

Appendix 3-

Summary of Engagement Responses – Climate Change & Sustainability Framework - November 2020

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1. Introduction

This paper has been put together to demonstrate how we have used the output from the Expert Panels and the public engagement to revise and strengthen the goals set out in the Strategy Framework.

The Expert panels were conducted with members of the inaugural Sustainability Expert Panel brought together in November 2019 as well as with other invited experts in their area July to September 2020.

The public engagement period ran from the end of August to the end of October 2020 and included members from the Climate Action Forum.

Within this document key points have been summarised from the minutes of the expert panel meetings and an overview of the public response provided. The goals are presented as they were in the draft framework and the re-draft based on comments received, workshops undertaken and updates to the Anthesis carbon baseline report. The final strategy and goals intrinsically link with the baseline reports.

We held an additional Agricultural and Land-use workshop with members of the expert panel and others to inform an additional land-use study by Anthesis. This has now fed into the work stream and goals for the Agriculture and Food action area.

In terms of the expert panels we worked with 36 individuals from 33 different organisations based or working within East Sussex and the district, these included the County Council, other district and borough councils, wildlife charities and trusts, community groups and organisations, both Brighton and Sussex University, community interest companies and individual specialists and sustainability practitioners.

In addition to the panel workshops the council received back 38 completed surveys to the framework and around 70 people attended the first virtual Climate Action Forum.

In total this represents input from around 140 people and organisations.

Cross-cutting themes

In developing the strategy and reviewing the responses received it became clear that some issues ran throughout all our action areas.

These themes are not explicit within the strategy as individual action areas but should be reflected within each area in the action plan. The council will keep these in mind when reviewing and updating the strategy and action plan.

These cross-cutting themes are:

1. Education & training
 - Awareness raising and communication with residents- to enable and empower
 - Education and training of the next generation
 - Upskilling of existing trades to enable the transition to a low carbon economy
 - Ongoing upskilling of council officers
2. Funding
 - Developing community investment mechanisms to enable local sustainability and climate initiatives.
 - Support of community initiatives by the council to provide confidence to investors/donors and provide oversight on project delivery and carbon savings.
3. Evidence and targets
 - Good quality and reliable data and evidence is needed to back up our decision making and action prioritisation.
 - Data and targets will need collating and updating- we need to ensure we are not duplicating the work of others or creating unnecessary work.
4. Planning policy and building control
 - Need to strengthen planning policy where we can- this should be through early conversation with developers, guidance and through development control
5. Supporting the action of others
 - Obviously the council cannot deliver a net zero district alone but the strategy can support partnership working and the work of others across all action areas.

2. The expert panels

22nd July- Biodiversity

Key points from experts:

- Need to set target for net gain- minimum 10% but will need a baseline (so we need to determine if getting a baseline is feasible)
- Must ensure we do not lose any priority habitat (links to baselining)
- LDC should declare an ecological emergency at the time the strategy goes to cabinet (or at Council around the same time)
- Need a fund to enable local business to invest in local nature projects
- Need to broaden remit to include the sea
- 'Call out for land' suggested (possibly co-ordinated by LNP)
- Training of officers needed to ensure biodiversity is understood and thread runs throughout council work
- Make use of the targets used by others
- Make use of others information/records/monitoring

Barriers/issues

- Lack of planning policy expertise in this area
- Need to educate officers to ensure a 'green' thread through all operations

29th July- Reducing Emissions from Waste

Key points from experts:

- Needs to be more explicit regarding waste hierarchy- more focus on waste reduction (including consumption), then re-use
- Links to circular economy particularly around reducing and re-use of construction waste
- Need informed communications with residents (ie. New black bag analysis)
- Need to address packaging
- Need to increase home composting
- Could be more open with information regarding the destinations of waste
- Use national performance indicators but set out data more clearly than we currently do (ie. Separating out waste, dry recycling and garden waste)
- Need a way of reducing TetraPak waste- education/comms?

5th August- Sustainable Travel and Air Quality

Key points from experts:

- Goal 2- could be more specific (currently could include more/better roads)
- Goal 3- difficult to encourage when infrastructure is deemed unsafe
- Reconsider goal 4- possibly too vague & mixed up regarding responsibility to deliver- link to Gear Change- place this goal before 3
- Goal 5- rephrase to 'low carbon vehicles' (alternative could mean higher C)

Actions/targets

- Education and how we communicate messages
- Lacking data- more monitoring needed, more data on vehicle movements and how we use our vehicles
- Aim for a proportion of the population to be able to access (a basket of services) within a certain time by active travel (ONS have data on this)
- Possible that carbon is the only quantitative target- could have some qualitative but would need baseline
- Need to improve efficiency ie. Energy used per mile travelled
- Could use an EVCP target for our estate
- Target of 50% urban active travel by 2030? (Gear Change target -Roddy @ Sustrans)
- Need to include cycle and scooters under 'vehicles'

Issues/barriers

- District lacks non-ICE vehicle rural-town connectivity
- Lack of resources to deliver
- ESCC struggle to get buy-in from stakeholders for changes
- Need to increase lobbying

12th August – Energy and the Built Environment

- **Goal 1** – overly complicated

- **Goal 3-** need to clarify meaning of 'nature based solutions'. All agreed we should try and include the desire for (and to encourage) 'low cost low energy development'(including cooling)
- **Need to ensure-** clear/plain language, no jargon, no need to be all encompassing, more specific

Actions/targets

- Generally agreed we need a design guide to assist planning
- Enable through bonds and incentives (such as using council tax collections)
- Encourage developments to be prosumers
- Need to ensure education goes along with technological change
- Use social housing work to influence private sector
- Fuel poverty metric?
- Early engagement with developers
- Could use the CROHM tool to measure progress through EPC's
- Need to capture what is built- not what is planned
- Need to agree how/if we target high energy users
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Issues/barriers

- In general- skills and knowledge- grass roots level -schools and FE – education of existing trades people
- LDC role in encouraging retrofit through planning and education of residents
- Not quite enough funding to encourage take up of existing schemes- possible loan scheme?
- Need to be clear with our priorities, realistic,

26th August – Circular Economy and Community Wealth

General Points from Expert Panel:

- LDC as landowner and investor should be a leader- our own procurement policies (especially our developments)
- Economic aspects do not appear linked to wellbeing economy?
- Need to encourage buy local and support local community re-use- (this is possibly the biggest impact after our own procurement)

Actions and targets

- Need a better understanding of manufacturing within the district- suggested it would be good to audit material used in the district for example?
- Need to encourage buy local and support local community re-use- (this is possibly the biggest impact after our own procurement)
- Expand Lewes Town good practice- eg. Farmers market
- Need to refine how this interacts with tourism

Issues/barriers

- We don't know what skills we have in the district
- Ensuring decarbonisation is borne fairly and that all will benefit
- Working with ESCC
- Don't yet have a way to measure community wealth in LDC
- How we deal with tourism and encourage the 'right kind' of visiting
- Inclusivity

- Need to get early buy in to changes
- Not included the marine economy

8th September – Agriculture and food

General points

- Need for a more local diet
- More education needed about food miles, nutrition and seasonality- fundamentally important- could be made more prominent in the goals
- Need more community food growing space
- Need to be more explicit about regenerative farming methods rather than goal 4.
- Can't reduce agri land if we want to grow food for local community
- Need to get involved with the farming community if we are to make a difference
- Goal 3 – strategy should focus on this- healthy and affordable food
- Goal 4- is confusing
- Goals likely to become outdated quickly- need to rethink these in general
- Need to ensure language reflects enabling role- not that LDC will action all these things
- LDC should proactively support a food partnership (but not lead)
- Need to increase community food growing/allotments
- Plant fruit trees
- LDC to attend cluster farm meeting (possibly with final Anthesis reports?)
- LDC could fill a niche by working more with small landowners (sub 30 hectares)
- Need to include marine food production

2nd September – Offsetting

- All agreed primary concern is to reduce emissions first
- All agreed LDC should facilitate a fund (to be determined) as soon as possible
- LDC could not claim offsets by spending on its own estate without being open to criticism.
- Any offsetting should be done within boundary
- Any 'fund' would not need to fund the entire project
- No need to be concerned about what we 'offset' we just need to start delivering projects to reduce carbon as much as possible now.
- Projects should focus on the biggest impact for the funds available- use funds to accelerate project delivery

Issues/barriers-

- How to price carbon? Do we need to focus on carbon?
- Would providing offsetting projects to businesses encourage them to remain polluting or do we set criteria?
- Inability to offset entire footprint within boundary?
- Difference between a bond and a fund which is for offsetting or investing in local projects which may or may not have a financial return

22nd September – Water

General Points:

- Support and then exceed Southern Water's Target 100- to reduce domestic water consumption

- Need to reduce consumption of new builds
- Work with providers to produce new communications with residents to improve efficiency – increase collaboration
- Need to include water quality
- Need to refer to aquifer
- Lack of experts for coastal erosion topic- arrange a future workshop on this
- Need to link energy use and water consumption
- Links to Agriculture and food section (particularly with regards to water quality)
- Strategy largely aligns to work the Environment Agency is undertaking.
- Natural flood management is key
- Engagement needed with East Sussex Highways
- Goals reflect key aspects of the topic

3. Public Responses summary

Responses that were positive were largely in favour with the suggestions of goals and targets provided within the framework.

The responses confirmed that the council is heading in the right direction with regards to its works streams and goals but that there were concerns about the ability of the council to deliver.

There was general consensus across all areas that the council should only have targets if they are realistic and attainable.

Questions were more likely to be left unanswered than to be answered in the negative.

It was clear that there were fewer responses to more 'difficult' areas, or those less understood, such as the circular economy and community wealth action area.

Respondents had good suggestions for work and actions, many of which are already underway or planned, although some were outside of the district council's direct responsibility. The comments were though valid (such as those about water companies doing more to find leaks) and had also arisen during discussion with the expert panels.

At least 2 questionnaires were completed by people who also attended the expert panels.

Questions

The Vision for Lewes District Question

78% responses positive, cited as being clear, ambitious, timely – there was some concern about achieving it, concern about 'net zero' being a 'fudge', suggestion to aim higher (for carbon negative).

Recurring themes in the comments included transport, acting as enabler, communications with residents, carbon neutral housing, more tree cover, enabling others to act.

Negative comments and concerns were mainly concerned with lack of follow through and lack of funds.

Our Approach to Offsetting

58% thought we should offset remaining emissions from the council baseline with 63% of all responses saying this should be local

The main issues raised were – potential cost to taxpayer and the use of taxpayer funds, project scrutiny, local projects, only as last resort.

5 thought it could be completed nationally or globally mainly because the problem is a global one

Regarding offsetting scope 3, the majority made no comment whilst 30% said no- we should not offset scope 3- comments included we should focus on reduction, we could do as 'every little helps' or we could do partially.

Action Areas:

Energy and the Built Environment

47% responses agreeing with goals as: excellent; logical; sensible; fine etc.

Comments include- more work with commercial building owners, planning is key, massive task but got to be done

Most agreed with examples of targets given and 5 added that the council must lead by example in setting and enforcing policy. Actions suggested- stop building on greenfield, more affordable homes, flats to have outside space, higher standard needed for housing.

When asked explicitly about house building policy the highest proportion of respondents (64%) were in favour of infilling existing settlements. There was a slight majority for those with concerns over the expansion of existing settlements. Respondents were split regarding a 'garden village' with 33% a clear no and 30% yes but only with substantial environmental caveats.

Sustainable Travel and Air Quality

47% were positive about the goals. Several mentioned: general infrastructure improvements needed to make roads safer and more public transport; issue of risk of over reliance on 'increasing cycling' to detriment of vulnerable/elderly/those with kids and suggested focussing on public (inc. rural) transport and safe walking routes. 1 thought the goals were too vague and not clear enough when it comes to increasing cycling.

Suggestions included: safer/more cycle lanes, stop building in countryside, on-street EV charging

There was a clear yes for targets: needed to prevent inaction- if they were realistic and modelled before being set. Suggestions included: the example was accepted as good potential target; a certain number of miles covered by safe and usable cycle lanes; a certain number of towns/villages connected by reliable, regular, and frequent public transport and/or cycle lanes; regularly measuring air quality in key areas, making this information easily publically available, and committing to improving air quality by set amounts yearly

Biodiversity

44% were positive about suggested goals. 8% were negative, with the general feeling they were not aspirational enough.

Comments included:

The need for qualified staff within the council was raised, along with a need for baseline data; Need for more guidance to residents on biodiversity at home, linking with food waste/composting/wormery's; Right tree right place; Tree planting not always appropriate; need to include carbon capture; lack of ongoing maintenance.

Agriculture and food

The majority of respondents made no comment. A higher proportion of those that did respond were negative regarding the goals (compared to other action areas) and made comments that the district council should leave this aspect to the experts. This opinion was reflected in the Anthesis Agriculture and Land-use workshop.

Where positive comment was made it was around: increasing allotment space; acting as bridge between community and food producers; encouraging small holdings/ community veg gardens; and enabling pop up shops in vacant unit for local producers.

Reducing emissions from waste

25% of comments were positive about the goals. 52% made no comment and only 1 was clearly negative in that the goals were not stretching enough.

Comments included: more work with producers of waste such as supermarkets; more information needed on destinations of waste; make it easier to recycle; recycle more types; information for residents; need to focus on reduction.

Water

56% of respondents made no comment on this section. 25% were positive and only 1 was negative in that the goals were too focussed on flooding.

Comments made included: more work to promote water butts; work more with experts; water companies to do more around leak detection and fixing; need to promote protection of waterways, and conduct forward looking planned not reactionary work; use natural flood protection methods; promote permeable paving.

Circular economy & community wealth

58% made no comment. 31% were positive about the goals though it was felt targets may be difficult to develop. None were negative.

Comments included: general comments around increasing and encouraging the shop local ethos; training and skills development were considered important.

It was apparent that the terms used within this section may need more explaining for the general public.

4. Strategic Goal Revisions

Biodiversity Goals:

Framework	Revised
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We have implemented the Biodiversity Strategy2. All developments maximise the opportunities for well considered net gains in biodiversity working at a landscape scale.3. We have increased biodiversity on Council owned and managed landholdings.4. We have engaged and enabled community led nature-based projects and we are involved in partnerships that promote natural capital across	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All developments maximise the opportunities for well considered net gains in biodiversity2. We have increased biodiversity on Council owned and managed landholdings.3. We have engaged and enabled community led nature-based projects and we are involved in partnerships that promote natural capital across the district, including the coast and sea.

<p>the district, including the coast and sea.</p> <p>5. We have the greenest Local Plan we can and have actively engaged with developers.</p> <p>6. Nature-rich and priority habitat has increased overall throughout the district. <i>To become an indicator</i></p>	
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Reducing emissions from waste:

Framework	Revised
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have reduced emissions from waste collection and associated emissions from dealing with waste 2. To have reduced the amount of waste generated by the district's residents, businesses and visitors 3. We will have increased the proportion of the waste collected by the council that is recycled and reduced the emissions from this activity where we can influence and control this 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will have reduced emissions from waste collection. 2. We have minimised the waste generated by residents, businesses and visitors (infographic- enabled re-use & home recycling) 3. We will have increased the proportion of the waste collected by the council that is recycled and reduced the emissions from this activity where we can influence and control this

Sustainable travel and air quality:

Framework	Revised
<p>We will have improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reducing reliance on car and need for personal car ownership; 2. improving the rural transport network; 3. encouraging more cycling and walking; 4. improving infrastructure and reducing barriers to mobility; 5. enabling the uptake of alternatively fuelled vehicles 	<p>We will have improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reducing reliance on car and need for personal car ownership; (planning actions/car clubs/cycle parking etc sit under this) 2. Encouraging a more sustainable and low carbon district wide transport network 3. We have worked with ESCC to promote and develop sustainable travel across the district <p>Indicator/target- The number of short journeys walked and cycled has increased substantially (or phrase to decrease car miles?)</p>

Energy & the built environment:

Framework	Revised
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. We will have built and encouraged affordable, energy efficient, climate resilient and adaptable locally sourced and provided housing that provides multifunctional green infrastructure 2. We will have shifted the district to low and zero carbon heat and electricity 3. We will have the greenest Local Plan we can and actively engage with developers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will have built and encouraged affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient homes. 2. We will have shifted the district to low and zero carbon heat and electricity 3. We will engage early on with developers to ensure they produce low cost, low energy buildings.

to produce low carbon developments using nature based solutions, in line with our vision for the district	
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Circular Economy & Community Wealth - The Goals:

Framework	Revised
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council will be using its financial resources as locally as possible 2. The Council has a sustainable procurement policy that facilitates local supply chains and encourages a circular economy 3. Investment has been made into the local urban and rural economies increasing local employment opportunities and reducing income inequality. 4. We will have an expanding clean tech and creative sector 5. We have developed our local economies, including the Newhaven Enterprise Zone in partnership with the South East Local Economic Partnership 6. LEAP continues to support business start-ups (pictured below) 7. The district, including rural communities, has access to high quality broadband and network services. 8. Local skills, supply chains and employment opportunities are improved as a result of our partnerships with East Sussex College Group, public sector organisations, social enterprises, cooperative businesses, as well as other forms of business, particularly focussing on clean and green tech 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has a sustainable procurement policy that facilitates local supply chains and encourages a circular economy 2. The council has enabled local re-use networks 3. Investment has been made into the local urban, coastal and rural economies increasing local employment opportunities and reducing income inequality 4. Local skills, supply chains and employment opportunities are improved as a result of our partnerships with East Sussex College Group, public sector organisations, social enterprises, cooperative businesses, as well as other forms of business, particularly focussing on clean and green technologies.

Agriculture & Food Goals:

Framework	Revised
<p>Strategic Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have fully engaged and supported The Agriculture Bill and attached schemes such as ELMS as and where possible. We have helped protect the environment and produced food, whilst taking care of the health of soil, water and pollinators. 2. We have influenced conditions for the reduction in emissions from agriculture and food production. 3. We have enabled the increase in local community food production and resilience and its local distribution to provide seasonal, healthy and affordable food. 4. We have influenced the conditions for the production of low chemical ecologically sound agriculture in the district 	<p>We will work with in partnership with others to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate and enable residents to access affordable, local and seasonal food through supporting opportunities for local production and distribution 2. Implement a district and Sussex wide food strategy 3. Enable and support local food growing using regenerative farming methods

<p>5. Articulated a sustainable food strategy for Lewes District and is shaping the East Sussex and Greater Brighton strategic approach</p>	
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Water:

<p>Water consumption in the district has reduced and our water resources are conserved and protected.</p> <p>2. We will have well managed and protected waterways and coastal areas that provide benefit to residents and the natural environment</p> <p>3. We will have adapted communities to be resilient against flooding and coastal erosion due to increased sea level and severe weather events as a result of climate change, using nature based solutions where possible.</p>	<p>Working with others to achieve the goals We will work in partnership with others to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced water consumption in the district; conserved and protected our water resources, including our aquifer; 2. Well managed and protected waterways and coastal areas that benefit residents and the natural environment 3. Communities that are resilient against flooding and coastal erosion
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