

CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP
Thursday 5 August 2021 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber - Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 2 - 3)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020.

4. Matters arising

Any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. Town Plan (Pages 4 - 13)

6. Carbon Management Plan (Pages 14 - 25)

7. Work Plan (Pages 26 - 27)

To review the Working Group's work plan for the current year.

8. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP
HELD ON**

26 November 2020

7.30 - 8.09 pm

PRESENT

Cabinet Policy Development Working Group Members

Councillor Jodi Dunne (Chair)
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Carter
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Jean Clark
Councillor Shona Johnson
Councillor Lanie Shears

Other Councillors

Councillor Tony Edwards

Officers

Donna Beechener, Revenues and Benefits Manager
Hannah Criddle, Governance Support Officer
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive
Lisa Thornett, Corporate Governance Support Officer

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Simon Carter noted that an interim report on the Regeneration Strategy was considered at the last meeting but was not listed on the Work Plan.

Councillor Simon Carter (seconded by Councillor Jean Clark) proposed that a member sub group be re-convened for the purpose of producing the Regeneration Strategy.

RESOLVED that a member sub group would be re-convened with members volunteering their involvement.

5. **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Working Group received a report on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

RESOLVED that the Policy Development Working Group acknowledged the current position regarding the 2020/21 Local Council Tax Support Scheme and endorses continuing stability within the scheme for 2021/22.

6. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Working Group received a report on the Treasury Management Review. The Working Group suggested that potential issues for Cabinet to consider were the impact of the Covid-19 virus and changes to interest rates.

RESOLVED that the Working Group:

A Considered the report and the underpinning principles that support the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

B Recommended to Cabinet that the impact of the Covid-19 virus, and changes to interest rates are considered in the development of the Treasury Management Strategy.

7. **WORK PLAN**

The Working Group requested an update on when the Climate Change and Transport Strategies would be going to the Working Group. Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive, agreed to come back to the Working Group with an update.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan was noted.

8. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE CABINET POLICY
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Harlow Town Plan - 'Harlow @ 100'

Structure and notes

Title	Notes	
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Harlow has expanded considerably since it was initially developed as a New Town, it is now not large enough to have the critical mass required to support and sustain a range of leisure and entertainment facilities, retail provision and new business opportunities, together with the supporting infrastructure that larger towns have access to. Being a former New Town developed in a relatively short time span over 70 years ago, some areas of the town built in that time are beginning to show their age, and require regeneration and rejuvenation.</p> <p>Plans are already in place for significant expansion of Harlow, very much in line with those put forward by the town's original master planner Sir Frederick Gibberd in the 1970's.</p> <p>This 'greater Harlow' will have an additional 19,000 homes and the population will be close to 130,000, a small city. This is an opportunity to deliver the vital critical mass required to attract the infrastructure and facilities we have been seeking for some years. However, it is important we have the infrastructure, vital to sustainable development, provided at pace which avoids the town being overwhelmed.</p> <p>Much has been achieved in recent years, including the adoption of the Harlow Local Development Plan that will shape the growth and development of the town until 2033, together with a host of regeneration initiatives and the designation of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. Moving forward, however, it is important that the Council maps out a pathway that looks to the future - to 2047, the 100th anniversary of the designation of Harlow New Town. Consequently we are developing a vision to set out how the town could develop based on what we know today and how we want the town to grow and develop over this period, reflecting the ambitions and aspirations of the community. This will be the 'Harlow @ 100' Vision that will adapt</p>	

	and evolve over time.	
<p>Background Large-scale investment announced or coming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years the ambitions and aspirations of Harlow, and its positive attitude towards sustainable growth, has resulted in large scale investment announcements for the town. This has been reinforced by the designation and development of the Harlow Enterprise Zone and the adoption of the Harlow Local Development Plan that has provided certainty and confidence for business investment. • This has been strengthened by road improvements in recent years including the Hamburger, Clock Tower and St Marks Roundabouts, London Road improvements and Edinburgh Way. These are coupled with upcoming road improvements including £85m on a new J7a on the M11, £172m of infrastructure works to the north of the town to facilitate the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town developments including widening the existing Stort crossing, creating a new eastern crossing and building a new railway bridge. • In addition plans are being put in place for a new £600million hospital to replace PAH, and a new headquarters in the town for UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) (£500million). • In addition, other funding has been secured including Town's Fund investment (£24million) • Harlow Investment Fund (£50million) and potential funding through the Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling up Fund for which bids have recently been submitted. • Developer investment in the town centre has been positive – including new residential, planned together with retail and commercial. 	
<p>Numerous organisations involved in Harlow</p> <p>All bodies and organisations have their own aims and objectives and are moving along their own paths – we need a vision to pull them all together into the same direction with a cohesive plan</p>	<p>Across Harlow many organisations contribute to the vitality of the town, so in addition to the Council, it is important that we continue to work with our partners to understand and develop aims and ambitions that can be consolidated into a shared vision. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex County Council, • Harlow & Gilston Garden Town, 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlow Growth Board, • Harlow Chamber of Commerce, • UK Innovation Corridor, • Epping Forest District, East Herts District Councils and Hertfordshire County Council are also key players in the town moving forward 	
<p>Vision</p> <p>Looking forward from now until Harlow at 100 (2047), which is almost two Development Plan periods</p>	<p>What is happening in Harlow now and the elements we can comfortably predict should be used as a basis for a unified cohesive vision for the town and its hinterland, so all agencies and stakeholders are working towards the same goals, in the same direction, and to the same timetable.</p> <p>Vision Statement</p> <p><i>Harlow Council has an ambitious Vision for its future. Looking forward Harlow will be a place of aspiration, innovation and prosperity for all. The town has faced challenging times recently, especially due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on residents and businesses alike but through the vision set out in the Town Plan the Council will ensure a sound platform is in place to aid Harlow's recovery and its future development and success. The Council intends to develop a vision set out in the overarching Town Plan that will provide a long term framework for the growth and regeneration of the town until 2047, drawing on what has been planned and achieved to date, which will evolve and develop over time to reflect our ambition and aspirations.</i></p> <p>By 2047:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harlow will continue to grow and prosper</i> • <i>Regeneration will continue at pace where needed</i> • <i>Growth & prosperity will go hand in hand and the town centre will be a competitive retail centre and a place to work, live and spend leisure time</i> • <i>Harlow will have grown significantly as the Gilston Garden Town villages</i> 	

	<p><i>further expand and by other developments to the east, west and south of the town</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harlow will have an excellent reputation due to its position as the heart of the UK Innovation Corridor creating the basis for sustained business investment</i> • <i>Harlow will be at the centre of administration for the 'Greater Harlow' area</i> • <i>Growth will be sustainable, planned and integrated with the existing town</i> • <i>Growth will continue to be underpinned by Gibberd's principles</i> • <i>Growth will be matched by social and physical infrastructure at pace with new development</i> • <i>Growth will continue to be managed by good governance and planning</i> • <i>Harlow will be a beacon for sustainable development and beautiful design</i> • <i>New buildings in Harlow will be recognised for being exemplary in terms of mitigating against and adapting to climate change, while existing buildings will have been retrofitted to ensure they are also playing their part</i> • <i>Harlow will have an enviable sustainable transport network which will have brought about significant modal shift so that residents will be able to move around the town sustainably, by walking, cycling and by exemplar public transport systems</i> • <i>Measures will be developed and implemented to address climate change</i> • <i>New business will be wanting to locate in Harlow, taking advantage of its location and facilities</i> • <i>Harlow will be a world class digital area with ultra-fast broadband linking seamlessly with residents, transport, business</i> • <i>The Green Wedge and Green Finger network, as well as biodiversity assets, will have been retained and maintained to ensure Harlow's continued status as a 'green' town</i> 	
Growth	<p>In the short to medium term Harlow will continue to grow reflecting the growth set out in the Harlow Local Development Plan with over 9,200 new homes planned to meet the town's identified need until 2033, together with land for businesses to grow, supported by a range of infrastructure. But we need to look beyond that date and determine the nature and shape of future growth to 2047 and how it should be</p>	

	<p>delivered.</p> <p>Growth is planned for south and west of Harlow, which is in the adjoining Epping district and largely beyond our control – we will seek to secure the right infrastructure (including social) solutions for these developments as the development moves forward, so the impact upon our town is minimised, and actively oppose development if it does not meet our criteria.</p> <p>New communities will be integrated with the existing town through sustainable connections, and where possible bring positives benefits to Harlow residents through access to community facilities and other infrastructure</p> <p>To ensure the effective and meaningful integration of these developments with Harlow, the Council will lobby for boundaries to be amended to encompass all these developments within the district to provide logical governance.</p>	
Placeshaping/placemaking	<p>As the growth of Harlow continues, significant opportunities arise to ensure something fantastic is created to provide a lasting legacy, that the town is somewhere where people want to live, work in and spend their leisure time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garden City principles, and use of Harlow’s new Design Guide, in new developments in the HGGT will contribute greatly to ensuring that new residential and commercial buildings in Harlow are beautiful, energy-efficient, safe and appealing to residents and visitors • New buildings in the town centre will include innovate design techniques, such as green walls, roof-top gardens, use of buildings for renewable energy production (e.g. small wind turbines) and surrounding streets which work with, rather than against, the new buildings • New development will be adaptable so that it can change its use in the future • Surveillance and safety will be a key priority, so residents and visitors feel safe to be in the area, even at night and during other relatively quiet periods • The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of residents having easy access to open spaces, so provision of open space in new developments will be a key element 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Transport Corridors, as well as enhancements to the existing footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways, will deliver a modal shift in transport use • Sir Frederick Gibberd's original principles for the former New Town will be retained, so the Green Wedges, Green Fingers and other open spaces will be maintained, plus facilities will be within walking distance for residents. 	
Housing strategy	<p>We want to be able to provide a wide range of housing to meet the needs of our residents, including market housing and a range of affordable options</p> <p>Whilst current policy seeks 30% affordable housing, with a mix of tenures, the Council should consider social housing and First Homes with the Council as a developer and facilitator.</p> <p>An overarching housing strategy will be developed to consider this, setting out specific aspirations and then how they will be delivered over the period</p>	
Model shift/climate change	<p>Climate change is a huge issue. We need to do all we can to minimise our carbon footprint. Harlow Council intends being an exemplar in tackling climate change and commits to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions in advance of Government targets and potential seeking to achieve negative carbon status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability in development: new buildings will, in accordance with the forthcoming revised Harlow Design Guide SPD, be able to mitigate against and adapt to the effects of climate change. This can be achieved in a number of innovative ways, including basic site design which ensures habitable rooms are south-facing (where possible) with deciduous trees which let in sunlight during the winter but provide shading in the summer. Buildings themselves can be designed in various ways to ensure they benefit as much as possible from passive heating, cooling and ventilation, which in turn reduces the carbon footprints and energy costs of buildings when they are in use. • Sustainability in transport: Car use will remain, albeit it at a lower level and using cars which are predominantly electric or powered by hydrogen fuel. Policies and proposals will be in place to encourage people to change to electric and/or hybrid, and to get them out of cars onto bicycles and on foot, making use of the excellent footpath, cyclepath and bridleway 	

	<p>network already in place in Harlow, much of which is located in the town's Green Wedges and Green Fingers. Programmes are being developed to encourage use of eBikes and eScooters, as well as enhancements to the cycle network, can also be used to assist with this. The Council is committing to delivering exemplar standards in its renewal of the pedestrian and cycling networks across the town.</p> <p>HGGT is currently devising a Transport Strategy for the garden town. We will take it one step further and outline how we are going to deliver modal shift and address climate change but still enable residents to use their cars when they need to.</p>	
Transport infrastructure	<p>Sustainable Transport Corridors will be integral to the aim to secure modal shift and these will be in place when the new homes are built.</p> <p>There is a necessity for a clean, modern, reliable, frequent and affordable transport system, perhaps using electric or hydrogen-fuelled buses, for the benefit of new and existing residents and visitors for both leisure and work/commuting purposes.</p> <p>As with above, we will work with HGGT and ECC to extend the transport network and facilitate how the improvements are going to be delivered and when.</p>	
Transport connections	<p>Harlow needs better external connections as it grows. Looking forward, and in addition to the measures that are currently being developed, other initiatives will be considered including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A possible extension of the Central Line to Harlow • Lobbying to extend London Transport zones to Harlow • Examining connectivity to CrossRail 2 • Promoting Four-tracking of the mainline to Stansted • Working collaboratively with Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils in the development of HERT (Herts and Essex Rapid Transit system) • Securing Public Transport links to Epping Underground station upgraded as part of the STC <p>We will outline our specific aspirations in terms of external transport links and then lobby to be included and for investment to make them happen.</p>	
Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key part of our growing town – need to have a vibrant and modern heart which can compete successfully with other retail centres in the area, such as surrounding towns and large shopping centres. We have ambitious plans for regeneration and reinvigorating our town centre 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential growth will bring vibrancy, increased spending, increased investment, higher levels of activity and a new night-time economy • A Master Plan for the town centre is currently being worked on to define what we want, which will lead to the Town Centre Action Plan. Height will be a key consideration with the anticipation that the regeneration will include new tall buildings. Housing type/tenure to be considered. • The emerging strategy is a series of 'quarters' and 'corridors', for example a Cultural Quarter around the Playhouse and new developments there, a retail corridor running north from the Water Gardens to Sainsbury's and an entertainment and hospitality quarter around the market Square going west. These will be detailed in future policy documents, including the masterplan. 	
Stewardship	<p>You cannot have an urban area of the proposed size which is run by three district and two county councils. It is not practical. There will have to be some rationalisation to ensure a unified and consistent approach to governance.</p> <p>We will aim to lobby for a boundary change to encompass HGGT</p>	
Leisure / open spaces	<p>Harlow was built with a network of open spaces which has evolved into the Green Wedges and Green Fingers which the town greatly benefits from today. The expansion of the town will continue to be along the same lines as designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd. This means the existing GW/GF network will be enhanced and maintained, with encouraged greater use of the footpaths, cycleways and bridleways which run through the network. Biodiversity assets, many of which are Local Wildlife Sites, will continue to be afforded protection, and new ones will be designated where appropriate.</p> <p>The Council will review existing leisure facilities, including sports pitches and playing fields, to ensure that they meet the requirements of the town and its increased population.</p> <p>Aside from open space based leisure, the arts in Harlow will become a key attractor and the town will capitalise upon its Sculpture Town status through increased national recognition for our cultural assets. As part of the work on a town centre masterplan and other policy documents, the provision of a new theatre that can attract large</p>	

	touring west end shows or concerts will be explored.	
Health & Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing of residents is paramount, highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and it will be built into all plans for development going forward. With the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) coming to Harlow and a brand new hospital being developed, we have an opportunity to further embed health and wellbeing into our town's developments and services.	
Library strategy	With a growing town we need to ensure all residents can access library services, while considering what services libraries provide and what their future role is in the community. We need to develop a long term strategy with ECC so that we can meet the town's needs. Upgrade of the existing town centre library is about to start and will run in parallel to conversations to the longer term needs.	
Harlow & Gilston Garden Town	After many years of planning, the next phase of the HGGT will be its delivery. HDC will take a lead role, given its location at the heart of the HGGT, and will continue to be key in the moulding of our town going forward. HGGT board will become smaller and more focused on delivery and strategic co-ordination. and the development of a legacy trust to take care of stewardship. Aim is to have the whole town run by as simple system as possible – not multiple trusts, community groups, councils, etc	
Harlow Growth Board	This has achieved a good job of partnership working in the town, mainly around bids for Government money such as the Towns and Levelling Up funds.	
Procurement	Harlow Council will become an exemplar of public procurement building in social value wherever possible. This will include local employment and skills, local supply chains and local investment. Use of anchor organisations to roll-out this example to private sector.	
Promoting Harlow	Something pretty spectacular is happening in our town. Where else have five district and county authorities, plus numerous organisations and developers, got together and co-operated to develop a massively ambitious garden town? What is being done is ground breaking. We are the leading modern garden town and many are watching what we are doing to use as a template for when they bring forward their garden towns. We need to be shouting about this across the country, putting Harlow on the map.	

	This will have the added benefit of hopefully attracting further investment into the town, both commercial and retail, with obvious far-reaching positive effects.	
Waste and Recycling	The new communities around Harlow are not going to travel long distances to go to a tip, they are going to come to Harlow. The current recycling centre does not have the capacity and is not in the right place – we will look for an alternative site in partnership with ECC	

Harlow Council Carbon Reduction Plan

‘Next Steps to Net Zero’

July 2021

V3

Executive Summary

[to be drafted after discussion at the Cabinet Policy Development Working Group on 5th August 2021]

- SUMMARY OF WORK TO DATE
- TARGETS FOR 2021 – 2026
- TARGET FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NET ZERO

Background and context

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In 2010 the Council participated in the Carbon Trust’s Local Authority Carbon Management Programme which provided the Council with relevant support and guidance on carbon reduction. A team of Officers within the Council were involved in the Programme which created the Council’s first Carbon Management Plan in 2011 and resulted in a number of actions being implemented across a spectrum of Council activities and set a target of reducing operational carbon emissions by 25% by 2015/16. By 2014/15 this target had already been achieved. A further Carbon Management Plan, set in 2015, set out the Council’s strategy for its carbon reduction over the following five year period.

1.1.2 In July 2019 a Full Council meeting passed a motion declaring a climate change emergency. The motion stated that

“This Council believes that climate change is one of the most significant threats facing the world. One of the largest factors contributing to climate change is man-made emissions, especially those relating to the use of non-sustainable power sources. This Council recognises that action must be taken quickly in order to prevent climate change from causing irreversible damage to the planet. It also recognises the numerous social benefits which are brought about by reducing

greenhouse gas emissions such as better air quality. This Council believes it is still possible to restore a safe climate and therefore declares a climate emergency”

The declaration included two overarching principles to

- i) Aim to reduce Harlow’s net carbon emissions as far as possible;*
- ii) Reduce the Council’s carbon footprint at a greater rate than it is already committed to doing so.*

It is now proposed that these principles are replaced by an unambiguous target of Harlow Council, as an organisation, achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by XXXX – (to be discussed at Cabinet Policy Development Working Group).

1.1.3A draft initial strategy was approved by Cabinet Overview Working Group in August 2019; this identified three main work streams: Property, Environment and Community Leadership. The below actions were completed in the 2019/20 financial year:

- Creation of a program of new tree and hedgerow planting across the town, planting 5,100 trees in 2019/20.
- A commitment from HTS to move towards the introduction of an electric vehicle fleet.
- Reaffirmation of its commitment to the Garden Town development’s principles of sustainable development and transport, as set out in the Harlow & Gilston Garden Town vision statement at the Cabinet meeting of March 2019.
- Eliminated the use of single use plastics in line with the government ban across all public council buildings in October 2020, ahead of the national implementation date of April 2021.

1.2 What is climate change mitigation/adaptation?

1.2.1 In order to reduce the effects of Climate Change, actions are split into two categories, those that minimize the effects of climate change (mitigation) and those that help the environment, and those who live in it, to cope with the changes Climate Change brings (adaptation).

1.2.2 The Councils’ Climate Change Emergency declaration initially focused upon the mitigation of climate change through reduction of emissions within the District and the carbon footprint of the Council’s own operations. The impact of Climate Change on the local environment is not yet widely evident, however we will look to identify and monitor the effects that Climate Change is already having on the District, for example through extreme hot and cold weather events, localized flooding or water shortages. Through early monitoring, the adaptations required to the natural and built environment will be fully understood and enacted in good time.

1.3 What is the UK position?

- 1.3.1 In June 2019 Parliament set in law a commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is quantified as a reduction of at least 100% on the carbon emission levels of 1990. In order to meet this target the UK government is taking a broad approach which includes carbon budgeting, investment in green skills and jobs and engaging citizens to identify and prioritise actions to achieve net zero.
- 1.3.2 Under the Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), the Government must set five-yearly carbon budgets, twelve years in advance, from 2008 to 2050. A carbon budget places a restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over a 5-year period. The UK is the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets. In 2011 the first 'Carbon Plan' was issued which sets out how the government will meet the carbon budgets set from 2008-2027. The plan includes actions to achieve low carbon buildings, transport, industry, energy generation as well as actions relating to land use and waste reduction.
- 1.3.3 The UK Government has also set up a Green Investment Bank and has made available several tranches of funding designed to boost green jobs and skills. The Council is able to make use of a number of these funding schemes, including the Public Sector De-carbonisation Scheme and electric vehicle charging point grants.
- 1.3.4 A citizen's assembly (Climate Assembly UK) was formed in 2020 and produced a report entitled *The Path to Net Zero*. The report shows how a representative sample of the population believe the UK should meet its net zero emissions commitment with detailed recommendations across ten areas including: how we travel; what we eat and how we use the land; what we buy; heat and energy use in the home; how we generate our electricity; and greenhouse gas removals. Parliament will use the report to support its work on scrutinising the Government's climate change policy and progress on the target.

Harlow's principles and targets

- 2.1 Harlow's baseline for carbon emissions was 2700 tonnes of CO₂. The Council's previous Carbon Reduction Strategy (2016-21) set a target of reducing this by 25%. By March 2021, carbon emissions had reduced to 1634 tonnes – a reduction of 39%.
- 2.2 The Council will set a target to reach net zero emissions from its own activities of XXXX
- 2.3 For the Carbon Reduction Plan of 2021-26 a target of a further 15% reduction is suggested. The roll out of LED lighting across Council buildings and the introduction of photo-voltaic cells to generate electricity will help to

achieve this. Many of the 'quick wins' in carbon reduction have already been secured and further reductions will require substantial investments. The main contributor to this will be a move away from gas fired boilers and into sustainable sources of energy.

- 2.4 As part of this process the Council is participating in the CDP Cities Climate Change Reporting programme from 2021. Disclosing environmental data through this process allows the Council to evaluate current performance, specifically in relation to adaptation, benchmarking performance against peers and identifying areas of opportunity. The first results from this programme will be available in the autumn of 2021.
- 2.5 Identifying carbon reduction projects in terms of payback period is a successfully adopted approach for the Council. The Council's Environment Reserve was established as an 'Invest to Save' fund for energy efficiency projects. The use of an earmarked reserve enables a clear overview of the savings being achieved and ensures that they are fed back into the Fund to enable delivery of future projects.
- 2.6 There are a number of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions that have been identified under the key areas of Property, Environment and Transport and Community Leadership. By focusing on both mitigation and adaptation the Council is seeking to reduce the impact of day to day living on the environment beyond that caused by greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.7 Later this financial year a broader report will be brought forward which will set out a more detailed Climate Change Strategy. This strategy document will outline how the Council, through use of its own powers and through partnership working with others, will achieve a broader reduction in carbon emissions across the town beyond what the Council can achieve as an organisation. This will include use of the Council's planning policies such as a revamped Design Guide, the HGGT Sustainability Guide as well as use of environmental enforcement powers. It will also include details of measures to improve household recycling across the town. Broader environmental measures will also be identified such as encouraging the take up of electric vehicles through increasing charge points, an increase in tree planting and a focus on increasing the use of forms of sustainable transport. Consideration will also be given to how Harlow Council can move from achieving Net Zero to delivering Negative Zero emissions.

Actions – mitigation and adaptation

- 3.1 The Council recognizes that it has a role to play both in its own right and in partnership with others to implement actions and support initiatives that will achieve its overriding principles. It is proud of the work already being done with key partners and will look to build upon these as it moves to its net zero emissions target:

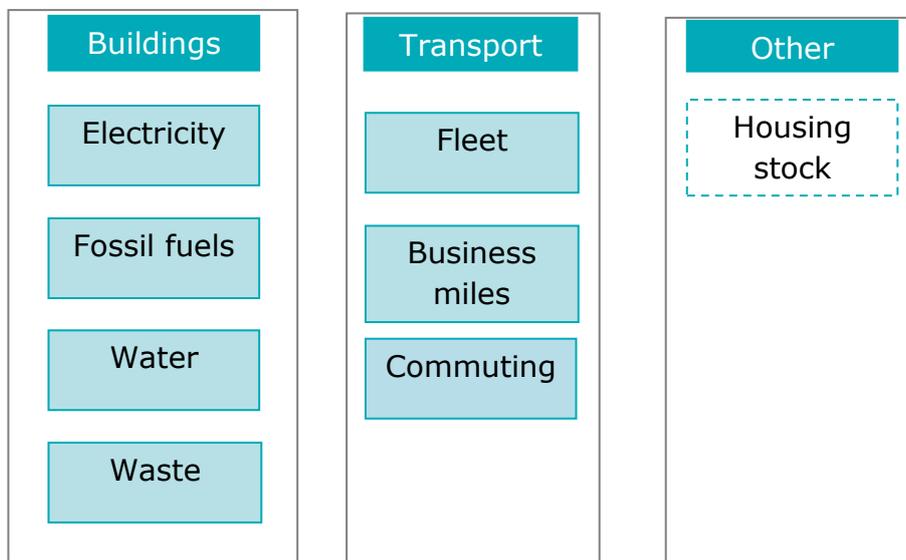
- Harlow and Gilston Garden Town: In June 2021 Harlow Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Garden Town development's principles of sustainable development through adoption of the HGGT Sustainability Guide. This has now been adopted as a material consideration for planning applications across the town and sets clear standards for sustainability in new housing and commercial developments.
- Harlow Innovation Park: the first two buildings on the Innovation Park, Nexus and Arise were both designed to BREEAM 'Excellent' standard.
- HTS have set out a commitment to transfer its vehicle fleet to a fully electric one as soon as the range of vehicles required is available on the market

3.2 Property and Staff Contributions

The Council's own estate has been subject of two Carbon Management Plans since 2011, the first achieving a reduction of 25% on a 2008 baseline, the second a further 25% on a 2014 baseline. A number of significant investments have been made in buildings services, alongside behavioral changes and a move to using electricity generated from 100% renewable sources.

When considering carbon emissions from its own estate, the Council takes into consideration those areas which it can measure, and affect the levels of change required to reduce carbon emissions. The diagram below shows this scope of emissions

Harlow Council Scope of Emissions

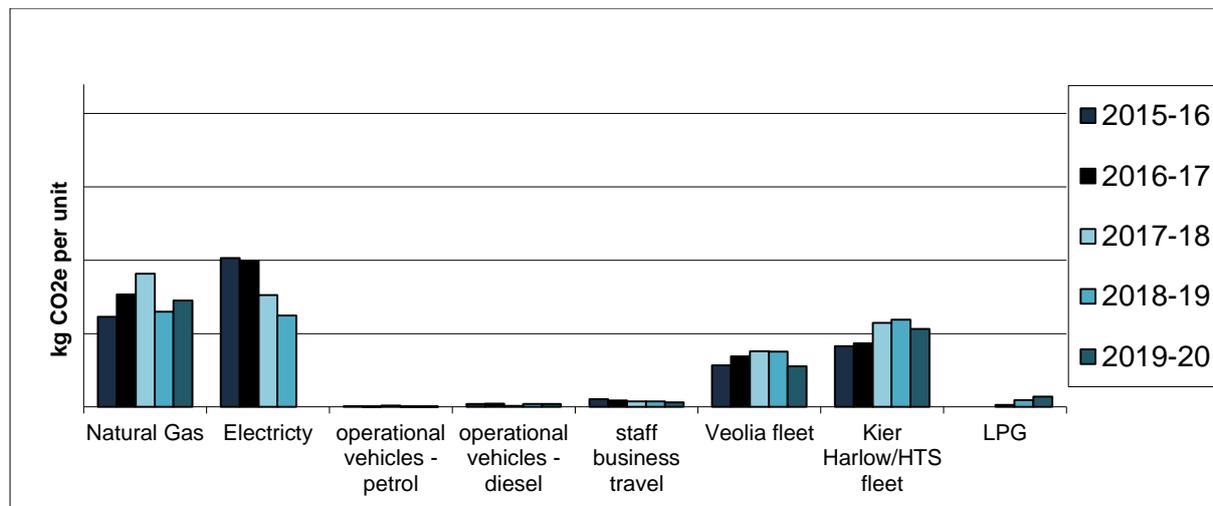


The Council's Housing stock is considered within two year HECA reports which address the energy portion of the carbon footprint of the housing stock, and the associated issue of fuel poverty. So as not to double count carbon these emissions are reported separately..

Good data management allows effective measurement and quantification of the benefits of any given project. Data collection for the Council’s carbon footprint follows the methodology used since 2011, allowing robust comparison of reduction across previous years actions, and future plans to follow. Data for energy and water usage is provided on a monthly basis through the Council’s suppliers, with gas and electric data provided electronically. Data for waste collection is supplied on request from the Council’s waste contractor and transport data is collated through the Human Resources service at the Council, Kier Harlow and our waste contract partners.

Through the work of the Staff Travel Group, Council employees are being encouraged to shift to sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking. However, this only forms a small element of the Council’s transport related emissions. Achieving significant reductions in transport emissions will require cooperation from the Council’s partners and contractors in how they procure and manage their fleet, including HTS Ltd. Every partner or contractor of the Council is encouraged to collate quarterly data on their own carbon emissions and set targets for reduction, thereby contributing to the overall Council target to reduce emissions

A comparison of the Council’s Co2e emissions for the past 5 years is shown below:



Previous Carbon Management Plans have demonstrated the value at stake in terms of carbon and cost if no action is taken; this ‘Business As Usual’, (BAU) scenario shows the effect on the Councils own operations if the Council chooses to take no action in relation to reducing its CO2 emissions. It has become clear since the last Carbon Management Plan was written however that the Value at Stake for Harlow is part of a much bigger global value at stake in terms of the global carbon reduction targets set through the Paris Agreement in 2015. A future Climate Change Strategy will seek to address this.

ACTION PLAN

PROPERTY

Property			
Short Term Actions 2021-2023			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Installing photovoltaic panels on all public council buildings within the next two years.	Completion 2022 – work underway		
Installing LED lighting in Civic Centre, Latton Bush Centre and Leah Manning Centre	Completion 2022 – work underway		
Re-include 100% renewable energy as part of energy supply contracts renewal for electricity			
ECC bulk energy buy			
LAD GHG Green Homes grant			
Food miles - Local suppliers for sandwich run, meeting refreshments, LMC day guest service, Civic dinner,			
Develop plan and targets for HTS (H&R) renewable/efficiency standards.			
Regeneration Plans for Town centre – inclusion of green infrastructure, renewables, carbon			

neutral buildings			
Medium Term Actions 2024-2026			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
LED streetlights – incl. County			
Better Homes in Housing Strategy?			
Fuel poverty Strategy?			
Solar roof field (commercial)			
Boiler upgrades			
Offset carbon emissions from gas consumption			
Develop plan for all new Council housing building to be Carbon neutral			
Long Term Actions 2027 onwards			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Develop plan for retrofitting the fabric of existing Council housing stock to be energy efficient			
Long term Housing strategies around energy efficiency – services and renewables (District heating – move from gas?)			

3.3 Environment and Transport

The current and future actions within the Environment and Transport work stream are as below

Environment and Transport			
Short Term Actions 2021-2023			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Devise further tree planting strategies and set planting targets for the medium to long term.	November 2021		Adaptation
Installing electric car charging points across all council car parks within the next three years			Mitigation
Promoting the installation of electric car charging points in residential areas			
Develop and implement a Staff Travel plan to increase use of sustainable transport			
Complete EST fleet report for Harlow fleet			
Planning Policy development – Development of new Harlow Design Guide	December 2022		
Medium Term Actions 2024-2026			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
TROs – no idling			
Promote the development of Electric Vehicle charging forecourts			

Installation of water fountains in public places that reduces the use of single use plastic water bottles.			
Develop a plan for HTS (Property & Environment) Ltd to switch over to electric power vehicles, plant and machinery – including vehicle to grid			
Require the use/installation of SuDs on all large new builds in line with Planning Policy			
Long Term Actions 2027 onwards			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Development of new high quality public transport system as part of HGGT Sustainable Transport Corridor network			
Develop plan for HTS to source battery technology for its electric vehicles from companies who ensure environmentally friendly lithium mining techniques			
Harlow Council to consider procuring own electric vehicle car pool fleet for staff to use for work purposes			

3.4 Community leadership

The current and future actions within the Community Leadership work stream are as below

Community Leadership			
Short Term Actions 2021-2023			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Actively promote schemes to encourage children to walk to school such as the Walking Bus initiative and School Streets.			
Increase the levels of cycling and walking as methods of transportation through upgrades to the cycling network and promotional activity			
Actively work with local stakeholders to reduce the use of single use plastics/single use items			
Actively work with stakeholders and the public to promote the message of reducing waste			
Work with community groups to promote and assist in tree planting schemes			
Develop plan for the Council's procurement policies to include a requirement for contractors to meet emissions targets.			

Medium Term Actions 2024-2026			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation
Promotion of any schemes/funding and signposting for grants/advice			
Promote allotments			
Long Term Actions 2027 onwards			
Action	Timescales and status	Performance measurement/monitoring	Mitigation/adaptation

Cabinet Policy Development Working Group Work Plan 2021/22

Work	Thursday 5 August 2021	Thursday 7 October 2021	Thursday 25 November 2021	Thursday 13 January 2022	Thursday 10 March 2022
Local Council Tax Support Scheme			Report		
Treasury Management Strategy			Report		
Housing Strategy			Report		
Climate Change Strategy		Report		Report	
Transport Strategy					
Town Plan	Report		Report	Report	
Carbon Management Plan	Report				
Electric Vehicle Charging Point Installation		Report			
Open Space Supplementary Planning Document – Approval for Consultation		Report			
Health and Wellbeing Strategy		Report			

Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement		Report			