

Towards net zero and a green recovery – Audience Questions

Responses provided by Chitra Nadarajah, Hampshire County Council

1. Is the Hampshire CC mitigation tool developed with the Carbon Trust going to be made freely available to other local authorities?
 - The IP for the mitigation tool is owned by the Carbon Trust so we cannot share it outside of Hampshire authorities.
 - The resilience tool will be made available to anyone with some licensing/copywriting arrangements by April 2021.

2. The Hampshire Toolkit a very transparent for the community, and easy to use for officers. Impressive. What was the biggest hurdle in getting this adopted in the organisation and how did you overcome them? And can Hampshire share the carbon and resilience toolkits with other Councils?
 - So far there have not been any hurdles other than the complexity of developing the tool and making sure it was the right balance – i.e. not a tick box exercise but not too onerous or complex either. We also made sure that every step of the way we were communicating what we were planning and how we wanted to implement the tools, so we have full support of Members, Senior managers and staff. We are also making sure the guidance is very detailed and presented in different way (written and video), with case studies and sample wording. Hopefully this will make the use of the tools easier.
 - See answer (1) above

3. Carbon emissions reductions are measurable, but how do you measure resilience?
 - The resilience tool helps us measure how well adapted a project is to the impacts of a 2 degree rise in temperature – by understanding the risks and vulnerabilities projects will demonstrate how they have taken these into account. It is more important to do something than get caught up in trying to do it perfectly!

4. How have Hampshire determined their carbon baseline from which they can determine their priorities and measure performance?
 - We asked the Carbon Trust to do the Hampshire-wide baseline for us using BEIS and more local data to give us a clearer local picture. This was then used to create a programme to tackle the highest sources of emissions.

5. How are the new tools being deployed across Hampshire's supply chains - they must outsource significant spend/investment?
 - We will be applying the tools to all key decisions including procurement decisions which will have demonstrate how mitigation and resilience have been built into the procurement of services/contracts/spend etc.
 - We are also kicking off a new piece of work with our procurement team to look at reviewing our procurement policies to ensure they fit with our climate change targets.

6. Chitra - is this NET neutral or absolute? How are you dealing with transitory emissions -i.e. though traffic / emissions from vehicles passing through the County?
 - Net neutral
 - We are not trying to run before we can walk, transitory emissions are not a priority at this time when we have not tackled the emissions originating from within the County. I think its important given limited resources and capacity that we focus on the big issues first. Our new Local Transport Plan will be placing climate change as its main driver and this will have an impact on all transport policies within our influence and control, and this will therefore also have an influence over transitory emissions.

7. Looking forward to seeing details of Hants CC decision tools and keen to adopt similar - in the past, environmental impact assessment has sometimes felt like a victory for 'assessment' over 'impact' - how do we ensure that is not the case with climate impact assessment?
 - The tools will require projects to demonstrate how they have mitigated the impacts and risks – therefore it is more than just an assessment.

8. Seems locally each Council has declared a climate change emergency, is recruiting staff and developing its own strategy. There doesn't seem to be a joined-up approach - neighbouring authorities must have similar climates and needs?
 - We are working very closely with our District and Borough councils to ensure that we are joined up as much as possible – but the main message is that everyone will be working on the same areas given that emissions sources are pretty much the same – i.e. transport, residential, infrastructure and decarbonisation of energy & the natural environment is a huge priority - so although there may be differences the priorities tend to be the same regardless.