

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
Subject:	Climate Change: A Year in Review
Date of meeting:	21 st March 2023
Report by:	Kristina Downey, Principal Strategy Adviser - Climate Change
Wards affected:	n/a

1. Requested by

- 1.1 Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide an overview of climate change activities that have been delivered in the previous year and activities that are underway.

3. Information Requested

- 3.1 An updated approach to climate change management is underway. Since March 2022, many changes and activities have occurred or are underway and will be delivered shortly.
- 3.2 In [September 2022](#), a new Climate Change Strategy was approved and adopted by Cabinet. This new Strategy has provided the basis for climate change activities that have been undertaken in the last year, and will continue to direct and support future activities. Including the new Climate Change Strategy, climate change activities undertaken since March 2022 by strategic priority areas include:
- Portsmouth City Council Operations**
- 3.3 In September 2022, an internal [energy use working group](#) was developed to create solutions to make the Civic Centre operations more environmentally and financially responsible.
- 3.4 In January 2023, Portsmouth City Council were successful in their application to Innovate UKs [Net Zero Living Programme](#). As lead applicant, PCC will collaborate with city partners to develop a study to understand the collective barriers to decarbonisation and identify city-wide solutions.
- 3.5 In February 2023, an internal [Climate Programme Board](#) of senior managers was created to increase the alignment of climate change-thinking into decision-making. Through capacity building, sharing information, and leadership it is anticipated that new climate change actions will be developed.

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- 3.6 Two more PCC architects have achieved their Passivhaus accreditation since March. Passivhaus are housing design standards that ensure very high energy efficiency, and where possible, all new social housing are built to these standards.
- 3.7 Since September 2022, the Green and Clean teams have substituted diesel for the lower carbon fuel, HVO, in four non-road vehicles and 19 road-vehicles. This is a permanent substitution until these vehicles can be electrified.
- 3.8 Before the end of this financial year, an additional 11 of our fleet vehicles will be exchanged for electric models.
- 3.9 Since March 2022, solar panels and battery planning and installing has been occurring at Portsmouth International Port and Lakeside at North Harbour. The Port is gaining 2,660 panels supplying 1.2 MW of power, and a 1.5 MW battery.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that publication of the first Carbon Action Plans for both PCC operations and our actions within the city will be available in the following months.

Travel and Transport

- 3.11 As part of the South East Hampshire Rapid Transit (SEHRT) scheme, improvements to the bus lane and cycling areas at Rudmore roundabout and Portsbridge junctions in 2022 and 2023 are encouraging less carbon-intense travel. The full SEHRT may reduce transport emissions by approximately 150 tonnes CO_{2e} per year.
- 3.12 In March 2022, an additional 62 on-street residential electric vehicle charge points have been added.
- 3.13 In January 2023, on-street secure bike hangars have been installed in a further eight locations.
- 3.14 In October 2022, a new electric and pedal bike scheme, Beryl Bikes by Breeze, was launched across Portsmouth. This scheme offers an initial 200 pedal bikes and 235 e-bikes. This was released in combination with a new phone application, Breeze app, that combines all low-carbon public and hireable transport services.
- 3.15 It was decided in November 2022, that the Voi e-scooter trial should be permitted to continue until May 2024 in Portsmouth.
- 3.16 In February, Portsmouth International Port accepted an offer from Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN) to secure an additional 15 MW of electricity to supply shore-power to visiting vessels. This will allow ships to switch off their engines in dock, reducing noise, carbon emissions, and improving local air quality.

Homes, Buildings and Other Infrastructure

- 3.17 Since May 2022, Portsmouth City Council has been delivering a LAD 3 and HUG 1 scheme funding (£15.7 million, and £16.2 million, respectively) which pays for thousands of free energy efficiency measures in privately owned

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homes, which reduce household energy costs and reduce over 100 tonnes CO₂e per year.

3.18 In July 2022, Portsmouth City Council approved the borrowing to establish a [Low Carbon Projects](#) fund that will finance city-wide renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other carbon mitigation projects. A number of city projects are being evaluated for their feasibility.

3.19 PCC's Building Services team are currently undertaking a [retrofit feasibility pilot scheme](#) across 19 social house types to understand the options for further retrofitting.

Business and the Green Economy

3.20 PCC remain a supporting partner for the [Low Carbon Across the South East \(LoCASE\)](#) grant funding to help local organisations decarbonise, and promote at relevant events.

3.21 From June 2022, PCC has led a [business decarbonisation and green skills working group](#), developing a strategy and work plan across Portsmouth organisations including the University of Portsmouth, Shaping Portsmouth, and Net-Zero Group.

3.22 In February 2023, PCC co-hosted the [Future Portsmouth: The Future is Green](#) event bringing together Portsmouth businesses, public sector, and education/training partners to discuss local sustainability innovation and new projects.

Waste and Consumption

3.23 In August 2022, kerbside collection of [used batteries](#) was introduced, meaning carbon can be reduced by encouraging this waste not to enter the general refuse waste collection and be incinerated. This is expected to save less than a tonne of CO₂e per year.

3.24 In November 2022, the [kerbside food waste collection](#) service was expanded to include an additional 10,000 Portsmouth residences, meaning more carbon savings can be made from food waste incineration. This is expected to save approximately 60 tonnes of CO₂e per year from incineration.

Natural Environment

3.25 Since last March, over [400 adult trees, almost 3,000 young trees, and hundreds of shrubs](#) have been planted in Portsmouth, focussing on our schools and social housing estates. This removes approximately 30 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and safely stores it in our soils and vegetation.

3.26 In May 2022, a [Motion for the Ocean and Our Coastal Communities](#) was carried at Full Council. Following this a report detailing actions and projects that will begin ocean recovery in Portsmouth was provided to Cabinet in November 2022, and then Full Council.

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- 3.27 In October 2022, PCC successfully applied for Defra's [Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund](#), gaining funding to support two new greening officers for two years.
- 3.28 In October 2022, internal finances were allocated to the [Greening the City fund](#) to help meet the objectives of the Greening Strategy in the community. In this round, £20,000 was allocated, with a second round opening in April 2023.
- 3.29 In January 2023, PCC successfully gained funding from the [Queen's Green Canopy Commemorative Planting](#) initiative and the [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#), assisting these and future planting activities.

Engagement and Partnerships

- 3.30 Since February 2022, a fortnightly [Climate Action Bulletin](#) has been circulated to our subscribers. To date this now has over 2.5k subscribers. This has been combined with a shared [Climate Action inbox](#) that allows residents to raise climate change ideas or queries,
- 3.31 From June, PCC has acted as pilot for the [Greenprint](#) framework for green recovery. This is a product developed by the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH).
- 3.32 In August 2022, PCC signed up to a number of [international climate change initiatives and campaigns](#). PCC efforts to protect our city from sea level rise and flooding has been identified as a [UN Climate Change High-Level Champion](#).
- 3.33 From August to October 2022, a number of climate change questions were included within the [Big Portsmouth Survey](#). The analysis of this resident engagement will be used as evidence towards future action planning.
- 3.34 In September 2022, together with the Hive, PCC co-hosted the first [environment-focussed Connecting and Networking event](#). PCC used this event to engage with our community groups to understand what project ideas they have, and what support they need to continue or expand their work. PCC are using this engagement to design future actions.
- 3.35 In November 2022, during the international climate change Conference of the Parties (CoP) PCC invited local high-school age students to take part in a [climate change simulation game](#) within the Council Chambers.
- 3.36 In November 2022, during the CoP the city council launched the new Climate Change Strategy and developed the [Green Partnership Charter](#). The Charter signatories are local organisations with a greater potential to influence city carbon emissions through their large estates, significant workforce, or community outreach. It is intended that this group will not just meet these joined objectives, but work more collaboratively in the future. Since November, further organisations have approached PCC to also join the Charter.
- 3.37 From January 2023, a year-long campaign called [Greener Me in 23](#) began and that aims to nudge residential behaviour change towards more sustainable choices.

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- 3.38 From January 2023, work has commenced to update and improve the breadth of climate change information provided on the external PCC website. After content finalisation, review, and testing, these pages should be launched in the following months.
- 3.39 From March 2022, over 30 climate-related press releases have been published.

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Signed by
Paddy May
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices:

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