

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: CABINET

Date and Time: WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2023, AT 10.00 AM*

Place: COUNCIL CHAMBER - APPLETREE COURT, BEAULIEU ROAD, LYN DHURST, SO43 7PA

Enquiries to: democratic@nfdc.gov.uk
Tel: 023 8028 5071 - Karen Wardle

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public may watch this meeting live on the [Council's website](#).

*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
- (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item. Speeches may not exceed three minutes.

Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above no later than 12.00 noon on Friday, 27 January 2023.

Kate Ryan
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
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This agenda can be viewed online (<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk>).

It can also be made available on audio tape, in Braille and large print.

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an

agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

4. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (BASED ON PERFORMANCE APRIL TO DECEMBER 2022 INCLUSIVE) (Pages 3 - 10)

5. CEMETERIES PROVISION (Pages 11 - 16)

6. RESIDENT INSIGHT (Pages 17 - 26)

7. CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURE EMERGENCY ANNUAL UPDATE 2023 (Pages 27 - 68)

8. COMMUNITY GRANTS (Pages 69 - 90)

9. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - SCHEME TO APPLY FROM 1 APRIL 2023 (Pages 91 - 92)

10. ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 (Pages 93 - 104)

11. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 (Pages 105 - 114)

12. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS

There are changes required to the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers, following recent changes to the Council's staffing structures.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, be updated to:-

- (a) replace all references to "Executive Head" with "Strategic Director"; and
- (b) include a new delegation to "Assistant Director", in respect of all powers currently delegated to Strategic Directors, Service Managers and all other Council officers.

To:

Councillors

Jill Cleary (Chairman)
Diane Andrews (Vice-Chairman)
Geoffrey Blunden
Steve Davies

Councillors

Michael Harris
Edward Heron
Jeremy Heron
David Russell

CABINET – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE, INVESTMENT &
CORPORATE SERVICES / ALL

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (based on Performance April to December 2022 inclusive)

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1.1.1 notes the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund (section 4), Capital (section 5), and HRA (section 6).

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Following the approval of the Original Budget for 2022/23 in February 2022, this report provides an update on the General Fund, Capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets, adjusting for any budget changes now required.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Financial Monitoring is an important feature in the management of the Council's finances as it gives an opportunity to reflect on variations as against the latest set budget and reflect on the impact that these variations may have over the period covered by the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

3.2 Increases in interest rates and continued high levels of inflation continue to have consequential impacts to the Council's finances. Interest rate increases have the potential to result in additional interest earnings in 2022/23 and these will be quantified at the yearend. Longer term, the higher interest rates are likely to have a negative impact as reserves are utilised and borrowing is required to meet the Capital Financing Requirement. Inflationary pressures continue to be seen in some areas in terms of the procurement of goods and services.

4. GENERAL FUND REVISED PROJECTION

4.1 A General Fund budget of **£20.674 million** for 2022/23 was agreed by Council in February 2022.

4.2 Net additional budget requirements of £511,000 were reported to Cabinet in July and net budget increases of £354,000 reported to Cabinet in November, increasing the total budget requirement to **£21.539 million**.

4.3 The latest budget variations now reported (including interactions with earmarked reserves), include favourable expenditure variations of £213,000, unfavourable income adjustments of £47,000 and rephasing of £19,000.

- 4.4 The resultant updated General Fund Budget, taking all new reportable variations into account is **£21.373 million**. This is an overall increase of £699,000 from the original budget estimate.
- 4.5 The revised General Fund Budget for 2022/23 can be seen at Appendix 1, with summary details on the material variations being reported in paragraphs 4.6 – 4.8, and all variations included within Appendix 2.
- 4.6 **Staffing Vacancies (-£124,000)** – Staff vacancies across various services have resulted in savings of £124,000.
- 4.7 **Recycling Income (-£84,000)** – The increased price per tonne for recycling materials is forecast to generate an additional £84,000 in income, in comparison to the latest budget position.
- 4.8 **Car Parking (+£95,000)** – Car Parking income is behind profile, with variations totalling £95,000 to date.

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account)

- 5.1 A Capital Programme budget of **£42.074 million** for 2022/23 was agreed by Council in February 2022.
- 5.2 Revisions to the programme, reported to Cabinet in July, decreased anticipated spend by £1.006 million but this was increased by £970,000 in the November report to Cabinet, resulting in an updated approved programme of **£42.038 million**.
- 5.3 The latest forecast confirms new variations totalling £279,000 and rephasings into 2023/24 of £160,000. The variations at project level are shown within Appendix 3, with the summary programme now totalling a forecast **£41.599 million**.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 6.1 After allowing for contributions of £200,000 from earmarked reserves for the Housing ICT system replacement and Stock Condition Survey work, a break-even HRA budget for 2022/23 was agreed in February 2022, with a Revenue Account contribution of £9.120 million supporting the financing of the £24.900 million HRA Capital Programme.
- 6.2 Budget adjustments totalling £866,000 were included in the first monitoring report to Cabinet in July and an additional £546,000 in the second report to Cabinet in November.
- 6.3 This report identifies further budget adjustments of £190,000, resulting in **an overall net additional budget requirement of £1.602 million**. New variations are detailed in the following paragraphs and summarised in Appendix 4.
- 6.4 **Dwelling Rent Income (£120,000)** - Gross dwelling rent income is forecast to be £100,000 below budget and reductions due to voids are anticipated to be a further £20,000 above budget.

- 6.5 **Non-Dwelling Rent Income (£20,000)** - Income from garages is anticipated to be £20,000 less than budget.
- 6.6 **Service Charge Income - (-£11,000)** - Income from service charges is anticipated to be £11,000 higher than previously reported.
- 6.7 **Insurance Premiums (£23,000)** - Dwellings insurance costs for the year are £23,000 higher than budget.
- 6.8 **Trees (£38,000)** - Expenditure on trees maintenance is anticipated to exceed the budget by £38,000. This is partly due to works following storm damage.
- 6.9 The cumulative budget deficit of £1.602 million is currently expected to need to be funded from reserves, reducing funding available for future years. A significant proportion of the inflationary items and service demands are ongoing and together with new service pressures will need to be reflected in the 2023/24 budget currently being prepared. This will result in future reduced ability to repay existing debt and increased borrowing requirements to fund future capital programmes

7. CRIME AND DISORDER / EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Crime & Disorder, Equality & Diversity or Environmental implications arising directly from this report.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 8.1 I note the Council's financial position at the end of the third quarter. Variations within the General Fund and for the Capital expenditure are within reasonable parameters, given the volatility of the global economy and inflationary pressures. The Housing Revenue Account is where we are beginning to see a need to review our strategy as we push ahead with our ambitious building and acquisition program with the resultant reduction in our liquidity.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Section 151 Officer
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Background Papers:

Cabinet 2 November 2022 –
[Financial Monitoring Report](#)
Cabinet 29 July 2022 -
[Financial Monitoring Report](#)
Cabinet 16 February 2022 -
MTFP and Annual Budget
[2022/23](#)

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23				
REVISED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022/23				
	Nov-22	Feb-23		
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
	Latest	New	New	Updated
	Budget	Variations	Variations	Budget
		Expend.	Income	Rephasings
PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS				
Business, Tourism and High Streets	336	-26	0	0
Environment and Coastal Services	4,394	-33	11	0
Finance, Investment and Corporate Services	3,231	0	-15	0
Housing and Homelessness Services	3,427	0	-52	0
Leader	570	0	0	0
Partnering and Wellbeing	3,183	-35	2	0
People and Places	4,021	-24	0	0
Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure	2,752	-78	16	0
Multi Portfolio adjustments - To be allocated	262	-15	0	-19
	22,176	-211	-38	-19
Reversal of Depreciation	-1,589			
Contribution (from) / to Earmarked Revenue Reserves	-386	-2	85	19
NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS	20,201	-213	47	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,626			
Contribution to Capital Programme Financing (RCCO)	850			
Interest Earnings (Net)	-772			
New Homes Bonus	-366			
GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	21,539	-213	47	0
COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION				
Budget Requirement	21,539	-213	47	0
Less: Settlement Funding Assessment				
Lower Tier Service Grant	-179			
Services Grant	-276			
Business Rates Baseline	-3,997			
	-4,452	0	0	0
Locally Retained Business Rates	-2,185			
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Business Rates	-199			
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Council Tax	-253			
Use of (-) Variation Reserves	-865	213	-47	
COUNCIL TAX	13,585	0	0	0
TAX BASE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	72,122.70			
COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY	188.36			
GENERAL FUND BALANCE 31 MARCH	3,000			

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23

VARIATION ANALYSIS GENERAL FUND 2022/23

	Nov-22	Feb-23			
	2022/23 £'000's Previous Variations	2022/23 £'000's New Variations Expend.	2022/23 £'000's New Variations Income	2022/23 £'000's New Variations Rephasings	2022/23 £'000's Updated Budget
PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
Business, Tourism and High Streets					
Previously Reported	39				
Salary Underspends (Vacant Posts)		-26			
	39	-26	0	0	13
Environment and Coastal Services					
Previously Reported	294				
Recycling - Refuse fleet panels/leaflets expenditure savings		-33			
Car Parking - income to Nov'22 (PCN's +£76k/Town Centre Meter +£49k/Clocks -£30k)			95		
Recycling - Project Integra Recyclables Income projection			-84		
	294	-33	11	0	272
Finance, Investment and Corporate Services					
Previously Reported	-547				
Housing Benefit Admin. Grant			-15		
Housing Benefit Salary Savings		-15			
Council Tax - Warm Spaces Grants		25			
Democratic (Secretarial) Services - Salary Savings		-10			
	-547	0	-15	0	-562
Housing and Homelessness Services					
Previously Reported	1402				
Renovation Grants Caseworker Income			-30		
Stillwater Park Home Sales Income			-22		
	1402	0	-52	0	1350
Leader					
Previously Reported	74				
	74	0	0	0	74
Partnering and Wellbeing					
Previously Reported	170				
Community Safety - costs re Public Space Protection Order		20			
Pest Control - income shortfall			25		
Community Alarms - Shortfall in Rented Unit Income			10		
Community Alarms - Supplies & Services savings to offset income shortfall		-10			
Health & Leisure Centres Insurance Premium		-12			
DCLG Grant received 21/22 Domestic Abuse		-33			
DCLG Grant received 22/23 Domestic Abuse			-33		
	170	-35	2	0	137

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23					
VARIATION ANALYSIS GENERAL FUND 2022/23		Nov-22	Feb-23		
		2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
		£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
		Previous	New	New	Updated
		Variations	Variations	Variations	Budget
			Expend.	Income	Rephasings
PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
People and Places					
Previously Reported	308				
Removal of Grant awarded to Its your Choice (in administration)		-20			
Removal of Grant awarded to Orchard School (match funding no longer available)		-4			
	308	-24	0	0	284
Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure					
Previously Reported	56				
Shortfall Planning Income			30		
Salary underspends re vacancies		-30			
Salary underspends offset by income shortfall CIL		-38	38		
Policy - Rephasing DEFRA Grant		-10			
New Income re S106 Monitoring Fee (Into reserve)			-52		
	56	-78	16	0	-6
Portfolio adjustments - Non Direct					
Previously Reported	262				
Appletree Court - East Wing Roof AMR Project				-19	
Support Services - Salary Savings		-15			
	262	-15	0	-19	228
TOTAL PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS	2058	-211	-38	-19	1790
NON-PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS					
Minimum Revenue Provision	55				
Contribution to Capital Programme Financing (RCCO)	-900				
Contribution to/from(-) Earmarked Reserves	-348	-2	85	19	
TOTAL NON-PORTFOLIO ADJUSTMENTS	-1193	-2	85	19	-1091
GRAND TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS (Credited to (-) / Debited from (+) Budget Reserves)	865	-213	47	0	699

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23

REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

	Portfolio	Nov-22	Feb-23		2022/23 £'000 Updated Budget
		2022/23 £'000's Latest Budget	2022/23 £'000's New Variations Expend.	2022/23 £'000's New Variations Rephasing	
Sustainability Fund - Unallocated	ENV/ALL	300			300
Sustainability Fund - Crow Lane Solar Panels	ENV/ALL	200			200
Disabled Facilities Grants	HSG (GF)	900			900
South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Prog (22-27)	ENV & COAST	1,775	-309		1,466
South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Prog (18-21)	ENV & COAST	363			363
South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Prog (12-17)	ENV & COAST	12			12
Barton Horizontal Directional Drilling Trails	ENV & COAST	50			50
Milford Promenade Handrail	ENV & COAST	115			115
Hurst Spit Beach Shingle Source Study	ENV & COAST	15			15
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme	PEOPLE & PL	12	-5	-7	
Public Convenience Refurbishment - Lymington Quay	PEOPLE & PL	230	5		235
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme - Barton on Sea	PEOPLE & PL	200		-168	32
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme - Tech. advisor	PEOPLE & PL			15	15
Health & Leisure Centres	PART & WELL	2,014			2,014
New Depot Site: Hardley	F, I & CS	500			500
V&P; Replacement Programme	F, I & CS	1,800			1,800
Smarter Working; Future Delivery	F, I & CS	75			75
Economic Sustainability & Regeneration Projects					
- Crow Lane Ringwood	F, I & CS	5,667			5,667
Station Road, New Milton	F, I & CS	5,500	-70		5,430
Open Space Schemes	P, R & I	730			730
Transport Schemes	P, R & I		100		100
Mitigation Schemes	P, R & I	680			680
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME		21,138	-279	-160	20,699
HRA - Major Repairs	HRA	5,500			5,500
Major Structural Refurbishments	HRA	1,000			1,000
Fire Risk Assessment Works	HRA	3,000			3,000
Estate Improvements	HRA	200			200
Development Strategy	HRA	10,200			10,200
Disabled Facilities Grants	HRA	1,000			1,000
TOTAL HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME		20,900			20,900
GRAND TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME		42,038	-279	-160	41,599

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2022/23				
REVISED HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2022/23	Feb-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	
	2022/23 £'000 Original Budget	2022/23 £'000 Latest Budget	2022/23 £'000 New Variations	2022/23 £'000 Updated Budget
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	-28,414	-28,214	120	-28,094
Non Dwelling Rents	-672	-672	20	-652
Charges for Services & Facilities	-732	-745	-11	-756
Contributions towards Expenditure	-60	-60		-60
Interest Receivable	-58	-58		-58
Sales Administration Recharge	-33	-33		-33
Shared Amenities Contribution	-256	-256		-256
TOTAL INCOME	-30,225	-30,038	129	-29,909
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs & Maintenance				
Cyclical Maintenance	1,196	1,324		1,324
Reactive Maintenance	3,648	4,136		4,136
Supervision & Management				
General Management	6,209	6,362	23	6,385
Special Services	1,377	1,793	38	1,831
Homeless Assistance	91	131		131
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	81	81		81
Provision for Bad Debt	150	150		150
Capital Financing Costs - Settlement Adjustment	8,322	8,322		8,322
Capital Financing Costs - Internal Borrowing	231	231		231
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,305	22,530	61	22,591
HRA OPERATING SURPLUS(-)	-8,920	-7,508	190	-7,318
Contribution to Capital - supporting Housing Strategy	9,120	9,120		9,120
HRA Total Annual Surplus(-) / Deficit	200	1,612	190	1,802
Use of HRA Reserve for Major Projects	-200	-200		-200
				0
HRA TOTAL ANNUAL SURPLUS(-) / DEFICIT	0	1,412	190	1,602

CEMETERIES PROVISION

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet approves the following recommendations:
- i. In order to meet predicted future interment needs, officers carry out further work to progress the expansion of interment provision at Calshot cemetery, and that the Cabinet agree a new budget of £60,000 to facilitate this work;
 - ii. In order to meet predicted future interment needs, officers continue discussions with the landowners of the adjacent and adjoining land identified at Milford Cemetery, with a subsequent project budget to be confirmed at a later date;
 - iii. To progress a review of eight closed churchyards, and two additional nearing closure, to ensure the associated transferred liabilities and risks are in full compliance with legislation; and
 - iv. To progress options for cremated remains columbaria and identify the most appropriate locations in our cemeteries, paying particular attention to Calshot and Milford Road.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A local authority is defined as a burial authority under the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2 The Act states *burial authorities may provide and maintain cemeteries whether in or outside their area*. It has historically been the Council's preferred option to provide interment provision on suitable land within our district boundary.
- 2.3 This report is intended to provide a way forward to plan future cemetery provision, ensuring we adhere to the terms of the Local Government Act, 1972, in addition to the needs and trends relating to interment in the New Forest, until at least 2040.
- 2.4 The report considers how future needs can be met through the extension of existing cemeteries or new sites. Any considerations need to go through a standard process to identify site suitability risks associated with investing in developing or expanding existing sites and the relevant permissions required.
- 2.5 Furthermore, the report also considers the impact closed churchyards has on our current and future cemetery provision capacity and identifies the need to evaluate historical closures and liabilities.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Historical provision in the district has been largely unplanned and driven by churchyard handover to the local authority and the council's response to closed churchyard provision. Burial provision has essentially been inherited and not necessarily planned according to a specific need.
- 3.2 We do provide several interment options for residents. Not all are available in every cemetery, except for standard lawned and cremated remains sections which exist in all our cemeteries. These include:

- i. standard lawned burial sections
 - ii. standard cremated remains sections
 - iii. traditional, kerbed sections
 - iv. woodland burial and cremated remains sections
 - v. oversized sections
 - vi. memorial garden.
- 3.3 We manage our cemeteries to ensure the interment options are relevant to current demand and resident expectation, optimizing the space available. Columbaria have recently been identified as being an option for our cemeteries, fully optimizing this space.
- 3.4 There are no restrictions on who can be interred within our cemeteries (approx. 5% interments are non-resident and incur the full interment fee). Residents incur the 50% discount fee.
- 3.5 We currently manage eight cemeteries within the district with the following spent capacity predicted:
- i. Sway (2024)
 - ii. Lymington (2024)
 - iii. Eling (2037)
 - iv. Calshot (beyond 2040)
 - v. Milford Road in New Milton (beyond 2040)
 - vi. Beaulieu (beyond 2040)
 - vii. Blackfield (not available for new purchases)
 - viii. Gore Road in New Milton (not available for new purchases).
- 3.6 A number of these sites are nearing capacity; there will not be any space for interments in new standard lawn burial graves.
- 3.7 Cemetery provision projections are primarily defined by standard burial plot (standard lawn burial grave).
- 3.8 Current interment figures identify both Sway and Lymington space will be spent by the end of 2024. This reduced cemetery provision (six remaining cemeteries) will increase pressure on our remaining sites. However, interments in family plots may continue in Sway and Lymington, subject to space. Accommodating provision within the west of the district subsequently requires review.
- 3.9 Increasing population along the Waterside and east of the district is putting pressure on current capacities. The Council needs to have plans in place to address current and future provision in this area.
- 3.10 Alternative interment options for district residents include town, parish and parochial council burial provision. This provision is limited and reducing capacities in these sites will inexorably impact our future responsibilities and subsequently increase our provision expectations and demands.
- 3.11 NFDC is currently responsible for eight closed churchyards, and two nearing transfer. A closed churchyard is transferred to the district council when space for new graves is spent. Either the parish or town council is contacted by the parochial church council in the first instance; they can decline responsibility, subsequently transferring the mandatory liabilities and responsibilities over to the district council. The council is then responsible for the maintenance, agreed liabilities and maintenance costs once transferred. This transfer is in perpetuity where we attain occupier status. The transfer process is a legal procedure and must be adhered to ensure transfer is lawful.

- 3.12 The historical arrangements pertaining to the current closed churchyards require clarifying and formalising to ensure we comply with legislation and manage all agreed liabilities associated with the transfer. Liabilities include the safety of memorial headstones and trees. As the burial authority we incur all management of liability costs.
- 3.13 A recent trend in an increased preference for the interment of ashes over burial has been observed in the past year. This trend will be considered in all future provision options and may only be a short-term trend resulting from the recent factors. The space required to inter ashes is approximately 1/3 of the space required for a burial.
- 3.14 An alternative option for the provision on cremated remains is the columbarium (place in a contained, secured niche above ground). Space in our cemeteries has been identified to benefit from these columbaria. Initial plans for columbaria will focus on our proposed extended cemeteries; Milford Road and Calshot as these cemeteries will be receiving ongoing investment. Columbaria require initial investment.

4. DETAILS OF SITE INVESTIGATION WORKS

- 4.1 A search for alternative cemetery sites in the district has been ongoing since at least 2013 without success. Various investigations at specific sites resulted in a negative outcome and all were abandoned. The sites failed the initial land suitability investigations, principally the bore hole survey.
- 4.2 The limiting factors to consider on all potential site locations are whether they fall within statutory land designation areas, whether the soil type meets cemetery standards, and the position of the water table or proximity to water courses and services are acceptable. Land availability within the district is limited as a large portion is laid out to national park. All these factors greatly impinge land suitability and availability.
- 4.3 In 2018, Cemeteries Development Services (CDS) undertook broader land suitability investigations within the Sway and Lymington area and in the north Waterside area; investigations concluded limited suitability in the areas. The limited suitability engenders a reliance on land becoming available.
- 4.4 Extension of existing cemeteries, where conditions are more favourable, will subsequently provide our cemetery continuity provision until 2040 and beyond.
- 4.5 Two Cemeteries have been identified as suitable candidates for extension: these include:
- i. Milford Road in New Milton – west of the district
 - ii. Calshot – east of the district
- 4.6 Milford Road cemetery - Estates and Valuation have established open communications with the landowner (Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton) and have agreed, in principle, NFDC will be offered the opportunity to purchase c 4 acres adjacent and adjoining the existing cemetery at Milford Road once sharp sand and gravel extraction is complete. Purchase and development costs will be incurred. It is anticipated Agricultural rating values will be applied to the land post mineral extraction.
- 4.7 NFDC-owned land adjacent and adjoining Calshot cemetery is currently leased out to grazing. The fields will provide cemetery provision subject to planning permission and subsequently will not incur land purchase costs; cemetery development fees will only be incurred.
- 4.8 The 2015 survey and initial cemetery investigations (CDS) undertaken prior to the new cemetery development at Calshot indicates site suitability and good ground conditions.

Further geophysical survey of a small field section will be needed to complete the suitability picture.

- 4.9 The site lies within the National Park planning area and is identified in the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy 2020 as a Secondary supporting area. It will be necessary to explore levels of impact. At this stage, in advance of more detailed exploration, it must be recognised as a risk to planning permission being forthcoming. Mitigation maybe a solution that could add cost and complexity to the project.

5. DETAILS OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

- 5.1 All Exclusive Right of Burial pre-purchases are suspended for both Sway and Lymington, extending the cemeteries' lifespan.
- 5.2 We will also explore the option of columbarium within each cemetery. This has been a popular option in other parts of the country and removes restrictions relating to interment and the exhumation of remains. It also is a more effective use of space, with several layers of contained remains being accommodated in the above ground structure. The lease of the niche is for a limited period (10 years on average); when the lease period elapses, the space may be made available to contain subsequent families' cremated remains.
- 5.3 We will continue to promote family plots, fully utilising the interment plot space. Traditionally, these interment plots may have only been utilised once or twice; we actively encourage family plots utilising space for further interment of both burial and cremated remains. This extends the lifespan of the cemetery.
- 5.4 We will respond to interment trends and demands, adjusting our cemetery planning and layouts, optimising the use of interment space.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Our objective is to ensure we continue to meet our obligations with the interment of burial and cremated remains (above and below ground) within our cemeteries and to ensure this interment provision continues beyond our existing burial space capacities.
- 6.2 To meet this requirement, the council support further work to progress the expansion of the current cemetery sites at Calshot and Milford Road, which research has identified as suitable cemetery sites.
- 6.3 It is therefore proposed to take forward further investigations with an intention to extend the lifespan of Calshot and Milford Road. These developments will require investment.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Calshot:
- i. no land purchase required
 - ii. professional fees, c.£55K (this includes CDS fees, and evidence to support a planning application).
 - iii. currently unknown mitigation costs
- 7.2 Milford Road:
- i. an option to acquire 4 acres of land is being considered by the landowner.
 - ii. Heads of Terms for future purchase once the mineral extractions are complete have been issued and are presently with the landowner. The proposed Heads of Terms are for a 21-year option, but a view to obtaining planning permission within ten years, to purchase the land following mineral extraction and restoration. Reinstatement of ground following mineral extraction will be subject to an agreed specification required by NFDC.

8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The proposed extension of the cemeteries will include a full assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed cemetery extensions to ensure that the full impact of the proposals on the environment are fully understood and considered.

9.2 The Calshot site is identified in the Brent Goose and Wader Strategy 2020 as Secondary supporting areas. Full consideration will be given to the impact that the proposed extension of the cemetery will have on the role of this land in supporting over wintering Brent Geese and Waders. Once established cemeteries provide ideal environments for habitat creation contributing to the Council's Climate and Nature Emergency.

9.3 The Council will be responding to the Minerals and Waste Partial Update Regulation 18 consultation. This proposes land at Ashley Manor Farm (currently open agricultural land) for excavation of sharp sand and gravel. The Council has highlighted in its response the need to ensure measures are in place to minimise the impact of this excavation on the Milford Road Cemetery.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken; no adverse impact identified.

11. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Cemetery records are retained and stored in full accordance with legal requirements including GDPR.

12. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

12.1 The Panel wished to ensure that representations were made to HCC to ensure that any potential noise from gravel extraction works adjacent to Milford Road Cemetery, New Milton, did not disturb the peace and tranquillity of the cemetery. The Panel was assured by officers that by applying due diligence and process to ensure concerns were taken into account in any response to planning applications and negotiations with the current site owners.

13. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

13.1 I am pleased that the Council is able to meet future interment needs by moving forward to expand the Calshot and Milford cemeteries. I fully support the recommendations of this report.

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Background Papers:

None

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RESIDENT INSIGHT

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Cabinet supports:

The next steps as outlined within the report;

A two-yearly resident survey going forward; and

Sharing findings and anonymised data with our partners.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The context within which local authorities operate has altered drastically in a very short space of time, due to national/societal events and changes such as Brexit, COVID-19, devolution, and financial pressures. These challenges and issues are both broad and specific in their nature including meeting new demands and expectations, servicing new client groups, financial sustainability, responsiveness to change, changing resident behaviours, protecting reputations, remaining relevant and maintaining trust.

2.2 To understand and meet these challenges, using robust insight and conducting meaningful engagement with residents will be more important than ever to inform decision making.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 New Forest District Council (NFDC) are keen to continue understanding their residents, particularly monitoring changes in behaviours, perceptions, expectations, and needs over time. By meaningfully reaching and engaging and gathering robust and insightful data, this guides an intelligent approach to inform decision-making, policy development and service delivery. This paper outlines the key findings from the recent resident insight survey undertaken.

4. METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE

4.1 The resident insight survey conducted 760 interviews with residents aged 18+ years. LGA best practice advises that resident surveys should have a minimum sample size of 500 residents, representative of the local population.

4.2 Representative sample quotas were set based on the population profile of NFDC by gender, age, working status and an equal split of interviews per ward. The sample achieved very closely matches the population profile, meaning minimal statistical weighting was applied and providing reliability in the results. The breakdown of the sample achieved can be found at Appendix 1.

4.3 As NFDC's resident survey has a larger sample than the minimum guidance, and minimal weighting was applied to ensure the sample is representative, it has a narrower confidence interval when conducting statistical analysis. This means that if every New Forest resident was asked the survey questions, the results would be very similar to the survey findings.

4.4 The resident insight survey used a quantitative methodology of telephone (613 interviews) and face-to-face (147) interviews. A mixed method enabled a targeted

sampling approach, particularly for younger populations who are less likely to take part in telephone interviews.

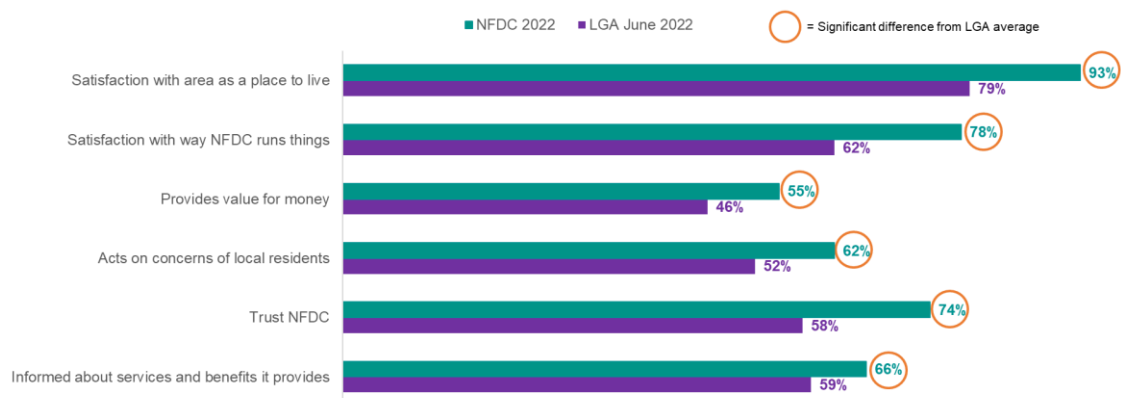
- 4.5 Fieldwork was undertaken by a procured third-party supplier and was conducted between 8 September and 24 November 2022.
- 4.6 The questionnaire was designed by NFDC officers in consultation with EMT and Cabinet.

5. KEY FINDINGS

5.1 This section of the paper outlines the key findings from NFDC’s resident insight survey. Where applicable, findings have been benchmarked against national data indicators. Some of these findings are also summarised in Appendix 2.

5.2 Reputation

Across all reputation metrics, **NFDC scored significantly higher than the LGA average**. The breakdown of results can be found in the graph below.

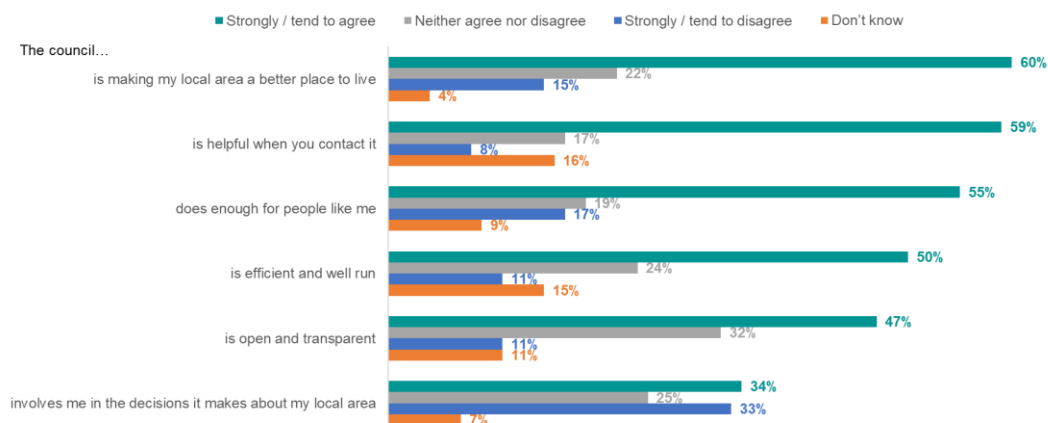


For some of the reputation metrics, there are proportions of the sample that provide a neutral/don’t know answer rather than a negative response, particularly satisfaction with the way NFDC runs things (16%), value for money (28%), and acts on concerns of local residents (17%). This is also the case on other questions in the survey, particularly image metrics and advocacy.

For those who provide a neutral/don’t know response, they are more likely to feel less involved in the decisions NFDC makes, and perhaps a key driver to consider when looking to convert these residents to positive sentiment.

5.3 Image

Image metrics are equally encouraging, and the breakdown of results can be found in the graph below.



5.4 Advocacy

Advocacy metrics indicated that **37% of residents speak highly of the council** whilst 47% have no views or responded, “don’t know”. Of this 47%, they are more likely to feel that the council does not involve them in the decisions it makes about the local area than those who speak highly of the council.

5.5 Involved in local decisions

This metric is a **key influencer on reputation, image, and advocacy metrics**, particularly influencing neutral/don’t know responses. Those who do not feel involved in the decisions NFDC makes about the local area are more likely to be aged 65+ years, live in affluent areas (rank IMD 5), have lived in the New Forest for 20+ years, are owner occupiers, less likely to have children living at home, and of AB social grade (see Appendix 3).

5.6 Service satisfaction

Residents were asked to rate satisfaction with universal services (waste and recycling collection, street sweeping / cleaning, council tax services) and NFDC services they have used in the last 12 months. Service satisfaction was favourable, and **the top-rated services were registering to vote (96%), community recycling banks (90%), garden waste collection (88%), health and leisure centres (87%) and waste and recycling services (83%)**.

Waste and recycling collection was also ranked as **the most valued service** by residents (51% chose this service.)

5.7 Internet use

Over **9 in 10 residents (93%) cite they personally use the internet** at home or outside of work, which is in line with the Ofcom national indicator (also 93%.) NFDC residents are **significantly more likely** than the Ofcom national average to look online for public service information (NFDC 84%, Ofcom 64%), complete Government processes online (NFDC 82%, Ofcom 51%) and pay online for council tax or other local council services (NFDC 52%, Ofcom 43%).

5.8 Customer contact

Just over half (52%) of residents have **contacted NFDC in the last 12 months**. Of these, 37% did so regarding an enquiry or problem, 15% to make a payment, and 27% regarding a particular service to use or access.

The **most common contact method** across all three contact types was telephone (70% for those contacting about an enquiry or problem, 43% to make a payment and 60% regarding a particular service). This was followed by email for those contacting about an enquiry or problem or regarding a particular service (25% and 34% respectively) and automated payment for those making a payment (30%).

Across all three contact types, residents reported **high levels of ease of contact** (82% found it very / fairly easy to contact about an enquiry or problem, 92% to make a payment and 84% regarding a particular service.)

Residents were asked what their **preferred contact method** would be for the future, and telephone was cited as the preferred method when contacting about an enquiry or problem (60%) or regarding a particular service to use or access (47%). This may be due to it being the most used contact method now. Automated payment was the preferred method (46%) for making future payments.

5.9 Community safety

Nearly all residents (96%) report feeling **very or fairly safe in their local area**. Around three-quarters (73%) of residents' report feeling very or fairly safe after dark.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of residents reported that their quality of life is affected a great deal / a fair amount by **fear of crime**. They are more likely to be female, aged 65+ years, live in urban areas, have lived in the New Forest for 20+ years, owner occupiers, do not have children living at home and of AB social grade.

5.10 Climate

Three quarters (75%) of residents' report feeling **very or somewhat worried about the impact of climate change**.

Residents were also asked what steps they have taken in the last 12 months to benefit the environment or address climate change. **Most (91%) reported using less energy at home**, although 57% of those stated that this was not for the benefit of the environment, and it could be reasonably inferred that this is more likely due to the current energy crisis. Nearly two-thirds (61%) also reported making fewer journeys by car, van, or motorcycle, although 36% of those stated that this was not for the benefit of the environment. Nearly four in ten (38%) reported investing in energy saving measures such as loft insulation, and 26% stated that although something they have not done in the last 12 months, they would be willing to. One-quarter (25%) of residents reported buying electricity from a green supplier or generating their own energy, and 38% reported that although this is not something they have done in the last 12 months, they would be willing to.

5.11 Environment

When asked about the **protection and preservation of the environment** in the New Forest, the top things most important to residents were protection and preservation of woodland and forests (27%), less or better control of litter (24%), and rare/vulnerable species of animals, birds, fish, or insects (22%).

5.12 Recycling

Just over four-fifths (81%) of residents report it is very easy / easy to recycle. **Two-thirds (66%) of residents feel that NFDC could do more to encourage households to recycle more** including the ability to recycle more or a wider range of items (40%),

more information (about what to recycle 18% and how to recycle 13%) and receptacles (provision of wheelie bins 18% and more bags for recycling 11%).

5.13 Community

NFDC scored significantly higher than the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) benchmark indicators for community metrics as follows: My local area is a place where people get on well together (NFDC 89%, DCMS 83%), My neighbourhood is changing for the better (NFDC 41%, DCMS 16%), I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood (NFDC 89%, DCMS 65%). I like the area I live in also ranked at 95%, although this is not asked in DCMS indicators.

5.14 Civic action

Just over two-fifths (44%) of residents' report spending a great deal / a fair amount of time **helping their community** or local area in the last 12 months. The most common activity undertaken was organising or helping to run a community activity or event (34%) followed by keeping the local area tidy (28%).

Just over three-fifths (62%) of residents report they are very or fairly interested in taking part in activities that help improve their community or neighbourhood in the future. The top activities they would be most interested in are organising or helping to run a community activity or event (32%) and keeping the local area tidy (27%). Those who are more likely to be interested are female, aged 35-54 or 65+, economically active, live in urban areas, AB social grade, and owner occupiers.

5.15 Household finances

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of residents report their financial situation in the last 12 months getting a little or a lot worse. Although 59% report their financial position as very or relatively comfortable, **34% report they are just about managing**. Of those who report they are just about managing, they are more likely to be female, economically active, live in urban areas, and owner occupiers. This will be important to continue monitoring as the cost-of-living crisis may deepen.

Residents were also asked if they have concerns paying for various household bills or other costs. Half (50%) reported concerns paying for home energy bills, 41% reported concerns paying for fuel for their vehicle and 41% reported concerns for paying for food/groceries. Just over one-third (34%) reported no concerns paying household costs or bills.

5.16 Health and Wellbeing

Seven in ten (70%) of residents report their health as very good / good, 19% as fair and 10% as poor / very poor.

Across wellbeing metrics, **NFDC scored significantly higher** than the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) benchmark indicators. Residents were significantly more likely to hardly ever / never lack companionship (NFDC 82%, DCMS 56%), feel left out (NFDC 85%, DCMS 54%) and feel isolated from others (NFDC 87%, DCMS 53%).

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This resident survey provides reliable and robust data, and used alongside other sources of corporate data, will continually support the effective delivery of political goals and strategic commitments.

6.2 There is an opportunity now to analyse this data further and move people with neutral views to more fixed positions through increased understanding of these groups.

7. NEXT STEPS

7.1 The survey information puts us in a good position to start shaping future service design, delivery and strategic objectives. This includes:

- i. Informing and mapping the development of the corporate plan priorities
- ii. Informing and mapping the development of the budget over the course of the financial cycle
- iii. Informing and mapping the development of sub-strategies, policy, and service priorities/delivery (such as regeneration, environment, community safety and community development). This also includes understanding, and therefore targeted delivery, of vulnerable or in-need customers or communities
- iv. Provide baseline data to support the transformation programme (including digital behaviours, channel shift and customer experience) and monitor over time
- v. Performance monitoring (particularly satisfaction and perception metrics) to allow for measurable progress of policy or service delivery and benchmark for improvement
- vi. Inform Communications and Engagement strategy/delivery, particularly micro-targeting audiences dependent on their needs, channel usage and views

7.2 Working with the Executive Management Team and service managers, an action plan will be developed to realise the benefits of this data and enable implementation of the next steps outlined above.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Resident Survey output will inform the Transformation Programme in terms of service design and delivery, which will ultimately result in financial benefits.

9. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The data will help inform the strategic community safety plan and priorities by getting a better understanding of the communities most likely to be impacted by crime or the fear of crime.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The data will help inform the climate and nature emergency action plan by understanding residents' views on the impact of climate change and environmental issues.

11. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The resident survey ensured a representative sample was used which reflected the age gender and economic status of residents. In addition, a disability quota was monitored to ensure that this group was represented. Other demographical information was gathered, including ethnicity, income and housing status.

12. CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND LOCAL ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

12.1 At its meeting held on 19 January 2023, the Panel noted key findings from the recent Resident Insight Survey. Overall the Panel felt the results were good and were pleased that NFDC compared well nationally, and fared well reputationally. Indicated areas for improvement would be taken on board and addressed.

12.2 The following points were highlighted:

- Some members queried the quoted 93% of residents using the internet, particularly with older residents, as this differed markedly from personal experience. It was acknowledged that some residents were assisted by younger family members. This illustrated the importance of obtaining further information in this regard and on other topics. It was emphasised that the Council was committed to ensuring that no one was disenfranchised and services would continue to be available to all residents through a number of channels.
- It was suggested that some questions may be loaded to elicit a positive response, though it was noted that the wording of the questions within the survey was different to the summaries provided in the report. The point was made that the follow-up driver analysis questions attempted to ascertain reasons for responses, to clarify the context of answers given.
- Members felt that voter turnout and involvement in Council decision making could be improved. These points were kept under review.
- There was an opportunity to undertake further engagement with council tenants, including understanding their views on main Council functions and front line services.

12.3 The Panel supported the recommended next steps as outlined in the report, including the 2 - yearly resident survey and the sharing of anonymised data with NFDC partners.

13. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

13.1 I am pleased to see the results of our resident survey, which provides us with valuable insight into the views and experiences of our residents. We will now use the survey's output to help shape our priorities, and to inform and improve service delivery throughout the district. It will be important to share this insight with our partners, and I support introducing a two-yearly survey to ensure that we are continuing to engage with, understand and respond to our resident's needs.

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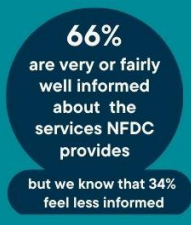
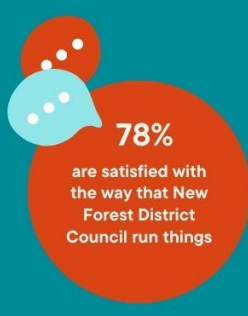
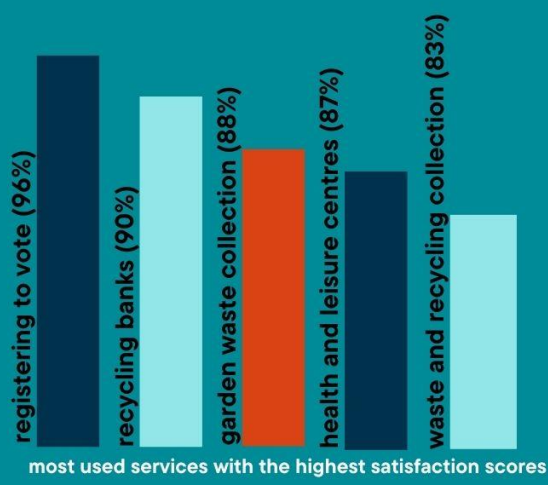
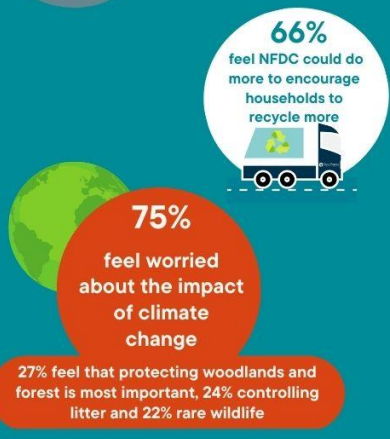
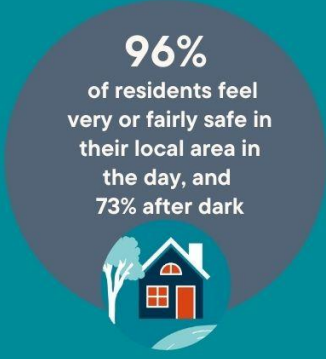
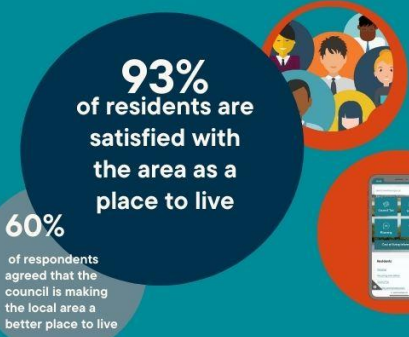
Background Papers:

Resident Insight 2022, Cabinet 6 July
2022

Sample Breakdown

Total sample		Quota target %	Sample Achieved %
Age	18-24	7%	7%
	25-34	11%	12%
	35-54	28%	25%
	55-64	18%	19%
	65+	36%	38%
Gender	Male	48%	46%
	Female	52%	54%
Working Status	Economically active	54%	53%
	Economically inactive	46%	47%

Resident insight 2022 Summary results



These are summary results only. Further data will be available at newforest.gov.uk

Social Grade Definitions

SOCIAL GRADE	DESCRIPTION
AB	Higher and intermediate managerial roles, administrative or professional occupations.
C1	Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial roles, administrative or professional occupations.
C2	Skilled manual workers.
DE	Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers; State pensioners, casual and lowest grade workers, unemployed with state benefits only.

CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURE EMERGENCY ANNUAL UPDATE 2023

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Cabinet: -

- a) Acknowledges activities undertaken and progress made in 2022 in response to the declared Climate Change and Nature Emergency;
- b) Acknowledges that NFDC's role as a Local Authority is to support National Government policy around change and the environment; but as leaders of place, we can work with partners and the public to encourage all to understand and play their part;
- c) Approves the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan 2023 (Appendix 5);
- d) Supports the strategic direction of NFDC's climate action, as set out in this report, on the understanding that the three prioritised programmes of activity (Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery) are intended to ensure best results and maximum value for money; and
- e) Agree to set a 5-Year Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028 in summer 2023, in accordance with the revised Corporate Plan 2023-2027, with progress to be reported annually aligning activity to the financial year.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report provides an update on progress towards achieving the aims of the Climate and Nature Emergency Declaration. As committed in October 2021, an annual report is to be produced which summarises activity over the previous 12 months and sets out intended activity for the coming 12 months. This report covers the past period January 2022 to January 2023, with the Action Plan at Appendix 5 outlining activity to be undertaken from January 2023. The Action Plan will be reviewed and aligned with the 5-Year Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy 2023-2028 which will be considered by Cabinet in Summer 2023.

2.2 Building on the first Climate Change and Nature Action Plan (published February 2022), this report also sets out the three prioritised programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery that the longer-term Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy will align with, acknowledging the scale of change and resource needed to meet local, national and global climate and environmental targets. Aligning with sector guidance and consistent with other local authority areas, this report presents an approach for how New Forest District Council (NFDC) can demonstrate climate leadership and safeguard council services and the wider area. The Council will need to continue to ensure that prioritisation of these objectives is embedded within the delivery of all services and fundamental to all projects and partnerships going forward.

- 2.3 Action to reduce greenhouse gasses, adapt to a changing climate and enhance natural environments are aspects of broader, holistic sustainability and should not be considered in isolation. Ensuring that actions align to long-term prosperity is the ultimate goal and requires a considered approach that balances finances, health and wellbeing, ecosystem services, cost of living and the needs of future generations.

BACKGROUND

- 2.4 Global temperature rise, which is driven by the increase of greenhouse gasses (GHGs) in the atmosphere, is causing our climate to change. Future climate projections by the Met Office show that the UK is likely to experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, with extreme weather events such as heatwaves and heavy downpours becoming more frequent and more intense. How significant the changes are depends on the degree of temperature rise. More information can be found in the [Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#).
- 2.5 International agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Pledge have been created to help countries slow down or eliminate the emission of greenhouse gasses. Technological advances, reporting frameworks and numerous international initiatives are underway and are helping to reduce emissions levels, however progress in achieving the agreed targets is significantly off track.
- 2.6 Central Government has set a target for the UK to reach net zero carbon by 2050, with an [interim target of 78% reduction on 1990 levels by 2035](#). Many of the infrastructure, legislative and investment interventions needed to reach these targets will be implemented at a national level – grid electrification, planning policy, vehicle emissions rates etc – but much can be done at the local level to encourage sustainable behaviour change, reduce energy demand, improve climate resilience and build a green economy.
- 2.7 The majority of local authorities in the UK have chosen to show support for this national target and its unpinning environmental objectives through the declaration of a Climate Emergency. It should be noted that the scope of each authority's declaration is slightly different, with objectives and targets that are specific to their local context, taking into account the unique physical, financial, social and political factors of each locality. The New Forest District Council's Climate and Nature Emergency declaration of 6 October 2021 can be seen [here](#) on the council's website. This was followed by a report to Council on 16 February 2022 which can be seen [here](#).
- 2.8 Local geography and conditions will influence the extent to which climate change impacts are felt in different regions. Projections based on data from 1991 to 2019 show that the New Forest District Council area is most likely to suffer changes in the summer as opposed to the winter (see summary Table 1 and Table 2 below). The most significant changes are in the frequency and intensity of hot summer days, which in combination with other factors such as sustained drought with flash flooding, can cause a number of primary and secondary problems, for example on human health and wellbeing, plant survival and building performance.

SUMMER (1991-2019)	Current climate	2°C global warming	4°C global warming
Hottest day	33.6	36.5	40.8
Wettest day	40mm	59mm (+46%)	58mm
Rainy days/month	8	7	5

Days above 25°C	4	8	18
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Table 1: Summer Climate Change Projections for NFDC Area

WINTER (1991-2019)	Current climate	2°C global warming	4°C global warming
Warmest day	17.5	18	19.1
Rainy days/month	12	12	12
Wettest day	54mm	58mm	60mm (+11%)

Table 2: Winter Climate Change Projections for NFDC Area

2.9 There is scientific consensus on the general trends and expected impacts of climate change, however models and projections are frequently being updated to reflect new data and observed activity. Though not necessary to repeat lengthy research frequently at the local level, it is essential that NFDC remains aware of key changes in the climate knowledgebase and updates its risk assessments and programmes of activity accordingly. For instance, Table 1 above references the hottest day between 1991-2019 as 33.6°C as the baseline for future projections for 2°C and 4°C future warming, however this doesn't take into account the record high temperatures experienced in summer 2022. Updated data and interpretation will provide guidance as to whether the projections shown above remain accurate averages and 2022 temperatures were an anomaly, or whether the climate change forecasts need to be revised as a result of faster or more intense warming.

2.10 Acting in response to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency will also deliver substantial co-benefits around health and wellbeing, biodiversity, upskilling our workforce and enhancing our local economy.

3. CLIMATE ACTION IN PARTNERSHIP

3.1 To have maximum impact and deliver best value for money, NFDC needs to act in partnership with our neighbours and sector peers. Presenting a clear and consistent approach to our residents, businesses and visitors is the most effective way of reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and restoring our natural assets.

3.2 Geographically, the NFDC area overlaps with the New Forest National Park and with Hampshire County Council (HCC) - see Appendix 2. This offers many opportunities such as joint funding and shared resources, but also presents challenges, particularly around delivering effective change across administrative boundaries and managing impacts/benefits without double counting. NFDC will continue to use the [national dataset produced by BEIS](#) to monitor emissions reductions in the NFDC area and communicate with partners to ensure clear and consistent messaging and reduce any duplication of effort.

3.3 HCC declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and as part of their ongoing work around climate risk management, energy resilience and carbon reduction, HCC create and support programmes that are accessible to the district councils, residents and businesses. This includes activities to address the main sources of GHG emissions, such as retrofitting homes, renewable energy generation and nature recovery. In 2022, the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) also launched its [Re:New Forest Partnership Plan 2022-2027](#) which set 'Net Zero with Nature' as one of its 5 key objectives. NFDC's Climate Change and Nature Strategy has been developed to compliment both HCC and NFNPA's climate activities. We will work collaboratively to

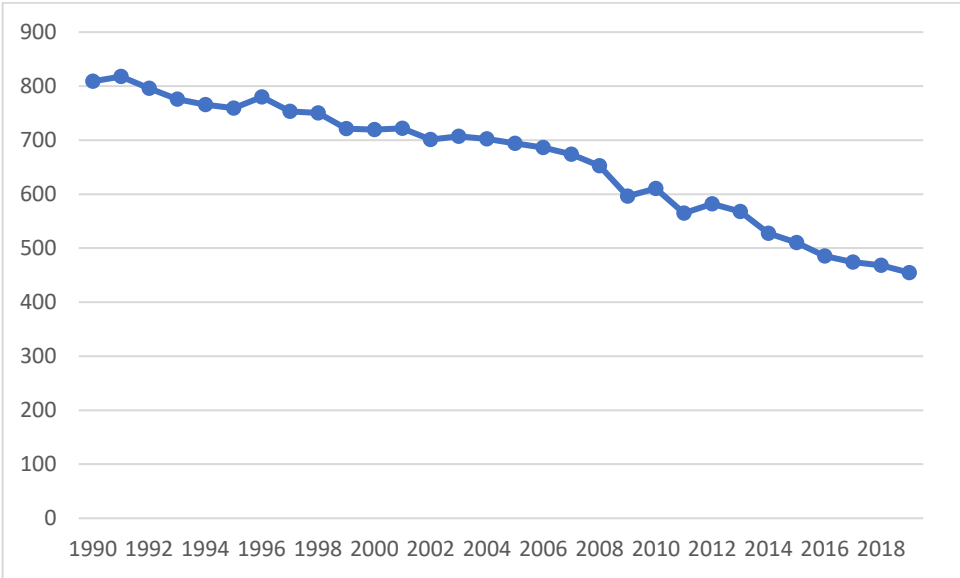
ensure that programmes are successful and delivering against shared environmental objectives.

3.4 NFDC already works with and coordinates with other partners through a number of networks and professional organisations, some of which are listed below in section 6. NFDC will continue to collaborate with these partners and others to deliver the most effective and sustainable outcomes. In some cases, this will involve the joint delivery of projects, but it could also include cross-promotion of activities or the provision of tools, resources and information. Work has already been done by the Council and others to understand the needs and priorities of partners and communities as well as the drivers which will give them the urgency and capacity to act. This knowledge base underpins actions within the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan and Strategy (to follow in 2023).

4. BASELINE DATA

4.1 In order to set appropriate targets and monitor progress effectively, we must first understand our baseline – where we are trying to get from. Knowing what our previous emissions were and what initiatives have taken place to reduce them since that date, allows us to create future emissions reduction pathways.

4.2 The UK Government’s target of net zero carbon by 2050 is based on 1990 emissions levels. In 1990, the UK produced net greenhouse gas emissions of 809.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e). In 2005, national emissions were calculated to be 694.2MtCO₂e – a reduction of approx. 14% on 1990 levels. In 2019, national emissions were calculated to be 454.8MtCO₂e – a reduction of approx. 44% on 1990 levels (see [final-greenhouse-gas-emissions-tables-2019.xlsx \(live.com\)](#))



Graph 1: UK net emissions 1990-2019 (MtCO₂e)

4.3 BEIS currently provides local area emissions data from 2005 to 2019. This can be accessed at [2005-19_UK_local_and_regional_CO2_emissions.xlsx \(live.com\)](#) and summary charts can be found in Appendix 1. In 2005, NFDC area emissions were calculated to be 2589.2 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂e).

4.4 Using the national data referenced above (4.2) as an indication of average emissions change in the UK between 1990 and 2005 (14%), we can estimate that New Forest District Council area emissions in 1990 were approximately 3010.7ktCO₂e.

	UK (MtCO ₂ e)	% reduction from 1990	NFDC area (ktCO ₂ e)	% reduction from 1990
1990	809.1	-	3010.7 (estimated)	-
2005	694.2	14%	2589.2	14%
2019	454.8	44%	928	69.2%

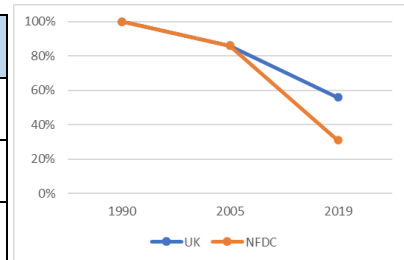
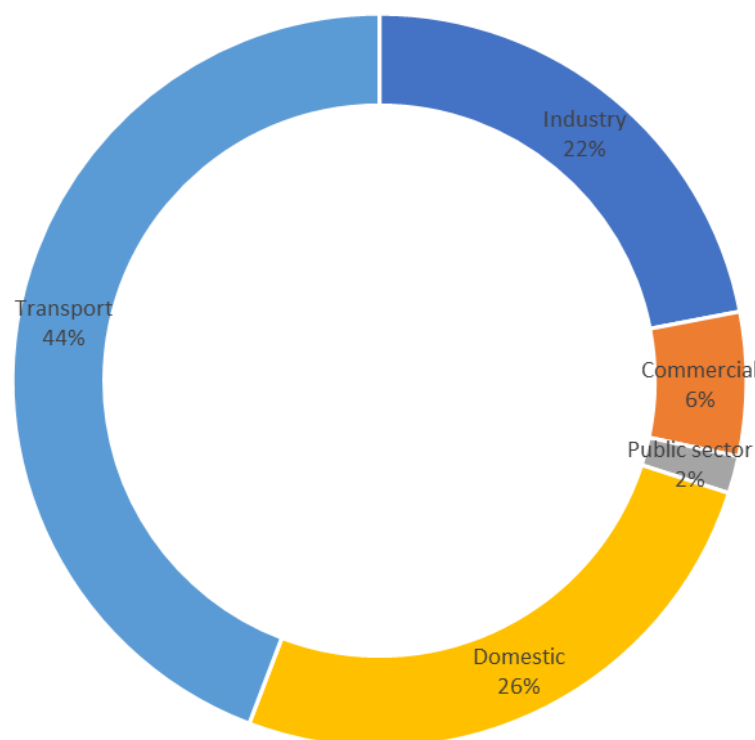


Table 3: Baseline Emissions - UK and NFDC

4.5 This means that if the NFDC area were emitting 3010.7ktCO₂e in 1990, the percentage change is measured from this figure. Table 3 above shows that in 2019, the NFDC area had already reduced emissions by 69.2%, however the charts in Appendix 1 show that the rate of decline is levelling off across many sectors and reaching absolute zero emissions is very unlikely (especially given infrastructure, technology, investment and resource limitations). Therefore, if some emissions are still produced, the NFDC area will need to remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere in another way - through nature- or technology-based solutions, as discussed in 5.8.

4.6 In the New Forest District Council area, the most significant emissions sectors (and subsectors) are transport (*minor road transport*), domestic (*gas*) and industry (*large industrial installations*).



Graph 2: NFDC Area Emissions by sector 2019

4.7 When compared to the other District Council areas in Hampshire, New Forest has the highest domestic and industrial emissions, and the second highest transport and commercial emissions (worst performers in each sector highlighted red in Table 4

below). These high emissions can be attributed to building type and efficiency (homes and business premises), their distribution across the area (rural with limited connectivity) and industrial operations in the east of the district. Net total emissions and subsequent per capita and per km² rates are comparatively low due to the high absorption of CO₂e through the New Forest land use (best performer highlighted green).

	Industry	Commercial	Public sector	Domestic	Transport	Land use	Per capita	Per km ²	TOTAL
Basingstoke and Deane	141.3	80.9	19.6	253.7	511.4	-62.4	5.3	1.5	944.5
East Hampshire	78.3	29.8	9.6	198.7	327.6	-55.2	4.8	1.1	588.8
Eastleigh	54.2	51.1	15	171	272.6	-2.7	4.2	6.6	561.1
Fareham	47.3	41.2	19.8	153.7	202.9	-6.3	3.9	5.9	458.5
Gosport	22.4	21.5	9.4	94.4	56.4	-1.9	2.4	7.3	202.2
Hart	47.1	51.4	13.1	153.6	234.3	-27.2	4.9	2.2	472.3
Havant	40.9	29.1	9.7	164.3	164.8	-4.7	3.2	5.1	404.2
New Forest	230.3	66.4	17.2	270.6	463.3	-119.7	5.2	1.2	928
Rushmoor	36.9	52	13.3	119.3	135.3	-7.6	3.7	8.9	349.3
Test Valley	114	55.8	20.4	188.6	454.2	-40.1	6.3	1.3	792.8
Winchester	96.8	62.4	27.2	189.8	455.1	-49.3	6.3	1.2	782

Table 4: Hampshire District Councils' Emissions by sector 2019

4.8 There are two main approaches to meeting the net zero target – offsetting and insetting. Offsetting acknowledges that some emissions cannot be eliminated at the current time, so an organisation or area chooses to pay a third party to remove the equivalent amount of carbon from their activities or the atmosphere (at a cost per tonne CO₂e). The offsetting organisation meets its net zero target but needs to pay to offset each year (at an increasing rate due to inflation and/or policy). Insetting is a more recent concept that involves investing the same amount of money an organisation would need to for offsetting, in internal/local projects to reduce the amount of emissions produced that would require offsetting. True emissions reduce year on year, requiring less annual investment to eliminate. Insetting takes longer to reach net zero, but is likely much less costly in the long term – a simple demonstration is shown in Table 5.

OFFSETTING				
Unavoidable emissions per year (tCO ₂ e)	Year	Offset cost per tCO ₂ e (£)	Est. Offset fee per year (£)	Net zero target reached
1000	2050	125.00	125,000	Yes
1000	2051	128.75	128,750	Yes
1000	2052	132.61	132,613	Yes
INSETTING				
Unavoidable emissions per year (tCO ₂ e)	Year	Offset cost per tCO ₂ e (£)	Est. Inset investment per year (£)	Net zero target reached
1000	2050	125.00	125,000	No
900	2051	128.75	115,875	No
800	2052	132.61	106,088	No

Table 5: Worked example to demonstrate difference between offsetting and insetting

4.9 The above information relates to the national net zero target which was supported through the NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency declaration. Many organisations however, have decided to set complementary (and often more challenging) targets for reaching net zero in their own operations. Not only does this drive down emissions faster in the local area, it stimulates investment in green technologies and growth of green businesses, at the same time encouraging sustainable behaviour change and demonstrating climate leadership. NFDC has not declared an internal net zero target to date, however this is something that will be considered in the future.

4.10 Known NFDC Council emissions in 2021/22 were calculated using the Local Partnerships/LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool for Local Authorities. More information about the methodology, including scope and assumptions, can be found [here](#). Known emissions for the financial year 2021/22 were calculated as follows in Table 6:

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Scope 1	Heating	1174	34%
	Fugitive Emissions	0	0%
	Authority's Fleet	1623	46%
Scope 2	Electricity	558	16%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	80	2%
	Outsourced Fleet	0	0%
	Transmission and Distribution Losses	49	1%
	Water	18	1%
	Material Use	0	0%
	Waste generated from own operations	0	0%
	Outsourced Scope 3	0	0%
Total Emissions		3503	100%

Table 6: NFDC Council Emissions 2021/22

4.11 Where values are listed as '0' in Table 6, this is because data is not available at this time or at this level. It is also important to note that the figures do not include leased out buildings i.e. housing, leisure, commercial properties where NFDC does not pay the energy bills. Any changes in scope or data will affect the amount emissions that NFDC is committed to eliminating. Taking broader accountability for emissions would increase the practical and financial burden for the Council but would ultimately reduce emissions from assets over which we have significant influence and a social responsibility.

4.12 In addition to calculating the CO₂e emissions associated with NFDC's operations, it is important to monitor the amount of utilities consumed and the cost paid for them. Looking at only one of these factors will not give a true indication of progress, for the following reasons:

- a) Emissions per unit of gas/electric/water will change over time as conversion factors are updated to reflect greening of the grid etc
- b) Unit quantity shows if we are successfully driving down demand and achieving sustainable behaviour change/process improvements
- c) Cost will reflect the impact of unit rates. From April 2022, the UK has experienced significant increases in the unit price of energy, so the expectation is that next year's report will show a reduction in energy used, but an increase in the cost paid

Utility	Annual Unit Quantity	Annual Cost
Gas	6,411,516kWh	£178,952
Electricity	2,448,311kWh	£457,203
Water	47,820m ³	£143,960

Table 7: Utility consumption and costs 2021/22

4.13 The figures in Table 7 include all NFDC operated buildings/facilities, excluding council housing and leisure centres. Water consumption includes supply and waste figures.

The majority of gas and electric metres are arranged through a consortium contract with LASER, however not all metres are on the same unit rates.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURE EMERGENCY – STRATEGIC UPDATE 2022

- 5.1 The previous annual report to Cabinet on 6 February 2022 identified six strategic actions to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency. Progress against the intended outcomes for 2022 are detailed below in Table 8.

Strategic Action 1: Define to set targets for the climate change emergency declaration	
<p>Planned Activities for 2022: De-couple the New Forest District Council estate versus the wider New Forest area and set targets. Scoping what is covered by term estate. Identifying and working with experts to assess the trajectory for reducing emissions for both the estate and wider area. Assessing what is in and out of scope for the estate emissions.</p>	<p>Progress by end 2022: Complete – see Section 4 Scoping of trajectory work commenced, to be carried into 2023 Complete – as per LGA Tool guidance (see Section 4)</p>
<p>Outcome intended: A fully defined, evidence-based target with a pathway outlined</p>	<p>Outcome achieved: Work commenced, to be completed in 2023</p>
Strategic Action 2: Define the target for the nature emergency declaration	
<p>Planned Activities for 2022: Identifying and working with experts to identify relevant baseline measurements and a trajectory for meeting and measuring progress towards the target. Assess against the Environment Act to align the target with Central Government.</p>	<p>Progress by end 2022: Baseline measurements for meeting net zero by 2050 target complete (see Section 4) Alignment to Environment Bill and Climate Change Roadmap to be completed in 2023</p>
<p>Outcome intended: A fully defined, evidence-based target with a pathway outlined</p>	<p>Outcome achieved: Work commenced, to be completed in 2023</p>
Strategic Action 3: Collate existing data and conduct area-wide baseline emissions to identify key areas for future focus	
<p>Planned Activities for 2022: Map existing baseline data and carry out a gap analysis Identifying and working with experts to conduct the area-wide baseline emissions data. Map baseline data against existing actions to identify gaps and consolidate these into a long-term programme to reach the climate change targets.</p>	<p>Progress by end 2022: Area-wide emissions known; NFDC emissions gap analysis to be carried out Complete – BEIS data (see Section 4) Complete – Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan aligns work programmes with major emissions/ impact sources</p>
<p>Outcome intended: Data-driven programme on climate change</p>	<p>Outcome achieved: Data-driven programme on climate change</p>
Strategic Action 5: Develop a climate change and nature engagement and communications strategy.	
<p>Planned Activities for 2022: Reaching residents, such as through developing webpages to showcase</p>	<p>Progress by end 2022: Work underway with Corporate Communication Team to develop climate comms strategy – to be carried into 2023</p>

<p>information, including the climate change actions. Utilising internal communications channels and developing further external channels. Exploring insights-led, behavioural change communications to engage residents. Carry out a stakeholder mapping exercise and development an engagement plan. Capture activities of other stakeholders and target/performance measures. Continue to work with partners on shared messages to influence behaviours.</p>	<p>Internal comms utilised in 2022, including newsletters, staff briefings and social activities</p> <p>Analysis of climate questions in residents survey to be undertaken in 2023, followed by engagement plan Engagement with key partners – HCC and NFNPA Engagement with key partners – see Sections 3 and 6</p>
<p>Outcome intended: Greater transparency and availability of information regarding the work being carried out on climate change/nature.</p>	<p>Outcome achieved: Work commenced, to be carried into 2023</p>
<p>Strategic Action 6: Maximise partnerships and networks to facilitate the delivery of projects.</p>	
<p>Planned Activities for 2022: Maximising links with Hampshire County Council, such as through the Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group, to align with and support existing projects, such as community engagement initiatives. - Demonstrate Place Leadership and maximise partnership working with the New Forest National Park Authority and Forestry England. Map existing projects and programmes and identify gaps to inform future actions. Join new local and national networks on nature and climate change to enhance knowledge, alongside becoming more deeply involved in existing networks to amplify the climate change and nature agenda.</p>	<p>Progress by end 2022: Continued engagement with HCOG and other professional/community networks – see Sections 3 and 6</p> <p>Engagement with new and existing networks e.g. ADEPT, LGA, IEMA</p>
<p>Outcome intended: Leading the Place with greater partnership working and shared knowledge.</p>	<p>Outcome achieved: Working towards place leadership</p>

Table 8: Progress against Strategic Actions 2022

- 5.2 A summary of the full Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan 2022 can be seen in Appendix 4, including action updates to show what has been achieved and identification of actions to be carried forward into the Action Plan 2023. Key activities undertaken in 2022 to address Council aspects and those in the wider area, are highlighted below in Sections 6.3 and 6.4 respectively.
- 5.3 Progress 2022 – NFDC Council:
A number of initiatives were carried out in 2022 by NFDC to respond to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency, both in what we do and how we do it (our services and our operations). Some of the key activities are outlined below.
- a) NFDC Carbon Footprint Data:
The Local Partnerships/LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool for Local Authorities LGA carbon toolkit was used to assess carbon impact data for the financial year

2021/22. Using this methodology enables NFDC to demonstrate compliance with industry guidance and consistency with local authority peers when monitoring and reporting its carbon impact.

- b) Creation of Climate and Nature Governance Framework and Steering Group:
The Climate and Nature Governance Framework can be found at Appendix 3. The Steering Group, which comprises officers from across the Council and is chaired by the Chief Executive, met three times in 2022 and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss progress, challenges and opportunities.
- c) Appointment of Climate Change Manager:
NFDC's new Climate Change Manager came into post in October 2022, charged with setting the strategic direction of action to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency. The Climate Change Manager is responsible for driving forward and monitoring progress in regard to carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery, but will not be directly responsible for project delivery – this is the duty of all officers, members and stakeholders.
- d) Corporate building improvements:
New boiler installed at ATC (South Wing) to improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.
Replacement of any failed lighting unit with LED (bulb and fitting) to improve energy efficiency. Upgrade of emergency lighting at ATC to LED carried out in 2022.
Hot water dispensers at ATC (11 in total) fitted with inexpensive time clocks to reduce operating hours from 24/7 to business hours only, Monday-Friday.
- e) Solar PV:
Upgrade of existing solar PV installed at ATC and LTH locations to Solar Edge technology.
Installation of new rooftop solar PV array at newly acquired and refurbished Platinum Jubilee Business Park to meet BREEAM Very Good accreditation.
- f) Approval of the Greener Housing Strategy:
The [Greener Housing Strategy](#) seeks to improve the efficiency of homes in the NFDC area and address issues such as energy efficiency, cost of living, renewable energy generation and sustainable transport. To deliver the strategy, a Greener Housing Manager was appointed in November 2022.
- g) New Build Housing:
Support for sustainable construction techniques, commitment to making the Testwood Social Club redevelopment exemplar project. This involves the delivery of 10-12 high quality houses/flats that will the full Future Homes Standard, maximising energy efficiency for residents and demonstrating high levels of sustainability and climate resilience.
- h) Sustainable Fleet Strategy:
Development of the strategy is in progress, to be continued in 2023. Strategy will include use of more sustainable fuels and consider procurement of future-fit vehicles.
- i) Alternative Fuels:
Creation of a 'live' briefing note which is updated as technology develops.
Delivery of a HVO trial in 2022, which will be extended due to pump issues at the Clay Meadow Depot. Early indications show that there are fuel savings and HVO could be viable with economies of scale.
- j) EV network:
29 fast chargers and 2 rapid chargers installed across NFDC car parks – location of

chargers can be seen at www.zap-map.com. NFDC EV chargers are currently operating at approximately 11% capacity.

- k) Climate Action information week for staff and members:
Drop-in information and engagement sessions were held at ATC in November 2022, coinciding with all staff briefings by the Chief Executive. Energy saving information was shared, in addition to gathering ideas and feedback on carbon reduction/climate change/nature recovery activities and collecting suggestions about how to promote climate action through services and within our buildings.
- l) Climate and nature communications:
Internal communications for staff through corporate newsletters, staff briefings and social activities.
- m) Depot electrification:
Initial work undertaken to investigate the feasibility of electrical upgrades to NFDC depots to support the transition to electric fleet, whilst safeguarding electrical capacity and service delivery.
- n) Waste Strategy:
Approval of waste strategy in July 2022 which will deliver new frontline services, increases recycling rates and reduces the carbon impact of dealing with New Forest's domestic waste. Current recycling rate is approximately 34% which is targeted to increase to 55% through the delivery of the new strategy.
- o) Sustainable procurement:
Inclusion of supply chain and disposal questions within specifications and tender documents, including carbon impacts of contracts.
- p) Green Infrastructure Strategy development:
Pilot study completed in New Milton in 2022 to test methodology for the creation of a district-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy, the purpose of which is to inform the Local Plan development and identify neighbourhood-level GI projects.
- q) Corporate Trees:
Ongoing management of corporate tree stock to ensure good health and maximise ecosystems services gained from trees, such as carbon sequestration, water retention and habitat creation.
- r) Paper-free Building Control:
Work undertaken to convert traditionally paper-based processes into electronic procedures. All communication with customers via email wherever possible. Scanning and uploading of historic paper records to enable electronic archiving of documents.
- s) New Forest Show 2022:
NFDC's stand encouraged visitors to the show to think about why 'Environment Matters'. Activities were designed to spark conversation and engagement in a wide range of environmental issues, including waste and climate change.
- t) Water refill stations:
A number of water bottle refilling stations have been created/maintained to encourage residents and visitors to refill bottles and therefore reduce plastic waste. See the location of NFDC refill stations [here](#).

5.4 Progress 2022 – NFDC Area:

Action to address the Climate and Nature Emergency (outside of NFDC direct

operations) is undertaken by residents, businesses, community groups and third sector organisations. NFDC work in partnership to support and deliver many of these activities, some of which are highlighted below.

- a) Hampshire County Council:
HCC declared 2022 as their 'Year of Climate Resilience'. This meant '*...taking meaningful action to reduce carbon emissions, as well as making sure that Hampshire is prepared for the impacts of climate change both now and in the future.*' NFDC residents were able to engage with and benefit from a number of HCC initiatives carried out through 2022.
- b) Hampshire Climate Officers Group:
This is a professional network of climate change, environmental and energy officers from the county and district councils in Hampshire. This group meets to share knowledge, information and opportunities – giving NFDC the opportunity to engage in larger-scale initiatives that could offer better uptake and value for money.
- c) New Forest Green Groups:
Coordinated by the NFNPA, the New Forest Green Group meeting promote and support local, community-led initiatives that aim to support climate action and nature recovery. A number of individuals and organisations are involved, two of which received funding from the NFNPA to carry out community energy events and activities in 2022.
- d) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM):
NFDC has two Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) that span the district, the [Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP](#) that spans the coastline from Durlston Head to Hurst Spit and the [North Solent SMP](#) that spans the coastline from Hurst Spit through to Selsey Bill. These SMPs consider the future long-term flood and coastal erosion risk, setting aspirational management policies. In addition to the two SMPs, NFDC is also engaged in the delivery of two FCERM strategies in partnership with the Environment Agency, BCP Council and other key stakeholders. These are the [Christchurch Bay & Harbour Strategy](#) and the [Hurst Spit to Lymington Strategy](#). These strategies will consider how the management policies identified in the SMPs may be delivered, through identifying leading FCERM activities and considering current and future flood and erosion risk through the impacts of climate change. The delivery of any identified FCERM activities will be subject to securing suitable funding.
- e) The Solent Cluster:
[The Solent Cluster](#) is a new partnership launched in 2022 that aims to make the Solent '*a leading centre for low carbon investment that will grow the regional economy, protect skilled jobs, and create new employment opportunities in the energy technologies and industries of tomorrow.*' Bringing together a significant number of high-profile members, this regional partnership aims to drive low carbon investment and innovation, which should capture up to 3.2million tonnes of CO₂e per year.
- f) Public/Private trees:
Work continued in 2022 to ensure that trees not under the direct management of NFDC were protected through mechanisms such as the planning system and the provision of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
- g) Greening Campaign – Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust:
One of many nature-focussed initiatives operating in the NFDC area aiming to educate and engage the public and organisations in the protection of biodiversity and safeguarding of natural habitats. In 2022, the Greening Campaign encouraged communities to use Magic Maps to log environmental information.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURE EMERGENCY – STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2023

- 6.1 From 2023, we propose to drive climate action through three main programmes of work – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery (priority areas and indicative projects in tables below). This work will be underpinned by the integration of climate change and sustainability principles into all aspects of council operations, service delivery and partnership working. Supporting activities such as climate communications and governance are outlined in the Programme Management section of the Action Plan.
- 6.2 Reducing carbon (and other greenhouse gasses), adapting to the impacts of climate change and assisting nature recovery needs to be an intrinsic part of all activities and the responsibility of everyone – staff, members, partners and the public. We have a shared responsibility to act sustainably, which if we collectively fail to do, will result in missed targets and unnecessary health impacts and environmental degradation.
- 6.3 The Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy 2023-2028 is in development and will be presented to Cabinet for approval in Summer 2023. The 5-year strategy and Action Plan will span the implementation period April 2023-March 2028 and will outline key milestones and activities to achieve our declared objectives. The Strategy and Action Plan consistent with the new programme structure summarised below.
- 6.4 Carbon Reduction:
The Carbon Reduction Programme will address the highest sources of carbon emissions that were identified in Section 4. Internally, the priority areas are fleet, gas and electric; externally the priority areas are industry, road transport and homes. Indicative projects have been suggested in the body of the table that would deliver high impact and best return on investment. This is not a definitive list of projects and will be updated regularly as a live programme to reflect new opportunities, funding and resource availability. The targeted projects will be complimented by business-as-usual improvements that need to be delivered by all staff and stakeholders. Adapting processes, policies and expectations to encourage carbon reduction in all activities will slow the rate of emissions, embed sustainable behaviour change and give projects the best chance of success.

CARBON REDUCTION					
INTERNAL PRIORITIES			EXTERNAL PRIORITIES		
Fleet	Gas	Electric	Industry	Road Transport	Homes
Depot electrification	Building fabric / insulation	LED lighting in buildings	Solent Cluster	LTP4 / LCWIP	Community Energy South
EV fleet replacement	BMS systems	Street lighting	Industry engagement	EV charging network	Retrofit / Greener Housing
Service delivery optimisation	Boiler replacement	Renewable energy	Carbon capture & storage	Public transport improvements	Local Plan
BUSINESS AS USUAL IMPROVEMENTS					
Sustainable policies, plans, services & procurement			Net zero infrastructure, investment & engagement		

Table 9: NFDC Council and Area Carbon Reduction Programme

- 6.5 Climate Adaptation:
As with the Carbon Reduction Programme, our approach to the Climate Adaptation Programme aims to address the most urgent risks to the Council and the wider New Forest area. Ensuring that the primary climate change impacts are mitigated through the external priorities will safeguard people and places. Focussing internally on

climate risks to buildings, assets and staff will help to identify service vulnerabilities and assist in the creation of robust adaptation plans.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION					
INTERNAL PRIORITIES			EXTERNAL PRIORITIES		
Buildings	Assets	Staff	Flooding	Coastal Erosion	Heatwaves
Location risk assessment	Natural assets e.g. open space	Climate Champions	Built infrastructure	Christchurch Bay / Harbour FCERM	NHS / Public Health
Temperature adaptation	Fixed assets e.g. bins	Emergency preparedness	Natural infrastructure	Hurst Spit to Lymington FCERM	Community Resilience Plans
Storm resilience	Vehicles e.g. fleet / grey	Business continuity	Catchment partnerships	Durlston to Hurst SRM Programme	Water conservation
BUSINESS AS USUAL IMPROVEMENTS					
Service risk assessment, adaptation plans & comms			Area risk assessment, adaptation plans & comms		

Table 10: NFDC Council and Area Climate Adaptation Programme

6.6 Nature Recovery:

Consistent with both Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation, the Nature Recovery Programme sets out internal and external priority areas for action. Protecting biodiversity, facilitating the connectivity of habitats and ensuring stewardship through long-term plans is key to reversing national and global trends in biodiversity and habitat loss. The programme seeks to fully understand the risks and opportunities for nature on NFDC land and design interventions that support nature recovery across the district and beyond.

NATURE RECOVERY					
INTERNAL PRIORITIES			EXTERNAL PRIORITIES		
Biodiversity	Connectivity	Stewardship	Biodiversity	Connectivity	Stewardship
NFDC land studies	Nature corridors / Habitat banking	Local Plan / SPDs / GI strategy	Environmental surveys / data	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Environment Act / regulations
Habitat protection	Ecology infrastructure	Maintenance / upkeep	Habitat protection	Connectivity of strategic sites	BNG Credits / Habitat banking
Habitat creation	Local partnerships	Staff volunteering	Habitat creation	Active travel / accessibility	Ecology without boundaries
BUSINESS AS USUAL IMPROVEMENTS					
Nature Recovery in policies, strategies & decisions			Nature protection, enhancement & partnerships		

Table 11: NFDC Council and Area Nature Recovery Programme

6.7 Programme Management:

To ensure effective and efficient delivery of the three Climate and Nature Emergency Programmes outlined above, the following Programme Management actions have been put in place. Robust monitoring, reporting, funding and communications will increase the chances of success in achieving our climate and nature objectives.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT					
INTERNAL PRIORITIES			EXTERNAL PRIORITIES		
Communications	Governance	Funding	Communications	Data	Partnerships
Newsletters / updates	CC&NE Steering Group	NFDC internal budget	Social media	Carbon / Climate / nature data	Hampshire County Council
Staff / member training	Portfolio Holder	Central Government	External webpages	Public Reporting	New Forest National Park
Forest Net Resources	Decision making	Private investment	Public events	External verification	Professional organisations
BUSINESS AS USUAL IMPROVEMENTS					
CC&NE principles embedded in NFDC culture & services			Residents, businesses, visitors support CC&NE principles		

Table 12: NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency Programme Management

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 The governance framework created in 2022 to support the initial response to the Climate Change and Nature Strategy can be seen at Appendix 3. This will be reviewed in 2023, as per the Action Plan.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 A wide range of activities were carried out by NFDC and our partners in 2022 to positively address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency. A number of these activities will continue into 2023 and beyond, either through one-off project delivery or as business-as-usual activities.

8.2 Baseline data for utilities consumption and carbon emissions has been presented for NFDC, with narrative provided to explain scope, exclusions and limitations. Area-wide emissions figures have been included to show progress against the legally binding national target of net zero carbon by 2050, with comparisons drawn between neighbouring Hampshire districts.

8.3 In Summer 2023, a new Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028 will be proposed to Cabinet to drive progress towards nationally and locally adopted environmental targets. The Strategy will be aligned to three prioritised programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery. Programme management and governance arrangements have been outlined and will be further developed in early 2023 as the Action Plan 2023-2028 is finalised.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A one-off £500,000 budget was included in the Council's 2022/23 Capital Programme to support the delivery of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan. The proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 – 2025/26 includes an annual £250,000 to further support this work, with investments subject to an assessment of financial viability and a wider sustainability appraisal.

9.2 Although the budget set aside is a clear signal of intent from the Council to focus financial resource in this area, this budget will be insufficient to deliver all projects within the Action Plan and therefore projects will be prioritised, and funding further supplemented on a case-by-case basis where clear invest-to-save projections are attached. Sources of external funding will also be maximised through the delivery of the action plan, to include central government grants (e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme), match-funding (e.g. SALIX recycling fund), public

investment (e.g. community bonds) and private investment (e.g. commercial entities, landowners etc).

- 9.3 It should be noted that due to the large number, scale and complexity of actions within the Action Plan, factors such as officer time, technology, resource availability, procurement, legal and planning considerations will exacerbate budget pressures. Some projects will be relatively quick and straightforward to deliver with short-term returns on investment e.g. LED lighting replacement; but others will take months or years to deliver, requiring acceptance of longer term benefit realisation e.g. large scale renewable energy installations. Anticipated timescales, resource implications and funding requirements over a 5-year+ period will be reflected in the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy, to be reviewed by Cabinet in Summer 2023.
- 9.4 As highlighted in Section 4 of this report, any change in scope will potentially impact the financial risk for NFDC. The severity of climate change experienced will also affect the pace and degree to which we will need to act, having knock on financial implications to ensure appropriate resourcing of activities and effective mitigation of risk.

10. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None arising directly from this report.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 All measures within the Action Plan will have a positive impact on the environment.

12. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Action Plan includes actions which are likely have both positive and potentially negative impacts on persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic. These include, but are not limited to, social justice in terms of carbon and climate resilience and fuel poverty. A key strand of developing the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be to fully assess the potential impacts of the actions and incorporate mitigation measures as necessary.

13. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 None arising directly from this report.

14. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 14.1 The Annual Update provides a comprehensive update on a subject which touches on every aspect of our lives and of those to come after us. The Strategic Direction described in section 6 outlines the three main programmes of work which are to be undertaken and confirms this Council's determination to address Climate Change. I commend this report and look forward to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028 which is to be proposed to Cabinet later this year.

For further information contact:

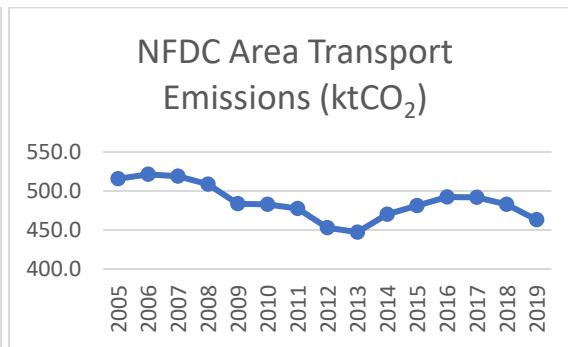
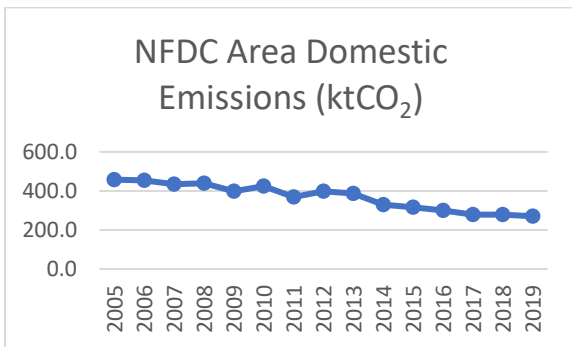
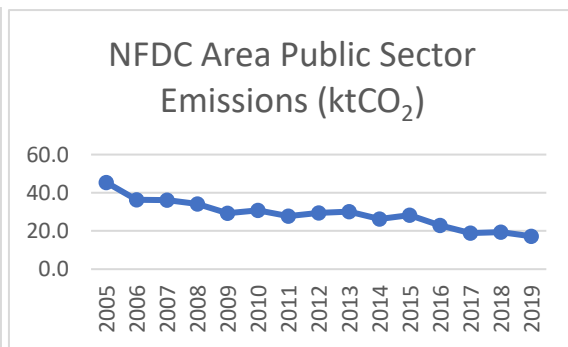
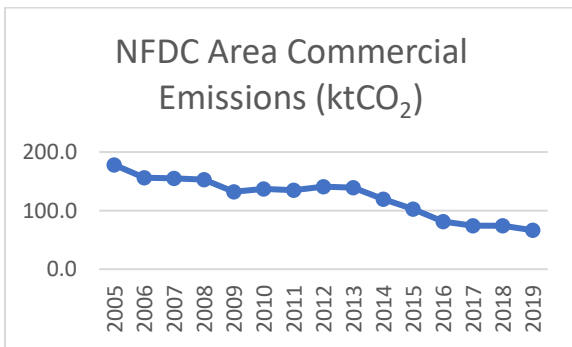
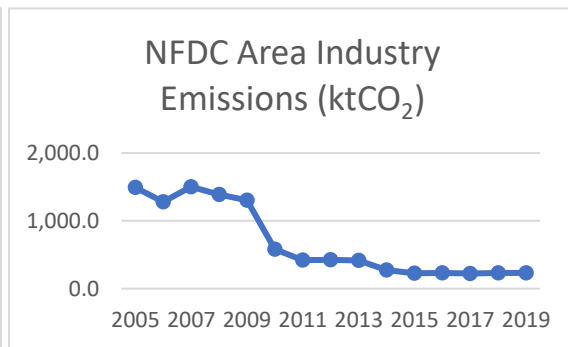
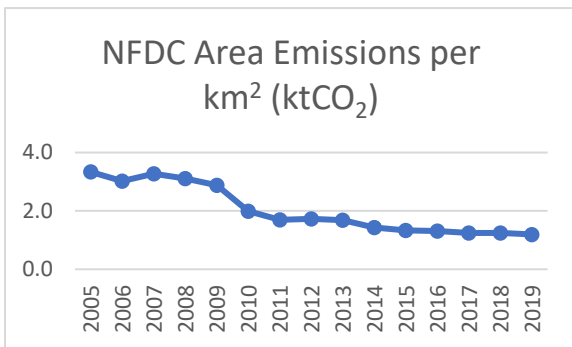
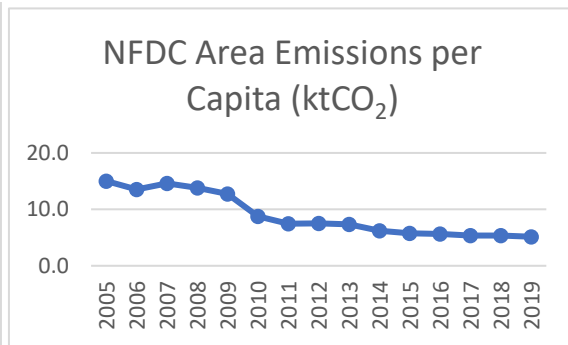
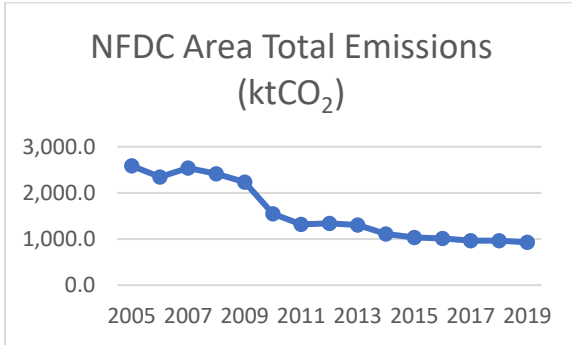
Claire Upton-Brown
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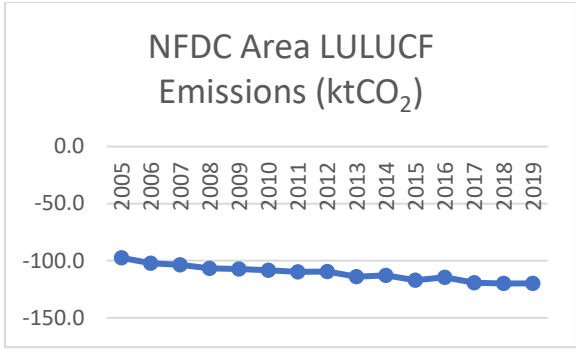
Roxanne King
Climate Change Manager
023 8028 5988
Roxanne.king@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

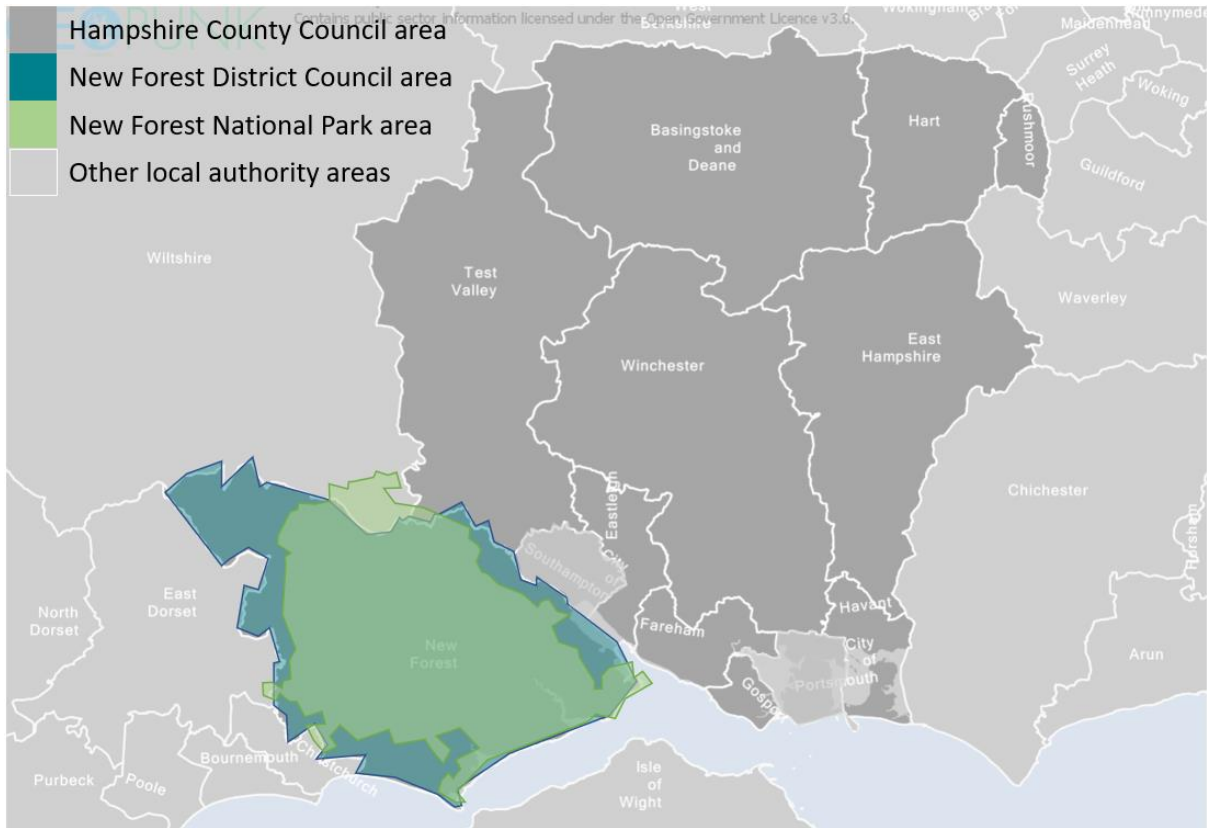
SUMMARY CHARTS OF NFDC LOCAL AREA EMISSIONS DATA (2005 TO 2019)

Data can be accessed at [2005-19_UK_local_and_regional_CO2_emissions.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://live.com)





BOUNDARIES OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL AND NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

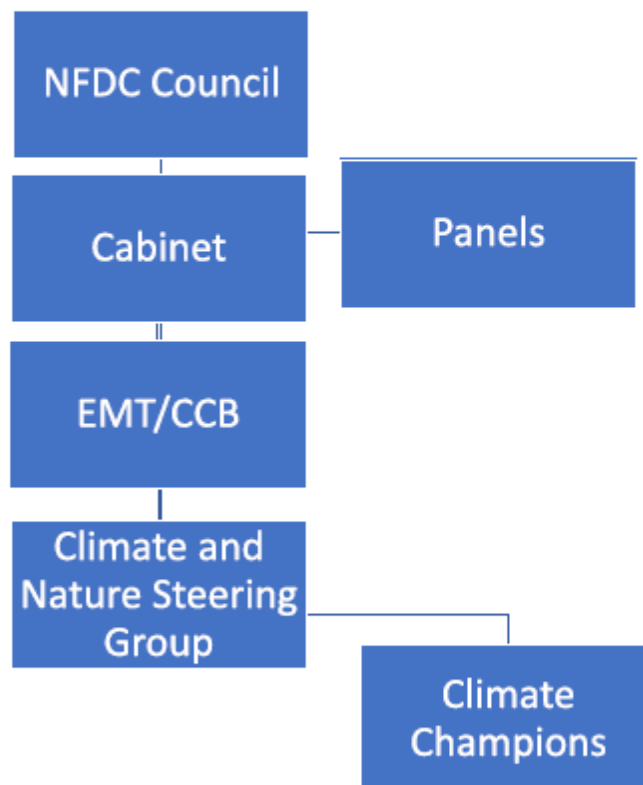


CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE EMERGENCY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK 2022

Climate and Nature Governance

New Forest District Council declared a Climate and nature emergency in October 2021 and took a subsequent report to Council in February 2022 which outlined an approach to governance of this cross-cutting area of work. The responsibilities of the different groups outlined in the report are expanded upon in this document.

Key internal decision-making bodies and influencing groups are shown below. The diagram shows the accountability for decision-making, and more widely how communication will work between the key groups. Over time there will also be connections to wider groups within the community and business sectors in the new Forest, and across Hampshire.



Council

Council has responsibility for setting the overall policy which was established in the Council’s declaration of a Climate Change and Nature Emergency in October 2021, and which set the direction for the initial action plan.

Cabinet

Cabinet has oversight of the delivery of the strategic actions set out in the Action Plan 2022-23 and for the development and delivery of a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2023 – 2028. It will consider as a minimum an annual report on delivery of the action plan.

Overview and Scrutiny Panels

As outlined in the Council report the Panels have been asked to take a lead role in considering climate and nature impacts across their remit, to make recommendations to Cabinet, and to oversee performance against this cross-cutting agenda as it relates to their remit. Panels may set up task and finish groups to more fully develop policy and recommendations across major thematic areas of work. For example the Greener Housing task and finish group.

It is proposed that each Panel will have an annual update on the Climate and nature emergency in the autumn. This will then contribute to the development of an annual update to Cabinet.

Climate and Nature Steering Group (CNG)

Terms Of Reference

1. Purpose

The CNG will share best practice, promote initiatives to reduce carbon, to identify opportunities of cross service working and facilitate behaviour change in the Council and its operations and wider community.

2. Responsibilities

- To provide oversight and guidance in relation to achieving the Council's objectives.
- To share best practice, promote initiatives to create habitats, deliver biodiversity net gain and carbon off set projects.
- To update EMT and the Leader and Cabinet as appropriate.
- To promote use of Capital and Change Board to resource and approve change initiatives.
- To co-ordinate and facilitate the engagement and consideration of this agenda by the O&S Panels.
- To identify, initiate and monitor projects to reduce carbon in the council and community.
- To identify, initiate and monitor projects that make a positive contribution to the nature environment.
- To review and monitor the strategy and action plan delivery.
- To track performance against targets across the Council and for each service area.

3. Membership

Membership is outlined as follows

Name	Role
Kate Ryan	Chair
Claire Upton-Brown	Exec Head lead and Deputy Chair
Chris Noble	Waste
Richard Knott/Tim Davis	Housing
Jo McClay	Environmental health
Steve Cook	Coastal
Mark Williams	Planning
Chris Hodsmen	Ecological and biodiversity
Samantha Wills	Buildings (energy efficiency and use)
Gary Jarvis	Procurement (utilities and general)
Simon Cooper	Transport (staff and fleet)
Sara Hamilton	Communications
TBC	Representative of Climate champions
Emma Waterman	Steering group support

4. Meeting Arrangements

Frequency

The CNG will meet bi-monthly with a work programme supplemented by a decision cut off one week before on items that will be included.

Standing Agenda Items

- Bid development and funding opportunities
- Action Plan 22-23 delivery
- O&S Panel updates
- Items for consideration from Climate champions

5. Climate champions

- When there is a dedicated climate resource they will establish and co-ordinate the Climate champions.
- Officers may volunteer or be nominated for the role of Climate Champion as they have an interest in climate action, carbon reduction, nature recovery, biodiversity and wider sustainability.
- Preferably there should be a champion for each key service area.
- Champions can be engaged through emails, virtual groups and meetings.
- They should aim to share best practice and facilitate behaviour change in their service area as well as make recommendations to the Climate and Nature Officer Group.
- Champions will not receive additional remuneration for their role but be given time to promote best practice during their agreed working hours and attend meetings as required.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2022 UPDATE

Project Area	NATURE - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Biodiversity Net Gain	Prepare and publish a biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to build upon future mandatory requirements (10% Biodiversity Net Gain) and provide local context and requirements for developers including biodiversity design code and case studies. Biodiversity design code to include one nesting/roosting feature per dwelling average, hedgehog highways etc as standard.	Through the completion and adoption of the strategy	Integration of biodiversity enhancement measures and best practice as part of developments.	Nature and well-being	Draft SPD in development	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Explore potential for and cost of incorporating swift boxes in NFDC assets as part of scheduled planned maintenance e.g., re-roofing projects, soffits, fascias etc where access at height will be gained. Explore potential links with Hampshire Swifts.	Preparation of a costed plan to seek approval for this initiative. If successful, record the number of boxes installed, when and where and map these assets.	Greater nesting opportunities for the red listed swift (and other red listed species such as house sparrow). Improve their conservation status within the New Forest area.	Nature	Work continuing into 2023	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Explore NFDC landholdings to establish if there are any areas which could be suitable to deliver biodiversity net gain (BNG) projects. Seek to incorporate BNG into existing projects such as recreation mitigation sites.	Schedule of potential land parcels to be established. Proposals for individual projects that may arise from the land holding search.	Identify and deliver BNG projects	Nature, economic	Assessments underway as part of Green Infrastructure Strategy development	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Early introduction of requirements set out in the Environment Act 2021 to require development to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain. Local planning guidance on implementation published.	Biodiversity Net Gain metric	10% biodiversity net gain	Nature, health and wellbeing, environmental quality	Projects being delivered within larger scale developments with monitoring	Yes - Nature Recovery
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy - a strategy to consider delivery of SMP management policies for flood & coastal erosion risk management activities.	Through the completion and adoption of the strategy	Delivery of an action plan of FCERM schemes that will consider future flood and erosion risk. Nature based solutions may be form part of the action plan. Taking account of future climate change.	Economic and social	Strategy developing	Yes - Climate Adaptation
	Hurst Spit to Lymington Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy - A strategy to consider delivery of SMP management policies for flood & coastal erosion risk management activities.	Through the completion and adoption of the strategy	Delivery of an action plan of FCERM schemes that will consider future flood and erosion risk. Nature based solutions may form part of the action plan. Taking account of future climate change.	Economic, nature and social	Strategy developing	Yes - Climate Adaptation
	Durlston to Hurst Sediment Resource Management Programme - identifying sediment sources to enable sustainable beach management.	By identifying suitable sites & implementing FCERM activities.		Nature & economic	Ongoing activity	Yes - Climate Adaptation
Habitat Preservation / Creation	Implement Grass Strategy to improve efficiency of grass cutting and introducing wildflowers. Trial will start in Totton working in partnership with Totton Town Council	Number of wildflower meadows created	Increase on pollination sources for bees and insects. Increase in habitat and biodiversity	Nature and well-being	Draft strategy in development	Yes - Nature Recovery
Tree Planting	Jubilee Tree Planting. Engage with local communities where possible and practical	Number of Trees planted in Support of Queens Jubilee	30 Locations for 60 trees and one site for woodland pasture creation	Nature, Health and wellbeing	60 trees planted successfully	No - complete
	Delivery of 'Tree Strategy'	Recording number of Replacement trees planted annually to meet 2:1 commitment	Achieve 2:1 ratio	Nature and Health	Current Strategy to be reviewed	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Require new development to plant trees	Through the assessment/sign off of a planning approval and the imposition of a planning condition	Planting carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and maintained until the trees become established	Nature and health	Being delivered in new developments	No - within another action
Local Green Infrastructure Strategies	Preparing local green Infrastructure Strategies for main settlements within the district. Pilot project for New Milton; others to follow for: Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden, Fawley/Blackfield/Holbury, Lymington & Pennington, Ringwood, Fordingbridge/Ashford/Sandleheath, Milford on Sea	Completion of local settlement strategies	GI improvement projects in: Signage of walking routes, making green spaces interesting places, improving accessibility for all, pleasant places to sit and enjoy, improve enjoyment and management of accessible woodland, Enhancing local biodiversity, Enhancement of water features, Greening streets	Nature, health and well-being	New Milton pilot area completed, process review and strategy development underway	Yes - Nature Recovery
Local Nature Recovery Strategy & Network	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a flagship measure in the Environment Act. They are a new system of spatial strategies for nature which will plan, map, and help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment in nature's recovery to build the national Nature Recovery Network. Work with others to establish key locations within the District for nature recovery projects. Input into the LNRS seeking to agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals	Through the completion and adoption of the strategy	Prioritisation for delivery of biodiversity net gain habitats in most appropriate and desirable areas in line with LNRS	Nature, Health, social, economic	To be delivered by HCC - NFDC to support when required	Yes - Nature Recovery

Project Area	HOUSING - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
New Developments	Changes to the building regulations come in from June 2022 which require improved minimum insulation requirements, future proofing of heating systems and limiting solar overheating. The Building Regulations are minimum government set standards that all new and extended buildings must comply with. the approved documents which clarify the changes can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/approved-documents	Compliance with the approved documents	This is applicable to all new build and extensions and will be assessed at application stage and completion	Nature, Health, Economic	Compliance achieved through Building Control	No - complete
	Prepare Supplementary Planning Document: Planning for a changing climate (adaptation, mitigation, related matters e.g. sustainable resource use)	Report to Cabinet for agreement to publish for public consultation Feb 2022. Report to Council for formal adoption (TBC Q3 2022)	SPD adoption by Autumn 2023	Social, economic	SPD development underway	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Local Plan Review Part 2 : prepare additional Local Plan policies on climate change mitigation and adaption to achieve zero carbon development, expanding on the LP Part 1 and above SPD.	The Local Plan timetable is monitored through the published Local Development Scheme	Indicative target for adoption by 2025	May include carbon offsetting and higher water efficiency standards that could have nature benefits, recreation/wellbeing/landscape and BNG if carbon offsets are local e.g. tree planting projects	Local Plan development	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Working at strategic level in the Avon Valley to identify mechanisms to reduce or offset nutrient phosphate impacting - in conjunction with reducing flows due in part to Climate Change - on water bodies in designated SPA	Nutrient budget based on development trajectory. Mitigation project not sufficiently advanced to monitor	Private sector led mitigation solutions	Economic, social	Nutrient reduction and offset projects underway	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Delivery of BREEAM very good designation for Business Park development at Crow Lane Ringwood	Project Management and reporting as the project is delivered	Delivery of BREEAM very good designation for the development	Economic	BREEAM very good achieved	No - complete
Greener Housing	A Greener Housing Strategy 2022-2031 is due to go through the decision process of Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council, whereby a full action plan will follow. The proposal will include areas such as: -Completing stock condition surveys by 2024 -Retrofit cost modelling -Future heating systems -Identifying funding opportunities	Greener Housing Strategy 2022-2031	All council homes with an EPC Rating of C or better	Economic	Greener Housing Strategy adopted and appointment of Delivery Manager Nov 22. Strategy delivery underway	Yes - Climate Adaptation
	Pilot scheme Testwood Club. Confirm new build standards. Locations. Establish Future heating systems. Explore Low carbon building process. Work with Planning to establish standards across the sector in the NF.	Greener Housing Strategy 2022-2031	Delivery of Testwood Site and learning post completion feeding in to following schemes	Economic	Testwood site to be an exemplar of sustainable construction	Yes - Programme Management
Affordable Warmth	The Greener Housing Strategy 2022-2031 will also address affordable warmth: -Understand the data -Education & communication -Landlord Forum -Fuel Poverty initiatives -Partnerships -HCC -Grant funding	Greener Housing Strategy 2022-2031	Successful grant bids from, or for, the private housing sector in the New Forest	Economic, social	Greener Housing Strategy adopted and appointment of Delivery Manager Nov 22. Strategy delivery underway	No - within another action
Resilient Developments	Ensure that a new development is designed to ensure that it captures surface water and allows it to percolate into the ground rather than being discharged into existing watercourse and outlets. The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) can achieve this action.	Through the assessment of planning applications and the technical input of the Environment Agency	New development is carried out in accordance with the scheme that has been approved by NFDC and the Environment Agency	Nature, health and economic	Number of schemes approved in 2022	Yes - Climate Adaptation
	Ensure that a new development is designed in a way to make it resilient to climate change. An example being when a proposal relates to land that has the potential to flood (from sea, river or surface water) in an extreme event, is designed to provide resilience. This can be achieved through requiring floor levels to be higher than would normally be approved. Similarly, new development can be designed to reduce the impact of increasing in temperatures by making use of shading opportunities, tree planting, window positions.	Assessing details through the planning application process and ensuring that development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans	Facilitating the delivery of homes and other development that is less susceptible to the impacts of climate change	Environmental, economic and social	All schemes approved in 2022 designed to be resilient to climate change.	Yes - Climate Adaptation
Recreation Impact Mitigation	Having in place appropriate mitigation strategies - for example Recreational Mitigation Strategy where adverse impacts arising from new development cannot be avoided, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to address adverse impacts https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1938/Recreational-Mitigation-Strategy	Health and status of nature conservation sites and protected species	Delivering improved landscapes and habitat creation, providing recreational opportunities close to homes reducing need for travel and reducing pressure on sensitive habitats within the National Park	Nature, health and wellbeing, environmental quality	Recreational mitigation schemes delivered or in development	Yes - Nature Recovery
	Working with Bird Aware to implement its mitigation strategy in Solent/Southampton Water. Where adverse impacts arising from new development cannot be avoided, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are in place to address adverse impacts https://birdaware.org/	Health of designated sites	Supporting behaviour change and reducing impact on overwintering birds	Nature, health, economy	Support for strategy through partnership working in the Solent Water area	Yes - Nature Recovery

Project Area	TRAVEL & TRANSPORT - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Active Travel	Consider the introduction of employee benefit schemes such as the Cycle to Work Scheme	Uptake of staff in the schemes provided	Introduction of schemes that staff engage with	Health, Staff Engagement	Cycle to Work scheme launched as	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Green travel plans for all the leisure centres & installation of upgrades to secure bike racks	NFDC to monitor. Installation of the upgrade bike racks.	Execution of the plans and evidence of the bike racks being upgraded.	Health, economic and social	Work to continue on green travel plans and associated infrastructure	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Work with developers to achieve schemes that maximise the ability for residents to access facilities, employment and recreation by foot/cycle. This can be achieved through creating mixed use developments that either include services/employment opportunities or are designed to include simple, attractive non-vehicular routes to such locations	Through negotiations on planning application and associated Travel plans. On going monitoring	A reduction in the proportion of residents being able to access facilities without using a motor vehicle	Health, economic and social	Number of new or improved cycling and walking routes approved adn funded through new development	Yes - Carbon Reduction
Reducing Travel	Implement home and site working to reduce the need to commute to the centre of the New Forest and to reduce travel	Staff feedback and workload monitoring	Continued service delivery	Nature, Health, Economic	Online and remote working facilitated through ICT upgrades	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Continue to monitor the effectiveness of hybrid working and in particular the effect on performance management and cross-cutting collaboration	Through completion of performance reviews. 1-21 feedback on delivery of corporate projects	Reduced carbon emission from home to work commute mileage	Environmental and wellbeing	Monitoring throughout 2022 and evaluation through Staff Survey	No - within another action
	Partnership with Hythe ferry which allows discounted parking in NFDC car park for ferry users thus reducing vehicles driving in/out of Waterside in and out of Southampton	Increase in Hythe ferry concession parking sales	Aim for increased passenger number on Hythe ferry	Health	Continue through 2023	No - within another action
Transport Emissions	Review and revise the Taxi Licensing Policy with consideration to policy on licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles (age and emissions)	Review, revision, consultation of taxi licensing policy.	Council adoption	Health	Policy development underway	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Increase charges for larger engine vessels and those on wall moorings to encourage smaller engines and sail craft	Numbers of smaller engine vessels in use	Reduction in larger engines vessels	Health, nature	Higher launching fees for more polluting vessels	No - complete
Renewable Fuel	Review vehicle and plant replacement programme and identify options for lowering emissions, including but not limited to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and electrification.	Officer working group is developing a scope for this review in January 2022.	Completion of review in 2022, with the aim of reducing overall emissions from fleet and plant.	Local air quality improvements, possible whole system cost reduction over life of vehicle/plant (case-by-case basis).	Alternative fuel briefing note produced and HVO trial carried out in 2022	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Conversion of all appropriate Grounds and Street scene Fleet to operate on Battery or Biofuel	Annual review of Fleet replacement and procurement	% substitution annually as and when Tech is available	Nature, Health, Economic	Alternative fuel briefing not produced and HVO trial carried out in 2022 - fleet replacement strategy being implemented	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Increase number of electric vehicle charge points in car parks to help reduce emissions. By end of 2021, 29 fast chargers were installed.	Number of charge points installed	Aim for at least 10 more double chargers by 31/12/22	Economic	Additional EV chargers installed in NFDC car parks	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Aim to replace vehicles with Electric vehicles when replacements due. Currently have 2	Number of Electric vehicles	Aim for 2 more by end of 2022	Economic	Operating 4 electric fleet vehicles	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Require new residential development to install infrastructure to allow occupants to have a vehicle charging point	Ability to check that all relevant planning approvals have the necessary charging point condition	All new dwellings and commercial uses will have the ability to charge electrical vehicles from their homes/premises	Improvements to air quality benefitting health and nature	To be supported through new Local Plan and in NFDC developments	Yes - Carbon Reduction

Project Area	WASTE & SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Waste Management	Develop and implement a new Domestic Waste Strategy for household waste https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk/documents/s20939/Waste%20Strategy%20Update%20RPT.pdf	Development of strategy will be measured via its adoption by the Council in 2022. Implementation will follow, and its delivery will be monitored via key performance indicators which will be included within the strategy document.	Adoption of strategy in 2022, and a subsequent reduction in the carbon impact of household waste generated in the NFDC area	Mitigating natural resource loss, compliance with Government regulations, more economically efficient waste service.	Waste Strategy adopted	No - complete
	Require new development to provide, as part of their Construction Environment Management Plan, a statement outlining the measures that they are taking to reduce the environmental impact of development. e.g. recycling/separation of waste, routing of construction vehicles, dust control, no burning on site etc.	Through the assessment of a planning application and the imposition of suitably worded precommencement planning condition.	Developers carrying out the works in accordance with an approved scheme that seeks to reduce the environmental impact of the construction phase	Nature, health, social and economic	To be supported through new Local Plan	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Review best practice and ensure proper storage of waste with rising temperatures and the impact on local residents from fires, odour and pests	Review during inspections and monitoring of complaints/services requests	Reduction in waste and improved storage, reducing impact on neighbourhood	Health, Nature	Waste strategy encourages better containment of waste - bins etc. Transfer stations managed by HCC	No - complete
Waste Prevention	The building control service to be 95% paperless in the service delivery and record storage	Through the monitoring of applications received	95% paperless service	Nature, economic	All files and communications are electronic where possible and scanning of paper files is underway to convert to electronic archiving	No - complete
	Installation of 'Water Fillers' to reduce plastic waste	Number of sites with Water Fillers installed.	Reduction in single use plastic. Water meter can record level of refilling	Nature	Water bottle refill stations introduced at locations across the district, including some public toilets	No - complete
	Using paperless systems	Worksmart completed applications	Reduced amount of waste	Economic	Online working practices supported	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Reduction in paper and storage	Performance monitoring and staff feedback	Improved efficiency of officers	Nature	Online archiving and use of paperless systems in place	No - within another action
Sustainable Resources	Cease the use of Peat or Peat Related Products	Alternative composts and soil amendments to be used in all circumstances	No peat products in stores	Nature	No peat or peat related products were purchased in 2022	No - complete
Fly Tipping Enforcement	New post of Environmental Crime Enforcement Officer	Increase in fines and prosecutions and overall reduction in large fly tips in NFDC area	Increase in fine revenue and bringing more offenders to court	Nature, economic, social	Small team of enforcement officers in post - income from fines in December 2022 was £5665	No - complete

Project Area	ENERGY - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Energy Efficiency	Through replacement of old plant and machinery within the leisure centres, Freedom Leisure aim to save 900 tonnes of CO2 over the 11 year contract term with NFDC	Monthly KPI contract monitoring by the contract monitoring officer	Through contract monitoring, to be able to report back a clear reduction in CO2 consumption	Economic	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	To save 88,500kwh of electricity per year and 123,000kwh of gas per year in Leisure centres, with a £51,800 reduction in energy costs per annum	Monthly KPI contract monitoring by the contract monitoring officer	Through contract monitoring, to be able to report back a clear reduction in electricity and gas consumption and associated energy costs	Economic	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
Renewable Energy	Consider renewable energy and sustainable options when Building and Refurbishing Public Toilets	Consider Solar panels, Solar Lighting, Rain harvesting Heat Exchangers etc	At least one Energy efficient solution in each of the 23 PC's	Economic	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Mobile surveillance cameras to catch fly tipping etc to be solar powered	Number installed per year	Reduction in fly tipping	Economic	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Supported Hampshire County Council's Solar Together scheme, providing the opportunity for homeowners to buy high quality solar panels at a competitive price through a group-buying model.	Number of households registering. Solar panels installed. Estimated CO2 saved.	Increase in residential renewable energy generation	Social	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Conversion of all 2 Stroke Petrol Grounds Maintenance Equipment to Battery Power	Annual audit of equipment and procurement specs.	% Equipment replaced annually with final target 100%	Nature and Health	Business case in development	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Install 50 Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) in rural off-gas Council-owned properties	Installation of 50 ASHPs. Project managed through to end of August with procured contractor.	Installation of 50 ASHPs.	Economic	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Upgrade Solar Panels on civic buildings (ATC, LTH)	Internal management and reporting	Upgrade Solar panels at LTH and ATC	Economic	Works completed in 2022	No - complete
All ticket machines in car parks to be solar powered (no mains)	All installed machines from 2017 solar powered (no mains supply)	Achieved and ongoing as new machines ordered to replace older machines will also be solar powered	Economic	All car parking machines are solar powered	No - complete	

Project Area	HEALTH - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Air Quality	Monitoring of air quality in the new forest	Assessing air pollutant levels in accordance with the National Air Quality Strategy	Production of LAQM Annual Status Reports which are reported to DEFRA	Health nature	Monitoring ongoing	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	The Clean Air Strategy sets out plans to improve air quality in the New Forest, improve health and protect the environment.	Completion and adoption of a Clean Air Strategy	Council adoption and delivery of an action plan	Health, nature	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Promotion of cleaner burning in open fires, stoves and bonfires. Campaign extended to monitor pollutants associated with burning using sensors with the aim to provide further information to the public and inform decision making	Delivery and evaluation of the burn better campaign in conjunction with the Environment Centre and other Hampshire Local Authorities	Greater public awareness and behaviour change	Health nature	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Permitted processes (LAPPC) Working with businesses to ensure compliance with regulations and emission limits, including implementation of best available techniques and technology to reduce emissions to air	Routine site inspections (6months 3years)	Inspections to ensure compliance is met and annual reporting to DEFRA	Health, Nature	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
	Preparation of Supplementary Planning Document for Air Quality in New Development	Report to Cabinet for agreement to publish for public consultation.	Council adoption	Health, nature	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Carbon Reduction
Health & Safety	Monitoring of pests/invasive species such as mosquitos/possible diseases	Local plan for monitoring and response to invasive mosquitos	Surveillance and response where necessary	Health	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Climate Adaptation
	Advice on working in more extreme temperatures - health and safety impacts of extreme hot or cold	Monitoring of service requests and national statistics	Improved working environments and reduction in work related ill health	Health	To be considered in 2023	Yes - Climate Adaptation
Emergency Planning	Emergency planning and business continuity policies in place	Review of processes in place including business continuity to deal with emergency response	NFDC protected and able to continue to deliver critical services	Economic	Existing policies to be reviewed in 2023	Yes - Climate Adaptation
Community Resilience to Climate Change	Residents and businesses are informed on the risks associated with climate change (excess heat and cold, flooding, water shortage, poor air quality) site specific flood evaluation plans	Processes in place to mitigate against an emergency response requirement	Communities and businesses are protected through robust local plans	Health and nature	Ongoing engagement through comms and events	Yes - Programme Management
	Working with partners to improve health and wellbeing of residents	Develop an action plan with priorities which support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy	enable them to better live with climate change impacts	Health	Ongoing work with partners	No - within another action

Project Area	ORGANISATIONAL - Action	Indicators	Outcome(s)	Co-benefits	Progress 2022	Carried into 2023 Action Plan
Corporate Plan	Overall commitment and strategic direction for sustainability within the corporate plan https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2836/Leaders-portfolio	Regular reporting on delivery of corporate plan to overview and scrutiny panels	Sustainability is at the centre of decisions	Corporate	Corporate commitment in place and to continue	Yes - Programme Management
Carbon Baseline Data	Collection and use of data on the carbon emissions of the Council's estate	Internal management and reporting	Completion and use of carbon emissions data collection tool provided by LGA	Economic, Health	Data collection, interpretation and reporting underway	Yes - Carbon Reduction
Procurement	Review current procurement strategy wording to ensure it reflects the Climate & Nature Emergency declaration. The Procurement Strategy 2018-22 already covers our approach to Environmental Impact by having a targeted approach based on each procurement project (contract). All service teams to put climate impact front and centre when developing 'wants and needs' of specification. Tender response forms to include a scored element to assess bidder's offers. Bids to be evaluated with climate change scoring built in. https://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/698/Procurement-Strategy/pdf/Procurement_Strategy_201822_v4.00_Mar21.pdf?m=637499445812770000	Each Procurement Project to test the impact of the service requirement upon the Environment. Outcome specifications (a key component of every tender) to set out the Environmental opportunities. Awarded contracts to be Monitored for delivery of such opportunities (via KPIs and good news outcomes).	The Procurement Strategy to support the Councils aims and objectives in the Climate Change & Emergency Action Plan. Decisions made by Council, EMT and Service Managers to be communicated to our suppliers via the tendering of contracts with built-in provision for Environmental change.	Nature, Health, Economic & Social	Sustainability and climate considerations with NFDC Temper documents. Policies and templates to be reviewed in 2023	Yes - Programme Management
	All Contracts to be managed and monitored to ensure delivery to the Councils specification and that a continual improvement cycle is locked in. Environmental impacts to be measured and reported. "If you do not measure it - you will not improve it"	Innovations that contribute to the Climate and Nature Emergency are achieved and reported upon. Resilience to be driven by effective contract management in each Service. KPIs specifically targeted to track Environmental performance goals to be baked into the contract specification and delivery outcomes.	Commitment by our suppliers to deliver positive contributions to the Climate & Nature Emergency. NFDC Services to report back via contract management channel to EMT/Council. Contract Administrators to measure and report on Innovations (Service led and Supplier Led) that impact on Climate & Nature Emergency.	Nature, Health, Economic & Social	Cto be considered in 2023	Yes - Programme Management

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE EMERGENCY – INTERNAL COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2023:

CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME			
Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
Sustainable policies, plans, services and procurements	BAU	Embed carbon reduction as a priority within all council activities - what we do and how we do it - including reduced travel, only essential procurement, waste reduction e.g. paperless working, online archiving	Efficient/shared resource use
Depot electrification	Fleet	Carry out building and infrastructure upgrades to facilitate transition to EV fleet and other electrical requirements	Reduced CO2e emissions from fleet and staff commuting; electricity resilience to protect service delivery
Sustainable fleet replacement	Fleet	Ensure that vehicle replacement programme prioritises more sustainable fuel types e.g. EV/hydrogen/ULEV/active travel. This includes all vehicle types - cars/vans/RCVs	Reduced CO2e emissions from fleet; climate leadership; reduced fossil fuel dependency; improved fuel security; improved air and water quality; reduced carbon offset liability; uptake of active travel schemes e.g. Cycle to Work
Service delivery optimisation	Fleet	Evaluate and adapt routes/operational practices to deliver lower emissions through reduced mileage, optimised vehicles etc	CO2e, fuel and time savings; minimal investment required
Building Fabric / insulation	Gas	Assess all corporately owned buildings and improve building fabric (particularly roof and wall insulation, doors and windows) to retain heat and reduce energy bills	Lower energy bills; reduced CO2e; climate leadership; improved building conditions; prolonged building life; opportunities for building use optimisation
Building Management Systems	Gas	Installation of BMS systems and supporting equipment to reduce energy wastage and optimise building conditions	Stable internal climate; less dependency on heating/cooling /ventilation;

Boiler replacement	Gas	Assess and replace inefficient boilers in NDFC occupied and leased properties where required - gas/oil to be replaced with heat pumps, destratification technology etc where appropriate	Reduced CO2e emissions; fuel efficiency; use of green technology
LED lighting in buildings	Electric	Replacement of lighting (bulbs and fittings) to new LEDs throughout corporate estate	Reduced CO2e emissions; reduced energy demand; better lighting conditions and controls; fast payback on investment
Street lighting	Electric	Replacement of NFDC-owned street lighting (bulbs and fittings) to new LEDs - in conjunction with HCC if appropriate	Reduced CO2e emissions; reduced energy demand; better lighting conditions and controls; fast payback on investment
Renewable energy - installed	Electric	Installation of renewable energy on NFDC owned land or in partnership with landowner	Reduced CO2e emissions; improved energy security; biodiversity opportunities around installation; possibility for community investment/stewardship
Renewable energy - purchased	Electric	Investigate opportunities for PPA contract to purchase renewable energy direct from a local supplier	Reputational benefits of purchasing locally generated energy; long term fixed electricity rates; support local green economy; future training/education on site

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
Service risk assessment, adaptation plans and comms	BAU	Understand and communicate climate risks to services and develop effective adaptation plans to secure safety and service delivery	Upskilling staff; improved emergency preparedness; reduced health and safety/financial/legal/ reputational risk from climate change impacts

Location risk assessment	Buildings	Undertake risk assessments of all existing corporate buildings in regard to the location/situation of buildings and the expected impacts of climate change e.g. flooding, coastal erosion, storm exposure	Reduce risk of service impacts; safeguard assets and staff; identify opportunities for building fabric/use improvements; positive deflection of risks e.g. water gardens
Temperature adaptation	Buildings	Understand the ability of buildings and their inhabitants to adapt to extremely hot and cold temperatures e.g. over heating, natural shading, passive ventilation, insulation	Reduce risk of service impacts; safeguard assets and staff; identify opportunities for building fabric/use improvements; positive deflection of risks e.g. food growing, cold storage
Storm resilience	Buildings	Assess ability of buildings to withstand storm damage from direct (e.g. wind) and indirect (e.g. tree fall) sources, including appropriate SUDs	Reduce financial/insurance/legal liability from pre-existing risks
Natural assets e.g. open space	Assets	Assess risk climate change impacts pose to natural assets e.g. tree/plant health, water retention, soil composition, water quality, agricultural potential, community access and use	Protection of ecosystem services; habitat protection
Fixed assets e.g. bins	Assets	Assess ability of fixed assets to withstand climate change impacts e.g. melting point of materials, strength of fixings, maintenance of moving parts	Reduced maintenance and replacement costs; reduced waste; health and safety
Vehicles e.g. fleet / grey	Assets	Ensure vehicles (existing and planned upgrades) are able to withstand extreme weather conditions or that emergency provisions are in place for short-term conditions e.g. snow/ice, temperature control, flooding	Reduced maintenance and replacement costs; reduced waste; health and safety
Climate Champions	Staff	Upskill staff and use champions network to identify climate risks and develop solutions that are appropriate for the area/service	Staff engagement/upskilling/ retention; better support for initiatives
Emergency preparedness	Staff	Ensure staff are aware of how to act in emergency situations related to climate impacts e.g. snow, flooding, heatwaves	Health and wellbeing of staff; increased resilience of service delivery; expedited resolution of emergency situation

Business continuity	Staff	Ensure business continuity plans provide a robust solution for all anticipated climate change impacts, over multiple intensity/duration scenarios e.g. minor/major flooding for 1day/7days; 25°C for 3 days or 40°C for 18 days	Effective service delivery to residents; coordination of effort/ activity between NFDC/NFNPA/ HCC; efficient resource use; reduced stress for all stakeholders
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NATURE RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
Nature recovery in policies, strategies and decisions	BAU	Understand full implications of council activities on the natural environment and biodiversity	Safeguard ecosystem services; limit environmental damage and subsequent reparation; maximise carbon sequestration; reduce objections to plans/decisions
NFDC land studies	Biodiversity	Assess the size, variety and quality of natural space/habitats/ biodiversity on NFDC owned land, in addition to opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain projects	Informed land use decisions; environmental protection and enhancement; potential for staff/public involvement in surveys
Habitat protection	Biodiversity	Create plans to safeguard existing habitats and areas of natural value e.g. maintenance, access, improvements, security	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain; education and engagement
Habitat creation	Biodiversity	Actively create new habitats where conditions are favourable to encourage biodiversity net gain and/or connectivity or segregated habitats	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain/species introduction; education and engagement for staff and public
Nature corridors / habitat banking	Connectivity	Explore opportunities for the creation of 'nature corridors' to facilitate the safe movement of biodiversity across physical or administrative boundaries. This could include initiatives such as 'habitat banking' to secure and invest in pockets of land for the purpose of connectivity and environmental improvement	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain/species introduction; education and engagement for staff and public; external financial investment through habitat banking

Ecology infrastructure	Connectivity	Design and delivery of physical infrastructure to support habitats and biodiversity e.g. green bridges/tunnels for safe movement of animals across roads/built environments	Reduced roadkill; improved environmental quality; enhanced landscape character/aesthetics; education and engagement
Local partnerships	Connectivity	Continued engagement in local partnerships to ensure that natural habitats and movement of species are actively supported and not restricted by administrative boundaries	Shared responsibility; shared resources; broader engagement; access to a variety of funding streams; improved knowledge and understanding of the area
Local Plan / SPDs / Green Infrastructure Strategy	Stewardship	Adoption of a new Local Plan that prioritises sustainable land use and promotes ecological protection and enhancement. To be supported by, for example: Biodiversity SPD, Green Infrastructure Strategy, mandatory swift boxes, Climate Change SPD, nitrate and phosphate abatement	Improved natural environments; biodiversity net gain; enhanced ecosystem services; demonstration of climate leadership by planning authority
Maintenance / upkeep	Stewardship	Ensure maintenance policies and practices prioritise net environmental gain e.g. grass cutting schedule, electric equipment, long term plans, regular monitoring	Improved carbon sequestration; demonstration of climate leadership; improved air quality from electric equipment
Staff volunteering	Stewardship	Support and encourage staff to engage in nature projects	Improved health and wellbeing of staff; upskilling of staff; raised awareness of projects and outcomes; education of family and friends

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
CC&NE principles embedded in NFDC culture and services	BAU	All activity to be sustainable by design and a prioritised deliverable for all services e.g. through corporate/service risk registers, service trajectories to net zero, new build corporate/ housing designed to be low carbon and climate resilient, delivering biodiversity net gain as standard e.g. Testwood Club, SUDs	Demonstration of climate leadership; shared responsibility across services; shared resources; reduced negative impact for future mitigation

Newsletters/updates	Communications	Keep staff and NFDC stakeholders informed of climate and nature information and activities	Staff/public education and engagement; greater uptake/support for projects; evidence log of activities; demonstration of climate leadership; recognition of services/ individuals for commitment to climate action
Staff/member training	Communications	Increase knowledge and understanding of carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery to ensure effective action and embedding of principles across council services	Staff engagement; staff retention; upskilling and improved effectiveness/efficiency of work
ForestNet resources	Communications	Create repository of climate and nature resources for use by staff and members e.g. technical information, guidance notes, impact assessment tool	Shared resources reduce dependency on Climate Change Manager; staff can improve knowledge and embed principles at convenient times
CCandNE Steering Group	Governance	Continued meeting of the Climate Change and Nature Steering Group to ensure robust governance of activities and provide support to services/officers in delivery services/projects sustainably. Governance framework to be reviewed annually.	Support/advice/guidance for staff; opportunity to raise awareness of issues/opportunities; improved communication and collaborative working
Portfolio Holder	Governance	Continued engagement with Portfolio Holder on climate, nature and sustainability issues/opportunities	Raise awareness of topics; provide information/support for public/member scrutiny
Decision making	Governance	Embed climate change, nature and sustainability principles in all decision-making processes of NFDC, including report templates, overview and scrutiny, impact assessments, procurement decisions etc	All activities are contributing to direct or indirect carbon reduction/climate adaptation/ nature recovery; improved transparency of long-term impacts of NFDC decisions
NFDC internal budget	Funding	Continued revenue budget for the delivery of actions to positively address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency	Funding for projects available when needed, avoiding short term or competitive funding streams

Central Government funding	Funding	Awareness and uptake of government funding streams where aligned to NFDC priority actions around climate, nature and sustainability	Reduced local funding requirement; recognition of support for Central Government initiatives
Private investment	Funding	Awareness of alternative external funding sources, including private investors, community investment and income generating initiatives	Reduced local funding requirement; recognition as a local partner for climate action; joint bid opportunities

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE EMERGENCY – EXTERNAL AREA ACTION PLAN 2023:

CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME			
Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
Net zero infrastructure, investment and engagement	BAU	Demonstrate commitment to net zero carbon in the design and delivery of area-wide initiatives e.g. electrical infrastructure improvements, and support partners in understanding impacts and reducing emissions as a priority in all activities	Partnership working; demonstration of climate leadership; reduced carbon burden for future mitigation; progress against national and local targets; improved air quality and natural environments; contribution to reducing climate change
Solent Cluster	Industry	Engage with newly formed Solent Cluster partnership and support efforts to make the area a leading centre for low-carbon investment	Partnership working; local economic growth; protection of skilled jobs; creation of new employment opportunities; investment into carbon reduction technologies and initiatives
Industry engagement	Industry	Engage with businesses to facilitate carbon reduction, including manufacturing, energy generation and large marine companies	Partnership working; local economic growth; protection of skilled jobs; creation of new employment opportunities; investment into carbon reduction technologies and initiatives
Carbon capture and storage	Industry	Investigate opportunities for carbon capture and storage in and/or from the New Forest district area	Reduced area-wide carbon emissions; improved environmental quality; contribution to reducing climate change; job creation; investment into low-carbon technologies; recognition as a climate leader in the public sector
LTPS/LCWIP	Road Transport	Reduce travel through remote working and increase uptake of sustainable and active travel options where travelling to sites is unavoidable e.g. EV/ hydrogen/ULEV/walking/cycling/ public transport. Creation of sustainable travel plans and installation of bike racks and other sustainable travel infrastructure as part of ongoing building maintenance and investment plans	Health and wellbeing; resident/ visitor/business/staff engagement; congestion reduction; air quality improvement; water quality improvement; reduced roadkill; Reduced CO2e; reduced road congestion; improved health and wellbeing; increased patronage of local facilities including leisure; support for local green economy

EV charging network	Road Transport	Build network of EV chargers throughout NFDC area to increase uptake of electric travel to/through New Forest. Phase 2 of EV charger installations to be delivered in 2023, including electrical capacity	Reduce range anxiety; support residents in switching to EV; visitors supporting local businesses while charging
Public transport improvements	Road Transport	Partnership working with public and shared transport providers to increase uptake and efficiency of services e.g. ferries, busses, trains, taxis, community car schemes	Reduced CO2e; reduced road congestion; improved health and wellbeing; increased patronage of public transport services; support for local economy
Community Energy South	Homes	Establish a successful Community Energy Pathways Programme for the New Forest District Council area	Awareness and understanding of local energy issues; community engagement; community investment in renewable energy; increased renewable energy for NFDC area; upskilling of local residents
Retrofit / Greener Housing	Homes	Delivery of Greener Housing Strategy to improve energy efficiency, energy security, climate change resilience and reduced emissions of all homes within the NFDC district	Cost of living benefits for residents; improved living conditions/health and wellbeing; reduced fuel poverty; support of local green economy; reduced CO2e emissions; increased renewable energy generation/energy resilience; uptake of EVs; access to external funding; reputational benefits to NFDC
Local Plan	Homes	Work with developers to achieve schemes that maximise the ability for residents to access facilities/ employment/recreation by walking/ cycling, as well as enforcing sustainable construction and operation standards e.g. low carbon, local supply chain. New schemes should also include measure to promote good waste management e.g. appropriate space for segregated bins, RCV access	Improved health and wellbeing; reduced congestion; reduced CO2e; improved air quality

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME			
Activity		Objective	Co-benefits
Area risk assessment, adaptation plans and communications	BAU	Understand and communicate climate risks to residents, businesses and visitors and develop effective adaptation plans to ensure health and safety, particularly during extreme weather events	Upskilling staff; improved emergency preparedness; reduced health and safety/financial/legal/ reputational risk from climate change impacts
Built infrastructure	Flooding	Assess flooding risks (coastal/ river/surface water) to built infrastructure including buildings and roads. Ensure Local Plan requires new developments and those requesting permission for improvements to be resilient to climate change impact e.g. appropriate SUDs	Protect assets from physical damage; safeguard users of the built infrastructure; reduce legal/financial/ reputational risks from flooding; implementation of non-emergency adaptation measures; more efficient and cost-effective adaptation solutions
Natural infrastructure	Flooding	Assess flooding risks (coastal/ river/surface water) to natural infrastructure including trees and protected habitats	Biodiversity protection; implementation of non-emergency adaptation measures
Catchment partnerships	Flooding	Work with partners to ensure effective water and flooding management to reduce likelihood and severity of flooding incidents	Biodiversity protection; implementation of non-emergency adaptation measures; shared resources; join bids for external funding
Christchurch Bay / Harbour FCERM	Coastal Erosion	Continued delivery of projects within the Christchurch Bay / Harbour FCERM Strategy	Reduced risk; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements; protection of ecosystem services
North Solent SMP	Coastal Erosion	Continued delivery of projects within the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan	Reduced risk; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements; protection of ecosystem services
Durlston to Hurst SRM Programme	Coastal Erosion	Continued delivery replenishment projects within the Durlston to Hurst SRM Programme	Reduced risk; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements; protection of ecosystem services
NHS / Public Health	Heatwaves	Ensure that advice and guidance is available and appropriate to reduce to impacts of extreme heat on human health	Reduced risk to health and wellbeing; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements

Community Resilience Plans	Heatwaves	Work with health and community partners to ensure that robust plans are in place for residents, businesses and visitors to manage prolonged heatwaves effectively	Reduced risk to health and wellbeing; management of cost and availability of emergency measures; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements
Water Conservation	Heatwaves	Understand freshwater capacity and pressures for the NFDC area and create a proactive procedure for managing risk in the event of prolonged heatwaves	Reduced risk of water scarcity; stakeholder engagement; identification of funding and resource requirements

NATURE RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Activity		Objective	Co-benefits
Nature protection, enhancement and partnerships	BAU	Understand full implications of activities in the New Forest District area on the natural environment and biodiversity	Safeguard ecosystem services; limit environmental damage and subsequent reparation; maximise carbon sequestration; reduce objections to plans/decisions; leverage external funding
Environmental surveys / data	Biodiversity	Assess the size, variety and quality of natural space/habitats/ biodiversity on non-NFDC owned land, in addition to opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain projects	Informed land use decisions; environmental protection and enhancement; potential for staff/public involvement in surveys
Habitat protection	Biodiversity	Creation of, for example, Recreational Mitigation Strategies to reduce impact of new development on the natural environment	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain; education and engagement
Habitat creation	Biodiversity	Actively support partners in the creation of new habitats where conditions are favourable to encourage biodiversity net gain and/or connectivity or segregated habitats	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain/species introduction; education and engagement for staff and public

Local Nature Recovery Strategies	Connectivity	Work with others to establish key locations within the district for nature recovery projects. Input into the LNRS seeking to agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals	Safeguarding of ecosystem services across administrative boundaries; partnership working; access to external funding opportunities
Connectivity of strategic sites	Connectivity	Ensure the connectivity of strategic sites to ensure that biodiversity net gain and movement of species across and between areas is facilitated	Safeguarding of ecosystem services across administrative boundaries; partnership working; access to external funding opportunities; enhanced value of strategic sites to the local environment
Active travel/accessibility	Connectivity	Work with local transport partners, landowners and other stakeholders to improve access to/through green spaces via sustainable transport modes e.g. walking, cycling, EV	Connectivity and expansion of active travel routes; greater uptake of sustainable travel modes; support for local economy e.g. bike shops, cafes; reduced environmental impact of vehicular transport; improved air and water quality
Environment Act / regulations	Stewardship	Ensure plans/strategies/projects align with national, regional and local environmental regulations and objectives	Legislative compliance; access to government funding; demonstration of climate leadership; consistency with public sector peers
BNG Credits / habitat banking	Stewardship	Investigate opportunities for financial investment and associated benefits through the introduction of schemes such as Biodiversity Net Gain credits and habitat banking	Reduced local funding requirement; recognition of support for Central Government initiatives
Ecology without boundaries	Stewardship	Working with partners to ensure that conservation efforts are not hampered by administrative boundaries e.g. working with Bird Aware and partners in the Solent Water area to prioritise biodiversity across land in multiple ownership	Environmental protection and enhancement; opportunities for biodiversity net gain; education and engagement

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME			
Activity	Priority Area	Objective	Co-benefits
Residents, businesses, visitors support CC&NE principles	BAU	Increase local action on carbon reduction, climate change resilience and nature recovery, supporting sustainable behaviour change in communities and businesses.	Shared responsibility; partnership working; shared resources; reduced negative impact for future mitigation; environmental improvements
Social/online/print media	Communications	Provide climate and nature information to residents, businesses and visitors through online channels, traditional media. Ensure messaging is consistent with insights from Residents Survey 2022	Public education and engagement; greater uptake/support of projects; evidence log of activities for reporting; promotion of local action
External webpages	Communications	Ensure NFDC website provides up to date information and guidance on responding to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency - what the Council is doing and what residents/businesses/visitors can do	Public education and engagement; greater uptake/support of projects; partnership working; promotion of local action
Public events	Communications	Creation of new events and/or attendance at non-NFDC climate and nature events to raise awareness, gather feedback and provide information and guidance	Public education and engagement; greater uptake/support of projects; partnership working; promotion of local action
Carbon/climate/nature data	Data	Seek to improve the quality and accuracy of data used to monitor and communicate climate action	More accurate monitoring and reporting; possibility of external validation; better transparency of true impacts (positive and negative)
Public reporting	Data	Explore the use of public reporting platforms to communicate NFDC Council/Area actions to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency	Raised awareness of NFDC Council/Area activities; reputational benefits; potential access to alternative funding sources

External verification	Data	External validation of NFDC Council/Area performance data	Raised awareness of NFDC Council/Area activities; reputational benefits; confidence in progress to date, awareness of underlying problems with data gaps/sources/ assumptions
Hampshire County Council	Partnerships	Continued work with HCC to maximise carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery in the New Forest, particularly around unitary services delivered by HCC in or on behalf of the NFDC area e.g. transport infrastructure, waste disposal etc. Alignment of activities and support for county-wide climate initiatives such as Retrofit and Pathways	Carbon reduction; climate resilience; consistent public messaging; complimentary programme development and delivery
New Forest National Park Authority	Partnerships	Continued work with the NFNPA to maximise carbon reduction, climate adaptation and nature recovery in the New Forest. Alignment and support for delivery of the Re:New Partnership Plan	Carbon reduction; climate resilience; consistent public messaging; complimentary programme development and delivery
Professional Organisations	Partnerships	Membership of professional networks/organisations such as IEMA, LGA, HCOG to maintain up to date industry knowledge and maximise partnership working opportunities	Raised awareness of NFDC Council/Area activities; reputational benefits; potential access to alternative funding sources

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COMMUNITY GRANTS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Community Grant awards, totalling £129,600 in revenue grants and £92,000 in capital grants, as set out in Appendix 1, and in more detail in Appendix 2, be approved for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and proposed budget for 2023/24;
- 1.2 That the proposed changes as set out in section 4.2 be approved; and
- 1.3 That the Community Transport grants as set out in section 5.5 be approved.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 28, 29 and 30 November 2022 the Community Grants Task and Finish Group met to consider the Community Grant applications received for the 2023/24 financial year. We received 27 applications who attended, each giving a presentation to the Task & Finish Group, and answered questions. The Group were pleased to see several applications from new groups and that applications covered the whole district.
- 2.2 The value of Revenue grant applications totalled £249,430, (£307,513 in 2021) and Capital grant applications totalled £161,040 (£349,675 in 2021). Due to the number and value of applications the Group sought to prioritise those that support our most vulnerable residents and communities, and provided the most community benefit.
- 2.3 The Task and Finish Group comprised Cllrs Corbridge, Craze (Chairman), Cullen, Dowd, O'Sullivan, Reilly and Sevier, with input from key Council Officers. Meetings were also attended by Cllr D Russell, the Portfolio Holder for People and Places.

3. PROCESS

- 3.1 All Community Grant applicants were asked to provide details of their accounts, and how their application would meet the needs of, and benefit or support, residents in the District. Applicants were also asked to explain how their funding request linked to the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and their outcomes and key deliverables. Particular consideration was given to those organisations which supported issues that were highlighted in the Council's Community Engagement forums with partner organisations, e.g. cost of living and mental health.
- 3.2 Following the presentations, the Task and Finish Group thoroughly discussed and reviewed the information submitted with the applications and presented at interview and responses to the Groups specific questions. In formulating a recommendation for each grant request, members considered the agreed criteria, the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, and the value for money being offered. Due to the number and value of applications the Group had to make difficult decisions and in a number of instances the Group recommended grants of less than the amount being requested so as to support as many groups as possible and to recognise the benefits of the individual grant applications.

3.3 The recommendations, with reasons, of each of the grant requests, are summarised in **Appendix 1** and in further detail in **Appendix 2**.

4. REVIEW OF THE PROCESS

4.1 After completing the interviews, the Task and Group reviewed the overall grants process.

4.2 The Task and Finish Group recommend the following amendments to the Community Grants process:

- a) For applications for the 2024/25 year, that the minimum grant application amount be increased from £600 to £1,000.
- b) To amend the application form to include a question asking if the applicant has applied for a District and County Councillor grant.
- c) To consider and develop and agree a Service Level Agreement with New Forest Disability Information Service to formalise our working relationship and agree target outcomes.

5. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANTS

5.1 The Task and Finish Group also considered community transport grants. There are 3 Service Level Agreements with Hampshire County Council for transportation projects all funded from the overall budget for Community Grants.

5.1.1 Wheels to work – This is a moped loan service which aims to help people between 16 and 25 with no access to suitable transport get to work, apprenticeships, training or job interviews.

Current NFDC grant funding is £7,050, match funded by HCC. The contract ends on 31 March 2023 and HCC are extending the contract for a further two years, to 31 March 2025.

5.1.2 Call and Go – This is a bookable community transport service for anyone whose transport needs are not met by public bus services to go, for example, shopping, to visit a library or to see family and friends. Drivers will assist with carrying shopping and wheelchair accessible minibuses collect users from their home at a pre-arranged time. The cost will vary according to the distance travelled.

Current NFDC funding is £27,335, match funded by HCC. The contract ends on 31 March 2023 and HCC are extending the contract for a further year, to 31 March 2024.

5.1.3 Group Hire – This scheme provides affordable wheelchair accessible minibuses to hire for voluntary or charitable organisations for a period of 3 hours to 1 week. The cost of hire depends on the distance travelled and duration of hire period.

Current NFDC grant funding is £13,032, match funded by HCC. The contract ends on 31 March 2023 and HCC are extending the contract for a further year, to 31 March 2024.

- 5.2 The total current funding for the three community transport schemes is £47,419.
- 5.3 Following an HCC review and subsequent consultation due to the need to reduce budgets, the savings programme to 2023 (SP23) was agreed by HCC Cabinet in October 2021. This requires HCC to save £80m by April 2023, £10.3m of which has been allocated to the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. It has been identified that £800,000 of these savings could be realised through changes to Passenger Transport and Community Transport Services funding. HCC have modelled making £140k of these savings against the cost to HCC of the Community Transport Contracts (Dial a Ride, Call & Go and Group Hire), and final approval was made in November 2022.
- 5.4 HCC provided options and values for grant funding for 2023/24 and details on usage. The Task and Finish Group reviewed the funding options, which included options either to reduce the funding in line with HCC, to increase funding to offset the HCC reduction, or to maintain existing funding levels to minimise the impact. The Group reviewed the numbers using the schemes, which are recovering following the pandemic, and the impact of the options on service provision. HCC will review service provision to ensure efficiencies and to minimise any impact.
- 5.5 The Group was of the view that NFDC should maintain the same level of funding to support our communities, especially those in rural areas. Increasing the funding to make up for the HCC reduction was not favoured, as this would reduce already stretched grant funding elsewhere and should not be used to subsidise HCC reductions in grant funding. Therefore, The Group recommend the following:
- Funding for Call & Go for 2023/24 to be £28,556
 - Funding for Group Hire for 2023/24 to be £13,671
 - Funding for Wheels to Work for 2023/24 to be £7,800
- 5.6 Any level of agreed support must be within the annual budget available.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Task and Finish Group were advised that the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan had allowed for up to £130,000 to be awarded on Revenue Grants and up to £100,000 for Capital Grants.
- 6.2 The proposals, as set out in Appendix 1, total £129,600 of Revenue grants (£130,000 in 2022/23) and £92,000 for Capital grants (£85,600 in 2022/23).
- 6.3 The proposed budget for 2023/24 for the Community Transport Service Level Agreements, as outlined in section 5 of this report, is £50,027.

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS / DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Community Grants have been awarded to support groups with projects to become more energy efficient.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Our Community Grants programme continues to support a wide range of organisations across the district that support, engage and benefit our communities and residents, including those with mental health and disabilities, and vulnerable households.

9. COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIP AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

- 9.1 At their meeting of 17 January 2023, the Community, Partnership and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel was supportive of the proposed grant awards and changes to our approach as outlined in this report.

10. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 10.1 The Council is committed to continually supporting our annual Community Grants programme. Decisions were particularly difficult, due to the number of applications received, and I am very pleased at the wide range of the grants awarded that will benefit our communities and support the aims of the Council. The grants cover all areas of the New Forest and include grants that promote and support physical and social activity and sports, arts and culture, and to local charities and organisations that support our communities and our most vulnerable residents, for example mental health. We are also continuing our support to the three Community Transport schemes which benefit many of our residents.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Community Grants Appendix
1 and 2

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

Summary of revenue and capital grant applications received with recommendations

A. REVENUE GRANTS

ITEM	APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION 2023/24	GRANT AWARDED IN 2022/23
1	Damerham Sportsfield and Cricket Club	£7,000	£0	N/A
2	Marchwood Mens Shed	£1,080	£0	N/A
3	Youth and Families Matter	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
4	New Forest Heritage Centre	£5,000	£0	£0
5	Forest Arts Centre (Hants Cultural Trust)	£15,000	£10,000	£15,000
6	New Forest Disability Information Services	£18,500	£18,500	£18,500
7	Hammersley Homes	£20,000	£5,000	£0
8	The Handy Trust	£7,000	£7,000	£7,000
9	Minstead Trust	£21,000	£0	N/A
10	The Crossings	£15,000	£5,000	N/A
11	Yellow Door	£5,100	£5,100	£5,000
12	New Forest Bike Project	£5,000	£2,000	N/A
13	New Forest Pride	£1,500	£0	N/A
14	St Barbe	£16,000	£10,000	£10,000
15	River Studios	£8,750	£0	N/A
16	Forest Forge	£30,000	£10,000	£10,000
17	hArt	£7,500	£2,000	N/A
18	SPUD	£15,000	£10,000	£10,000
19	Community First Wessex (SLA)	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000
Total		£249,430	£129,600	

B. CAPITAL GRANTS

ITEM	APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION
20	Testwood School	£30,000	£20,000
21	Paultons Cricket Club	£50,000	£40,000
22	East Boldre Community Stores	£17,000	£17,000
23	Everton Sports and Social Club	£7,400	£5,000
24	Hordle Community Association	£8,000	£5,000
25	Hythe Parish Council	£15,825	£5,000
26	Marchwood Junior School	£22,815	£0
27	Milford On Sea Parish Council	£10,000	£0
Total		£161,040	£92,000

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1	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Damerham Sportsfield and Cricket Club	The Playing Field is integral to the community, providing the only open space in the village which is open all year round and used for people to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Sportsfield was established to be used for a number of activities for Damerham and surrounding villages including hosting two cricket teams and a football team, provide a venue for the annual village fair (which attracts c2,000 from Damerham and surrounding area). The field supports larger events, hosts the Men's Shed and increased usage is being considered, however limited income has meant maintenance had not undertaken as hoped.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£ 7,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The organisation was living within its means, and the more funding it had available, the more activities it could support. The primary purpose of the grant would be to re-establish reserves, and with the growth activity and prudent management it is considered that this is achievable. The Group considered little had been done to generate additional income or seek alternative funding. When considering this, and the limited use of the pavilion, the Group did not consider a grant appropriate when considering other priorities.

2	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Marchwood Men's Shed	The Men's Shed has recently formed with the purpose being to bring people together in a social setting, to improve mental health, reduce isolation, give a sense of purpose, and to educate and share skills. The Group has 22 members, being open to all, with member involvement on running activities. It intends to make links with the community, already undertaking a bird box and planter project. The Group is a member of UK Association of Men's Shed and is applying for charitable status.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£1,080

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group fully supported the project, and recognise its benefits, it was considered the group could do more to be self-sustaining, for example membership fees like other Men's Sheds, and apply for alternative grant funding. When considering this, and the membership numbers, the Group did not consider a grant appropriate when considering other priorities.

3	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Youth & Families Matter	Youth and Families Matter (YFM) is a small charity that works from the heart of the community in Totton to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families whose lives are complex and impacted by many forms of disadvantage, mental illness, serious illness, addiction, or abuse. Support can be intensive one-to-one, or the charity targets support, e.g., parenting courses, works closely with schools, including 1-2-1 support, and with other organisations, signposts and provides a foodbank service and support to vulnerable households.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£10,000	£10,000	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

YFM met the Council's objectives by assisting in the wellbeing of local people and supporting families, through working with young people and vulnerable families at risk by a combination of 2,757 support sessions, 142 group work sessions, 2 nurture days, 3 activity days as well as holiday clubs and early intervention. YFM actively works with numerous partner groups, including, social workers, schools, doctors, and is part of the Early Help Hub. YFM continue to run the foodbank, distributing 3,181 food bags, supports the Food Larder, with 30-40 households being supported each week, provide fuel vouchers, as well as providing a warm space this winter and works with the Council as part of the Cost of Living Steering Group.

4	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Heritage Centre	The free entry New Forest Heritage Centre is the only museum dedicated to the social and natural history of the New Forest. Their aim is to inspire visitors to explore and value the New Forest by collecting, conserving, and interpreting collections and by providing educational activities and information to children, young people and adults visiting the Forest and living in the community. The Centre includes an accredited Museum, Reference Library, which preserves historical artefacts, shop, and Exhibition Gallery.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£10,000	£0	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group took into consideration the work of the Heritage Trust, including their work with the Romany community, but on reviewing the financial situation, the Heritage Trust appeared to be financially secure for 2023/24, and that future funding and business model needs to be reviewed to ensure self-sufficiency. Therefore, the Group considered the limited funding available, the number of grants received, often working directly with vulnerable groups, and considered that this is regrettably not a current priority at this time.

5	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Forest Arts Centre	Forest Arts Centre is part of FOLIO, a collaboration of arts and heritage organisations, and provides a leading venue for quality live music, comedy, theatre, arts, activities, and events based in New Milton and has an extensive outreach programme. The Centre is operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust and works with other centres as part of an overall strategy to introduce new projects and opportunities, focusing on arts, health, and families. The Centre's priorities include providing high quality cultural programming and community benefit and targets working with schools, including Greenwood, adults with learning disabilities, and older people with long term conditions such as dementia or Parkinson's disease. They have also worked hard to ensure that residents from more deprived backgrounds are not excluded from the programmes on offer.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£15,000	£15,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Forest Arts contributes to the Council's priorities by helping local business grow by supporting artists and attracting visitors to the area, and service outcomes for the community with events, activities, and projects, with over 700,000 using the venue. The venue also seeks to provide accessible and affordable space for hire, e.g., Hampshire Autism, host activities and events, offering opportunities to showcase artistic output at affordable process. Forest Arts seeks to improve mental and physical wellbeing, for example Dance for Parkinson's, wellness walks and targeted projects that reach hard-to-reach people, i.e., elderly, and isolated people and seeks to develop outreach work, as well as a LGBTQ+ youth drop-in. Funding from other organisations has reduced significantly and income generation is being reviewed. The grant is ring-fenced to the Centre, ensuring our residents benefit, and the Group recommended exploring business sponsorship to increase fundraising income.

6	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Disability Information Service	New Forest Disability Information Service (NFDIS) provides specialised, free, impartial, and confidential disability related information, advice, and guidance. They help anyone of any age with any disability who lives or works within the New Forest area. NFDIS hold the Advice Quality Standard with Casework in Welfare Benefits and are the only organisation within the New Forest that support and represent the most vulnerable disabled clients at welfare benefit tribunals, where they have a 98% success rate. NFDIS specialise in providing mobility aids, daily living equipment and home adaptations, collaborating with community and other organisations to help people maximise their wellbeing and live safely and as independently as possible in their own home.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£18,500	£18,500	£18,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £18,500 be given

REASON FOR DECISION:

NFDIS is the only organisation of its kind in the district and provides an essential service to the vulnerable in the face of ever-increasing demand and supports the council in many ways, including with the Just Got Home, working from Lymington and Fordingbridge hospital, and Independence Matters projects. NFDIS supported over 2,000 people in 2021, some involving complex and lengthy casework. The grant will enable the team to expand and train more volunteers, and undertake further outreach work, including home visits, and deal with the increased number of casework they are handling. NFDIS actively works with other groups, such as Citizens Advice and Foodbanks to support those in the community and the Group fully appreciated the valuable work of the service, recommending a Service Level Agreement be considered to provide financial security.

7	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Hammersley Homes	Hammersley Homes apply a person centred approach to provide emotional and practical support for people with mental health and aims to provide supported living accommodation for vulnerable adults so that they can live independently. They provide an outreach programme and aim to keep people out of hospital by providing support in their own home. Hammersley Homes support 30 adults and receive referrals from other groups, including Social Services and Social Prescribers, and have set-up a training programme for volunteers.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£20,000	£0	£20,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group supported Hammersley Homes ambitions and aims and the importance of the work they do with supporting vulnerable people, focusing on those with mental illness and their families, and that the funding will enable them to increase their programme to support more people as demand is expected to increase.

8	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Handy Trust	The Handy Trust provides full youth support services to children and young people aged up to 25, 365 days of the year. They work in the Waterside area offering a 24/7 service at home, in schools, providing drop-ins and advice and support on relationship, sex and drug issues, as well as in the community, and provide holiday clubs and run youth clubs. They work with children and young people from families who are experiencing poverty and hardship, which can include mental health, domestic violence, and substance misuse, and support young people into work, and have a mini-bus project for targeted outreach work. The Handy Trust actively works with other agencies, including the Council on matters such as mental health and homelessness.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£7,000	£7,000	£7,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £7,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Handy Trust contributes to the Council's objectives by assisting the wellbeing of young people on the Waterside and support those in crisis. They will continue to engage with and support young people into work, provide free holiday clubs during school holidays to vulnerable families and youth clubs, which provides advice on budgeting and lifelong skills, builds self-esteem and confidence, and work with those suffering from anxiety or bullying. The Handy Trust worked with circa 3,500 young people during the year. It actively works closely with a number of partnership agencies to provide holistic support, and with Children's service, police, and schools on a variety of issues, including anti-social behaviour and mental health, which it has experienced an increase in demand due to reduce service provision. The Group recognised the value of the grant and the huge work and outcomes achieved by The Handy Trust.

9	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Minstead Trust	Funding was sought to expand a community theatre group for those with learning disabilities where they can create their own stories and encourage creativity. The project will develop communication, performance skills and confidence and bring together people with learning disabilities to perform two public shows.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£N/A	£N/A	£21,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group recognised the benefits of the project the Group considered the overall cost, alternative funding that could be applied for, e.g., Arts Council, the number of people involved in the project compared to the funding request, and Minstead's finances, the Group considered this was not currently a priority and were unable to support this.

10	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	The Crossings	The Crossings offer support and help to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness and marginalised in the Waterside area. They operate three drop-in centres which provide a welcoming, non-judgemental space in which people can feel safe to discuss their current issues. Many clients present with multiple issues around housing, rejection, loneliness, isolation, and economic insecurity, as well as the impact on their mental health. The Crossings support people to make Homesearch, Universal Credit or other benefits applications, some of whom struggle with literacy or numeracy, or they are digitally excluded, and provide signposting advice and information. The Crossings have developed a support programme for those who have recently moved back into accommodation but need support and who may not be able to visit a drop-in centre. This was conceived in dialogue with NFDC's Housing Options Team following a successful pilot.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£N/A	£N/A	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the valuable work done to support 130 vulnerable households and the joined up working with our Homelessness Teams where there is joint attendance and collaboration at drop-ins. The grant will enable The Crossings to continue their drop-in and expand their home visits capacity. The longer-term plan is for The Crossings to expand beyond the Waterside and The Group fully support this.

11	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Yellow Door	Yellow Door (YD) provides a range of integrated specialist services, advocacy, and therapeutic support to those who are at risk of or who have been affected by unwanted Sexual Experience or Domestic Abuse. This may include anything from rape, childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault to harassment, coercion, or domestic abuse. The group covers the New Forest, Southampton and Eastleigh areas and works with the police, schools, and other organisations within the district, such as the Handy Trust. YD provides therapeutic support, advocacy, impartial advice, and information, and runs the STAR project which delivers bespoke workshops in collaboration with others on the impact of drugs and alcohol, image-based abuse, and abusive relationships.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£5,000	£5,000	£5,100

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,100 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Yellow door supports the Council's priorities by delivering outcomes for the community and working with others, including the Safer New Forest partnership. It works with families offering support to those affected by abuse and running preventative education programmes to raise awareness of these issues, such as STOP Domestic Abuse. Demand for its services is increasing, with 306 referrals from New Forest residents, and Yellow Door worked with young people as part of its STAR project. The Group were pleased to see the work undertaken with many schools across the district regarding healthy relationships, domestic abuse, and consent, and that they have worked with 1,092 students and provided 65 sessions. The Group recommended working with additional schools, e.g., Burgate and New Forest Academy schools, and were reassured that the grant is used solely for the benefit of the New Forest.

12	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Bike Project	New Forest Bike Project (NFBP) is a registered Not for profit Community Interest Company and re-cycles bikes and sells them at reduced rates in the community, benefiting residents by offering an affordable source of bikes and parts, especially to those on a low income, to keep people on the road, fit and healthy, reducing the need for car journeys and the impact on the environment. It also provides opportunities and a place to help those with issues in their lives improve their confidence, self-esteem, practical and social skills thus helping them become more active and involved citizens in the community. NFBP works with others, including the police, and supported Ukrainian refugees.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£N/A	£N/A	£5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £2,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group support the work of this project, especially as part of the greener agenda and to encourage recycling and cycling, as well as providing volunteering opportunities and training. NFBP have recently relocated to a temporary accommodation and The Group offered advice for relocating to more affordable and suitable accommodation.

13	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	New Forest Pride	New Forest Pride (NFP) is a registered charity which supports the LGBTQ+ community. NFP works with a number of charities, from victims of hate crime to NHS mental health support, iTalk, and Pride Priders and seeks to increase its presence across the district. NFP aim to host an event in Lymington, with an estimate of between 5,000 and 6,000 attending, after the first Pride festival which took place in New Milton in August 2021, was attended by approximately 700 people. As there were a number of challenges in relation to the last event, Southampton Pride are providing assistance to support the NFP committee.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£N/A	£N/A	£1,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Whilst the Group supported the aims of NFP, it had concerns that a number of fundamental aspects of the event were unresolved, including permission to host the event, security, ticketing, and parking and therefore the Group did not feel it appropriate to grant funds on this occasion. However, the Group would welcome a grant application for the following year's event, once a developed and approved event plan with costings confirmed and stated that the Council is keen to work with the group on future projects.

14	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery	St Barbe is a museum and art gallery providing a cultural hub and educational facilities on the heritage, culture, history, and character of the New Forest. It is part of FOLIO, a collaboration of arts and heritage organisations and has had over 150,000 visitors. The galleries are accessible, and the museum provides learning services for schools and interest groups, including workshops, exhibitions, and curriculum-based activities. St Barbe also has a coffee shop which is used to support groups, e.g., an Elderly Programme for "memories" and works with low-income families, e.g. holiday workshops and activities and Food programme and outreach work, for example crafts and tea and memories in villages.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£10,000	£10,000	£16,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

St Barbe supports NFDC priorities through assisting with the wellbeing of those in the district, as well as attracting visitors. St Barbe provide a wide range of activities, for all ages, and is a vibrant community hub, working with 15 schools, disabled groups, those suffering with dementia or autism, holiday programmes, and a Young Curator group, as well as working with apprentices as part of the government Kickstart programme. The Group were very supportive of the outreach programmes, by connecting them with cultural and creative activities, and projects for low-income families, such as summer camps for 237 children eligible for free school meals, work with Ukrainian families, arts, and crafts for 460 children. It also supported New Forest arts and cultural activities through the Culture in Common initiative and The Group consider St Barbes offers high-quality engagement and was a model of good practice. Whilst the Group fully supported its work, regrettably pressures and limitations on budgets meant that it was not able to recommend meeting the grant request in full.

15	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	River Studios	River Studios (RS) is a youth inclusion music network based in Totton, aimed at 12 to 25 year olds. It has over 44 young people and children (NEETS) attending with a 93% retention rate. The project helps young people overcome anxiety and increases confidence with music activities. The organisation had established links with local organisations where they had offered free sessions. They have relationships with Garage Youth Club, SoCo Southampton, Catch-22, Inclusion Recovery, Step by Step, and the Hampshire Music Service. It was noted that Youth Music (YM) had ceased to fund RS, as it was now focussing on different parts of the country.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£N/A	£N/A	£8,750

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although The Group recognised the benefits of the project, it considered the wider community benefit with the limited number of clients (44 young people) and pointed out that other funding streams are available. When reviewing this, and given the limited grants budget, the Group regrettably were unable to recommend a grant on this occasion.

16	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Forest Forge Theatre Company	Forest Forge is based in a purpose-built theatre in Ringwood and provides creative learning and outreach activities, whilst ensuring opportunities to participate in high quality theatre productions. There is a professional theatre which tours to communities and schools across the New Forest with an emphasis on creative learning and using theatre to tackle wider social issues such as bullying and mental health. The organisation targets residents to encourage participation in a variety of activities such as workshops; work experience and targeted outreach projects (e.g., teenagers). The Company has a reputation for the quality of its work with those with additional needs and provides opportunities for older people to tackle social isolation and improve cross-generational

		understanding. Forest Forge collaborated with NFDC on the Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan and works with partners including CODA, traveller community, and Ukrainian refugees.
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Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£ 20,000	£10,000	£30,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Forest Forge contributes to the Council's objectives by providing creative learning activities and contributing to community cohesion and wellbeing. It supports local business and provides experience for young people's employability and seeks to be fully inclusive by engaging with all communities. It works in schools, including its ELEVATE project for 15-16-year-olds, tours a production about mental health, has set-up a youth theatre with 72 attending and a trans youth theatre. FF works across the district, including rural areas, and will develop holiday programmes for young people, and continue to develop Act Your Age sessions which tackles isolation and improves physical and mental wellbeing for the over 60's. The Group felt that there was a risk to their future if FF was overdependent on grant funding and that it needed to diversify its fundraising activities further. The Group appreciated FF's work in the community and the quality of its productions and programmes.

17	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	hArt	hArt are an art therapy charity that looks to provide support for the mental health needs of people of all ages and abilities through creative activities. They organise workshops and creative activity project and programmes across the district, where limited access to services and opportunities for social contact add to the increase in mental health issues by making loneliness and isolation a factor. Working with social prescribers from across the New Forest, run two Arts on Prescription programmes in each of the three locations in 2021/22 with 41 people taking part in total. Works in close partnership with CODA, using its premises for arts and crafts sessions. hArt provides specialist help through Art Psychotherapy and runs various programmes, including the Arts on Prescription and Creative Wellbeing, with positive outcomes and benefits to those attending.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Current request
£N/A	£N/A	£7,500

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £2,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group fully support the work of hArt in supporting residents and improving mental health through creative activities and the range of programmes and workshops, including outreach work across the district. However, due to funding limitations, it was unable to offer the full amount requested.

18	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	SPUD	SPUD is an arts and education charity that creates opportunities for people to engage with art, architecture, design, and the environment. SPUD supports people creative development, and collaboratively works with and support various groups including, youth, disabled, autism, LGBTQ+ and dementia. SPUD had reported a reduction in income from rentals, workshops, and exhibitions. SPUD is developing funding streams and partnerships and spreading into other areas.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£15,000	£10,000	£15,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £10,000 be given

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group support the work SPUD does with vulnerable groups, which aligns closely with the 'Culture in Common' programme that the Council is involved in delivering across the district. SPUD's work with residents with dementia and with young people to support their mental wellbeing was noted, as was their outreach programme that builds on the community partnerships. The Group supports the work SPUD does, acknowledging the increase in utility costs, across various groups and its aim of being self-sustaining by the end of 2022. The Group was impressed with the impact of SPUD, its geographic spread and its track record of nurturing talent, its business case and noted the covid impact. With limited fund, the Group unfortunately could not recommend the full grant request.

19	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Community First Wessex	Community First Wessex (CFW) provides support across the whole of the voluntary sector in the New Forest with the aim to create a thriving and successful voluntary sector. This involves activities such as DBS checks, training, funding advice, volunteer recruitment and assistance with setting up and operating groups, building the voluntary sector capacity. With its work in training and operating the volunteer centre and volunteer placement, it also contributes to routes to work. It also acts as a representative voice for the sector and is involved in many working groups across the district. CFW works in partnership with many organisations to deliver a range of projects that support residents.

Last Year's Request	Last Year's Award	Request
£35,000	£35,000	£35,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £35,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

CFW contributes to the Council's priorities by supporting organisations through working with many groups, including to support long-term unemployed, young carers, training, and skill development, advising groups on economic development, mental health and delivering services digitally. CFW provide help and support to the local community and voluntary sector. The Group were pleased to hear that CFW worked with numerous organisations and helped groups secure £135,000 in grants. CFW has continued to work closely with the council throughout the pandemic, via the Local Response Centre and in supporting existing and new groups to support the vulnerable. CFW has contributed to Community Engagement conversations and the Group

recognised the improved working relationship with CFW and discussions with Officers have already begun on developing this further to support our communities, including loneliness, economic hardship, and digital inclusion

B. CAPITAL GRANTS

20	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Testwood School	Testwood School have a full-sized Synthetic Turf Pitch (STP) which is 18 years old, lasting double its expected lifespan and is at risk of being condemned as it does not meet Football Association standards. The facility was used by 750 people per week, including 400 under 18's. The project is to develop the facility into a high quality STP will include resurfacing of the existing pitch, new LED energy efficient lighting, new spectators standing area and new recess areas for goals to allow appropriate 'run off' areas. The project will enable local clubs and community groups to retain and increase participants in football, focusing on increasing participation of girls and traditionally low participant groups, to enhance the range and quality of opportunities to participate in football through both formal and informal, such as FA programmes, the development of pay and play and small sided leagues, and to facilitate opportunities for older persons, such as walking football.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£470,000	£220,000	£30,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £20,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group supported the project to increase physical activity within the local community and to enable local football clubs/teams/holiday club providers and the school community to continue to develop and grow football in the local area. This facility has been identified as a priority project by the New Forest District Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) and will enable FA pitch registration. There is an overall aim to work with partner clubs to deliver a comprehensive football development plan that maintains existing provision and supports targeted work to increase participation amongst all groups, especially under-represented groups, irrespective of ability, age, gender, disability, or ethnicity, which the Group support.

21	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Paultons Cricket Club	Paultons Cricket Club is a facility not just used by Cricket teams but the wider community, including Jaguar Club, Beavers and Scouts, Bartley School, local book club, yoga, darts, and pool Team and is a Warm space. Paultons Cricket Club is affiliated to Hampshire Cricket Club and has over 20 members, with 4 men's teams, 6 colt's teams with over 100 junior members aged between 5 and 16, have girl's teams, which they hope to expand, and a women's softball team. Due to arson the building needs rebuilding and the project is to build a safe and suitable clubhouse that will benefit the wider community, be used for hire and functions, to create four changing rooms allowing exclusive facilities for women and girls, shower facilities for disability cricket at the club and ensure the club is fully accessible. To be environmentally friendly, there will be electric car charging points, air heat source pumps, solar panels, and rainwater tanks.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£800,000	£439,500	£50,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £40,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group were very supportive of the project and the physical mental health benefits the club brings to the community. The Group sympathised with the plight of the club following the arson attack which destroyed their clubhouse. It was acknowledged that Paultons were a key organisation in their village and offered opportunities for a wide range of local people and organisations, which would increase following completion of the new building. The rebuild of the clubhouse would allow Paultons Cricket Club to survive and to grow their club and the community offer. The Group recognised the fund-raising efforts, that the English Cricket Board were keen to support the project and that the grant would enable leveraging of further funding.

22	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	East Boldre Community Stores	East Boldre is a rural village with only one shop, which is at risk of closure and is the focal point of the village, which has already lost amenities, and has limited public transport. The project is to create a new community shop and Post Office that will be a focal point for the village and serve the needs of the whole community with a range of affordable products and provide a full range of services, such as banking, postal, top-ups, and paying bills. The shop will be owned and managed by members.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£610,500	£410,500	£17,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £17,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group noted that the store location was in a rural area of deprivation and would provide affordable products and valuable services for East Boldre and its surrounding parishes. The store will be a vital asset for the local community, especially to those that are isolated or vulnerable. The Group noted that shares in the store could be bought by local people for as little as £15, and it was hoped some of the 800 locals would invest considerably more, to raise the sums needed. This was a similar model that has been engaged in other community stores and the Group were impressed with the detailed business plan and recognise the importance of the store to village vitality and the wider community.

23	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Everton Sports and Social Club	Everton Club is located in the village and is used by many users from yoga, art and dance to meditation, Pilates and a community drop in/warm space group. It is used for free charity fundraising events and the building is part of annual village events on the recreation ground and is also used by villagers for private celebrations and events. The project is to modernise and improve the kitchen facilities, including the replacement of kitchen units, boiler and pipework and creating a dedicated boiler room and cleaners' area within existing kitchen, to enable more hiring and increased income generation for future sustainability.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£15,000	£7,500	£7,400

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Club has a capacity of 60, with 250 people using the facility on a weekly basis, and it promotes the health and wellbeing of users. The facility is well used by the local community and has recovered well since the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has reduced the funding available to complete the work. The club is run by a small committee of volunteers. It was felt that the award would allow the club to continue their recovery from the pandemic and to ensure that they were sustainable. Fundraising activities had not yet been fully exhausted, and The Club was considering approaching HCC for funding, and the Parish Council had offered a small contribution towards the project.

24	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Hordle Community Association	The Pavilion is located in the village and used by many users including as a sports bar, bingo, quiz nights, discos, a learning disability group, art, cafes and provides a social area for the village residents and a warm space during the winter. The project is to replace 2 inefficient and old boilers and to improve the kitchen facilities to meet standards.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£16,000	£8,000	£8,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group recognised the importance of the Pavilion to the community and the numbers of group that use it. The project supported the wider rural community and offered support for a wide cross section of the community. The impact of the pandemic had meant that, whilst they are a sustainable concern, the ability to replace the outdated facilities. The works would result in long term impact helping to improve the energy efficiency, reduce costs and increase sustainability.

25	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Hythe Parish Council	The facility is a 1970's community build and is no longer energy efficient. It is a centrally located, well used community facility run by the Parish Council for any community group or hirer. In addition to one-off use by parties/events, regular hirers include 2 Zumba classes, church groups, bowls, yoga, monthly cinema, a friendship club, flower club, line dancing, U3A, a network group, preschool group, youth group and tea dances. The project improvements involve a wider project of a new boiler, which regularly breaks down, new roof, LED lighting, improved wall insulation and additional insulation via upgrading remaining (single glazed and wooden) doors and windows to double glazing. This application is for a replacement new boiler and double-glazing windows/doors upgrade. The grant is to be used for boiler and window replacement.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£60,825	£45,000	£15,825

RECOMMENDATION:

That a grant of £5,000 be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The Group support the project as the facility is a community hub and provides activities for various users of all ages, especially groups supporting local older people, and was used by a number of active youth clubs as well as private bookings. The Group recognised the challenge posed since taking on the buildings lease and were supportive of its objectives of being able to provide a secure, watertight, warm, energy efficient, and safe community building and were keen to contribute to this outcome.

26	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Marchwood Junior School	Marchwood Junior School has 326 children between 7-11 years old and has an existing activity trim trail which has limited equipment, capacity and is not accessible. The project is to increase the diversity of play equipment, to increase the play load of the current trim trail (number of children that can safely play at the same time), improve the accessibility and inclusivity of the trim trail, and play equipment for children with mobility/health support requirements and to provide fun, safe, and modern facilities to the school community, that encourage interaction and physical activity in an inclusive environment. This project is part of a long-term vision to create outdoor learning area.

Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£54,000	£27,000	£22,815

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Whilst the Group recognise the benefits of the project to the pupils of the school and that it will be a useful asset to the school, it did not appear to offer much additional benefit to the wider community outside of the school. The applicants had not approached HCC, as it was assumed the project would be seen as low priority and had not undertaken any fundraising themselves or approached local businesses. The Group took the view that the school's local education authority should be the first port of call. Therefore, the Group considered that given the limited funding available it was not appropriate to make a financial contribution.

27	APPLICANT	SUMMARY
	Milford On Sea Parish Council	Barnes Lane Pavilion has not been upgraded for many years, and although not in a state of disrepair, does not comply to modern standards and is not Football Association compliant. The Pavilion is used by Milford Youth Football Club, with 185 boys and girl's players, a girl's cricket club and a men's cricket team. There are occasions when the facilities are used by the wider public for birthday parties and held a classical concert in recent years. The project is to modernise the facility, including, converting the open showers into individual cubicles, moving the kitchen so it is more convenient to improve access, alterations to the changing

		rooms as the rooms are visible from the outside, internal re-decoration, better access for disabled users and upgrade of the patio area.
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Total Cost	Other Funding	Request
£45,126	£35,126	£10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That no grant be given.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Although the Group noted the pavilion is well used, the project is due to commence in January 2023 and if the grant was not awarded, the Parish Council would fund the balance shortfall. The Group considered additional funding applications could have been made. In view of this, and due to significant rising materials costs, the Parish had taken the view that it should progress the project without delay, irrespective of the outcome of funding applications, and will underwrite any shortfall. Whilst the group understood the decision, beginning in January 2023, unfortunately this made the project ineligible for the grant funding. Therefore, the Group considered that given the limited funding available it was not appropriate to make a financial contribution.

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CABINET – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – SCHEME TO APPLY FROM 1 APRIL 2023

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the current scheme of members' allowances be made as the scheme to apply from 1 April 2023.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Allowances paid to members of the Council are set out in the Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is required annually to make a scheme of members' allowances, which must be published. The current scheme is available to view [here](#). The scheme was adopted in July 2022 following a review by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

3. CURRENT SCHEME

- 3.1 The current scheme provides for the annual adjustment of allowances (basic, special responsibility and dependant carers' allowances) by the Local Government staff employees' national pay award annual percentage increase.
- 3.2 The employee's national pay award for 2023/24 is still being negotiated. If an award is made it will automatically, under the terms of the Scheme, be backdated to 1 April 2023. No other changes to the scheme are proposed. Indeed, no changes are possible without a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Provision has been made in the draft 2023/24 budget.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The continued adoption of a Members' Allowances Scheme with provision for Parental Leave and a Dependent Carers' Allowance has positive implications by ensuring potential candidates are not deterred from standing for election, taking into account a range of personal circumstances.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY AND CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The continued adoption of a Members' Allowances Scheme with provision for electric vehicles, bicycles and public transport, promotes the use of sustainable travel for Council business.

7.1 CRIME AND DISORDER AND DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

Further information:

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Background Papers:

Published documents
[Cabinet Report – 6 July 2022](#)

CABINET – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE,
INVESTMENT & CORPORATE
SERVICES

ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Cabinet approve and recommend to Full Council that:

1.1.1 The schedule of projects, as included at Appendix 1 and 2 be approved within the 2023/24 budget, noting this commits the Council to expenditure beyond 23/24 whereby a project commences in 2023/24 and extends into future years.

1.1.2 The Vehicle & Plant replacement programme be approved for a 2 year period, covering purchases due in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

2. Purpose of the report

2.1 This report provides the proposed revenue funded Asset Maintenance & Replacement programme (AMR) and General Fund Capital programme for 2023/24 and outline budgets to 2025/26.

3. Background

3.1 The Council's revenue budgets include large sums for the maintenance and cyclical replacement of Council owned assets. The AMR programme budget for 2022/23 totalled £1.900 million to the General Fund and £230,000 to the HRA (£2.130 million total shown within appendix 1), with a further £710,000 of requirements funded by the General Fund and HRA for the ICT Digital Strategy (£625,000) and Community Grants (£85,000).

3.2 The September 2022 Medium Term Financial Plan included a revenue budget allowance to cover the AMR programme for 2023/24 of £2.050 million for the General Fund and £300,000 to the HRA (total £2.350 million). The increase from 2022/23 directly related to inflationary pressures with regards to the Vehicle and Plant replacement programme, as reported to the Cabinet in September. There are currently no further planned adjustments to the overall programme budget over the period covered by the current Medium Term Financial Plan.

3.3 Service Managers were asked to come up with their proposed projects for 2023/24 with a strong brief that the programme had to consist of essential items and be realistic in terms of timeframes and deliverability. The programme sums now being proposed matches the funding allocated, with further work required to reprioritise projects to align to the sums available.

3.4 The proposed General Fund Capital Programme for 2023/24 totals £15.032 million. Projects are funded by NFDC resources (capital reserve and receipts received), various grants / funds and Developer Contributions / CIL. This programme total does not include the Asset Investment Strategy spend, due to uncertainty in the timing of the purchases.

4. Proposed Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme 2023/24

4.1 The bid categories for the submitted programme for 2023/24 were;

- 1 – Protect & Maintain Front Line Service Delivery
- 2 – Efficiency / Savings / Income Generation
- 3 – Improve / Enhance Value of Asset

4.2 The summary programme covering 2023/24 – 2026/27 is included as appendix 1. The budget is monitored at this overall summary level to allow for sufficient flexibility should more urgent projects come to light during the financial year.

4.3 Further Information Relating to Projects

4.3.1 Health & Leisure Centres Annual Maintenance Programme £500,000

During 2019, a full condition survey of the Council's 5 Leisure Centres was procured by the Council and carried out by a third-party specialist. The resultant report identified a works schedule covering a 15 year period to maintain the centres at the current standard/condition. Annually, this report will be reviewed and will inform the necessary maintenance required at the Leisure Centres. The maximum the Council can afford to fund during 2023/24 is £500k. The prioritised programme of works will be agreed with the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources & Transformation.

4.3.2 Offices and Depots £200,000

Three project bids were put forward;

- ATC North Wing Externals (to include guttering, loose tiles, fascias, soffits, windows repointing)
- ATC East Wing Covering (water ingress, so necessary to build up felt roof covering and perimeter edge trim)
- LTH Single Story Roof (water ingress, so repair required with a life through to 2026)

The Facilities Manager will be asked to prioritise projects with a total budget of £200,000 available.

4.3.3 Cemeteries – Lymington Chapel Building £5,000

Budget provision of £5,000 is being set aside within the programme to carry out feasibility surveys on required works to the Lymington Chapel building. A follow up project bid may then be made during the financial year to carry out further works.

4.3.4 Eling Tide Mill £5,000

Budget provision of £5,000 is being set aside within the programme to carry out feasibility surveys on required works related to the deuteriation of the undercroft wall and ground beams that support the machinery at the Tide Mill. A follow up project bid may then be made during the financial year to carry out further works.

4.3.5 Deployable Camera's £15,000

The Council will not tolerate fly-tipping, and so will be investing in deployable cameras to use in hot-spot locations throughout the District. In addition, this will enable the council to deploy cameras to developing areas or hotspots of ASB that are not within the existing public CCTV network range. The ability to rapidly deploy cameras at a relative low cost will prevent the escalation of emerging trends, whilst providing community reassurance

4.3.6 ICT Equipment Replacement Programme £150,000

The Council invested significantly in new devices over the period 2017-2019. Some of the devices will reach beyond their 4 year suggested useful life during 2023/24, and so a cyclical replacement programme will need to continue during the period covered by this Medium Term Financial Plan.

4.3.7 Vehicles & Plant Replacement Programme £1,450,000

Members will note that the replacement of Vehicles & Plant (V&P) occurs on both the revenue AMR programme and the Capital Programme. The Council's policy is to capitalise individual items with a value greater than £10k and then depreciate these over their estimated useful life. The capital programme therefore includes the cash amount required to purchase the V&P, and the revenue programme includes the depreciation charge. The depreciation charge to revenue then makes a direct contribution towards the capital cost through a charge known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The significant Capital Outlay required will result in older less efficient vehicles being replaced with the latest more efficient models.

For 23-24 the replacement programme for the refuse and recycling part of the fleet focuses in the main on vehicles which can be utilised on our current service, whilst also being suitable for a future service, albeit in some cases with some retrospective modifications likely.

4.3.8 Programme Contingency £65,000

A contingency of £65,000 will be included to support the delivery of the programme as outlined above against inflationary pressures, and will look to finance the delivery of priority works emanating from the feasibility sums, as outlined above.

- 4.4 The programme as outlined above totals £2.390 million. Of this total, approximately £340,000 is rechargeable to the HRA leaving £2.050 million to be funded via the General Fund. The increase to the HRA will be accommodated within the detailed budget planning for 23/24.

4.5 Other One-Off Funded Programmes

Budget provision of £625,000 has been provided for projects in the ICT Digital Strategy. This cost is allocated c75% to the General Fund and c25% to the HRA.

The Community Grants Panel have been given a maximum budget of £100,000 for one-off construction grant applications for 2023/24. The Panel are aware this is a financial ceiling, and not a target. Currently the recommendation from the Task and Finish group to the Community, Partnerships and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel is £92,000.

	General Fund £'000	HRA £'000	TOTAL £'000
ICT Strategy	500	125	625
Community Grants	92		92
	592	125	717

The above will require financial resources, funded by the revenue budget or reserves and will be included on the Medium - Term Financial Planning Reports through Cabinet.

5. General Fund Capital Programme 2023/24

5.1 The capital programme consists of projects funded by NFDC resources (capital reserve and receipts received), various grants / funds and Developer Contributions / CIL.

5.2 The proposed programme for 2023/24 totalling £14.749 million including the outline financing is included as appendix 2. The project proposals for a 3 year period have been included for overall context. Where a project commences (or continues into) in 23/24 and spans several financial years, to commitment to start in 23/24 is a commitment to approve the funding required to complete over the period of the programme. Where a sum is included in future years, it is not requiring approval now, but is included for completeness and overall programme context; approval for these items will come at the appropriate point in the budget setting cycle for the year in question. Due to the lead in time of the Vehicles and Plant Acquisition programme, the programme sums for 23/24 and 24/25 will be approved now to enable necessary work to commence in the year prior to when the new V&P will actually be delivered.

5.3 Further Information Relating to NFDC Funded Projects

5.3.1 New Depot Site £4.875 million for 23/24 and £1.625 million for 24/25

Total funding of £7.0 million (£0.500 million in 2022/23, £4.875 million in 2023/24 and £1.625 million in 2024/25) has been earmarked over the period

of this capital programme for the new depot project at Hardley Industrial Estate, as a replacement for the Claymeadow depot. This scheme will progress subject to Cabinet approval of a business case.

5.3.2 Vehicles & Plant £3.062 million for 23/24 and £1.309 million for 24/25

The significant Capital Outlay required will result in older less efficient vehicles being replaced with the latest more efficient models. For 23-24 the replacement programme for the refuse and recycling part of the fleet focuses in the main on vehicles which can be utilised on our current service, whilst also being suitable for a future service, albeit in some cases with some retrospective modifications likely.

5.3.3 Vehicles and Plant – New Waste Strategy £150,000

Preparations are underway for the commencement of the new wheeled bin Garden Waste Service to go live from 2024. Some retrospective bin lift alterations will be made to existing vehicles at an estimated cost of £150,000 to make them suitable for the new service.

5.3.4 New Garden Waste Containers £592,000

The procurement of wheeled bins will take effect in 2023/24, and a separate report during the year will confirm the proposed updated charging regime for the new service.

5.3.5 Crow Lane Ringwood £250,000

Total funding of £8.445 million was approved by Council in September 2021 to complete the project to deliver a new industrial site at Crow Lane Ringwood. The project has progressed well, and is within the overall approved sum. The budget requirement for 2023/24 is largely for the release of final retentions.

5.3.6 Public Convenience Modernisation Programme £300,000

The Public Convenience task & finish group determine which Public Conveniences are deemed as suitable for renovation and when. The standard sum of £300,000 has been allowed for within the Capital Programme.

5.3.7 Sustainability and Climate Action £250,000

The Climate Strategy report being developed for presentation to the Cabinet in February outlines the proposed actions to be taken by the Council and requests an annual budget of £250,000.

5.4 **Further Information Relating to Part or Non-NFDC Funded Projects**

5.4.1 South-East Strategic Coastal Monitoring £2.631 million / £1.811 million / £2.216 million

This project is the continuation of the regional coastal monitoring programme, for the next phase that will go through to 2027. The figures

above are for the full approval for the SE region as managed and co-ordinated by NFDC.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

5.4.2 Milford-On-Sea Beach Study £10,000 / £280,000

This project is a follow on from the Westover urgent works undertaken during 2020. The expected scope and coastal frontage will be broadened to consider the wider defended Milford frontage.

The commencement and delivery of this project will be subject to the outcomes of the Christchurch Bay Strategy Study, with a current completion date of October 2023. Currently estimated costs are shown allocated across 2023/24 and 2024/25, as the strategy study is refined and developed these costs may change.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £50,000

5.4.3 Barton HDD Trials £10,000 / £230,000 / £15,000

Works expected to take the form of test drainage trials to determine suitability and effectiveness of the system. The aim being to control and manage groundwater levels to reduce erosion risk.

As the project is developed it may be that monitoring costs can be refined, there be an opportunity for NFDC to undertake an element of the monitoring.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £75,000

5.4.4 Hurst Spit Shingle Source Study £100,000 / £35,000

The existing Hurst Spit Beach Management Plan (BMP) has been in existence since 1996. The plan requires updating to consider additional data, past performance of the Spit and future management operations. This study will enable this work to be undertaken, enabling the BMP to be updated in line with current practices.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

5.4.5 Developer Contributions / CIL £1.0 million PA

A separate report will confirm the proposed projects, with the Capital Programme at this stage setting aside a gross overall budget to be set for drawdown for individual project delivery.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

5.4.6 Better Care Fund £1.3 million / £1.5 million / £1.5 million

The Council facilitates the delivery of Disabled Facility Adaptations each year, using central government 'Better Care Fund' to pay for said

adaptations. The Council's contribution is in the staffing resource to deliver the adaptations.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

5.4.7 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) £42,470 / £181,300

Following the submission of the Council's Investment Plan, aligned to the fund objectives, the Council's £1 million of funding covering 22/23 – 24/25 has been confirmed, and so the Capital elements are now being included in the proposed Capital Programme, funded by UK government.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

5.4.8 Rural England Prosperity Fund £240,110 / £300,000

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is a top-up to the UKSPF and is available to eligible local authorities in England. It succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England. Funding allocations were determined at local authority level, dependant on the area defined as 'rural' and is for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The allocation for the New Forest across the 2 years is £540,115. A Portfolio Holder Decision Notice published in November 2022 confirms further details.

NFDC Capital Contribution: £nil

6. **Crime & Disorder / Equality & Diversity / Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 As the Council invests in the maintenance and replacement of its assets, it will do so ensuring environmental implications are considered and where it can, the delivery of energy efficiencies, whether that be in lighting / heating or in more economic vehicles, will be at the forefront of the Council's spending decisions.

7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1 The AMR programme represents a significant element of the Council's annual net expenditure. The General Fund programme matches the budget outlined for for 2022/23 at £2.050 million and the HRA proportion at £340,000 will be accommodated within the detailed budget planning.
- 7.2 The Council is committed to the continuation of its investment in ICT and the financial implications to deliver the strategy will be included in the appropriate Medium Term Financial Planning Reports through Cabinet.
- 7.3 The General fund Capital programme is funded in several ways, and the net NFDC funding requirement for 2023/24 after internal borrowing is taken into account is £6.217 million.

8. Corporate Affairs and Local Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel comments

8.1 The Panel at their meeting on 19 January 2023, considered and supported both these proposed programmes, subject to the following:

- Calshot - A request to reinstate the Public Conveniences scheme (which officers would raise with the relevant Task and Finish Group),
- Lymington Chapel Building - consider including improvements to entrance way / gates, into the scheme (officers would investigate),
- Eling Tide Mill (noting NFDC responsibility for new works (estimated £50-60K), Panel to be kept informed of costs and study results).

9. Portfolio Holder comments

9.1 I support the proposals as set out in the report.

Alan Bethune

Strategic Director Corporate Resources and
Transformation

S151 Officer

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Background Papers

APPENDIX 1

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME				
Asset Maintenance				
Health & Leisure Centres	550	500		
Offices, Depots and Outlying Buildings	118	200		
Feasibility Surveys		10		
Deployable CCTV Cameras		15		
Cemeteries	15			
Contingency	35	65		
	718	790	790	790
ICT Replacement Programme	100	150	150	150
Vehicles and Plant (Depreciation / MRP)	1,312	1,450	1,450	1,450
	2,130	2,390	2,390	2,390
Less: Proportion allocated to HRA	-230	-340	-340	-340
	1,900	2,050	2,050	2,050

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022-2026

CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING

	Portfolio	PROJECT REQUIREMENTS £			ORIGINAL 2023/24 PROJECT FINANCING £			
		2022/23 £ Budget Revised (Nov. Cabinet)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	NFDC Resources / Loan	Better Care Fund	Grant / Income
Sustainability Fund - Unallocated	LEADER / ALL	300,000	250,000	250,000	250,000			
Sustainability Fund - Crow Lane Solar Panels	LEADER / ALL	200,000						
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	LEADER / ALL		42,470	181,300			42,470	
Rural England Prosperity Fund	B,T&HS		240,120	300,000			240,120	
Disabled Facilities Grants	HOU (GF)	900,000	1,300,000	1,500,000		1,300,000		
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (22-27)	ENV & COAST	1,775,000	2,631,000	1,811,000			2,631,000	
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (18-21)	ENV & COAST	363,000						
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (12-17)	ENV & COAST	12,000						
Barton Horizontal Directional Drilling Trials	ENV & COAST	50,000	10,000	230,000			10,000	
Milford Promenade Handrail	ENV & COAST	115,000						
Hurst Spit Beach Shingle Source Study	ENV & COAST	15,000	100,000	35,000			100,000	
Milford Beach and Cliff Study	ENV & COAST		10,000	280,000			10,000	
Waste Strategy Container Roll Out	ENV & COAST		592,000		4,908,000	592,000		
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme	PEOPLE & PL	12,000	300,000	300,000	300,000			
Public Convenience Refurb Scheme - Lym Quay Enhancem	PEOPLE & PL	230,000						
Public Convenience Refurb Scheme - Barton-on-Sea	PEOPLE & PL	200,000						
Public Convenience - Changing Places - Brockenhurst	PEOPLE & PL		43,000				43,000	
Public Convenience - Changing Places - Ringwood	PEOPLE & PL		112,000				112,000	
Public Convenience - Changing Places - Hythe	PEOPLE & PL		64,000				64,000	

CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING		PROJECT REQUIREMENTS £			ORIGINAL 2023/24 PROJECT FINANCING £				
		2022/23 £ Budget Revised (Nov. Cabinet)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	NFDC Resources / Loan	Better Care Fund	Grant / Income	DC / CIL
Health & Leisure Centres	PART & WELL	2,014,000							
New Depot Site: Hardley	F,I & CS	500,000	4,875,000	1,625,000					
V&P; Replacement Programme	F,I & CS	1,800,000	3,062,000	1,309,000	996,000				
V&P; Replacement Programme - Waste Strategy	F,I & CS		150,000		5,840,000				
Smarter Working; Future Delivery	F,I & CS	75,000							
Economic Sustainability & Regeneration Projects	F,I & CS								
- Platinum Jubilee Business Park, Ringwood	F,I & CS	5,667,000	250,000			250,000			
- Station Road, New Milton	F,I & CS	5,500,000							
Open Space Schemes	P&I	730,000							
Mitigation Schemes	P&I	680,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME		21,138,000	15,031,590	8,821,300	17,025,000	9,479,000	1,300,000	3,252,590	1,000,000
									15,031,590
LOAN FINANCED					V&P	-3,062,000			
					80% of Economic Regeneration	-200,000			
RESIDUAL NFDC RESOURCES						6,217,000			

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CABINET – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE, INVESTMENT
& CORPORATE SERVICES

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. That the Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the Capital Strategy 2023/24 be approved, including the adoption of the MRP statement.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The Capital Strategy is a high-level document, giving an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management come together, with an overview of current activities and the implications for future financial sustainability.
- 2.2. By producing this strategy report, the Council is following statutory guidance issued by the Government in January 2018.
- 2.3. This report has been produced for Panel before final 23/24 budgets have been prepared and therefore there may be some minor amendments made to the report presented to Cabinet.

3. OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE CAPITAL STRATEGY

- 3.1. The Capital Strategy confirms at high level what the Council is intending to spend its money on over the medium term and how it intends to finance this expenditure. Over the period covered by 2023/24 to 2025/26, total capital expenditure is forecast at around £139 million.
- 3.2. As demonstrated throughout the report, the Council is initially intending to utilise the cash balances it has accrued to deliver the various adopted strategies, including the acquisition and development of Commercial Property, which aims to provide a sustainable and buoyant economy within the New Forest and present options for regeneration, Residential Property Ownership and additional Council owned Housing.
- 3.3. The Council will supplement internal resources, when necessary, with external borrowing and in accordance with advice it receives from its contracted Treasury Management experts. Based on the current set of prudential indicators, external borrowing will be required each year from 2023/24.
- 3.4. It is vitally important that the Council has regard to the relationship between the financing costs of the capital programme and the revenue General Fund, and Housing Revenue Account. This is covered within the report by the prudential indicators.
- 3.5. This Council has established a sound level of governance surrounding its capital investments and employs suitably qualified personnel in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategy. External support and expertise is sought where necessary, and officers have the ability to communicate openly and freely with members of the Cabinet.

4. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

4.1. Where General Fund capital spend has been financed by loan (internal borrowing), and has increased the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), the Council is required to make a provision to repay a proportion of the accumulated amount each year. This amount is charged to revenue and is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This charge reduces the CFR each year and is based on the expected economic use period related to the capital expenditure.

4.2. Full Council is required to approve an MRP statement in advance of each financial year. The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP statement:

“ For capital expenditure that has been incurred, and which has given rise to a CFR, the MRP policy for expenditure other than that incurred on investment property and dwellings, shall be to charge revenue an amount equal to the depreciation of any asset financed by loan. The MRP policy specific to investment properties and dwellings financed by loan, shall be to charge revenue an amount equivalent to the sum of borrowing utilised, over a repayment period of 50 years.”

5. ENVIRONMENTAL / CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no implications arising from this report.

6. CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND LOCAL ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

6.1 The Panel at their meeting on 19 January 2023 supported the Capital Strategy as set out in the report, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

7.1 The Capital Strategy, at circa £139 million, represents a significant expenditure for this Council over the medium term. The Council looks to utilise cash balances but also forecasts the requirement for external borrowing however the proposal shows this to be at a prudent level and well within the Councils capacity.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

Capital Strategy 2023/24

1.0 Introduction

This capital strategy gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

The report also includes the prudential indicators, as required by the Prudential Code.

2.0 Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. The Council has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £10,000 are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2023/24, the Council is planning capital expenditure of £50.159 million as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2021/22 actual	2022/23 forecast	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget	2025/26 budget
General Fund services	5.027	9.971	14.799	8.340	17.025
Council housing (HRA)	12.862	20.900	27.610	24.850	24.550
Capital investments	6.127	11.609	7.750	7.500	7.000
TOTAL	24.016	42.480	50.159	40.690	48.575

The General Fund capital programme includes the cyclical replacement of Vehicles and Plant and a New Depot Facility. The Council also plans to incur £21 million of capital expenditure on economic sustainability and regeneration projects within the District, the majority of which will also generate a revenue return. These are detailed later in this report in section 4.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account which ensures that council housing does not subsidise, or is itself subsidised by, other local services. HRA capital expenditure is therefore recorded separately and includes the maintenance of existing stock and the building and acquisitions of new homes over the forecast period, in line with the Housing strategy.

Governance: Service managers bid annually in the early Autumn to include projects in the Council's capital programme. Bids are collated by the Chief Finance Officer and reviewed collectively by the Executive Management Team. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Panel appraise the proposed programme and makes recommendations to the Cabinet. The final capital programme is then presented to Cabinet and to Council in February each year.

- Full details of the Council's capital programme are available within the Feb 2023 Cabinet papers (Medium Term Financial Plan / Annual Budget 2023/24)

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2021/22 actual	2022/23 forecast	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget	2025/26 budget
External sources (Grants / DC's)	1.912	5.947	9.522	7.506	6.861
Capital Receipts	2.779	2.500	3.000	2.000	2.000
Capital Reserves	2.655	6.655	8.845	5.145	3.290
Revenue Contributions	9.088	10.998	10.500	10.850	10.800
Debt / Loan	7.582	16.380	18.292	15.189	25.624
TOTAL	24.016	42.480	50.159	40.690	48.575

Prior to 2023/24 any borrowing required to meet the Council's capital expenditure was met by using cash held in reserves rather than raising loans. This action is known as internal borrowing but this report identifies that external borrowing will also be required from 2023/24. Internal borrowing is replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP, explained further below). Alternatively, additional (beyond those already anticipated within the financing as shown within table 2) proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP and debt repayment are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance in £ millions

	2021/22 actual	2022/23 forecast	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget	2025/26 budget
Capital Expenditure Financed by Debt / Loan	7.582	16.380	18.292	15.189	25.624
Own resources - Debt Repayment	-4.100	-4.100	-2.950	-2.950	-2.950
Own resources - MRP Provision	-1.166	-1.715	-2.310	-2.610	-3.372
Movement in CFR	2.316	10.565	13.032	9.629	19.302

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP, debt repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £13.032 million during 2023/24. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2022 actual	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget	31.3.2026 budget
General Fund services	4.331	6.394	7.988	7.669	17.245
Council housing (HRA)	128.078	127.935	134.009	138.907	143.639
Capital investments	11.801	20.446	25.810	30.859	35.853
Total CFR at Year End	144.210	154.775	167.807	177.436	196.738
Movement in CFR from one year to the next	2.316	10.565	13.032	9.629	19.302

Minimum Revenue Provision: Where General Fund capital spend has been financed by loan (internal borrowing), and has increased the CFR, the Council is required to make a provision to repay a proportion of the accumulated amount each year. This amount is charged to revenue and is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This charge reduces the CFR each year and is based on the expected economic use period related to the capital expenditure.

Full Council is required to approve an MRP statement in advance of each financial year. The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP statement:

“ For capital expenditure that has been incurred, and which has given rise to a CFR, the MRP policy for expenditure other than that incurred on investment property and dwellings, shall be to charge revenue an amount equal to the depreciation of any asset financed by loan. The MRP policy specific to investment properties and dwellings financed by loan, shall be to charge revenue an amount equivalent to the sum of borrowing utilised, over a repayment period of 50 years.”

For Council Housing and the refinancing settlement of 2012, the Council approved a business plan that charged amounts to revenue to ensure that any borrowings are reduced in accordance with the maturity of the debt outstanding. The proposed 2023/24 HRA budget confirms that new borrowing is required to produce a balanced budget and provide the necessary finance to the Capital Programme.

Asset management: Service Managers from across the Council manage assets in their service delivery areas. The Council's Service Manager for Estates and Valuation has overall responsibility for the management of the Council's property estate records, including liaising with the Council's Accountancy department on statutory annual financial reporting. To ensure that property assets continue to be of long-term use, the Council will be producing an overarching Accommodation Strategy.

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds (capital receipts), can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. Council dwelling sales through the Right to Buy scheme also generate capital receipts. Although some of these are currently returned to the government, the majority are available to the Council to spend on new housing. The Council plans to receive £2.2 million of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts in £ millions

	2021/22 actual	2022/23 forecast	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget	2025/26 budget
Asset sales	5.720	3.600	2.000	2.000	2.000
Loans repaid	0.101	0.451	0.201	0.401	0.000
TOTAL	5.821	4.051	2.201	2.401	2.000

- The majority of forecast asset disposals relate to Right to Buy receipts.
- In 2014, the Council arranged £2m of prudential borrowing on behalf Lymington Harbour Commissioner. This is being repaid annually.
- In 2022/23, the Council provided a loan facility to the New Forest Enterprise Centre to finance planned maintenance works. The outstanding loan value at the end of 2022/23 is expected to be £300,000, with full repayment due by 31/3/2025.

3.0 Treasury Management

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent but will become cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

At the last balance sheet date (31/03/22), the Council had £122.6 million borrowing at an average interest rate of 3.32% (due principally to the HRA refinancing settlement in 2012) and held £85.09 million treasury investments (including sums received from Central government for redistribution) earning an average rate of 1.03%.

Borrowing strategy: The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheaper short-term loans and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher.

Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt are shown in table 6 below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £millions

	31.3.2022 actual	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget	31.3.2026 budget
Debt - HRA Settlement	122.2	118.1	114.0	109.9	105.8
Debt - Capital Programme	0.4	0.2	13.7	31.2	56.4
Total Debt	122.6	118.3	127.7	141.1	162.2
Capital Financing Requirement	144.2	154.8	167.8	177.4	196.7

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

Affordable borrowing limit: The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year and to keep it under review. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 7: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £millions

	2021/22 limit	2022/23 limit	2023/24 limit	2024/25 limit	2025/26 limit
Authorised limit – total external debt	195.8	207.3	225.5	236.4	256.5
Operational boundary – total external debt	178.5	189.6	207.2	217.4	237.1

- Further details on borrowing are included within the treasury management strategy

Investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Council's policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term

and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

Table 8: Treasury management investments in £millions

	31.3.2022 actual	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget	31.3.2026 budget
Near-term investments	70.5	9.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Longer-term investments	14.6	13.6	10.0	10.0	10.0
TOTAL	85.1	22.6	10.1	10.2	10.1

- Further details on treasury investments are included within the treasury management strategy

Table 8 suggests that the majority of the Council's cash will be utilised over the period through internal borrowing to fund the needs of the Council's capital programme, until minimum balances reach £10 million. Use of cash for capital programme financing will be supplemented through external borrowing, when required (hence the increase in debt headroom as per table 7). The Council should expect to retain a minimum level of cash, known as the **Liability Benchmark**. The General Fund balance reserve at £3 million and the HRA reserve at £1 million are an absolute minimum, with further headroom added to set where the Council's basic benchmark should be (**£10 million** in total).

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Head of Finance and staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by Council. A mid-year and an outturn report on treasury management activity are presented to the audit committee. The audit committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

4.0 Commercial Activities for the Purpose of Economic Sustainability, Regeneration and Income

The Council intends to invest in commercial and residential property to support a sustainable local economy within the New Forest and encourage regeneration projects. The Council will invest in and will lend to its Wholly Owned Trading Company and will in return receive an income. Investment properties were valued at £18.5 million on the Council's balance sheet as at 31/03/22 and long terms loans to the WOC totalled £2.673 million as at the same date. In 2022/23 to date, the Council has purchased a major shop unit in New Milton, a smaller shop unit in Totton, has made significant progress on the development of industrial units in Ringwood (set for completion in January 2023) and has completed a further 4 residential acquisitions.

To support the wider objective of economic sustainability and regeneration the Council accepts higher risk on commercial and residential investment than with treasury

investments. The principal risk exposures include vacancies and falls in capital values. These risks in relation to commercial property are managed by predominantly targeting acquisitions with existing medium-long term tenancies in place and being sensible about the purchase price in relation to the Council's desire to promote and sustain employment sites within the district, and the income yields achievable. In order that commercial investments remain proportionate to the size of the authority, these are currently subject to an overall maximum investment limit of £50 million (updated in December 2022). Residential property investments are currently subject to an overall investment limit of £10 million.

Governance: Decisions on commercial investments are made by an investment panel in line with the criteria and limits approved by Council in the Commercial Property Investment strategy. Decisions on residential investments are taken by the Board of Directors of the wholly owned company, in line with the criteria and limits approved by Council in the Residential Property Strategy. Property and most other commercial investments are also capital expenditure and purchases have therefore also been pre-approved as part of the capital programme.

- Further details, including the risk management on commercial and residential investments are outlined in these respective strategy documents;
 - [Commercial Property Investment Strategy - 2017](#)
 - [Commercial Property Investment Strategy - 2022](#)
 - [Residential Property Investment Strategy](#)

5.0 Liabilities

In addition to debt of £122.6 million detailed above, the Council is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund liability (valued at £91 million as at 31/03/22), It has also set aside £4.0 million in provisions, with £3.4 million of this to cover risks of business rate appeals.

Governance: Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken by the Chief Finance Officer. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by Accountancy and reported when necessary.

- Further details on liabilities are shown within the Council's draft balance sheet on page 18 of the 2021/22 draft Annual Financial Report, further supported by notes to the accounts:
 - [Annual Financial Report - 2021-22](#)

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable*. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants for the General fund, and the income receivable from rents within the HRA.

*In relation to the finance costs incurred within the General Fund, the income to be generated will exceed the additional MRP and interest charges, but as this income is to be used to directly contribute towards the funding of services, the income is not netted off against the finance costs within the table 9.

Table 9: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	31.3.2022 actual	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget	31.3.2026 budget
General Fund; Financing costs (£m)	0.19	0.70	1.83	2.24	3.40
General Fund; Proportion of net revenue stream	1.0%	3.4%	8.3%	10.2%	15.5%
HRA; Financing costs (£m)	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.8	5.2
HRA; Proportion of net revenue stream	14.2%	13.3%	13.3%	13.8%	14.7%

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Chief Finance Officer is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable considering that the majority of the planned expenditure is revenue earning.

7.0 Knowledge and Skills

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Chief Finance Officer and the Council's two principal accountants are all qualified accountants with several years' experience between them, the Service Manager for Estates and Valuation is a qualified solicitor with many years of experience in property law, commercial and corporate transactions and is supported by highly experienced and professionally qualified surveyors and valuers (members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors).

Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and has a Service Level Agreement with Hampshire County Council's Treasury Management department for day-to-day treasury management activities. The Council instructs external surveyors, valuers, architects and quantity surveyors to provide specialist advice on a project by project basis. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.