key milestones that will be delivered in the first five years from 2020-2025 under each programme, for both mitigation and resilience.

Given the complexity and magnitude of some of the programmes identified, it is critical that the Council takes a robust approach to how these will be planned and delivered, alongside the other major priorities and issues over which the Council has direct responsibility. It is also recognised that the ability to implement several of the programmes identified will be dependent on securing additional resources and funding, particularly in light of the financial pressures from COVID-19.

The next steps for the Framework will be to consider how the County Council can progress these areas of activity and to identify the operational and delivery challenges and opportunities, and not least amongst these, at this critical financially challenging time for local government, what the external and Government funding options could be.

Both the Action Plan and the Framework will be monitored on an annual basis with the first annual report due to be presented to the County Council’s Cabinet in October 2021.
Two new project screening tools have also been launched to help services across the County Council assess the carbon emissions and resilience impact for all significant decisions.

- The adaptation screening tool will assess how multiple climate variables, such as extreme weather and flooding, can impact the management and finance of projects.
- The carbon mitigation tool will assess a project’s direct and associated carbon emissions, providing information on where carbon emissions need to be reduced.

Created in partnership with the Carbon Trust, these innovative tools will support decision-making at the project initiation stage, providing a robust way of assessing projects, policies, and initiatives, allowing for mitigations and adjustments to be made from the start to achieve the best outcomes.

These tools represent a truly innovative approach by Hampshire County Council and demonstrate our commitment to responding to climate change effectively, transparently, and coherently.

It is going to take time and effort to embed these tools fully and effectively within the County Council’s decision-making processes and project and policy initiation processes. For this reason, the roll-out will be piloted initially with Executive Member Decision Day reports within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department from 1 October 2020, with the assessment becoming mandatory for the whole Council from the beginning of the next financial year (April 2021).
Community projects

As part of the wider climate change programme and in line with the activities outlined above, four initiatives have been launched to support the Council’s efforts in addressing residential emissions and reducing Hampshire-wide carbon emissions.

The main focus of activity has been on residential emissions. This is because, as highlighted in the baseline emissions, it is a significant source of carbon emissions in Hampshire (23%) and is an area, alongside transport, where the Council can have significant influence.

The Greening Campaign

The Greening Campaign helps to support and guide communities through a process of actions that support individuals to take simple actions to tackle climate change. The actions are designed to be chosen by a community, so individuals can work alongside their neighbours to achieve outcomes that can be celebrated by the whole community.

There are seven stages to the Greening Campaign;

- **Phase 1** – Engagement and behaviour change
- **Phase 2** – Links with environment
- **Phase 3** – What is a sustainable community?
- **Phase 4** – Deciding sustainable solutions for your community
- **Phase 5** – Adapting to a different climate
- **Phase 6** – Officially becomes part of community plan
- **Phase 7** – Watch and learn

At each phase an information pack, online videos, help and support is provided. During COVID-19 to help keep the momentum going a Greening Pack was produced to continue to help households to find ways of becoming more sustainable within their communities. Whilst there is a small cost associated at each phase this cost is reduced as more communities sign up and support the campaign.

The four projects\(^3\) not only support the Council in delivering against its carbon mitigation and resilience targets but also work together creating a cohesive programme of activity around residents and communities/community groups.

\(^3\) [www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange/whatarewedoing/projects](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange/whatarewedoing/projects)
Freephone advice line and online resource service

Based on previous experiences with the Greening Campaign, residents can sometimes become frustrated if they don’t know who to approach for advice and support, whom they can trust, and on how to take action in their homes on climate change and wider sustainability. This could be anything from energy advice to insulation etc. Insights into changes in lifestyle and behaviour have shown that the easier it is to make a change the more likely it is to happen, which is where the concept for this project originated.

The Environment Centre have set up a freephone advice line, available for two days per week, with an answerphone service available 24/7. This phone line will be gradually phased out through the development of online resources such as a website, webchat, and chat bots.

These resources complement the roll out of the Greening Campaign by providing simple straightforward advice and support to residents from a trusted source. The work could also grow to support other initiatives and offer advice on more complex areas such as government grants, renewable energy, travel and other key areas of lifestyle change needed to transition to a low carbon future.
Creating a Community Energy Network across Hampshire

One of the major gaps in Hampshire is the limited amount of renewable energy generated in the County, which is currently less than 3%. The opportunity to generate our own energy that is low carbon and local is significant, however the path to viable, funded schemes is complicated without extensive experience. For the County to reach carbon neutrality, local renewable energy will be essential, and it would also build energy resilience in Hampshire.

Hampshire County Council will not be able to fill this gap on its own, as it does not have the financial or technical resources to do so at the scale required. Yet, the County Council can support and enable renewable energy in Hampshire and one way of doing this is through supporting community energy.

Community Energy South (CES) will deliver a project to stimulate the growth of a Community Energy sector across Hampshire.

The overarching project would consist of two work streams:

1. The CES Pathways to Community Energy.
2. A village wide community energy pilot project.

The emphasis will be on enabling local communities to build their own self sustainability capacity to achieve ongoing, ground level emissions reductions. CES would act as a support mechanism to establish and support a network of community energy groups. The pilot project will work alongside this to identify start-up projects for community groups. This can then be used as a testcase for county-wide project development support.

This project would complement the work of the Greening Campaign by supporting those communities that are ready to take the step towards developing community energy.
Targeted Solar Group Buying Scheme for Hampshire

Solar Together is a group-buying scheme, which gives residents the opportunity to buy high quality solar panels at a very competitive price. Local councils across the country have teamed up with iChoosr to organise this innovative scheme for homeowners as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (non-domestic), to help deliver the vision of a zero-carbon county.

The scheme will be targeted to about 125,000 residents in Hampshire, who own their own house, and can register for the Solar Together scheme. The auction is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins. The winning bid sets the price for all solar systems. All suppliers are pre-vetted and must comply with criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer. The project would be cost neutral to the County Council upon receiving fees through an installation conversion rate of less than 1%.
Drivers for change

The following updates are a summary of some of the work that has been delivered and is ongoing following the Commission’s recommendations across each of the key drivers.

Changing environment

The natural environment is of vital importance to Hampshire’s future in ensuring our long-term sustainability and attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. A county-wide snapshot of Hampshire’s natural environment, pre the COVID-19 pandemic, has been prepared so we can better understand the state of Hampshire’s natural environment in 2050. A summary document, setting out some of the key findings of this work, is set out in the appendices. It addresses the following topics: air quality; noise; water; soil; coastal; landscape; biodiversity (woodland, farmland birds, notable species and habitats, designated sites, insects and pollinators); and the recreational use of the natural environment.

The report finds that whilst some elements of Hampshire’s natural environment are relatively well understood, there are some areas where our knowledge and data need to be improved. Nevertheless, it is apparent that Hampshire’s natural environment is increasingly threatened by a combination of factors including climate change; development pressures; and overall management of our countryside. Despite these challenges, there are some grounds for optimism including the improvements to air quality and joint work of local authorities and private sector in identifying measures to mitigate impacts of development. A future report will focus on the state of Hampshire’s built environment and infrastructure.

The County Council’s ecological network mapping is now being used by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to inform opportunities for more targeted provision of green infrastructure within development (in order) to achieve biodiversity enhancements. The mapping is updated annually and will be used in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire, which, in turn, will guide the actions originating from the Hampshire Tree Strategy published earlier this year. The County Council is also providing advice to the LPAs on the use of the biodiversity net gain metric to ensure measurable biodiversity net gain will be achieved on individual planning applications.

In March 2020, a partnership of 15 organisations, including Hampshire County Council secured just under £2 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The funding will be used to deliver a five-year Landscape Partnership Scheme called Watercress and Winterbournes, which will see the partners work closely with local communities to restore and celebrate seven chalk streams. These are the Bourne Rivulet, Candover Brook, Cheriton Stream, Pillhill Brook, River Arle, Upper Anton, and Upper Test. This project is designed to counteract some of the intense development that has taken place in the area over the past decades, and protect habitat and species breeding grounds in this unique chalk stream environment.
As Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) for Hampshire, the Flood and Water Management team acts as a statutory consultee for every major planning application in Hampshire, with regard to surface water management (SWM). In this role, the County Council is working hard to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into all new developments within Hampshire, to ensure that flood risk is not increased when building takes place. These techniques involve open, surface water management systems and blue/green infrastructure which reduce flood risk, improve ecology and biodiversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase open space. SuDS also reduce maintenance and management costs as they are far easier to access than buried, piped systems.

Phase one of the Country Park Transformation Programme is nearing completion. This £20m investment programme has modernised the facilities at all of the Hampshire County Council Country Parks to better meet the needs of customers and increase accessibility and enjoyment of the countryside. Led by Hampshire County Council, the successful delivery of this programme has involved a wide range of funding partners, voluntary groups and local communities.

Research conducted during the pandemic indicates that the appreciation of the countryside has increased significantly with nearly 100% of respondents recognising the positive impact that accessing public green space has on their mental health and wellbeing. There has been an increase in the use of public rights of way and of anti-social behaviour, which has led to tensions in some rural communities. We are working closely with Parish and Town Councils, along with landowners and rural communities, to provide support along with raising awareness of responsible use of the countryside. This has included a review of the Rural Programme to better respond to the priorities of organisations and local councils in rural Hampshire.

Wider work being undertaken by the Flood and Water Management team is set out below:

**Watercress and Winterbournes**

Hampshire County Council is a partner in the Watercress and Winterbournes project (please see entry under the ‘Changing environment’ theme for further details). This project recognises the potential threat of intense weather events caused by climate change and Hampshire County Council is heavily involved in the Natural Flood Management (NFM) themed package of works including data gathering, education and on the ground NFM measures, such as re-meandering, tree planting and leaky dams. These systems are designed to slow surface and fluvial water flow upstream of inhabited communities, to reduce peak flood flow volumes and speeds to moderate flood depths and damage to residences, businesses, essential infrastructure, and agricultural land.
Updated Local Flood and Water Management Strategy (LFWMS)

Under the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 (FWMA), all Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) must produce and maintain a ‘Local Flood Risk Management Strategy’ (LFRMS). Over the past year, the County Council has updated the Hampshire LFRMS and produced the Hampshire Local Flood and Water Management Strategy (LFWMS). This new document details the County Council’s strategic direction for a holistic view on water management over the next decade. The strategy fully recognises the challenges posed to water management by climate change and sets out water management based on a Catchment Based Approach (CaBA). This involves managing water within river basin catchments as opposed to the administrative district and county boundaries (please see below for further details). The strategy also acknowledges the need to manage water as a resource throughout the year. Recognising climate change as the main driver for this, we have ensured that we can manage excess amounts of water during the winter, and intense summer storms, but also acknowledging the need for water storage for use during hotter summers and drought periods.

Catchment plans

A suite of 18 river basin catchment plans, representing all catchments which overlap the Hampshire boundary, is currently being produced in partnership with Atkins. These documents will sit below the LFWMS, and detail prioritised areas within Hampshire which have been identified as being vulnerable to flood risk and potentially requiring interventions in the area of water management. The areas highlighted are based on the topography and geology of the area, rather than administrative boundaries. This method recognises the natural movement of water, and therefore increases the chances of being able to effectively slow and store water, by not forcing it to move unnaturally, in order to reduce flood and drought risk. This is another example of Natural Flood Management (NFM), also known as Working With Natural Processes (WWNP) or Nature-Based Solutions.

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs)

Working closely with our partner Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), the County Council is currently in talks with the three water companies which cover the Hampshire region. These water companies are Southern Water, Wessex Water and Thames Water. Water companies have recently been tasked with producing Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs). These plans are the new way for organisations to work together to improve drainage and environmental water quality, recognising the challenges presented by development and climate change. In the role as LLFA, Hampshire County Council is working with the water companies to ensure that all strategic documents for water management across the region are in line with each other; that specialist knowledge on flood risk and climate change is being shared; and works are not being duplicated.
Defra research into surface water

Between September 2019 and March 2020, the FWM team provided secretariat support and technical input into the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) commissioned report on Surface water Assets, the so-called ‘Jenkins report’ (after the author David Jenkins), which is due to be published by Defra imminently. The work looks in depth at the effects of climate change on surface water management and the need to strengthen legislation and guidance to ensure ownership and maintenance of surface water assets are managed correctly. This, in turn, will reduce the risk of assets being overwhelmed by an increasing number of intense weather events that cause severe temporary surface water flooding.

Delivery of flood schemes

Flood Alleviation Schemes (FASs) are currently in construction phase across the county. These include protection from groundwater flooding in Buckskin and Basingstoke; a scheme to reduce flood risk from fluvial and surface water flooding in Romsey; and works in Farringdon to reduce flood risk to the A34 and neighbouring properties. These schemes are part of a rolling programme of FASs which is constantly being added to, recognising both the changing climate and changing environment of the County.

Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme

The FWM team are currently exploring the possibility of taking part in area-based Property Flood Resilience (PFR) projects. PFR is often seen as a last resort in flood risk management, and wider schemes are often preferred as they can protect more homes and assets. However, PFR projects recognise the risk posed by intense rain events, caused by climate change. PFR can protect homes in urban areas with a significant amount of impermeable surfacing which would not usually be at risk from fluvial flooding, but may be at risk of surface water flooding when drainage assets become overwhelmed after intense rainfall.

Coastal erosion schemes

Hampshire County Council is working closely with New Forest District Council and Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils to secure funding from the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SRFCC) for emergency and longer-term coastal protection works along the Hampshire coastline. These works are designed to protect a vulnerable length of shoreline, including listed buildings, from erosion caused by an increase in intense winter storms and rising sea levels caused by climate change.
Changing economy

Significant progress has been made, despite the unusual circumstances, in relation to the development of the Hampshire story, including the narrative, visual identity, imagery and (under development) a promotional film. Just pre-lockdown, the Economic Development team successfully hosted a dinner with the Vice-Chancellors of the four universities in Hampshire to gain their feedback and buy in into this initiative. The Economic Development team are now in the process of establishing a place leadership group to champion Hampshire (especially externally), be guardians for its story and sustain this approach. A formal launch of the Hampshire story was scheduled for May, but, for obvious reasons, this has been postponed for the time being.

In response to COVID-19, a business and economy group has been established within the recovery arrangements of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum, chaired by David Fletcher, Hampshire County Council’s Assistant Director for Economic Development. A range of short, medium and longer term interventions have been identified to support economic recovery, including a Hampshire orientated domestic tourism campaign (linked to the Government’s national Enjoy Summer Safely campaign and backed by funding secured competitively via the Cabinet Office), identifying opportunities to create more flexible work hubs in urban centres (with business operating models likely to evolve) and exploring greater potential to benefit from a more circular economy approach (by both public and private sectors).

Whilst the civil aerospace sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, key maintenance activities of the aerospace sector continue to develop – Gulfstream’s new £45M facility at Farnborough Airport became operational in July 2020, bringing the potential for up to 600 jobs. In relation to our role as a key international trade gateway for the UK, we have been working with key partners on developing proposals in anticipation of the Government’s competitive process to determine which 10 locations in the UK will attract Freeport status.

And in terms of investing in our digital infrastructure, we are working with Enterprise M3 LEP on the feasibility of a 5G enabled full fibre spine, initially between Basingstoke and Guildford, which has the potential to serve major public sector facilities, key business parks and some rural communities. The LEP prioritised this proposal in its Getting Building Fund allocation.
Changing population and society

The Hampshire Futures Team have developed a skills strategy and action plan which outlines their ambition and associated actions for an increasingly prosperous and more inclusive labour market in Hampshire, where employers in all sectors are able to access a skilled and diverse workforce and young people benefit from inspirational and relevant education and training and are able to achieve their full potential.

The core of their activity is ensuring that they have a good understanding of current and future labour market needs.

The Hampshire Futures Team are committed to raising the aspirations and ambitions of young people through our highly regarded careers programmes, supporting them to develop the skills that will be most in demand in the future. We are also supporting employers to develop their workforce through our Employment and Skills Hub and we have developed a strategic and consistent approach to local Employment and Skills Plans, working with districts and boroughs to support employers to employ and train young people. 20 plans are currently in place, delivering over 600 opportunities in 2019/20.

In particular, the team are focusing on the development of our apprenticeship programmes and we have made available £2M for our levy transfer scheme (to April 2022), enabling SMEs and employers in key sectors to benefit from apprenticeship programmes to develop their workforce. We are working closely with the Solent Apprenticeship Hub to ensure a co-ordinated and high quality service for local employers and we are leading the development of a similar programme in the Enterprise M3 LEP area.

The Hampshire Futures Team continue to champion Adult and Community Learning in Hampshire, effectively utilising our £1.3M annual allocation from government to target learning and training opportunities more specifically on areas of greatest need, including digital skills, work readiness and mental resilience and wellbeing.

The team are also supporting the workforce in key sectors of the Hampshire economy, including construction and health and social care. In particular, the Construction Skills Project is working to ensure developers have access to a skilled workforce by providing training opportunities for local residents to reskill to meet demand. They are also aware of the role they can play in working with education providers and employers to address Hampshire’s climate emergency, and, in particular, what measures we can take to ensure the availability of a suitably skilled workforce and promote the low carbon sector as a career option for young people.
Changing technology

The County Council is developing a new Transport Plan for Hampshire. The new Transport Plan builds upon the County Council’s current Local Transport Plan 3, originally published in 2011. Work to define the transport outcomes and guiding principles is due to conclude in Autumn, informed by engagement with stakeholders and the public. Following further subsequent technical work and engagement, we currently anticipate that a draft of the proposed Transport Plan will be consulted on in Spring 2021.

To support the journey towards the wider Hampshire Vision for 2050, the Highways department have developed a proposed vision for transport as a carbon neutral and resilient transport system designed around people, which connects thriving places, supports healthy, happy, inclusive lives and respects Hampshire’s unique environment. This supports the cross-cutting themes of the Commission of Inquiry.

The new Transport Plan will develop specific plans to support the Commission of Inquiry recommendations in respect of changing technology such as electric vehicles. Ownership of electric vehicles across the country has grown significantly in recent years and is expected to grow at a faster pace as technology improves and electric vehicles become more affordable. The County Council has produced a draft Electric Vehicle Charge-Point Strategy to identify how demand for electric vehicle charge points is anticipated to emerge in Hampshire.

With most journeys well within the range of an electric vehicle, owners prefer to recharge at home. The County Council can help residents without off-street parking by providing on-street charging facilities. Plans are being developed to bid for government funding to trial and evaluate a number of potential on-street charging solutions. These pilots will enable the County Council to finalise the Electric Vehicle Charge-Point Strategy and develop a policy position on the provision of on-street electric vehicle charge points in Hampshire.

For those who have access to off-street charging, the transition to electric vehicles will be more straightforward.

Increased charging infrastructure will encourage the switch to electric vehicles and make ownership more convenient, helping to reduce carbon emissions from transport and improve air quality, supporting the Commission of Inquiry recommendations in respect of climate change and the changing environment.
Delivering superfast broadband

During the COVID-19 outbreak the importance of digital connectivity has been highlighted. The superfast broadband programme has continued to deploy infrastructure throughout the pandemic and has extended the availability of superfast broadband to 2,565 premises since September 2019, 1,866 of these being gigabit capable connections.

The programme continues to look for ways to extend coverage further and has launched the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme Top Up Fund, which will provide additional financial support to communities outside our main programme that have organised themselves and have a quote for a solution to be installed. The fund launched at the end of July 2020 and there has already been strong interest from communities across Hampshire.

Digital services delivered by the Library Service

The Library Service specifically used the evidence produced and the findings of the Commission of Inquiry to help develop the future vision for the Library Service in Hampshire. Libraries have a significant role to play in supporting residents, particularly those at risk of digital isolation, and the future vision for libraries (which was formally agreed on 28 July 2020 following extensive public consultation) reflects this. The service vision includes a specific priority relating to ‘Investing in digital services’ which is summarised as ‘Providing access to technology, prioritising those at risk of digital exclusion – working with partners to help people access information, opportunities and services online.’ There are a range of activities taking place, or planned for the future, in support of this service priority.

There has been a significant increase in the use of digital channels to access our library services, likely accelerated and enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic, for example:

- BorrowBox loans have increased by 223% this financial year, when compared to the same period last year. The service currently has an average active daily user figure of almost 12,000 on BorrowBox, a 108% increase compared to last year;
- eLoans have increased by 106% this financial year, when compared to the same period last year, with almost 68,000 so far. In comparison, physical loans are down 82%;
- online joiners have increased by 84%, with over 4,000 of these;
- using technology to deliver services differently.
Partnerships

To support the delivery of the Commission’s recommendations, they need to be embedded and mainstreamed across the County Council’s and partners’ activities and policies. A key part of the work has been to maintain and develop this partnership working.

To oversee collective progress against the recommendations of the Commission and review future work, the Hampshire 2050 Partnership, in agreement with its members, was re-purposed to take on this role.

Using themed conferences aligned with the five ‘Drivers for Change’ identified by the Commission, the Hampshire 2050 Partnership oversees implementation and progress across a range of sectors by receiving and assessing:

- evidence from experts and specialists on relevant themes, and;
- presentations on progress against key areas.

Hampshire 2050 Partnership

The renewed focus on changing climate for the County Council started with the outcomes of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry. The Hampshire 2050 Partnership4, which was created to oversee the delivery of the recommendations of the 2050 Commission, is made up of all the key public sector organisations in Hampshire — with every district/borough/city/unitary authority represented, alongside other key authorities from blue light, health, National Parks and the Enterprise Partnerships etc.

Since the Commissioners’ summary report was agreed by Hampshire County County’s Extraordinary Full Council, there have been two Hampshire 2050 Partnership events.

The first Hampshire 2050 Partnership was held on 26 November 20195. This meeting took the form of a workshop on climate change discussing ‘What are the top three issues for your organisation on climate change?’ And ‘What role does your organisation have on these issues.’

The second meeting was a virtual event held on 21 July 2020 which considered ‘What is a Greenprint for a better Hampshire?’ in response to the efforts to recover from COVID-19.

4 www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050/hampshire-2050-partnership
5 www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050/hampshire-2050-partnership/26-november-2019
This event was well received with over 70 delegates attending, and was supported by Hubbub who are an experienced team with a diverse mix of backgrounds that share the same curiosity and a desire to create change.

The event was based around five key areas closely aligned with the Hampshire 2050 Commission. It included a provocation paper and questionnaire that was sent out to the Chief Executive and/or Leader of each of the Hampshire 2050 Partnership organisations, helping to frame the discussion around the workshops. Four expert speakers helped set the scene and suggested outcomes based on their extensive experience and knowledge.

The speakers were:

- Trewin Restorick, Founder and CEO Hubbub UK;
- Viki Cooke, Founding Partner Britain Thinks;
- Roz Bulleid, Deputy Policy Director Green Alliance, and;
- Miatta Fahnbulleh, Chief Executive New Economics Foundation.

All information and outcomes from the event can be found on the Vision for Hampshire 2050 website\(^6\).

Many of the partners involved in this event have also declared climate emergencies or have stated that climate change is a key priority. This clearly demonstrates the commitment across the public sector to work together to tackle climate change across Hampshire. The Hampshire 2050 Partnership will therefore play a critical role in the delivery of and accountability for this work going forward.
A key focus for the Hampshire 2050 work on climate change has been to develop opportunities to engage with residents and communities to reduce their residential emissions and build resilience. This has comprised a range of activities including engagement with Parishes and Town Councils and community group events. More information on these events can be found on the Council’s climate change website. The Hampshire 2050 recommendations will continue to be prioritised through these relationships.

The public sector is one aspect of partnership working that is needed to successfully tackle climate change. It is also extremely critical that we work in conjunction with expert organisations, businesses, and other stakeholders. To support this, the County Council is setting up an Expert Stakeholder Forum to help challenge and inform the Council’s approach and to bring together experts to help with engagement and delivery of actions across Hampshire.

Forum members will consist of professionals, academics, community representatives and others from a range of organisations who represent both the whole of the Hampshire geographical area, and those who also have a wide area of focus / strategic remit on climate change issues. This Forum will not only support climate change delivery but will also link well with the other Hampshire 2050 priorities.

The County Council will continue to work through the wide range of existing partnerships to ensure that the Hampshire 2050 work continues to be prioritised and delivered. It will maximise opportunities offered by these existing networks and partnerships to develop best practice, policies, projects, and initiatives to support, enable, and stimulate the delivery of action on the ground.
Next steps

This annual progress report has provided a snapshot of what has taken place over the last year for each driver for change and has provided a detailed update on the changing climate.

The implementation and delivery of the Commission’s recommendations is a critical component to the success of the Commission. Commissioners felt that it was important that beyond the Commission hearings, there was commitment from key partners to receive and respond to the recommendations and to take them forward as actions.

The next steps moving forward are:

• the implementation and continuing monitoring of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, along with partnership working to help deliver and share best practices;
• continued work on embedding climate change into the COVID-19 recovery through the Hampshire 2050 Partnership and through other partnerships;
• continued implementation of all the recommendations set out by the Hampshire 2050 Commission;
• annual Commission reports – ‘State of’ reports will provide a baseline and continued monitoring of progress;
• continued Hampshire 2050 Partnership events to deliver outcomes and update on progress on each of the drivers.