Climate Change Strategy 2022

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and in response developed a Climate Change Strategy and a two-year Action plan. The declaration committed us to working with partners and the community to becoming carbon net zero and fully climate resilient by 2030 ahead of the government's legally binding target of 2050. This declaration to transition our town to net zero ahead of the government's legal target demonstrates our ambition, makes the case for rapid change and enable a faster and fairer transition.

1.2 Our ability to reach this ambition is impacted by a range of factors including government funding and changing strategy direction. The Council of course can play its part and continues to do so in the way it delivers its services, develops policy and programmes and attracts new funding to the town. However, with council budgets more constrained than ever, our capacity and resources to deliver the climate change strategy are even more challenging than when we declared the climate emergency.

1.3 While financial implications are at the core of our decision making, climate considerations are now also a key focus to ensure we reach our carbon neutral targets. All our report writing templates include a climate implications section to ensure we have considered the environmental impact of our work.

1.4 This Plan has been written in collaboration with colleagues across the council to ensure that the actions are honest, feasible and realistic, while also pushing us to make changes and improvements to our services and our work with the communities of Hastings.

2.0 The Vision

2.1 Our vision is by 2030 we will have a net zero carbon and fully resilient council and through working in partnership we will have enabled the borough as a whole to progress to net zero and become a green and resilient town.

to make Hastings climate neutral by 2030.

2.2 We accept and acknowledge that we have a huge amount of work ahead of us to meet our ambition of becoming net zero carbon and climate resilient town by 2030 and that we will be doing this set against ongoing financial resource uncertainty.

2.3 However, the town's collective and creative response to the Coronavirus Pandemic showed how fast we can all act together and enable massive change when faced with an urgent and common threat. There is enormous enthusiasm, skill, knowledge and commitment in our local communities to help us meet our challenges. We need to work together to translate this urgency to tackling the climate change and ecological emergency.

2.4 The council is committed to taking a leading role on achieving net zero by 2030. We are working hard to reduce our directly controllable emissions to as low as possible and will develop long term options to invest in solutions to reduce the remaining carbon emissions (offsetting) as part of our approach to nature recovery. We have also committed to support and work with others to make the borough net zero carbon by 2030 though this target will be much harder to achieve. We will use our influence and lobbying function and we will of course lead by example. We will work in partnership with the community to break down current barriers and enable delivery of projects

3 Working together locally

3.1 We can only deliver our ambition by working with others in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors across the borough and further afield. Only by working in partnership, delivering funded initiatives and changing behaviour, do we have the opportunity to make significant progress towards this 2030 target.

4 Regional partnership and networks

4 .1 A diverse range of partnerships and networks already exist and will be developed to further both the borough's and region's net zero aims. New partnerships will emerge to further specific objectives and ambitions. A list of existing partnerships is shown in Appendix 1 – it is not an exhaustive list merely illustrative of the breadth and commitment of local partners to work together.

4.2 In addition, the borough is home to a diverse range of individuals, organisations, schools, charities, social enterprises and businesses that are committed to improving the local environment, reducing poverty, increasing skills, reducing carbon emissions and pollution and improving the natural environment.

4.3 Local initiatives include (not an exhaustive list): Transition Town Hastings; Hastings Urban Bikes; Energise Sussex Coast; the Bohemia Walled Garden; Alexandra Park Greenhouse project; Friend of Alexandra Park and The County Park as well as a range of organisations that choose to come and deliver projects in the borough such as Sussex Wildlife Trust; Groundwork Trust.

5 How Policy supports our strategy

5.1 Policy and legislation are crucial enablers of action at a local level. There are a range of global, national, regional and local policies setting guidance and targets and sometimes associated funding for tackling climate change. Since the publication of the 2020 strategy there have been a number of key national policy announcements that support the delivery of our climate change ambitions. These are listed in Appendix 2 and a few key policies are cited below.

National

5.2 During and following the pandemic the government has made a range of climate-related announcements. National policy changed rapidly in the run up

to the United Nations Climate Summit, known as COP26, held in Glasgow in 2021. At COP26 the commitments from all countries who signed up to the Paris Agreement were reviewed and the Glasgow Climate Pact was drafted.

5.3 In December 2020 the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published its Sixth Carbon Budget and provided specific scenarios and recommendations for transition to net zero for each sector.

5.3 In 2021 the Government published its Net Zero Strategy Build Back Greener which outlines how the UK will manage its carbon budgets and sets out the UK's vision for a decarbonised economy by 2050.

5.4 The Environment Act 2021 recognises the negative impact that climate change is having on biodiversity and the benefits that the natural environment can provide in mitigating overheating and flooding. The Act also contains powers to overhaul how we manage waste, with a focus on treating waste as a resource and creating a circular economy. as well as policies about air quality and water resources.

5.5 The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review detailing how our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing all depend on our most precious asset – nature

6 Regional

6. 1 Energy Strategy for the South East Energy South2East

6.2 East Sussex Environment Strategy 2020 and The Local Transport Plan

7 Local

Climate action has been identified as a key priority in the Council's Corporate Plan – 'minimising environment and climate harm in all that we do' and is being integrated into other plans and strategies. For example, the Local Plan which can provide lasting resilience to the impacts of climate change through the implementation of local policy and well-designed development considering future climate impacts.

8 Evidence base updates

8.1 since the initial declaration several new bodies of both international and national evidence have been published. Most notably the three reports published by the IPPC and 2 reports from the UK's CCC (see Appendix 3 for further details).

International

8.2 **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** released three landmark reports in 2022 focusing on the urgent need to adapt and mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis as part of its '6th Assessment Cycle' which followed on for their 2021 report

'Climate Change 2021; the Physical Science Basis' presented evidence of the impact of human activity on global temperatures and the effect this is having on every region on the Earth.

'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' report focusing on the natural and socio-economic impacts of climate change highlighting the risks posed by tipping points.

'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change' which examines the urgent actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

8.3 These reports support the fundamental reasons why tackling climate change internationally, nationally, and locally is so important. The report stresses that '***without immediate and deep emissions reductions, limiting global warming to 1.5^{0}C is beyond reach'***.

8.4 Whilst the reports from the IPCC make for sobering reading they are a call to action at the pace and scale demanded by the evidence and to prepare for the unavoidable impacts that can no longer be prevented.

National

8.5 the UK's Climate Change Committee have published two reports – Independent assessment of UK Climate Risk Assessment (as part of this five year Climate Change Risk Assessment (used to inform the 3rd UK Climate Change Risk Assessment CCRA3) and the second is their **2022 Progress Report to Parliament** on reducing emissions.

The UK climate Risk Assessment assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to England including to business, infrastructure, housing the natural environment, our health and risks from the impacts of climate change internationally.

9 The Towns carbon footprint

9.1 UK emissions are published by Government annually, by borough and district, two years in arrears. These are shown in Appendix 4. From this it can be seen that Hastings' total emissions have reduced in line with both England and the county, as have per capita (per resident) emissions and emissions by sector, suggesting reductions continue to be largely influenced by national factors.

9.2 appendix 4 – see that emissions have continued to reduce (although this excludes the emissions from everything we individually buy).

9.3 appendix 4 demonstrates that the largest proportion of emissions arise from the use of energy in our homes, followed by road transport and non-domestic buildings.

10 The pathway to net zero

10.1 In developing the refresh of this strategy and action plan we have undertaken a gap analysis of the current strategy themes, reviewed published documents and strategies, taken account of the work Climate Emergency UK has completed in reviewing all Council strategies and feedback from the community. We have continued to use the modelling work that was developed by AECOM to inform the action plan.

11 Adapting to Climate Change.

11.1 Building climate resilience within the borough through adapting to the impacts of climate change, for example, preventing homes from overheating whilst at the same time preventing further emissions of $C0_2$ which will make the effects worse.

11.2 UK Climate Projections 2018 UKCP headline findings - Met Office which are based on the latest climate science contains and analysis of historical information and future projections for the UK, covering both land and the marine environment. They are broadly consistent with the 2009 projections and show an increased chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes.

11.3 The latest State of the UK Climate report State of the UK Climate 2019: International Journal of Climatology: Vol 40, No S1 (wiley.com) shows several indicators consistent with expected effects of a warming climate.

12 Strategic Action areas

12.1 Our 10 strategic themes have now been identified and are highlighted below:

- → Communication, Lobbying, partnership working and influencing others
- → Governance and decision making
- → Renewable energy and heat
- → Homes and the built environment
- → Sustainable and low carbon transport
- → Biodiversity, green infrastructure and nature recovery
- → Food
- → Waste and the circular economy
- → Water
- → Adaptation and resilience

12.2 The action plan takes us a step closer to our net zero ambitions for the borough and builds on the work that has been completed to date. As new policy announcements are made, and funding becomes available, the council, local partners and organisations working in the town will seek to secure this funding to support our ambition to become a green and resilient town. We will need to remain flexible as well as ambitious so that we can adapt to changes in national policy, funding and technologies.

Appendix 1

The Sussex Local Nature Partnership aims to work across all sectors and organisations to secure the healthiest ecological system possible thereby protecting and enhancing the natural environment and all that it gives us. The partnership will lead our work across the county to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The Clean Growth Platform is the southeast regional hub for clean growth – providing support and advice to local businesses.
Warm East Sussex is the county wide energy efficiency partnership working to eliminate fuel poverty, securing government funding to deliver projects to improve the energy efficiency of the local housing stock.

The Hastings Local Strategic Partnership brings together leaders from the public, private/business, community and voluntary sector to work together to address common issues in the town, raise awareness of one another's activities and work together for the positive good of all those who live, work and visit here

Hastings Chamber of Commerce, East Sussex — Let's Do Business support local business on their journey to net zero

Appendix 2
Climate Change Act. The UK government has set a legally binding target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

This is in line with international goals set by the United Nations; interim targets to net zero by 2050: a 68% reduction on 1990 emissions by 2030 and a 78% reduction by 2035.

Agreements that were made at COP26 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

Transport Decarbonisation Plan Transport decarbonisation plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) sets out the government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK and follows on from Decarbonising Transport Setting the challenge

UK Electric vehicle infrastructure strategy setting out the vision and action plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the United Kingdom

Bus Back Better Bus back better - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Its central aim is to get more people travelling by bus

Energy White paper: powering our net zero future Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) setting out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

British Energy Security Strategy British energy security strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) building on the 10 point plan for a green industrial revolution and the Net Zero Strategy.

Heat and Buildings Strategy
Heat and buildings strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) sets out how we will decarbonise our homes and our commercial, industrial and public sector buildings by 2050.

Nature Recovery green paper: protected sites and species Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species - Defra - Citizen Space to address the fact that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Over the last 50 years, much of the UK's wildlife-rich habitat has been lost or degraded, and many of our once common species are in long-term decline.

The Agriculture Bill Landmark Agriculture Bill becomes law - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded in the future with public money for "public goods" – such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health, or measures to reduce flooding and tackle the effects of climate change, under the Environmental Land Management scheme.

Treasury net zero review exploring the key issues as the UK decarbonises Net Zero Review Final Report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) .

UK infrastructure bank Bill New Bill to set up UK Infrastructure Bank announced in Queen's speech - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) set up to support the governments national infrastructure strategy National Infrastructure Strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) .

UK Hydrogen Strategy UK hydrogen strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) sets out the approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK to meet our increased ambition for 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

Appendix 3
International
The Intergovernmental Panel on climate change (IPCC) released three landmark reports in 2022 focusing on the urgent need to adapt and mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis as part of its '6th Assessment Cycle' which followed on for their 2021 report.

'Climate Change 2021; the Physical Science Basis' presented evidence of the impact of human activity on global temperatures and the effect this is having on every region on the Earth.

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The **Physical science** report present evidence of the changes that are already happening across the different region of the world, including reporting on the concentrations of methane and carbon dioxide which are at the highest levels than at any time, global surface temperatures and sea level rise.

Impacts adaptation and vulnerability – reported the impacts of these physical changes, and the urgent need to adapt to and mitigate them and the vulnerability of both people and nature. The report stresses the need for climate justice and highlights existing widespread impacts from a changing climate system, such as worsening floods, fires, droughts and storms and warns that even if we manage to limit warming to 1.5^0C we will still see increasingly extreme weather, becoming more frequent. There is explicit reference to the effect of climate impacts on health and to the natural world.

Mitigation of climate change report focuses on the urgent action needed to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis. It warns that greenhouse gas emissions must begin to fall immediately with a 48% reduction in CO_2 emissions by 2030, reaching net zero by the early 2050s, and with methane emissions falling by a third by 2030.

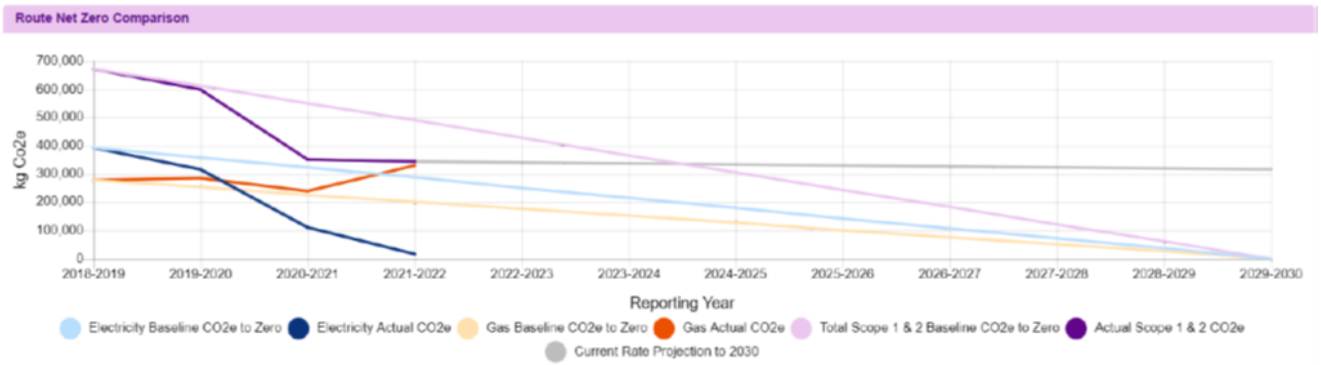
The report stresses that '***without immediate and deep emissions reductions, limiting global warming to 1.5^{0}C is beyond reach'***.

Nationally, the UK's Climate Change Committee have published two reports – Independent assessment of UK Climate Risk Assessment as part of this 5 year Climate Change Risk Assessment (used to inform the 3rd UK Climate Change Risk Assessment CCRA3) and the second is their **2022 Progress Report to Parliament** on reducing emissions.

The UK climate Risk Assessment assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to England including to business, infrastructure, housing the natural environment, our health and risks from the impacts of climate change internationally.

Appendix 4 – Council and Borough Emissions Monitoring Council Emissions

1. Emissions are split into three main categories, called Scopes, these are 1, 2 and 3.
2. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from sources, for example gas burned on site for heating.
3. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from sources, for example electricity used on site, and the council's fleet mileage.
4. Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions resulting from the council's activities, for example mileage on sub-contractor vehicles (waste fleet), outsourced projects, and water usage.
5. Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 the council has set a baseline of emissions in the financial year 2018-2019 and has tracked the Scope 1 and 2 emissions of the council's operated buildings for each of the following financial years.
6. The baseline emissions for FY 2018-19 were 672,323 kg CO2e.
7. The emissions resulting from council operated buildings in FY 2020-21 were 345,916 kg CO2e, this represents a reduction in emissions from the FY2018-19 baseline of 48.5%.
8. The main proportion of this reduction was the council's decision in 2020 to procure electricity from renewable energy sources only.
9. The graph below shows the trend of the reductions, along with the linear route to net zero for each measure as well as a projection to 2030 based on current rates of reductions. Whilst we have made a big step in reducing our electricity emissions due to the renewable energy purchase, the projection clearly shows that we need to continue with our efforts to reduce our overall emissions to 2030.



Borough Wide Emissions

10. The UK annual greenhouse gas emissions statistics are published by BEIS (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) and records go back to 2005. These are on an 18-month delay and published for the calendar year, the latest figures are up to 2020.
11. BEIS regularly update the data calculation methodology and the types of emissions recorded, some of these are backdated to 2005.

12. The most recent update has separated out the emissions of the public sector from the main industrial and commercial sectors.
13. The data includes sector and fuel type, and so we can investigate not only sectors (domestic housing, commercial, transport and public sector) but also fuel type (gas, electric, transport and other).
14. The latest figures for calendar year 2020 show total emissions of 239.63 kT CO2e (2005 base was 454.35 kT CO2e), this is a drop of 47% since 2005 and 8% compared to 2019 levels.
15. The main factors in the reduction has been the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, however a significant reduction compared to 2019 was in transport emissions.
16. One point of caution in viewing these figures this year is that the reporting year was heavily influenced by lockdowns due to COVID, and so significant reductions may have been caused by external factors and we may see an increase in levels for next year.
17. The graphs below show the trend lines for total emissions, sector emissions and fuel type. As well as projections to 2030 for the Tyndall carbon budget (information on this can be found at https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000062/), our target route to Net Zero by 2030 and projection to 2030 based on current reductions.