

A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR GOSPORT

INTRODUCTION

Climate change poses a major threat to our long term prosperity and wellbeing and is now at the top of the global, national and regional political agenda. All local authorities have a crucial role to play in responding to the challenges ahead.

Gosport Borough Council acknowledges its role in mitigating the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. It also recognises that some climate change is and will continue to have an effect through increased instances of extreme weather such as flooding and prolonged periods of high temperature. It therefore has a duty to ensure the community is resilient to these impacts. By tackling these issues now the Borough will be better equipped to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change.

The Council is uniquely placed to work with others in our community to reduce carbon emissions and help protect local people from the threat of social and economic disruption posed by our changing climate. At the same time we will benefit from saving energy and money whilst enhancing the quality of our environment.

IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY FOR GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our mission statement is 'To work with our community to improve everyone's quality of life and deliver a sustainable future for the Borough'.

We aim to achieve this by taking account of any economic, social and environmental impact of any development or service whilst at the same time generating wealth and jobs. This runs through all four strategic themes of the Council; People, Places Prosperity and Pursuit of Excellence.

DOING OUR BIT!

Gosport Borough Council will act in various ways to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and work with our community to adapt to the impact of climate change. Gosport Borough Council recognises that the effects of climate change are experienced at both a global and local level so, therefore, firmly believes in the importance of 'acting globally, nationally and locally'.

The Council will lead by example:

- **As Service Providers** - For all the services we provide or procure we will ensure that the impacts of climate change are taken into account and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced as much as possible.
- **As an Estate Manager** - The Council is a large employer and major consumer of energy and other resources. Through better management of our buildings, energy, land and transport, we will cut carbon emissions and promote bio-diversity. Where possible we will procure green energy services for our own buildings and increase the use of de-centralised or renewable energy sources in our area. We will encourage energy conservation in all our residential properties.
- **As a Planning Authority** - Through our local development framework we will promote sustainable communities, low carbon lifestyles and encourage the development of buildings and infrastructure to higher environmental standards with greater resilience to climate change. We will promote access to public transport, energy efficient housing, renewable energy supply and avoid development on land subject to the risk of coastal erosion or flooding.
- **As a Policy Maker** - We will promote mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in our work and make it central to our strategic statements, policies, plans and priorities.
- **As a purchaser of goods services and facilities** - We will adopt a "no increase in carbon" policy for significant procurement and investment decisions. Our goal is that each purchase and investment decision should achieve a carbon impact less than the existing/replaced product or service. Every significant procurement and investment decision will also have an assessment of its implications on resilience to climate change.
- **As Community Leaders** - Through the Gosport Local Strategic Partnership, we will work with other public, private and voluntary sector organisations and the wider community to promote a low carbon economy, low carbon lifestyles and resilience to climate change.

DEMONSTRATING AND DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENT

To demonstrate and deliver our commitment Gosport Borough Council has:

- **Signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**
- **Joined and actively participated in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme**
- Signed up to, and is an active participant in the Local Area Agreement – Theme G – Environment which includes:
 - Use material resources more efficiently (National Indicator 193 - % of municipal waste land filled)
 - Mitigate progress of Climate Change (National Indicator 186 – Per capita reduction of CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area)
 - Adapt to the consequence of climate change (National Indicator 188 – Planning to adapt to Climate Change)
- Calculate baseline of current GBC emissions from buildings, transport and significant activities and produced with 5 year reductions targets
- Developed an associated Action Plan

Monitoring and Review

The strategy and associated action plan will be reviewed annually by the Climate Change Working Group. The review will:

- Take into account any new or emerging legislation or guidance
- The effectiveness of the strategy and evidence of achievement
- Progress against the associated action plan and local performance indicators to monitor and measure performance
- Take into account any feedback