

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Climate Local Commitments 2014-17

Mainstreaming climate change

Commitment: Demonstrate political commitment to acting on climate change		
Justification: Political and senior-level support and action is critical to achieving the target for managing the causes and impacts of climate change across our estate, services and the wider community.		
Specific action(s)	Measure	Timescale
Climate change commitments are embedded in the Council's key documents: the Corporate Plan 2013-2016, Community Plan 2010-2015 and our vision statement.	Climate change section to be updated in the renewal of the Corporate/Community Plan.	Community Plan to be refreshed in 2015 and Corporate Plan in 2016
A Scrutiny Environment Group was established in 2008 to monitor and oversee the environmental and climate change activities of the Council. It was agreed that the group need not be politically balanced and that the number of Members be flexible depending upon the number expressing an interest.	Maintain Scrutiny Environment Group to contribute and monitor climate change issues	Ongoing
Lead Member with responsibility for climate change appointed.	A Member Champion was appointed in 2012 and is a member of the Executive.	To be reviewed in 2015
Consultation and training information for Members on the benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change was provided by East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership in 2009.	Toolkit is available and climate change update information made through Scrutiny Environment Group	Ongoing

Commitment: Improve the awareness, engagement and knowledge of our staff		
Justification: As HBBC is a large employer, education and engagement of staff can make a big impact on emissions		
Commitment	Measure	Timescale
Continue integrating climate change into the staff induction programme, consequently being more energy efficient and reducing carbon dioxide emissions	Retain environmental management and specifically climate change in the staff induction programme	Review staff induction programme and update accordingly

Commitment: We aim to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from all our activities by 20% by 2014 (from a 2008/09 baseline)		
Justification: The UK's Climate Change Act 2008 and Energy Act 2010 places responsibility on local authorities to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. HBBC has set itself a target to reduce its carbon emissions and lead by example to mitigate climate change		
Commitment	Measure	Timescale
We will continue to implement HBBC's Carbon Management Plan	Reduce carbon emissions by 20% from Council buildings and vehicle fleet by 2014	March 2015
We will promote the efficient use of energy and water by Council staff through awareness raising programmes	Link awareness promotions to national environmental campaigns each year	Ongoing
Reduce emissions from corporate buildings	Deliver a programme of relocation to low carbon and more energy efficient buildings	Ongoing
Reduce emissions from Hinckley Leisure Centre	Work with our partners to find ways of reducing energy use	Ongoing

Energy

Commitment: Reduce carbon emissions and improve affordable warmth in our housing stock		
Justification: 15.4% of households spend more than 10% of their income on fuel.		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock in line with our Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report plan	Upgrade insulation, replace boilers, provide energy monitors	Ongoing
Update our housing stock condition survey		2013
Work with residents, households and communities of the Borough through events and schemes to promote energy conservation	Identify private sector properties that may be eligible for Energy Company Obligation funding and advise occupiers/owners of scheme details	Ongoing

Commitment: Promotion of householder and community action on reducing carbon emissions and fuel poverty in the Borough		
Justification: Community action on reducing carbon emissions can significantly reduce carbon emissions		
Specific actions	Measures	Timescale
Review the Empty Property Strategy and Housing Renewal Policy	Include measures to improve condition of private housing stock in the Borough	2014
Promote the carbon reduction and financial benefits of reducing energy consumption by improving energy efficiency of homes and business through the installation of insulation measures	Carry out energy audits and install low cost energy efficiency measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation and renewable energy systems, and replace old or defective heating systems / boilers.	2013
Promote the Green Deal to homeowners and	Provide 350 free of charge Green Deal assessments	2013

private tenants to increase the scheme's uptake and to encourage the improvement of energy efficiency in homes		
Promote the Green Deal to small and medium businesses across the Borough	Host an Energy Efficiency/Green Deal Business Breakfast for companies wanting to reduce energy consumption and those involved in implementing Green Deal functions i.e. solar panel installers	2013/14
Develop demonstration projects to show what can be achieved.	Refit three unoccupied homes into "eco-show homes" to showcase energy good practice and renewable energy technology including fitting new windows and doors, cavity and external wall insulation, loft and floor insulation, new boilers and potentially renewables: fuel heating systems and solar PV	2013/14

Commitment: Apply planning regulations to promote energy efficiency and low carbon buildings		
Justification: Influence developers in building high energy performance housing		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Encourage or require developers to build homes to the energy standards described in the HBBC Core Strategy or better	Policy 24: Sustainable Design and Technology	By Core Strategy: Code level 6 by 2016

Commitment: Promote sustainable procurement within the Council		
Justification: To encourage low energy and more sustainable options in purchasing		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Incorporate the social and environmental aspects as well as cost considerations into purchasing	Continue to purchase a significant proportion of green electricity	Ongoing

Assess whole-life cost when assessing capital project finance	Include sustainability into risk grid	2013/14
Review and update the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2010-13 to encourage low energy and more sustainable purchasing	Reduce resource use and carbon emissions	2014

Transport

Commitment: Work with local organisations and businesses to promote sustainable transport		
Justification: Supports corporate objectives to sustain our local economy, reduce carbon emissions , improves air quality, reduces congestion, and improves health and road safety		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
We will continue to implement the Hinckley Priority Area LTP3 Engagement and Communication Plan	Investment in walk and cycling infrastructure	2013/14
Influence other large employers in the district by implementing the Council's Green Travel Plan to reduce single person car use and increase the use of public transport, walking and cycling	At corporate buildings introduce parking management, car-sharing, cycling facilities, tele and video conferencing and flexi-working during staff awareness raising sessions	2013 and ongoing
Ensure new developments are accessible by sustainable modes of transport	To ensure that transport remains considered in Planning Policies to encourage developers to include sustainable means to travel are within easy reach of all developments	2013 and ongoing

Commitment: We will identify opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions from our transport fleet
Justification: Reducing the carbon emissions from the fleet with also reduce fuel consumption, save money and reduce air pollution in the Borough

Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
We will purchase and invest in greener vehicles across the Council's fleet where long term investment can be made.	An environment specification is part of all tender analysis	Ongoing

Waste

Commitment: Improve levels of recycling and reduce waste in Council buildings and services		
Justification: Reduce costs and the Council's operational waste management reflects what Borough residents are encouraged to do		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Promote waste minimisation to staff and remove desk bins in corporate offices	Reduce overall waste volumes	Ongoing

Commitment: Reduce the amount of household waste which goes to landfill		
Justification: Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from waste by meeting the Waste Minimisation targets		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Increase the amount of waste per capita which is reused, recycled, composted or treated by anaerobic digestion	Recycling or composting 58% of municipal waste	2017
Raising community awareness on waste minimisation through public awareness campaigns	Reduce per capita residual waste going to landfill to 310kg per capita per year	2015/16
Quantify the greenhouse gas benefits of diversion from landfill due to waste minimisation and recycling and publicise the information	Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per capita	ongoing
Continue to develop new recycling schemes, undertake improvements to current collection schemes and promotional activities to encourage residents to recycle 58% of their waste by 2020.	Percentage of waste recycled	2020

Resilience

Commitment: Improve the resilience of our communities to future climate impacts through our Climate Ready Plan		
Justification: Preparing for climate change will increase the Borough's resilience to the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events.		
Specific Action	Measure	Timescale
Raise awareness in businesses and industry about the importance of risk analysis and contingency planning associated with climate change, build capacity in organisation and embedding climate change into commissioning processes	Publicise workshops and support available.	2016
Implement the Leicestershire Climate Ready Plan	Borough Council to complete comprehensive climate change risk assessment of operations and services and develop action plans where appropriate.	2014
Engage the community in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning	Publicise workshops and support available	2014/15
Maximise the use of sustainable urban drainage systems	Planning permissions granted with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Ongoing
Meet and exceed our obligations in the Flood and Water Management Act in order to prepare our area for increasing levels of precipitation and flooding	Implement the Strategic Flood Risk Solutions actions from the Flood Risk Assessment of the Local Plan 2006-026	Ongoing

Natural Environment

Commitment: Work in partnership with other agencies and the community to maintain and enhance distinctive and outstanding natural environment

Justification: An effective approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment working across boundaries and between organisations

Specific actions	Measure	Timescale
Establish policies to protect and enhance biodiversity sites, habitats and species with reference to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Consider scope for actions in new Green Spaces Delivery Plan	Commencing 2013
Implement the Green Spaces Development Plan	Identify opportunities for the creation of new accessible Natural and Semi Natural (NSN) open spaces in the Borough, focusing particularly on areas which are shown as deficient.	2013 and ongoing
Enhance and develop the quality of NSN open space in the Borough	Investigate opportunities to amend management practices	2013 and ongoing
Improve biodiversity of species in formal parks and cemeteries	Integrate sustainable management into grounds maintenance	2014 and ongoing
Enhance sites of importance for conservation and biodiversity	Introduce species specific management plans and modify maintenance regimes of suitable sites to increase biodiversity	2014 and ongoing

Commitment: Protect and enhance the resilience of the Borough's biodiversity to the projected effects of climate change

Justification: Green infrastructure is important for environmental, social, recreational, psychological, health and economic benefits. In urban areas particularly it removes carbon dioxide from the air.		
Specific actions	Measure	Timescale
Ensure parks are resilient to future seasonal ground conditions	Management plans incorporate potential effects of damage from flooding and urban heat	Ongoing
Introduce species planting which can withstand projected seasonal conditions	Reduction in seasonal bedding schemes	Ongoing
Promote the use of trees and vegetation that prevent rapid run off and therefore protect areas from flooding	Develop a tree and woodland policy and strategy for the borough	2014/15
Deliver the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan	Assess actions identified in the BAP and incorporate into HBBC policies and plans	Ongoing
Refresh the Council's Green Spaces Delivery Plan	Implement management site specific management plans	2013/14
Ensure that the habitat and associated diversity is maintained or compensated for within development plans	Incorporated into Local Plan 2006-2026	Ongoing