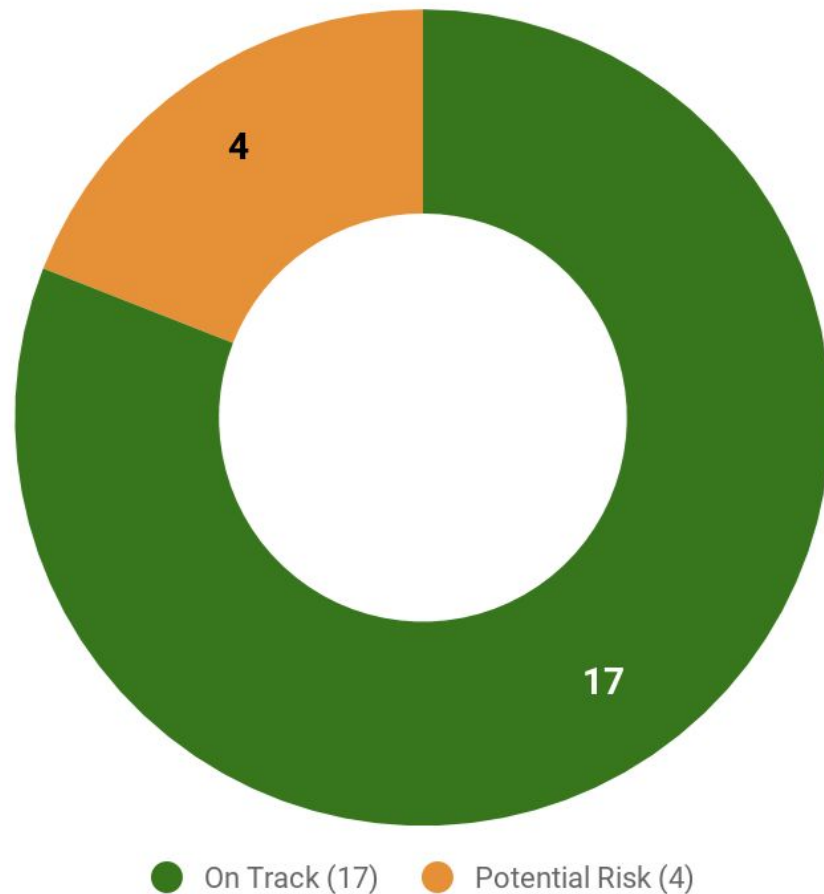


## Commitment Tracker



### Overview : last six months

Real progress has been made. As Councils we have seen our carbon emission reduced by 30%, with plans for further reductions underway. We have also been working with our communities and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions through the LEAP energy saving scheme and promoting the easitADUR&WORTHING transport initiative. The Councils are continuing the work of turning ideas about our future cycling and walking infrastructure needs into strategies and policies ready for investment.

On waste, the Councils have made a commitment to become 'Plastic Free Councils' and continue to support community efforts to reduce plastic waste. Preparations are underway to move to alternative weekly waste collections and promote behavioural changes that encourage our residents to reduce the waste they produce and increase their recycling.

### Platform Highlights : last six months

- I. Environmentally engaged communities:** The Councils continue to grow the number of volunteer activities taking place in our parks, open spaces and foreshore. Over forty active green space groups are working in partnership with our parks team. We have an increased number of volunteer clean ups on our foreshore and in our parks.

- 2. Award-winning stewardship:** Worthing has retained the Seaside Award for our successful stewardship of Worthing foreshore. The Councils have applied for seven green flag awards, the national standard of excellence for Parks. Looking to increase our number from five obtained last year.
- 3. Preserving Stern's Legacy:** Worthing Borough Council was awarded £800,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The planned programme of restoration works would improve the visitor experience, preserve the national chalk plant collection and celebrate the Stern legacy at Highdown Gardens.
- 4. Adur Tidal Walls:** The Environment Agency have formally completed work on the Adur Tidal Walls project – an event marked at a ceremony in March 2019. This project reduces the risk of flooding in Shoreham.
- 5. Reducing our Carbon Footprint:** The Councils have successfully reduced their carbon emissions by 30% (based on 2012-13 levels). This reduction is expected to continue with successful installation of a 20kw Solar PV System at the Shoreham Centre. The new system comprises 72 Solar Panels and is expected to save about 11 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year by producing 1,000 KW of renewable energy. We have reviewed our corporate vehicle fleet in our journey to operating an ultra low emission fleet, further work is also being undertaken to address the contribution of Council business travel. This work demonstrates the Councils' commitment to our "UK 100 cities" network pledge to work towards clean energy by 2050.
- 6. LEAP into energy saving:** LEAP (the energy and money saving advice service) has in the 6 months exceeded targets and provided considerable benefits to our local communities:
  - a. 121 households have benefited by £235,747 through LEAP
  - b. 1011 energy saving measures have been installed;
  - c. 508 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved (over 10 years);
  - d. 33 residents had received a total of £99,000 additional income per year through benefit entitlement being identified;
  - e. a total of £2,782 has been saved through energy switching
  - f. 182 referrals have been made to LEAP in Adur & Worthing, easily exceeding referrals achieved by other West Sussex authorities involved in LEAP (Horsham 55, Mid Sussex 55, Crawley 118).
- 7. A sustainable commute:** The Councils adopted a Staff Travel Action Plan, working with Sustrans, to promote more sustainable transport options for staff commutes and business travel.

In March easitADUR&WORTHING was launched, within one month it achieved its target of 5,000 staff signed up across all the employers in Adur and Worthing. A large number of businesses have signed up, including: Mosaic Online Systems Ltd; Sussex Partnership NHS

Foundation Trust; Worthing Hospital (Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust); Pier 2 Pier Care Services Limited; The Proto Restaurant Group; AIG; Equiniti; Kreston Reeves; GSK etc.

- 8. Plastic Free Councils** - The Councils supported a commitment to becoming Plastic Free Councils. A working group is now overseeing initiatives (including single use plastics and waste audits) and drafting a Plastics Strategy. The Councils are also supporting Refill Worthing and Refill Shoreham.
- 9. 'Beauty and the Beach'** - On Saturday 11th May we celebrated the 'Beauty of Worthing Beach' event with our partners in Southern Water. This event was part of our broader work with Southern Water to improve bathing water quality in Worthing.

## Challenges

- 1. Local Cycling & Walking Plan (LCWIP):** We are at draft plan stage and now in a difficult period of aligning and cementing into policy, strategy and activity.

The first draft of our LCWIP will need to be developed to achieve a robust document against which we can apply for finance for building infrastructure, and adopt strong planning policy. We've been the first West Sussex District and Borough Council to draft an LCWIP and have perhaps been the "WS guinea pig".

- 2. Mitigating Shoreham's Flood Risk** - Planning permission granted for a flood defense wall at Sussex Yacht Club and agreement reached with the club for the purchase of the land. There remain challenges in identifying funding to support the construction of this infrastructure, with Adur District Council taking on the financial risk in the interest of our community.

## Future Focuses

- 1. Changing waste habits:** The Councils will continue to make preparations for the adoption of alternate weekly waste collections from September 2019 to all residential properties (excluding houses of multiple occupancies). 80,000 people were reached on the waste review campaign in three weeks, and our Communications team will continue to keep our residents fully informed about the service change and promote waste recycling and minimisation behaviours.

We have organised revised routes and keep our staff engaged through this period of change, and will be building in short term contingencies to cope with anticipated increased public demand for information.

**2. Energy and Carbon Reduction** - Procure and commission a Carbon Reduction Plan. This will cover two main areas:

- a. establishing a baseline date against which to measure our progress and a carbon reporting methodology;
- b. identifying a pathway for the council to achieve the adopted carbon reduction targets whether neutral carbon by 2030 or 2050; creating a prioritised list of cost effective energy interventions (such as LED installation, boiler replacement, solar PV installation);