



For Immediate Release

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### **Green light for borough's new climate change and air quality strategy**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has given the green light to a climate change and air quality strategy that will create a more sustainable borough.

The Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy, agreed at a Council meeting last night (Thursday 18 March), will steer the borough's response to the council's Climate Emergency Declaration. This aims to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030 and to reduce emissions from the council's operations to reach carbon neutrality by 2025.

The new strategy sets the agenda for the next 10 years, with clear goals focussing on six key areas:

- action by all
- buildings
- transport
- zero carbon electricity
- waste and consumption
- natural environment

It sets out where the council can make changes to lead by example, where it can enable others to make changes and where it can inspire and encourage change.

Since the Climate Emergency was declared in 2019, the council has switched its electricity supplies to the council offices to renewable sources; held a climate emergency summit and supported the climate change work of town and parish councils.

Committing to more sustainable transport for the future, the council introduced the first electric vehicle charging hub in Hampshire at Feather's Yard car park, Basingstoke, last year and has invested in two all-electric vehicles for use by Civil Enforcement Officers, which will benefit the environment with zero emissions helping to improve air quality for local residents. It is also working to deliver the adopted Transport Strategy with Hampshire County Council.

The Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy has taken into account the views and responses from residents, local businesses, interest groups and organisations given in a public consultation last year on local action plans to tackle climate change and air quality issues.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "Climate change is a global issue that will increasingly have a huge impact on everyone who lives and works in the borough and we believe that reducing emissions and achieving our ambitious targets will be achieved by us all working together.

"The council is proud to have adopted this new strategy which was achieved after extensive collaborative work with experts, partners and through consultation with residents and interested groups.

"The Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy sets out a framework to tackle this climate emergency moving forward as a council and a borough to achieve our carbon neutral goals.

"We are already making great progress in reducing carbon emissions and can now look ahead to new opportunities to tackle climate change together."

For more information visit [Draft Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy \(basingstoke.gov.uk\)](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/draft-climate-change-and-air-quality-strategy)

**ENDS**

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