

# Draft Corporate Plan 2023/2027

October 2022



# Welcome to our four-year plan.

## **Our four year plan is to provide you with a strong sense of our priorities and focus.**

Our district is a diverse, attractive and a good place to live and work. We have deep-seated Hampshire traditions, but we also share boundaries with both Surrey and Berkshire which means that we have local economic and housing links with the Blackwater Valley as well as a strong association with the north Hampshire M3/A303 corridor.

We are identified by the Government as being one of the least deprived districts within the country, but we are a district of extremes of wealth and 'hidden' inequality. We also have an aging community which in the last 10 years has seen a 30% increase in people aged 65 and over.

We are suffering the impacts of climate change. In response we have declared a climate emergency and pledged to make Hart district carbon neutral by 2040, whilst bringing forward an ambitious target to make all areas directly under the control of the Council carbon neutral by 2035.

Communities, residents, businesses, and partners must achieve this too. If not, the impact of climate break down will be felt most by the vulnerable in our district.

Residents often talk to us about the poor state of our transport networks, the importance of truly affordable sustainable housing and the fragility of our infrastructure.

We have seen ten years of budget cuts. Given that the national financial situation for local government is unlikely to change, our top priority is working with you, and our partners, to deliver services right first time. By using our council resources wisely, we will support employment opportunities. We will also ensure the delivery of sustainable homes that people can afford to live in, and which provide a foundation both for good health as well as addressing the climate emergency.

Building our resilience as a community over the next 4 years is vital if we want to weather the storm of potentially deepening inequality, climate breakdown and the cost-of-living crisis.

Doing what we can locally with what we have is essential. As your council leaders, we set out here what you can expect of us and how you can help us deliver the best quality services.

## Our focus for the next four years in partnership with you is:



**Planet** – a new zero carbon and climate resilient Council by 2035, and a climate resilient district by 2040



**People** – fair treatment for all, help for those in need, and a sustainable economy that makes Hart a great place to live, work and enjoy



**Place** - delivering warmer, better homes in sustainable locations that people can afford to live in.

This will be underpinned by providing a **resilient and financially sound Council**.

Our high-level plan sets out our goals and ambitions for the coming four years. It will be developed into detailed work programmes, which will help us be transparent in achieving these goals.

# Planet - Sustainability and Climate Emergency: A net zero carbon and climate resilient council by 2035

We will lead our community to net zero carbon. Tackling climate change is central to all our activities. We will produce and implement a targeted and costed Sustainability and Climate Action Plan with the ambition of becoming a net zero carbon and climate-resilient council by 2035 and District by 2040

## We will:

- Use our influence to lead our district to net carbon zero by 2040.
- Ensure the Council plays its part by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2035.
- Increasing the energy efficiency of Council managed assets.
- Supporting climate mitigation schemes such as flood alleviation, and the delivery of low or zero carbon electricity generation.
- Putting sustainability at the heart of our local planning processes and requiring the delivery of energy efficient, climate resilient and adaptable housing.
- Improving the energy efficiency of homes including supporting low-carbon heating and insulation technologies for those residents who are on low incomes.
- Encourage more cycling and walking in the district by extending the Green Grid network and working with Hampshire County Council and others to improve infrastructure and reduce barriers to walking and cycling.
- Increasing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Increase biodiversity, wildflower and pollinator opportunities through cutting pesticide use on council managed land and ambitious programme of carbon capture, through planting and rewilding.
- Improving our public open spaces.

## Four year goals:

- On a clear path to being a net zero carbon through adopting a costed Net Zero Carbon Pathway Plan
- Electric charging points within our car parks
- Extending the Green Grid through adopting and implemented, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Working in consultation with our lead partners to prepare, update and refresh management plans for the nature reserves, heathlands and commons that we manage
- Prepare and implement a long term vision for the Council's countryside sites and SANGs





## People – fair treatment for all, help for those in need, and a sustainable economy that makes Hart a great place to live and work

We need to continue our people-centred approach which directs wealth back into local economy and places control and benefits in the hands of people. We will work with our key local partners such as Hampshire County Council, the voluntary sector, local businesses, partnerships such as the Community Safety Partnership, police, NHS, and education providers to provide more local sustainability.

### **We will:**

- Make our tax fairer by supporting those on the lowest incomes.
- Pursue the four key priorities identified in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (Prevention – having measures in place to prevent homelessness from happening. Intervention – having targeted support in place for those in crisis. Recovery – having support in place to help to rebuild lives. Partnerships – working together to find effective solutions)
- Increase local employment opportunities by directly promoting and committing ourselves and partners to pay the real living wage.
- Use our power as a public sector body to buy and procure locally, where possible, ensuring best value
- Supporting those in most need to get through the current cost of living crisis.
- Gain a better understanding and tackle social and health inequalities.
- Nurture safe, supportive, and inclusive communities.- taking a joined up approach to keep communities safe
- Support local skills and employment.
- Continue our work to prevent homelessness.

## Four year goals:

- Keeping council tax support for those on lowest incomes
- Ensure the full and on-going implementation of the Council's Homelessness Strategy Action Plan
- Support a vibrant local voluntary sector, which includes continued support funding for Hart Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice, as well as empowering local community support groups through the Hart Lottery platform
- Ensure the delivery of the Supporting Communities Plan and the Here for Hart Initiative
- Support the Hart Food Bank and the Hart Community Pantry initiatives
- Maintaining the Hart Employment and Skills hub
- Support Farnborough College of Technology to provide a further and higher education facility within Hart
- Pursuing the Civic Quarter Regeneration initiative and support the delivery of a refurbished or replacement Harlington



## **Place - delivering warmer, better homes in sustainable locations that people can afford to live in.**

The home in which we live has a huge influence on the quality of all our lives and health. Access to safe, secure, and affordable housing really is fundamental to supporting wellbeing and creating sustainable communities where people can live and work.

### **We will:**

- Use our Local Plan to support the provision of a diverse range of energy and resource efficient, climate resilient homes.
- Deliver more affordable homes within the district, including in our villages, and provide homes which support independent living.
- Deliver the number of new homes required in the district through innovation, modular housing, and developing sustainable infill and other sites within the settlement boundaries as defined in the Local Plan.
- Reduce any reliance on temporary and emergency accommodation.
- Support communities in creating and maintaining up to date Neighbourhood Plans.
- Support Neighbourhood Plan led regeneration initiatives for our town and village centres.



## Four year goals:

- Provide more social rented homes, and more affordable market rented homes for local people and our key workers
- Support the delivery of community led rural exception sites
- Keep our Local Plan under review to ensure that it is up to date
- Undertake a Settlement Capacity and Intensification Study to enable the prioritisation of future opportunities for development within our town and villages rather than on green fields
- Support the adaptation or provision of accessible homes for those with physical and additional support needs



# Building a Resilient Council - Your services: getting it right first time and delivering what matters to you

We know how important our services are to you and getting them right matters.

## **We will:**

- Providing the best customer service by focusing on resolving questions and problems first time.
- Solving your issues and questions by being knowledgeable and available through an enhanced and accessible website, by phone, in person, and online.
- Continuing to reduce waste, working with our partners and contractors to maintain efficient recycling and refuse services
- Getting our communication and engagement right through regular information sharing and consultation.
- Improving links and partnerships with town and parish councils, neighbouring local authorities, and Hampshire County Council.
- Ensuring an effective and transparent planning service, holding developers and our delivery partners accountable for providing infrastructure and affordable housing.
- Working with partners, including the Community Safety Partnership, Hampshire Constabulary, the voluntary sector, and local businesses, to keep Hart a safe place to live, work and enjoy



## Four year goals:

- Improved quality of customer contact, outcomes, and satisfaction
- A supported community where we listen and respond
- Reduction in waste, increased reuse, and recycling
- Working with neighbouring councils to share services and reduce costs
- Ensuring effective use of our assets and to make the council more financially self-sustainable

