Sustainability Strategy 2010
Foreword .............................................................................................................................................................................. 2

What is sustainability? .......................................................................................................................................................... 4

Context .................................................................................................................................................................................. 6

Portsmouth City Council’s sustainability principles .................................................................................................................. 8

Principles .................................................................................................................................................................................. 9

1: Ensure sustainable use of natural resources (such as energy and water) and increase use of renewable energy sources .......................................................................................................................... 9

2: Enable a sustainable transport system in Portsmouth and promote sustainable travel choices across Portsmouth City Council ........................................................................................................ 11

3: Promote sustainable purchasing policies that respect economic, social and environmental limits ..................................................................................................................................................................................... 13

4: Promote a sustainable waste strategy focused on reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling ..................................................................................................................................................................................... 14

5: Ensure that the city’s built environment is developed and managed sustainably, through sustainable use of land and sustainable design and construction practices, particularly for council projects ..................................................................................................................................................................................... 15

6: Protect Portsmouth’s natural environment including enhancing local biodiversity and open spaces, improving local bathing water quality and tackling climate change ..................................................................................................................................................................................... 16

7: Promote economic & social sustainability by supporting local markets, local businesses & local employment along with providing excellent education & encouraging community cohesion and engagement ..................................................................................................................................................................................... 18
Foreword

We are committed to making Portsmouth City Council as sustainable as possible. In order to achieve this we need the help of each and every employee of the Council to realise our potential as an organisation. Our natural resources are running out and we need to consider our daily actions on the rest of the world we live in – locally, nationally and globally. We all have a part to play in maintaining our world for us and future generations to come. In the short term we must ensure our organisation leads the way locally on the sustainability agenda, acting as responsible employees and a committed employer.

It is critical that we use this updated strategy to embed our sustainability principles across the Council. All services are responsible for ensuring that they are acting sustainably and contributing to our sustainability principles. These principles will be embedded in all future policies, plans and strategies so that we are continually working towards sustainable action and choices becoming business as usual; hence we have produced guiding principles in this strategy to embed corporately rather than a detailed action plan to deliver.

Our sustainability principles will become part of the business planning process (much the same as our corporate priorities currently are) and this will enable the Council to consistently monitor service contributions and involvement to this agenda. The effectiveness of this updated sustainability strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis and a forthcoming sustainability appraisal process will be agreed to monitor and evaluate this strategy and embed the principles in to policies, plans and strategies.

The Sustainability Strategy complements and enhances our Corporate Plan and Carbon Management Plan – as well as having clear linkages to Portsmouth’s city wide multi-agency Climate Change Strategy and the Vision for Portsmouth. Furthermore, as the public sector struggles with the current budget deficit we all need to be working in smarter, more efficient ways. These smarter more efficient ways will undoubtedly be the more sustainable choice i.e. reducing wastage through energy efficiency, smarter printing programmes or driver training to reduce fuel use. Embedding these sustainability principles will help our services to deliver real budget savings.

Please support and encourage your service Green Champions who are crucial to embedding the Council’s sustainability principles - whilst challenging us all to get more involved in this important agenda. Successful engagement with employees at all levels is important to ensure we operate in the most sustainable manner.

Finally, it is important to remember that sustainability is a journey, not an end in itself and we are all in this journey together as valued Portsmouth City Council employees.
Foreword

Councillor Eleanor Scott
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

David Williams
Chief Executive and Green Champion

Sustainability Strategy 2010
What is sustainability?

The term ‘sustainable development’ (1) was coined by the United Nations Commission for the Environment and Development. The Brundtland Report of 1987 ‘Our Common Future’ defined sustainable development as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

We know that we are consuming the natural resources on which we rely at a rate much faster than they can be replenished, our burning of fossil fuels is sending out harmful emissions which impact on human health and the global environment, and our use of land and resources is impacting on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Addressing these issues requires us to address the choices we make every day as individuals and as organisations, including how much and what sort of energy we use, our approach to producing and managing our waste, and how we choose to travel.

Sustainability is a term which can mean different things to different people and there is no single correct interpretation of the term. However, there are a number of key issues which underpin a sustainable approach:

- Sustainable development recognises that economic, social and environmental issues are interlinked and aims to tackle them in an integrated way that will achieve lasting solutions
- Sustainable development looks at the needs of future generations as well as people today and seeks to avoid problems in the future by acting today
- Sustainable development takes account of the environment and its capacity to support human activity and takes decisions that respect these environmental limits
- Sustainable development ensures that wealth, opportunities and responsibilities are shared fairly between nations and among people within countries, especially with regard to the poor and disadvantaged

The following diagram, from the Sustainable Development Commission, indicates the linkages between the key issues outlined above.

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1 The terms sustainable development and sustainability are inter-changeable
Principles of Sustainable Development

Living Within Environmental Limits
Respecting the limits of the planets, environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

Ensuring a Strong, Healthy & Just Society
Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunities for all.

Achieving a Sustainable Economy
Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (Polluter Pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

Using Sound Science Responsibly
Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the Precautionary Principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

Promoting Good Governance
Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity.

What is sustainability?

Sustainability Strategy 2010
Context

Sustainability has become an essential consideration for local authorities in recent years. We all have a responsibility for protecting our environment and making sustainable choices.

Portsmouth’s first sustainability strategy was adopted in 2006 and included an action plan and targets which were regularly monitored. A cross directorate sustainability group was set up with representatives from all key services; this group had the role of monitoring the sustainability strategy and providing quarterly updates on the progress of the strategy action plan to all councillors.

Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group (PSAG) is a board under the Local Strategic Partnership which is chaired by Portsmouth's Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety. The overarching vision for PSAG is to lead the way regarding sustainability issues in Portsmouth. This is achieved by bringing together community representatives and key agencies across Portsmouth in order to provide collective leadership that facilitates and supports the work done by individual organisations and people. PSAG produced Portsmouth’s multi-agency, city-wide Climate Change Strategy in 2009 and ensures that this is monitored and implemented as agreed.

Portsmouth City Council has successfully completed the Carbon Trust’s Carbon Management Programme. Portsmouth City Council's Carbon Management Plan has now been published which defines the projects needed to meet an aspirational target that Portsmouth City Council will reduce CO₂ emissions from Council Operations by 30% by 2014 from 2007/8 levels.

Portsmouth City Council’s Green Champion Programme engages all services in the sustainability agenda and encourages everyone to think about their actions in the workplace more carefully. Green Champions are staff who have volunteered to raise awareness of ‘green’ (i.e. sustainable/climate friendly) issues within their service area. They are enthusiastic and committed individuals who are encouraging green behaviour throughout Portsmouth City Council. Green Champions are entitled to spend up to one working day per month focused on Green Champion activities which is a great incentive for them to actually get involved in practical action supported by the Council. Portsmouth City Council's Chief Executive David Williams is also now a Green Champion and committed to the programme which enables the programme to have leadership from the top of the organisation showing how important sustainability issues are to the Council.

The following diagram helps show how this updated Sustainability Strategy fits in with other corporate strategies and priorities for Portsmouth City Council.
Vision for Portsmouth – City wide Sustainable Community Strategy produced through the LSP. Includes several Sustainability Indicators adopted in LAA.

Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy – City wide multi-agency document produced through PSAG (Partnership Board on LSP).

PCC Sustainability Strategy – PCC’s contribution to the Vision for Portsmouth produced internally and covering the 3 elements of Sustainability – Economic, Social and Environmental.

PCC’s Carbon Management Programme – A subsection of PCC’s Sustainability Strategy providing a detailed focus on carbon management. The Council’s main contribution to the city’s Climate Change Strategy.

Other strategies such as Regeneration Strategy/Portsmouth Plan etc.

Range of Sustainability National Indicators

National Indicator 185
Portsmouth City Council's sustainability principles

We want a strategy that will deliver sustainable change.

Sustainability is everyone’s responsibility and can only be achieved if we all as individuals and organisations are prepared to make changes and sustainable choices. Sustainability is about the links between our environment, our economy and our society. If we are to persuade the people of Portsmouth of the need for change then we must clearly demonstrate our own commitment to sustainable development. The strategy will therefore give focus to how the Council can lead by example and ensure that it is acting sustainably.

All Portsmouth City Council services should be delivering their services in the most sustainable manner they can and the Council’s sustainability principles (see below) should be embedded into all new policies, strategies and projects. This strategy sets out Portsmouth City Council’s sustainability principles as follows:

- Ensure sustainable use of natural resources (such as energy and water) and increase use of renewable energy sources
- Enable a sustainable transport system in Portsmouth and promote sustainable travel choices across Portsmouth City Council
- Promote sustainable purchasing policies that respect economic, social and environmental limits
- Promote a sustainable waste strategy focused on reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling
- Ensure that the city’s built environment is developed and managed sustainably, through sustainable use of land and sustainable design and construction practices, particularly for the Council’s own projects
- Protect Portsmouth’s natural environment including enhancing local biodiversity and open spaces, improving local bathing water quality and tackling climate change
- Promote economic and social sustainability through encouraging local markets, supporting local businesses and local employment along with providing excellent education and encouraging community cohesion and engagement

These sustainability principles will be monitored through sustainability appraisals and the corporate service business planning process annually.

It is important to remember that there is not a one-size fits all approach to being sustainable. Sustainability may mean different things to different service areas. The most important thing is that we are all considering the sustainability impact of our choices and making the most sustainable decisions where possible.
**Principles**

1: Ensure sustainable use of natural resources (such as energy and water) and increase use of renewable energy sources

**Background**

Our over-use of natural resources can have negative impacts on the environment and human health, with intensive use of fossil fuels releasing pollutants that impact on air quality and contribute to global climate change.

By reducing our own consumption of natural resources, and by influencing others through the example we set, Portsmouth City Council can make a significant contribution to sustainability in the City. The UK sustainable development strategy sets out a key principle around “living within environmental limits and ensuring that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations”.

In the context of “natural resources” we mean resources that occur naturally on the earth, which the organisation in the conduct of its own operations either consumes directly or impacts upon:

- Energy
- Clean water
- Clean air
- Land and soil
- Materials including plant and animal products (such as wood and food) and minerals

Portsmouth City Council's Carbon Management Plan has been published which identifies how we are going to reduce our carbon emissions.

**What are we already doing?**

- Portsmouth City Council's Air Quality Action Plan is being produced and delivered – includes Air Quality Management Area Action plans to resolve air quality
- Completed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme
- Published and delivering Portsmouth City Council's Carbon Management Plan (Portsmouth City Council is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 30% from operational buildings, transport and waste by 2014)
- Housing greener homes strategy

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1 KLOE 3.1: Is the organisation making effective use of natural resources? (Audit Commission)
Principles

Sustainability Strategy 2010

What are we going to do?

- Research options for renewable energy (including district heating schemes) for Portsmouth City Council buildings and land— to have identified all the options with recommendations for how to take it forward by 2012
- Work towards achieving the Carbon Trust Standard
- Produce a water footprint of the Council

Monitoring performance

- Quarterly energy use figures for Portsmouth City Council buildings
- Quarterly water use figures for Portsmouth City Council buildings
- Carbon Management Plan – progress against 30% target
- Quarterly reports on paper usage
- Annual Local authority housing SAP rating figures
2: Enable a sustainable transport system in Portsmouth and promote sustainable travel choices across Portsmouth City Council

Background

Transport is an essential part of our lives, connecting communities, employment, goods, services and amenities. Our ability to travel impacts on social well-being in terms of access to education, health, and community activities and is therefore vital in securing an inclusive society. However, our increasing demand for convenient and low cost travel comes at a cost. Our transport choices have an enormous impact on the environment around us, with consumption of fossil fuels for transport contributing to depletion of natural resources and producing harmful emissions which impact on local air quality and contribute to global climate change.

According to National Indicator 185 data for 2008/2009 Portsmouth City Council's estimated total transport carbon emissions were 2,347 tonnes of CO₂ - this equates to 289.1 journeys around the world in an average car.

Actions to improve sustainability can have a positive impact on health such as policies to reduce car use and increase walking and cycling and directly contribute to the city’s Healthy Weight Strategy.

What are we already doing?

- Promote sustainable travel options for staff – including discounted travel schemes.
- Promote, support and run sustainable transport events – such as the Big Green Commuter Challenge
- Signed up to Commonwheels car club to improve the sustainability of business travel options
- Improved facilities within Portsmouth City Council buildings for cyclists and extended current cycle parking facilities
- A fleet review has been completed and Portsmouth City Council are reducing the number of business vehicles by 7 and have pledged to reduce this by another 8.
- Working towards a vehicle replacement policy that considers need, specification and reducing environmental impact
- A Walking Strategy is being developed
- A Cycling Strategy is being developed

What are we going to do?

- Online mileage claim form
- Provide one stop site for sustainable travel options for staff on website
- Driver training for staff regularly using fleet vehicles
- Promote and support flexible working opportunities for staff
- Develop a Portsmouth City Council travel plan
Principles

Sustainability Strategy 2010

Monitoring performance

- Number of staff using sustainable methods of transport to get to work (from travel to work survey data)
- Number of staff using sustainable transport methods for business travel (from online mileage claim form - when this is established)
- Number of fleet vehicles using alternative fuels
- Number of hours Commonwheels cars are used
- % of workforce working flexibly (1 day a week from home)
3: Promote sustainable purchasing policies that respect economic, social and environmental limits

Background

Everything we purchase, whether as individual consumers or as organisations, has economic, social and environmental impacts. These impacts can occur at all stages of a product’s life from extraction of materials, through design and manufacture of the product to its use and ultimate disposal. They range from negative impacts, such as pollution and biodiversity loss, to positive benefits such as the potential employment and economic benefits of purchasing locally manufactured goods.

The UK’s 410 local authorities spend over £113 billion on day to day services - over a quarter of all public expenditure. They employ over 2.1 million people and deliver 700 different services. Local government procurement is therefore a key area for delivering sustainability.

Sustainable procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

What are we already doing?

- Portsmouth City Council has achieved Level 3 of the National Sustainable Procurement Taskforce and is working towards Level 5
- Portsmouth City Council organise a conference bi-annually which provides an opportunity for sharing areas of good practice in sustainable purchasing with suppliers, contractors and services
- Portsmouth City Council works in partnership with the Central Buying Consortium, strategic partners and other local authorities to create markets for sustainable goods and services

What are we going to do?

- Review and improve Portsmouth City Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Include sustainability and sustainable procurement in Portsmouth City Council's Efficiency Board 360° reviews
- Include sustainability in Portsmouth City Council's Procurement gateway process
- Supply chain mapping to ensure sustainable options are considered

Monitoring performance

- Quarterly reports on Multi-functional device (MFD) paper usage
- Number of sustainable products purchased versus non sustainable options
- Number of suppliers with sustainable ISO qualifications or equivalent
- Number of Licensed Procurement Practitioners who have completed sustainability training
4: Promote a sustainable waste strategy focused on reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling

Background

Waste is one of the undesirable by-products of our consumption as a society.

A continual increase in waste generation impacts upon quality of life in terms of social, economic and environmental well-being. For example, waste presents a potential threat to the environment and human health through land, water and air contamination; it puts pressure on finite resources in terms of the material and energy that go into making products; and it can impact on the quality of an area as a place to live in terms of where and how waste is disposed of.

What are we already doing?

- Waste Reduction in Portsmouth Schools (WRIPS) has been established. The Board includes a representative from the Headteacher Forum.
- Portsmouth City Council facilitated the distribution of 20,000 compost bins to residents
- Portsmouth City Council is a member of Project Integra - a partnership of local authorities and a private waste contractor working together to provide an integrated solution to Hampshire's waste.
- Portsmouth City Council corporate waste contract offers recycling facilities for all Council sites.

What are we going to do?

- Produce and implement a Sustainable Waste Strategy for the Council
- Research best practice in sustainable events and other successful initiatives in comparable cities
- Work towards 100% of Portsmouth City Council sites being signed up to the corporate waste contract
- Any future waste contracts will consider maximising the use of vehicles – in order to decrease fuel use and help reduce the Council's carbon footprint

Monitoring performance

- Number of Portsmouth City Council sites on the corporate waste contract
- Decrease in % of Portsmouth City Council's total waste
- Increase in % of Portsmouth City Council's recycled waste
- Number of Portsmouth City Council events offering sustainable facilities
5: Ensure that the city’s built environment is developed and managed sustainably, through sustainable use of land and sustainable design and construction practices, particularly for council projects

Background

The development and enhancement of the urban environment can have many positive social, economic and environmental benefits for individuals, communities and organisations. It can stimulate economic growth; it can build communities people want to live in and that provide for their social needs; and it can enhance the overall look and function of the environment. But it is also responsible for some of the most serious impacts on society and the environment in terms of the resources it uses, the demands for goods and services it creates and its associated infrastructure requirements.

What are we already doing?

- Require new development to meet levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM that are over and above national standards - for energy and water efficiency
- Deliver sustainable construction and increase use of sustainable materials in all local authority housing developments in line with Portsmouth Plan
- Assess sustainability of all new residential development plans to ensure that the buildings are zero carbon through Portsmouth Plan by 2016
- Retro-fitting local authority buildings
- Housing retro-fit project

What are we going to do?

- Renewable energy to be included in new developments in the City
- Include sustainability in Portsmouth City Council Project Management processes
- Stop replacing like for like fittings (e.g. light bulbs) and consider the energy efficient options upon each replacement

Monitoring performance

- Percentage of Portsmouth City Council fittings replaced with energy efficient options
- Number of Portsmouth City Council projects which include renewable energy options
- Number of projects which go to Corporate Project Board that already consider sustainability options
- Number of Portsmouth City Council projects that deliver the Portsmouth Plan sustainable development policy
6: Protect Portsmouth's natural environment including enhancing local biodiversity and open spaces, improving local bathing water quality and tackling climate change

Background

The quality of the natural environment is crucial to our social, environmental and economic well-being. The diversity and richness of the natural environment provides the natural resources and habitats that support life; the attractiveness of our natural environment influences how attractive a place is to live in, work in, and visit; and the cleanliness of the local environment impacts on our health.

Yet, as reliant as we are on the environment around us, our way of life can often have negative consequences for the environment. For example, pollution affects the air we breathe and the water we bathe in, and can have detrimental effects on natural habitats and ecosystems. Water, for the purpose of this strategy, refers to bathing water rather than drinking water or ground water which come under the Environment Agency and Portsmouth and Southern Water. Lakes and ponds are incorporated in to biodiversity and open spaces. Water quality based on EU directive and comes under Environment and Public Protection business plan and also Seafront Strategy. Resort services can work towards the blue flag status for the seafront and also monitor harbour water quality

What are we already doing?

- Portsmouth’s Biodiversity Action Plan is currently being produced
- Safeguarding of international protected sites in Portsmouth (Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours) through Habitats regulations
- Maintain and improving the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for biodiversity
- Develop an understanding of biodiversity issues amongst Portsmouth City Council staff and Councillors (particularly via the Green Champion programme)
- Surveying 'local wildlife sites' - such as Eastney Beach and Hilsea Lines

What are we going to do?

- Council to adopt Portsmouth Biodiversity action plan
- For real development in biodiversity a full time Ecologist would be needed – investigate options of recruiting an Ecologist
- Portsmouth & Southsea In Bloom to incorporate and promote sustainability issues

Monitoring performance

- Number of entrants to ‘wildlife garden’ category of Portsmouth and Southsea In Bloom
- Number of green spaces in Portsmouth
- Number of different species/habitats in Portsmouth
- Percentage of the City covered by national/international designations
**Principles**

Sustainability Strategy 2010

7: Promote economic & social sustainability by supporting local markets, local businesses & local employment along with providing excellent education & encouraging community cohesion and engagement

**Background**

The City’s economic activity and social demographics impact on the sustainability of the environment and the health and social well-being of the City's population. It is therefore important that Portsmouth City Council helps enable people and businesses to make sustainable choices.

Portsmouth’s economy has been historically shaped by its coastal location, with strong marine, defence and retail business sectors. The location of the City and the make-up of its workforce will be key to the sustainability of the city’s future economic well-being.

Portsmouth is a very densely populated urban area and this has a significant impact on the sustainability of the city. In order to bring about sustainability in the Council our organisation's culture needs to change and become more receptive to the sustainable needs of the world we live in.

**What are we already doing?**

- Supporting local employment through the Future Jobs Fund
- Developing successful, creative and innovative businesses in partnership with the Sustainable Business Partnership
- Encouraging markets for local and regional produce through the regular Farmers Markets
- Ensuring local residents have the skills for local jobs and focus on educational attainment
- Encourage and enabling community engagement - such as through the Greening Campaign
- Encouraging schools and residents to engage in recycling and carbon reduction activities
- Involving Portsmouth City Council staff through the Green Champions programme

**What are we going to do?**

- Encouraging businesses to enter the Sustainable Business Partnership's business awards
- Work with businesses to encourage them to become even greener and to act more responsible - with a greater awareness of sustainable procurement, sustainable technologies and waste opportunities.
- Work more closely with schools to ensure their waste, transport and food production are sustainably managed.
- Enable job opportunities for local people
- Enable skills training in growth green technologies to encourage a local green economy
Define Portsmouth City Council's Corporate Social Responsibility and what it means for our staff.

‘Develop a regeneration strategy for the city in partnership with local organisations, to ensure the sustainable development of the local economy’

**Monitoring performance**

- Percentage of Portsmouth schools using recycling facilities
- Percentage of Portsmouth schools providing sustainable sourced school dinners
- Number of local people employed by Portsmouth City Council
- Number of Future Job Fund employees working at Portsmouth City Council
- Outputs of Portsmouth City Council's Green Champions (social sustainable volunteering)
- Number of green technologies in use in Portsmouth City Council