



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENING THE CITY

MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2024 AT 2PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to Jane Di Dino, Local Democracy Officer - Tel: 023 9283 4060
Email: jane.didino@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

Councillor Kimberly Barrett (Cabinet Member)
Councillor Hannah Brent
Councillor Charlotte Gerada

(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting).

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AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests.**
- 3 Strengthened Biodiversity Duty (Pages 3 - 30)**

Purpose.

This report provides a brief on the Strengthened Biodiversity Duty for public authorities in England.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City note the report.

4 Portsmouth Business Decarbonisation (Pages 31 - 32)

Purpose

To provide a summary of a new Portsmouth City Council initiative to support our supply chain and local businesses to decarbonise.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City note the report.

5 Annual Revision of the Climate Change Strategy (Pages 33 - 74)

Purpose

To provide a summary of changes to the existing Climate Change Strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City note the report.

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Agenda Item 3



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Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City
Subject:	Strengthened Biodiversity Duty
Date of meeting:	11 March 2024
Report by:	Felicity Harris, Green & Healthy City Co-ordinator
Wards affected:	All wards

1. Requested by - N / A statutory duty

2. Purpose

This report provides a brief on the Strengthened Biodiversity Duty for public authorities in England.

3. Information Requested

BRIEFING ON STRENGTHENED BIODIVERSITY DUTY AND INTRODUCING PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL'S FIRST CONSIDERATION

Summary

3.1 This document provides a brief on the strengthened biodiversity duty for public authorities in England.

3.2 The attached report introduces Portsmouth City Council's First Consideration in response to the strengthened biodiversity duty. It is a scoping document and the attached table in Annex 1 captures current, planned and potential activity around biodiversity. It is not intended to be exhaustive. The report and table will be informed following further consultation with officers; feedback from this briefing and additional relevant information and evidence.

3.3 As a public authority Portsmouth City Council must carry out this first consideration of what action we can take for biodiversity, and in future we will need to publish a biodiversity duty report at regular intervals showing how we deliver our biodiversity duty. The Portfolio Holder is asked to:

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- a. Note the briefing on the enhanced biodiversity duty in the Environment Act 2021 and its implications for Portsmouth City Council; and*
- b. Note the report as Portsmouth City Council's first consideration of the strengthened biodiversity duty;*

4 Background

4.1 The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened biodiversity duty which requires that all public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty). Public authorities are government departments, public bodies and agencies, local authorities and local planning authorities, and statutory undertakers. Each public authority must:

1. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve these objectives.

4.2 All public authorities must complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. Agreement on policies and objectives should occur as soon as possible after this. All public authorities must reconsider the actions that can be taken within 5 years of when it completes its previous consideration. Public authorities can decide to do this more often, for example, they could reconsider its actions quarterly, annually, or every 5 years.

4.3 Some public authorities (local authorities, excluding parish councils, and local planning authorities) are required by the Environment Act 2021 to publish a biodiversity duty report. PCC will be required to publish a biodiversity report. The biodiversity report documents the policies and actions the public authority has carried out to comply with its biodiversity duty. The end date of the first reporting period should be no later than 1 January 2026. After this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period. Each report must include the start and end dates of the reporting period. All reports must be published within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date.

4.4 By law, a biodiversity duty report must include:

- a summary of the action the public authority has taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- how the public authority plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
- any other information the public authority considers appropriate.

Reports from local planning authorities must also include:

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- the actions the local planning authority has carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations
- details of biodiversity net gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans the local planning authority has approved
- how the local planning authority plans to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period. The Government has stated that it will provide further guidance on biodiversity duty reporting.

4.5 How is the strengthened biodiversity duty different from its predecessor?

An amendment to the original Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) section 40 duty, provided for in the Environment Act 2021, extends the biodiversity duty on public authorities to include the **enhancement of biodiversity** alongside conservation by way of creating "*the general biodiversity objective*". This is achieved by a revised section 40 of the NERC Act, including new provisions, which are now in force. The differences are explained here: [Extended biodiversity duty for public authorities – what does it mean? \(freeths.co.uk\)](https://www.freeths.co.uk/extended-biodiversity-duty-for-public-authorities-what-does-it-mean/). In essence local authorities are required to:

- go beyond the mere maintenance of biodiversity in its current state
- consider biodiversity across all functions
- take a strategic approach to determine policies and specific objectives for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective
- be increasingly accountable for biodiversity

4.6 How does the strengthened biodiversity duty on local authorities contribute to national targets

The Government recognises that the action we take for biodiversity will contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity. The [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#), published in January 2023, sets out government plans for significantly improving the natural environment.

By 2030, the government has committed to:

- halt the decline in species abundance
- protect 30% of UK land

By 2042, the government has committed to:

- increase species abundance by at least 10% from 2030, surpassing 2022 levels
- restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife rich habitats
- reduce the risk of species extinction
- restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term

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5 How the strengthened Biodiversity Duty affects Portsmouth City Council

5.1 Portsmouth City Council is a public authority under the terms of the Environment Act 2021, so we must comply with points 1-3 in 4.1 above. We are also one of the public authorities that must publish a biodiversity duty report. The two key actions we need to take are:

5.1.1 Portsmouth City Council must complete the first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. The attached scoping report illustrates the first consideration.

5.1.2 Shortly after the 1st January, Portsmouth City Council need to have confirmed objectives, policies and actions. A completion date of 31st March 2024 is recommended. This would enable further consultation with officers across key directorates and support the development of strategic objectives.

5.2 Portsmouth City Council must publish our first biodiversity duty report, at the latest, within 12 weeks after the 1 January 2026, the latest end date of our first reporting period.

5.3 As explained in 4.5, the strengthened biodiversity duty demands more of local authorities. Strategic objectives will need to be developed, coordinated, and delivered.

5.4 As an authority with assets outside of our local authority area we will need to consider what we can do in those locations – for example our Havant housing stock.

6 Policy Context

6.1 Links to Council Plans / Strategies and Policies – The biodiversity duty on Portsmouth City Council links to Imagine 2040; the Corporate Objective 'ensuring a healthy and resilient natural environment' and the emerging Local Plan. Other linking strategies include the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy; the Greening Strategy which recognises the importance of resilient biodiversity for climate resilience and health and well-being and the Climate Strategy.

6.2 Links to Other Strategic Plans (external) – The biodiversity duty on Portsmouth City Council links with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy currently under development and being led by Hampshire County Council. Portsmouth City Council are a supporting authority.



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7 Preparing this scoping report

7.1 Portsmouth City Council has taken a pragmatic approach in preparing the scoping report to inform the first consideration including:

- Using the guidance / framework provided by the UK government
- Taking a steer from other authorities
- Partial consultation with officers across the authority including a focus on biodiversity as part of a Greening Development Group Staff workshop; a small working group review and meeting; a review of council papers, reports and strategies linking to biodiversity.

This has given a context to biodiversity within the authority area. A table of existing and planned and potential future activity is provided in Annex 1 of the scoping report. Annex 1 is intended as a starting point for discussion to inform the development of objectives, policies and actions to be implemented in the first reporting period.

Officers consulted

- Principal Planning Policy Officer
- Public Health Principal (Healthy Places)
- Countryside Project Officers, Parks and Open Spaces
- Hilsea Lines Ranger, Parks and Open Spaces
- Parks and Open Spaces Development Manager
- Head of Estates Services, Housing
- Technical Officer, Regeneration
- Team Leader, Landscape Architects
- Principal Strategy Adviser Climate Change

7.2 In compiling the scoping report it is apparent that there is a lot of activity and initiatives in the biodiversity / nature space across the Portsmouth City Council. Activity is set to continue over the next few years. New activity areas are emerging and there is potential for additional activity. There is an opportunity to consider how efforts can be aligned to give the greatest benefit for biodiversity. There is recognition that resources are not finite and therefore there will be a need to prioritise effort / investment in a transparent way that ensures expectations are managed.

7.3 Draft objectives for the first period are attached in the scoping report. Further consultation will enable the objectives to be framed with milestones and actions timetabled during the reporting period up until January 2026.

8 Options

8.1 The portfolio holder is asked to:



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*a Note the briefing on the enhanced biodiversity duty in the Environment Act 2021 and its implications for Portsmouth City Council; and
b Note the attached report as Portsmouth City Council's first consideration of the strengthened biodiversity duty.*

9 Financial Considerations

9.1 There are no immediate financial considerations as a result of this paper. The financial implications of any future proposals or commitments to action as part of fulfilling our biodiversity duty should be considered fully.

10 Next steps and timeframe

- Confirm the first consideration with associated objectives and actions

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices: Annex 1: PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL - FIRST CONSIDERATION OF THE ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY DUTY



Strengthened%20Bio
diversity%20Duty%2C

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Greening Evidence Review, Strategy and Delivery Plan	PORTSMOUTH GREENING STRATEGY and DELIVERY PLAN
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Parks Strategy draft 2022.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Local Plan	Under development and not yet in the public domain - available from March 24



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	Local development scheme - Portsmouth City Council
Biodiversity Background Paper 2019	development-and-planning-biodiversity-background-paper.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Biodiversity Background Paper 2021	Biodiversity-Background-Paper-Updated-2021_compressed.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Green Infrastructure Background Paper 2019	Green-Infrastructure-background-paper-Sep21_compressed.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Traffic, Environment & Community safety scrutiny panel a review into Biodiversity Enhancement in Urban Portsmouth - March 2022	Report to: (portsmouth.gov.uk)

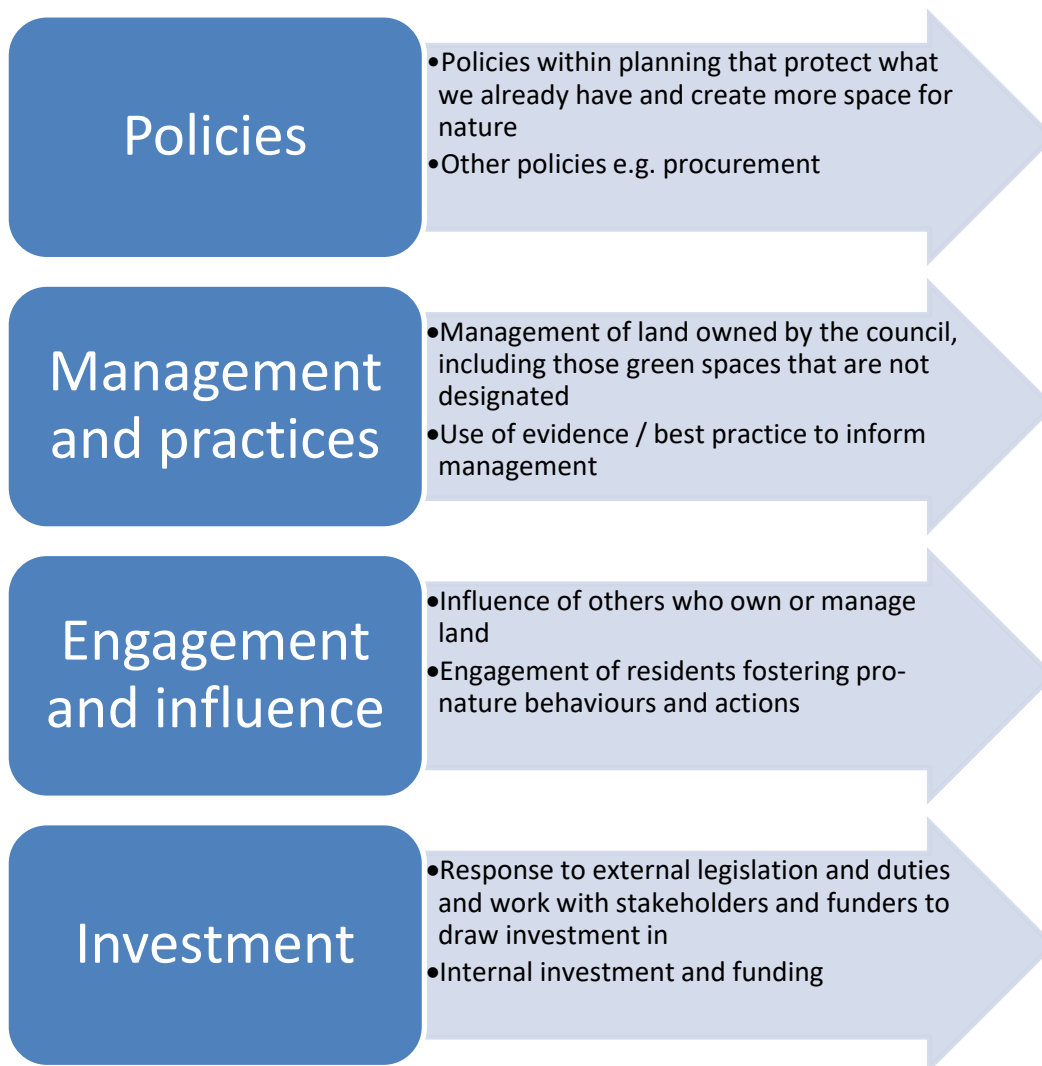
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PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL - FIRST CONSIDERATION OF THE ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY DUTY

1.0 Understanding context, opportunities and challenges

1.1 Biodiversity and Portsmouth City Council

The strengthened biodiversity duty states 'Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England'. Imagine 2040 identifies 6 thematic vision areas one of which is '**A Green City**', which states '*We protect and enhance both our land and maritime environment for future generations*'. The City Council has a corporate objective '*to ensure a resilient and healthy natural environment*'. Conserving and enhancing biodiversity within Portsmouth City Council is a function of:



Biodiversity intersects with all council directorates, Figure 1; there is an increasing understanding of how biodiversity supports climate resilience and enhances the health and wellbeing of residents, and a

number of council strategies touch on biodiversity, Section 1.3. Annex 1 illustrates the range of activity for biodiversity already taking place across the council and confirmed and possible future activity.

Figure 1: Biodiversity in PCC directorates

Directorate	Link with biodiversity
Adult Social Care	Opportunity for nature connection and health and well-being
Children, Families and Education	Operationally on estate Opportunity for nature connection
Corporate Services	Link with Climate Change Strategy
Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services	Operationally across Parks and Open Spaces Link with water quality
Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services	Operationally across estate Influence and public awareness and education through museums and libraries
Planning and Infrastructure	Operationally through Highways Maintenance Operationally through Infrastructure Development Policy and Spatial Strategy
Public Health	Operationally through Greening Strategy Opportunity for nature connection and health and well-being

[Scrutiny reports](#) have identified challenges with biodiversity management within Portsmouth, citing a lack of coordination, fragmented approaches and no clear plan. The city council does not have an overarching strategy for biodiversity nor an officer with strategic responsibility for biodiversity. These challenges are not unique to Portsmouth as the recent UK100 report illustrates [UK100 Powers in Place Nature Chapter FINAL SEPTEMBER - Google Drive](#). The Council declared an ecological emergency in 2022 stating that we are:

- Committing to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030 in line with national and international commitments to biodiversity.
- Increasing space for wildlife and long-term maintenance and expansion of a Nature Recovery Network.
- Reducing pressure on wildlife.
- Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Supporting communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature's recovery.

Portsmouth City Council has previously developed a draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan with support from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (2010). Although the new strengthened biodiversity duty may necessitate going beyond actions identified in that plan, the plan provides a good base from which to review our current situation.

1.2 What is biodiversity in Portsmouth like, and how may this inform opportunities for conserving and enhancing biodiversity?

1.2.1 Portsmouth has some fantastic spaces that can be celebrated for their biodiversity

Portsmouth benefits from a rich diversity of flora and fauna in its coastal, harbour and chalk grassland environments. It is the UK's only 'island city' and some 30% is covered by statutory nature conservation

designations in recognition of its value to international, national and local biodiversity. This includes land down to the low tide mark. c.12% of the 4028 hectares of land in Portsmouth is covered by designations. This demonstrates that the significant proportion of designations are for environments below the high tide mark.

Figures from the Green Infrastructure Background Paper (September 21) which were taken from Portsmouth Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2012) showed that there were 760 hectares of public open space in Portsmouth; 289 hectares of private open space and 713 hectares of private gardens. Of the public open space c.45% could be considered as being managed for nature being classified as countryside or natural / semi-natural greenspace. These spaces tend to be on the outside of the city, particularly to the north and east.

The Cumberland Museum highlights biodiversity within the city and the Countryside Rangers provide opportunities for residents to engage with protecting, accessing and enjoying the authority's natural heritage. However, there remains a perception that the natural environment of Portsmouth is not as widely known amongst residents as it could be.

1.2.2 Protecting our existing designated sites and improving their condition is a priority

Thirty-one of Hampshire's 50 notable species (62%) can be found in Portsmouth (recorded between 2008 and 2018). The Biodiversity Background Papers ([Feb 19](#) and [July 21](#)) prepared as part of the emerging Local Plan provide more information about biodiversity within Portsmouth and explains that the species conservation within Portsmouth can be delivered through habitat management. Examples of habitat management enhancing biodiversity can be seen at Portsdown Hill where incorporation of scrub management and grazing has increased species diversity and prevented decline; at Hilsea Lines where the canopy is being opened up to support woodland ground flora and at Milton Common where scrub clearance is creating open habitat. The emerging Local Plan contains policies to protect and enhance biodiversity. Annual reports from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre illustrate the extent and condition of our biodiversity at designated sites including the condition of SSSIs [HBICAnnualBiodiversityMonitoringReport2022-2023.pdf \(hants.gov.uk\)](#). Portsmouth City Council's Countryside Rangers have management plans in place for protecting and enhancing biodiversity across semi-natural green spaces including SSSIs and SINC's, although not all SINC's have management plans and not all SINC's are owned/managed by PCC.

1.2.3 We can enhance biodiversity through connecting management across fragmented sites.

The opportunity for Portsmouth City Council to make space for nature could be considered limited due to the geography of the city, the high percentage of manmade surfaces and the spatial distribution of

the large open spaces. There may be potential to enhance biodiversity within the city, because of the amount of land owned and managed by Portsmouth City Council (including highways and housing / schools).

1.2.3i New policy supporting nature recovery will deliver benefits if rolled out strategically

The emerging Local Plan identifies tools for enhancing biodiversity as a result of development - for example through Biodiversity Net Gain, the Urban Greening Factor Standard, Urban Nature Recovery Standard and Urban Tree Cover Standard. There is scope to set authority wide and locally appropriate targets for the three standards cited.

1.2.3ii The introduction of and scaling up of, mowing for biodiversity may be a low-cost but effective way to effect change across sites that are not designated.

The introduction of mowing regimes to support flower rich spaces is one way to reduce fragmentation, creating a network of stepping stones and corridors that support wildlife, Figure 3. There is also an opportunity to consider whether the potential for biodiversity could be improved by not adding nutrient rich topsoil to e.g. newly created or reinstated verges.

Figure 3: A case for changed mowing practices

The Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Report into Biodiversity (Mar 22) reports that within Parks and Open Spaces:

'The Grounds Maintenance Manager explained that 280 hectares of council land is mown. There are different regimes depending on the location and type of grass. The frequency has decreased over the years; it was average of 16 per year and is now 9-12. The grass in parks and cemeteries are mown fortnightly. Grass in sports fields is cut as and when in Winter and fortnightly during the rest of the year. Reducing the frequency of mowing, saves money and carbon emissions and also increases biodiversity.'

Mowing for biodiversity is not appropriate across all grassy areas, however it could be adopted more widely and generally involves two mows per year. The implementation of significantly reduced mowing not only supports more species rich areas, but increase carbon sequestration, reduces the risk of areas drying out (therefore maintaining cooling effects) and supports storm water regulation.

Portsmouth City Council has two designated Road Verges of Ecological Importance - in recent years a cessation of optimal mowing has resulted in a reduction in quality of these verges. Reinstatement of mowing is recommended. Additionally, it is noted that within the authority area there are numerous road verges worthy of being recognised for their high ecological value. These are not being managed appropriately at the moment.

1.2.3iii An uplift in biodiversity could be delivered through developing a resilient treescape that supports wildlife move throughout the city and that is resistant to future threats.

In the last three years Portsmouth City Council has started to increase tree numbers across the city. Initially this was driven by the net zero agenda. There is now an increased recognition of the wider ecosystem services provided by trees, particularly cooling; regulating water flow and improved air quality. Consideration is being given to our future climate and the likely implications for native species - whether that be more prolonged drought or emerging pests and disease. A focus on connectivity across treescapes and hedgerows is recommended with clear understanding of natural ecology.

1.2.4 There is an opportunity to consider how Portsmouth City Council influences the land management by others to make space for nature

Due to the scarcity of space for nature, particularly within the urban part of the authority, there is an opportunity for Portsmouth City Council to influence and support others make space for nature. 57% of open space within Portsmouth is either private open space or private gardens. It should be noted that the open space descriptor does not necessarily mean that these areas are natural.

It should be noted that **all public authorities** have to comply with the Biodiversity Duty [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). A list of government departments and public bodies can be found here [Departments, agencies and public bodies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). This presents opportunities for Portsmouth City Council to work with others to achieve benefits. Of relevance within Portsmouth may be the MOD, the Environment Agency and the NHS. The University may be another important ally, particularly given the location of its natural green space.

1.2.5 Ways of working or policies that enhance biodiversity could be explored

A commitment to reducing pesticides has been in place since 2017 and has seen a decrease in the amount of pesticide being used across our estate. Other adopted practices include purchase of native and locally sourced trees. Other **principles for nature** could be identified across supply / delivery chains, creating the conditions for nature to be put first or considered.

1.2.6 The role of water and protecting and enhancing freshwater habitats and the sea

Given the city's proximity to the ocean and our responsibility down to the low tide mark as well as the importance of designations below the high tide mark, a key theme that may emerge for the local authority is around water. Portsmouth City Council has signed up to Motion for the Ocean, a declaration to align ocean recovery within our climate emergency response, [A motion for the ocean \(sea-changers.org.uk\)](#) and has been leading activity on nutrient neutrality, [Interim-Nutrient-Neutral-Mitigation-Strategy.pdf \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#). Terrestrial actions / activity can enhance our coastal and marine ecosystems by slowing flow of water into the sea and catching / trapping pollutants.

The problems of surface water flooding are described comprehensively here [Report Template v2.4 \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#). **Co-creating flood management solutions that deliver for biodiversity may be an opportunity. There is merit in understanding how extreme heat and drought conditions**

may negatively impact biodiversity and whether mitigation measures through rainwater harvesting and release are appropriate.

1.3 Relevance of key strategies to Portsmouth

1.3.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategies

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is being led by Hampshire County Council, may provide an opportunity to increase the resilience and connectivity of Portsdown Hill, SSSI and some of our terrestrial coastal sites. This process is ongoing and as a supporting local authority we are advocating for Local Nature Recovery to deliver for our urban centres. We are particularly focused on:

- Local nature recovery to connect and enhance chalk grassland on Portsdown Hill
- Connectivity across natural green spaces on the east and south of the island

1.3.2 Species Conservation Strategies

Portsmouth has previously taken advice from Hampshire Biological Information Centre. 31 of Hampshire's 50 notable species can be found within Portsmouth. These can be protected through habitat management. Many are found on SINCS, also known as Local Wildlife Sites. Within the city Brent Geese and Waders are protected by specific policies which have been reviewed and are explained in the Local Plan.

1.3.3 Protected Site Strategies

1.3.4 Other internal strategies

A focus on increasing the quality and quantity of green infrastructure is evidenced in the emerging Local Plan which was supported by the previously mentioned Biodiversity Background Papers and a [Green Infrastructure Background Paper](#). The Greening Evidence Review and Strategy highlights the importance of nature for climate resilience and health and well-being and the Climate Strategy illustrates how nature is a key part of climate mitigation and adaptation - see 1.8. This provides further evidence of both the need and opportunity for the strengthened biodiversity duty to be addressed across directorates and points to the fact that any emerging biodiversity strategy or action plan may best be viewed or owned **Corporately**.

1.4 Political and local support for conserving and enhancing biodiversity

1.4.1 Political support

There is political support for conserving and enhancing biodiversity creating and enabling environment for operational decisions. Key things to note are: Declaration of a climate emergency; declaration of a nature emergency and signing up to Motion for the Ocean. There is a recognition of the importance of nature-based solutions as evidenced by the [Greening Evidence Review and Strategy](#) approved by Cabinet on October 3rd 2023.

1.4.2 Resident support

There is also substantial support from residents for improving biodiversity. For example, consultation for the [Parks and Open Spaces Strategy](#) illustrated that residents within the city wanted quiet natural

spaces, Figure 4. Additionally, community and neighbourhood groups show increasing interest in wanting to take action for biodiversity for example Fawcett Road Greening Group and Friends of the Earth. Such groups would benefit from increased directional support to ensure their efforts complement wider environmental initiatives and misguided efforts do not occur. Other groups are long standing e.g. Friends of Portsdown Hill and the Countryside Rangers have had huge success in the last 12 months in developing new conservation volunteer groups. The work of the Tree Wardens, Community Orchard Group in delivering change across the city further illustrates resident engagement. Lastly the work of Adult and Social Care illustrates how valuable our natural places and spaces are for health and well-being, for example NatureWatch and Wellbeing Walks and reflections from officers in Adult and Social Care has highlighted the need to recover nature across the city for this purpose.

Figure 4: Results from consultation - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

'A Parks and Open Spaces residents survey was held between 8 October and 24 November 2021. 1330 responses were received to the survey. The survey comprised 7 questions. Full results are found in an appendix to this strategy. The survey found that the majority of respondents were now visiting parks and open spaces more than before the pandemic, highlighting their importance to the city. Respondents thought that the main focus for Portsmouth's parks and open spaces should be as green havens: to protect biodiversity and wildlife. The most popular reasons for using parks and open spaces were found to be enjoying a quiet space and visiting nature. This aligns with the focus of parks as green havens and is supported by the other reasons given for visiting parks, which included birdwatching, photography and wildlife observation, mental health and mindfulness.'

1.5 Cooperating with neighbouring local authorities

Portsmouth City Council works closely with neighbouring authorities. Continued cooperation will ensure will help us to achieve our biodiversity duty. Examples of cooperation are the PfSH; Hampshire Forest Partnership; our SLA with HBIC; our work with the Solent Partnership.

1.6 Evidence (data and information)

We are aware that the ecological evidence base is continually emerging. Our coastal situation (in the south of England), coupled with the fact that we are a densely populated city, poses a unique set of challenges exacerbated by the impact of climate change. As a port city maintaining vigilance around invasive non-native species is a priority and we will need to continue to **ensure we have the surveillance and appropriate measures in place**. This includes ensuring we are cognisant of disbenefits - for example a potential concern is around vector borne diseases as a result of climate change. [Climate Crises and Developing Vector-Borne Diseases: A Narrative Review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#); [Climate change: health effects in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

1.7 Skills, knowledge and understanding

The new duty requires local authorities to do what they can to conserve and enhance biodiversity. *Understanding how existing in-house expertise and knowledge can be shared across directorates and considering whether there is a business case for a PCC Strategic Biodiversity Officer could be considered.* There may also be merit in considering how the authority may further build pro-nature and attitudes and action amongst residents.

1.8 External context and implications for Portsmouth City Council

In December 2023 DEFRA published its plan for delivering 30by30 as part of England's response to the Global Biodiversity Framework. It should be noted that 30by30 is seen as a collaborative, voluntary effort driven by those recovering nature on the ground. Targets around SSSIs identified in the Environmental Improvement Plan are cited; *'to restore 75% of our SSSIs to favourable condition by 2042'*. The interim targets are that; *'by 31 January 2028: • all SSSIs will have an up-to-date condition assessment; and • 50% of SSSIs will have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.'* There has been discussion around 30by30 and what types of sites qualify with criteria being developed around Purpose; Protection and Management. *These criteria could usefully be adapted and applied within the local authority area to help develop a baseline for reporting purposes.*

External drivers including emerging legislation, funding, frameworks and evidence provide tools for Portsmouth to conserve and enhance its biodiversity. For example, Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the [Green Infrastructure](#) Standards developed by Natural England. All of which are recognised in the emerging Local Plan.

The link between biodiversity and climate change is increasingly visible in national guidance. For example National Climate Adaptation Reporting [Final Consultation Document Fourth round of climate adaptation reporting.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) which states *'Annual reporting by upper and single tier local authorities to central government on local biodiversity performance. This includes data (in part supplied by Local Nature Partnerships) on the proportion of local sites where positive conservation management is being achieved, providing information on the links between climate change and impacts on biodiversity.'*

The Department for Education and Skills published a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy in 2022 [Sustainability and climate change strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and the first report on progress was published in December 2023. There are four strategic aims, all of which provide a vehicle to increase biodiversity across the Education and Childrens' Services Estate. Additionally, there is a focus on ensuring children and young people have a growing opportunity to connect with nature, access services in climate resilient spaces and prepare children and young people for a changing climate. Understanding fully how Portsmouth City Council can support this strategy in *action across Education and Childrens Services* may be a consideration.

An increased recognition of the twin emergencies of climate and nature and the interdependencies between these two emergencies is likely to continue to be expressed through national strategies, policies and, potentially the funding environment *and may be best reflected internally as Climate and Nature Emergencies being corporate priorities and coordinated by a Climate and Nature task force.*

1.9 Conclusion and emerging themes

In considering what Portsmouth City Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, thought and consideration has been given to:

- 1) locally relevant outcomes
- 2) policy and policy gaps
- 3) operating and delivery environment for biodiversity
- 4) stakeholders / partners for a city with a healthy and resilient natural environment

There is a lot of positive action for biodiversity across the city. There are also limitations as to the measures that can be taken. There may be an opportunity for greater coordination of efforts. Benefits may be more fully realised if the following were put in place:

- A plan / strategy for biodiversity informing other existing relevant policies / strategies and ways of working to ensure cohesion
- Consideration of new policies or the introduction of principles for nature
- A designated responsible officer (s) to coordinate biodiversity efforts
- In house biodiversity / ecological expertise to work across directorates and to include training / staff support

Given the current situation within Portsmouth it is suggested that during the first reporting period there is a focus on Resilience including the development of our institutional infrastructure to meet the requirements of the new duty. The following *suggested* headline objectives for Portsmouth City Council's first consideration of the strengthened Biodiversity Duty are provided below, and mapped against the commitments outlined in the Ecological Emergency declaration.

Objective / Ecological Emergency Declaration	Committing to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030 in line with national and international commitments to biodiversity.	Increasing space for wildlife and long-term maintenance and expansion of a Nature Recovery Network.	Reducing pressure on wildlife.	Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.	Supporting communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature's recovery.
To increase the capacity for conserving and enhancing biodiversity across Portsmouth recognising the need to develop resilience against emerging climate threats					
To continue to protect and enhance the biodiversity of our protected sites and identify measures to mitigate against future climate threats					
To make more space for nature across the city and in doing so develop resilience against emerging climate threats					
To celebrate the nature of Portsmouth and engage residents in playing an increasingly active role in enhancing and monitoring biodiversity					

Annex 1 - Table 1: Portsmouth City Council Biodiversity Duty – First Consideration – 19 December 2023

The table below sets out how biodiversity is addressed in our objectives, policies, and actions. This constitutes our “first consideration” of our biodiversity duty, under the terms of the Environment Act 2021.

Theme	What we are doing now	Current future actions scheduled within the first reporting period (by January 2026)	Potential future actions or recommended actions for the first reporting period (by January 2026)
Planning policy and associated opportunity			
Planning policy and development management	Developing a Local Plan (currently at regulation 19 stage) affording strong protections for biodiversity; protecting / developing the Green Grid; protecting species (including Brent Geese and Waders); protection of internationally designated habitats ; setting Biodiversity Net Gain targets and Green Infrastructure standards such as Urban Greening Factor; creation of Local Green spaces; Protection of trees and hedgerows; preventing additional nutrient pollution in the Solent ; securing new open space.	The Local Plan is aiming for an adoption date of the end of 2025.	Local Plan approval which affords protection to designated sites in line with legislation; creates opportunities for development of green infrastructure and connectivity for wildlife; protects species (as per other column)
Biodiversity Net Gain	Working with PfSH to assess opportunities for habitat banking on PCC land. Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain through the planning system as specified in the Environment Act and secondary legislation. .	Developing / implementing habitat banking for BNG Exploring the Potential for BNG on City Council owned assets. Ensuring delivery of BNG on New development from January 2024.	Identification and potential delivery of BNG offsetting opportunities across SINCs; HNB and POS Development of guidance to support BNG implementation
Local Nature Recovery Partnership	Supporting authority in the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Hampshire County Council is the lead authority.	Working as a Supporting Authority in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to identify areas within Portsmouth most suited for nature recovery.	Inclusion of land within Portsmouth within LNR
Management of our protected sites			
SSSIs	Implementing management plans for SSSIs for favourable condition - for example on Portsdown Hill on the SSSI	Continuation of implementation of management plans for SSSIs.	

	<p>there is a focus on scrub management; implementation of grazing that favours species diversity. Across sites that border the SSSI there is a focus on restoring management as appropriate to reduce scrub and invasive species and to implement mowing regimes that favour biodiversity.</p>	<p>Consideration of land management outside of protected sites to further enhance biodiversity within protected sites/increase resilience through Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p>	
SINCS / RVEIs	<p>Implementing management plans for SINCS to enhance biodiversity - for example increased scrub management at Great Salterns by Countryside Team.</p> <p>Hilsea Lines - thinning and management to support the correct ecosystem structure and allow increased diversity and coverage of woodland ground flora.</p> <p>Farlington Marsh managed by HIWWT in partnership with PCC. The coastal defences are deteriorating and there is currently consultation being carried out by the EA Farlington Marshes Project information page - Environment Agency - Citizen Space (environment-agency.gov.uk)</p>	<p>Continuation of management to enhance biodiversity across SINCS</p> <p>Consideration of land management outside of protected sites to further enhance biodiversity within protected sites/increase resilience through Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>Surveying of SINCS as part of SLA with HBIC</p>	<p>Re-introduction of mowing regimes on RVEIs</p> <p>Identification of new RVEIs</p>
Management of other sites/ land owned by Portsmouth City Council (by directorate)			
Parks and Open Spaces / Sports Fields	<p>Identifying and increasing opportunities to manage spaces for wildlife for example the introduction of wilder areas to Victoria Park Reduction in / cessation of use of pesticides</p> <p>Supporting community groups manage council owned spaces in a wildlife friendly way - for example allotment holders are able to leave part of their allotment for rewilding; are encouraged not to use pesticides</p>	<p>Continuing to increase the amount of land managed for wildlife adopting actions identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022-2038 Parks and Open Spaces Principle <i>We will protect biodiversity, increase tree coverage, increase wildflower habitats and restrict pesticide use to a minimum.</i></p>	<p>Identification of sites to increasingly manage for wildlife, linking or aligning those to improved management for wildlife on neighbouring land managed by e.g. housing, highways, other relevant actors within Portsmouth.</p>

	Tree planting as appropriate		
Housing Neighbourhood and Buildings	Reducing mowing and wildflower meadow creation Reduction in / no use of pesticides Tree planting as appropriate Considering opportunities for BNG habitat banking	Continue with increasing areas managed for nature Identification of opportunities for BNG habitat banking	Increasing focus on making space for nature as appropriate and alignment (see above)
PRED - Highways/verges	Reducing mowing Reduction in pesticides Tree planting as appropriate Considering opportunities for BNG habitat banking Bus shelters with green rooves		Identification and delivery of conservation management practices in key areas - including the RVEIs Consideration of sustainable, permanent, native planting schemes as appropriate.
Consideration of habitats			
Trees, woodlands and hedgerows	Developing a resilient treescapes plan to ensure: Right trees are planted in the right place and providing the right care and using native (where appropriate) and sustainably sourced trees; Optimising the benefits provided by trees particularly in relation to climate adaptation; ecological connectivity; Future proofing our trees through understanding onward costs in terms of maintenance and management and developing effective monitoring and surveillance Hedgerow creation - For example the work of Countryside Rangers within the Parks and Open Spaces Team - Planting/managing/establishing hedgerow across the city.	Developing tree / urban forest plan Completing an I-Tree Eco survey to provide a snapshot of the city's current trees, their species diversity, age diversity and value to help inform future planting & management	Recognition of hedgerow habitat network and identification of opportunities to both protect and expand - including through public engagement Opportunity mapping to identify suitable planting sites across the city; prioritising the planting where greatest benefits will be realised for biodiversity, climate and health & wellbeing. Formation of a tree palette of species suitable for different spaces across the city encouraging the use of a wide variety of native species
Flower rich grasslands and pollinators	Increasingly naturalising our Parks and Open Spaces - for example the Parks and Open Spaces strategy reports 2500m2 of new flower rich meadows within the last 4-5 years; Housing, Neighbourhood and	Knowledge exchange across services re: flower rich regimes what works and how; community education re perennial/pictorial meadows; opportunity mapping to identify options for connectivity between meadows.	Commitment to and development of a connected network of flower rich spaces across the city developed through reduced mowing, green hay (as appropriate) - replicating native conditions

	<p>Building Services have also introduced reduced mowing and seeded perennial meadows; COLAS have also introduced reduced mowing in some areas.</p> <p>Portsmouth City Council Open Spaces Needs and Opportunities Assessment (2018) identified that 'Amenity greenspace should be linked wherever possible to other areas of open space by interconnected green corridors (linear verges and areas adjacent to strategic routes'</p>		
Coastal habitats and environments	Coastal defence projects with consideration of biodiversity that encourage and make space for nature (Guy Mason)		
Fresh water habitats	Portsmouth has few fresh water features. Recent action in this area includes the Countryside Team assisting BPA in restoration of wildlife dipping pond by Tangiers Field. Additionally the Countryside Team are looking to restore freshwater features at other sites.		
Marine habitats			
Policies and practices			
Native trees / local provenance	Using native and sustainably sourced trees when planting - across all operations	Continue to use native and sustainably sourced trees as appropriate	
<p>Creating dedicated spaces for wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build and install nest boxes for birds, bats and other animals 	Across council operations officers are looking to make space for wildlife. Swift box installation is encouraged with a close relationship with Hampshire Swifts; the new Local Plan introduces the Urban Greening Factor which may encourage the	<p>Development of biodiversity guidelines to support others create spaces for wildlife including through development</p> <p>Support / encouragement of wildlife gardening</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add green walls or roofs to existing or new buildings • plant native trees and shrubs • plant wildflowers for pollinators 	<p>addition of green roofs and green walls to new buildings; leaving dead wood safely in place in woodlands / wooded areas to provide additional habitat</p>		
<p>Enhancing biodiversity resilience through reducing threats / harm</p>	<p>Invasive species are identified and managed - key actions that have occurred in recent years include management of cotoneaster on chalk grassland sites across Portsdown Hill and the removal of Holm Oak across vegetated shingle in Eastney.</p> <p>We have reduced the use of pesticides.</p>	<p>Continue to manage invasive species.</p>	<p>Maintain vigilance and consider how residents could be engaged in monitoring.</p> <p>Understand implications of climate change across our habitats and species through a rapid review.</p>
<p>School grounds - create gardens, ponds, meadows or woodlands to improve biodiversity and aid education</p>	<p>The Countryside Team provide advice to schools on request as to how school grounds are improved for wildlife. CIL funding supports schools develop their school grounds and we are currently working with Trees for Cities to make space for nature within 3 schools.</p> <p>The Landscape Architect Team work with Education Directorate and schools and identify opportunities for introducing appropriate planting.</p>	<p>Review school grounds (and childrens services estate) across the city and understand opportunities for enhancing spaces for biodiversity and climate resilience</p>	<p>Deliver clear actions based on review. Secure funding to support school ground development for biodiversity.</p>
<p>Educate, advise and raise awareness</p>			
<p>include the public in projects to improve biodiversity</p>	<p>A number of regular volunteer conservation task sessions take place at key locations across the city. These are supported by the countryside team.</p>	<p>Continue with delivery</p>	

	Additionally, the countryside team run a 'roving' volunteering group support conservation and biodiversity improvements or enhancements at smaller sites, making space for nature and increasing connectivity.		
feature biodiversity in public or internal communications	The countryside team support newsletters for community groups. Biodiversity is often featured in council communications.		
use libraries and museums to raise awareness of biodiversity	The Cumberland House Natural History Museum is run by Portsmouth City Council and provides a range of opportunities for public education and awareness raising. Recent success includes a focus on oceans. Libraries across Portsmouth often have a focus on nature.		
put information boards in greenspaces or offer guided walks	Guided walks are offered by different teams across the council. A programme of nature-watch walks offered by Adult Social Care is often supported by the Countryside Team		New information board at the Tangiers Road entrance to Great Salterns
include biodiversity considerations in advice for internal and external clients and service users			Development of biodiversity guidelines - arising from the Greening Development Group 17 Oct 2023 Biodiversity guidelines to support developers / BNG implementation as per identified by Greening Development Group 17 Oct 2023
educate your staff on your biodiversity actions and why they're important	The Countryside Team have upskilling and skill share on a regular basis.		Consider scope for increased awareness raising within staff Cross directorate biodiversity training / upskilling across operational teams
raise public awareness of how their gardens can support biodiversity, for example by avoiding artificial grass	Staff across the council are involved in attending a variety of events and supporting and promoting wildlife and stewardship including wildlife gardening. For example, Wilder Paulsgrove; events		Communications strategy and messaging around gardening measures to support wildlife; create cool and permeable spaces

	<p>delivered by the Countryside Team including Baffins Christmas Market; and the work of the Landport Community Gardener in promoting and supporting tenants make space for nature.</p> <p>Collaboration with HIWWT and other community groups has encouraged and supported community greening. There is scope to understand other ways in which we can increase the benefits for biodiversity delivered through community greening and develop best practice guidelines for community projects funded through the council.</p>		<p>Re-establishing nature/green network - working with the HIVE</p> <p>Development of community greening guidelines and support in favour of enhancing native biodiversity</p>
Other ideas e.g. improving biological recording	Volunteers are already involved in comprehensive recording at key sites for example at Portsdown Hill. At Milton Common Volunteers trained in botanical ID skill summer 2023 by Countryside Team.	Volunteer training in tree ID and recording as part of I-tree eco survey	
Processes and practices			
transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality	Increased electrification of vehicles coupled with planned works to reduce transport.		
waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill	Could we include / consider here on site composting; what we do re cut and collect; ?		
water – improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species	For example re how we manage trees in establishment phase - watering tubes		

procurement – buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources	Only use biodegradable tree guards for tree planting Using non tanalised, locally sourced timber Local suppliers and trades where possible.		
light – make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises effects on nature		Where necessary in areas close to wildlife areas and bat roosts look in wildlife red light frequencies. Bat-friendly street lights for Worcestershire crossing - BBC News These bat-friendly lights show how to make cities safe for nature (fastcompany.com)	
Electric tools			
Other miscellaneous actions			
Management of buildings	<i>whether you should remove vegetation around your buildings and if you do, when to do it what chemicals you use on the premises when you carry out maintenance work, to minimise disturbance to wildlife whether you can reduce the use of energy and water to help reduce pollution and address the pressure it puts on wildlife</i>		
Integrated Impact Assessments	IIA currently allows for consideration of the impact of projects or initiatives on climate and environment.		Provide guidance and support for staff completing IIAs focused on biodiversity
Green Infrastructure features	GI features include SUDs, road verges, street trees. The Local Plan identifies green corridors. Within the authority there is an opportunity to increase connectivity through GI features.	Develop understanding of opportunities to support green / wildlife corridors.	



Agenda Item 4



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City's Decision Meeting.
Subject:	Portsmouth Business Decarbonisation
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kimberly Barrett, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Greening the City
Date of meeting:	11 March 2024
Report by:	Kristina Downey, Principal Strategy Advisor for Climate Change
Wards affected:	N/A

1. Requested by

1.1 Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City.

2. Purpose

2.1 To provide a summary of a new Portsmouth City Council (**PCC**) initiative to support our supply chain and local businesses to decarbonise.

3. Information Requested

3.1 In November 2023, a new Climate Change Strategy was published and detailed strategic priority areas for climate action.

3.2 To support decarbonisation within our organisational emissions, key actions included:

- *"Reduce emissions in all scopes to meet net zero carbon in 2030"*
- *"Seeking funding for carbon reduction activities from internal and external sources"*

3.3 To support decarbonisation within Portsmouth city, key strategic priority areas and actions included:

- Business and the green economy
 - *"Identifying training requirements and opportunities to enhance skills, knowledge, and the local supply chain in our community to match net zero carbon ambitions."*
- Engagement and partnerships
 - *"Providing support for businesses to access decarbonisation initiatives."*

3.4 Funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund, spending under the 2023/24 allocation for E29: Supporting decarbonisation & improving natural environment will see the



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purchase of 90 licences to a digital decarbonisation platform, [Zellar](#), and further support to Shaping Portsmouth's' work towards decarbonisation of businesses in the city.

- 3.5 The platform licences will provide a year's support to help businesses understand their carbon footprint, create reports that will help them meet sustainability requirements from tenders, show business available grants, and actions they can take.
- 3.6 In support from PCCs' Procurement and Economic Development Teams, the licences will initially be targeted towards businesses that are both on PCC's supply chain but also operate in Portsmouth. The licences will build long-term capacity and capabilities of businesses to calculate their carbon footprints and build knowledge of energy-saving options and grants.
- 3.7 It is anticipated that these licences will support the decarbonisation of PCC but also the wider city. The co-benefits of decarbonisation should also be noted too, of improving air quality, saving money by reducing purchasing of expensive fossil fuels, and therefore business survivorship.
- 3.8 Any remaining licences will be offered to the Portsmouth supply chains of organisations within the Portsmouth Green Partnership group, and then freely to any other Portsmouth businesses.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Portsmouth businesses will be recruited shortly, and the initiative will be monitored for its success and carbon that has been avoided over the following year.

.....
Signed by
Paddy May
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

Agenda Item 5



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Climate Change & Greening the City Portfolio Decision
Subject:	Annual Revision of the Climate Change Strategy
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kimberly Barrett, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Greening the City
Date of meeting:	11 th March 2024
Report by:	Kristina Downey, Principal Strategy Advisor for Climate Change
Wards affected:	N/A

1. Requested by

1.1 Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Greening the City.

2. Purpose

2.1 To provide a summary of changes to the existing Climate Change Strategy.

3. Information Requested

3.1 In November 2023, a new Climate Change Strategy was published and contained provisions to be "*reviewed annually, and any necessary updates made*".

3.2 The internal Climate Programme Board have since reviewed the Strategy and an updated version has now been developed. Changes made, include:

- Updated imagery and photo captions.
- Revised Forewords, particularly from Portsmouth City Councils new Chief Executive Officer, Natalie Brahma-Pearl.
- Updated examples of previous carbon mitigation and adaptation initiatives undertaken by Portsmouth City Council (PCC).
- Update of other initiatives PCC have taken, including joining WWF's One Planet City Challenge which is an international initiative to strengthen city climate action plans.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The revised Climate Change Strategy (attached as Appendix 1) will be published shortly and available for download within the new climate action pages of PCC website ([Climate action - Portsmouth City Council](#)).

4.2 The Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed again in November 2024, and any further edits will be made.



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

.....
Signed by Paddy May
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - PCC Climate Change Strategy (2023), Version 2

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Climate Change Strategy

2023

Version 2





Contents

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

Figures

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

Foreword



Councillor Kimberly Barrett, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Greening the City

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

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

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

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



Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Chief Executive Officer, Portsmouth City Council

I am delighted to step into my new position as CEO for Portsmouth City Council. Climate change is a subject close to my heart, which is why I'm so proud that the council committed to become a net zero carbon council, and city, by 2030. We've made great strides to achieving this goal, however I recognise there is still a lot more work to be done.

We are a major employer, buyer, and influencer in Portsmouth. As such, we are actively working to define new and innovative ways of working, to make our organisation green from the inside out.

Tackling climate change is a priority for Portsmouth City Council, and our refreshed Climate Change Strategy is the foundation for its delivery. The strategy highlights areas where we, together with our contractors, and partners, have been working together to help address the climate emergency.

I am impressed with everything that has been accomplished so far and look forward to seeing further improvements to the city for our residents by enhancing our natural resources and creating a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Abbreviations & acronyms

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

Glossary of climate change language

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

Climate change mitigation

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

Climate change adaptation

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

Net zero

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

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

Carbon

The term “carbon” is often used, but it is a collective term for seven GHGs. Each of the GHGs have varying abilities to trap heat in our atmosphere. They are all converted to a single measure called “carbon dioxide equivalent” (CO2e).

Carbon scopes

The GHG Protocol¹ is the current best-practice guidance for developing a carbon inventory. The carbon inventory is a backward look at the emissions generated from activities. The protocol provides guidance on how to group activities by type, which are called “scopes”.

Scopes 1 and 2 are relatively easy to quantify and monitor. Scope 3 can often be complex and difficult to obtain data for, and guidance exists to help identify the most relevant sources².

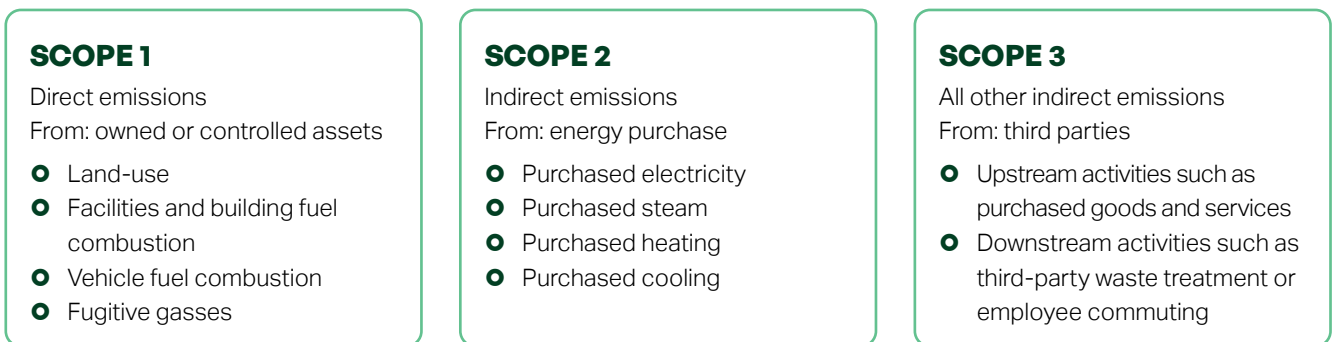


Figure 1 Carbon scopes by The Greenhouse Gas Protocol

¹ WBCSD & WRI (2021). *Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. Available: https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/GPC_Full_MASTER_RW_v7.pdf

² WBCSD & WRI (2013). *Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions*. Available: https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Scope3_Calculating_Emissions_Guidance.pdf



1 Introduction



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

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

Developing and implementing this CCS is our commitment to Portsmouth.

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

1.1 The climate change challenge

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

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

Climate change and inequality are strongly linked³. The negative effects of climate change are more likely to impact disadvantaged groups such as those experiencing poverty and social exclusion by inhibiting access to alternative housing, energy or transport types, insurance, and information on how to adapt.

The need for climate change action provides a unique opportunity to meet the challenge while also addressing some of our city’s health, social and economic inequalities. The importance of taking dual climate action is bound into Portsmouth City Council’s (PCC) corporate plan, the City Vision⁴.

³ United Nations (2017). *Climate Change and Social Inequality*. Department of Economics and Social Affairs. Available: https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152_2017.pdf

⁴ Portsmouth City Council (2021). *City Vision. Imagine Portsmouth 2040*. Available: <https://imagineportsmouth.co.uk/>

1.2 Climate change in Portsmouth

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

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

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

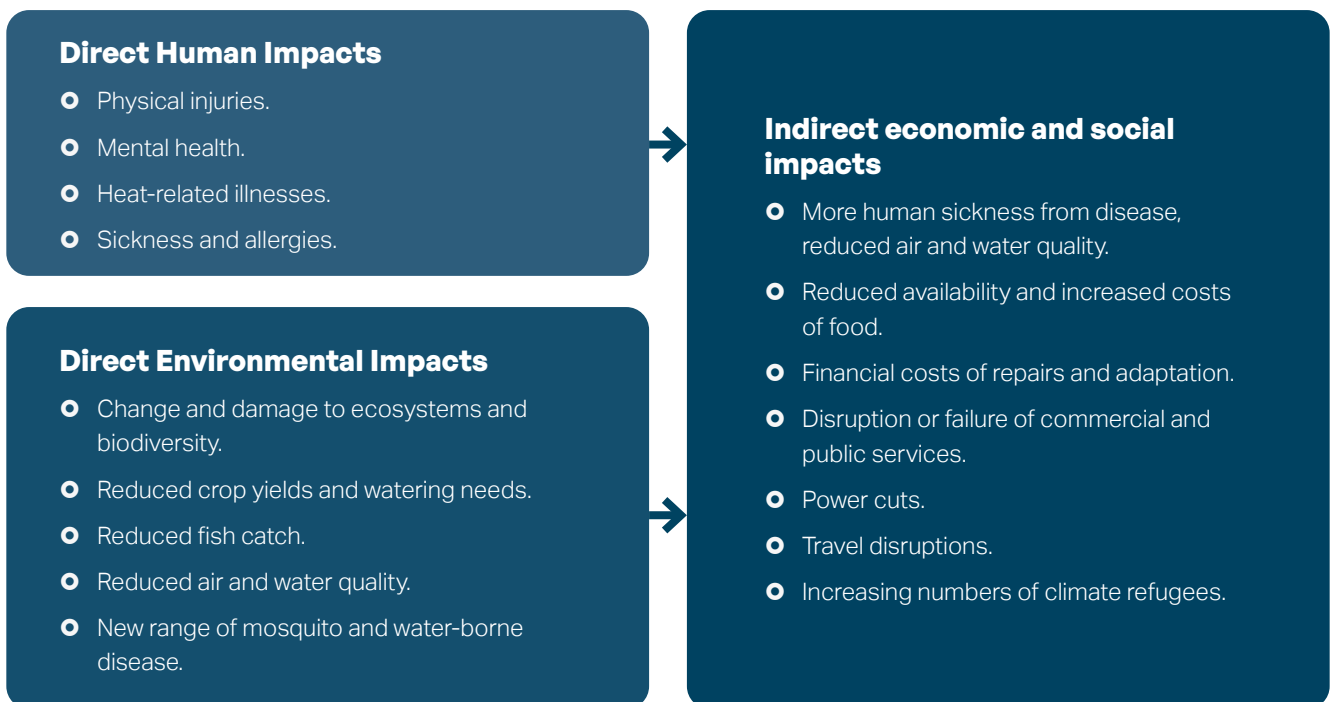


Figure 2 Possible direct and indirect impacts of climate change

1.3 Climate emergency declaration

The Climate Change Act 2008⁶ (UK government, 2008) legislates climate action in the UK with targets to reduce its emissions. The act was amended in 2019 to legislate for net zero carbon emissions by 2050⁷.

In 2018, PCC made it a corporate priority to make our city cleaner, safer and greener. To strengthen this and support national priorities, in March 2019, PCC declared a local climate emergency. In doing so, the council has resolved to⁸:

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

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

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

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

8 Portsmouth City Council (2019). *Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Guildhall Portsmouth on Tuesday, 19 March 2019 at 2.00 pm*. Available: <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s22583/Draft%20Minutes%20for%20the%2019%20March%202019.pdf>

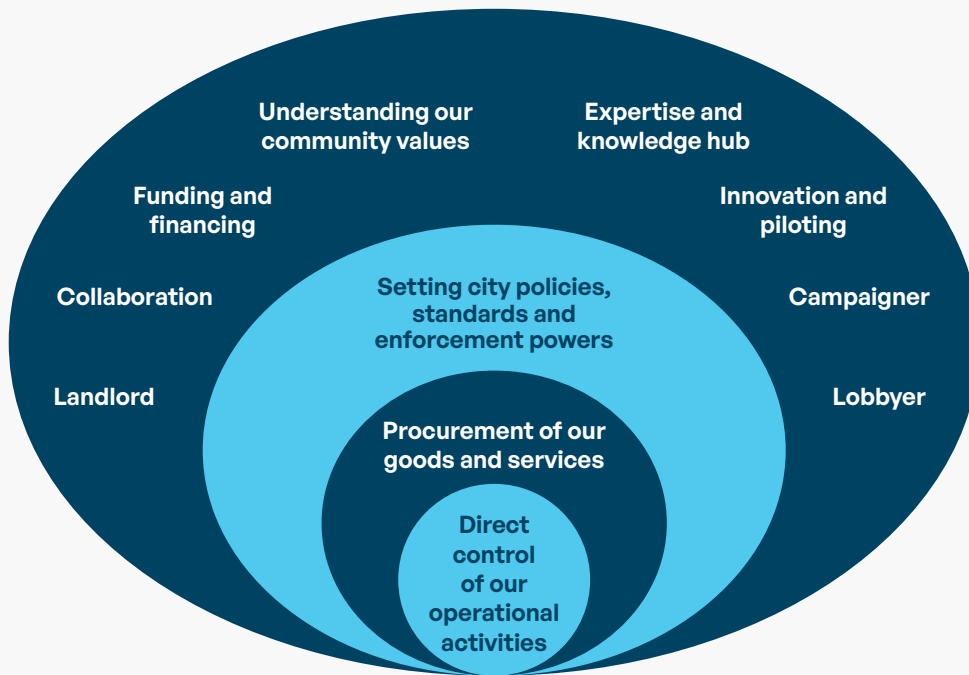


Figure 3 Local authority scale of influence

1.4 The role of local authorities

PCC is a unitary authority, meaning it is responsible for delivering the full range of services including education, public health, transport, planning, fire and public safety, social care and housing, libraries, waste collection and disposal, and trading standards. Through these operations, local authorities are typically responsible for approximately 2-5% of their jurisdictional area’s emissions⁹.

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

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

The national Climate Change Committee estimates that local authorities are typically able to influence approximately one third of the jurisdictional area’s total emissions¹⁰. Through all spheres of influence, our ambitions are linked to additional funding, powers, incentives, and policies developed by central government.

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

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



2 Our guiding principles



To frame PCC's approach to responding to climate change, we have adopted underlying principles from the UN Habitat¹¹ that will guide our underlying action planning.



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

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

3 Strategic priority areas



3.1 Portsmouth City Council

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

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

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

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

Mitigation

Reduce carbon emissions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

3.2 City-wide

3.2.1 Travel and transport

In line with its City Vision, Portsmouth wants greener and better-connected journeys, and active, healthy lives. Action is needed now to shape a future that accommodates changing travel patterns and the city's growth in a more sustainable way. Through the Portsmouth Transport Strategy¹² and Implementation Plan¹³, PCC is striving to create an environment that allows everyone to travel as sustainably as possible when making every-day journeys around Portsmouth.

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

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

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

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

Mitigation

Reduce carbon emissions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

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

¹³ Portsmouth City Council (2021). Portsmouth Transport Implementation Plan 2023/24-2024/25. Available: <https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/74.602-Local-Transport-Plan-4-Implementation-plan.pdf>

3.2.2 Homes, buildings and other infrastructure

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

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

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

Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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



3.2.3 Business and the green economy

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

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

Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

- Promoting increased commercial energy efficiency and usage reduction.
- Promoting lower carbon fuel and onsite renewable energy sources.
- Use of our regulatory and permitting powers to support local green growth.
- Promoting a more sustainable tourism industry.
- Identifying training requirements and opportunities to enhance skills, knowledge, and the local supply chain in our community to match net zero carbon ambitions.
- Providing relevant infrastructure at Portsmouth International Port and other council owned maritime facilities to enable the decarbonisation of shipping.

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

3.2.4 Waste and consumption

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

Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

3.2.5 Natural environment

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

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

PCC is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality and quantity of green infrastructure to increase resilience to climate change for people and nature.

Natural environment measures will be designed dually to increase our natural sinks of carbon but also improve the quality and quantity of public spaces, natural spaces and assets, increase food security, and address the nature emergency¹⁴ and Ocean Recovery Declaration¹⁵.

Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

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

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

3.2.6 Engagement and partnerships

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

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

Mitigation

Support and encourage carbon emission reductions through:

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

Adaptation

Increase resilience through:

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

4 Our Approach



4.1 Climate change mitigation

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

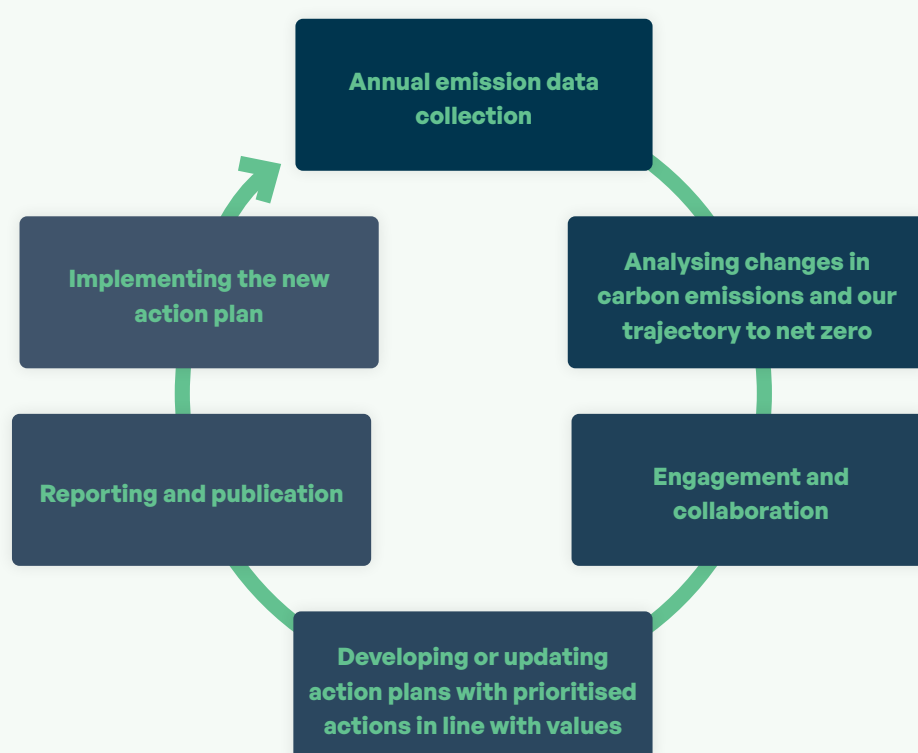


Figure 5 Carbon management cycle

4.1.1 Emission data collection

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

4.1.2 Data analysis

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

4.1.3 Engagement and collaboration

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

4.1.4 Action plans

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

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

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

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

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

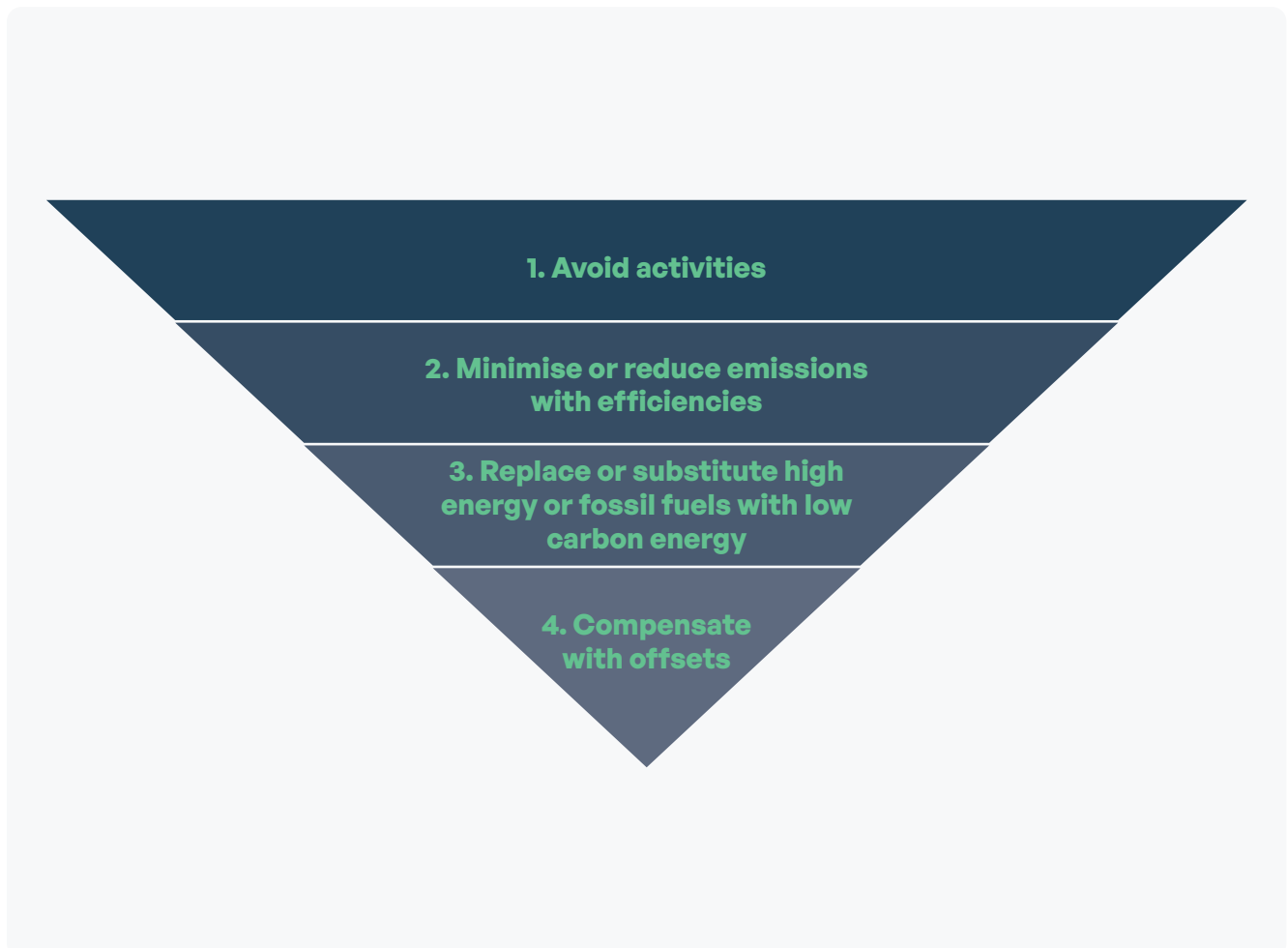


Figure 6 Carbon mitigation hierarchy



4.1.5 Previous initiatives

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



COUNCIL

Decarbonisation of our travel and transport

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

COUNCIL

Decarbonisation of our buildings and assets

- Improved insulation and windows.
- Building management systems and enhanced equipment controls.
- Solar power and solar battery storage systems.
- Replacement LED lighting in buildings and floodlights at Portsmouth International Port.
- 15,000 streetlights fitted with LED bulbs.
- Existing heating systems replaced with more efficient ones.
- Installing motion sensors on lighting.
- Portsmouth International Port's new cruise terminal generates more energy that it consumes by using solar panels and wind turbines to generate power, and sea water pumps to heat and cool the building.
- Buying 100% renewable energy for our buildings



COUNCIL

Decarbonisation through our decision-making

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

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



COUNCIL

Decarbonisation through greening our lands

- Re-wilding projects at 17 sites.
- New wildflower meadows at 22 urban sites and seven along roads.
- Over 4,000 m² of wildflower meadows and 34,000 new plants added to our social housing properties between 2019-2021.
- 788 new trees planted during 2020/2021.



COUNCIL

Decarbonisation through engaging our staff and contractors

- Providing accessible information on how we become a green council, including our sustainability principles, and how we can apply them in our roles.
- Creation of the internal Climate Programme Board to guide climate action planning



CITY

Decarbonisation of our city's travel and transport

- As of March 2022, 191 out of 228 of our city's bus fleet have been converted to lower emission standards ('Euro VI').
- Delivered the VOI electric-scooter rental scheme.
- 36 electric vehicle charging points (On-Street Residential Chargepoint scheme).
- Cycling support ("Be Bright, Be Seen" campaign, guided rides, marked quieter cycle routes, on-street bike hangers).
- Pompey Monster Walk to School challenge.
- Working with the Joint Air Quality Unit, Department for Transport and Defra to deliver and administer the Clean Air Zone in the city.
- £19.8m of UK government funding secured for shore power connections to be provided across three berths at Portsmouth International Port, allowing visiting ships to turn off their engines.
- Feasibility study carried out on how Portsmouth International Port can provide shore power for visiting fishing vessels at the Camber.



CITY

Decarbonisation of our city's buildings and infrastructure

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





CITY

Decarbonisation through supporting our businesses and the green economy

- PCC is in partnership with the European Regional Development Fund to deliver Low Carbon Across the South and East programme providing grant funding to decarbonise our businesses.
- Providing bid support to the City of Portsmouth college to gain funding to develop the NetZero Training Hub.



CITY

Decarbonisation through waste and consumption reduction

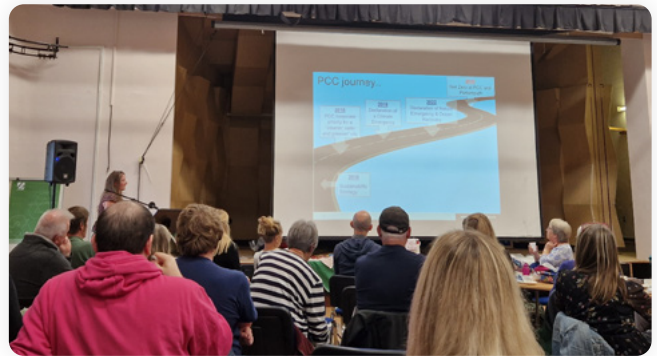
- Introduction of a city-wide food waste and used battery collection service.
- Food waste is recycled through anaerobic digestion.
- Diesel-powered waste collection fleet switched to HVO biofuel, reducing carbon emissions by 90%, harmful particulate matter by 85%, and nitrogen oxides by 30% (another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



CITY

Decarbonisation through greening our city

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



CITY

Decarbonisation through engaging and partnering in our city

- Holding Portsmouth Climate Festival in 2021.
- Hosting 'Shining a Light on Social Value' in 2022.
- Climate action e-newsletter.
- Running a world climate simulation game for Portsmouth's secondary schools..
- Strategic partnership with the University of Portsmouth 2021.
- Member of the Civic Partnership with the University of Portsmouth.
- Member of the Partnership for South Hampshire and piloting the Greenprint framework.

4.1.6 Other initiatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

WWF's One Planet City Challenge. An international challenge to strengthen city climate action plans.



4.1.7 Reporting

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

4.2 Climate change adaptation

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

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

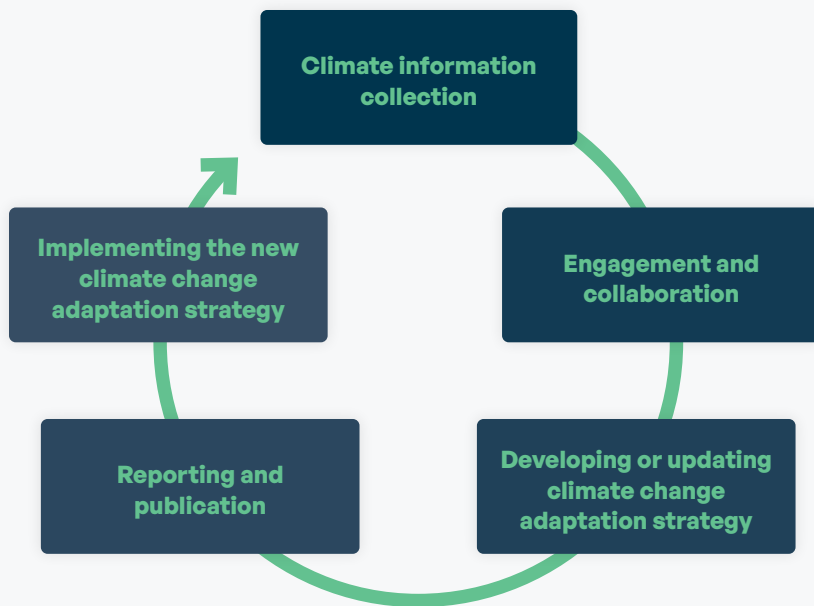


Figure 7 Climate change adaptation cycle

4.2.1 Climate information collection

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

4.2.2 Engagement and collaboration

Fully understanding and adapting to climate change risks cannot be successful if we do not engage and collaborate with our community. Understanding the risks, how they could impact our community and our values for the future are essential for climate change adaptation. We recognise that PCC needs to play a leadership role.

4.2.3 Climate change adaptation strategy

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

4.2.4 Previous initiatives

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



COUNCIL

Dynamic working

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



CITY-WIDE

Surface water management plan

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



CITY-WIDE

North Portsea Island scheme

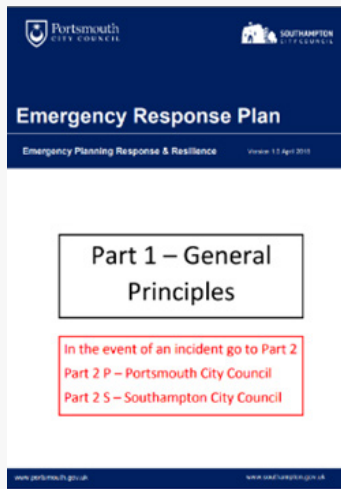
- 8.4 km of new flood defences, reducing the risk of flooding to over 4,000 homes and 500 businesses for the next century.



CITY-WIDE

Southsea coastal scheme

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



CITY-WIDE

Risk and preparedness plans

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



Through the Climate Disclosure Platform, we have joined: **United Nations' Race to Resilience**. This campaign aims to catalyse a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience, aiming to strengthen the resilience in vulnerable communities by 2030. As a result of this PCC were asked to present at London Climate Action Week in 2023.

4.2.5 Reporting

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

4.3 Governance

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

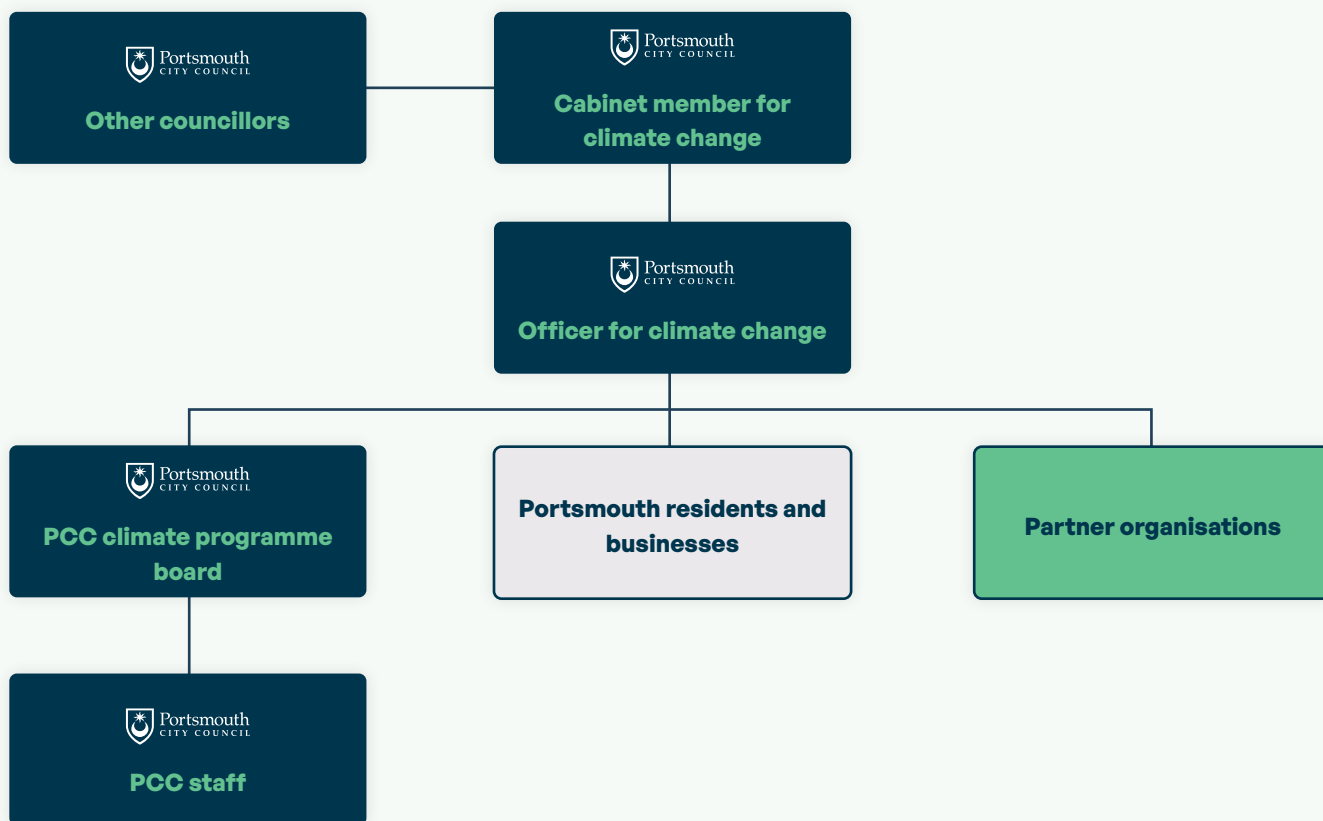


Figure 8 Climate Change Strategy governance structure

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

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

Contact us

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

climateaction@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Climate Change Strategy



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