

Agenda item 9

Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) – Sustainable County Mission Deep Dive

Item Presented by: Cllr Adrian England, Leader of Dacorum Borough Council, Matt Partridge, Chief Executive Stevenage Borough Council and Lynne Ceeney, Director of Environmental Sustainability Hertfordshire County Council (Lead Officer for the Sustainable County Mission).

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This item, together with an accompanying presentation, seeks to provide a deep dive into Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership's ("HCCSP") work, progress to date and a proposed approach to contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable County Mission.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the HGB support the proposed approach to implementing the Sustainable County Mission and associated Goals as outlined within this report including the work programme outlined at Appendix 1; and
- 2.2 That the HGB agrees to task officers with the development of the associated resourcing strategy and agrees to receive a further report once this strategy has been produced.

3 Background

- 3.1 Since its inception in 2020 at the request of the Hertfordshire Leaders Group, Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership ("HCCSP") has delivered policy and on-the-ground interventions across the county, progressing the sustainability agenda through information sharing, cross-working and stakeholder engagement.
- 3.2 To date, HCCSP has approved and driven the implementation of five County Level Strategic Action Plans covering Water, Behaviour Change, Biodiversity, Carbon Reduction and Transport (further details available at hccsp.org.uk). A sixth subgroup coordinates Adaptation action and is due to publish its Strategic Action Plan in summer 2024.

3.3 The Strategic Action Plans and Terms of Reference have recently been amended to anticipate and reflect the HGB missions.

4 Delivering the Goals

4.1 This report sets out how HCCSP can contribute towards the delivery of HGB's Sustainable County mission goals. The suggested milestones also cross-reference where HGB's goals and HCCSP's work programme is informed by and contributes to the priorities of the East of England Local Government Associations (EELGA) Regional Climate Change Forum.

4.2 HCCSP has given thought to the resourcing and operational delivery of the individual Sustainable County Goals. The following approach is proposed:

- Goals 1 and 2 can be delivered by HCCSP
- Some of the Mission Goals, namely 4, 5, 8 and 9 are not within the direct control of HCCSP. However, HCCSP can work with Hertfordshire Futures (goals 4 and 5) and Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (goals 8 and 9) alongside other stakeholder groups to progress them and collate necessary reporting back into HGB.
- Goals 3 and 7 can be initiated and scoped by HCCSP but are likely to require seed funding to fund technical guidance and expertise for strategy development as well as behaviour change interventions including communications, marketing and events. The Herts Infrastructure & Planning Partnership (HIPP) and Herts Planning Group (HPG) are likely to be best placed to lead on elements of goal 3 and goal 6.

4.3 The proposed work programme with suggested milestones over the next two years, to progress and deliver the 9 Sustainable County Goals is outlined at Appendix 1.

5 Resourcing the Goals

5.1 Officers have given initial thought to the resource needs associated with delivering against the 9 goals. Further work is required in this regard hence the proposal at recommendation 2.2.

5.2 It is likely that a variety of funding approaches will need to be considered given the scale of ambition.

5.3 HCCSP has been relatively successful in securing funding to progress county level projects. By way of an example, following an initial investment by HCCSP partners in the building retrofit landscape over the last two years, the Partnership has recently been selected to pilot a new Retrofit Toolkit which will fund and provide consultant support to develop a [Local Area Retrofit Strategy](#), at an approximate value of over £50,000. This would not have been possible if the 11 Local Authorities and the LEP were not working together through HCCSP.

6 Data & Reporting

- 6.1 HCCSP has created [an annual report of qualitative output](#) for the last two years and undertakes to work with HGB to develop and present appropriate qualitative and quantitative indicators to track progress, while acknowledging the complexity of sustainability metrics.
- 6.2 HCCSP is currently working with [Herts Insight](#) to enhance a Sustainability dashboard showing relevant quantitative metrics to demonstrate Hertfordshire's progress.

7 Risks and Obstacles

- 7.1 The three significant risks in relation to the delivery of the Strategic Goals are summarised as follows:
- insufficient resourcing to deliver effective behaviour change
 - insufficient resourcing for technical expertise
 - international or national political changes inhibiting progress
- 7.2 Accordingly, HCCSP would welcome support from the HGB and the Regional Climate Change Partnership (RCCF) with regards to effective lobbying in connection with Goals 3, 6 and 7.

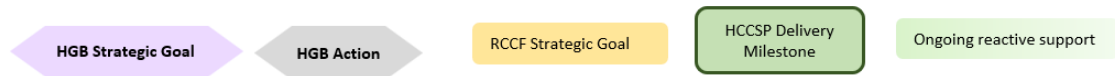
8 Next Steps

- 8.1 Should the HGB approve the recommendations within this report, HCCSP will fulfil the role of coordinating delivery of the Sustainable County mission working in conjunction with the relevant supporting organisations by:
- continuing to progress delivery of sustainability actions across Hertfordshire and beyond working with a range of county and regional level groups and organisations including the East of England Local Government Association, Regional Climate change forum, HPG, University of Hertfordshire, NHS Integrated Care Board and relevant Non-Government Organisations through the Hertfordshire Compact
 - the provision of updates and progress reports
 - working in conjunction with HGB officers to identify funding to support delivery of the Mission goals
 - commencing work on the activities identified in the work programme at Appendix 1.

If you have accessibility requirements and require further detail of the attached appendix, please contact the report author.

Appendix 1: Detailed HCCSP Milestones

Detailed HCCSP Milestones									
	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	25/26 Q2	25/26 Q3	25/26 Q4	2026 Q1
Goal 1	Embed sustainability considerations in all Growth Board activities and decision making to be BaU. Sustainability outcomes / performance of HGB activities to be tracked and reported.								
	RCCF 1: Implement RCCF offer and share best practice								
	Amend ToR Determine milestones	Confirm reporting mechanisms	Support HGB stakeholders to deliver robust outcomes Roadmap to NetZero (C1.2)						
Goal 2	Work with other appropriate bodies to support the achievement of the county-wide sustainability ambitions.								
	RCCF 3: Share regional sustainable development best practice guidance for LA's Local Plans								
	Determine programme plan	Agree MoUs w stakeholders		Share Herts Development Quality Charter				Share Herts Development Quality Charter	
Goal 3	All strategic new development will be NZC by 2030. with measures in progress to retrofit existing buildings by 2040 to reduce fuel poverty and overheating.								
	Carbon Reduction Strategic Action Plan: Develop Retrofit Strategy and Insetting/Offsetting Strategy								
	RCCF 4: Explore the widest range of opportunities for funding for retrofit								
	Convene Retrofit Steering Group		Offsetting/ Insetting Report Draft Retrofit Strategy	Share best practice (engagement with HIPP and HPG) and seek aligned policy guidance				Support LEP as required to cascade and amplify skills work	Launch Online Hub
Goal 4	By 2025, "Green Growth" will be a prioritised growth sector in the county.								
	Work with the LEP and others to understand and work to provide the locations, infrastructure, energy supply and skills that will attract priority growth sectors to Herts.								
	Attract low carbon investment and infrastructure to Herts through collaboration with HCCSP, LAs and the LEP.								
	RCCF 2: Explore opportunities for regional green inward investment & collateral.								
	Contribute when called upon to support, cascade and amplify work on growth.								



Detailed HCCSP Milestones									
	24/25 Q1	24/25 Q2	24/25 Q3	24/25 Q4	25/26 Q1	25/26 Q2	25/26 Q3	25/26 Q4	2026 Q1
Goal 5	<p>Support for Hertfordshire businesses to improve their sustainability and competitiveness whilst reducing risks from the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>By 2024, key businesses rep'd on Sustainable Business Forum.</p> <p>Contribute when called upon to support, cascade and amplify work on Sustainable Business Forum.</p>								
Goal 6	<p>Support LAs to improve place-based resilience to climate change through infrastructure and public realm improvements</p> <p>By 2025, all new development is resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Work with businesses, LAs and developers to improve climate resilience</p> <p>Adaptation Strategic Action Plan</p> <p>RCCF 5: Work with Officers to identify and invite relevant partners across the region to share best practice on resilience planning and organise regional joint emergency planning for extreme weather events</p> <p>Share best practice and provide intelligence to Emergency Planning Group</p> <p>All LAs complete CCRA</p> <p>Consider countywide CCRA</p> <p>Share best practice and provide intelligence to HIPP</p> <p>Share best practice and provide intelligence to Businesses</p> <p>Deliver Adaptation Strategy</p>								
Goal 7	<p>Formulate Hertfordshire Area Energy Plan (HAEP) to decarbonise supply, highlight investment opportunities, increase energy security and efficiency.</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Strategic Action Plan: Develop HAEP</p> <p>Baseline energy consumption</p> <p>Stakeholder mapping</p> <p>Model future energy scenarios</p> <p>Identify infrastructure projects & priorities</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Publish draft plan</p>								
Goal 8	<p>By 2030, all priority species identified in the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy will have an improved status.</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan</p> <p>Contribute when called upon to support, cascade and amplify work on HNRP</p>								
Goal 9	<p>By 2030, all residents have access to natural green/blue space and biodiversity within a 15-minute walk from home. Work with HNRP and stakeholders to achieve this.</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan</p> <p>Contribute when called upon to support, cascade and amplify work on HNRP</p>								

