

Cabinet – 1 October 2025

Climate Change and Nature Emergency Annual Update 2024/25

Purpose	For Review
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	This report provides an update on progress towards achieving the aims of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency declaration. Updates within this report are aligned to the four adopted programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery and Programme Management and cover activities undertaken between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. NFDC corporate emissions and utility data is provided and analysed, in addition to New Forest District emissions data, as published by the UK Government. The strategic direction of climate action, working in partnership with its stakeholders, is outlined. Longer-term strategic priorities are being considered by the newly expanded Climate and Sustainability Team and will be informed by the outcomes of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Member Task and Finish Group.
Recommendation(s)	That the Cabinet: - a) Acknowledges activities undertaken and efforts made by NFDC and its partners between 1 April 2024 and 31st March 2025 in response to the declared Climate Change and Nature Emergency. b) Continues to support the development of longer-term Climate Change and Nature Emergency strategic objectives and an associated Action Plan, as informed by the Member Task and Finish Group, to ensure that the New Forest District is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change now and in the future, especially in consideration on political and organisational changes expected as a

	result of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution.
Reasons for recommendation(s)	The NFDC Corporate Plan 2024-28 reinforces the Council's commitment to the issues of climate change and sustainability. The activities reported contribute towards a number of corporate plan priorities, however the report itself is most closely aligned with Place Priority 2 – Protecting our climate, coast and natural world. The recommendations support key principles of the Council's Future New Forest Transformation Programme and align to the UK Government's legislative target to achieve net zero CO₂e emissions by 2050. In the changing context of LGR and Devolution, it is essential that NFDC is actively planning and well-placed to access funding and implement policies and projects that strengthen the resilience of our people, places, and assets to the impacts of climate change.
Ward(s)	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Geoffrey Blunden Environment and Sustainability
Strategic Director(s)	James Carpenter Strategic Director – Place, Operations and Sustainability
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Introduction and background

1. This report provides an update on progress towards achieving the aims of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency declaration. As committed in October 2021, an annual report is to be produced which highlights key activities since the previous report and sets out intended activities for the coming year. This report covers the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, based on the rolling Action Plan 2023 which can be seen at Appendix 2.
2. Updates within this report are aligned to the four currently adopted programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery and Programme Management. Until such time as new priorities or programmes are developed, all of the work both internal to NFDC and external within the wider district area is mapped to these four programme areas. The team will continue to focus on project delivery and continuous improvement of the programmes, in particular Carbon Reduction, as highlighted in the Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken in 2024/25. Working with our partners, our vision remains to create a net zero, climate resilient and nature positive New Forest District which provides a safe and prosperous environment now and in the future.
3. Longer-term strategic priorities are being considered by the newly expanded Climate and Sustainability Team, and will be informed by the outcomes of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Member Task and Finish Group, which commenced its 12-month working period in May 2025. Such priorities, once endorsed by NFDC, would feed into the climate strategy and approaches to nature recovery of the new strategic and unitary authorities, post-LGR and devolution, given the timescales of these two major organisational changes.
4. A review of the climate change projections and impacts was completed in 2025, providing an up-to-date forecast of climate change for the UK and the New Forest district area. The full report can be seen [here](#). The report concludes that we still expect 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, however the projections show that we will likely be feeling these impacts sooner than initially expected. The report highlights our risks and vulnerabilities within the New Forest and suggests actions to improve resilience. A summary of the Climate Change Adaptation Report can be seen at paragraph 36.
5. NFDC acknowledges the importance of the natural environment, particularly given the habitats and species found in the New Forest

National Park and surrounding New Forest District. As highlighted in the State of Nature Reports, the UK stands as one of the world's most nature-depleted nations, evidenced by the fact that nearly one in six species in Great Britain are at risk of extinction, 151 species have already gone, and the average abundance of UK species has declined by 19% since 1970. This significant loss, with stark declines seen across bird, amphibian, reptile, and mammal populations, has profound repercussions for the UK's environment, public health, and economy.

6. As in previous annual updates and consistent with other local authorities in the UK, this report presents an approach for how New Forest District Council (NFDC) can demonstrate climate leadership and safeguard council services and the wider area in response to the declared Climate Change and Nature Emergency. 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. This is particularly important as we head into a period of change through Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and devolution, which will see the New Forest District become part of a larger administrative area, with a wider landscape and broader scope of priorities. It is essential that we understand the risks and opportunities in the New Forest and are well positioned in the new political environment to access funding and deliver projects that safeguard the area.
7. As stated previously, sustainability in its most inclusive sense remains the ultimate goal of NFDC's approach to climate and nature action. Working to reduce greenhouse gases, 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 environmental, social and economic health requires a considered approach to all decisions that balances finances, wellbeing, ecosystem services, cost of living and the needs of future generations.
8. In the financial year 24/25, NFDC successfully leveraged funding for climate projects through both internal and external sources. The Estates Team led on a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for low-emission air source heat pumps at Appletree Court (see paragraph 31b), a site which also benefitted from investment through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to install publicly accessible EV charging facilities. The Rural England Prosperity Fund was also accessed by communities and businesses to part fund energy saving initiatives such as solar PV and new glazing on buildings.

9. In July 2025, it was announced by Government that the PSDS funding will be brought to a close after the current rounds are complete. This was a significant source of funding to councils and other public sector organisations to deliver decarbonisation projects. It is expected that a similar scheme will be launched to replace PSDS, but the exact details are not yet known. The Government has also rescinded financial support for the SCATTER Cities tool. This online platform allowed Local Authorities to view their annually produced area emissions data and present it in various forms to meet the reporting needs of each organisation. The platform also provided a forecasting tool to explore the decarbonisation potential of a range of decarbonisation interventions and help local authorities prioritise activities.

Climate Action in Partnership

10. New Forest District Council continues to work with partners in the design, delivery and financing of services and projects that seek to enhance environmental quality and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. Working collaboratively enables NFDC and its partners to work effectively and efficiently across physical, social and administrative boundaries, prioritising high-quality outputs and maximising value for money. Partnership working is consistently cited as best practice for local authorities in combatting the Climate Change and Nature Emergency.
11. As highlighted in previous annual update reports, due to the overlapping geography of the NFDC administrative boundary, the Council works closely with the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and Hampshire County Council (HCC), in addition to other neighbouring authorities such as BCP, Test Valley and Southampton City (see map in Appendix 1). This close proximity 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 the UK Government to monitor emissions reductions in the NFDC area and communicate with partners to ensure clear and consistent messaging and reduce any duplication of effort.
12. For a number of years, NFDC residents have benefitted from county-wide climate and nature initiatives spearheaded by the Hampshire County Council (HCC) Climate Team. These initiatives included Solar Together, the Greening Campaign and the Climate Advice Line. Hampshire County Council no longer has a single

"climate team" but embeds climate action across its services, focusing on a carbon-neutral Hampshire by 2050, resilience to climate impacts, and supporting community energy projects. The Council's efforts include setting targets, developing climate strategies, integrating climate considerations into planning and public sector work, and facilitating community engagement through initiatives like the Hampshire Community Energy Network. NFDC continues to work with HCC colleagues across policy and operational teams, and will support initiatives on a district level wherever possible. We have already established local links and projects with the Greening Campaign, and expect to see other initiative continue through alternative funding mechanisms.

13. The Council works closely with neighbouring authorities and government agencies in the creation and delivery of Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Plans; and a new working group has been formed with Southampton City Council, Test Valley District Council and Scottish and Southern Electric to investigate the creation of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). These examples of partnership working demonstrate the scale the breadth of climate and sustainability issues – consideration of how we maintain these positive relationships and work within and between new administrative boundaries will be important going forward.
14. NFDC continues to cultivate local partnerships with industry bodies and other networks and organisations. We have maintained membership of both APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) and APSE Energy, and regularly utilise links to knowledge and resources that can help NFDC achieve the highest standards across all service and corporate operations. The Council continues to engage with the Solent Freeport and the Solent Cluster partnerships to ensure that economic development within and surrounding the New Forest District is supported and sustainable over the long-term.
15. Relationships have continued to be built with community groups and organisations. This includes with the Greening Campaign on their existing work providing support to communities in tackling Climate Change, as well engaging in the development of upcoming projects focused on Climate Adaptation. A relationship with Community Energy New Forest has been developed. Community Energy New Forest work in partnership with Community Energy South to support the generation of renewable energy within the District.

Emissions Data

16. Historical emissions data can be viewed in previous Annual Update Reports (linked at the end of this document). This report will focus

on emissions accounted for in the financial year 2024/25. Note that previously reported figures have been adjusted by the Government based on updated data and methodology (standard practice).

17. New Forest District (Area) Emissions:

As detailed in Table 1, Government figures published in July 2025 show that emissions from the New Forest District have reduced by approximately 73% from the 1990 baseline – this is above the UK overall reduction rate of 56%. Data shows that this is largely due to two overarching features: changes to 'Large Industrial Installations' within the District between 2009 and 2015; and the rural nature of the District and designation of the National Park (emissions categorised as LULUCF – Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry), meaning that the environment acts as a 'carbon sink' reducing the overall emissions significantly. When considering only the non-LULUCF data (i.e. emissions related to human activity), the percentage reduction is much smaller, demonstrating the importance of local environmental protection and the need to encourage greater behaviour change.

	UK (MtCO ₂ e)	% reduction from 1990	NFDC area (ktCO ₂ e)	% reduction from 1990
1990	809.1	-	3010.7 (estimated)	-
2005	656.0	19%	2998.2	0.4%
2019	417.1	48%	970.7	68%
2020	377.3	53%	877.2	71%
2021	395.9	51%	922.3	69%
2022	375.9	54%	853.5	72%
2023	356.1	56%	823.4	73%

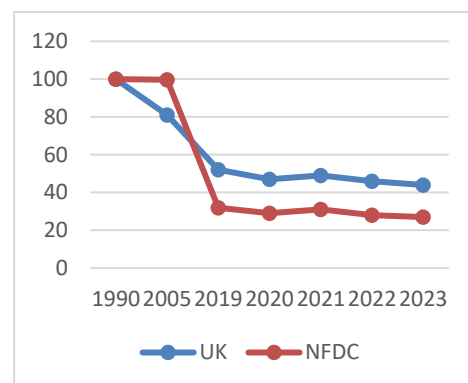
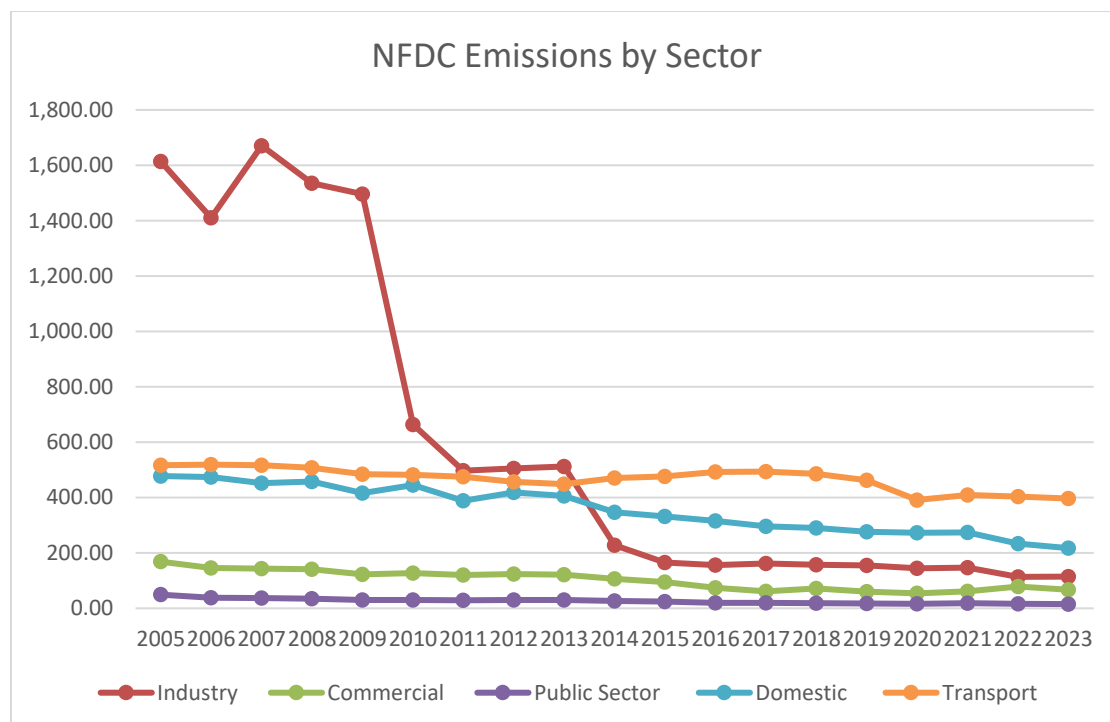
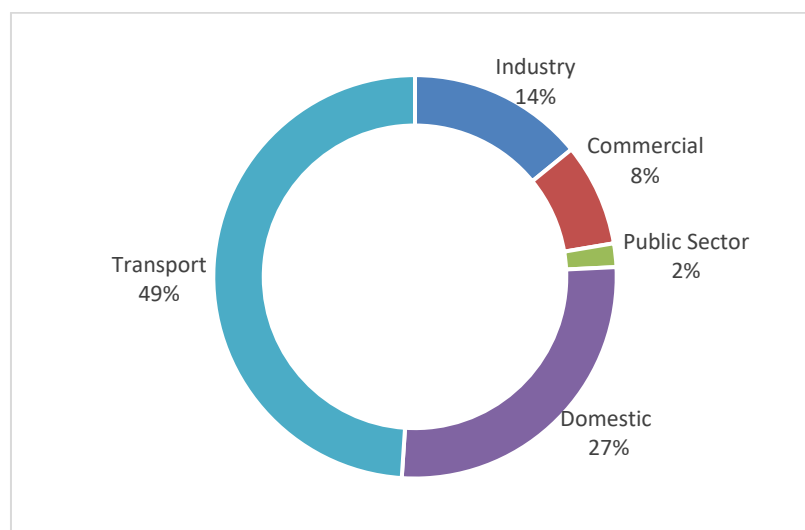


Table 1/Graph 1: UK and NFDC Emissions from 1990 and 2005 Baselines



Graph 2: NFDC Emissions by Sector 2005-2023



Graph 3: NFDC Area Emissions by Sector 2023

18. Based on 2023 data, the most significant emissions sectors in the New Forest District Council Area are transport at 49%, domestic at 27% and industry at 14%. This is consistent with the findings of the previous report; however, the percentages are marginally different.
19. When compared to the other District Council areas in Hampshire, the New Forest has the highest total domestic, industrial, waste emissions, and the second highest transport, commercial and public sector emissions. As seen in previous years, high emissions in these sectors can be attributed to building type and efficiency (homes and business premises), their distribution across the large geographical area (rural with limited connectivity), waste infrastructure and

practices (awaiting transformation) and industrial operations in the east of the district. Net total emissions remain comparatively low due to the high absorption of CO₂e through the New Forest land use and forestry (LULUCF), for which New Forest had the best performance of the Hampshire Districts. Despite higher total emissions, the per km² emission rates for New Forest are some of the lowest across all the Hampshire Districts, this is reflective of the New Forest being the largest district in Hampshire (by area).

20. The New Forest District's assessment via the UK Council Climate Scorecard 2024 showed that the District performed well overall, with a total score of 46% but there is still more that can be done. The New Forest's lowest performing areas were judged to be Transport and Waste Reduction & Food. The sectors assessed were slightly different to that of the Government data referenced above, but it works to validate the information and focus efforts on those sectors most in need of reform and is being addressed through the transformation of our waste collection service and fleet management.
21. New Forest Council (Corporate) Emissions:
Known NFDC Council emissions in 2023/24 and 2024/25 were calculated using the Local Partnerships/LGA Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool for Local Authorities and are shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. More information about the methodology, including scope and assumptions, can be found here.

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions / tCO ₂ e	% of total emissions
Scope 1	Heating	970.54	28.6
	Fugitive Emissions	0	0
	Authority's fleet	1695.92	50
Scope 2	Electricity	558.96	16.5
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	91.67	2.7
	Outsourced Fleet	0.78	0
	Transmission and Distribution Losses	47.5	1.5
	Water	23.22	0.7
	Material Loss	0	0
	Waste generated from own operations	0	0
	Outsourced Scope 3	0	0
Total Emissions		3388.59	100

Table 2: NFDC Council Emissions 2023/24

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions / tCO ₂ e	% of total emissions
Scope 1	Heating	977.65	29.4
	Fugitive Emissions	0	0
	Authority's fleet	1658.36	49.9
Scope 2	Electricity	534.25	16.1
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	84.8	2.6
	Outsourced Fleet	0	0
	Transmission and Distribution Losses	47.22	1.4
	Water	18.75	0.6
	Material Loss	0	0
	Waste generated from own operations	0	0
	Outsourced Scope 3	0	0
Total Emissions		3321.03	100

Table 3: NFDC Council Emissions 2024/25

22. Where values are listed as '0' in Tables 2 and 3, 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.
23. It can be seen from Tables 2 and 3 that the percentage of emissions per type is consistent across the two reporting years, which is also almost identical to the emissions levels report in 2021/22 and 2022/23. There was a 2% decrease in overall emissions from 21/22 to 22/23, a 1.8% decrease from 22/23 to 23/24, and a 2% decrease from 23/24 to 24/25 showing a marginal and slowing pace of emissions reductions. These reductions have happened despite a steady increase in the number of staff at NFDC, increasing from 783 in April 2023 to 824 in April 2025, making the reductions in emissions more significant.
24. If NFDC is to achieve net zero by 2050 or before, high impact activities will be needed to reduce emissions at the pace and scale required.

25. 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 on financial sustainability.

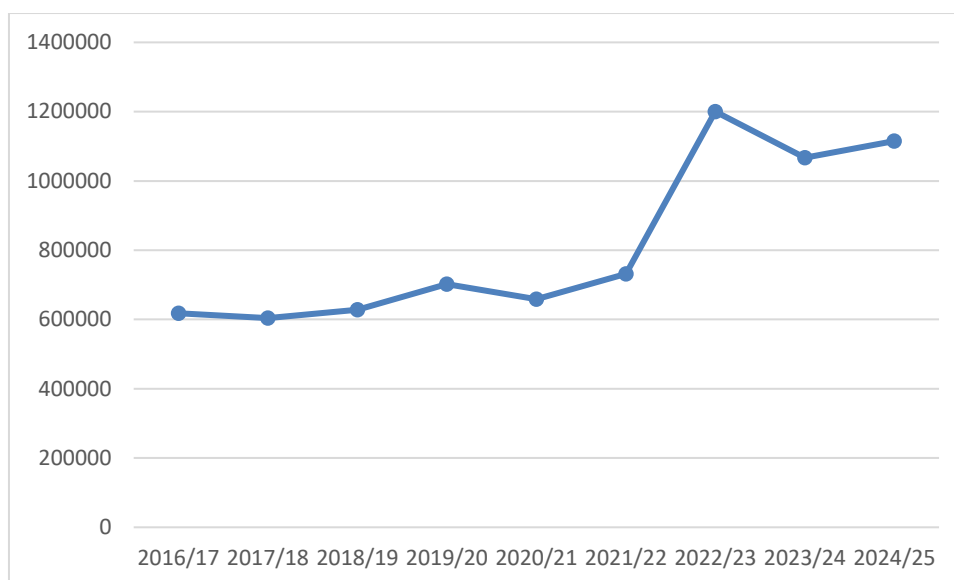
Utility	Annual Unit Quantity	Annual Cost	Average Unit Cost
Gas	5,298,887 kWh	£278,941.28	5p/kWh
Electricity	2,431,497 kWh	£609,270.70	25p/kWh
Water	57,007 m ³	£178,475.69	£3.13/m ³
		£ 1,066,687.67	

Table 4: Utility consumption and costs 2023/24

Utility	Annual Unit Quantity	Annual Cost	Average Unit Cost
Gas	5,345,253 kWh	£276,340.37	5p/kWh
Electricity	2,379,318 kWh	£651,900.94	27p/kWh
Water	56,904 m ³	£186,636.25	£3.27/m ³
		£ 1,114,877.56	

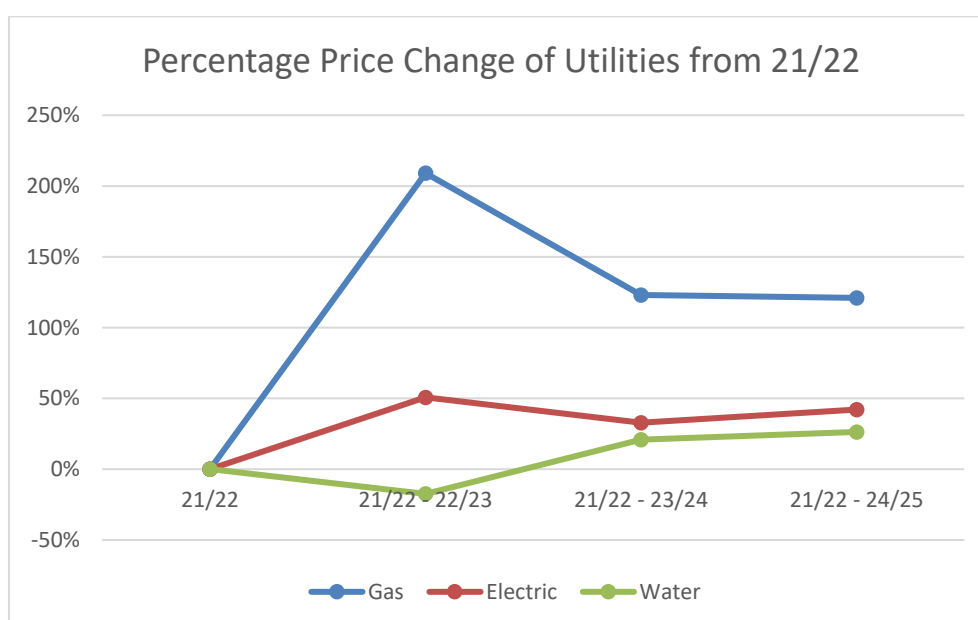
Table 5: Utility consumption and costs 2024/25

26. The figures in Tables 4 and 5 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 meters are on the same unit rates. The average unit rates include all charges associated with the supply of the utility.
27. Between 23/24 and 24/25, the Council reduced electricity and water consumption by approximately 2.2% and 0.2%, respectively. Gas consumption increased by approximately 0.9%. The council has invested in new energy data management software to better understand these fluctuations and analyse demand for gas, electricity, and water across the estate. This software will help to identify any inefficiencies or leaks and highlight links between, for example, solar PV generation and switching from gas to electrical heating systems.



Graph 4: NFDC Annual Spend on Utilities (£)

28. Graph 4 illustrates the trend in utility spend from 2016/17 to 2023/24. The price fluctuation is caused by a combination of higher net utility consumption and increased average unit rates (as shown in Tables 4 and 5). Using predominantly grid-supplied utilities means that the council is more vulnerable to experience price volatility. Installing independent energy generation systems e.g. solar PV, across the estate would reduce this risk in the future, improving energy security for the organisation.
29. Graph 5 below shows in greater detail the percentage price change of utility units from the price paid in 2021/22. For example, the unit price of gas increased by 209% from 21/22 to 22/23; the unit price in 24/25 was still at a rate 121% higher than in 21/22.



Graph 5: Percentage Price Change of Utility Units from 2021/22

Climate Change and Nature Emergency – Strategic Update

30. The first Climate Change and Nature Emergency Annual Update Report to Cabinet on 6 February 2022 identified six strategic actions to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency. Progress to date (by 31st March 2025) against the intended outcomes are detailed below in Table 6.

Strategic Action 1: Define to set targets for the climate change emergency declaration	
Planned Activities: - 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 estate and wider area. - Assessing what is in and out of scope for the estate emissions.	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Complete – differentiation made between corporate and area wide emissions. The net zero target for both is currently 2050. - Trajectory report to be considered by the Climate and Nature Task and Finish (T&F) Group. - LGA Tool guidance used to date but will be reviewed by the T&F Group.
Outcome intended: A fully defined, evidence-based target with a pathway outlined.	Outcome achieved: Work underway.
Strategic Action 2: Define the target for the nature emergency declaration	
Planned Activities: - 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.	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Nature recovery objectives and targets to be reviewed by the T&F Group. - Alignment to Environment Act and Climate Change Roadmap to be considered by the T&F Group.
Outcome intended: A fully defined, evidence-based target with a pathway outlined.	Outcome achieved: Work commenced, to be reviewed by the T&F Group.
Strategic Action 3: Collate existing data and conduct area-wide baseline emissions to identify key areas for future focus	
Planned Activities: - 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	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Area-wide emissions known. - Complete – to be reviewed by T&F Group. - Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan aligns work programmes with major

programme to reach the climate change targets.	emissions/ impact sources. To be reviewed by T&F Group.
Outcome intended: Data-driven programme on climate change.	Outcome achieved: Work underway.
Strategic Action 4: Engage with staff members to make climate change and nature a core deliverable.	
Planned Activities: - Explore the provision of skills training e.g., carbon literacy. - Adopt decision tools, designed by Hampshire County Council, to embed carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation into all decisions.	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Rolling programme of Carbon Literacy training is underway for staff. - Alternative tools to improve the sustainability of decision making is underway. - Officer Steering Group established, meeting bi-monthly. - Frequent staff communications. - Climate and sustainability embedded in NFDC Corporate Plan 2024-2028, Future New Forest Transformation Programme and reporting templates.
Outcome Intended: Staff members are well-informed and taking action on climate change and nature, wherever possible, within their roles and able to advise on the issue as part of decision-making.	Outcome achieved: Outcome achieved and continuing.
Strategic Action 5: Develop a climate change and nature engagement and communications strategy.	
Planned Activities: - Reaching residents, such as through developing webpages to showcase 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.	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Working with Corporate Communications Team to deliver regular internal and external comms. - Development of climate comms strategy – to be considered by the T&F Group. - Internal comms issued, inc. newsletters, staff briefings and social activities. - Working with Behavioural Insights Officer on waste and climate projects. - Engagement with key partners, including HCC and NFNPA. - Engagement with key partners on events and communications. - Commenced work on climate webpage improvements.
Outcome intended: Greater transparency and availability of information regarding the work	Outcome achieved: Work commenced and continuing.

being carried out on climate change/nature.	
Strategic Action 6: Maximise partnerships and networks to facilitate the delivery of projects.	
Planned Activities: - 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 to enhance knowledge, alongside becoming more deeply involved in existing networks to amplify the climate and nature agenda.	Progress by 31st March 2025: - Continued engagement with HCOG and other professional/community networks. - Close working with the NFNPA to produce Climate Adaptation Assessments and Reports. Mapping exercise to visualise local partnership undertaken through Green Leadership Training (NFNPA) and NFDC Corporate Leadership Training. - Working with the Greening Campaign with a view to expand partnership working across New Forest, in conjunction with Met Office. - Community Energy New Forest Partnership established to support renewable energy projects. - Engagement with new and existing networks e.g. ADEPT, LGA, IEMA, APSE and APSE Energy
Outcome intended: Leading the Place with greater partnership working and shared knowledge.	Outcome achieved: Working towards place leadership

Table 6: Progress against Strategic Actions by 31st March 2025

Progress 2024/25 – NFDC Council

31. A number of initiatives were carried out between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 by NFDC to respond to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency, both in what we do and how we do it (our services and operations). Some of the key activities are outlined below.

Carbon Reduction

- Installation of EV chargers at Appletree Court available for both staff and visitors, part funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Replacement of 2 gas boilers at Appletree Court with 2 Air Source Heat Pumps using £116,000 of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) phase 3c.
- A continued use of electric fleet by PC Cleaners to travel to and from the cleaning and servicing of our 23 toilet blocks.

- d) The Barton Beach PC block was replaced with a Carbon Net Zero purpose-built block. This included power from solar panels, heat recovery pumps and micro boil sinks.
- e) Replacement of two stroke fuel with a 'Aspen' fuel, a lower carbon emission alternative. This compliments the existing programme of battery powered maintenance equipment.
- f) Implementation of new street bins which have a higher capacity. This has reduced the frequency of emptying the bins and the fleet miles involved. There is also a reduction in the number of plastic bags used for bins.
- g) All staff in Streetscene now using smart phones to reduce the need to print work tickets.
- h) The Enforcement and Pest Control Teams have been improving their service efficiency by recording and sorting site visits by area in order to optimise fuel use and officer time.

Climate Adaptation

- i) There is an ongoing programme of fitting Bottle Refill Stations to PC blocks across the New Forest. This encourages the use of reusable bottles and reduces the number of plastic bottles in waste.
- j) All cleaning products are now rated on a climate matrix by COMAX. They are assessed and reviewed annually and replaced as needed.
- k) 16 new build homes completed at Moore Close, New Milton. These were commissioned by the Council and include 11 homes for rent and 5 for shared ownership. All these homes were designed and built to meet the Proposed Future Homes Standard.
- l) A further 42 homes are currently under construction to meet the Future Homes Standard situated in Hythe and Totton.
- m) Attendance at a Community Forum focused on Community Resilience to ensure that the Council and District are prepared and resilient against emergency situations.

Nature Recovery

- n) 4-year rotational maintenance of Scrub areas at Brockenhurst Closed Churchyard to support Invertebrate Life Cycles.

- o) Wildflower areas were surveyed and found to support a range of plant species for pollination, life cycles and as habitats.
- p) 51 trees were planted during the 2024/25 planting season October to March across NFDC sites in the New Forest.
- q) Implementation of requirement for ecological enhancements as part of planning applications. Going forward the number of features approved and installed will be reported on.
- r) Input into Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- s) Investing in the evidence base to establish the ecological baseline for the rare greater horseshoe bat in the Avon Valley. A NFDC commissioned study trapped and radio tracked rare greater horseshoe bats from a known roost in the Avon valley.
- t) The running of 'bat walks' for members of staff to help raise awareness and increase engagement.

Programme Management

- u) Continued member engagement through Overview & Scrutiny Panel sessions and invitation to participate in a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Task and Finish Group.
- v) Officers from across services engaged in Carbon Literacy training.
- w) All staff briefings on the Climate Change and Nature Emergency held.
- x) Continued staff engagement through the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Steering Group.
- y) Attendance to a range of Hampshire Place Assembly meetings to engage and input with their Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the inclusion of Climate Change.
- z) Working closely with colleagues in planning policy to ensure that Climate Change is being appropriately considered in the updated Local Plan.

Progress 2024/25 – NFDC Area:

- 32. 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.

Carbon Reduction

- a) Continued working with Community Energy New Forest, who, in partnership with Community Energy South, support the generation of renewable energy within the District.
- b) Installation of solar PV array at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre.
- c) Energy saving projects such as solar PV and new glazing funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund for communities and businesses.
- d) The draft NFDC Air Quality Strategy was consulted on in early 2025 setting out the vision to continuously improve the quality of the environment in our district. Improving air quality by reducing emissions can help to minimise our climate impacts. By the end of 2025, the strategy will be presented to Full Council for adoption.

Climate Adaptation

- e) Two Community Forums held in 2024 to support Town and Parish Councils in understanding the risks in their communities and preparing for them.
- f) Work with specific communities to help produce a Community Plan and sharing of grant funding schemes to assist in preparing for incidents such as power outages or severe weather impacts.
- g) Working with neighbouring authorities and partner organisations on local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategies.
- h) Engagement with the 'Greening Campaign' in the development of an Adaptation strand of their work with communities across the District.
- i) Supporting and working with the New Forest National Park Authority in the creation of an adaptation risk and opportunities assessment.

Nature Recovery

- j) Continued support and close working with the 'Greening Campaign' into New Forest District, in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust.

- k) Working with partners across administrative and water catchment boundaries to protect and enhance wildlife corridors.
- l) Hampshire County Council are in the process of drafting a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which map the existing and proposed habitats for nature and sets out the priorities and targets for nature's recovery. As part of this strategy, a Local Habitat map has also been produced which sets out a high-level strategy for Biodiversity Net Gain.
- m) The New Forest National Park Authority highlights the importance of nature recovery in their Partnership Plan. The Re:New Nature part of plan prioritises nature recovery and the need to build the resilience and better manage the National Parks.

Programme Management

- n) Supporting green/eco community groups across the New Forest District and wider County to raise awareness of environmental and climate friendly activities.
- o) Working with external stakeholders and partners to align key strategies and identify funding opportunities where possible.
- p) Posting NFDC content and sharing the external communications of partners on climate, nature and sustainability topics.

33. *Case Study: Look Out For Our Forest – Coastal Crabby Project*
 The increasing problem of litter on coastal beaches within the New Forest district has prompted the launch of the "Coastal Crabby" campaign which is run between May and September. Initiated in 2021, this campaign aims to address the growing litter issue, at key intervention sites; Barton on Sea, Milford on Sea, and Calshot, by offering a simple yet effective solution: litter bag dispensers. Visitors are encouraged via specifically designed project signs to take a free bag to keep and carry their litter home, reducing the pressure on local bins that often overflow during the busy tourist season.

The project's performance is largely measured by the 'litter reduction per visitor' figure as this considers the offset of the level of visitors the district received with the actual amount of litter produced during the intervention period of that year. This figure is the best measurement of behavioural change. In 2024, there was a 28% reduction in litter per visitor.



34. Case Study: Look Out For Our Forest – Roadside Gamification Project

In 2021 NFDC commissioned a research paper to explore the littering behaviours of people in the New Forest with a particular focus on those who litter from vehicles. The paper '*Reducing Littering in the New Forest, A behavioural insight project*' by Social Engine identifies the varying groups of people who litter and highlights the motivators which can be deployed to influence their behaviour in a targeted way. This project utilises the recommendations and supporting data of the study.

The A35 pilot aimed to influence the behaviour of those who litter from vehicles through the methodology of gamification. Simply, gamification is the process of applying the core aspects of gaming (points, penalties, competition etc.) to psychologically promote a desired outcome. Applied to this project, the A35 was graded in line with the DEFRA "Grades of Cleanliness" [7.0, Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, DEFRA, 2019]. The grades, ranging from A – D were further broken down into percentage scores as follows:

A – 100 – 75

B – 74 – 50

C – 49 – 25

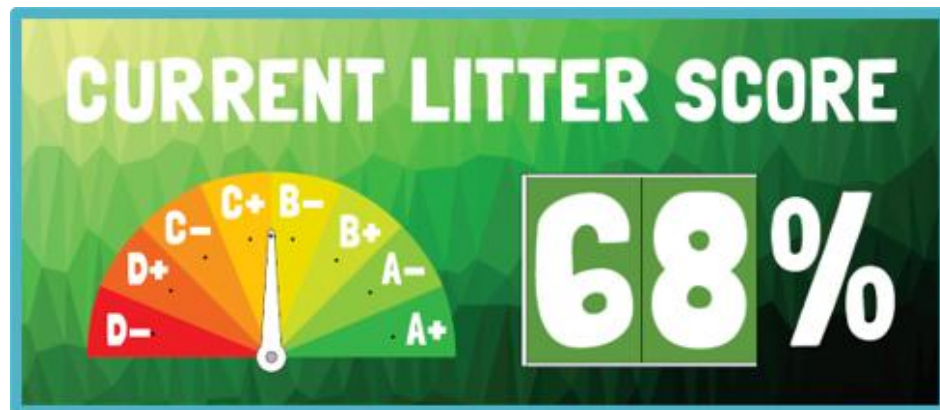
D – 24 – 0

The scores were determined by bi-weekly visits to the target site and assessed in line with the DEFRA guidance. These percentages were also displayed on signs placed at either end of the road stretch.

In between the scoreboards at either end of the target site were fifteen reinforcement signs facing both northwards and south, to and from Lymington. These signs displayed material designed to target the various groups of known litterers as identified within the research paper while also reinforcing the gaming context.

The initial analysis of the data indicated that the roadside intervention resulted in a 75% reduction in litter in comparison to the previous year. Control groups involving other roads which did not have signage were applied to the study to ensure this result wasn't an anomaly caused by an external variable. A litter reduction of 55% was still observed when compared to similar roads which did not receive signage.

A full report detailing the behavioural insights projects' methodology, findings and development is currently being written and will be available to find out more.



35. *Case Study:* Look Out For Our Forest – The Anthropogenic Nest Sculpture

The Anthropogenic Nest sculpture was created by artists from Spudworks in Sway, it was displayed at the New Forest Show 2024 and then went on to tour the district before coming to Appletree Court before its planned recycling.

The nest was a willow nest sculpture, weaved with litter that is commonly found across the forest. The aim of the sculpture was to highlight the dangers from that the litter that is left behind and the habitat of all the species living and visiting the forest.

36. *Case Study:* Greener Housing Strategy

The council continues to deliver energy efficiency improvements to its housing stock through the implementation of the NFDC Greener Housing Strategy.

The Greener Housing strategy is available for public viewing
https://newforest.gov.uk/media/2791/Greener-Housing-Strategy-2022-to-2032/pdf/Greener_Housing_Strategy_18_July.pdf?m=637971084841530000

Under Wave 2.1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

(SHDF), the council secured £545,000 in matched funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to improve the energy performance of 70 inefficient homes to EPC Band C. This two-year programme was completed ahead of schedule, within just 12 months.

As a result of this early delivery, the council was awarded an additional £630,000 to retrofit a further 98 homes.

In addition, 100 homes reached EPC Band C through incremental improvements delivered via the council's capital works programme and day to day repairs. In total, 621 homes have been upgraded to EPC band C or above over the past 24 months, demonstrating the council's strong commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency.

37. Case Study: Climate Change Adaptation Report

The Climate Change Adaptation report outlines the anticipated changes in weather and climate trends, providing data and narrative relating these climate change impacts to the demographic make-up of the district.

The report looks at how four key hazards (flooding, coastal erosion, heatwaves and air quality) may affect the district, its residents, and the Council, and gives an overview of the role of the Council, local partners and statutory bodies in responding to these events. The vulnerabilities and opportunities identified within this report will inform discussions about the short-term actions and long-term strategy needed to reduce climate risk.

Alongside the report, summaries and action guides were produced to provide key information to residents, officers and member. These will be shared across the Council and District.

There will also be an internal risk assessment rolled out across services addressing the four key hazards outlined in the report, and their likely impact on buildings, staff and assets.

New Forest National Park Authority have also produced a Climate Adaptation Risk and Opportunities Assessment, looking at climate adaptation across the national park with a specific focus on nature and habitats. We have worked closely with the National Park in the development of this report and engaged with consultants, ensuring that there was no duplication of work and a holistic view of adaptation across the district could be created.

38. Case Study: Let It Bee

Implementation of the 'Let it Bee' campaign to suspend grass cutting on suitable selected sites across the New Forest. This supports bees and pollinators, as well as increase biodiversity.

One area where biodiversity has been seen to be particularly thriving is on Barton Clifftops. This is thanks to the areas of grass and wildflowers that have been allowed to do their thing and not be mowed during summer.

39. Case Study: Future Energy Landscape

Using NFDC Shared Prosperity Funds, two Future Energy Landscape workshops were run across the district – in Ringwood and Hythe & Dibden and Fawley Parishes. The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) developed the Future Energy Landscape workshops in order for communities to begin to understand and discuss their feelings about renewable energy technologies. During the workshop communities look at data and research surrounding what technologies might be applicable to their area, having hypothetical conversations about the scale and type of projects that could be undertaken in the local area and the impact these may have on the energy needs. These workshops were supported by Community Energy New Forest, WaterCAN (Climate Action Network), and the Greening Campaign.

40. Case Study: Data Provision and Energy Planning

A Data Provision and Energy Planning Report was jointly commissioned for Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority. The purpose of this report was to gather all the data needed to understand the energy system across the geographical area into one place, to understand where the current key issues and constraints exist, and to enable all authorities to use this data to understand their options and the challenges and opportunities they may experience. The report recommends that a Local Area Energy (LAE) Planning approach is taken to address some of the more challenging questions relating to future energy planning.

Climate Change and Nature Emergency – Strategic Direction

41. NFDC's climate action continues to be aligned to the four currently adopted programmes of activity – Carbon Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Nature Recovery and Programme Management. The Corporate Pier Challenge undertaken in 2024/25 highlighted the need for a refreshed Carbon Reduction Plan, which is being explored as part of the wider programme review. Until such time as new priorities or programmes are developed, all of the work both internal to NFDC and external within the wider district area is mapped to these four programme areas. The Climate and Sustainability Team will continue to focus on project delivery and continuous improvement of the programmes.

42. The Climate Change and Nature Emergency Member's Working Group is half-way through the 12-month working period, reviewing the latest information and approaches to climate action. The outcome of each session is a steer on reprioritisation of resources, to focus officer time and funding on activities Members deem to be most important for the residents, businesses, and environment of the New Forest District. These sessions will conclude in March 2026 and inform the strategic priorities from that point, whether that's in the existing NFDC area or new Local Authority area post-LGR.

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 7: NFDC Council and Area Carbon Reduction Programme

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 8: NFDC Council and Area Climate Adaptation Programme

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 9: NFDC Council and Area Nature Recovery Programme

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 10: NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency Programme Management

Governance

43. It is widely communicated that reducing emissions, protecting our environment and improving resilience to climate change is the responsibility of every single officer and Member across the Council, not just the job of one person or team, however there are certain individuals and groups that play a key role in ensuring the quality of NFDC's Climate Change and Nature Emergency response.
44. The Climate and Sustainability Team during 2024/25 consisted of the Climate and Sustainability Manager (1 FTE) supported by a 10-month fixed term Graduate role (1FTE) delivering a one-off climate adaptation project. From May 2025, following a restructure of the wider Place Operations sub-directorate, the role of Service Manager for Public Realm and Sustainability was created and subsequently permission was granted to redirect a proportion of the Sustainability Budget to recruit to 3 new roles within the team – Projects and Engagement Officer, Sustainability Officer and Climate and

Sustainability Lead (3 FTE in total). These roles will be funded from the existing Sustainability Budget.

45. The Climate and Sustainability Lead, a new role in place from September 2025, is responsible for coordinating climate action across the council and externally with partners, with operational governance provided through direct supervision from the Service Manager for Public Realm and Sustainability. This is supplemented by oversight from the Climate and Nature Steering Group – membership of which is Council officers representing services with a pivotal role in delivering environmental improvements. Activities requiring corporate approval will progress through NFDC decision-making boards as required e.g. Executive Management Team or Capital and Change Board, ensuring that the appropriate level of consideration and oversight has been given to each initiative.
46. Political Governance is provided by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability. Regular Portfolio Holder Briefings provide the opportunity for progress updates and discussion of increasing or emerging risks/opportunities. Further political oversight is provided primarily by the Place and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel, with key decisions escalating to Cabinet and Council as required. The creation of a Member Task and Finish Group to support the further development of the strategic direction and long-term priorities for the Council's climate action is to be launched in Autumn 2024 and will meet regularly over the course of the following 12 months.
47. As the budget associated with climate action cuts across all council services, an internal Terms of Reference (ToR) has been agreed which sets out the criteria for spending from the annual Sustainability Budget. These ToR are based on the priority areas for action, as set out in paragraph 42 above, and provide a clear and objective view of what does and doesn't qualify for funding. Spend on a single initiative costing more than £25k is reviewed by the Capital and Change Board before progressing.

Corporate plan priorities

48. The new NFDC Corporate Plan 2024-28 re-enforces the Council's commitment to the issues of climate change and sustainability. The activities reported contribute towards a number of corporate plan priorities, however the report itself is most closely aligned with Place Priority 2 – Protecting our climate, coast and natural world.

Options appraisal

49. As committed in October 2021, an annual update is to be produced which highlights key activities since the previous report and sets out

intended activities for the coming year. The recommendations are to note the content of this report and continue to operate in the context of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency.

Consultation undertaken

50. This report has been produced in consultation with NFDC officers across all service areas, with the support of the Climate and Nature Steering Group. Officers in estates, housing and operational teams have provided data and case studies.
51. The New Forest National Park Authority as provided content, with partner organisations contributing to project information and case studies.
52. Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability has provided input and oversight, in addition to Assistant Director for Place Operations.

Financial and resource implications

53. NFDC's Sustainability Budget to directly fund initiatives to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency was £250,000 in 2024/25. All items of spend were subject to an assessment of financial viability and a wider sustainability appraisal, in addition to meeting the requirements set out in the Sustainability Budget Terms of Reference.
54. It is expected that the cost of all the projects within the Action Plan will exceed that budget 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, match-funding, public investment (e.g. community bonds) and private investment (e.g. commercial entities, landowners etc).
55. 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 need to be considered and effectively managed. 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. largescale renewable energy installations. Anticipated timescales, resource implications and funding requirements over a time-period greater than one year will be reflected in the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy, when this comes to fruition.

56. It should be noted that any change in activity scope could 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.
57. There are no direct financial impacts or actions for approval resulting from this update report.

Legal implications

58. There are no direct legal impacts resulting from this update report.

Risk assessment

59. There are no direct risks or impacts resulting from this update report or its recommendations.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

60. There are no direct environmental implications resulting from the publication of this report, however the Climate Change and Nature Action Plan (at Appendix 2) is intended to bring about significant environmental benefits upon delivery of each of the constituent projects. Each one will be assessed fully as they are brought forward to ensure that maximum sustainable benefits are achieved.
61. It is hoped that through the Council's role as a community leader, this report will inspire the stakeholders of New Forest District Council area to take positive action to address the Climate Change and Nature Emergency in their own ways.

Equalities implications

62. 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.
63. The Climate Change Adaptation Report 2024 highlighted potential equalities impacts associated with different groups' potential vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. Please read the full report and appended [Equality Impact Analysis](#) for more details.

Crime and disorder implications

64. There are no direct crime and disorder risks or impacts resulting from this update report or its recommendations.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

65. No data protection, information governance or ICT implications have been identified as a result of this update report or its recommendations.

New Forest National Park implications

66. New Forest National Park Authority colleagues were engaged in the creation of this report. Activities undertaken to date and the strategic direction proposed align to the objectives of the NFNPA's Re:New Partnership Plan.

Conclusion

67. NFDC and its stakeholders and partners engaged in a wide range of activities between 1 April 2024 to 31st March 2025 in response to the Climate Change and Nature Emergency. These activities demonstrate commitment to the local, national and international drive towards net zero and will in addition have delivered substantial co-benefits such as health and wellbeing, biodiversity improvements, upskilling our workforce and enhancing the local economy.
68. Delivery of the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan will continue, alongside the operation of the Member Task and Finish Group which will assess the climate projections, risk assessments and opportunities for improvement of the programme, to determine a clear and coordinated way forward and support the development of the strategy. All strategic objectives and actions will be considered in the context of LGR and devolution, to ensure the New Forest District area is safeguarded now and in the future.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Current boundaries of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park

Appendix 2 – Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan

Background Papers:

NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency Annual Update 2022

NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency Annual Update 2023

NFDC Climate Change and Nature Emergency Update January 2024

NFDC Corporate Plan 2024-28

NFDC Greener Housing Strategy

NFDC Future New Forest Transformation Plan

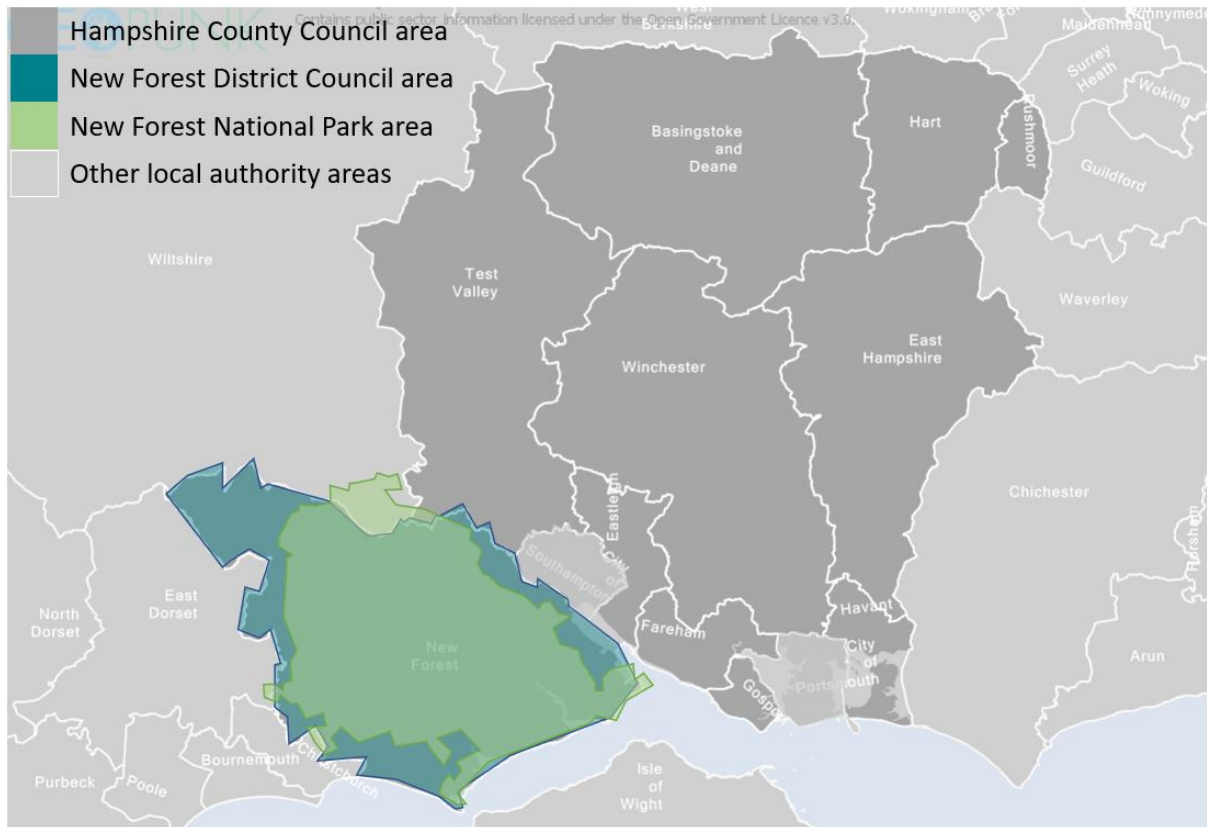
NFNPA Re:New Forest Partnership Plan

UK Government Local Authority GHG Emissions statistical Release Report 2024

NFDC Air Quality Draft Strategy 2025

APPENDIX 1

Current boundaries of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority



APPENDIX 2

Climate Change and Nature Emergency – Internal Council Action Plan 2023 Continued Into 2024/25:

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 Continued Into 2024/25:

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