

GREEN CITY CHARTER UPDATE

Green City Programme (Committed Actions)

	Theme	Achievements/Actions
A.	Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction	<p>SCC has seen a 54% reduction in its absolute carbon dioxide emissions (61k tonnes) associated with corporate buildings, schools and street lighting from the baseline year 2010 to 2018. Savings have come from energy reduction and refurbishment programmes, upgrades to street lighting, improved management of the buildings portfolio and greening of the grid.</p> <p>Further energy efficiency savings of over 1,600 tonnes being realised through the internal Salix Energy Efficiency Programme.</p> <p>Solar energy delivering 902 KWP from 40+ SCC properties saving 217 tonnes of CO2.</p> <p>Capital investment programme currently delivering £36M of improvements and energy efficiency works across SCC's 17k housing stock</p> <p>Introduction of CitizEn energy in September 2018 offering 100% renewable electricity to customers. Business model will reinvest income into energy conservation and carbon reduction programmes.</p> <p>Southampton District Energy Scheme reinstated the geothermal well to provide low carbon heat and chilled water to the Civic Centre, OGS, The Quays and Sea City Museum.</p> <p>The Healthy Homes scheme relaunched in 2018 supported by a £1m fund to deliver an energy improvement programme within the private housing sector. This includes raising awareness amongst private sector landlords about the benefits of managing energy efficient properties.</p> <p>Switch to a Green tariff in September 2019 providing electricity from renewable sources to all commercial (i.e. non-housing) stock.</p> <p>Capital investment programme currently delivering £36M of improvements and energy efficiency works across the 17,000 council housing stock</p> <p>Approx. 35 electric vehicles introduced into the Council's fleet with progression towards a 10% target of fleet by 2019/20. For example Parking Services operating an all-electric fleet.</p> <p>44 free to use fast chargers installed across council car parks have powered approximately 176,000 vehicle km's in the last year.</p> <p>Dedicated rapid charger for electric taxis installed in Bittern during September 2019.</p> <p>Incentive package for electric vehicle owners offers a 90% concession on city centre season parking tickets and free passage over the Itchen toll bridge.</p>

B.	Delivering Clean Air and improving Quality of Life	Fitting buses with emission reduction technology to Euro VI equivalent standards. By the end of 2019 all operational buses in the city will be required to meet Euro VI standard as a minimum.
		New restrictions on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing ensuring vehicles are at least Euro 6 diesel/4 petrol by 2023. Funding provided to support the upgrade to cleaner vehicles through the councils Low Emission Taxi Incentive Scheme. Dedicated taxi and private hire electric vehicle chargers introduced to enable vehicle recharging. We have had 90 successful applicants and the local fleet is now comprised of 31% low emission vehicles.
		Continued operation of the sustainable distribution centre to consolidate freight and reduce the number of vehicle movements in the city.
		Provision of delivery and service planning for organisations to improve efficiencies of vehicle movements of their fleet and reduce emissions.
		£2.9m capital investment to replace the most polluting council refuse vehicles with Euro VI models.
		Free pollution forecasting through AirAlert for all residents to ensure that people are aware of poor air quality events.
		Encouraging behaviour change in our community through outreach work and a range of initiatives. For example we are a key city for National Clean Air Day which hosts events supported by key businesses such as ABP and Bluestar.
		Working with businesses to share and apply collective knowledge on air quality through the Clean Air Network. This involves collaborative work between us and ABP towards their own air quality strategy.
		Running a city-wide monitoring network of more than 70 diffusion tubes and 4 automatic monitoring stations which monitor our progress. Publication of results through the MyAir programme.
		Scrutinising and challenging planning applications to ensure air quality, environmental standards and public health is protected in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework and good practice.
C.	Engagement and Communication	Engagement workshops held with community groups, academics and businesses plus online public engagement exercise to develop the Green City Charter.
		Green City Southampton brand introduced.
		Green City Charter Launch event held at Civic Centre Guildhall catering for approximately 150 invited attendees with simultaneous public exhibition celebrating Clean Air Day in Guildhall Square.

		<p>72 stakeholders have officially signed up to the Green City Charter. Follow-up meetings being conducted with key businesses to identify how SCC can support and facilitate them in realising commitments.</p> <p>Initial meetings held with community groups and academics to identify effective engagement tools that SCC can use to raise the profile of the charter and its objectives and increase its impact through stakeholder participation in related activities.</p> <p>Clean Air Network, Travel Planners Network and Energy Partnership established to promote good practice and joint working amongst local stakeholders.</p> <p>MyJourney programme delivering on going engagement work to promote switch towards sustainable travel.</p> <p>No-idling campaign delivered to improve awareness amongst drivers.</p> <p>Highways variable messaging signage deployed for clean air and sustainable travel message.</p>
D.	Our Natural Environment	<p>20% of Southampton is classified as publicly accessible greenspace. There are 49 maintained parks which host over 17 million visits a year.</p> <p>St. James' park and Riverside park were recently presented the Green Flag Award which recognises them attaining the highest possible environmental standards and visitor facilities.</p> <p>The Council's Park Improvement Programme has delivered £600,000 worth of investment in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Southampton has many nature conservation sites including those of special scientific interest and importance for nature conservation. Areas of Southampton Common and Southampton Water hold these national and international statuses.</p> <p>The Council has adopted a '2 for 1' tree scheme which plants approximately 120 large trees per annum.</p> <p>The Council operates a 'Trees4Life' scheme for families to plant a tree to celebrate babies being born in Southampton.</p> <p>The Council's Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre provides environmental engagement on the cities protected areas. The centre also manages a small area for wildlife which it uses for education.</p> <p>Regular Forest School day camps events provide a range of activities for children which aim to teach new skills and inspire an appreciation of nature.</p>

		<p>The Council's planning policy has introduced the use of the Green Space Factor Tool in 2015, allowing developers to identify habitats on site and how much more they should include in a new development.</p> <p>The Council's recent 'Green Wall' Pilot introduced a boundary of trees along the Millbrook road Freightliner site to assess the impacts for ecology and people.</p> <p>A 'Living wall' to be implemented soon as part of the Millbrook road Roundabout redevelopment.</p> <p>Pollinator project surveys are underway to identify opportunities to introduce urban meadows to support pollinator species.</p> <p>A programme of species-specific support projects are underway. These are scoped for bats, peregrines and hedgehogs.</p>
E.	Sustainable Waste and Water Management	<p>Operating through Viola and the Hampshire Waste Partnership a Materials Recovery Facility, separating collected recyclable waste for recycling and reuse.</p> <p>Non-recyclable waste sent to Marchwood Energy Recovery Facility which supplies up to 16MW of electricity to the national grid.</p> <p>The council operates a commercial waste service which incentivises higher recycling rates by businesses.</p> <p>Opportunities for community litter picks are supported and encouraged including events as part of the Great British Spring Clean.</p> <p>Promotion of the use of the Council's recycling centres including the HWRC (Household Waste Recycling Centre) for disposal of waste not collected.</p> <p>Public engagement schemes to encourage behaviour change in residential recycling, primarily through advertising.</p> <p>Student engagement programmes with the two universities to reduce waste from the annual tenancy change period to encourage proper waste management which includes sending more unwanted items to charity.</p>
F.	Sustainable Travel	<p>£3.1m invested in a behaviour change programme (MyJourney brand) that promotes sustainable and active travel. Led to 309 events engaging over 17,000 people and 53 schools. 13 of the schools engaged achieved over 88% active travel rate.</p>

		<p>Developed one of the largest travel plan networks in the country involving work with 106 employers to set up staff travel plans to make commutes more active.</p> <p>14 new community cycle hubs setup, 152 led-rides organised, 58 'bike Dr' events organised and 16 ditch the stabiliser sessions hosted that have helped 100 new young cyclists get riding in 2019.</p> <p>Improvements have been made to local bus services which includes real time information on board and at stops, WiFi, USB charging and less-polluting buses.</p> <p>£11 million of new innovative cycling infrastructure has and will be delivered through cycle networks including the newly constructed (SCN1).</p> <p>A year-on-year increase in the number of cyclists travelling along the three core access corridors into the city centre has been achieved. Between 2017 and 2018 there was a 4% increase in travel to Southampton Access Fund schools by sustainable means.</p> <p>The council hosted the annual 'Let's Ride' which has taken place for the past 7 years and welcomes an average of 9,000 people who enjoy a traffic free ride circuit; encouraging new cyclists.</p> <p>Schools have implemented community street events which limit access to cars, encouraging active travel. St. John's school has permanently closed the street outside the school and now sees active travel rates of 94.9%.</p> <p>The Living Streets Travel Tracker has been promoted for pupils travelling to school. The number of users has doubled to 9,140 and 278,918 active trips have been recorded.</p> <p>15 organisations have been supported to apply for capital grant funding to improve facilities to encourage staff to travel actively over the last year.</p> <p>41 organisations participated in 'Cycle September' last year. 74% of people who didn't ride to work before the event did so after. This is now an annual event alongside 'Walktober'.</p>
G.	Responsible Procurement and Investment	Engagement exercise underway for new Social Value Procurement Policy and Framework (to replace the current ethical procurement policy and sustainable procurement policy).