

**INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 26
JUNE 2018**

PART I – DELEGATED

**6. GREEN EXPECTATIONS – SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2018-19
(DCES)**

1 Summary

1.1 The Green Expectations strategy for Three Rivers was published in March 2015 and set out aims and objectives for the authority on sustainability and climate change. This report sets out progress against the Action Plan for 2017-18 to help achieve these aims and objectives and sets out actions for 2018-19.

2 Details

2.1 In March 2015 Three Rivers District Council published a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, Green Expectations. This set out the environmental and sustainability aims and objectives for the next 5 years. In order to achieve these objectives an Action Plan is published each year to set and monitor targets to meet the aims and objectives.

2.2 The strategy and action plan was divided into 8 broad themes:

- Energy and Climate Change;
- Biodiversity;
- Waste;
- Reducing Water Use;
- Flooding;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Sustainable Procurement and Fair Trade; and
- Climate Change Adaptation.

It also considered the cross-cutting themes of economic development, partnerships, inclusion, education and promotion, and health.

2.3 Under each of the broad themes the strategy set out a key aim. In order to achieve this aim the strategy outlined 3 objectives.

For each theme:	
First Objective	Direct - An objective which the Council has direct control over (such as the management of our buildings and operations).
Second Objective	Indirect - An objective related to our role as a Council.

Third Objective	Influence and Partnership - An objective related to our potential for wider influence such as providing information to residents on actions they could take or working in partnership with other organisations.
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- 2.4 The Action Plan 2018-19 (Appendix 1) brings together information from across the authority to monitor progress on sustainability. Specifically the Action Plan updates on progress against actions set out for 2017-18 and sets actions for 2018-19 to help achieve the aims and objectives of the strategy. The first objective in each theme area has measurable actions as these are the areas in which the authority has direct control. There are also actions associated with the second and third objectives which will be tracked over time.
- 2.5 The Action Plan shows that good progress has been made in most of the theme areas. Using a traffic light system 31 are green, 7 amber and 1 is red.
- 2.6 The DEC rating for Three Rivers House improved, however the overall greenhouse gas emissions for Council operations as a whole increased slightly. Emissions had remained the same (a fall of 0.1%) however there was a reduction in the mitigation due to the ceasing of a Green Tariff by Hertsmere Leisure in October 2016 which resulted in a net increase of 1.5% in emissions. The situation should be reversed in the 2017-18 greenhouse gas emissions reporting as Three Rivers District Council introduced a Green Tariff across all sites, excluding Hertsmere Leisure, from October 2017. Results will be reported in July.
- 2.7 Improvements in monitoring of both internal recycling and waste use is helping to raise awareness of use and the aim is to continue to improve in both these areas.
- 2.8 Unfortunately the Metropolitan Line Extension project is not currently being progressed and therefore the status for this action is red.
- 2.9 Actions set out for 2018-19 will generally look to be delivered within approved staffing and budgets but where new opportunities are identified through monitoring, which may require funding or resources, a fully costed report would be presented to the relevant committee for consideration.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the Action Status reported for 2017/18 and approve the Actions set out for 2018/19 in the Green Expectations Action Plan (Appendix 1).

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The Action Plan supports the Strategic Plan value:
 - 4.1.1 'Promotes "greener" ways of delivering services, reducing the Eco-footprint of the district'
- 4.2 Specifically the Action Plan helps to achieve the Strategic Plan aims and priorities for:
 - 4.2.1 'Better Neighbourhoods' by helping to 'reduce the eco-footprint of the district'.

- 4.3 The purpose of this Action Plan is to monitor delivery of 'Green Expectations' the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, March 2015.
- 4.4 This report refers to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
 - 4.4.1 EP10 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.
 - 4.4.2 EP06 – Tonnes of residual waste
 - 4.4.3 ESD11 – Greenhouse Gas emissions reported as CO2 equivalent
 - 4.4.4 LL34 – To maintain accreditation for Green Flag
 - 4.4.5 LL32 – UK Woodlands Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) accreditation

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None specific.
- 5.2 It is expected that any costs will be met within current budgets. Energy and water monitoring will increase awareness of use and costs should lead to savings through identification of excessive usage or leaks. In the case of a new opportunity being identified through monitoring which may require funding or resources, a fully costed report would be presented to the relevant committee for consideration.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 None specific.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 None specific.

8 Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The actions identified are within current work plans.

9 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 The Action Plan sets out specific actions to directly maintain or improve the environment. This includes the Council's direct impact through our operations, indirect impact through our powers to influence local activity or by using our influence to encourage local residents and businesses to reduce their impact on the environment.

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None specific.

11 Public Health implications

- 11.1 The Action Plan includes actions to promote improvements in Home Energy Efficiency and the Herts Warmer Homes project which have positive health and wellbeing as well as energy reduction outcomes.

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

12.1 Improving information for local residents and businesses may from time to time require updated information to be provided to the CSC.

13 Communications and Website Implications

13.1 Many of the actions require promotion of information to the public. This will require the continuation of regular articles in *Three Rivers Times*, *Environment News*, and *All Aboard*, updates to the Three Rivers and *Green our Herts* websites.

14 Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no risks to the Council in agreeing the recommendation.

15 Recommendation

15.1 That the Green Expectations Action Plan 2018/19 (Appendix 1) is approved

Report prepared by: Katherine Frost, Sustainable Projects Officer

Data Quality

Data sources: N/A

Data checked by:

Claire May, Head of Planning Policy and Projects

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

Background Papers

Green Expectations, Three Rivers District Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy March 2015.

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Green Expectations Action Plan 2018/19