Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy (2025 – 2030)

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Introduction

In 2019, Hertsmere Borough Council declared Climate Emergency and committed to achieving net zero emissions in all its operations as soon as reasonably possible and no later than 2050.

Following the declaration, a Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and Action plan was unanimously adopted by the Council to give direction, coordinate and streamline climate action in the Council and the Borough.

Following five years of its implementation, the strategy and action plan are being updated to assess progress made, integrate lessons learnt and incorporate emerging best practices. The revision responds to the heightened urgency of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

Aims

This strategy and action plan presents the progress that has been made by the Council and the Borough so far.

It identifies the actions and measures that will:

- Enable the Council to reduce its own emissions leading up to net-zero emissions by 2050;
- Enable the Council to offset its own operational emissions that are unavoidable;
- Further the implementation of environmental sustainability and circular economy in the operations of the Council;
- Influence, enable and support residents, businesses and public and third sector organisations in the Borough to reduce and offset their own emissions;
- Help the Council and the Borough to adapt and build resilience against impacts of climate change;
- Promote zero carbon and environmentally sustainable growth and development of the Council;
- Support nature recovery in the Borough and surrounding areas;
- Promote a just transition to a greener economy; and
- Improve well-being and quality of life of the residents of the Council.

Principles

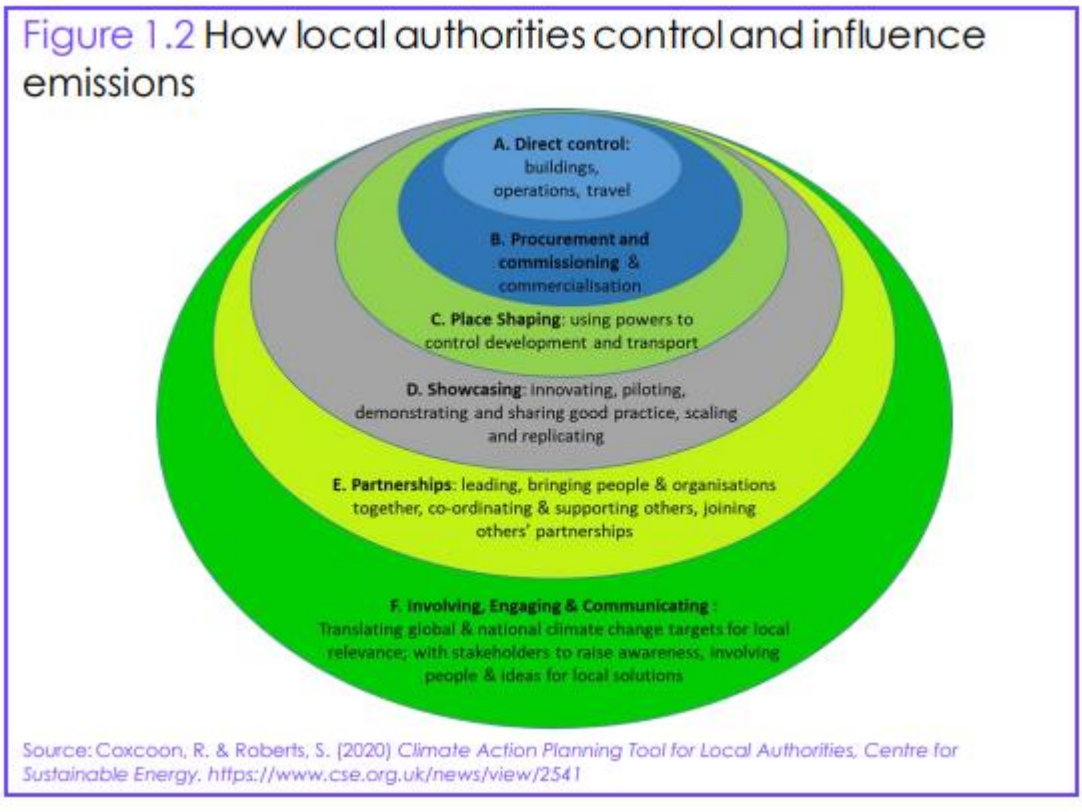
In order to become more environmentally sustainable, the following principles will be embedded in all aspects of the functioning and development of Hertsmere:

- reducing consumption,

- minimising waste,
- reducing the need to travel and increasing use of active, public and sustainable forms of transport,
- transitioning to renewable and sustainable forms of energy,
- ensuring sustainable and zero carbon new developments,
- protecting and enhancing greenbelts, open spaces and biodiversity,
- implementing principles of circular economy,
- procuring local and sustainable produce/products/services,
- adapting to climate change
- building resilience to impacts of climate change,
- taking a collaborative and community led approach, and
- ensuring a just transition.

Delivery mechanisms

It is estimated that local authorities are directly responsible for 2 – 5% of the local emissions[1], however, they have a much larger 'sphere of influence' as shown in the figure below:



The Council will take actions to reduce emissions that are directly in its own control and within its jurisdiction. The Council will also actively seek opportunities to enable, support and inspire residents and businesses to mitigate climate change and

[1] Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf

improve the natural environment through a suite of corporate and community projects, partnerships, engagement campaigns and local planning policies.

Benefits

By taking action climate change, the Council and the Borough will also benefit from the following:

Co-benefit	Explanation and examples
Nature recovery	Improvement in green and blue infrastructure including planting trees and hedgerows and de-culverting rivers, mitigate climate change, improve flood management while also supporting biodiversity and natural environment.
Better air quality	Trees absorb carbon dioxide, ammonia, nitrous dioxide and sulphur dioxide, acting as natural air filters. When planted strategically, they act as barriers between pollution sources including petrol/diesel vehicles and people. Transitioning to cleaner transport options and increasing tree cover will reduce harmful emissions as well as improve air quality.
Social equity and just transition	Climate change impacts and issues such as urban over-heating, cold and damp housing or flood risk disproportionately affect areas of higher deprivation. By addressing the unequal burden of harm, prioritising vulnerable communities in solutions, creating economic opportunities for all and ensuring that all voices are heard, climate actions can improve social equity through a just transition.
Financial savings	Installing energy efficiency measures in homes lowers energy demand and reduces household energy bills. Initiatives like community gardens and orchards can also cut food costs, helping residents save money and alleviate poverty.
Improved energy security	Generating renewable energy, such as rooftop solar PV, lowers long-term energy costs and reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels. This enhances household resilience and overall energy security.
Better health and well being	Increased access to nature, use of active transport, eating fresher and locally grown produce and living in warmer and more comfortable homes, all contribute to improved physical and mental health.
Community cohesion	Shared initiatives like community growing projects, reuse schemes, markets and volunteering days foster stronger community connections and enhance local resilience.
Creating local employment opportunities	Climate action drives the creation of local jobs in areas such as construction and retrofit of buildings, deployment of air source heat pumps and solar PV and ecology, stimulating the green economy.

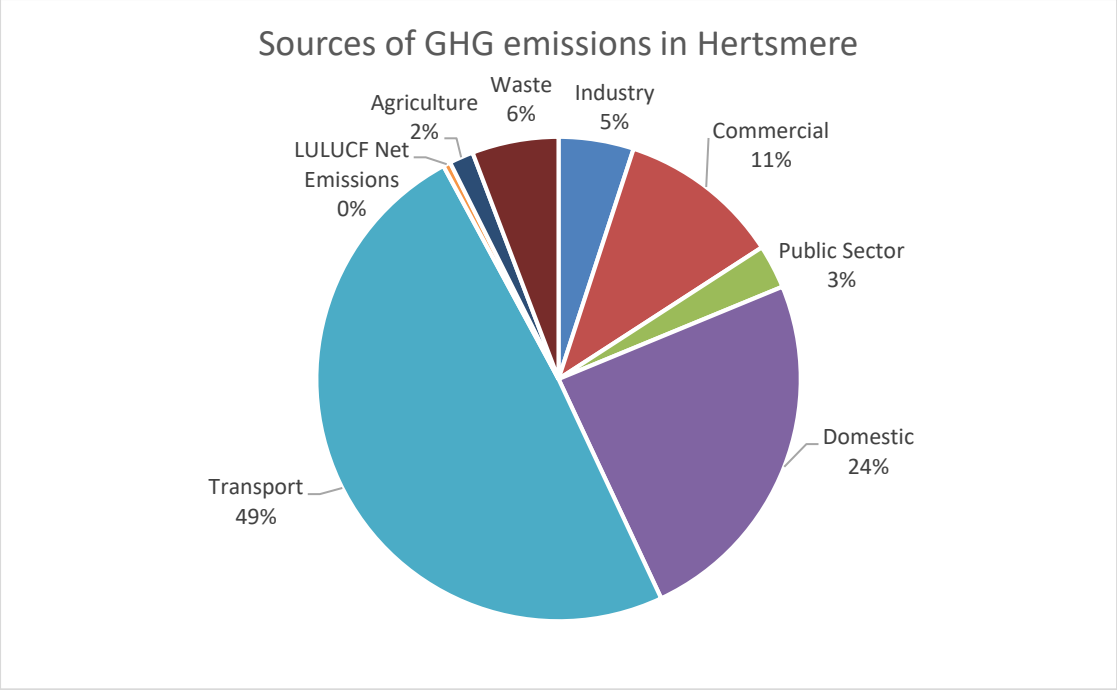
Bringing inward investment	Climate change initiatives attract external funding. For example, under ECO4, energy companies are required to fund energy efficiency upgrades in the homes of vulnerable residents. Supporting access to such funding brings investment into the Borough.
Better place shaping	Climate action supports better place shaping by creating healthier, more resilient, and inclusive communities. By integrating green infrastructure, promoting active and sustainable transport, and upgrading homes for energy efficiency, climate initiatives enhance the quality and functionality of public spaces.
Environmental sustainability	Acting on climate change supports wider environmental sustainability. For example, reducing use of single use plastics has a knock on effect of reduced plastic pollution. Recycling waste reduces the demand for virgin materials and eases the pressure on the environment.

Sources of emissions

Green House Gases (GHG) emitted by a local authority are primarily carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O). The main sources of these emissions, broken down by local authority area, are published by the UK Government annually[2].

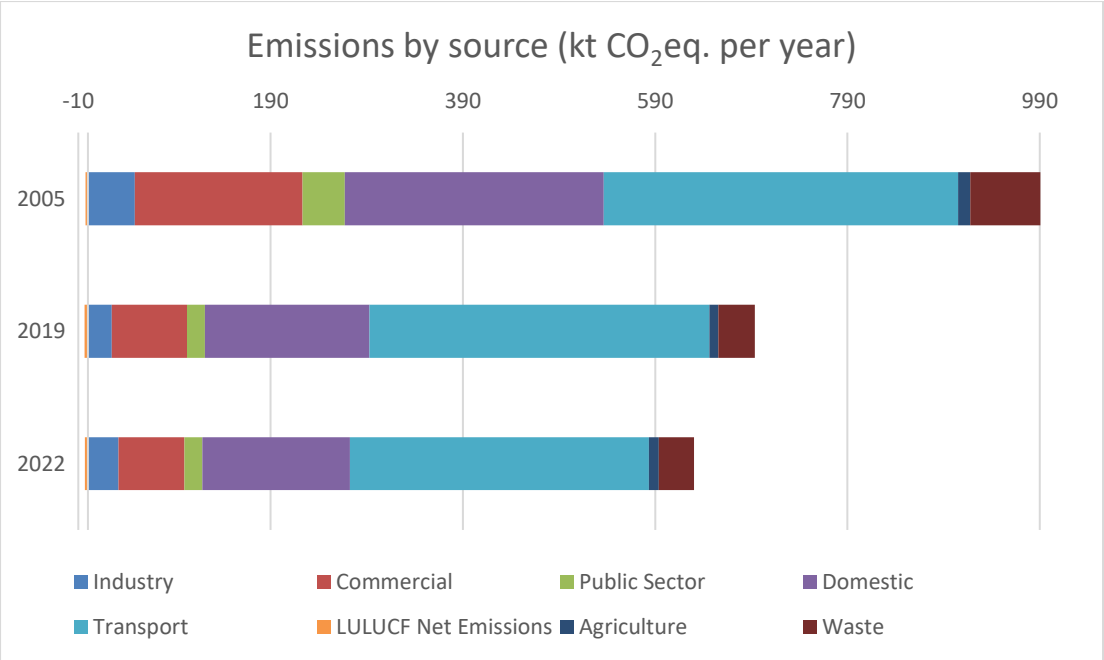
In Hertsmere, transport accounts for nearly 50% of the GHG emissions, domestic energy consumption 24% followed by commercial energy use, disposal of waste, industrial energy use and the public sector.

[2] UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics - GOV.UK



Overall emissions in Hertsmere have reduced by 37% since 2005 and by 9% since the baseline year of 2019. In the last 5 years, there has been a reduction from all sources except industry and agriculture. Decarbonisation of electricity has played a major role in the reduction of emissions from commercial, public sector and domestic energy use. Emissions from transport have been stagnant.

Figure below shows the level of GHG emissions from Hertsmere for the period 2005-2022.



Per capita emissions in Hertsmere, at 5.8 t CO_2 per capita per year are higher than regional and national averages, though the rate of reduction has been at par. It is, therefore, critical that more effort is made towards enabling and inspiring reduction of emissions from the Borough as well as reducing the emissions from Council operations.

Per capita emissions (tCO_2 eq. per year)	2005	2019	2022	Change
Hertsmere	10.5	6.5	5.8	10.1%
Hertfordshire	8.9	5.3	4.7	11.3%
East of England	10.3	6.2	5.6	9.7%
England	10.1	5.8	5.1	12.1%
National	10.9	6.2	5.6	9.7%

To achieve net zero by 2050, Hertsmere must take ambitious action to address emissions from all key sources. The following sections of the strategy and action plan outline the available data for each source, along with the specific measures that will be implemented to reduce emissions.

Priority 1 – Reduce emissions associated with Council operations

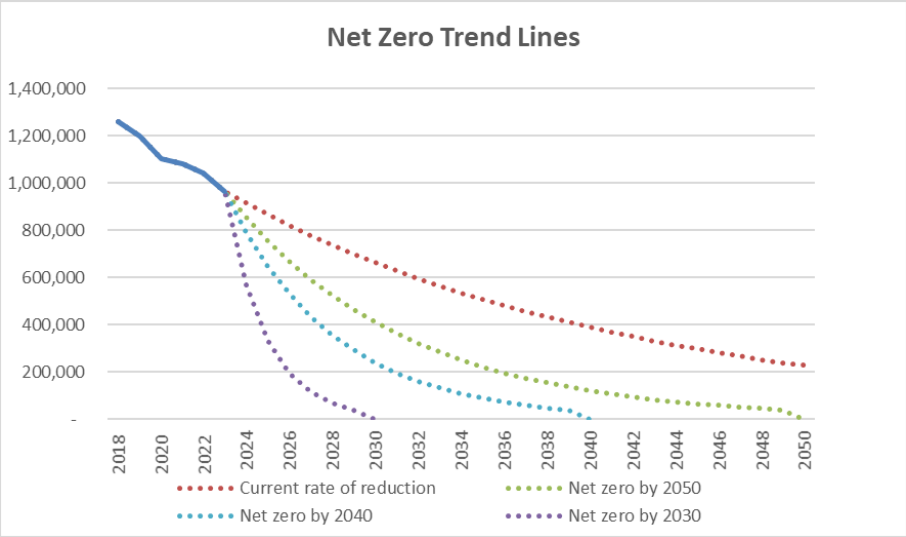
In 2019, the Council set a target of achieving net zero in its operations as soon as reasonably possible and no later than 2050.

Since then the Council has been measuring and monitoring its emissions. Since baseline year 2018/19, Council emissions have reduced:

- Scope 1 by 11%
- Scope 2 by 37%
- Scope 1 and 2 combined by 17%
- Scope 3 emissions are indicative

Hertsmere Borough Council - Emissions (kg CO_2eq./year)								
Scope 1	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**% Change since 2018/19**
Diesel	818,991	797,222	764,592	725,169	705,097	662,827	695,674	-15%
Petrol	1,207	1,330	1,072	1,915	2,103	2,352	2,241	86%
Gas	145,423	151,861	128,833	153,969	140,337	122,238	158,060	9%
Scope 1 total	**965,621**	**950,413**	**894,497**	**881,053**	**847,537**	**787,418**	**855,976**	**-11%**
Scope 2	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**% Change**
Electricity	294,706	247,501	207,189	200,550	192,471	177,106	184,344	-37%
Scope 2 total	**294,706**	**247,501**	**207,189**	**200,550**	**192,471**	**177,106**	**184,344**	**-37%**
Scope 1 and 2 total	**1,260,327**	**1,197,914**	**1,101,687**	**1,081,603**	**1,040,008**	**964,523**	**1,040,320**	**-17%**
Scope 3*	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**% Change**
T and D loss	25,122	21,012	17,818	17,748	17,607	15,322	16,293	-35%
Business Travel	26,559	28,704	26,679	26,763	21,542	24,778	26,714	1%
Leased assets	-	-	-	-	-	2,948,771	2,899,527	
*Scope 3 data collection is being expanded to include more sources								

- These reductions are significant but this rate of reduction is not sufficient to get the Council to net zero operational emissions by 2050, as shown in the figure below. To reach the target, the Council needs to double the rate of emissions reduction from the current 3% year on year to 12%. To reach net zero by 2040, 18% reduction will be required and by 2030 41%.



Emissions under Council's direct control - Scope 1 and 2 emission

- The largest source of direct emissions in Council operations is diesel used in Street Scene fleet (Waste Services, Trade Waste, Cleansing Services, Pest Control, and Street Scene Depot). It accounts for 64% of Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Transition to Euro VI compliant vehicles has reduced diesel use by 12% and emissions by 16% as shown in the table below.

Street scene fleet									
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% change since 2018/19
Diesel	litres	303,011	299,923	293,244	279,181	265,970	253,097	266,673	**-12%**
Total emissions	kg CO_2 eq	795,991	778,034	746,607	701,394	680,309	635,797	670,094	**-16%**

Given the large proportion of emissions that originate from this source and the visibility of the service in the Borough, decarbonising the fleet can result in significant reduction of emissions and improvement of air quality.

Further staged transition of fleet and supporting infrastructure to cleaner, more efficient and more sustainable fuel sources such as electric/battery and biomethane is needed. The Council is currently investigating options for its Depot to enable provision of services to accommodate growth in the next 15 plus years and also enable the transition to more sustainable fuel. This also

gives further opportunity to decarbonise the wider Depot operation (see below).

- Amongst buildings, electricity and gas consumption in the Civic Office is the largest source of emissions in the Council. It accounts for 27% of emissions from Council operations. The Civic Office has undergone extensive refurbishment and retrofit. Both electricity and gas consumption are expected to reduce now that the old building system has been decommissioned.

Civic Office									
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% change since 2018/19
Electricity	kWh	840,288	746,910	730,720	747,054	777,126	661,151	715,543	**-15%**
Gas	kWh	537,946	557,882	567,377	606,729	623,355	530,453	748,850	**39%**
Total emissions	kg CO_2 eq	336,821	293,477	274,684	269,750	264,068	233,942	285,118	**-15%**

Opportunities for further decarbonisation and reduction of energy use in the building need to be explored in partnership with NHS and Hertfordshire police, who rent part of the building.

- Other major emitters in the Council operations are Cranborne depot and Meadow Road depot accounting for the remaining 3% and 0.6% emissions, respectively. Decarbonisation plans for these assets should be developed.

Energy Use in Cranbourne Depot (kWh)									
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% change since 2018/19
Electricity	kWh	81,142	61,426	39,968	49,970	48,067	44,640	43,974	**-46%**
Gas	kWh	145,765	135,233	102,671	157,872	134,536	120,381	102,997	**-29%**
Total emissions	kg CO_2 eq	49,784	40,563	28,196	39,526	33,853	31,265	27,943	**-44%**

Energy Use in Meadow Road Depot (kWh)									
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% change since 2018/19
Electricity	kWh	25,120	27,608	27,631	29,187	24,435	19,991	20,755	**-17%**
Gas	kWh	10,269	10,388	10,953	11,184	10,912	9,394	10,566	**3%**
Total emissions	kg CO_2 **eq**	9,000	8,966	8,456	8,246	6,717	5,858	6,230	**-31%**

Emissions under Council's indirect control - Scope 3 emission

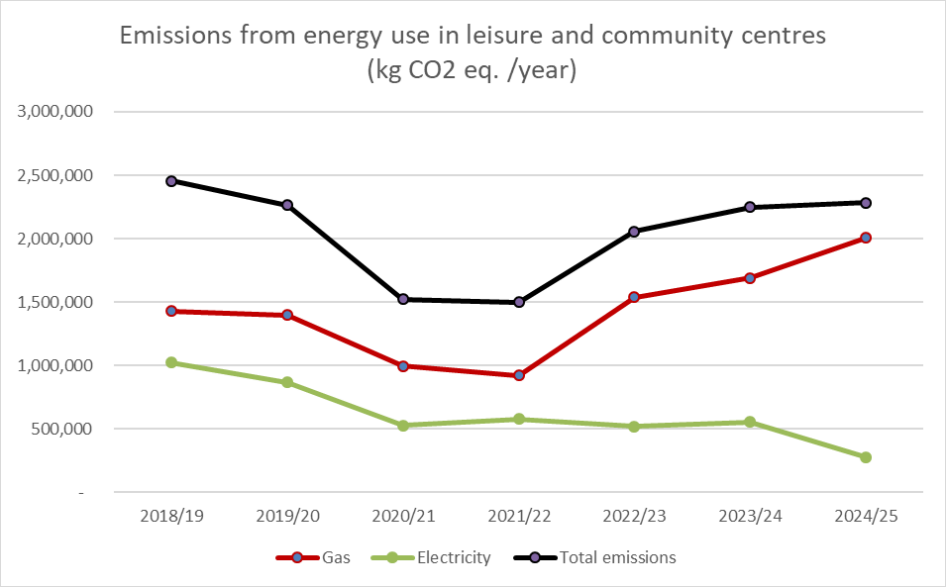
- Scope 3 data capture in the Council is still in its initial stages of development as reporting methodologies are emerging. Significant further work is required to create a full picture. In the limited data that is tracked so far, Scope 3 emissions are nearly three times Scope 1 and Scope 2 combined.

- Amongst Scope 3 emissions that are currently tracked, the largest emissions are from energy consumption in properties that are owned by the Council and are leased/rented to third parties such as leisure centres, community centres, museums, shops, temporary accommodation, and parks buildings.

- Properties with highest associated emissions in 2024/25 are shown in the table below:

Site	Total emissions (kg CO_2 eq.)
Furzefield Leisure Centre	754,235
Venue Leisure Centre	740,325
Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	645,986
Elstree Studios	569,054
Wyllyotts Theatre	98,642

- Overall, emissions from the leisure centres have decreased by 7% when compared to 2018/19 baseline year. As a result of installation of CHPs in leisure centres, the use of gas has increased and electricity use decreased.



- While staff business travel accounts a small fraction of the emissions, it impacts a large number of staff. To lead this agenda and help reduce emissions the Council will develop EV car club, incentives for cycling and use of public transport for business travel should be explored.

- Data collection will be expanded to capture emissions from various sources including leased/rented assets, commercial investments, contracts and contracted services such as parks maintenance, purchased goods and services, waste, water, staff travel and staff working from home.

Actions taken since 2019

- Following the declaration, the Council has established a Climate Emergency Member Panel, designated a Cabinet portfolio and established Head of Service and officer positions with responsibility for environmental

sustainability and climate change, to oversee and coordinate the Council's progress towards the goal.

- Climate Change has also been incorporated into the Corporate Vision, the Corporate Plan and the associated performance monitoring framework.
- To integrate sustainability into the functioning of the Council, the decision report structure has been modified to include a section on the impacts of the decision on the environment.
- Since 2021, Council waste collection fleet has been incrementally replaced and upgraded to Euro 6 Emissions Standards compliant to reduce emissions and improve fuel efficiency.
- Cycle storage and showering facilities have been provided at the Civic Office.
- As a large employer, the Council has become a member of the Beryl Bike scheme, enabling staff to hire the bikes free of cost for the first 30 minutes.
- Major refurbishment works were undertaken in the Civic Office in 2023. This included HVAC improvements made with two new air handling units, new VRF units and a new heat pump and associated plant items. New energy efficient LEDs replaced approximately 700 fluorescent luminaires and occupancy controls with daylight sensing were installed.
- Solar Panels were installed on the roof of the Civic Office in 2020.
- Annual emissions reporting processes have been established.
- Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed in Civic Office car park and plans to expand charge points across all the Councils car parks agreed.

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Develop a comprehensive decarbonisation plan for all Council assets included owned and operated, leased, rented assets.	Direct control	Short term	££	High	Leading by example
Actively seek funding and implement decarbonisation	Direct control	Short term	£	High	Leading by example,

projects in Council assets including leisure and community centres					inward investment, financial savings
Install solar panels on all available and feasible assets for generation of renewable energy including roof tops and car parks	Direct control	Short term	£££	High	Leading by example, inward investment, financial savings
Establish options to decarbonise fleet vehicles and supporting infrastructure	Direct control	Long term	££	High	Leading by example, inward investment, financial savings, improved air quality
Ensure Local Plan policies address climate change mitigation and adaptation and that they are reflected in development management decisions	Direct control	Short term	£	High	Leading by example
Set up an electric vehicle car club for staff travelling for Council operations	Direct control	Short term	£	Medium	Leading by example, improved air quality, financial savings
Consult relevant officers/experts on climate change and sustainability impacts of all major decisions/reports	Direct control	Short term	£	Medium	Leading by example
Include climate change and sustainability as a criteria in all tender/contract evaluations and require emissions reporting as part of contracting arrangements	Procurement and commissioning	Short term	£	Medium	Leading by example
Mandatory climate change training for all Councillors and staff	Direct control	Short	£	Medium	Leading by example
Adopt a pathway to net zero emissions that includes interim and measurable targets	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example
Set up a working group at the senior management level for	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example

conceptualisation, funding and delivery of priority projects					
Review and report progress on emission reductions and action plan to Council every year.	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example
Regularly communicate, engage and inspire staff through incentives and internal communication channels	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example
Develop a comprehensive communication strategy to engage with residents, businesses and community groups	Direct control	Short term	£	Mediu m	Community cohesion
Agree on principles of carbon offsetting to meet Council targets	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example
Create and annually update a climate change risk register to ensure business continuity and resilience	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example
Ensure that emergency plans and procedures enable an effective response to climate related incidents, for example flooding or severe weather.	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Leading by example

Priority 2 - Promote active, sustainable and shared forms of transport in the Borough

Transport accounts for nearly 50% of GHG emissions in the Borough. This is due to the heavy reliance of residents, businesses and the Council on fossil fuel based vehicles for transport.

Cars and vans are the most frequently used modes of transport in Hertfordshire accounting for nearly 60% of all trips made. While walking short distances is common for residents, use of cycles and public transport has remained consistently low in Hertfordshire. Cycling accounts for 1-2% of journeys, buses 3-5% and trains 2-3%. This is due to various reasons including lack of infrastructure available such as cycling lanes, high traffic speed, high cost and paucity of public transport[3].

[3] Herts Traffic and Transport Data Report 2024

The South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan[4], the Local Transport Plan 4[5], and the government's vision for integrated national transport strategy, all prioritise walking and cycling for short distance travel along with the need for integrated and reliable public transport systems.

Road transport infrastructure in Hertsmere is partly under the remit of Hertfordshire County Council and partly under Highways England. Walking and cycling lanes and parking are under the remit of Hertsmere Borough Council.

There has been a rapid rise in the number of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) in the UK and Hertsmere. These are vehicles that emit less than 75g CO_2 from tailpipe for every kilometre travelled and typically include fully electric vehicles and some hybrid-electric and fuel cell powered vehicles. There are currently 2,690 ULEV vehicles registered in Hertsmere, which is significantly higher than the regional and national averages. These are supported by 72 publically available charging devices, of which 40 are rapid chargers or faster[6].

Passenger car and vans spend 96% of the time parked and are, therefore, in use only 4% of the time[7]. In recent times, shared, on-demand forms of transport are emerging as an alternative to private car ownership. Along with the direct environmental benefits, reducing reliance on privately owned passenger cars will free up land in homes, urban areas and other destinations for possible alternative uses including community spaces and nature recovery and also result in significant financial savings from purchase and maintenance of cars.

Based on the above evidence, supporting use of active, sustainable and shared (public and passenger) transport have been identified as priorities for the strategy and action plan.

Actions taken since 2019

- Public cycle hire scheme run by Beryl bikes was launched in October 2022 in Borehamwood and extended to Bushey in 2024. The scheme offers bikes 45 pedal bikes and 40 e-bikes at 31 bays for hire to public. In the first 2 years of operation, the scheme generated more than 25,000 sustainable journeys covering nearly 50,000km. This has helped the local area avoid almost 2 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions and led to nearly 6,500 hours of exercise for people.
- The Council have been working with Hertfordshire County Council to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Hertsmere. The Plan is aimed at identifying important local walking and cycling routes and

[4] 13ab9622d0a61dcb422ae745d7e0bf60_South_West_Herts_strategic_plan_November_2023_(single_page).pdf

[5] https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/ltp4-2018.pdf

[6] Local area data: Electric vehicles and charging points

[7] 69684 RACF – Standing Still_AW.3.pdf

improvements needed to encourage further use. The Plan is expected to be finalised and adopted in 2025 followed by delivery.

- Ensuring that major planning applications provide for new bus routes or enhanced services through the use of s106 funds, where possible.
- In 2023, the Council used Community Infrastructure Levy funding to support reinstatement of bus service on Route 84B connecting Potters Bar and Barnet.
- Roll out of EV charging points across Hertsmere is currently underway. 42 charging points in 9 car parks will have new charge points installed and active by November 2025 and further 32 in 3 car parks will be installed by early 2026. Other sites are under exploration.
- Following sustained compliance with the air quality standards (Annual Mean Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide), all Air Quality Management Areas in Hertsmere were revoked in May 2024.
- Access and provision of sustainable transport is a criteria in determining planning applications. Contributions to walking and cycling infrastructure have been secured to cover additional journey requirements created by large new developments.

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Expand public cycle hire scheme to all major urban settlements, employment and recreational sites in Hertsmere	Place shaping	Medium term	£££	Medium	Financial savings, better health and wellbeing outcomes, improved air quality, social equity
Actively collaborate with County Council to support delivery of the Local	Partnerships	Long term	£	Medium	Inward investment

Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan					
Continue a series of campaigns to drive behaviour change in favour of use of active, sustainable and public transport among residents and businesses.	Involving, Engaging and Communicating	Short term	£	Low	Financial savings, better health and wellbeing outcomes, social equity, social inclusion, community cohesion
Facilitate improvement public transport provision through active engagement with residents, County Council and Intalink using Section 106 funds and Bus Service Improvement Plans	Partnership and Place shaping	Long term	£	Medium	Financial savings, community cohesion, nature recovery
Plan a series of town centre hybrid hoppers in settlements of Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Bushey and Radlett using s106 funds	Partnership and Place shaping	Medium term	£££	High	Community cohesion, Improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, Inward investment
Develop Public Transport Hubs within existing settlements to encourage use of sustainable transport	Place shaping	Medium term	£££	Medium	Community cohesion, nature recovery
Facilitate transition of public transport vehicles to those run on renewable fuels such as green hydrogen or electricity	Partnerships	Medium term	££	Medium	Improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Lobby to County Council for implementation of express bus service and an integrated electronic	Partnerships	Medium term	£	High	Inward investment

public information for travel services i.e. electronic bus stop information, live bus tracking and phone apps					
Encourage shared transport in the Borough by supporting car clubs, demand response transport and other such innovations	Showcasing	Medium term	££	Medium	Improved air quality, community cohesion
Explore creation of low emission or low speed zones in the town centres with County Council	Place shaping and Partnerships	Medium term	£	Medium	Improved air quality, community cohesion
Facilitate implementation of EV charging facilities in the Borough	Place shaping and Partnerships	Short term	££	Medium	Improved air quality, inward investment, financial savings
Formulate and publicise anti-idling policy in Council car parks and in areas with sensitive receptors	Involving, Engaging and Communicating	Short term	£	Low	Improved air quality, improved health and wellbeing outcomes
Secure active and passive provision of EV charging facilities in all new developments above minimum regulatory compliance	Place shaping	On going	£	Medium	Improved air quality, improved health and wellbeing outcomes, financial savings
All new developments to make provision for secure, accessible cycle parking, showering facilities and be connected to local travel centres	Place shaping	On going	£	Low	Improved air quality, improved health and wellbeing outcomes, financial savings
Reduce off-street parking standards for new development subject to car clubs/pools and/or availability of alternative transport modes	Place shaping	Short term	£	Medium	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes,

					better place shaping, community cohesion
Ensure strategic housing allocations in new Local Plan are within walking or cycling distance of key supporting facilities	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Better health and wellbeing outcomes, better place shaping, community cohesion, better air quality
Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Direct control	On going	£	Low	Better air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Develop Local Air Quality Strategy to continue improvement of air quality in the Borough	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Better air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes

Priority 3 – Improve energy efficiency and increase renewable energy capacity in the Borough

Energy consumption in homes, commercial establishments and industries in the form of electricity, gas and other fuels, account for over 40% of greenhouse gas emissions from local authorities.

Annual electricity[8] and gas[9] consumption data published by Department of Energy Security and Net Zero has been referenced and presented below for analysis of consumption, regional context and progress towards decarbonisation.

Domestic

The level of energy consumption is determined by a number of factors such as the purpose of the building, type of heating, insulation of the building, efficiency of appliances used, usage behaviour of the occupiers.

[8] Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics - GOV.UK
[9] Regional and local authority gas consumption statistics - GOV.UK

Domestic energy consumption in Hertsmere is higher than Hertfordshire, East of England, England and National averages. It has also not reduced at the same rate as the rest of the country as shown in the table below.

Domestic Energy	Average gas consumption (kWh/meter/year)				Average electricity consumption (kWh/household/year)			
	2005	2019	2023	Change	2005 (per meter)	2019	2023	Change
Hertsmere	**21,475**	**16,410**	**14,337**	12.6%	**5,089**	**4,436**	**4,150**	6.5%
Hertfordshire	19,958	14,947	12,867	13.9%	4,812	4,060	3,748	7.7%
East of England	18,854	13,542	11,496	15.1%	4,951	4,134	3,749	9.3%
England	18,921	13,533	11,477	15.2%	4,618	3,780	3,462	8.4%
Great Britain	19,020	13,516	11,451	15.3%	4,602	3,780	3,449	8.8%
Percentage above national average	13%	21%	25%		11%	17%	20%	

On the other hand, it is estimated that 3,569 households in Hertsmere face fuel poverty. While the average EPC rating in the Borough is at par with regional and national averages, the number of households that have benefitted from Energy Company Obligations and the number of measures installed have been significantly below average[10]. More needs to done to support the vulnerable households.

Non-domestic energy

Unlike domestic energy use, the non-domestic energy use varies significantly based on the level and type of commercial and industrial activity.

There has been an increase in gas use but decrease in electricity used by commercial and industrial enterprises in Hertsmere. Without an in-depth knowledge of changes in these activities, it is difficult to draw conclusions on impact of economic growth and decarbonisation.

Non-domestic Energy	Average consumption (kWh/meter/year)			
	2005	2019	2023	Change
Gas	331,731	370,586	397,708	**-7.3%**
Electricity	93,432	73,414	67,647	**7.9%**

Renewable Electricity

As per the Climate Change Committee's balanced pathway, electrification including that of heat, industry and transport will resulting in doubling the electricity requirement by 2040[11]. In order to meet the increased energy needs and our net zero emissions commitment before 2050, a significant amount of renewable electricity capacity will need to be deployed.

[10] Constituency data: Energy efficiency

[11] The Seventh Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee

There are currently 1091 solar PV based renewable electricity sites operating in Hertsmere with an installed capacity of 18.03MW[12]. There has been a 44% increase in the number and installed capacity of solar PV systems since 2019.

Renewable Energy	Number of sites		Installed capacity (MW)		Generation (MWh)	
	2019	2023	2019	2023	2019	2023
Photovoltaics	759	1091	12.57	18.03	12,813.64	15,655.38
Anaerobic Digestion	1	1	3.00	3.00	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Total	760	1092	15.57	21.03	12,813.64	15,655.38

Of the 21MW renewable electricity installed capacity, 16 MW is in 4 large sites listed below and the remaining are primarily roof top solar PV installations[13]:

Site Name	Location	Type	Capacity	Status
Severn trent	London Colney	Anaerobic Digestion	3MW	Operational since 2016
UK Sustainable Energy	Potters bar	Solar	5MW	Operational since 2017
Gascoyne Holdings	Potters bar	Solar	5MW	Operational since 2017
Sky Studios	Borehamwood	Solar	3MW	Operational since 2023
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	Ridge	Solar	0.611 MW	Under construction

In Hertsmere, renewable electricity generated was equivalent to 3.7% of the electricity consumed[8]. The average proportion of renewable energy in the national electricity grid is 46.4%[14].

Renewable Heat

While renewable electricity generation has seen widespread implementation through a range of mature technologies, scalable and cost-effective solutions for renewable heat remain relatively limited. Current options include heat pumps (air, ground, and water source), deep geothermal systems, solar thermal collectors, biomethane and biogas, as well as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems. However, many of these technologies face barriers such as high upfront costs, infrastructure requirements, and site-specific constraints, which limit their wider deployment.

In Hertsmere, there are currently 12 operating non-domestic renewable heat projects with installed capacity of 6MW and 61 domestic installations registered for the Renewable Heat Incentive[15].

Renewable Heat	Air source heat pump	Ground source heat pump	Biomass systems	Solar thermal	Total number of accredited installations
2014 - 2024	215	31	15	13	274

[12] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics
[13] Renewable Energy Planning Database | DESNZ & Barbour ABI
[14] DUKES 2024 Chapter 6
[15] RHI monthly deployment data: March 2024 (Annual edition) - GOV.UK

The total consumption of natural gas in Hertsmere was 815 GWh in 2023[16]. A very small proportion, less than 1%, of the current heat consumption in Hertsmere is from renewable sources of energy.

As per the energy hierarchy, the order of preference for reducing emissions from energy is reducing consumption, improving efficiency of use and moving to renewable sources.

A strong programme of engagement with our residents, businesses, community groups and public sector is needed in Hertsmere. Close and consistent ties with the community will not only help in making our projects that directly or indirectly deliver climate action more effective but also raise awareness and inspire our residents to take action themselves.

Actions taken since 2019

- With £920,000 grant from Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 1b, 78 homes in Hertsmere and Three Rivers District Council were retrofitted with energy efficiency measures such as external wall, loft, cavity wall, under floor and internal wall insulation, heating controls, solar PV and electric storage heaters. Of these, 61 measures were installed in 47 homes in Hertsmere.
- Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 in Hertsmere was delivered under the umbrella of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub. The funding allocated was used to install18 energy efficiency measures in 12 homes.
- As part of the Cambridge and Peterborough Consortium, under Local Authority Delivery Phase 3, 27 homes in Hertsmere were retrofitted with 45 energy efficiency measures and under Homes Upgrade Grant Phase 1 for homes that are off the gas grid, 5 measures were installed in 5 homes.
- National Energy Foundation have a supported 61 Hertsmere residents through their energy advice and referral service since 2022
- SuperHomes Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Project supported 6 residents by providing bespoke Home Energy Retrofit Options plans for their homes.
- Hertsmere has been part of SolarTogether, a solar PV bulk purchase scheme in Hertfordshire. In its first two years, the scheme has facilitated 42 homes and businesses in installing 431 solar panels equivalent to 0.171 MW installed capacity.
- An Interim Planning Policy Position Statement on Climate Change and Sustainability was adopted in 2020 providing guidance on positively designing for sustainability, net zero carbon emissions, mitigation of climate change and building climate change resilience.

[16] Regional and local authority gas consumption statistics - GOV.UK

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Introduce an energy advice and support scheme for residents in the Borough	Partnerships	Short term	£	High	Financial savings, social equity and just transition, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Actively seek funding and partnerships to implement schemes that improve energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy, especially in low income, vulnerable or fuel poor homes in the Borough	Partnerships	Short term	£££	High	Financial savings, social equity and just transition, better health and wellbeing outcomes, inward investment
Support energy companies and charities in identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households as part of their energy company obligations	Partnerships	Short term	£	High	Financial savings, social equity and just transition, better health and wellbeing outcomes, inward investment
Work with landlords to implement Domestic and Non-domestic Minimum Energy	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Financial savings, social equity and just transition, better health

Efficiency Standard					and wellbeing outcomes, inward investment
Encourage and support deployment renewable energy generation such as roof top solar PV, solar collectors, heat pumps and other emerging technologies in the Borough	Partnerships	Medium term	££	High	Financial savings, inward investment
Promote existing government initiatives such as Boiler Upgrade Grant and Great British Insulation Scheme to ensure maximum benefit to Hertsmere residents and businesses	Partnerships	Medium term	£	High	Financial savings, social equity and just transition, better health and wellbeing outcomes, inward investment
Develop and publish a local area energy plan for the Borough that includes local heat/energy distribution networks	Direct control	Medium term	£	Medium	Inward investment
Facilitate and support small businesses in developing net zero plans	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Inward investment, local employment opportunities
Work with businesses, colleges, universities and Hertfordshire Futures, to identify gaps in green skills and close them with training courses	Partnerships	Short term	£	Medium	Inward investment, local employment opportunities

Create a directory of green businesses and community groups, have a network supported with workshops and events	Partnerships	Short term	£	Medium	Inward investment, local employment opportunities
Reinstate the climate action community grant to support community groups' initiatives	Showcasing	Short term	££	Medium	Community cohesion, financial savings, social equity and just transition
Engage with residents and businesses to increase awareness on saving energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short	£	Low	Community cohesion, financial savings
Identify areas suitable for the deployment of renewable energy projects in the Local Plan, including within strategic housing allocations, to ease and facilitate the planning process for large projects	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, local job opportunities
Following the energy hierarchy, require onsite or offsite deployment of renewable energy equivalent to or exceeding operational energy requirement for all new developments	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, local job opportunities

Lobby the Government to bring forward national standards for energy efficiency, renewable energy, embodied emissions and sustainability for all new buildings	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, environmental sustainability, local job creation
Through policy instrument such as the Local Plan, position statement, or supplementary planning documents, bring forward policies that require all future new developments to be built to high energy efficiency, low embodied carbon, incorporate renewable energy, leading up to net zero and sustainable developments	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, environmental sustainability, local job creation
Publish a Climate Change and Energy Statement template or validation checklist to standardise the information provided in the climate change and energy statements to clarify approach, bring consistency and speed up decision making in planning applications	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, environmental sustainability

Prepare detailed carbon offset guidance for developers	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, environmental sustainability, local job creation
Establish a carbon offset fund to collect payments from developments to meet any carbon shortfall from new development, to be used towards carbon offset projects	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Inward investment, environmental sustainability, local job creation

Priority 4 – Minimise waste and implement principles of circular economy in the Borough

The aim of resource management is to keep resources in circulation and minimise the generation of waste. The preferred methods of resource management in the order of preference are defined in the Resource and Waste strategy as prevent, reuse, recycle, recover and finally dispose[17].

The Waste Disposal Authority for Hertfordshire is Hertfordshire County Council. The Waste Collection Authority in Hertsmere is Hertsmere Borough Council. The work of both is coordinated through the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership.

- The Council provides garden waste collection on a subscription basis. Waste is collected fortnightly and composted at a site in Uxbridge.
- Food Waste is collected separately on a weekly basis and is sent to an anaerobic digestion facility run by Severn Trent in London Colney. The biogas is used to generate electricity and heat while the digestate is given away to local farmers to use on farmland.
- The recyclable waste such as paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastics are sent to Pearce Recycling facility in St Albans.
- Residual waste is taken to Watford and sent for energy recovery or if necessary, landfill.

Both total and residual waste generated per household continue to drop, except for a slight increase during COVID years 2020 and 2021. The recycling rate in Hertsmere

[17] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf

is 43.6% which is also the English national average, though, one of the lowest in Hertfordshire.[18]

The focus of the strategy is to facilitate a circular economy by reducing waste generation, increasing reuse and supporting an increase in recycling.

Actions taken since 2019

- Single residual bin enforced in October 2023.
- Separate food waste collection for residents was introduced starting April 2025.
- Trial for blister pack recycling is underway at three leisure centres in Hertsmere.
- Bike collection events were organised with Recycle your cycle, a charity that collects broken or unwanted bikes and takes them to HM prisons across the country where they are repaired by inmates. As part of this rehabilitation programme, jobs are created alongside training for future employment upon release. The refurbished bikes are then given to charities who sell them on to raise vital funding. Through these events, 15 bikes were given a new lease of life in 2022 and 21 in 2023.
- A campaign of door to door engagement with businesses was undertaken to increase awareness and sign-ups for water refill stations in Borehamwood and Potters Bar.
- Hertsmere has been part of a number of countywide Herts Waste Aware partnership campaigns including 'Worth Saving' to reduce food waste and save money and 'Sustainable Families' focussing on reusable products for periods, nappies and incontinence.

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Reconfirm targets for recycling rates in the Borough, taking	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Environmental sustainability

[18] HWP Annual Report 2023-24

account of requirements of Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility, and possible Deposit Return Schemes					
Continue to support and promote refill, repair, sharing and reuse initiatives and businesses in the Borough	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Environmental sustainability, community cohesion
Continue a series of campaigns to drive behaviour change in favour of reuse and recycling among residents and businesses.	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Low	Environmental sustainability, community cohesion
Promote circular economy by organising resident engagement initiatives such as site visits to anaerobic digestion facility and compost/digestate giveaway for residents	Showcasing	Short term	£	Low	Environmental sustainability, community cohesion
Work with businesses such as the media industry in Hertsmere to reduce waste generation from their operations	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Environmental sustainability
Where existing sites are being redeveloped, planning policy should encourage repurposing/retrofitting of existing buildings rather than demolition. If demolition is unavoidable,	Better place shaping	Short term	£	Medium	Environmental sustainability, financial savings

planning policies should encourage onsite or offsite reuse rather than disposal					
All new developments to use construction materials that comply with defined sustainability standards, such as sustainable material, sustainable sourcing of material, recycled and recyclable content and low embodied carbon materials and equipment	Better place shaping	Short term	£	High	Environmental sustainability, financial savings

Priority 5 – Adapt to climate change and build resilience to its impacts

Our climate is changing. While the Paris Agreement aims to keep this increase under 2°C and if possible, under 1.5°C. The global emissions are still increasing though the rate of increase has reduced.

As per IPCC, human activities have caused an increase in the global temperature by 1.1°C above 1850–1900 levels[19]. The impacts of this is being observed around the globe in the form of more frequent and intense extreme weather events and changes in weather patterns. We must, therefore, prepare ourselves to face the impacts of the increasing temperature and its impact on the climate. In the UK, climate change can be expected to result in[20]:

- Warmer and wetter winters
- Hotter and drier summers
- More frequent and intense weather extremes

This could have damaging effects on people, businesses, services, ecosystems, built environment and infrastructure.

[19] AR6 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers Headline Statements
[20] Climate change in the UK - Met Office

While it is essential to mitigate emissions, it has become equally important for the Council and the Borough to adapt and build resilience to a changing climate. This will include:

- Identifying risk to the Council and the Borough
- Adapting the current service provision for continued delivery in adverse conditions
- Supporting the Borough in adapting and building resilience to climate change impacts
- Supporting vulnerable members of the community
- Avoiding costs arising from climate change impacts
- Identifying and realising co-benefits and opportunities from climate adaptation
- Preparing for emergencies both those affecting our communities, and the delivery of our critical services in the face of disruptive challenges.

Climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups in the society due to their limited ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related impacts. These groups include low income households, the elderly and those who are very young, people with disabilities or chronic health conditions, renters, and certain ethnic minorities.

It is, therefore, critical that mitigation and adaptation strategies give special consideration to the needs of the vulnerable groups to ensure a just transition.

Actions taken since 2019

- Hertsmere has been part of a working group on Adaptation within the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability partnership
- Climate risk has been included in the corporate and departmental risk register
- Hertsmere has worked alongside the Environment Agency to contribute to a range of materials to prepare residents for flood events.
- Severe weather communications are routinely publicised through Hertsmere's existing channels.
- We ensure that known local risks are incorporated in the local level resilience risk assessment, and that where appropriate these are flagged for inclusion in the Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum's community risk register.
- Review and evaluate the implications of multi-agency severe weather plans and ensure that their requirements are adequately reflected in existing resilience plans.
- Hertsmere has a sandbag policy for flood events.
- The Council has created a network of warm and cool community spaces in the Borough which provide shelter to residents in hotter summers and colder winters. These are often public spaces which have been provided by community, voluntary and faith organisations and groups, which provide a free

welcoming environment where people can spend time in a comfortable setting.

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Conduct and annually update the Climate Change Risk Assessment and control measures	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Better health and wellbeing
Conduct an equalities impact assessment to ensure vulnerable people and communities are identified and are specifically included in plans to provide support	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Social equity and just transition, better health and wellbeing, community cohesion
Mitigate against climate change impacts by safeguarding and enhancing greenbelt and other open spaces	Place shaping	Long term	££	High	Nature recovery, better air quality, better health and wellbeing, better place shaping, community cohesion
Increase tree planting and urban greening	Direct control	Short term	££	High	Nature recovery, better air quality, better health and wellbeing, better place

					shaping, community cohesion
Encourage residents to take adaptation measures in their own homes	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Medium	Nature recovery, better air quality, better health and wellbeing, community cohesion, environmental sustainability
Share data and alerts between agencies, both public and voluntary sectors to identify and monitor local vulnerable residents – i.e. property flood/storm victims	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Social equity, just transition, community cohesion, better health and wellbeing
Work with partner organisations to ensure resilience of services to extreme weather and disruption – sharing best practice	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Social equity, just transition, better health and wellbeing, financial savings
Continue to work as a member of the Local Resilience Forum to maintain an understanding of current risks, contribute towards multi-agency collaborative solutions and ensure that these are embedded at Hertsmere	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Better health and wellbeing, financial savings
As an LRF partner organisation, promote NHS England (and Met office) Heatwave Plan and Cold	Partnerships	Short term	£	Low	Better health and wellbeing, financial savings

weather plans across the Borough					
Identify vulnerable areas as well as areas for adaptation measures such as sustainable drainage, woodland and other biodiversity sites in the Local Plan	Direct control	Short term	£	Medium	Better place shaping, environmental sustainability
Require installation of grey water recycling, rainwater harvesting and sustainable drainage features on new builds	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Better health and wellbeing, financial savings
Ensure planning policy captures minimum design standards for adaptation in all new builds including overheating mitigation, cooling, ventilation system, shading, water use, water restrictors on harvesting system, tree planting around the development	Direct control	Short term	£	Medium	Better place shaping, environmental sustainability, financial savings, improved energy security, social equity and just transition

Priority 6 – Support nature recovery and sustainable food production in the Borough

Nature is central to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Healthy natural environments store carbon, moderate temperature reducing need for air conditioning, provide local sources of food, improve soil quality and agricultural yields, reduce need for energy intensive manufactured fertilisers, mitigate flooding and much more. Biodiversity encompasses all life, from plants and insects to mammals and reptiles, each playing their own crucial role in the natural environment.

Healthy, diverse habitats are more resilient and support essential ecosystem services like clean air, water, soil and food. Nature also helps improve mental and physical health, with greenspaces offering stress relief and well-being.

The natural environment in the UK has declined rapidly over the past few decades due to hunting, unsustainable fishing, land use change, agricultural practices, and climate change. ***As a result, the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth***[21].

In response, the government launched the 25-Year Environment Plan in 2018, revised in 2023 as the Environmental Improvement Plan, with targets to halt species decline, restore habitats, and enhance biodiversity.

Hertsmere Borough covers a diverse mix of urban and rural landscapes, including woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and freshwater habitats. Over 79% of the borough is designated as Green Belt, preventing urban sprawl. Protected areas include Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves, and wildlife sites.

Nature recovery needs to be supported both at the Borough level as well as green spaces like parks and smaller green spaces like gardens, verges and hedgerows. Our approach to nature recovery is one that protects and enhances the natural environment, seek opportunities to create new habitats and ecosystems and work with nature such that it serves both the environment and the community.

Actions taken since 2019

- In partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, 21,000 trees have been given away to Hertsmere residents and community groups under the Your Tree, Our Future scheme
- In 2022, following the Greenspace Audit commissioned by our Parks Service:
    - Meadows covering 7,330 m^2 were created in Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Bushey and Shenley.
    - 38 trees and 818m of hedgerows were planted in Borehamwood.
    - Enhanced amenity and conservation cuts were introduced in a number of green spaces.
- Planting programmes have been amended to use more climate resilient planting and reduce watering requirements.
- Through planning applications, Biodiversity Net Gains (some in excess of statutory requirement) have been secured. For delivery of off-site gains, a habitat bank has been secured at Bentley Heath and another two are being processed.
- Hertsmere parks have continued to demonstrate their excellence as greenspaces by achieving:
    - Green Flag Awards for King George Recreation Ground in Bushey, Oakmere Park in Potters Bar, Aberford Park in Borehamwood, Parkfield in Potters Bar, Bushey Rose Garden, Mary Forsdyke Garden and Warren Lake in Bushey Heath and Meadow Park in Borehamwood.

[21] TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf

    - Bushey Rose Garden has also again achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation.
    - Fishers Field Nature Reserve has received a special Green Flag Community Award in recognition of work carried out by local volunteers who manage the site in partnership with the Council.
- Borehamwood Farmers and Craft market is organised in Council car by Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council.
- Compost from garden and food waste collected from residents has been given away for free to farmers for use in food production on a regular basis and to residents in an annual event.
- Tree and hedgerow strategy is being developed to increase the canopy cover by 7% by 2041, safeguard and enhance existing woodlands and enable planting of 10,000 trees across Hertsmere every year.

Further Measures for Consideration:

The following actions have been identified as potential additional measures that could be brought forward subject to funding, resources and opportunities available:

(Timeline for Implementation: Short term – 1 to 3 year, Medium term – 3 to 7 years, Long term – 7 to 15 years

Investment needed - £ - only staff time or <100,000, ££ 100,000 – 1,000,000, £1,000,000 and above)

Action	Sphere of influence	Timeline	Investment needed	Climate Change Impact	Co-benefits
Implement the tree and hedgerow strategy	Direct control	Long term	££	High	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Develop and implement a biodiversity strategy and action plan for parks and greenspaces	Direct control	Long term	££	High	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate

					adaptation and resilience
Develop and implement a blue infrastructure strategy and action plan that includes creation and improvement of existing ponds, rivers, lakes and other water features	Direct control	Long term	£££	Medium	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Identify and execute Hertsmere specific projects and measures in the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy	Direct Control	Long term	£££	High	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Create a biodiversity baseline for our current open spaces and consider the biodiversity value of planting and habitat creation when redesigning, refurbishing or enhancing current open spaces	Direct control	Short term	££	Medium	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Continue transition of parks contractors away from diesel based equipment and vehicles to renewable or low carbon ones	Procuring and commissio ning	Medium term	£	Medium	Improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Further develop planting and management practices to reflect the impact of climate	Direct control	On going	£	Medium	Climate adaptation and resilience

change on biodiversity and choose plants that are resilient to a range of climate impacts					
Plant a range of nectar and pollen-rich species, including night-scented varieties in parks, open spaces and urban areas	Direct control	Short term	££	Low	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Retain and increase deadwood for invertebrates in open space sites either as log piles or as a support for ivy and fungi, where appropriate	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Create habitats for insects, birds and animals by installing features such as bat/bird boxes, beetle towers, bog gardens, and hedgehog highways in parks and greenspaces	Direct control	Short term	£	Low	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes
Continue tree giveaway for scheme for residents and expand it to include seeds and bulbs	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Medium	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Organise a regular programme of volunteering days for staff, businesses and residents to build	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Low	Better health and wellbeing outcomes,

connection with nature and community					community cohesion
Secure mandatory biodiversity net gain for all new developments and where possible, secure biodiversity improvements locally within Hertsmere and above the minimum mandatory	Place shaping	Short term	£	High	Nature recovery, improved air quality, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Raise awareness amongst residents by sharing information on how biodiversity is being supported as well as disseminate good practice guidance	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Low	Nature recovery, community cohesion
Support local farmers and food businesses via markets, farmers' market, and other focused events	Showcasing	Medium term	££	Low	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Engage with local supermarkets on creating a locally produced section	Showcasing	Short term	£	Medium	Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Work with community groups and schools to promote and support urban gardening	Involving, engaging and communicating	Short term	£	Medium	Financial savings, Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing

					outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Plant herbs, berry bushes, fruit trees, orchards and other edible plants in parks, community and green spaces	Direct control	Short term	£	Medium	Financial savings, Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience
Support local food production by encouraging inclusion of herb gardens, berry bushes and fruit trees in landscaping plans and allocating land for allotments in new developments, where appropriate.	Place shaping	Long term	£	Medium	Financial savings, Nature recovery, better health and wellbeing outcomes, climate adaptation and resilience