

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20210204**
Date FOI Received: **12/04/2021**
Department: **Planning**
Title: **Climate Change Emergency Declaration**
Description: **Climate Change Emergency Declaration**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

1. Has the council purchased any carbon offsets? Or, does the council intend to purchase carbon offsets as part of their Climate Action Strategy?
2. Is the council or does the council intend to mitigate direct offsets?
3. Has the council produced a Climate Change Adaptation Policy? If so, does it include measures relating to overheating and flooding? If no, does the council intend to produce a policy as part of its Climate Action Strategy?
4. Has the council implemented any of the above points in full or in part? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why.

Additionally:

a) please confirm how many Town Councils and/or Parish Council/Community Councils in your area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations;

b) please provide the names and contact details of each of these

c) please confirm how your Council collaborates with each Town Council and/or Parish Council/Community Councils

d) please confirm which other community groups/organisations that you liaise and cooperate with that may have made a Climate Change Emergency Declaration and how your own declaration connects with any other work.

e) please provide details of any other local community action your Council carries on to pursue any plans and commitments relating to your CCED.

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

4. Has the council purchased any carbon offsets? Or, does the council intend to purchase carbon offsets as part of their Climate Action Strategy?

Our Response: No

5. Is the council or does the council intend to mitigate direct offsets?

Our Response: Not at this time. We are focussing on reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency.

6. Has the council produced a Climate Change Adaptation Policy? If so, does it include measures relating to overheating and flooding? If no, does the council intend to produce a policy as part of its Climate Action Strategy?

Our Response: The Council has a Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan. As a part of that a number of actions have been identified for climate change adaptation such as mitigate against climate change impacts (flooding, extreme weather events, storms, high winds, heat waves) by safeguarding and enhancing greenbelt and other open spaces; implement mandatory biodiversity net gain for all new developments; encourage grass areas or flower beds in residents' homes, not paved driveways, to reduce flooding. The documents can be found at <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Environment-Refuse-and-Recycling/Climate-change/Climate-Change-and-the-council.aspx>

The Council is developing a range of detailed climate change and sustainability policies as part of its emerging Local Plan, which is due to be issued for consultation later this year.

5. Has the council implemented any of the above points in full or in part? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why.

Our Response: Yes, The Council has published an Interim Planning Position Statement which encourages new developments to demonstrate biodiversity net gain alongside a range of energy efficiency measures. The document can be found at <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Documents/09-Planning--Building-Control/Planning-Policy/Interim-Planning-Policy-Position-Statement-24-Nov-20.pdf>

Additionally:

a) please confirm how many Town Councils and/or Parish Council/Community Councils in your area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations;

Our Response: We are not aware of any.

b) please provide the names and contact details of each of these

Our Response: N/A

c) please confirm how your Council collaborates with each Town Council and/or Parish Council/Community Councils

Our Response: Through liaison meetings between Officers and involving elected Members as and when required

d) please confirm which other community groups/organisations that you liaise and cooperate with that may have made a Climate Change Emergency Declaration and how your own declaration connects with any other work.

Our Response: Hertsmere is a member and active participant of Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership. All Hertfordshire local authorities, county council and LEP are working together to mitigate climate change and improve environmental sustainability.

e) please provide details of any other local community action your Council carries on to pursue any plans and commitments relating to your CCED.

Our Response: The Council has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions before 2050.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services