

Agenda Item 8
Report PR20/21-19

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	26 November 2020
By	Director of Countryside & Policy Management, and Landscape & Biodiversity Strategy Lead.
Title of Report (Decision)	Partnership Management Plan Thematic Update: Climate Change Commitments and Action Plan

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the proposed climate change commitments, set out at para 1.1 ('a' to 'c') and the action plan set out at appendix 2 and recommend these to the NPA for formal adoption.
2. Note activity to date against the draft climate change commitments.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In Late 2019 /early in 2020 the SDNPA considered a draft Climate Change Action Plan via two member workshops and discussion forum. The proposed plan set out the Authority's intended commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergency by;
 - a) Setting a target for the South Downs National Park Authority to become a 'Net-Zero' Organisation by 2030;
 - b) Agreeing to work with our constituent Local Authorities and other partners, in particular local communities and landowners, to deliver actions that respond effectively to the climate and nature emergency;
 - c) Working towards the South Downs National Park becoming 'Net-Zero with Nature' by 2040, as set out in **Appendix 1**.
 - d) Creating a climate change action fund reserve as part of the 2020/21 budget.
- 1.2 The draft Action Plan highlighted the areas where the NPA could add the most value in terms of delivering and supporting climate action through both its Countryside and Policy Management and Planning functions.
- 1.3 Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and changes in the way the authority took decisions in the early part of the crisis, the climate change action plan has not yet been formally adopted by the Authority, however steps were taken to establish a climate change action fund reserve as part of the 2020/21 budget.
- 1.4 The Action Plan is intended as a 5-Year Programme, so some aspects of this are yet to be fully initiated. The Action Plan, as shared with Members in March 2020 was still in draft format and therefore it lacked some detail on specific objectives and actions.
- 1.5 It has been recognised that to deliver the Action Plan effectively the Authority needs to look in more detail at resource planning. Work is underway to identify an Officer lead for each strand of work, and to make better links with the SDNPA Corporate Plan and to individual Team Plans and Development Plans.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 The SDNPA has a key role in meeting the challenges arising from the climate and nature emergency. It has existing Management Plan and Local Plan policies. The NPA also has a range of tools and approaches in terms of advocacy, influence and delivery.
- 2.2 Through our new Local Plan and our recently reviewed Partnership Management Plan there is a need to co-ordinate our work on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. The issues are cross-cutting and delivery needs to be resourced effectively across the whole Authority. The Climate Change commitments and Action Plan have been developed to help us to better achieve this.
3. **Issues for consideration**
 - 3.1 Arising from the original member workshop (Nov 2019) SDNPA members requested additional work be undertaken to better understand:
 - The up-to-date evidence for the National Park area in terms of carbon and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, the role of each sector and how the biggest reductions could be made;
 - What the SDNPA could do directly to address the challenge, in terms of its own operations and business continuity;
 - How we might best be able to co-operate with other reporting authorities to achieve this shared purpose;
 - How we might use our convening role to achieve the necessary join-up and shared action with our external partnerships;
 - Areas that were outside the scope of the SDNPA do deal with.
 - 3.2 The results of this initial work are set out at **Appendix I** and have been incorporated into the draft action plan.
 - 3.3 A Members 'micro-briefing' was held on 7 May 2020. This presented an opportunity to consider and discuss the main priority areas for the NPA. This gave a strong emphasis on working with local communities, working with our constituent Local Authorities and supporting the rural economy/green growth.
 - 3.4 The priority areas that are proposed for inclusion in the Action Plan are:
 - Delivering 'Net Zero with Nature' – Linking Nature Recovery and Climate Action;
 - Work with the wider National Parks family to establish the NPAs as leaders in meeting the challenge presented by Climate Change;
 - Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park by 2040;
 - Working with our local communities – supporting them to become more resilient;
 - Working with our Local Authorities and Sector Partners to deliver positive action;
 - Support rural businesses to adapt their business operations and transition to a low-carbon economy.
 - 3.5 Although not yet formally adopted by the NPA, since March 2020 progress has been made on a number of these areas. The attached action plan (**Appendix 2**) includes an overview on the progress has been made, and highlights areas where the NPA needs to focus more effort.
 - 3.6 This report seeks member endorsement of the commitments set out above at para 1.1 ('a' to 'c') and the action plan, set out **Appendix 2** for member's information. The report also provides a summary of the progress across the draft action plan to date. A further report will be submitted to the NPA in December seeking formal adoption of the commitments and the action plan.
 - 3.7 In addition a short update from a number of our constituent Local Authorities, in the form of a questionnaire, is included as **Appendix 3** to this report. This includes current targets on Net-Zero for each Authority, and areas where there is an opportunity to work with the SDNPA on shared-objectives.
4. **Progress update:**
Sustainability Group

- 4.1 The Officer "Sustainability Group" is currently considering the best options for the NPA itself to improve its performance in relation to a range of key issues. It will identify some quick wins and longer term objectives to achieving the Net-Zero target for the Authority of 2030. The recent events and the impact of Covid19 have provided a taster for how the Authority might be able to run some of its business whilst cutting down on unnecessary travel.
- 4.2 The group has established a method for assessing the carbon performance of the SDNPA and is hoping to have a reasonably extensive set of accounts for March 2021. This is necessary as much of the data relates to the procurement decisions made by the SDNPA.
- 4.3 The group is looking to extend the scope of this reporting, for example, work has started to estimate the level of embodied carbon across our inventory of assets and equipment.

Working with other National Parks

- 4.4 The National Parks England Climate Change & Energy Group has been very active, and has expanded its membership to include the Scottish and Welsh National Parks. The group has been developing a framework for joint delivery and advocacy on Climate Change at a National level. The intention is to develop the NPAs' role as leaders in CC adaptation and mitigation.
- 4.5 The group has also been developing an approach to monitoring that will put the NPAs on shared targets and metrics. This has been important to establish as it has previously lacked consistency and we need to be reporting on a level playing-field.
- 4.6 In line with the Glover Review, we continue to work with the National Association and regional group of AONBs. We think that they equally have a role to play in addressing the challenges of Climate Change - and we can develop collaborative projects in the future.
- 4.7 There has been a big effort to develop the concept of 'Net Zero with Nature' as something the NPAs and partners can both promote and deliver.

Delivering 'Net Zero with Nature'

- 4.8 This idea was presented in detail within the Climate Change Strategy. It focusses on promoting the use of nature-based solutions to tackle the challenges of Climate Change. Like many of our partner organisations, the SDNPA recognises that the Climate and Nature emergencies were linked.
- 4.9 Significant progress has been made in terms of developing the principles and structure of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for the South Downs. Officers are working with key partners to make sure this is evidence based, coherent and works beyond our own boundaries.
- 4.10 This is now a major work strand for the Landscape & Biodiversity Programme Board. A Nature Recovery Working Group has been set up involving staff from both CPM & Planning directorates.
- 4.11 Regionally the SDNPA is working with the South East Protected Landscapes Group (SEPL) to develop joint principles for developing a NRN based on the Protected Landscapes as core areas.
- 4.12 Through the NRN Working Group we are also developing a SDNPA Approach to Biological Monitoring. This will provide a standard framework in which to monitor and report on nature recovery.

Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park area by 2040

- 4.13 This work stream focuses on establishing a baseline for our Carbon Targets, and being able to work effectively with our constituent LPA's. We have been meeting with our local authority partners, both individually and collectively to share thinking on meeting the Net-Zero target. We have a clear role in terms of helping to develop nature-based solutions.
- 4.14 We have now received the national level data cut to our boundary, and can start to consider what this means in terms of joint-working with the LPA's.
- 4.15 The specification for the work on our own baseline and trajectories for achieving net-zero has also been agreed, and the SDNPA will be the first pilot area for this, along with the Norfolk Broads National Park.

Working with our local communities - Supporting them to become more resilient.

- 4.16 We are currently bringing forward two projects that focus on local communities. This was an area within the Strategy where we felt we could make a strong contribution. One is around helping to support Net-zero Planning as a Parish/Community level. The other is to help develop capacity around community energy schemes within the National Park area.

Net-Zero Parish Plans

- 4.17 Good progress has been made in terms of establishing a baseline for Parish level carbon budgets. Through the Research & Evidence Team Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) were commissioned to produce a set of carbon accounts for the Rural Parishes within the National Park. The report and data for this work was received in October 2020 - and are currently reviewing it.
- 4.18 The Community Energy Pathway project was given funding approval in June 2020 and work is currently underway. The project is being delivered with Community Energy South (CES) to support and develop community owned renewable energy and establish a network of community energy groups.
- 4.19 A survey of Parishes and Community Groups was conducted in September 2020 to assess the level of interest in Community Energy.
- 4.20 The survey received a good level of responses. These will be reviewed to select five groups to participate in the next phase of the project - and will be supported to develop plans for their local community that can be taken forward as funding bids.

Community Lottery - Climate Action Fund Bid

- 4.21 A Bid was successfully submitted to the Climate Action Fund with support from the SDNPA External Funding Team. Application was made for development phase funding c£100-150K over 12 months. The purpose of the projects is to bring community groups together to take action, and develop resilience to the impacts of Climate Change.

Working with our partner Local Authorities

- 4.22 We have now met with the CC Leads at both Hampshire and West Sussex. We have also met with many of the District Councils to review their Climate Change Action Plans and identify where we have shared objectives.
- 4.23 The SDNPA has also been attending the Sussex Climate Emergency Group – which includes most of our constituent LPAs.

Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park by 2040

- 4.24 A contract has been let with Small World consultancy. This work will give us a baseline for the National Park area, and consider the trajectories for us to achieve our intended 'Net-Zero target'. This will give us more detail on the primary sources of carbon for the National Park and which sectors to prioritise. However, this work was delayed by the impact of Covid-19, but and is now expected to report early in 2021.
- 4.25 The other important element of the baseline work was to ensure we were able to work with our LA partners. We needed to be able to use a common framework to do this. We were able to get the data from BEIS provided for the SDNPA and the UK National Parks in June 2020.
- 4.26 It should now be possible to establish common metrics and targets with our Local Authority partners so we can make a clear contribution to delivering national and locally based targets.

Support rural businesses to adapt to a low-carbon economy

- 4.27 This includes farming and other land-based businesses - which have a key role in this, and in helping to transition to a low-carbon economy, to improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy. (Really important post Covid-19)
- 4.28 The idea proposed in the Action Plan was to create an enterprise network as the vehicle to allow communication between SDNPA and the NP businesses. The network will facilitate the delivery of our climate change aspirations. This included the development of a business engagement strategy that helps businesses to decrease their carbon footprint, and improve their operational sustainability.

- 4.29 The proposal for a South Downs Enterprise Partnership has been presented to our internal Theme Delivery Board and Senior Management team and received support in principle. The next step is to consider options, resource implications and agree a projected start date.
- 4.30 The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed the focus of the SDNPA's business engagement strategy. The economic fall-out required us to quickly re-focus efforts to writing an 'economic recovery' strategy. This work has now been completed.
- 4.31 We are partnering on tourism industry webinars for businesses in dealing with Covid-19. One of these webinars will focus on Sustainability and green recovery - this is scheduled to take place early 2021.
- 4.32 A renewed contract with Responsible Travel Partnership for 2020/21. This work will produce 10 articles to promote sustainable tourism in the South Downs.

5. Options & cost implications

- 5.1 A climate change reserve has been created to provide resources to support this work. To date the only funds allocated have been to the Community Energy Pathway Project.(c£30k). The remaining funds (c£110k) are yet to be allocated.
- 5.2 In developing the commitments and action plan members and officers discussed a range options at previous workshops. The proposed action plan and commitments are the result of these considerations are considered the best approach to delivering the Authority's contribution to addressing climate change.

6. Next steps

- 6.1 Subject to member endorsement a paper will be prepared for the NPA to formally adopt the climate change action plan and commitments.
- 6.2 Progress on delivery against the action plan will be reported back to P&R Committee as required.

7. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes- a decision to formally adopt the targets and action plan will be required by the NPA
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The Action Plan will need sufficient staff resource across the NPA to support its delivery. Further work has been done to define specific staff/resource requirements to help with delivery. This includes a CPM lead and lead officer for each work stream.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The Action Plan has been developed in response to the UK's Climate Emergency. Money spent on positive action now will off-set the costs of Climate Change Impacts in the future.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No, implications arising from the proposals in this report.
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes, no adverse implications have been identified. Individual projects will be assessed as they are developed
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	There are no Human Rights implications arising from this proposal.
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	The existing climate change risk assessment highlights a number of health & safety and welfare issues that may result from not adequately adapting our policies and working practices.

Are there any Data Protection implications?	None.
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	The Climate Change Action Plan is wholly compliant with the five principles of our Sustainability Strategy. 1/ Living within environmental limits 2/ Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3/ Achieving a sustainable economy 5/ Promoting good governance 6/Using sound science responsibly.

8. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
The UK Government declared a climate change emergency in May 2019. This is in recognition of the existential threat it presents.	High	High	SDNPA Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation plan. SDNPA Climate Change Action Plan set out a range of actions we are able to take to mitigate and adapt to the worst of these risks. UK Climate Change Committee considers that the necessary transition is possible, with technologies and approaches we already have available to us.

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Appendices

1. Climate change background paper
2. Climate Change Action Plan update
3. Questionnaire responses from local Authority's

SDNPA Consultees

Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager

External Consultees

None

Background Documents

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf>
<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Action-Plan.pdf>
<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Delivering-Net-Zero-for-nature.pdf>
SDNPA Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

SDNP Climate Change background

Overall Context

1. National Policy and Local Policy

- 1.1 There has been increased levels of public concern around the impacts of Climate Change and the existential threat it poses. In recognition of this the UK Government declared a climate emergency in May 2019. It has committed the UK to becoming a 'Net Zero' economy by 2050.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) advises the UK Government. It reports to Parliament on the state of progress bi-annually. Its latest report indicates that the UK is currently failing to maintain the necessary trajectory to meet this target.
- 1.3 The CCC consider the target to be achievable, with technologies and approaches we have available. But it will need rapid action to meet this ambitious target. It will require a transformation in our economy and our approach to land use.
- 1.4 The CCCs report 'Land Use – Policies for Net Zero in Land Use' (2019) recognizes the role that land use, agriculture and forestry could play in reducing emissions. It estimated these sectors accounted for 12% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.5 With the right support farmers and land-managers can play a significant role in reducing these emissions and locking up carbon. To this end, new Agricultural and Environmental Bills are progressing through Parliament.

2. UK Clean Growth Strategy

- 2.1 We should also recognised that the rapid transition to 'Net-zero' presents opportunities for the wider UK economy. To meet the national carbon budgets for the periods 2023 to 2027, and 2028 to 2032 requires a rapid acceleration in the shift to a low-carbon economy.
- 2.2 The UKs Clean Growth Strategy was published in April 2018. It sets out the Government's ambition to grow the economy while cutting Green House Gas emissions. The strategy promotes technological innovation, creation of high value jobs and industry and the development of low-carbon expertise and technology.

3. The 25 Year Environment Plan – Responding to Climate Change at a Landscape Scale.

- 3.1 The Governments 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) was published on the 11th January 2018. The important role that National Parks play as delivery bodies is frequently referenced.
- 3.2 The NPAs purposes of 'conserving and enhancing' the natural environment is also strongly emphasised. The plan sets out a number of mechanisms that could help to drive or fund this work. These include:-
 - The need for NPAs and their partners to work at a Landscape Scale to deliver climate change Mitigation and Adaptation.
 - Establishing the principle of Biodiversity 'net gain' within the planning System.
 - Design and delivery of a new Environmental Land Management System – where the principle aim is environmental enhancement.
 - The co-design and delivery of 14 natural capital plans – with Local Nature Partnerships.
 - Establishment of 25 new catchment/landscape scale 'nature recovery' areas.
 - Expanding the use of natural flood management solutions.
 - Work with landowners and farmers to identify and target areas that would most benefit from woodland creation.
 - The need to link up protected sites and landscapes as a means to deliver a 'Nature Recovery Network'.

4. The SDNPA Policy Framework

- 4.1 The South Downs NPA has a key role in delivering this broad agenda. We have our existing Management Plan and Local Plan policies. We have a range of tools and approaches at our disposal in terms of advocacy, influence and direct delivery. This is especially the case in terms of our strategic planning and policy making role.

5. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan

- 5.1 We currently report on our adaptation planning on a five year rolling programme. Our current Adaptation Plan seeks to:-
- Assess the current and predicted impacts of climate change on our purposes and statutory functions;
 - Considered the impact upon key assets of the National Park, and on sectors such as farming, forestry and other land-use;
 - Set out proposals and policy responses to adapt adequately to these risks.
- 5.2 The Adaptation Plan sets out some of the adaptive actions that are needed over the short, medium and long-term. It looks ahead over multiple Management Plan review cycles. It also informs the UK Governments own Adaptation Strategy.
- 5.3 The Plan provides us with a comprehensive assessment of the risks and opportunities, and a good basis for taking positive action. A link to the on-line version of this report is included here:-

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Plan-Final-On-line-version.pdf>

- 5.4 Inevitably this document focusses more on adaptation responses. The UK wide response to the 'climate emergency' also needs to focus on mitigation (reducing carbon emissions).

Scope, partnerships and delivery

6. Scope of our Action Plan

- 6.1 We need to co-ordinate our work on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Some of the proposed actions have the potential to deliver both.
- Climate Change Mitigation** – Actions that limit the magnitude or rate of climate change and its related effects by cutting emissions.
- Climate Change Adaptation** – The process of adjustment to the actual or expected changes in climate and its related effects. This is generally focussed on developing resilience to climate change impacts at a landscape scale.
- 6.2 Our actions must consider the potential to cut other Green House Gas emissions (such as Methane) not just Carbon Dioxide.
- 6.3 The Climate Change agenda is very broad, and the SDNPA has limited resources. The Action Plan is focussed on the areas where we can have the greatest impact and influence.

7. How we propose to deliver the Action Plan

- 7.1 The SDNPA needs to be influential and effective at a national level. It also needs to deliver at a strategic, park-wide scale and help support local, community based action. In order to achieve this, we propose to deliver the Actions Plan through a broad range of partnerships.
- 7.2 This may include delivery through new groups of partners. A summary of our approach is included in Appendices 2 and 2.

8. National Level - Working with the other Protected Landscapes

- 8.1 National Parks England (NPE) have recently refreshed its Climate Change & Energy Group. The intention being to improve co-ordination and joint-action across the UK National Park family.

8.2 The group are currently working on a new 5 year delivery plan. The intent is to achieve a 'step up' in terms of delivery. The main aim is for the NPAs to lead in efforts to tackle climate emergency, and to:-

- Demonstrate how rapid transition to low-carbon living can be achieved.
- Work collectively towards becoming 'Net zero' National Parks by 2040.
- Achieve 'Net zero' as National Park Authorities by 2030.
- Promote the principle of achieving 'Net Zero with Nature'
- Work with our constituent communities and enable them to contribute to this shift.

8.3 In terms of delivering the ambitions of the Lawton Review we also intend to work collaboratively with the wider Protected Landscape family – including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) within the region.

8.4 To achieve this we will co-ordinate our efforts with the South East & East Protected Landscapes (SEEPL) forum. This brings together 14 designated landscapes across the South East and East of England.

9. Working with our constituent Local Authorities

9.1 Delivery of the Action Plan will require greater collaboration with our constituent Local Authorities and a wider range of delivery partners.

9.2 Many of our constituent Local Authorities have declared climate emergencies, and are developing 'Net Zero' action plans. There is great potential for us to work closely with them. We are having initial discussions to scope areas for greater collaboration and how the NPA can best add value.

9.3 In addition the South East Climate Action group (SECA) have set up a Database. This summarises where Local Authorities are in terms of developing targets and action plans for their area. A link to the database is below:-

<http://bit.ly/SECAclimateactionsurvey>

9.4 The SDNPA will need to do further work to align us with our constituent LPAs. This will include joint work on establishing common metrics and targets.

9.5 The LPAs rely on national data-sets compiled by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to set and monitor their targets. At present this data is not cut to National Park areas. So there is a risk of effectively 'double counting' any contribution the National Park makes to national targets. This is a common problem for all of the NPAs and we are seeking to address it quickly.

9.6 Along with the New Forest NPA, we have requested that BEIS produce a cut of the data to National Park boundaries. We should receive this by April 2020. This will put us on an equal footing with our constituent LPAs overcome the risk of double-counting.

10. Communications & Engagement

10.1 There is a significant role for the SDNPA in communicating challenges around Climate Change and to encourage behaviour change. We will develop an effective communications strategy and make Climate Change a priority for our public affairs strategy.

11. Internal governance to deliver the Climate Change Commitments & Action Plan

11.1 Senior Management Team will co-ordinate this work as a 'cross-cutting' issue through our Programme Delivery Boards.

11.2 It will need sufficient resourcing across teams to support its delivery. This will require sufficient staff resources to deliver on the action plan. The Operational Management Team (OMT) will assist with resource planning and the links through to team plans.

- 11.3 The Policies & Resources Committee to maintain oversight on the delivery of the Action Plan as it is progressed.

12. Baseline & Trajectory

- 12.1 We need a consistent approach to data and metrics that can work at these differing scales. This includes a baseline for current emissions, and establishing the best trajectory towards a Net-Zero target. We also need to be able to monitor our progress.
- 12.2 There are two ways of considering carbon emissions, and for setting targets.
- Consumption Based – Emission calculations are based on the consumption of all goods and services by UK Households. It also takes into account the effects of trade and imports.
 - Production Based – Emission calculations are based on fossil fuel usage and other relevant processes such as industry and agriculture
- 12.3 Several methodologies exist, and they vary greatly in terms of complexity. There are also risks in adopting an approach purely based on either a production or a consumption basis.
- 12.4 The SDNPA previously contracted Small World Consultancy to develop a consumption based assessment for the National Park. The work provided a useful insight into the sources of emissions for the Park.
- 12.5 Though helpful, the work was completed in 2014, and is now dated. It also presents less detail on the contribution from key sectors such as agriculture. We are currently commissioning follow up work in collaboration with the other NPAs. This will give us the common approach to data and metrics that we require.
- 12.6 This new study will be a blended approach, with elements of both consumption and production based modelling. It will also present us with different scenarios that could apply in terms of achieving Net Zero for the National Park area.
- 12.7 This contract is currently being let. As a result we should have updated emissions figures sometime during 2020. The contract will also consider the need for annual updates. As a joint piece of work, we will achieve a cost-benefit. The work should cost us around £6-7K per annum to monitor progress.

Net Zero for the SDNPA

13. Meeting a 2030 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park Authority

- 13.1 The National Park Authority should lead by example. How it operates, its working practices and how it manages its Estate can make a significant contribution to achieving this target.
- 13.2 The NPA should do all it can to minimise its carbon footprint and achieve high levels of sustainability. Through our Corporate Plan, internal governance and resource planning we need to ensure that we imbed Climate Change action across the Authority.
- 13.3 Achieving a 'Net-Zero' target for the NPA will be very challenging. It has implications for how we manage our estate, purchase supplies and equipment and our working practices. Work is underway to baseline the carbon footprint for the Authority. We propose to use a common approach that has been used by other NPAs so we have comparative data.
- 13.4 The acquisition of Seven Sisters Country Park also presents an opportunity to develop the sites as an exemplar in terms of Climate Change adaptation and a low-carbon future,

14. The Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG)

- 14.1 The NPA has a clear role in sharing best practice and demonstrating how an organisation can progress towards achieving a 'Net-Zero' target. The SSG has been established as part of our corporate response to the challenges of Climate Change. Its purpose is to provide leadership on our organisational response and promote best practice in terms of sustainability. The group is working on the following outcomes:-
- Improve our performance and become carbon neutral as an organisation;

- Set targets for carbon reduction and monitor progress;
- Develop a strategy for sustainability for the SDNPA;
- Produce an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority.

14.2 As an early set of actions the group has committed the NPA to:-

- Identify 'quick wins and opportunities' through a staff survey;
- Undertake a carbon audit in line with other UK NPA by June 2020;
- Undertake a full sustainability audit by September 2020.

Net Zero for the National Park

15. Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park

- 15.1 There are even greater challenges to meeting a 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park. We need to use a partnership based approach, much like the Management Plan. It may require us to work with new groupings of partners.
- 15.2 There is an opportunity for the NPA to collaborate widely and be an exemplar both in terms of public awareness and actively driving change. Using our convening role is where the National Park Authority potentially adds the most value.

16. 'Net Zero with Nature'

- 16.1 As a National Park, our statutory purposes are about protecting and enhancing nature. We can promote actions to the climate emergency are nature-based. Any response to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change can also help with nature recovery.
- 16.2 We cannot achieve one without the other. Where we are seeking to restore and create habitats, and improve their connectivity – we should also seek to maximise opportunities to sequester and store carbon. The principle that guides our approach should be that we seek to deliver '**Net Zero with Nature**'.
- 16.3 Some change may be inevitable. The ability of natural systems to be resilient or adapt to change is hugely variable. Our understanding of environmental limits may at times be insufficient. In this case the SDNPA must adopt the precautionary approach¹.
- 16.4 There is also a strong push for Net-Zero from within the farming sector. The NFU and CLAs have been doing extensive work on carbon monitoring at farm level and developing targets to reduce emissions.
- 16.5 There is potential through the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) to deliver sustainable land management, improve soils and increase opportunities for carbon sequestration. The SDNPA can add further value through our involvement in the national 'test and trials' programme.
- 16.6 Through our involvement with the Farm Clusters, and our work on Whole Estate Plans, we have an excellent platform. We can help support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for the land-based sectors.
- 16.7 There is a clear link with activity to deliver the Nature Recovery Network. We are already seeing projects that help demonstrate how Nature Recovery might be financed through the use of carbon or nitrate off-setting schemes. The SDNPA has a role in helping to find suitable recipient sites.

17. Potential for trees and woodland

- 17.1 There are also opportunities for new woodland planting within the South Downs National Park. The UK Climate Change Committee has set a national target of 19% woodland cover. The same target has been adopted by the Woodland Trust in terms of their Climate Change

¹ 'Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures that prevent environmental degradation' (United Nations General Assembly, 1992'.

Action Plan. The South Downs (with 23% woodland cover) currently exceeds the UK target. But there is still scope to see some significant enhancement in woodland cover.

- 17.2 Some trees are naturally less resilient to the direct impacts of Climate Change. We will see declines in some species. We will work with the Woodland Partnership Group to deliver effective successional planting within the landscape.
- 17.3 We need to balance the push for increased tree planting with the need to protect other priority habitats and avoid unintended consequences. The grasslands and pastoral systems of the South Downs also have potential to draw-down and store carbon.
- 17.4 We must not lose our biodiversity rich grasslands to poorly planned or conceived planting schemes. It is equally about nature recovery, not just about blanket tree planting. The National Parks guidance on 'right tree, right place' is helpful here – and should develop good schemes that enhance the landscape as well as capturing carbon.

Planning & Land-use

18. Using the Planning System

- 18.1 It is essential that the SDNPA use its existing planning policies for best effect. We can also look to develop the potential around net-gain and other delivery mechanisms such as CIL.
- 18.2 There are a number of proposals that are currently being progressed that can help to achieve this. We will need to implement a method to assess the carbon implications of all decisions that are made, including within the planning process.

19. Biodiversity Net Gain

- 19.1 The current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 included provisions for Net gain for Biodiversity. This is intended to ensure that planning and development make a positive contribution to enhancing habitats and biodiversity.
- 19.2 This is also now a requirement of Strategic Policy SD9 in the adopted South Downs Local Plan. It is set to be a mandatory condition of planning permission in the emerging Environment Bill. The proposed level is for a 10% gain, as measured using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric.
- 19.3 This requirement presents a significant opportunity to deliver wider environmental benefits. It could support actions such as tree planting, carbon sequestration and work on climate change resilience.

20. Call for sites – Carbon Sequestration

- 20.1 This would work in a similar way as a call for housing and employment sites. In this case we would look for sites that could provide opportunities for carbon off-setting. Recipient sites would be assessed in terms of their capacity to lock up carbon – or their potential to form a part of a Nature Recovery Network.
- 20.2 This could apply for sites already managed for nature or support the shift to more sustainable land management. It could identify areas suitable tree planting, protect important carbon sinks and create or link priority habitats.
- 20.3 It would enable the SDNPA to consider sites strategically across the National Park. It could be done quickly, and on a less formal basis, than the housing allocation process. We could also effectively screen the sites for any unacceptable impact on landscape, priority habitats or the historic environment.

21. Potential to use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 21.1 The allocation of CIL funds to projects is determined by Planning Committee for each funding year. At present we do not use CIL funding for projects specifically related to climate change. This could be achieved through two mechanisms.
- 21.2 One is a 'quick-win', and presents an opportunity to lead by example.
 - Use CIL to directly fund projects that address Climate Change mitigation or adaptation.

- 21.3 The other is also possible – but would require additional work to put in place.
- Explore the potential to use CIL as an incentive within the Planning System.
- 21.4 In the latter case, the SDNPA could offer a CIL discount to homes. This would be on conditional on them being built to a recognised ‘carbon standard’. In this way we could provide an incentive to developers and raise the bar in terms of sustainable building and design.
- 21.5 This could be based on a 50% discount on any properties built to meet the recognised ‘Passive house’ standard. This would represent a potential saving of around £10k for a 3 or 4 bedroom home.
- 21.6 As yet, this mechanism is untried – but it has great potential. The NPA are currently seeking legal advice on whether this is possible under the CIL Regulations.

22. Sustainable Construction – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 22.1 As a Local Planning Authority we have some degree of influence and control over new development within the National Park area. The application of planning policies is clearly an area where we could seek to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions. We can also ensure that buildings are well designed to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change.
- 22.2 The SPD builds on Local Plan policies to reduce CO2 emissions - through energy efficiency measures and on site low/zero carbon energy production. At present, Government policy prevents us going beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency. But this may be reviewed in future. For now the SPD pushed things as far as it is possible to do.
- 22.3 The draft document was approved by Planning Committee in January 2020. It is out for public consultation until 23 March 2020. Subject to any comments we receive, it will return to Committee for approval in June.
- 22.4 If the opportunity arises to strengthen our approach in the next 2 years, we will revisit the SPD again. We may also seek to add to our Local Plan when it comes up for review in the future. It is possible we could look to strengthen policies around design and sustainability at that stage.

23. Carbon offsetting through the Development Management Process

- 23.1 The SPD seeks to deliver measures to reduce CO2 emissions on site. There may be some cases where this is not practicable. There may be potential to require developers to pay a fee to offset the carbon generated by the development where it couldn't be achieved on site. This money would be used for energy efficiency measures elsewhere (e.g. retrofitting schools or other community buildings).
- 23.2 We cannot incorporate at this stage, but could be covered by an updated SPD in future. Again this is something the SDNPA could seek to include in our next Local Plan review.

24. Renewable Energy

- 24.1 Achieving Net-zero targets by 2050 will drive the transition to renewable energy. Some of this may be community level schemes that support rapid transition away from oil and gas fired systems. It could also see an increase in district level schemes were partner authorities are looking for economies of scale.
- 24.2 Within the National Park this could see an increase in applications for Solar PV and a renewed focus on off-shore and on-shore wind generation. We will need to work with our constituent authorities to ensure that schemes are developed that support the special qualities of the National Park.

25. Retro-fitting existing building and housing stock

- 25.1 One of the biggest challenges is improving the energy efficiency and thermal performance of existing buildings and housing stock. The SDNPA will need to work closely with our District and Borough Planning Authorities to support this work within the National Park area.

Local Communities.

26. Working with Parishes and local communities

- 26.1 There are 176 town and parish councils across the National Park and a multitude of community based groups. This represents a huge resource in terms of people, time and potential funding to deliver Climate Change action at a local level.
- 26.2 Parishes and community groups could make a huge contribution to reducing carbon emissions and delivering local projects.
- 26.3 They are also an important as a means to encourage action and activity that supports delivery of wider Climate Change targets. The SDNPA needs to effectively engage and 'add value' to local level action involving communities within and adjoining the National Park.
- 26.4 There is an important role for the SDNPA in harnessing this resource, there are a number of areas of work where the Authority to focus its efforts, these are broadly set out below.
- 26.5 We are starting to develop links with relevant Groups to engage with at this level including the Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Petersfield Climate Action Network, Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.

27. Neighbourhood Planning – encouraging action at a local level

- 27.1 To date, the SDNPA has developed a lot of experience around working with Neighbourhood Plan groups. Previously this has primarily been based on housing allocations and identifying sites for development.
- 27.2 Many of these plans will shortly come up for review. There is potential for the plans to support delivery for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. We should be ready to support Parish and Town Councils, community groups and other 'partnerships of the willing' to take action at a local level.
- 27.3 Since the 1st April 2017 the SDNPA has given **£267,919** in Parish CIL funds. This is a new funding stream for many of our local communities. We should support local communities in using this resource effectively to deliver on a range of community benefits. This could include actions to tackle the effects of climate change. This could be through:-
- Encouraging appropriate land allocations and designations which can tackle climate change, this could include tree planting on local green spaces, community facilities and renewable energy schemes.
 - Support town and parish councils to provide basic planning advice to local communities.
 - Planning advice to demonstrate how small scale improvements could be such as sustainable urban drainage, rain gardens, habitat creation and enhancements.
 - Supporting Town and Parish Councils to become central point for sharing best practice / advice with local residents on making a positive contribution to climate change action.
- 27.4 We also have our existing grant-in-aid schemes, such as the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) that could be used to help support Climate Change action.

28. Opportunity to use 'Net Zero' carbon targets at a Parish and local community level.

- 28.1 Winchester Action of Climate Change (WinACC) are a local group working to encourage positive action on Climate Change. They have developed an approach that produces a cut of national emissions data for rural Parishes within Winchester City Council's area.
- 28.2 The intention is to provide them with a consistent, and comparative, baseline and highlight areas where they can reduce emissions.
- 28.3 This is potentially a very useful approach, and one that the SDNPA could try to adopt for Parishes across the National Park. This would allow them to understand their current carbon footprint and seek ways to improve their performance. Providing this information would also provide a clear basis on which to measure success.

- 28.4 We are in discussions on the potential to roll out this approach more widely across the National Park. This would provide further opportunity to tailor funding streams, advice and support to local communities.
- 28.5 A number of other areas where the SDNPA might be able to support local communities are also considered in the action plan, including:-
- Sharing information and best practice;
 - Convening events to raise awareness and improve understanding;
 - Working with sector partners to deliver local training and support;
 - Regular articles in parish magazines promoting local action, projects and opportunities for funding.

29. Climate Action Fund Bid – Ouse Valley CARES project

- 29.1 The SDNPA, along with the South Downs Trust and community groups have submitted a bid to the National Lottery Communities 'Climate Action' Fund. The bid focuses on the communities of the Ouse Valley in East Sussex.
- 29.2 If successful it will bring together over 100 community projects and organisations to take climate action, over five years, with a focus on those people who are least engaged at present. It will support those community groups and organisations to:-
- Take practical action now;
 - Maintain and increase ecological resilience;
 - Accommodate change - Integrate across all sectors;
 - Develop knowledge and plan strategically.
- 29.3 The project area follows the river downstream from Barcombe, through Lewes and the lower Ouse Valley, to the large coastal communities ("the Havens").
- 29.4 The learning from this project will inform our community engagement efforts across other areas of the National Park.

30. Community Energy schemes within the National Park.

- 30.1 On the 22nd January 2020, the SDNPA convened a meeting with organisations that are involved with supporting and developing community based energy schemes.
- 30.2 This brought together local delivery partners including OVESCO and Community Energy Sussex who are an industry leader in the sector. The intention was to discuss the sorts of projects that had the greatest potential in the context of the National Park.
- 30.3 A number of ideas from that meeting are being progressed as part of the Climate Change Action Plan. These include:-
- Development of a network of Climate Change 'Champions' to promote best practice and deliver local training and support.
 - Establish a Community Energy programme and encourage local action via the allocation of CIL money.
 - Focus on communities that are ready to move fast – and keen to make rapid transition to a low-carbon future i.e./ in terms of shifting away from oil fired heating to local scale renewable.
 - Re-energise neighbourhood plan groups during the review cycle and focus on 'zero-carbon' plans, community energy and other priorities rather than just planning and housing allocations.
 - Develop this approach within a couple of pilot areas, either clusters of Parishes or community groups who are keen to deliver an exemplar scheme. A number of parishes are forming local community based action groups – so we could develop a partnership based on these.
 - Look to build on the successful bid to the HLF Climate Fund bid, along with active local community groups, to drive these opportunities along.

Infrastructure, rural business and other key sectors

31. Transport and Sustainable Access

- 31.1 Many of our constituent Local Authorities are working on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). These encourage modal shift by providing improved facilities for walking and cycling in towns. They use an evidence based approach to target investment where it can have the greatest impact.
- 31.2 The authorities are also looking to create sustainable travel connections between settlements to reduce emissions by taking motorised traffic off the road. The SDNPA is working alongside local authorities in the development of these plans to promote best options for connecting into the National Park.
- 31.3 The Local Highways Authorities are developing their Local Transport Plans (LTPs). These plans potentially form part of the action on Climate Change. They can encourage use of sustainable modes of transport and to support greener forms of public transport. An example being the Ultra-low emission bus scheme being developed by Brighton and Hove City Council.
- 31.4 The SDNPA Cycling and Walking Strategy 2017-2024 seeks to enable greater use of more sustainable modes of travel through the creation and improvement of a network traffic free access routes enabling a wider range of people to walk and cycle for both recreational and utility journeys. In creating and improving routes we should consider the carbon footprint of the construction of the schemes, and any opportunities to sequester and store carbon.
- 31.5 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as major road or transport schemes are not required to deliver net gain. However, when negotiating with the promoters of such projects will seek to achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.
- 31.6 Specific areas where the SDNPA can add value include:-
- Working with our sector partners to encourage provision of facilities, opportunities and incentives to allow for reduced carbon travel.
 - Working with partners to identify clear carbon budgets and actions and timescale needed to get to net zero in line with government deadline.
 - Change attitudes to transport and support the shift to low-carbon travel, support and encourage people to go 'car free' during their visit to the National Parks.
 - Build and promote off road cycle infrastructure and electric public transport networks.

32. Rural Economy & Tourism

- 32.1 The SDNPA will seeks to nurture businesses at a time of significant economic shift. We will support rural businesses to adapt their business operations, improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy. The shift to a low-carbon economy will generate new opportunities to train and employ local people, source local products and support other local businesses. To support this transition the SDNPA will:-
- Create an enterprise network as the vehicle to allow communication between SDNPA and the NP businesses. The network will facilitate the delivery of our climate change aspirations.
 - Deliver a business engagement strategy that helps businesses to decrease their carbon footprint, and improve their operational sustainability.
 - Help to promote the SDNPA as a 'Low carbon' destination and work with businesses who can help us deliver on this.
 - Work with the Responsible Travel partnership to promote places to stay which can demonstrate their environmental sustainability.
 - Broaden the membership of Green Tourism and other accreditation schemes.

33. Historic environment and heritage assets.

- 33.1 There is a need for improved data and evidence on the climate change impacts upon designated heritage assets across the National Park. We need to better understand the implications and adaptations required to preserve the historic environment, this will help to develop solutions that enhance their resilience and help protect them for the future. We can achieve this through supporting historic environment research into climate change impacts.
- 33.2 In some cases archaeology and heritage assets may be lost, from accelerated coastal erosion for example. There is an opportunity for the SDNPA to work with sector leaders around how we communicate the engage around “curated loss” and open a public debate around the loss of heritage assets as a result if climate change.
- 33.3 Engagement around the arts has potential to engage and communicate with the public on issue around climate change, adaptation responses and the need for individual action. This is a key component of encouraging behaviour change.

34.0 Engagement and Outreach

- 34.1 The SDNP Learning Network have identified climate change education as a key area that they would like to see collaboration on across this sector. In particular the network have identified that schools are ahead of learning providers in delivering education on climate change.
- 34.2 There is also recognition that the way that we frame our communication with young audiences needs to be sensitive to minimise the potential for eco-anxieties of young people.
- 34.3 Three events are planned or are being delivered this year:
- Hopeful Earth Conference - Ditcham Park School.
 - Earth Protectors Conference for teachers - The Sustainability Centre.
 - Climate Change Teachers Twilight - Brighton and Hove Environmental Education (BHEE).
- 34.4 The SDNP Learning Network has asked for a workshop for learning providers in supporting learning about climate change and the SDNPA will look to convene a workshop for this network in summer 2020.
- 34.5 The SDNPA is also looking to develop a ‘climate action’ fund which would be able to give small grants to schools to fund climate change related action.

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Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

Delivering ‘Net Zero with Nature’ – Responding to the challenge of Climate Change with nature based solutions				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for the land-based sectors.	<p>Work closely with sector partners who have also declared net zero ambitions, particularly the NFU (2040), National Trust (2030) and Environment Agency (2030).</p> <p>Promote uptake of high precision or low-input farming techniques so that the application of nitrate fertilisers does not result in excess nutrients passing into the aquifers at key times of recharge (Autumn/Winter)</p> <p>Support for farmers in terms of diversification to new crops and livestock breeds that may be more resilient to changing climatic conditions.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable land management that protect the environmental assets and ecosystem services of the South Downs while maintaining the profitability of farming.</p>	SDNPA, NFU, CLA, Farm Clusters and FC Facilitators, Research Bodies (NERC, CEH), Statutory Agencies.	<p>Proposal for roll-out of a Farm Carbon Calculator tool are in discussion. We would look to trial this with the Farm Clusters to test the approach, and to support farmer in its use.</p> <p>This would be achievable through our current involvement with the Farm Clusters. Still needs to secure additional staff time from CPM directorate and Area Teams to take this forward.</p> <p>CPM is working to define additional resource requirements.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)	<p>Encourage land management practices that maintain the structural and microbial condition of soils and maximise its ability to store water and nutrients.</p> <p>Encourage measures that retain soils in situ such as contour ploughing, minimum or ‘no tillage’. Promote the use of green manures and cover crops.</p> <p>Encourage land management practices that support pollinators. Use of natural pest controls or pest resistant crop species to reduce the need for pesticide use.</p>	SDNPA, NFU, CLA, Farm Clusters and FC Facilitators, Research Bodies (NERC, CEH), Natural England and the Statutory Agencies.	<p>ELMS ‘tests and trials’ programme is also picking up much of this work. The revised schemes are likely to support and promote many of these actions – and would therefore make a contribution to Climate Action.</p> <p>We are still awaiting the final form of the Agricultural Bill and the Environment Bill for the detail on what will be covered by the revised schemes. It returned to the Commons to consider further amendments on 4 November 2020.</p> <p>The Environment Bill returns to the Public Bill Committee for further consideration on the 1st December 2020.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the CHAMP Project will also target these kinds of interventions with Farmers and Land Managers in the Eastern Area.</p> <p>Soils project being developed in the Western Area with the Winchester Farm Cluster group, opportunity to apply any learning from this project more widely.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Nature Recovery Network (NRN)	<p>Target project funding and environmental grant funding towards measures that increase resilience to a changing climate, support biodiversity and provide wider Ecosystem Service benefits.</p> <p>Undertake adaptive management and ensure that areas of valuable habitat are bigger, better managed and joined up. SDNPA to promote delivery at landscape scale.</p> <p>Increase the quality and habitat diversity of wildlife sites. Deliver large scale habitat creation where opportunities exist, create buffer zones for vulnerable or fragmented habitats Demonstrate how nature-based solutions can help develop resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.</p> <p>Develop pilot projects that show how Nature Recovery might be financed through the development of carbon off-setting schemes</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>This is now a major work strand for the Landscape & Biodiversity Programme Board. A NRN Working Group has been set up involving staff time from CPM & Planning.</p> <p>SDNPA is working with National Parks England to develop a National Delivery Plan. Roni Craddock has been seconded to work on this with Natural England, NPE and the National Association of AONBs.</p> <p>Regionally the SDNPA is working with the South East Protected Landscapes Group (SEPL) to develop joint principles for developing a NRN based on the Protected Landscapes as core areas.</p> <p>SDNPA is also a representative on the South East Nature Partnership which agreed SE England NRN Principles in</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>

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			<p>October aiming to ensure joint up of the network and ongoing collaboration across counties (Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire & IoW)</p> <p>Through the NRN Working Group we are also developing a SDNPA Approach to Biological Monitoring. This will provide a standard framework in which to monitor and report on nature recovery.</p>	
New woodland planting	<p>Research on which tree species may be most impacted by changes in climatic conditions. Plan ahead in terms of planting species that may be more resilient to prevailing climatic conditions in the medium/long term.</p> <p>Identify the best carbon storage options for the National Park that provide the widest range of ecosystem service benefits. Enhance the capacity for carbon storage and sequestration at landscape scale.</p> <p>Encourage woodland management that provides the best range of ecosystem service benefits including enhancing biodiversity, natural flood management, air quality, carbon sequestration and renewable energy potential.</p> <p>Produce guidance on the 'right tree in the right place' to help inform the design of good planting schemes that meet carbon targets and enhance the landscape quality of the National Park.</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, South Downs Woodland Partnership, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>We would propose to work with sector partners to produce guidance that we can share that would apply to tree and woodland planting across the National Park. This will support tree planting and ensure it happens in the most appropriate locations and delivers the maximum benefit for society.</p> <p>Additional time and resource will be required within CPM and from the Strategy Lead (Woodland) to achieve this.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Meeting a 2030 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park Authority				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Sustainable Solutions Group	<p>Identify 'quick wins and opportunities' through a staff survey</p> <p>Undertake a carbon audit in line with other UK NPA by June 2020</p> <p>Undertake a full sustainability audit by September 2020.</p>	SDNPA	<p>A new Sustainability Policy has been developed with input from the Operational Management Team (OMT). It aims to reduce our carbon footprint so that we become a 'carbon neutral' organisation by 2025. The intention is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify within our operations and activities, where we can improve sustainability and reduce, recycle and reuse resources where possible; Set and monitor targets for carbon use through reduction and renewable alternatives; Enhance natural capital by offsetting carbon use through appropriate schemes; Develop and monitor an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority; Embed sustainable behaviour and processes with SDNPA staff and Members. 	<p>2019-2020</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On Track</p>
	<p>Improve our sustainable performance and become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set targets for carbon reduction and monitor progress Develop a strategy for sustainability for the SDNPA Produce an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority 	SDNPA	<p>Work has commenced on producing a set of carbon accounts for the NPA. We are now able to report on the same basis as the other National Parks. The group is looking to extend the scope of this reporting. These accounts will run for the financial year – as opposed to a calendar year as many sources are a result of procurement decisions by the SDNPA.</p> <p>Work has started to estimate the level of embodied carbon across our inventory of assets and equipment.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track</p>

Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee all activity to deliver the action plan. 		We should have a reasonably extensive set of accounts for March 2021	
Working with other National Parks – Climate Change & Energy Group				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Develop a Joint Delivery Plan for the UK National Parks.	<p>Establish the UK National Park family as leaders in meeting the challenge presented by Climate Change.</p> <p>Lead a rapid change in effort to tackle the climate emergency.</p> <p>Demonstrate how rapid response and transition to low-carbon living can be achieved.</p> <p>Work collectively towards becoming ‘Net Zero’ National Parks by 2040.</p> <p>Achieve ‘Net Zero’ as National Parks Authorities by 2030.</p> <p>Promote the principle of achieving ‘Net Zero with Nature’.</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>The Climate Change & Energy Group they have produced an updated Climate Change Delivery Plan. This sets out planned actions for the NPAs collectively and is a step up in terms of delivery.</p> <p>Work has also been underway on shared metrics and targets – and expanding the scope of current reporting on NPAs individual Carbon Performance.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – on track.</p>
Joint Advocacy	<p>Consider the opportunities with UK National Parks to promote our work through our National communications programme. Work together to plan a fringe event at CoP26.</p> <p>Work with National Park Partnerships to secure funding for the Net Zero with Nature proposal.</p> <p>Help to implement the recommendations of the Glover Review and promote collaboration at strategic level between NPA/AONB’s</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>National Parks England has been running a NPA Chairs Task & Finish group – which has met twice during 2020.</p> <p>Discussion are underway with Defra/BEIS about how the National Parks can collectively help deliver the UK carbon reductions targets. This includes preparing for and supporting events as part of COP26.</p> <p>A series of regional events are planned as part of the preparation for COP26 and the desire to engage with key sectors and local communities.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – on track.</p>
Research & Evidence	<p>Better data on carbon storage by land use or habitat type, to make more informed choices on land use change</p> <p>Understanding of how to maximise carbon through biodiversity projects. Develop case studies of nature based and adaptation solutions</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>Natural England are due to issue their updated research on the comparative ability of habitats to lock up carbon. This is now expected in December 2020.</p> <p>This will help the SDNPA to identify current carbon sinks, and where the greatest potential is for carbon sequestration is across the Park.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Report delayed – but remains on Track</p>
Meeting a ‘Net-Zero’ Carbon target for the National Park by 2040				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Establishing a baseline for our Carbon Targets	<p>Establish a baseline from which we can monitor the effectiveness of our actions to cut emissions.</p> <p>Produce options that allow us to demonstrate different trajectories to achieving the 2040 target, and how it might be achieved.</p>	National Parks England, BEIS, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	The contract has been let – and is now expected to report early in 2021.	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Work delayed – but remains in track.</p>

Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

	Obtain the BEIS data-set in a form that supports our work and is useable at National Park level.		BEIS data was produced and provided for the SDNPA and the UK National Parks in June 2020	
Working with our constituent Local Authorities	<p>Work more closely with our Local Authority partners on Climate Change actions. Help support and add value to their work through the delivery of our own Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>Establish links and working arrangements with Climate Change leads within Local Authorities and with important sector groups such as South East Climate Action (SECA). Work to co-ordinate climate action with key delivery partners.</p> <p>Work with our LA partners to establish common metrics and targets so we can make a clear contribution to delivering national and locally based targets.</p>	SDNPA, Local Planning Authorities, Sector Partners such as South East Climate Action (SECA).	<p>We have now met with the CC Leads at both Hampshire and West Sussex. We have also met with many of the District Councils to review their Climate Change Action Plans and identify where we have shared objectives.</p> <p>The SDNPA has also been attending the Sussex Climate Emergency Group – which includes most of our constituent LPAs.</p> <p>We still need to secure adequate staff time/resource to ensure we can adequately cover this work. This still represents a gap in delivery.</p>	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – needs further attention in terms of resource planning.</p>
The role of the South Downs NPAs Planning Function	<p>Embed the principle of both Biodiversity and Environmental ‘net gain’ within the planning System through our Local Plan strategic policies.</p> <p>Make use of the SDNPA Green Infrastructure framework. Highlight areas for GI investment in and around the National Park.</p> <p>Use our existing Local Plan policies to influence positive impact on landscape character and ecosystem function (Strategic Policy SD2).</p>	SDNPA, Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.	<p>Much of this work will be delivered through our existing planning policies and Development Management processes.</p> <p>The People & Nature Network (PANN) was launched over the Summer, and has been actively promoted.</p> <p>Net-gain is likely to be mandated, and is supported by our Local Plan policies. Additional work needed between lead officers in planning and CPM/Strategy Leads to ensure join-up with the Nature Recovery Network.</p>	<p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Sustainable Construction – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<p>Promote energy efficiency and sustainable building standards in terms of design, materials and site layout.</p> <p>Raise the bar in terms of design and build standards via the use of incentives i.e. CIL or other mechanism.</p> <p>Develop design codes that result in more sustainable building and schemes, with the best design, layout and materials to make them resilient to climate change. Incorporate passive solar gain, PV, landscaping, grey water storage and other features.</p>	SDNPA, MHCLG, Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.	<p>SPD was approved by the Planning Committee and it was adopted in August 2020. In terms of scope it covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy/CO2 from new development through energy efficiency and on-site green energy • EV charge points • Maximum water consumption levels • Sustainable waste and materials measures • Reinforcing GI and SuDS policies • Green roofs for larger developments <p>Training for DM colleagues across our partner LPAs is due to commence in November 2020. SPD and local plan policies will need to be reviewed as Government policies evolve over next few years.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Revisit in 2022-2023</p>
Call for sites – Carbon Sequestration	<p>Initiate a National Park wide call for recipient sites’ that looks to deliver carbon off-setting schemes that are ‘nature-based’.</p> <p>Map and assess sites and habitat areas in terms of their capacity to lock up carbon – as a component of a Nature Recovery Network.</p> <p>Consider the sites strategically across the National Park. Develop a means to assess and screen sites where they might have an unacceptable impact on the landscape, priority habitats or scheduled historic monuments.</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, South Downs Woodland Partnership, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>Work from CPM and Planning Policy to design and deliver on a ‘call for sites’.</p> <p>This would need to be developed alongside work with our LNP partners so it supports the Natural Capital Investments Strategies.</p> <p>This could be progressed through the Landscape & Biodiversity Programme Board as it would support ‘Nature Recovery’ as well as Climate Change work.</p>	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>No progress on this as yet – though the idea is supported by both CPM/Planning.</p>

Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

			Additional staff time would be required from CPM and Planning to develop a way to screen the sites for their potential and any unintended impacts.	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	<p>Develop the potential to use CIL funding to fund projects that directly address Climate Change mitigation or adaptation.</p> <p>Explore the possibility to use CIL as an incentive within the existing Planning System and whether this is possible under the current CIL regulations.</p>	SDNPA, MHCLG, Local Authority Partners, Developers and Planning Agents, Parish Councils.	<p>The SDNPA have been considering the potential for CIL discount to homes, provided they were built to a recognised ‘carbon standard’. This would be a way to incentivise developers to raise the bar in terms of sustainable building and design.</p> <p>Current legal opinion on the use of CIL for this purpose suggests it may not be possible to use it in this way. Though clearly CIL can be used to fund Climate Change action that meets the schemes requirements.</p>	<p>2021-2022</p> <p>This may not be possible to progress.</p>
<u>Working with our local communities.</u>				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Helping to develop resilient communities	<p>Extend the scope of volunteer capacity within Parishes and local groups to enhance community resilience to potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Make use of our existing grant-in-aid schemes, such as the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) to help support Climate Change action at a local community level.</p> <p>Support Town and Parish Councils to become central point for sharing best practice / advice with local residents on making a positive contribution to climate change action.</p> <p>Analyse and review current community action to identify opportunities for adding value to existing projects to deliver climate change outcome and tackle the CC emergency</p> <p>Promote best practice locally to encourage others to take up projects that can contribute to tackling climate change</p> <p>Work with partners such as the associations of local councils to provide training to support councils to become more active in tackling climate change.</p> <p>Share Best Practice – run annual events to promote what local Climate Change Action is happening.</p> <p>Run an annual event for Local Councils, Community Groups, and other organisations to share best practice with other community groups.</p>	SDNPA, Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.	<p>This represents a significant amount of new work for the SDNPA. There is a lot of action at a local level and an opportunity to support local groups to deliver on wider climate actions.</p> <p>At present our community engagement work is delivered through the Planning Team. Some elements of this work could be delivered through existing staff resource – but not all of it.</p> <p>To support this additional level of community engagement – specifically on Climate Action, we will need to secure an additional resource.</p> <p>CPM and Planning to do further work to establish the staff time and resourcing requirements around this work. OMT to assist with the resource planning.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>
Neighbourhood Planning	<p>Promote the development of “Net zero” Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Support Neighbourhood plan groups during the review cycle and focus on ‘zero-carbon’ plans, community energy and other climate action.</p>	SDNPA, Parish Councils, Local Planning Authority Partners, Developers and Planning Agents, Parish Councils.	At present the Neighbourhood Planning element of our work is delivered through the Planning Team. This may be achievable through the existing staff structure, though additional work would be needed to develop a template for ‘Net Zero’ plans at this local level.	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>

Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

	<p>Encourage local action within parishes and other community groups that supports the delivery of wider Climate Change targets</p> <p>Develop this approach within a couple of pilot areas, either clusters of Parishes or community groups who are keen to deliver an exemplar scheme.</p>		<p>CPM and Planning to do further work to establish the staff time and resourcing requirements around this work. OMT to assist with the resource planning.</p>	
'Net Zero' carbon targets at a Parish and local community level.	<p>Work with town and parish councils to audit their own buildings / operations to identify opportunities for improved performance.</p> <p>Working with a small number of pilot communities to establish the CO2 emissions of their own operations. Establish action plans to improve energy performance.</p> <p>Help support communities that are ready and willing to make a fast transition to 'Net Zero'. Use these communities as exemplars for others to learn from and follow.</p>	<p>SDNPA, Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.</p>	<p>Good progress has been made in terms of establishing a baseline for Parish level carbon budgets. Through the Research & Evidence Team we commissioned WinACC to produce a set of carbon accounts for the Rural Parishes within the National Park. We received the report and data for this work in October 2020 – and are currently reviewing it.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>
Developing Community Energy schemes within the National Park.	<p>Development a network of Climate Change 'Champions' to promote best practice and deliver local training and support.</p> <p>Establish a Community Energy programme and encourage local action via the allocation of CIL money.</p> <p>Focus on communities that are ready to move fast – and keen to make rapid transition to a low-carbon future i.e./ in terms of shifting away from oil fired heating to local scale renewable.</p> <p>Ensure local communities and businesses can access benefits from delivering carbon storage, renewable energy generation and other low carbon activity.</p> <p>Encourage uptake of micro-generation and community based renewable projects that minimises the impact on the South Downs Landscape.</p>	<p>SDNPA, Ovesco, Community Energy groups, Local Authority Partners, Renewable Energy Companies, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups, Parish Councils and Landowners.</p>	<p>Community Energy Pathway project was given funding approval in June 2020 and work is currently underway.</p> <p>A survey of Parishes and Community Groups was conducted in September 2020 to assess the level of interest in Community Energy.</p> <p>The survey received a good level of responses. These will be reviewed to select five groups to participate in the next phase of the project – and will be supported to develop plans for their local community that can be taken forward as funding bids.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p>
Community Lottery - Climate Action Fund Bid	<p>Bring together community projects and organisations to take climate Action, over five years, focus on people least engaged at present. Support them to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take practical action now; Maintain and increase ecological resilience; Accommodate change - Integrate across all sectors; Develop knowledge and plan strategically. <p>Apply learning from the project to inform our community Engagement efforts across other areas of the National Park.</p>	<p>SDNPA, South Downs Trust, Ovesco, Community Energy groups, Local Authority Partners, Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups, Parish Councils and Landowners.</p>	<p>Bid was successfully submitted to the Climate Action Fund with support from the External Funding Team. Application was made for development phase funding c£100-150K over 12 months. We are still waiting for a decision.</p> <p>Will include a project officer to add capacity. This is needed to support further work and ensure a robust and deliverable project</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p>
Historic Environment & Archaeology				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
	<p>Improve data and evidence on the climate change impacts upon designated heritage assets across the National Park. Use this data to develop solutions that enhance the resilience of historic assets and help protect them for the future.</p>	<p>SDNPA, Historic England, HERs and Heritage Groups</p>	<p>This would need to be delivered through the work of CPM and the relevant Strategy Lead. Further work required by CPM Managers to assess the time/resource requirements of this element of the Action Plan.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – Progress has been</p>

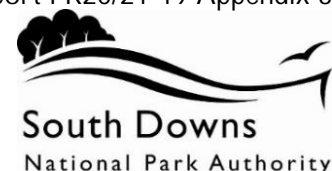
Climate Change Action Plan – Update on the 5 Year Delivery Programme (Draft)

	<p>Support for historic environment research into climate change impacts within the National Park.</p> <p>Engage with sector leaders around dialogues linked to “curated loss”, linking with communications and engagement.</p> <p>Support socially engaged arts projects that seek to engage the public with climate change, adaptation and individual action.</p> <p>Public engagement with positive approaches to building adaptation (where appropriate), and value of natural / historic materials in built structures, by signposting to specialist guidance.</p>		Potentially deliverable with our existing level of resources.	delayed by the impact of Covid.
Engagement and Outreach				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
<p>SDNP Learning Network</p> <p>Raise awareness of SDNPA climate change strategy to Our South Downs Education Network members</p>	<p>Extend the scope of volunteer capacity within Parishes and local groups to enhance community resilience to potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Focus on climate change as a key area for collaboration across the education sector.</p> <p>Develop new ways to frame our communication with young audiences that are sensitive to the need to minimise the potential for eco-anxiety in young people.</p> <p>Collaborate on a workshop for learning providers in supporting learning about climate change.</p>	SDNPA, Learning Network, Schools and Education sector partners, Sustainability Centre, Plantlife, Learning through Landscapes.	<p>The planned ‘Learning providers’ climate change workshop - did not take place owing to the pandemic. Postponed for the time being and not a communication priority during the ongoing pandemic.</p> <p>Climate change collaboration across the education sector – projects running with strategic input from SDNPA education team, addressing adaptation and resilience to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee-lines school competition, supporting schools to create pollinator habitat through online workshops, learning resources and covering costs to install new habitat areas. Clean up and create competition, empowering school children to use recycled materials to create art and communicate the negative impacts of litter and create behaviour change. Mini grants for schools (planned re-launch in Winter 2020/21), student led projects that improve school grounds in support of National Park PMP, including climate change adaptation. 	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On Track</p>
Transport & Sustainable Access				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Work alongside local Highways Authorities to develop sustainable travel schemes and deliver the best ‘low-carbon’ options for connecting into the National Park.	<p>Work with our sector partners to encourage provision of facilities, opportunities and incentives to allow for reduced carbon travel.</p> <p>Work with partners to identify clear carbon budgets and actions and timescale needed to get to net zero in line with government deadline.</p> <p>Change attitudes to transport and support the shift to low-carbon travel, support and encourage people to go ‘car free’ during their visit to the National Parks.</p> <p>Build and promote off road cycle infrastructure and electric public transport networks.</p>	SDNPA, Highways Authorities, Highways England, Public Transport Providers, Access and Amenity Groups, Local Access Forum, Local and County level Cycle Forums are an important partner, Community Rail partnerships.	<p>This would need to be delivered through the work of CPM and the relevant Strategy Lead. Further work required by CPM Managers to assess the time/resource requirements of this element of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Actively supporting local authorities’ emerging LCWIPs, also input into feasibility studies such as Brighton Bike Share; and working with Highways England to progress A27 East of Lewes NMU route.</p> <p>We continue to plan and seek funding for off road infrastructure as set out in our ‘Vision Map’.</p> <p>SDNP cycling and walking strategy will be reviewed in 2020/21 taking into account new local authority LCWIPs, Govt. ‘Gear Change’ strategy and updated Design Guidance.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>

Rural Economy & Tourism				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Support rural businesses to adapt their business operations, improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy.	<p>Create an enterprise network, with the working title of 'South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP)', as the vehicle to enable communication between SDNPA and the SDNP business community.</p> <p>Deliver a business engagement strategy that helps businesses to decrease their carbon footprint, and improve their operational sustainability.</p> <p>Help to promote the SDNPA as a 'Low carbon' destination and work with businesses who can help us deliver on this.</p> <p>Work with the Responsible Travel partnership to promote places to stay which can demonstrate their environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Broaden the membership of Green Tourism and other accreditation schemes.</p>	SDNPA, Responsible Travel Partnership, Tourism Providers, National Parks England and the Tourism Officers Group.	<p>The South Downs Enterprise Partnership has been presented to SET TPB and SMT (19th Oct) and was supported in principle. The next step is for SMT (18th Nov) to consider options, resource implications and agree a projected start date.</p> <p>The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed the focus of the SDNPA's business engagement strategy. The economic fall-out required us to quickly re-focus efforts to writing an 'economic recovery' strategy. This work has now been completed.</p> <p>We are partnering on tourism industry webinars for businesses in dealing with Covid-19. One of these webinars will focus on Sustainability and green recovery – this is scheduled to take place early 2021.</p> <p>Renewed contract with Responsible Travel Partnership for 2020/21. They have secured funding to produce 10 articles to promote sustainable tourism in the South Downs.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme</p>

Climate Change Action

Update on current progress

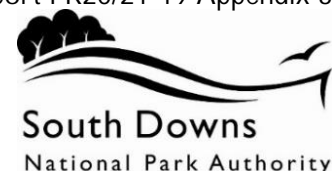


Name of Local Authority
Adur District Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
2030 for the council. 2050 for the area.
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Annual reports, published online. First progress report published November 3 rd , Joint Strategic Committee. We are aiming to average 10% reduction per year. 13% reduction delivered year 1. https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/s4078/Item%205%20-%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Target%20-%20Progress%20Update.pdf
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Gas and electricity use buildings. Transport Fuel use.
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
Climate Assembly. Programmes to offer support on energy/carbon reduction to residents. Transport programmes. Engagement.
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
Climate Assembly. Will develop policy & partnerships in 2021. Developing a Sussex Climate Emergency Forum for LAS in E&W Sussex, BH and beyond.
What are the current priorities for your Authority?

<p>Climate Assembly</p> <p>Delivering the carbon neutral commitment.</p> <p>Solar Investment Strategy</p> <p>Development of heat network</p> <p>Decarbonisation of buildings through energy efficiency projects.</p> <p>Decarbonising transport</p> <p>Carbon offsetting (natural environment)</p>
<p>Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?</p>
<p>Through mainstreaming throughout policy & practice.</p>
<p>What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?</p>
<p>All of above</p>
<p>Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?</p>
<p>Many organisations and sectors</p>
<p>What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?</p>
<p>Policy for renewable energy. Carbon offsetting/sequestration. Transport. Biodiversity Enhancements.</p>

Climate Change Action

Update on current progress



Name of Local Authority
Brighton and Hove City Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
<p>Work to produce an action plan to meet our 2030 target is underway, however, it requires considerable partnership working given that the council only accounts for a small portion of the city's overall emissions – 21.8kt of CO2 out of the 868kt of emissions produced city-wide overall.</p> <p>The development of the action plan is led by the Environment Committee and supported by the new cross-party Carbon Neutral Working Group that shares oversight of progress. Initial work has focused on the delivery of the climate assembly and the youth assembly (now successfully ongoing) that will set key goals for residents that will inform the priorities of the plan.</p> <p>All councillors agreed that the development of the plan should also in part be contingent upon feedback and results from the Citizens Assembly on climate change that we are currently having in the city which is focused on obtaining resident viewpoints on key ways we can meet our climate targets.</p>
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
After our council declared a climate and ecological emergency, we committed to Net Zero by 2030.
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
<p>Our own 'carbon budget' is assessed. We also have a key performance indicator on carbon reduction and this is measured by our Sustainability Team. Reports are provided regularly to cross-party members as part of our working group on the matter.</p> <p>We also have annual carbon emissions reports which follow the GHG Protocol, however, we don't measure tier 3 emissions.</p>
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
<p>Yes we have ensured that this is a key part of decision making and this is recorded in the annual report.</p> <p>This is also a key priority in new procurement and the council is now required to more robustly evaluate the carbon impact of policies.</p>

There are a range of other initiatives that are within council remit but not exclusively covering only council outcomes, as the benefit the wider city including:

Use of Citizens Assemblies, including the first Youth Assembly to engage with public and empower policy decisions

Development of plans to initiate a climate change teacher in every school

Development of ground source heat pumps in council housing

17 schools with solar panels, and new solar panels on council housing

New woodland, and recent decision to rewild one of the city council owned golf courses

Development of a solar farm

With current capacity of installed Solar PV and current level of planned investment, it is forecast that the proportion of the council's electricity self-generated by Solar PV will increase from **1%** in **2018/19** to **14%** by **2023/24**.

Work with partners on the circular economy and community wealth building to reduce journeys

Commissioning of e-cargo bikes to support deliveries made in the city; particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic when the council has provided food parcels

Work to develop a new online engagement facility for *all* residents to comment on the climate crisis, through citizen engagement specialists 'Bang the Table.'

The authority also has internal low waste policies for staff and a new single use plastics policy and procurement supply chain guidance.

b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)

There has been work on fitting LED lights which has reduced emissions and we have an emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to support extra walking and cycling. We already have some cycle lanes, but we have put ambitious bids in for the Emergency Active Transport Fund to expand infrastructure in the city. We work closely with the bus companies to work on reducing the emissions of their vehicles and transitioning their fleet to as low as carbon as possible. The council already has Ultra Low Emission Zone in the city centre and the council is looking at expanding this, as well as considering bringing in congestion charges. There is also an increase in electric vehicle charging points and other transport measures.

A lot of our other external policies come in planning policies and we have a City Plan Part One in place and are close to submitting Part Two which will drive down emissions further and ensure that developments take into consideration natural environment. Unfortunately, our waste and recycling aren't as high as we'd hope, and we don't recycle enough of our plastics or food waste. However, we have plans to expand the materials which can be recycled and begin trials for food waste.

The Greater Brighton Energy Plan identifies **opportunities for energy infrastructure** that support the region in achieving its objectives for **decarbonisation and economic growth**.

- The Energy Plan develops a **solar roadmap** and in addition focus on opportunities in **power, heat and transport**.
- The project **builds on previous tri-LEP Energy Strategy**.
- Greater Brighton Economic Board approved the GB Energy and Water Plans in July 2020

We also currently work with partners on a fuel poverty strategy that includes strategic planning for more energy efficient homes and support for residents to ensure maximum energy efficiency.

c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)

We set up a Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Fund (SCRIF) in 2019 and this has been used to fund several officer placements including tree planting, biodiversity officers etc. We have allocated more funding for this in the 2020 budget and allowed external groups to bid for funding as part of this. Also, in our commissioning of grant funding we have strong sustainability principles and have ring-fenced pots for environmental action. We work closely with the large voluntary and community sector in Brighton and Hove who have a massive impact in the city.

The council has also been leading on a circular economy plan designed to reduce and minimise waste at source. This includes outreach and engagement with One Public Estate, the city food sector and to date the council has also delivered workshops on this to 125 officers.

The council is also the lead partner in the Living Coast Biosphere (UN Biosphere) project, which is focused on its new management strategy, including climate change and carbon.

An advisory panel comprising experts in climate science, local university and industry professionals now advises the council's climate assembly process and acts as 'critical friends' to ensure the successful delivery of climate change action plans.

What are the current priorities for your Authority?

Our major priorities are engaging with the public in the Citizen's Assembly and building the public support to empower us to push through with our policies. Then we will compile results and this will all feed into the a Climate Action Plan.

Themes for action on climate change include transport, energy and water, the circular economy, adaptation and crucially, carbon offsetting and sequestering in order to ensure we are at 'net' zero.

An emerging priority includes a focus on 'green jobs' – analysis by the greater economic board demonstrates BHCC could be a leader in the region for new, sustainable jobs in low carbon industries that are an emerging area of government and international investment, creating jobs for residents during the impact of the pandemic but also in fields that will encourage a resilient response to climate change.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan also aims to make walking and cycling the first choice for local journeys and is a ten year programme of investment already underway.

Low carbon heating – heating in the UK contributes approximately **40% of carbon emissions**, with the domestic sector contributing approximately 10%. Electrification of heat and heat networks are key enablers to decarbonisation.

Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?

We have 'Sustainability' implications add in all reports and in certain cases such as when fitting energy systems in our council housing, we look at carbon emissions of the different schemes, as well as financial implications, and this can influence our decisions. However, there is still a gap on this in many of the decisions.

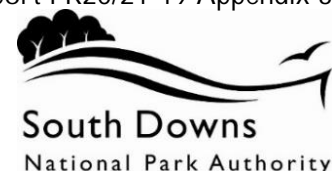
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?

Use of Citizens Assemblies, including the first Youth Assembly to engage with public and empower policy decisions

<p>Development of plans to initiate a climate change teacher in every school</p> <p>Development of ground source heat pumps in council housing</p> <p>17 schools with solar panels, and new solar panels on council housing</p> <p>New woodland, and recent decision to rewild one of the city council owned golf courses</p> <p>Development of a solar farm</p> <p>Work with partners on the circular economy and community wealth building to reduce journeys</p> <p>Commissioning of e-cargo bikes to support deliveries made in the city; particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic when the council has provided food parcels</p> <p>Work to develop a new online engagement facility for <i>all</i> residents to comment on the climate crisis, through citizen engagement specialists 'Bang the Table.'</p>
<p>Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?</p>
<p>List of partners includes the Greater Brighton Economic Board, Universities, local groups, and council leaders across the region as well as many others. Sussex IFCA, SDNPA, IPSOS Mori and Bang The Table.</p>
<p>What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?</p>
<p>Brighton and Hove has a large area of land which is in the SDNPA so ensuring that the land is able to maximise carbon reduction is key. A strong Asset Management Plan is essential and collaboration on policies for land, building and estates is needed. We are working on a Whole Estate Plan and so working closely together on this is another very important thing. The Whole Estate Plan and the potential of the SDNPA to support climate crisis mitigation is incredibly pertinent and valuable. Finally, SDNPA is the planning authority and aligning planning policy is helpful.</p>

Climate Change Action

Update on current progress

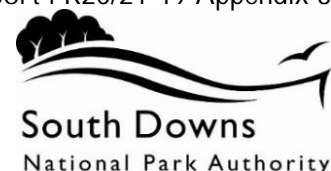


Name of Local Authority
Chichester District Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Chichester District Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019 and a Climate Change Officer was appointed for a initial 2 years in February this year. Since then a CC Panel of Officers and Members was formed and are formulating a CC Action Plan. This will be ongoing.
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
The current target is to reduce Carbon emissions by 10% year on year to 2025, a reduction of 50%. It is felt this is achievable
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
The CC Panel meet regularly to monitor progress and achievements.
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
The Authority is pursuing the aims of the plan wherever possible. Improvements to Council owned property, domestic sheltered accommodation as well as their commercial properties incorporate energy saving new technology and reductions in Carbon emissions. Wherever possible and practical EVCP's are built in. The CDC owned car parks already have a fair number of EVCP's installed. Walking and cycling routes are undergoing a public consultation, soon to close, and many additional routes are under consideration jointly with WSCC Highways.
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
Planning policies in the current review of the District Local Plan are being amended to incorporate new efficiency measures in insulation, energy generation including air source heat pumps and EVCP's. New developments will be more efficient with less reliance on the motor car. There will be more leisure space in large developments with many more trees planted and maintained. Elsewhere tree planting on Council owned land will be implemented.
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)

What are the current priorities for your Authority?
Currently the District Council is basking in the situation where most Officers and Members are working from home and thoughts are that this may continue unless physical attendance is absolutely necessary. The savings in Carbon Footprint are substantial, less car / travel requirements, expenses and Office costs. Indeed a study of the Councils future requirements of office space is taking place.
Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?
Regarding the 'Carbon Target', this can only be realised over time. It is still unclear if all these aspirations can happen, will the provision of Electric Power meet the increased demands of domestic heating and cooking if Gas appliances become obsolete, and the increase in EV usage is as yet unknown.
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?
Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?

Climate Change Action

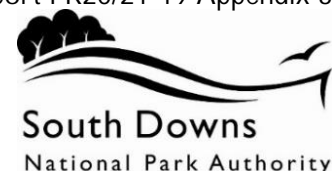
Update on current progress



Name of Local Authority
East Sussex County Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes, see: https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/15770/escc-climate-emergency-plan-june-2020.pdf
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
To achieve carbon neutrality from our own activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050.
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Our annual greenhouse gas emissions reports set this out. The most recently published report (2019-20) can be viewed at: https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/16335/greenhouse-gas-report-2019-20.pdf
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
The Climate Change Action Plan sets out what we have done to date (particularly over the past 10 years) – pages 8 to 10 set this out. The Action Plan also sets out what we intend to do over the coming 2 years – table 3, starting on page 21 of the Action Plan sets this out.
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
A whole range of policies and initiatives, including the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan, development of an EV Strategy, revised transport policies (e.g. updated Local Transport Plan, Travel Planning guidance, etc), working in partnership to deliver the East Sussex Environment Strategy, the Low Carbon Across the South East project and small business grants for energy audits and implementation of energy efficiency measures. This is by no means an exhaustive list of external actions.
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
Some of the above mentioned projects also fall under this category. Much of our influence is often through our statutory roles, such as Highways Authority – as an example, through the

development and implementation of Travel Plans we are seeking to encourage more sustainable travel patterns in new developments.
What are the current priorities for your Authority?
The actions set out in our own Climate Change Action Plan for the coming 2 years.
Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?
Not at present.
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?
More than happy to share information on actions we have undertaken through a separate discussion.
Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
District and Borough Council's in the county. Organisations such as the Energy Saving Trust, SELEP, Salix, etc when it comes to energy saving/efficiency measures/projects. Through our Lead Local Flood Authority role, much of the work is around climate change adaptation and mitigation – this is performed in partnership with many organisations including the EA, Natural England, Southern Water and the IDB's.
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?
This is somewhat dependent upon what the SDNPA's priorities are – ESCC officers would be more than happy to discuss with relevant SDNPA officers to explore such opportunities. Please contact either Edward Sheath (Head of Planning & Environment) or Andy Arnold (Team Manager – Environment team) if you wish to pursue this. We can also use such a meeting to expand upon the information provided in this questionnaire.

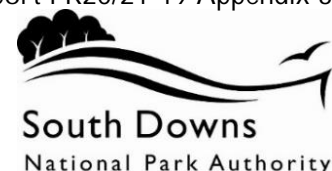
Climate Change Action
Update on current progress



Name of Local Authority
Hampshire County Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
We aim to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
We have analysed current emissions and have developed tools and metrics with the Carbon Trust.
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
We are proceeding with our highly successful retrofit programme on all council buildings. We are switching all fleet vehicles to electric where possible.
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
We have published the Hampshire Highways Carbon Strategy 2020-24. We are switching hedge trimmers to battery-powered versions and trialling low-carbon biofuels and electric diggers. We are using alternative asphalts with 50% lower carbon footprint. We are trialling plastic kerbs which are made with recycled materials. And we are recycling 95% of carriageway materials which are dug up and taken to the depot. We are also planting trees and wildflowers on County land and verges.
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
HCC has partnered with the Greening Initiative to give Parishes support in rolling out their sustainability plans. HCC has also partnered with Community Energy South, as has the SDNPA.

What are the current priorities for your Authority?
To deliver our Action Plan over the coming year.
Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?
Yes we have tools developed with the Carbon Trust.
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?
We are aiming to create the first Carbon Positive Country Park at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
Yes, we are working with all Districts and Boroughs in Hampshire as well as the two Local Enterprise Partnerships.
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?
Community Energy schemes within the Hampshire part of the National Park. We need project support and funding to get this off the ground.

Climate Change Action
Update on current progress

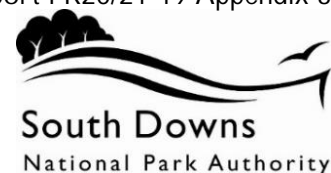


Name of Local Authority
Horsham District Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes – for our own operations. Intend to work with external stakeholders to produce a District wide action plan in the near future
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
Aspire for the emissions in the Councils direct control to be carbon neutral by 2030 The carbon emissions that are not within the Councils direct control to be carbon neutral by 2050
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Monitor carbon emissions annually for our buildings and fleet.
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
Short term action plan (to March 2022) can be accessed here:- https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/89108/Short-term-action-plan.pdf Cross Departmental project team to implement the actions
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
Wilder Horsham District – partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust Local Plan Review Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Sussex Solar Together – encourage residents to install solar panels
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
Launched a Community Climate Change Grant – to encourage action at a community level to reduce carbon emissions.
What are the current priorities for your Authority?
See the short term action plan for the internal actions

External action – likely to be establishing a group with external stakeholders to reach out to businesses etc. This is the next priority to provide a framework for action across key organisations in the Horsham District to reduce carbon emissions
Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the ‘carbon target’ implications of all its decisions?
Not explicitly – just a prompt as part of Cabinet/Committee reports
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?
Developing a partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust; although this focuses on enhancing biodiversity it also has links to nature based solutions to the climate emergency and adapting to a changing climate
Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
<p>Consultants – Anthesis, AECOM and the Carbon Trust for advice</p> <p>Retrofit works to roll out a series of pilots to encourage households to improve the energy efficiency of their properties</p> <p>Local Energy Advice Partnership – offering advice to households in fuel poverty to reduce their energy bills and make their homes warmer</p> <p>All of the other Local Authorities in West Sussex on a solar panel scheme and to install a EV charge point network across the County</p> <p>Offsetting – potential project with Anthesis</p>
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?
<p>Joining up to support the communities in the south of our District e.g. Amberley has expressed an interest in taking more action locally on climate change.</p> <p>Work with HDC on the Wilder Horsham District.</p>

Climate Change Action

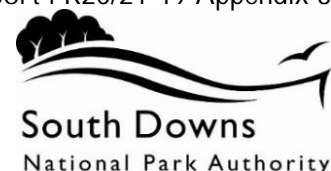
Update on current progress



Name of Local Authority
Lewes District Council Eastbourne Borough Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
LDC- In process- due at Cabinet Feb 2021 EBC- Yes- published November 2020
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
LDC Net Zero Council by 2030 To assist district to same EBC Carbon Neutral town by 2030
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Using BEIS data
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
Decarbonising our housing stock project Asset rationalisation (through programme called Reset & Recovery) Waste fleet rationalisation and eventual low carbon replacement Purchasing Green electricity Production of Sustainable Procurement Strategy and beginning to count scope 3 emissions
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
New planning technical advice notes inc. biodiversity net gain Investment in local solar farm projects Rewilding projects, tree planting Sustainability 'hub' projects – starting in newhaven

c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
Supporting set up of community led Climate Action Forum Researching possible community fund for carbon capture/nature based projects
What are the current priorities for your Authority?
Our Housing stock
Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?
Only a basic statement within committee reports- training to be developed 2021
What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?
Engagement undertaken with experts to develop climate change strategy
Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
University of Sussex, Brighton University, Greater Brighton In Eastbourne the ECO Action Network
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?
Strategic planning for natural capital carbon capture solutions

Climate Change Action
Update on current progress



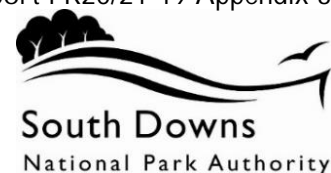
Name of Local Authority
Winchester City Council (WCC)
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
2024 for WCC, 2030 for the whole District
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Carbon Footprint Ltd assesses the greenhouse gas emissions of WCC annually, based on data provided by WCC WinAcc produces an annual report on greenhouse gas emissions (estimates and trends)
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
Retrofit of council housing stock Proposed RE-FIT of council properties Solar panels on council properties Switched to a green energy tariff Enabling of officers to work from home Installation of EV charging points Investigating potential solar farm locations Investigating electric park and ride buses Local plan up-date with emphasis on sustainability and low carbon Building Passivhouses Increased the number of solar panels on new leisure centre Planted 500+ trees Trialling air-source heat pumps Investigating ground-source heat pumps

<p>b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)</p>
<p>Working with HCC on Winchester movement strategy</p> <p>Working with Southampton University on a range of energy and property research projects (incl low carbon energy hub for District; estimating cost of retrofitting homes and the resulting energy savings;; mapping of EV charging points and network resilience</p> <p>Third party solar projects</p> <p>In 2021 will work with community groups to establish community energy schemes</p>
<p>c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)</p>
<p>Sustainability Conference</p> <p>Carbon neutrality steering group</p> <p>Work closely with WinAcc</p> <p>Green recovery plan</p>
<p>What are the current priorities for your Authority?</p>
<p>Climate emergency is overarching priority</p>
<p>Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?</p>
<p>All council reports now say the effects on climate change. We are trying to find a way to explicitly calculate the increase/decrease in carbon for each project going forwards</p>
<p>What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?</p>
<p>Solar panels on council properties</p> <p>Switched to a green energy tariff</p> <p>Enabling of officers to work from home</p> <p>Installation of EV charging points</p> <p>Building Passivhouses</p> <p>Increased the number of solar panels on new leisure centre</p> <p>Planted 500+ trees</p> <p>Trialled air-source heat pumps</p>

Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?
<p>University of Winchester</p> <p>Sparsholt College</p> <p>HCC</p> <p>Stagecoach</p> <p>WinAcc</p> <p>Winchester BID</p> <p>Marwell Zoo</p>
What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?
<p>More contact with our sustainability officer, Naomi nwise@winchester.gov.uk</p> <p>When we start looking into domestic emission with CSE and WinACC, it would be good to work with SDNP too – and when identifying community renewable energy projects.</p>

Climate Change Action

Update on current progress



Name of Local Authority
Worthing Borough Council
Has your Authority produced a Climate Change Action Plan?
Yes
What are your Current Targets for Carbon emissions/Net-Zero?
2030 for the council. 2050 for the area.
How are you currently assessing progress against these targets?
Annual reports, published online. First progress report published November 3 rd , Joint Strategic Committee. We are aiming to average 10% reduction per year. 13% reduction delivered year 1. https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/s4078/Item%205%20-%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Target%20-%20Progress%20Update.pdf
How is your Authority pursuing this work:
a) Internally (reducing the Council's own footprint via Council operations, buildings, vehicles, procurement etc)
Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Gas and electricity use buildings. Transport Fuel use.
b) Externally: via policies or initiatives (such as highways/public transport/walking/cycling; energy generation; waste; housing; economic development/businesses; natural environment; and Planning)
Climate Assembly. Programmes to offer support on energy/carbon reduction to residents. Transport programmes. Engagement.
c) Through support or influence (including engaging with or supporting local communities to take Climate Change Action; Advice, Grant Schemes etc; other measures being taken to try to influence individuals or communities such as lifestyle or behaviour change initiatives)
Climate Assembly. Will develop policy & partnerships in 2021. Developing a Sussex Climate Emergency Forum for LAS in E&W Sussex, BH and beyond.
What are the current priorities for your Authority?

<p>Climate Assembly</p> <p>Delivering the carbon neutral commitment.</p> <p>Solar Investment Strategy</p> <p>Development of heat networks</p> <p>Decarbonisation of buildings through energy efficiency projects.</p> <p>Carbon offsetting (natural environment)</p> <p>Decarbonising cremation.</p>
<p>Does your Authority currently have a way of considering the 'carbon target' implications of all its decisions?</p>
<p>Through mainstreaming throughout policy & practice.</p>
<p>What actions have your Authority taken to date that you feel are useful to share?</p>
<p>All of above</p>
<p>Are there other key sector partners or organisations you are currently working with?</p>
<p>Many organisations and sectors</p>
<p>What areas do you feel the SDNPA could work more closely with your Authority to add value to the work?</p>
<p>Policy for renewable energy. Carbon offsetting/sequestration. Transport. Biodiversity Enhancements.</p>

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Agenda Item 9
Report PR20/21-20

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	26 November 2020
By	Communications & Engagement Manager
Title of Report (Note)	Entry Signage Phase II: Progress update

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the progress on delivering the Entry Signage Phase II project.

I Introduction

- I.1 A priority for our communications and engagement work has been, and remains, to raise the profile of the National Park among residents, visitors and within wider regional, national and international arenas.
- I.2 It was a conscious decision not to create entry signs until the SDNPA was fully established and had developed its own identity, track record and distinctive policies. This has all now been achieved.
- I.3 The Entry Signage is about much more than physical signs. It is about creating a sense of place and positively impacting on people's understanding of the value of the National Park in the busiest region of the UK and in the wider national and international context. The agreed goals for the entry signage project were to:
 - raise awareness/profile of the National Park as a place of national and international importance;
 - create a strong and positive sense of arrival;
 - support the duty of the SDNPA to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park;
 - enhance the 'sense' of place' and understanding of the National Park and its special qualities;
 - to encourage positive attitudes towards the National Park;
 - influence expectations and behaviour; and to
 - underpin our income generation work.
- I.4 With over 600km of border and around 2,000 entry and exit points, it was agreed that it was neither practical nor of benefit to signpost every route. Instead, Members agreed a set of location and design principles that guided the delivery of the Pilot Phase and continues to guide the work during Phase II.
- I.5 Signs were installed at 19 locations in the Pilot Phase and a further 32 are planned for Phase II.
- I.6 See **Appendix I** for the combined (51) locations of Phase I (Pilot) and Phase II. See **Appendix 2** for the (19) locations for Phase I (Pilot). See **Appendix 3** for the (32) locations for Phase II.

2 Background

- 2.1 In November 2016, following a recommendation by the P&R Committee, the National Park Authority (NPA) agreed to proceed with a pilot entry signage programme of up to 20 signs. Nineteen signs were subsequently installed, with one being withdrawn due to issues raised by the relevant parish.
- 2.2 In June 2019 a lessons learned paper was brought to the P&R Committee and the learning from this paper fed into the development of Phase II.
- 2.3 In July 2019, the National Park Authority (NPA) approved work and expenditure on Phase II of the Entry Signage project.

3 Assessing the Pilot

- 3.1 After the Pilot Phase had been completed and 19 signs were installed, we carried out a review of the project to gather lessons learned that would feed into a recommendation as to whether to proceed with a further phase of entry signs. This was approved in July 2019
- 3.2 The lessons learned paper assessed the Pilot Phase against three key questions: Did it achieve the goals agreed by Members?; Did it meet quality, cost and time?; and what lessons learned could be taken forward to any phase II. It was agreed that we could answer positively yes to all of these questions.
- 3.3 Another important part of assessing the success of the Pilot Phase was to get feedback from the public. After the first batch of signs were installed in early Spring 2019, we issued a press release and also went out proactively on social media and asked people “What do you think of our new bespoke entry signs?”. We had a large response with over 1450 liking the post and well over 100 comments, all positive. The majority of the comments received have been extremely positive comments on the design, their appropriateness for this important landscape and quite a few comments referring to it being ‘about time’.
- 3.4 We have been approached by a number of parishes excited by the project wishing to have an entry sign or a parish sign for their community. A separate project “Communities of the South Downs”, working with parishes and communities, is now underway.
- 3.5 The final step in assessing the Pilot has been to do a visual inspection of the 19 signs installed. This visual inspection has now been completed and a number of small issues have been identified including dripping from the lettering and some shifting of the wood on a small number of the hybrid signs. These findings have been fed into the new project, leading to tweaking of the designs to overcome any issues identified.

4 Phase II

- 4.1 Using the location and design principles agreed by Members, 32 sites were identified for Phase II. A full application for advertising consent was made to the Authority’s planning committee and consent was given in November 2019.

5 Procurement and safety checks

- 5.1 Building on lessons learned in the pilot phase, the decision was made to separate the procurement into two separate contracts, one for manufacture and another for installation. The Invitations to Tender were sent out in November 2019. Tara Signs, based in Lancing, won the manufacturing contract and A J Wells, based in the Isle of Wight, won the installation contract.
- 5.2 As with the Pilot Phase, all passive safety, windloading, structural safety and road safety checks were carried out.

6 Project timing

- 6.1 The original timeline was to have all of the Phase II signs manufactured and installed by the end of the financial year 2020/21.
- 6.2 Covid 19 and the first lockdown had an immediate effect on the project, shutting down the Tara Signs Factory for the duration of the lockdown, it also meant a redeployment of our communications and engagement resources on public facing comms and engagement. With the easing of the first lockdown, the factory reopened and work once more began on the project. So far, the factory has been able to remain open during the second lockdown. However, there has been an understandable knock-on effect on the project timeline. We

are now on track to sign off prototypes by the end of November, with all manufacturing completed by February. We estimate that at least half of the signs will be in place by the end of March 2021, with the remainder being installed by the end of Q1. This is dependent on no further impacts of Covid on the factory or installation, and on the successful and timely securing of licenses from the relevant highways authorities.

7 Budget

- 7.1 A full invitation to tender was sent out for both the manufacturing and installation contracts and both contracts have been awarded within budget. There is also room in the budget allocated to this project by members in the 2019/20 budget round to accommodate additional costs identified during installation should any arise, and to cover the maintenance issues identified in the visual check of the Pilot Phase signs.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 While there has been a delay of three months due to Covid 19 restrictions, Entry Signage Phase II is now back on track for delivery.
- 8.2 Phase II and the maintenance work identified during the Pilot Phase review, both come within budget.

9 Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No. No further signs are proposed at this time.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No. The project is within budget.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	A full review of the Pilot Phase was carried out. A competitive and full Invitation to Tender was issued and contractors were appointed after a shortlisting process.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes. The introduction of signage is not considered to have any equalities implications. The design and siting of the signs is such that they do not impact on access or visibility.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	None

10 Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

10.1 While there are no risks directly associated with the paper, there is an ongoing risk that further Covid spikes may impact on the project timeline.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Further Covid restrictions impact on the project timeline	Medium	High	Close contact is being maintained with the signage manufacturer and a revised phased timetable for installation is being worked on with the installation company.

RUTH JAMES

**Communications & Engagement Manager
South Downs National Park Authority**

Contact Officer: Ruth James

Tel: 01730 819251

email: ruth.james@southdowns.gov.uk

Appendices

1. Map combined locations of Phase I and Phase II
2. Locations for Phase I (Pilot)
3. Locations for Phase II

SDNPA Consultees

Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager, Head of Fundraising and Marketing; Chair of P&R Committee, Deputy Chair of P&R Committee

External Consultees

None

Background Documents

https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/NPA_2019July2-Agenda-Item-17.pdf

Appendix 1: Entry Signage Phases I (Green) and II (Red)



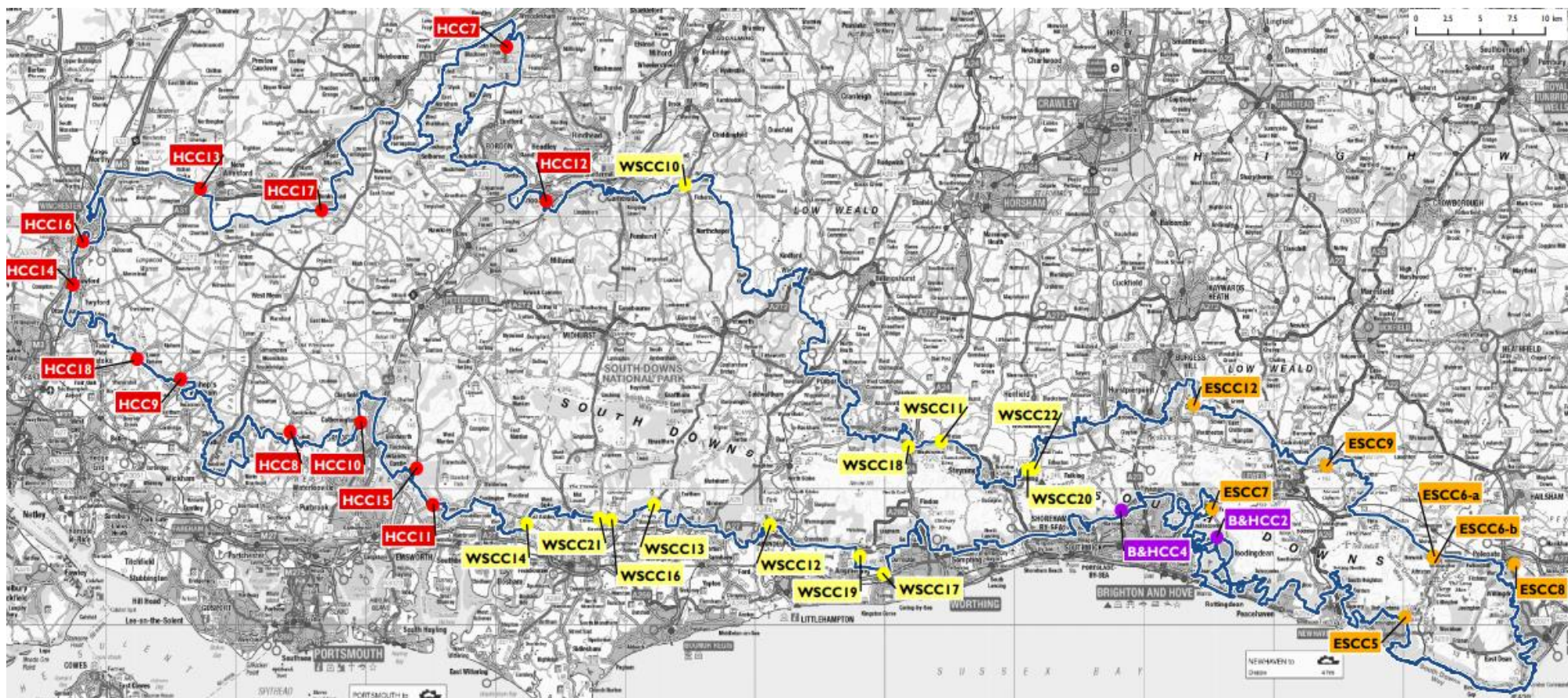
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Appendix 2: Entry Signage Phase I



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Appendix 3: Entry Signage Phase II



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