

# Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy

2020



## Foreword by David Williams – Leader of the Council

Climate change is not a new phenomenon, is scientifically widely accepted as fact, and the issues associated with it have been the subject of many documents and strategies; at a local, national and international level.

The recent high profile and on-going media around climate change, carbon reduction, energy supplies, renewables, emissions, habitat loss, waste and pollution have hugely raised the profile of 'sustainability' issues more generally and the need for a more sustainable development approach to every aspect of day to day life. The County Council has been responding to the climate change challenge for a number of years and our Climate Emergency declaration in July 2019 is a recognition of how important this is to us.

The Government has shown its own commitment to action to tackle climate change in publishing their Environment Plan (A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018) and in amending the Climate Change Act (2008) in 2019 to incorporate the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions

by 2050. Most recently, in the Queen's speech, the Government has shown further commitment in bringing forward both the Environment Bill and the Agriculture Bill. We look forward to further support through central government guidance particularly in areas such as the decarbonisation of transport and a review of building regulations.

It is recognised that the influence of the County Council is wider than the services we directly deliver, with the ability to influence carbon emission reductions, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, seek more sustainable sources of energy, reduce waste production, promote better land use practices, make links to health and wellbeing and influence procurement practices. Our strategy shows how we will lead in the way we behave as a council, enable our providers to respond



to the climate challenge and inspire the businesses and resident of Hertfordshire to make their own contribution to the climate challenge we all face.

We would now like to seek your views on the content and approach of Sustainable Hertfordshire 2020 and how best to implement it across the County Council's own functions and beyond. This will support the development of future action plans which we will progress over the spring and summer of 2020. The County Council has committed resources for the preparation of this strategy and will fully explore the subsequent resourcing requirements to embed the values of sustainability into the Council's service delivery, operations, procurement and supplier management.

# Our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy – Executive Summary

Following our Climate Emergency Declaration in July 2019, Hertfordshire County Council committed to develop a Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy that will set out initial policies and strategies needed to embed sustainability across all council operations and services and throughout the county.

This 2020 Strategy builds on our existing work – including our Energy Strategy, Pollinator Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Local Transport Plan 4, in addition to recognising and responding to future challenges. The UK's 25 Year Environment Action Plan sets out high level national commitments on environmental improvements across England.

The county council will support delivery of these and make faster progress where it is right and able to do so. The pace and capacity of the county council in achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020 will reflect available funding and every effort will be made to seek additional funding from government and other sources to support the sustainable benefits we aspire to.

This Strategy focuses on the environmental aspirations of sustainability as the wider social and economic goals are already managed through other plans including our Corporate Plan

This strategy has been developed based upon three levels of influence:

- **Lead** in our own operations – e.g. how we work, how we provide services and how we manage our buildings
- **Enable** a sustainable County with our programmes, policies and decisions – e.g. through our planning policies and how we dispose of the county's waste
- **Inspire** businesses and residents to take action – e.g. helping residents to lead a sustainable life and support businesses to grow partnering with other leading organisations to take action together

Our ambitions for **Leading** in our own operations are:

- **Carbon neutral** for our own operations by 2030
- **All operations and services are ready for future climates**
- **Improve biodiversity** on our land by 20% by 2030
- **Reduce what we throw away.** Send nothing to landfill by 2030

Our ambitions for **enabling and inspiring** a sustainable county are:

- **Net zero greenhouse gas county** before 2050
- **Our communities are ready for future climates**
- **Improve wildlife** in our land and water by 20% by 2050
- **Clean air for all by 2030**
- **Increase resource efficiency threefold** in the County by 2050

These ambitions will be delivered through:

- 1) Strong leadership and good governance
- 2) Key county council strategies
- 3) Partnerships
- 4) Representation to Central Government
- 5) Finance – both from the public and private sectors to fund delivery
- 6) Our buying which fully supports our sustainability ambitions
- 7) Effective monitoring

Crucially all of these aspirations will be underpinned by strong action and implementation plans aligned with each directorate's commitments. These will be developed by the services and taken to relevant Cabinet Panels during 2020. Monitoring and scrutiny will be part of the on-going process to ensure actions are followed through, progress made, and targets reviewed.

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020, which the county council has prepared to meet the commitment made in July 2019 and as part of our declaration of a climate emergency for Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 All human activity creates the release of 'greenhouse' gases, including carbon dioxide. Over the decades of industrial and agricultural activity, these gases have become concentrated and act as a trap for heat; it is this action which is causing global warming. This warming effect, known as climate change, has an impact on the ecosystem on a global scale.
- 1.3 The significance of climate change and sustainability is in no doubt and are particularly important to the county council because of the impact on all the services it delivers.
- 1.4 The Strategy concentrates primarily on the county council's own functions with a clear acknowledgment that there is a much wider scope to influence behaviours. The Strategy reflects the aspirations of the Corporate Plan and focuses on environmental issues and the need to reduce carbon consumption and production in a Hertfordshire specific context.



# SUSTAINABLE HERTFORDSHIRE - OUR STRATEGY

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

In developing our strategy Hertfordshire County Council have taken notice of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



This strategy especially focuses on the environmental goals.



### Our strategy has two ambitions

A leader in our own operations	Enabling & inspiring a sustainable county
<b>1. Zero carbon, ready for future climates</b>	<b>1. Zero carbon, ready for future climates</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A carbon neutral organisation by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>All operations &amp; services, ready for future climates</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A net zero greenhouse gas County before 2050</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ready for future climates</p> </div> </div>
<b>2. An environmental leader</b>	<b>2. An environmental leader</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improve nature on our land by 20% by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reduce what we throw away. Send nothing to landfill by 2030</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improve wildlife on land and in water by 20% by 2050</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Clean air for all by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Increase resource efficiency threefold in the County by 2050</p> </div> </div>

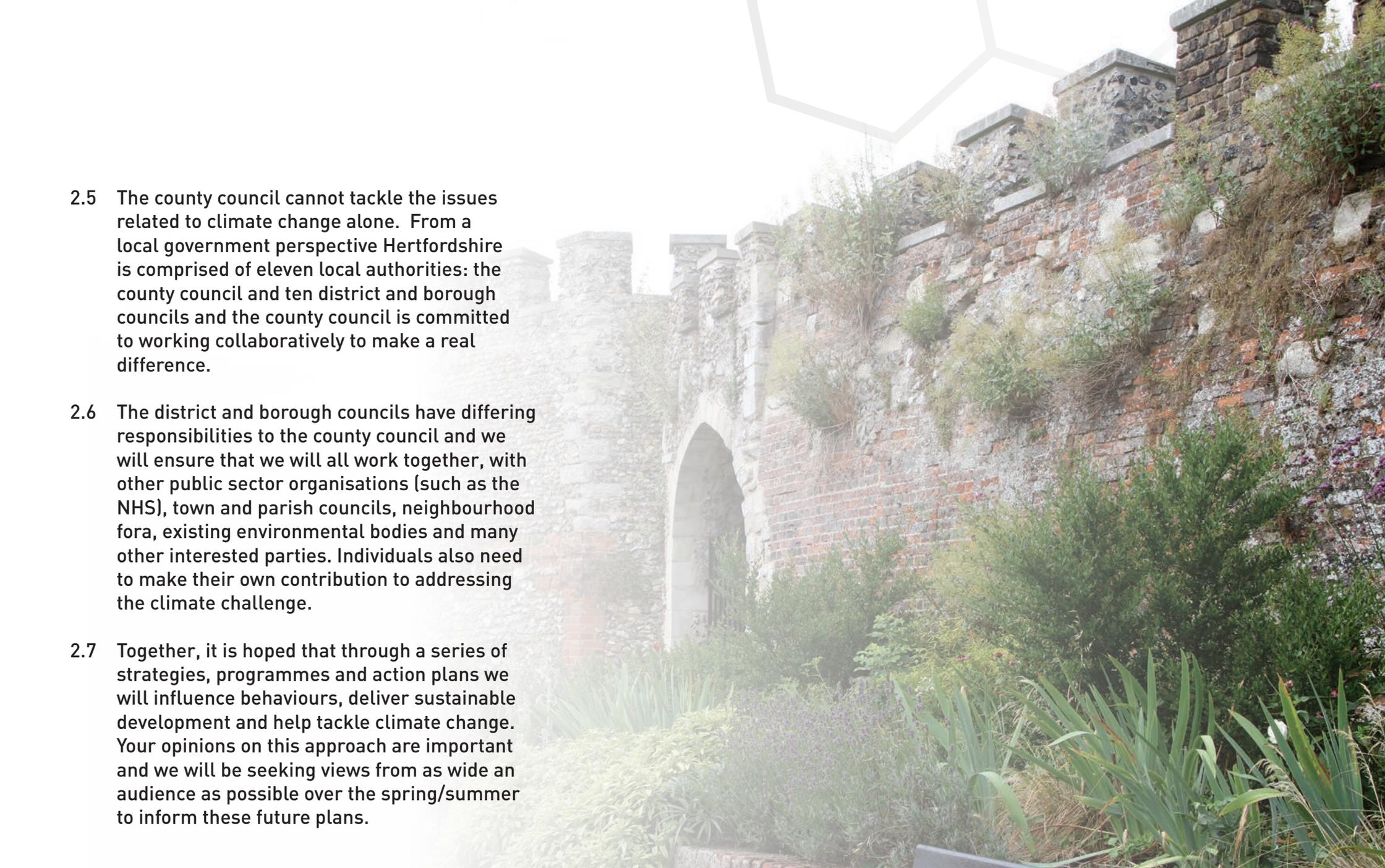
### We will deliver our ambitions in seven main ways:

1. Strong implementation and governance
2. Applying our objectives to key HCC strategies
3. Partnerships
4. Representation to central Government
5. Finance
6. Purchasing
7. Tracking and reporting progress.

## 2. Context for the development of the Strategy

### International, National and Local

- 2.1 The need for global recognition and understanding of climate change; the causes, impacts and the need to adapt to these changing conditions has been recognised for a long time. There are also international agreements and commitments which are discussed, set and reviewed at the United Nations Climate Conference, the Conference of Parties (COP). This year the UK Government has launched 'a year of climate action' leading up to the hosting of COP 26, in 2021, with a very clear recognition that taking action on climate change is now an emergency.
- 2.2 These international agreements help shape the actions of the constituent nations, strengthening the global response to combating climate change. Discussions and negotiations at a global level provide the catalyst for action; with the UK being the first major economy to legislate for net zero emissions by 2050, enshrined in legislation by an amendment made to the Climate Change Act (2008) in 2019.
- 2.3 In addition to this, in Oct 2019, the Government set out measures 'to go further and faster to tackle climate change' in response to Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommendations. The measures proposed can be viewed at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-go-further-and-faster-to-tackle-climate-change>
- 2.4 Moving forward, the Environment Bill and Agriculture Bill (announced in the Queens Speech) will provide further National Policy (via legislation) and Hertfordshire County Council and other authorities must work within this context when addressing local issues recognising that local changes can have global impact.

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- 2.5 The county council cannot tackle the issues related to climate change alone. From a local government perspective Hertfordshire is comprised of eleven local authorities: the county council and ten district and borough councils and the county council is committed to working collaboratively to make a real difference.
- 2.6 The district and borough councils have differing responsibilities to the county council and we will ensure that we will all work together, with other public sector organisations (such as the NHS), town and parish councils, neighbourhood fora, existing environmental bodies and many other interested parties. Individuals also need to make their own contribution to addressing the climate challenge.
- 2.7 Together, it is hoped that through a series of strategies, programmes and action plans we will influence behaviours, deliver sustainable development and help tackle climate change. Your opinions on this approach are important and we will be seeking views from as wide an audience as possible over the spring/summer to inform these future plans.

# 3. Climate Emergency in Hertfordshire

## Sustainable Hertfordshire Vision and Objectives

3.1 This Strategy sets out the county council's vision for tackling climate change;

### The Hertfordshire Vision

As the County of Opportunity, we want Hertfordshire to be a county where people live healthy, fulfilling lives in thriving, prosperous communities.

We will be a role model for environmental leadership in our own operations, showing how a large organisation can both take action and be a catalyst for others to act.

We will enable and inspire environmental action across the county; from delivering net zero carbon to making sure that we are prepared for extreme weather. From improving wildlife to using material more wisely, the environmental actions we take will provide real opportunities for Hertfordshire and deliver the goals of our Corporate Plan; to create 'a cleaner, greener and more environmentally sustainable county'.



## 4. What we have achieved so far

- 4.1 We are not starting from scratch and it is important to recognise that there are already plans, programmes and strategies in place which have made a difference. The Council and the County of Hertfordshire has much to be proud of already, many environmental improvements have been made over the past five years.

### Energy and Carbon

- 4.2 The Hertfordshire County Council Energy Strategy was published in 2019 and set a goal of reducing Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions to 80% of those in 2012/2013 by 2025, with a longer-term ambition of achieving a 'net-zero' position for our own operations. We had delivered a 38% reduction in carbon emissions from the 2012/2013 baseline by 2018/19 for highways and the non-school estate.

- 4.3 Since the start of the energy reduction programme, over 150 reduction measures have been identified across the four main council sites and wider; including the installation of LED street lighting across the county.

- 4.4 As a result of these initiatives, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from street lighting have reduced by over 30% in 2018/19 compared to 2012/13.

- 4.5 Now that the Energy Strategy is in place, we can expand the energy and carbon reduction

programmes to school buildings that the council is responsible for.

- 4.6 We are also assessing the feasibility of developing a solar farm and large-scale battery storage on county council land. These initiatives will help us to secure more renewable electricity supplies.



## Climate Change and Flooding

- 4.7 We have previously undertaken research into climate change at a local level, based on Climate Projection data from 2009 (CP09). This research included conducting a review of the climate trends likely to impact the county and therefore the services that the council provides.
- 4.8 The study also enabled the development of a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCIP) to better understand exposure to weather and climate, which resulted in publishing a document in partnership with the NHS entitled 'The Impact of Climate Change on Hertfordshire's Health and Adult Care Services'.
- 4.9 Climate change remains an issue to be reviewed and assessed via the risk register and the original research forms a good baseline which can now be updated using CO18 data.
- 4.10 The county council is also the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the county and since being given this responsibility has prepared the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2012/13). This strategy was updated in February 2019 and makes the commitment to working with communities to understand and be better prepared for potential flood events.



## Biodiversity

- 4.11 We have implemented a Pollinator Strategy (2019 – 2024) to optimise the use of county council owned land, allocating areas for beehives (apiary areas) and installing and maintaining ‘bee hotels’ within suitable green spaces to enable bee nesting sites.
- 4.12 The county council owns and directly manages two woodland areas which fall within the National Nature Reserves in Hertfordshire. These provide an opportunity to showcase good practice in woodland management.
- 4.13 The county council continues to work in partnership with the district and borough councils to produce both Green Space Action Plans for local authority areas which seek to create, conserve and enhance green spaces.
- 4.14 We also support groups such as the Friends of Greenspaces and the Midweek Conservation Volunteers who are vital in enhancing and maintaining our local authority green spaces and infrastructure.
- 4.15 The council has sought funding from the Woodland Carbon Fund (via the Forestry Commission) with the intention to create over 15 hectares of woodland as a buffer to the M25, allowing the re-establishment of the historic ‘Enfield Chase’ woodland.
- 4.16 We also have a Green Infrastructure Strategy (published in 2011) which is in the process of being reviewed, in partnership with the district and borough councils, and will be published by the end of 2020. This strategy recognises that there is a network of natural spaces and corridors across the county, such as fields, hedgerows, woodlands, rivers and wetlands, allotments and gardens which provide valuable biodiversity and therefore need protection.
- 4.17 In December 2019, in recognition of the damage and litter that they cause, we placed a ban on the release of balloons and sky lanterns on county council owned land. These items fall to the ground as litter and add to plastic pollution, creating problems in many areas of the ecosystem from the cows in the fields to the fish in the sea (where the debris often ends up).



## Air Quality

- 4.18 We have agreed an Air Quality Strategy which aligns with the county council's Local Transport Plan 4; seeking a shift away from reliance on the private car towards walking, cycling and public transport. This Air Quality Strategy embraces a public health approach with the district and borough councils to tackle identified 'hotspots' and build air quality considerations into planning decisions.
- 4.19 Our priorities within the Air Quality Strategy are to reduce emissions from the county council fleet, support vehicle free zones around schools and discourage engine idling.
- 4.20 We also continue to advocate, deliver and support walking and cycling initiatives with over 7,000 children and adults completing formal cycling training in 2018 (up 16% on 2017) and more than 50% of primary schools taking part in walk to school and clean air initiatives.

## Waste and Resource Use

4.21 Across our council property portfolio, co-mingled plastic bottles, cans, paper and card as well as food waste, glass and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment are being collected and recycled or composted. This means that no waste generated from the county council offices is being sent to landfill.

4.22 We have implemented a series of actions to tackle waste including:

- Removing single use plastic cups from water points replacing them with plastic beakers, saving 130,000 plastic cups from being thrown away
- Replacing plastic cutlery in the staff canteen with metal cutlery, preventing 360,000 pieces of plastic cutlery from being thrown away
- Removing disposable coffee cups from the staff canteen, preventing 175,000 coffee cups from ending up in the bin

- Introducing food recycling points throughout its buildings, diverting 30 tonnes of food waste away from the bins
- Introducing crisp packet recycling at all the main sites with 12 kg of packets being recycled in less than 2 months.

4.23 The percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste that is recycled or composted in Hertfordshire was 51% in 2018/19, higher than the English average of 44.9% and in line with reaching our target of 65% by 2035.

4.24 We continue to work collaboratively with our district and borough councils via the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership to further improve waste management across the county.

## Transport

4.25 Our Local Transport Plan 2018 – 2031 (LTP4) was adopted by the council in 2018 and states that:

*'We need to achieve a change in travel behaviour in Hertfordshire, so people choose to travel by other modes for journeys that don't need to be made by car. There is a huge potential for this within towns and between adjacent towns. A combination of policies and improvements will be required to tip the balance in favour of non-car mode, and it will be to everyone's benefit that by 2031 we have evolved our transport system to be less dependent on the car.'*

4.26 Therefore, LTP4 seeks to set the county on a different path in the development of its transport system with a move away from a focus on car-based investment and capacity enhancement and a growing appreciation that transport is on the verge of great change. Strategies developed and support to adopt this include: Active Travel Strategy, Intalink Enhanced Bus Partnership, Rail Strategy, Rural Transport Strategy and a Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy.

4.27 The county council delivered 37 Integrated Transport Projects in 2018/2019 to improve accessibility to local facilities by sustainable modes of travel. One example being the transformation of Watford High Street where increased pedestrian, cycling and bus usage has seen the number of motor vehicles travelling through has halved from over 1,000 per weekday.

4.28 As well as addressing the traditional highway network, LTP4 includes requirements which provide wildlife benefits and improvements to the rights of way network for alternative forms of transport.

4.29 Following on from the ambition to get people out of their cars and linked to health improvement, the county council and volunteers led over 65,000 Hertfordshire Health Walks in 2018/19 with 1,353 new adults joining the initiative, 32% of whom stated they were inactive before they joined.

## Transport

4.30 We aim to move to more efficient fleet vehicles and investigating the use of electric vehicles and the provision of more consistent guidance on the best technology for services to use.

4.31 We have made use of technology to provide us with 'real time' information to improving routing, optimising fleet usage across multiple teams and services and reducing engine idling.

4.32 We have made a series of improvements in SmartWorking; creating the SmartWorking portal on the intranet to provide guidance for staff on hot desking and home working and offering support and advice to maintaining good mental health when working remotely. We continue to hold workshops with teams and units to challenge current practice and advocate more SmartWorking.

4.33 Finally, we have been running technology awareness and training sessions to help improve staff confidence with technology. Through SmartWorking at the county council, we are:

- Reducing the need to travel

- Improving digitalisation and paperless working
- Enhancing IT infrastructure at the county council to enable remote working and minimise travel
- Reducing mileage claims and cost
- Reducing congestion on the road related to county council staff travelling to/for work
- Reducing CO2 emissions from work related travel/commuting
- Reducing time spent by staff commuting
- Reducing wear and tear to our roads and to staff personal vehicles
- Increasing alternative travel - walking, cycling, public transport
- Leading in travel planning and demonstrating same values
- Reducing pressure on car parks
- Looking at opportunities for a smaller parking footprint at sites we own or lease and reducing cost or generating possible income from development opportunities

## Other initiatives

- 4.34 We work with the ten district and borough councils, voluntary organisations and communities to help them enjoy and care for the environment; providing advice and volunteer support for appropriate land management via our Countryside and Rights of Way Unit.
- 4.35 We enable the district and borough councils to conserve and enhance natural habitats and species by providing advice and guidance for planning decisions and land management via our Hertfordshire Ecology Service.
- 4.36 In line with our waste duties, we are updating the Local Authority Collected Waste Strategy and Waste Local Plans to promote the sustainable use of resources, implement the waste hierarchy and manage waste in the most appropriate locations across the county.
- 4.37 We have a statutory responsibility to prepare a Mineral Local Plan which promotes the use of recycled aggregates and seeks the delivery of new and enhanced green spaces via the restoration of sites.
- 4.38 Work continues on the Speed Management Strategy and the Sustainable Travel Towns initiatives, both of which are linked to the delivery and implementation of LTP4 and seek to reduce the impact of car use and promote other forms of transport.
- 4.39 This is just a selection of the ongoing activities that the county council is actively engaged in; there are many other initiatives and statutory functions that contribute to tackling climate change as part of our daily business.

# 5. Climate Change and Sustainable Development

## The future

5.1 In order to continue to make a difference, adapt to climate change and be more resilient to the impacts which may result from it, we still need to do more; as an organisation and as a County. At the heart of good development is the need to think sustainably; to consider the actions that we take now and how they will effect generations in the future.

These statistics give you a national picture of what our future will be like however all these issues are equally important factors for the future of Hertfordshire.

### Climate change is predicted to bring more extreme weather events.

The **hottest summer day** could be up to **4.4°C warmer**



Across the UK, **protected species** have **declined by 60%** over the last 50 years



Phasing out the use of **fossil fuels** over the next 30 years is a huge change and a great opportunity



### Electric Vehicles

will become **much cheaper to buy and run**, so we need a strong charging infrastructure

**45%** decrease in rainfall in the summer months



There will be an increase in the frequency and intensity of **storms**



The UK is using resources at **2.5 times** the sustainable rate



## 6. Three Levels of Influence

### Lead, Enable and Inspire

- 6.1 The county council is responsible for the services that it provides (many of them are functions that are required by legislation) directly and the services that are delivered by others on its behalf. It is also important to recognise that there are over 1.2 million people living and working in Hertfordshire and local authorities and other public organisations can enable each other to act differently and inspire people to make changes.
- 6.2 With this in mind, the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020 is based on three levels of influence; Lead – a leader in our own operations, Enable and Inspire – enabling and inspiring others.

Lead	Enable	Inspire
In our own operations	A sustainable county with our programmes, policies and decisions	Businesses and residents to take action and thrive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy use in our buildings</li> <li>• How we travel</li> <li>• Manage our estate</li> <li>• The land we own</li> <li>• What we buy and from whom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective, safe and low carbon transport networks</li> <li>• Our planning policies</li> <li>• How we dispose of the county's waste</li> <li>• How we use resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping residents lead more sustainable lives</li> <li>• Giving our schoolchildren and students a good knowledge and culture in sustainability</li> <li>• Signposting organisations and individuals to take action</li> <li>• Partnering with other anchor and leading organisations to take action together</li> </ul>
<p><b>Underpinned by this Strategy</b> Supporting national programmes, such as the 25-year Environment Plan</p>		

6.3 Our strategy will make Hertfordshire County Council a leader for our own operations. It will also enable and inspire the delivery of a more sustainable county. The UK's 25-year Environment Plan sets out high level national commitments on environmental improvements. The county council will support delivery of these and work with partners to make progress. Our environmental sustainability targets are:



A Leader in our own operations

## Carbon Neutral & Ready for Future Climates

- Carbon Neutral for our own operations by 2030
- All operations and services ready for future climates (extreme weather events)
- A net zero greenhouse gas emissions county by 2050
- Our communities are ready for future climates (extreme weather events)

**Delivered through: i) Strong Leadership and good governance ii) Key Council Strategies, iii) Working with Partners, iv) Representation to Central Government, v) Securing Finance (public and private), vi) Buying which supports our Sustainability ambitions (Responsible Procurement), vii) Effective monitoring**



Enabling and Inspiring a sustainable county

## An Environmental Leader

- Improve biodiversity on our own land by 20%
- Reduce what we throw away
- Send nothing to landfill by 2030
- Improve wildlife on our land and in the water by 20% by 2050
- Clean air for all by 2030
- Increase resource efficiency threefold in the county by 2050

# 7. A Leader in our own operations

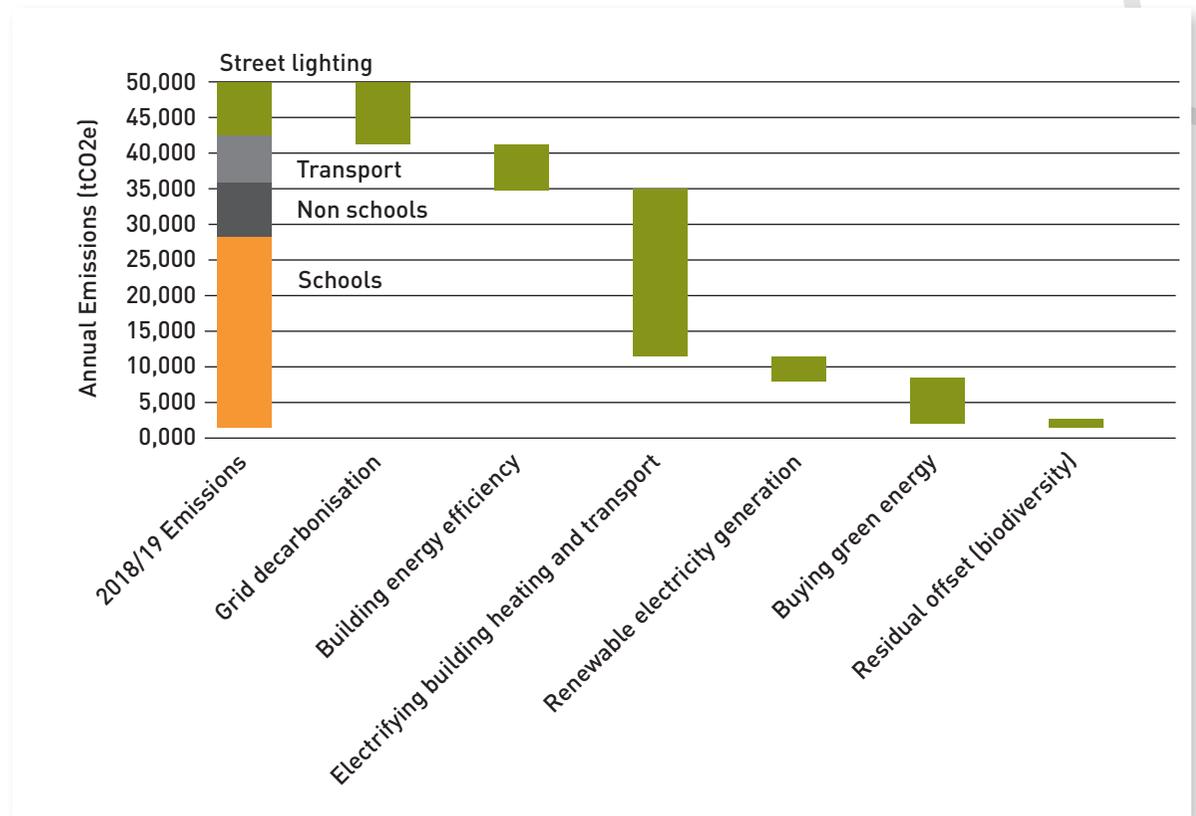
## How to achieve our targets

7.1 We will be a role model for environmental leadership in our own operations from the greenhouse gas emissions that we produce to enhancing the biodiversity and nature on our land. We will show how a large organisation can take action and inspire others to take action across the county.

## Carbon Neutral for our own operations by 2030

7.2 For us, carbon neutral means removing fossil fuel derived energy from three areas:

- Our buildings - offices and schools.
- Our transport – the fuel we use travelling and in providing our services.
- Our public realm - the energy used in streetlights and other street furniture.



7.3 We will take action on these areas as a priority, then use offset (ideally by creating high quality woodland and meadows in the county) to account for the balance by 2030. The graph below shows our current greenhouse gas footprint and how we can deliver our carbon neutral target by 2030.

**To achieve this aim, we will:**

Aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our non-schools buildings by 50% by 2022 and by 80% by 2025 from our 2012/13 baseline in line with our 2019 Energy Strategy. This includes:

- Completing our LED streetlight programme
- Delivering energy efficiency opportunities
- Launching a school's energy management programme
- Buying energy from renewable sources
- Developing renewable energy investments, including solar farms and battery storage.
- Updating standards for new buildings and retrofit projects

Develop a plan to deliver the remaining 20% of greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and fleet by 2050. Develop and deliver a plan to cut emissions from our travel.

**This will include:**

- Helping our staff to walk, cycle or take public transport to work through our travel plans.
- Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure at our offices
- Begin moving all our fleet to fossil free, as lease and commercial contracts come up for renewal.
- Supporting our small transport providers upgrade to emission free transport.

Work with Government to develop funding streams for delivery of energy and clean growth projects.

Work with our supply chain to identify where they can help us cut our emissions and costs.

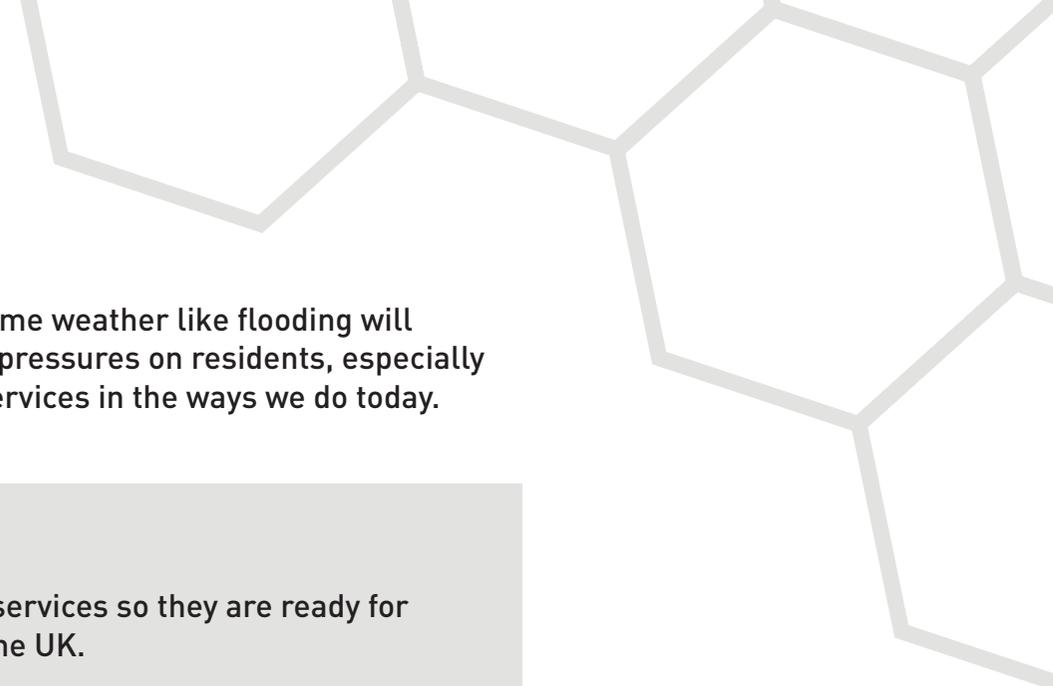
Measure the amount of carbon in the products and services that we buy and develop a strategy to reduce these wider emissions.

# All our operations and services ready for future climates

## Future Trends

We are already experiencing more extreme weather, and this will change further in the future.

Climate Trend		Projections
	<b>Hotter Summers</b>	Heatwaves, like those experienced in 2018, are likely to occur every other year by 2050. The hottest day could also be up to 2.5°C warmer by 2030 and 4.4 warmer by 2050.
	<b>Warmer Winters</b>	Mean winter temperatures could increase by up to 2°C by 2030 and 3°C by 2050. Rising winter temperatures are likely to reduce the amount of snowfall in winter.
	<b>Drier Summers</b>	Projections suggest up to a 28% decrease in summer rainfall in 2030 and a 45% decrease by 2050.
	<b>Wetter Winters</b>	Winter rainfall could increase by up to 14% by 2030s and up to 25% by the 2050s.
	<b>Increased Storminess</b>	We will see heavier downpours leading to local flooding. There may be an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms, which is likely to lead to more flash flooding. However, there is currently uncertainty in projections.



These changes will affect demand for our services and how we work. Extreme weather like flooding will increase demand for emergency services. Very hot weather will bring new pressures on residents, especially the elderly and young. Extreme weather will impact our ability to deliver services in the ways we do today.

**To achieve this aim, we will:**

- Update our climate risk assessment to identify, plan and invest in our services so they are ready for future climates based on the most up-to-date climate projections for the UK.

Key areas for attention are:

- Demand for our services - understand how demand for our services could change.
- Resilience of our services – understand and plan for how we keep our services running in extreme weather.
- Resilience of our infrastructure – upgrade our infrastructure – from buildings to highways to be ready for future extreme weather.
- Investment in new buildings and infrastructure – specify all new investments to be ready, or easily adaptable, for future climates.

# We will improve nature on our land by 20% by 2030

## Biodiversity

As a large landowner ourselves we have a great opportunity to improve nature on our own land and waterways. There are five main ways we can deliver this improvement:

- Manage our land, ponds and streams to support wildlife and providing ways for them to move around.
- Increase the amount of land in agri-environment schemes when tenancies come up for renewal.
- Conserving the UK's pollinator species by delivering the Hertfordshire Pollinator Strategy.
- Providing habitat banks on our land to provide biodiversity compensation for current and future growth within the county.
- Transforming underused woodland on our land.

### To achieve this aim, we will:

Develop a comprehensive plan to deliver our nature commitment in 2030.

Key areas for attention include:

- Identifying land where tenancies are due for renewal to be considered for the agri-environment schemes
- Allocating areas for beehives and bee hotels on council owned land
- Working with tenants and local people to educate on how to make areas more pollinator friendly
- Adopting and embedding the national Green Infrastructure standards

Integrate this plan into the operational plans for each of our sites.

Develop a sustainable funding strategy to deliver new projects/programmes.

# Reduce what we throw away, send nothing to landfill by 2030

## Waste & Resources

Our offices already send no waste to landfill, and we have taken strong action on single use plastics. We will continue to be a leader in this area in four ways:

- Focus on what we are buying to avoid, reduce and reuse what we need to buy and incorporate sustainability criteria into our buying decisions
- Innovate through modular, flexible designs in our developments and refurbishments
- Consider whole life impacts and opportunities in our buying decisions
- Supporting reuse and recycling schemes to eliminate and reduce waste

### To achieve this aim, we will:

Understand what waste we produce, where and why by carrying out an audit across our buildings, facilities and services.

Review what we buy.

Update specifications, buying criteria and buying catalogues to:

- Phase down then eliminate single use, short life materials.
- Innovate through modular, flexible schemes.
- Buy and specify based on long term cost effectiveness.

Cut down what we use and the waste we generate by:

- Implementing paperless systems and controlled printing services

to manage paper waste through our SmartWorking strategy.

- Developing an action plan to reduce material use, based on our spend and our waste audit.
- Promoting office furniture reuse by exchanging furniture and building links and with third parties.

Recycle at least 65% of our waste in our offices and send no waste to landfill

- Update the specifications in our waste and service contracts to avoid waste to landfill.
- Implement sustainability and performance criteria into our waste contract renewal.

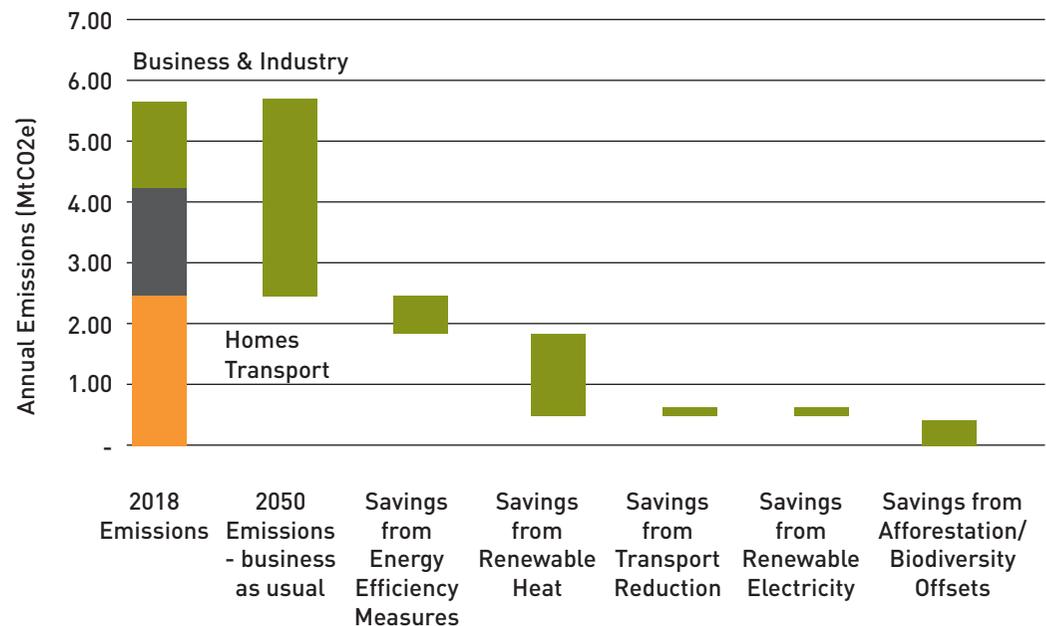
## 8. Enabling and Inspiring a Sustainable County

8.1 We will use sustainability programmes as an opportunity for Hertfordshire – to enable our residents to thrive, and to grow thriving businesses. We will support this through our policies and our influence and work closely with other anchor organisations across the county, our business and residents.

### A net zero carbon county ahead of 2050

8.2 The UK has committed to be a net zero economy by 2050. The Government has chosen this date because it's achievable with technologies that are in commercial operation today, is affordable and it supports the UK's international commitments to avoid dangerous climate change. This is still a huge ambition.

Delivering a net zero carbon Hertfordshire by 2050



8.3 We will play a full role in delivering this target as the strategic planning authority and our wider influence, we have a leading role to play, and we need everyone in the county to work in partnership to achieve this common aim. Some emissions will reduce as a result of business as usual reductions that will happen through the decarbonisation of the grid and with electrification of heat and transport.

**To achieve this aim, we will:**

Enable with our policies and strategies

- Support policies to deliver the National Infrastructure Commission's target of 100% ready for electric vehicles by 2030
- Support policies to promote zero carbon buildings, travel and zero carbon energy infrastructure in new build and retrofit. This includes:
  - Delivery of our enhanced bus partnership
  - Supporting local travel companies providing services to our communities to deliver these in a zero-carbon way
  - Championing funding through government lobbying

**Inspire others to act**

- Establish a group of the county's largest energy users to work together to make fast progress on net zero.
- Ask our energy companies to develop a regional net zero energy strategy – especially covering the delivery of zero carbon heat and resilient networks
- Support initiatives to grow public transport – including taxi, bus and rail.
- Work with our LEP to investigate a regional green bank to mobilise private investment to deliver the private and public finance
- Raise the climate skills of our residents, communities and workforce so they can take action themselves.
- Set Hertfordshire apart in our marketing and branding to inspiring inward investment.

## Ready for Future Climates

8.4 Extreme weather events are already impacting residents and businesses. We already have plans to deal with emergencies across the county and these need to be updated to reflect future extremes. Areas to be considered include:

- **Planning:** Developing planning policy, at both the county and district/borough levels, that does not 'lock in' climate vulnerable developments and land use patterns in the long run, improving the attractiveness of the county for investment and with climate resilience measures incorporated into planning applications.
- **Flooding:** Continuing our collaboration with the Environment Agency (EA) to tackle the issue of flooding and reviewing surface water systems. Also promoting the uptake of Sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) on new developments and infrastructure projects. A review of emergency procedures with the relevant authorities will also improve county-wide resilience.
- **Transport:** Working with relevant transport operators to ensure transport infrastructure is resilient to climate change - determining the most critical infrastructure, and the adequacy of existing facilities; essential for maintaining a supply of goods and services to our businesses. Promoting and improving opportunities for flexible working will also reduce demand on the network, particularly during weather events.
- **Water Availability and Management:** Developing our partnerships with Affinity Water and Thames Water, to improve resilience of Hertfordshire to water-related risks and our emergency response, including: shortages, wastewater management and flooding. As well as adequate supply to new developments and reviewing new 25-year Drainage and Wastewater and Management Plans.

- **Resource Management:** Climate events will put pressure on the availability of all resources to the county. Improving the resilience of our transport network will reduce this risk, we can also encourage the education and awareness at school, household, enterprise and community level e.g. promoting local food and services, minimising waste.

- **Community Engagement:** Engaging with the community to better understand vulnerability to different climate risks will be key in informing the adaptation plan. Building the capacity of communities to prepare for, manage and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses will play a critical role in improving the resilience of the county.

**To achieve this aim, we will:**

Enable with our policies and strategies

- Climate resilience requirements in planning applications and if/how these are enforced
- Review of emergency flood procedures with the relevant authorities
- Determine the most critical transport infrastructure, and the adequacy of existing facilities
- Opportunities for flexible working to reduce demand on the network, particularly during weather events
- Maintenance schedules and procedures to better consider climate-related risks
- Review of water availability and resource management

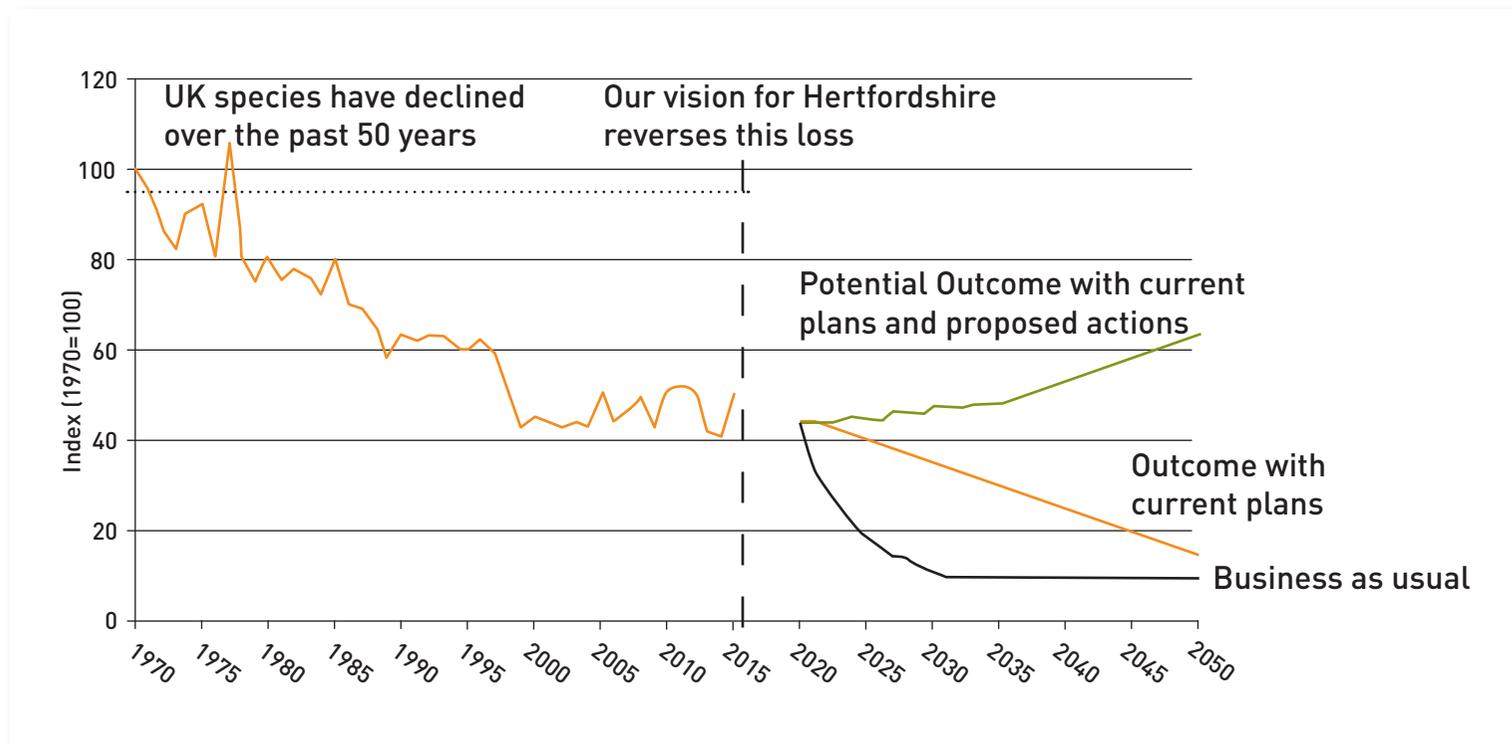
Inspire others to act

- Produce an updated County-wide climate risk assessment and costed adaptation plan with our partners (such as Local Councils) to address the key risks
- Coordinate delivery of this plan and monitor progress

Work with government, business and residents so all play their part and raise the climate skills across the County

## Improve nature in the County by 20% by 2050

- 8.5 The abundance of species in the UK has reduced by 60% over the last 50 years. In a business as usual world this decline will continue. Our ambition is to reverse this loss and substantially improve wildlife across the county in line with the 25 year Environment Plan.



8.6 The county council will continue to work with partners, including the Local Nature Partnership, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, district, borough, town and parish councils to stop the decline and encourage the reversal of loss.

**To achieve this aim, we will:**

Enable with our policies and strategies

- Develop a strong baseline for biodiversity in the county
- Work collaboratively with our district and borough councils, major landowners, water companies, Natural England, the Environment Agency and other agencies, to develop a refreshed biodiversity strategy which will deliver a 20% increase based on DEFRA's biodiversity metric. Key areas for action include:

Delivering and optimising the mandatory measurable Net Gain for Biodiversity in Development Planning Documents

- Developing an overarching tree strategy
- Developing a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and in water – providing high quality accessible places rich in nature for wildlife

- Unlock investment in natural capital assets such as investment opportunities for carbon and habitat banking and measuring the benefits from nature using relevant tools
- Update and expand the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan with the Local Nature Partnership to align with this strategy.

Carry out a “Natural Health Strategy” review – identifying and recommending how access to nature and open spaces can play a key role in county health and in delivering HCC's services.

Inspire others to act:

- Use countryside as a Natural Health Service by increasing the use of Hertfordshire's countryside, and our footpath network for the benefit of all.

## Clean air for all by 2030

- 8.7 Air pollution in Hertfordshire comes especially from two sources; road transport and gas boilers – particularly in town centre locations. Air quality has improved over the past ten years but still exceeds legal limits in some areas of the county, particularly near busy roads.
- 8.8 Our ambition is to deliver clean air for all by 2030. This local ambition supports the Government’s commitment to achieving tough new goals and improvements in local air quality through the Clean Air Strategy and the 25 Year Environment Plan by 2030.
- 8.9 The projected rapid rise of electric vehicles across the county will bring significant improvements in air quality. Phasing down gas boilers in offices, replacing them with heat pumps will also cut nitrogen oxide levels in Hertfordshire’s towns.

### To achieve this aim, we will:

#### Enable with our policies and strategies

- Implementation of our 2019 air quality strategy which provides Hertfordshire’s strategic direction. Key areas for action include:
- Working with our district and borough councils, as well as other partners (such as the NHS, parish and town councils), to reduce pollution hotspots and exposure.
- Developing a county-wide air quality strategy with our district and borough councils.
- Reviewing and keeping this strategy up to date.
- Developing a spatial planning Informative Note for new developments to deliver air quality improvements.

- Delivering a series of air quality audits and actions near schools.

#### Inspire others to act:

Hertfordshire as a county will inspire our residents to be more engaged in local air quality issues through improved communication, actively listening to their concerns and working to deliver positive outcomes. Key areas we will actively engage on are:

- Promoting walking and cycling over car travel with our highway’s teams.
- Promoting the uptake of low emission vehicles and charging infrastructure.

## Triple the efficiency of material use in the county by 2050

- 8.10 The UK is using resources at 2.5 times the sustainable rate. Much of the goods and services we make and buy in the UK today are 'single use'. They are made, sold and when they reach the end of their life they are disposed of. This way of using resources is wasteful, both in terms of the materials used and the money spent. Our ambition is to make a step change in resource use across the county.
- 8.11 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and its emerging Resources and Waste Strategy sets strong ambitions to improve how materials are used in the UK. Targets include:
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050
  - Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan
  - Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030
  - Work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.
- 8.12 As the Waste Disposal Authority for Hertfordshire we have a key role to play in managing waste disposal in the county and avoiding producing it in the first place. As the Waste Planning Authority, we are responsible for planning for all types of waste produced and finding suitable sites to manage it.
- 8.13 The county has a successful Waste Partnership, with all the district and borough councils and the county council working collaboratively to better manage waste across the county, promote waste reduction and tackle waste crime.

### **To achieve this aim, we will:**

Enable with our policies and strategies

- Continue to provide high quality Household Waste Recycling Centres for residents
- Develop a plan for delivering a more sustainable solution for dealing with the county's waste
- Work with the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership and others to encourage greater resource efficiency
- Work with Local Enterprise Partnership to use the circular economy as a business growth opportunity for business
- Develop a route map to deliver Hertfordshire's resource efficiency target, including setting performance measures for success

### **Inspire others to act**

- Promote resource efficiency, the waste hierarchy and the delivery of suitable sites to manage waste through the Waste Local Plan

Work with government, business and residents so all play their part in meeting national targets.

## Our equalities commitment

Hertfordshire County Council is committed to achieving diversity and equality of opportunity as a large employer of people and as a provider of services.

This is about more than legal compliance: we want to ensure that Hertfordshire is free from discrimination and make every effort to positively promote equality and diversity within our workforce and across the services we are responsible for. As a deliverer of services, we will promote diversity and equality in everything we do to improve the quality of life of everyone living in, working in and visiting Hertfordshire - to create a county of opportunity for all. As a provider of services, we recognise, respect and celebrate the fact that our staff and the people we serve are all very different, whether this is in our ethnic background, family setting, gender, religion and belief or other factors. We believe that diversity can drive innovation, a culture of fairness and respect and equality of opportunity for all.

Copies of this Strategy are available in accessible formats if requested.

# Appendix 1 – UN Sustainability Goals

The Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy references the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – Focusing on those relevant to the Environment and Climate

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 as a universal call to action. This Strategy especially focusses on the broadening the contribution to the environmental goals. This approach recognises Hertfordshire’s Climate Emergency declaration and also the importance of wildlife, clean air and sustainable consumption.



# Glossary

<b>Adaptation</b>	This involves actions taken to counteract new or changing environmental challenges and reduce the vulnerability of people and places to the effects of climate change. It can take place in anticipation of an event or as a response to it and can include both physical and behavioural changes.
<b>Agri-environment scheme</b>	This involves actions taken to counteract new or changing environmental challenges and reduce the vulnerability of people and places to the effects of climate change. It can take place in anticipation of an event or as a response to it and can include both physical and behavioural changes.
<b>Bee hotels</b>	Bee friendly spaces and habitat for bees to live and nest.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variety of plant and animal life in a particular area, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
<b>Biodiversity compensation</b>	Also known as biodiversity offsetting. Practice in which the loss of habitat in one place is compensated for by the creation of a similar habitat elsewhere.
<b>Carbon</b>	Used as abbreviation for carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalent. This is one of the main greenhouse gases (see below) which is mainly released when carbon rich fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas are burned for fuel.
<b>Offset</b>	To compensate for a negative environmental impact e.g. loss of habitat or the increase in carbon emissions by investing in projects that result in a positive environmental impact and would not occur without this investment, e.g. conservation projects or carbon reduction projects. Carbon reduction project include protecting forests and developing clean energy sources.
<b>Carbon neutral</b>	Where action has been taken to reduce carbon emissions and the remaining emissions are offset by natural carbon sinks and/or carbon reduction projects.
<b>Clean growth</b>	Economic growth which does not increase carbon emissions
<b>Climate resilience</b>	The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a (climate –related) disruption (e.g. extreme weather)
<b>Climate skills</b>	The ability, coming from one’s knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to apply Climate Change knowledge for improvement.

<b>Climate vulnerable developments</b>	A development that is sensitive to changes in climate and easily disrupted, e.g. housing or infrastructure in flood-prone areas.
<b>Circular economy</b>	An economy in which resources are kept in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.
<b>Climate Change</b>	A pattern of change affecting global or regional climate, as measured by parameters such as average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions. This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity. Global warming is one aspect of climate change.
<b>Decarbonisation</b>	The reduction or removal of carbon dioxide from energy sources, such as through using more renewable energy to produce electricity.
<b>DEFRA's biodiversity metric</b>	A way of measuring and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains resulting from development or land management change.
<b>Energy management plan</b>	System in which an organisation measures and develops methods and initiatives to systematically reduce its energy usage.
<b>Fossil fuels</b>	Natural resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, containing hydrocarbons. These fuels are formed in the Earth over millions of years and produce carbon dioxide when burnt. As they are non-renewable, this means that their supply is limited, and they will eventually run out with continued use.
<b>Future climates</b>	How our climate is predicted to be in the future as concentrations of greenhouse gases continue.
<b>Governance</b>	The process of governing, including accountability, interaction with the public etc.
<b>Greenhouse gas (GHG)</b>	Any gas that absorbs heat and then emits it. These gases prevent heat from leaving the Earth's atmosphere, can lead to global warming and climate change. Common greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, water vapour and methane.
<b>Greenhouse gas footprint</b>	A way of measuring someone's or business impact on the planet in terms of greenhouse gases that are released. Almost everything we do releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, from how often we fly, to the type of shampoo we use. The result of all these actions combined is your greenhouse gas/carbon footprint, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO <sub>2</sub> e.
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	A network of multi-functional green space and other green features (or water), urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

<b>Habitat banks</b>	A biodiversity compensation mechanism that is based on the concept of biodiversity offsets. Habitats are created and then credits are sold.
<b>Heat pumps</b>	An electrical device which transfers heat from a warmer to a colder place. Used as a low-carbon option for indoor heating.
<b>LEP</b>	Local Enterprise Partnerships - business led partnerships between local authorities and local private sector businesses.
<b>Local Nature Partnership</b>	Partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring improvements in their local natural environment.
<b>Low emission vehicles</b>	A vehicle that emits relatively low levels or no levels of carbon emissions e.g. a car or van that emits 75g/km CO2 or less or is a pure electric vehicle.
<b>Material efficiency</b>	To minimise and optimise use of materials in order to prevent or reduce the environmental impact of its use and waste.
<b>Natural capital (assets)</b>	Natural assets, such as fresh water, minerals and biodiversity which confer a benefit to humans. These benefits are expressed in terms of their monetary value.
<b>Net Gain for Biodiversity</b>	Where the impacts on biodiversity are outweighed by measures taken to avoid and minimise the impact, to restore affected areas and finally to offset any remaining impacts, so that the gain exceeds the loss e.g. Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.
<b>Net zero (carbon)</b>	This should primarily be achieved through a rapid reduction in greenhouse emissions doing away with fossil fuels and other sources of emissions wherever possible. Where zero carbon cannot be achieved, for every remaining tonnage of CO2 we emit must be matched by that which is removed from the atmosphere e.g. through carbon offsets.
<b>Pollinator</b>	A species – usually insects such as bees – which transfer pollen from one plant to another
<b>Protected species</b>	A species of animal or plant which it is forbidden by law to harm or destroy.
<b>Renewable energy</b>	Any naturally occurring, theoretically inexhaustible source of energy. Renewable energy can be produced from a variety of sources, such as wind, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and biomass.
<b>Resilience</b>	See ‘climate resilience’
<b>Resource efficiency</b>	See ‘material efficiency’

<b>Retrofit</b>	To furnish (something, such as a boiler) with new or modified parts or equipment not available or considered necessary at the time of manufacture. Usually to reduce the environmental impact of the equipment when operational.
<b>(Environmental) sustainability</b>	Living within the means of our natural resources.
<b>Sustainable drainage systems (SuDs)</b>	Systems which use the natural water cycle to manage water, rather than piped systems.
<b>Waste hierarchy</b>	Ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment, giving top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal.
<b>Whole life impacts</b>	Life cycle analysis is a way of looking at the environmental impact of a product or activity throughout its entire life. For example, to estimate the carbon footprint of a laptop, you'd need to consider the extraction and processing of raw materials, the manufacturing, transport, use and end of life.
<b>Zero carbon</b>	An activity which does not emit any greenhouse gases, this term does not allow for the use of offsets.

# References

<b>What we've done already</b>	
<b>GHG emission reduction</b>	<a href="https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14908/11%20Item%207%20Appendix%201%20Hertfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf">https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14908/11%20Item%207%20Appendix%201%20Hertfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf</a>
<b>No waste to landfill from our offices</b>	Serco FM action on behalf of Hertfordshire CC
<b>SUP plastic policy</b>	Internal initiative in partnership with Serco FM and Elior (catering company)
<b>Waste generated in the County</b>	Annual report 2019 - <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/data-and-information/annual-report-2018-2019.pdf">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/data-and-information/annual-report-2018-2019.pdf</a>
<b>Hertfordshire health walks</b>	<a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-management/walking-events/hertfordshire-health-walk-events.aspx?searchKeywords=&amp;page=1&amp;resultsPerPage=10&amp;view=list&amp;distance=0&amp;when=0&amp;nocache=">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-management/walking-events/hertfordshire-health-walk-events.aspx?searchKeywords=&amp;page=1&amp;resultsPerPage=10&amp;view=list&amp;distance=0&amp;when=0&amp;nocache=.</a>
<b>Hertfordshire Pollinator Strategy</b>	<a href="https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14968/191216%2001%20Agenda.pdf">https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14968/191216%2001%20Agenda.pdf</a>
<b>Future will be different today</b>	
<b>60% of protected species have declined</b>	Defra, 2019, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services Indicators <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/england-biodiversity-indicators">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/england-biodiversity-indicators</a>
<b>Climate trends</b>	UKCP18 projections for the East of England region. The values used are a worst-case scenario (RCP 8.5 and 90th percentile – upper estimate)

## Carbon neutral for our own operations by 2030

### Graph

- Sub-national-total-final-energy-consumption-statistics\_2005-2017
- Local Authority CO2 emissions estimates 2005-2017 (kt CO2) - Full dataset
- BEIS 2018 Updated Energy & Emissions Projections – Appendix F – Final Energy Demand
- Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting 2005 – 2019 (annual files for advanced users)
- Green Book supplementary guidance: valuation of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for appraisal
- National Grid Future Energy Scenarios 2019
- Hertfordshire Energy Strategy Amended August 2019

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14908/11%20Item%207%20Appendix%201%20Hertfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf>

- Hertfordshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technical Study 2010
- Domestic energy consumption by energy efficiency and environmental impact, 2015
- Energy Consumption in the UK (2014) – Special Feature - Estimates of heat use in the United Kingdom in 2013
- Daikin Altherma 3 Datasheet
- Hertfordshire LEP – skills labour market review 2018
- Hertfordshire Traffic and Transport Data Report 2018
- GeSI - Measuring the Energy Reduction Impact of Selected Broadband-Enabled Activities within Households
- Creating new woodland: Woodland Carbon Code

## All our operations and services ready for future climates

Climate trends	UKCP18 projections for the East of England region. The values used are a worst case scenario (RCP 8.5 and 90th percentile – upper estimate)
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## We will improve nature on our land by 20% by 2030

Hertfordshire Pollinator Strategy	<a href="https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14968/191216%2001%20Agenda.pdf">https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14968/191216%2001%20Agenda.pdf</a>
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## Reduce what we throw away. Send nothing to landfill by 2030

Our offices already send no waste to landfill	Serco FM on behalf of HCC
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Smartworking strategies	Internal initiative at HCC
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## A Net Zero greenhouse gas County ahead of 2050

Net zero - 2050	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law</a>
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National Infrastructure Commission	<a href="https://www.nic.org.uk/assessment/national-infrastructure-assessment/revolutionising-road-transport/">https://www.nic.org.uk/assessment/national-infrastructure-assessment/revolutionising-road-transport/</a>
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Hertfordshire LEP	<a href="https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/">https://www.hertfordshirelep.com/</a>
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Graph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hertfordshire Energy Strategy Amended August 2019</li><li>• <a href="https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14908/11%20Item%207%20Appendix%201%20Hertfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf">https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s14908/11%20Item%207%20Appendix%201%20Hertfordshire%20Energy%20Strategy.pdf</a></li><li>• 2012/2013 baseline data Oct 2019</li><li>• Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting 2005 – 2019 (annual files for advanced users)</li><li>• Electrification of vehicles - Hertfordshire projections for EV uptake - Future Transport team</li><li>• HCC plans - known buildings, e.g. new schools, offices, refurbishment/retrofit works, infrastructure projects, population change</li><li>• Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MESS)</li><li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/hertscountycouncil/posts/2775272349153038">https://www.facebook.com/hertscountycouncil/posts/2775272349153038</a></li></ul>
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## Graph

- <https://www.transport-network.co.uk/Hertfordshire-spends-185m-to-complete-LED-switchover/13937>
- [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/led\\_street\\_lights\\_161](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/led_street_lights_161)
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- Webtag Table A 1.3.10a
- <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7480/CBP-7480.pdf>
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- [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/fleet\\_list\\_359](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/fleet_list_359)
- Hertfordshire Active Travel Policy
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- [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/number\\_of\\_employees\\_living\\_withi](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/number_of_employees_living_withi)
- [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/intranet\\_queries\\_80#incoming-1211995](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/intranet_queries_80#incoming-1211995)
- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/road-and-rail-transport/10724224/Workers-commuting-further-than-ever-before.html>

<b>Improve wildlife in our land and water in the County by 20% by 2050</b>	
<b>Biodiversity graph</b>	Status of priority species: relative abundance  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/829027/4a_Relative_abundance_2019.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/829027/4a_Relative_abundance_2019.pdf</a>
<b>Biodiversity – DEFRA's biodiversity metric</b>	<a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5850908674228224">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5850908674228224</a>
<b>25-year environment plan</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan</a>
<b>Natural Health Strategy review</b>	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf</a>
<b>Net Gain for Biodiversity</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-net-gain-updating-planning-requirements">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-net-gain-updating-planning-requirements</a>
<b>Clean air for all by 2030</b>	
<b>Clean Air Strategy</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019</a>
<b>25-Year Environment Plan</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan</a>
<b>Increase resource efficiency threefold in the County by 2050</b>	
<b>Household Waste Recycling Centres</b>	<a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/recycling-and-waste/where-can-i-recycle/household-waste-recycling-centres/household-waste-recycling-centres-local-tips.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/recycling-and-waste/where-can-i-recycle/household-waste-recycling-centres/household-waste-recycling-centres-local-tips.aspx</a>
<b>Appendix</b>	
<b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<a href="https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/">https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/</a>