



**Prosperous Communities**

**01<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

**Subject: Environment and Sustainability Action Plan Annual Progress Report**

Report by:

Rachael Hughes/Steve Leary

Contact Officer:

Steve Leary

Purpose / Summary:

To present the Annual Progress Report against the Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That members note progress against the ten themes identified in the Environment and Sustainability Action Plan.
2. That members approve the scope and timeline for the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan refresh.

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

In May 2019, the UK Government declared a non-legally binding Climate Change Emergency declaration and the Committee on Climate Change recommended a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050. This was made a statutory target in June through the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.

The Environment Act 2021 was passed in November 2021 with an aim to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, improve biodiversity and make other environmental improvements.

This Environment Act 2021 has two main functions:

1. To give a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK.
2. To bring in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to waste, resource efficiency, air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, and conservation.

The vast majority of this Act does not make any immediate changes for organisations other than regulators. Changes to duties for Local Authorities and others are expected in subsequent legislation made under this Act.

There will be significant implications for a number of areas of this work. A brief summary of this and other legal changes are provided as an appendix to the paper (to follow.)

### **Financial: FIN/97/23/SL**

1 FTE officer now appointed, supported by departmental resources identified and agreed through WLDC Officer group and MT. Agreement to use APSE consultancy call off contract for identified project work.

£500k earmarked reserve was approved at Council on 28 June 2021 to support delivery of the Carbon Management Plan, (with a recognition that other funding solutions are needed to support this.) A further £182K was approved on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 which has been earmarked to staff costs and consultancy. The capital programme 2021-22 to 2025-26 also included an additional £260K of carbon reduction initiatives – largely relating to the upgrade of parish streetlighting to LED.

All projects brought forward will be subject to Business Cases and funding strategies will be developed as appropriate.

### **Staffing:**

Staffing and skills requirements to deliver the strategy will be continually reviewed and monitored. A training and induction programme is being developed, overseen by HR representative on Climate, Environment & Sustainability Officer group to ensure staff have the knowledge and tools needed to incorporate sustainability in day to day decision making.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

The Council's ambition is to ensure that neither the effects of climate change, nor the costs of reducing emissions, disproportionately affect any residents of the District.

The action plan will reap many co-benefits that have the potential to increase equality and community cohesion. These include improving health and wellbeing through more active travel, improving air quality with reduced vehicle use, increasing social inclusion through community activities and reducing fuel poverty by insulating homes and installing on-site renewable energy.

In practice the actions are too high-level and long term to undertake a meaningful equality assessment on the Council's Strategy and Action Plan. Individual equality assessments are undertaken as actions are developed.

**Data Protection Implications: None**

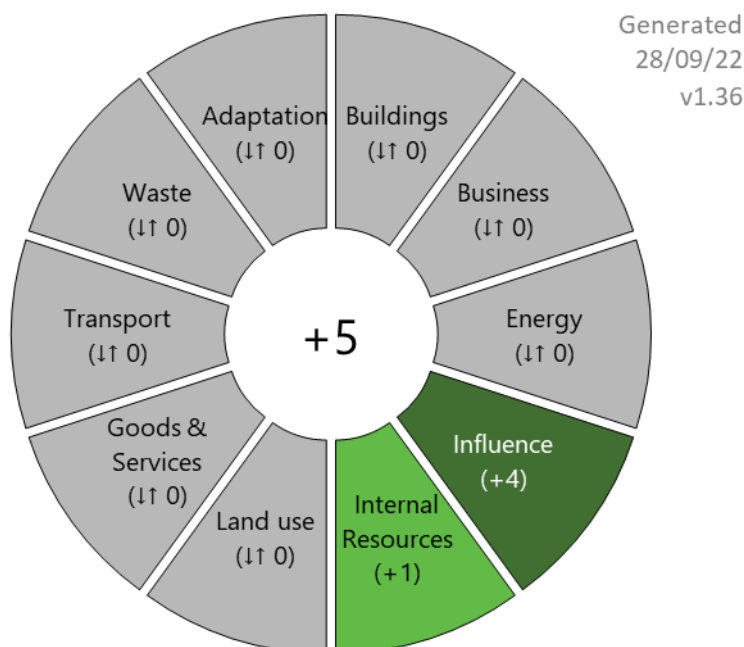
### Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

The Carbon Management Plan, Climate, Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan contained proposals aimed at reducing the Council's carbon emission to a net-zero position by 2050 and achieve the same across the District of West Lindsey within the same timescale. The decision to approve this in June 2021 is already having significant environmental benefits as can be seen by the progress updates in this report.

Also contained in the report are greenhouse gas emission updates and details of proposed reporting mechanisms and priority actions for next year. The report details changes made to how Climate, Environment and Sustainability Impact Assessments (CESIA) are considered in all Council decision making, policies, strategies and as part of project development. Individual CESIA assessments will be carried out for new actions in the plan. We are looking at the effects of this report (not our past performance, or actions that represent future decisions.) Reporting and associated communication and influencing activities that increase awareness of climate change and our actions to address it are the primary benefits of this report in terms of the CESIA environment and climate environment and sustainability issues. It highlights the urgency of action, and backs up what we say with emissions data for the council and district.

Climate related risks are inherent. The risk of not delivering the strategy and its aims and objectives could lead to the Council contributing to irreversible temperature rises and subsequent damage to the climate and natural environments.

We are looking at the effects of this decision (not our past performance, or actions that represent future decisions)



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (27 years and 3 months away).

### Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

**Health Implications:**

Health and wellbeing are strongly linked and interwoven into the aims of the strategy as co-benefits of taking positive action to address climate change and enhance the environment and sustainability. There will be a number of actions developed through the District Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will contribute in the delivery of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy. Close working with the Homes & Communities will be key in delivering the strategic objectives of these two strands of work.

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

[The Council's Carbon Management Plan and draft Sustainability, Climate and Environment Strategy and action plan](#)

[May 22 update report to Prosperous Communities Committee](#)

**Risk Assessment :**

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on progress against actions since the adoption of the Sustainability, Climate Change & Environment Strategy (SCCE) in summer 2021. It is the Council's first formal report on progress against the Strategy's key objectives and is designed to set the framework for reporting in future years. Links have been made to the Corporate Plan to show how the Council is developing a 'green thread' of activity in support of the SCCE Strategy throughout the organisation. For context the Green House Gas Report which has been reported annually since 2009 is attached (Appendix A).

Embedding climate, environment and sustainability across the whole organisation is progressing well, and governance and structure improvements have been implemented. This was highlighted and recognised in the last progress report to Prosperous Communities in May 2022 and in an Assurance Lincolnshire audit in April 2022, where the service area was judged to have substantial assurance.

However, monitoring policy changes and a large number of actions against greenhouse gas emissions and sustainability outcomes is still a challenge (this is seen locally and globally.)

The West Lindsey Climate, Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan is now over a year old and much has changed since that time. It is therefore appropriate to update the plan and consider future delivery of this work. This review, for the first time, has synchronised with the Council's annual business planning cycle and this review process will become embedded and crystallised in future years. Such is the urgency of this programme though, it is important to stress that green-lit projects and development work will not pause during this time. Members will continue to receive updates via the Environment and Sustainability Member Working Group.

## **Introduction**

The report in May was the first formal report on activity following the SCCE Strategy in summer 2021. The report provided a brief overview of activity to date and committed to providing a more comprehensive update on progress, following the availability of further data, later in the year.

This report provides a more detailed review of work undertaken within the last 12months and draws together a number of documents used to monitor progress in this area of work, including the Green House Gas Report, a review of the SCCE Action Plan and also details of actions which will be undertaken within the next 12months.

It is important for everyone to be aware of the scale of the challenge ahead in meeting our net zero and environment and sustainability ambitions. The success of the Strategy and delivery of key actions is reliant on embedding a 'Green Thread' across the organisation. This is achieved through integration and alignment with the Corporate Plan, the objectives of which are used to inform the Council's business planning process which is the key driver for delivery of the actions aligned to the SCCE Strategy.

In embedding the SCCE Strategy and Action Plan, the Policy and Strategy team have worked closely with officers to identify progress and to plan business activity over a

three-year period that contributes to the overall aim of achieving carbon net zero by 2050. This ensures actions can be appropriately planned for, monitored and costed through the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

This report sets out progress against each of the ten themes of the SCCE Strategy, identifying what has been achieved over the last 12 months and what activity is planned for the coming years, including timelines for delivery. As the SCCE Strategy is further embedded, it is anticipated that more data will become available and that targets and timelines can be assigned to more of the actions within the action plan. This will be reflected in next year's annual report and will allow members to track progress alongside delivery of the Corporate Plan.

A year on from the adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan, it has become clear that this area of work, like many others across the council is susceptible to change as a result of external factors outside of the control of the Council, such as improvements in technology, social change and perception, the economy and also national policy and strategy.

As such it has been necessary to adapt actions to allow assimilation within the business planning framework and ensure they appropriately reflect Corporate Plan themes, supporting the 'Golden Thread' between Corporate Priorities and service delivery.

The action plan has been updated, actions have been grouped under the 10 key themes identified within the strategy and the associated out-comes and then linked back to the themes within the Corporate Plan. Specific actions which deliver those outcomes will then sit in individual business plans, with the majority of monitoring being undertaken through business plans.

It is considered that this approach and monitoring framework, aligned to the Corporate Plans will facilitate a better, more accessible and consistent framework in future years. It will also mean the action plan becomes more flexible and responsive, allowing new actions to be added under outcomes and also removing actions which have been completed.

## **Summary of Achievements to Date**

Below is a summary of key actions that have been delivered undertaken over the last 12 months. Further detail is included under each of the ten themes that make up the remainder of this report.

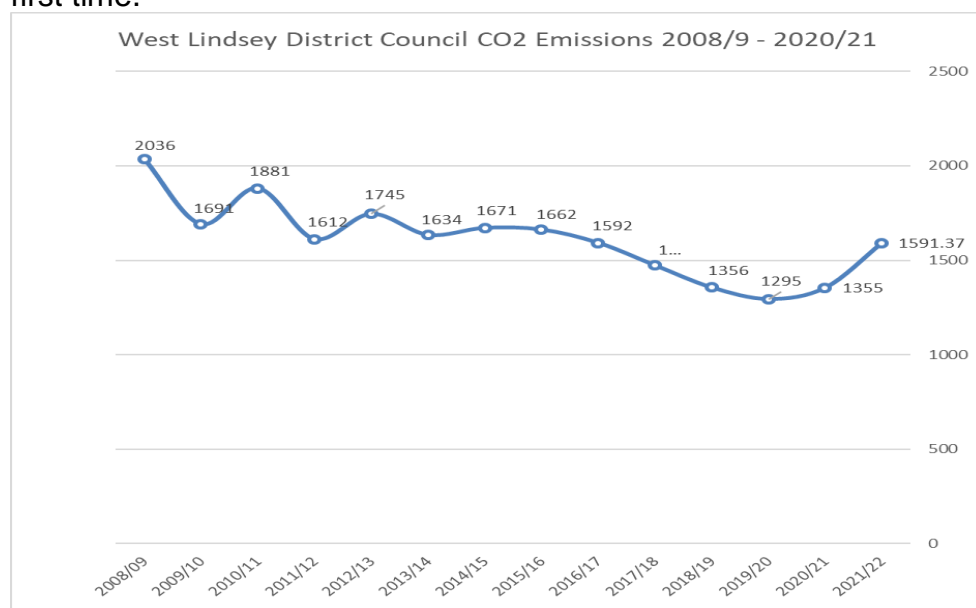
- Introduction of the decision-making tool. Over the next few months committee reports, project management documentation and T24 service review methodology will have this included and will be used to support future decision making by members and officers.
- 20 additional staff/members, including those from Management Team, booked to attend Carbon Literacy Training
- The internal officer/member CES groups have been established and meet monthly.
- Following a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, Solar PV and battery storage has been installed and is now operational at new waste depot.

- Separate Paper and Card Collections rolled out.
- A total of just over £1.4mil of grant funding has been secured to facilitate energy efficiency improvements to housing across West Lindsey.
- The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate with a whole chapter dedicated to Climate Change and reducing the impact of development on the environment.
- A comprehensive Communication Strategy has been developed and targeted activities are being delivered through a rolling action plan
- Established working relationship with Midlands Net Zero Hub, developing grant proposals and identifying energy efficiency / renewables opportunities

## WLDC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions has been collated and published annually by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) since 2009. The report provides an update on CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions for the Council's operations. Only scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, those which are owned or controlled by the Council, are used to calculate the intensity measurement as per DEFRA Guidance, however, some scope 3 emissions are also monitored as part of the report as this is seen as good practice. Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions caused as a consequence of operations by the Council. Included here are emissions from business travel and our leisure centres. Scope 3 emissions from activities such purchased goods, employee commuting and investments are currently excluded. Methodology has remained broadly consistent since 2009, which allows for benchmarking and comparison.

In summary, total emissions for WLDC's own operations saw a year-on-year increase in 2021/22. The graph below shows an upward trajectory, for the last two years, reflecting increased activity as we recover from covid, and the emissions from the new Market Rasen Leisure Centre and Lea Field Crematorium hitting our inventory for the first time.



As expected, emissions from the refuse fleet have increased as the district has expanded, but perhaps the most notable increase, has come from a sharp uptake in gas usage from Gainsborough leisure centre. A spike was to be expected as visitor numbers increased after the lifting of pandemic lockdown restrictions in place for



much of 2020 and 2021, but the 440 CO2e tonnage emissions from the site now represents more than a quarter of total WLDC emissions. This brings CO2e levels from the site to 2014/15 levels and is a worrying trend given the steady emissions reductions that were occurring there until 2018/19.

It is considered that a significant contributor to the rise, is the combined heat and power boiler, fitted at the end of 2018, that uses gas to both heat and power the building in place of electricity. The relative CO2e emissions for gas are much higher than electricity from the grid now, due to extensive decarbonisation of the electricity grid over the last few years.

This is an issue which is being investigated in conjunction with the Centre Manager and further work is being undertaken to understand what opportunities there are to improve the energy efficiency of the site. Initial studies have been undertaken and a further energy audit is planned for the end of 2022. Equally, we are aware of a number of grants being made available and as such, assessment against criteria will be made with a view to accessing funds as and when appropriate.

	2021/22 kWh	2008/9 kWh	Total % change in kWh 2008/9 - 2021/22	2021/22 tonnage	2008/9 tonnage	Total tonnage change in annual CO2e 2008/9 - 2021/22
Leisure Centre Electricity	172,331	703,610	-75.51%	36.59	368	-331.41
Leisure Centre Gas	2,205,877	1,424,442	54.86%	404.03	263	141.03
Guildhall Electricity	152,702	408,025	-62.58%	32.42	213	-180.58
Guildhall Gas	131,259	261,354	-49.78%	24.04	48	-23.96
Trinity Arts Centre Electricity	58,123	123,437	-52.91%	12.34	64	-51.66
Trinity Arts Centre Gas	185,083	303,338	-38.98%	33.9	56	-22.10

West Lindsey District Council Key Site Energy Consumption (kWh) 2008/9 - 2020/21

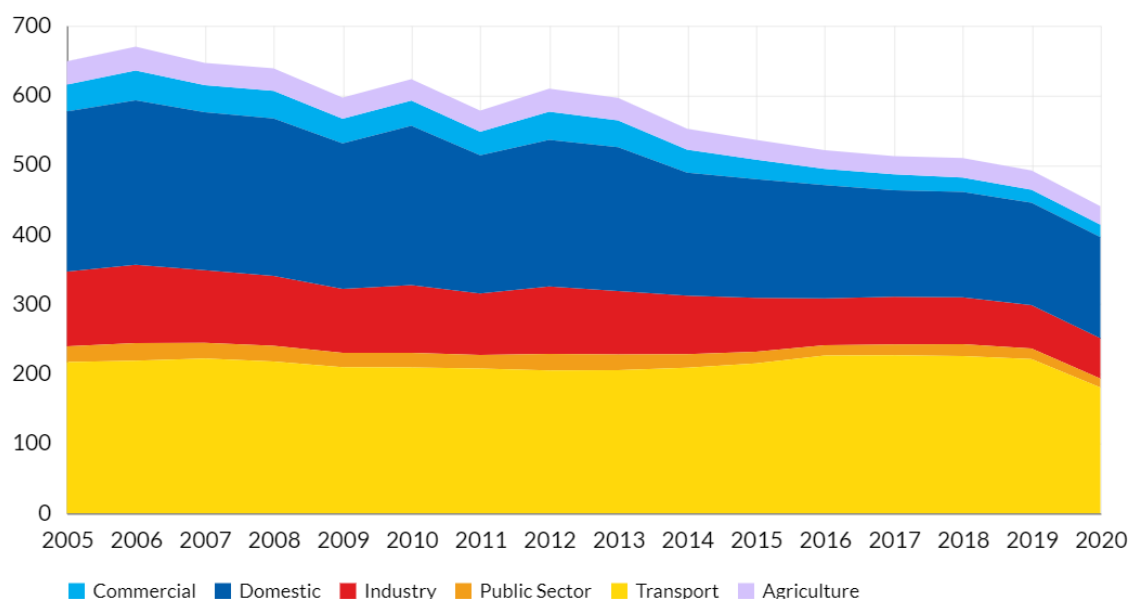
It is worth noting that actions to 'turn the emissions curve' have already been instigated, with additional activities planned as set out in the action plan. First and foremost are activities to reduce energy demand and fuel usage from our buildings and vehicles, but the decision taken to move to a fully traceable, green electricity tariff from October 2022 is expected to reduce CO2e emissions by over 100 tonnes per annum.

### District Emissions

Full emissions estimate for the West Lindsey district currently only go to 2020. They rely on publicly available datasets from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) The 2 year lag means that it is not possible yet to observe the impact of our CES strategy, or even the full effects of the covid slowdown. The latest complete dataset is shown below.

## Historic emissions by sector, 2005–2020

West Lindsey District Council, ktCO<sub>2</sub>e



It can be seen, that between 2005 and 2020, a slow reduction has been observed in the district, and most of the change can be attributed to improvements made to the electricity grid. It is clear that significantly more work is required to change current trends. In 2019 total emissions were 511.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub> (5.3 tCO<sub>2</sub> per person and 0.4 ktCO<sub>2</sub> per square KM)

Emissions continue to decrease but not at a fast-enough rate to stay within carbon budget limits. The main cause for reduced emissions is the reduction in carbon intensity of grid supplied electricity. Any renewables deployment in the district will magnify this effect. Road transport remains the largest single sector, with emissions tending to increase over time.

For West Lindsey, 42% of greenhouse gas emissions are due to Transport, 30% are domestic emissions and 29% are non-domestic (commercial, industrial and public sector, with a small amount from waste and agriculture. Other land use such as forestry has a net-positive effect. Transport is a key sector for emissions reductions for a number of reasons:

- it has very high emissions which have stayed high for a long time;
- the technology to significantly reduce emissions already exists
  - walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles
  - investment is required to make these more accessible but less than for decarbonisation of all buildings
- the significant co-benefits of reducing the number of polluting cars on the roads
  - improved air quality – currently an estimated 40,000 people die a year in the UK due to air pollution
  - improved health and wellbeing from active travel
  - increased footfall in local businesses where walking supported

Behavioural change is going to be an important factor in significantly reducing emissions in West Lindsey, and across the UK. This means that we cannot rely

entirely on low carbon fuels and technologies. The Committee on Climate Change estimate that nearly 60% of the changes needed rely on societal and behavioural changes. Actions under theme 4 'Influencing Others' specifically communications and sign posting will be crucial in supporting this.

## Progress Against Actions 2021/22

Detailed progress against each of the Strategy's ten themes is set out in more detail below, along with what are considered as priority actions for next year.

### 4.0 Theme One: Buildings and Assets

Key areas of action under this theme include an internal focus on implementing energy efficiency measures and deploying renewable technologies on Council owned buildings. Similar work must also take place across the district, working with our communities and businesses to encourage and enable retrofitting of buildings - cutting fuel bills and carbon emissions in the process.

Continued collaboration work will be needed, including working with partners such as Registered Providers, consortium bidding for attainment and utilisation of grant funding and effective use of planning powers through policy to require future development to be net zero.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All buildings and new development across West Lindsey are net zero by 2050</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce all Council Building emissions to net zero</li> <li>Improve housing standards through net zero new build requirements and retrofitting existing buildings</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Lindsey buildings and assets are net zero by 2050</li> <li>Buildings and development are net zero by 2050</li> </ul>

It is acknowledged that in order to effect change in this area it will be necessary to implement new and innovative building techniques and technologies. It is therefore considered important that the Council takes the lead in this by exploring opportunities to improve energy efficiency across the portfolio of built assets, thereby allowing opportunities to showcase technologies and share experiences with the wider community.

Equally, the Council as the Local Planning Authority has a key role in influencing future development across the District through the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Submission of the Draft Local Plan focusses on achieving net zero carbon development and contains a suite of policies which pushes the standards of new development much further than ever before.

Below is an update against actions achieved during 2021/22

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Install Solar PV & battery storage fitted to the Waste Depot	Action completed. Panels are generating 2000 to 3000 kWh (kilowatt hours) of alternating current (AC) power per month – saving 5 - 6 tonnes of CO2e a year, compared to a typical UK energy tariff.	
Our Place	Secure grants to retrofit homes across West Lindsey to improve energy efficiency	£924K funding from Government for Sustainable Warmth Competition accepted in Feb 2022. This is made up of (Local Authority Delivery - LAD3 and Home Upgrade - HUG1.) This is in addition to £560K LAD2 funding accepted in May 21 that has enabled the fitting of cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, smart meter heating controls and solar pv to homes most in need (57 measures in total up to Aug 22)	
Our Place	Use Planning powers to deliver net zero development across West Lindsey & Central Lincolnshire	Submission Draft Local Plan submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. 16 new policies drafted, focussed on delivering carbon net zero development – examination planned Nov 2022	

**Priority Actions 2022/23** - As part of implementing the green thread of Environment and Sustainability across the organisation, below are priority actions delivering the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy for 2022/23 as identified through business planning with each service.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Timeframe
Our Council	Investigate feasibility and implement new heating system for Guildhall offices in Gainsborough	The Guildhall achieves carbon net zero in relation to energy consumption	2023/24
Our Council	Work with Midlands Net Zero Hub to undertake energy audits of council owned buildings and explore further	Energy audits undertaken on Gainsborough Leisure Centre and Trinity Arts Centre Grant funding applications submitted	Dec 2022

	opportunities for grant funding		
Our Place	Adopt new Central Lincolnshire Local Plan	Future development across West Lindsey achieves carbon next zero	Summer 2023
Our Place	Secure grants to retrofit homes across West Lindsey to improve energy efficiency	More homes achieve higher energy efficiency standards	On going

## 5.0 Theme Two: Campaigning and Lobbying

It is vital that the council's declaration to reach a net-zero carbon position across its operations, and across the district by 2050 leads to real action. As such, the Council, with the support of other organisations, will campaign and lobby for change, specifically in areas such as policy and legislation.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy and Strategy relating to climate change, environment and sustainability and funding is aligned to and meets the needs of West Lindsey District Council and its residents</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective campaigning and lobbying strategy which elevates the needs of the District</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate policy and strategy both nationally and locally in place supporting net zero ambitions by 2050</li> </ul>

Over the past year, campaigning and lobbying activity has included establishing the Member Environment and Sustainability Working Group and the Officer Working Group. One of the key roles of these groups is to identify issues which inhibit or prevent the Council and more broadly the District from achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2050.

It is accepted that this area of work is new and constantly evolving, as such both groups have been working hard to familiarise themselves with this new subject area to enable them to recognise barriers and issues and take positive action through lobbying and campaigning to effect change.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Establish Member & Officer working groups	Member & Officer working groups established and meeting monthly	
Our Council	Establish a comms plan	Comms plan established with key channels for communication identified. Regular update on comms given at both working groups	

It is anticipated that issues around access to funding, further improvements to national build standards and support for rural communities will be areas of focus for campaigning and lobbying during 2023.

Finally, it is important to note that this priority area is very closely linked to the theme of communication and influencing others and as such there is likely to some cross over in terms of both actions and outcomes.

**Priority Actions 2022/23 -**

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Timeframe
Our Council	Establish a campaigning and lobbying strategy	The Council is actively engaged in emerging issues and opportunities relating to Climate Change	2023/24
Our Council	Review and update Communications Strategy	Communications strategy is responsive and reflective of key messaging locally and nationally	2023/24

## 6.0 Theme Three: Decision-Making

For the Council to achieve the identified environment and sustainability related ambitions, it is imperative that such matters are at the forefront of the Council's decision making. This means ensuring priorities are appropriately reflected in all corporate documents and that decision makers are presented with accurate, reliable and up to date information and be sufficiently knowledgeable to effectively scrutinise the information to achieve the best outcomes.

Fundamental to this theme is ensuring sustainability, climate change and the environment are reflected within the Corporate Plan. Officers have begun work to ensure these key themes are appropriately reflected in the Corporate Plan which is currently being refreshed for 2023.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability is at the forefront of all Council business</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective governance to facilitate positive decision making to support achieving a carbon net zero Council by 2050</li> <li>Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability priorities are reflected in all corporate policy &amp; strategy</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All council business, including decision making has considered and responded to the impacts of Climate Change</li> </ul>

Below is an update against actions achieved during 2021/22

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Ensure climate, sustainability and the environment are appropriately reflected in the Council's next Corporate Plan	Review underway to be completed Spring 2023. Every focus and theme will contain at least one objective relating to sustainability and the environment	
Our Council	Establish appropriate governance structure through the establishment of a Member and Officer working group	Action completed, both working groups established and meeting monthly	
Our Council	Ensure all reports, projects and reviews clearly set out climate related issues	CESIA tool approved and being introduced on all committee reports, project management documentation and T24 service review methodology	



Our Council	Increase awareness and expertise across members & officers	Carbon Literacy Training, facilitated by APSE, delivered to 20 Officers in October 2022. Supplementing existing delivery programme.	
Our Council	Integrate Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental priorities into business planning	Environment and Sustainability considerations were encouraged in the 2022/23 business planning cycle. Additional priority actions have been agreed with service managers and ownership and timescales signed off. Delivery will be monitored through the new Climate, Environment and Sustainability Action Plan	

### Priority Actions 2022/23 -

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Timeframe
Our Council	Development of an effective monitoring framework for the Corporate Plan	Objectives relating to sustainability and the environment will be effectively monitored and reported Green thread established within the organisation	2023/24
Our Council	Continue roll out of training for all staff and members	At least 15% of staff and Members trained and certified in Carbon Literacy West Lindsey achieve bronze standard in Carbon Literacy	2023/24
Our Council	Monitor effectiveness of CESIA tool on WLDC decision making	Continuous improvement of decision-making tool to ensure decision making remains effective in achieving carbon net zero by 2050	Sept 2023
Our Council	Monitor existing actions through business plans for 2022/23 and work with services to develop new actions for business plans in 2023/24	Green thread established within service delivery. Rolling programme of actions relating to the delivery of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy established	2023/24

## 7.0 Theme Four: Influencing Others

The council only has direct control over a small percentage of emissions across the district (our direct emissions). It is therefore important that the council works with and influences others to also play their full part in responding to the climate emergency. This will be vital in the wider district achieving its zero carbon ambitions. This theme relates very closely to campaigning and lobbying and is heavily reliant on positive and proactive communication both within the Council and externally across the district, the County and Nationally.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Lindsey residents, businesses and wider stakeholders share the aspiration and are striving for a carbon net zero district by 2050</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Lindsey District Council have a key role in providing regular, proactive and engaging communication</li> <li>Clear collaboration on key messaging and project delivery across Greater Lincolnshire</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaged and proactive residents and businesses striving to deliver net zero across West Lindsey by 2050</li> <li>External organisations support and enable the delivery of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental Strategy</li> </ul>

### Actions undertaken during 2021/22

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Establish an internal and external communications strategy focussed on Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment	Review underway to be completed Spring 2023. Every focus and theme will contain at least one objective relating to sustainability and the environment	
Our Council	Establish a Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Countywide Officers Group	Action completed, working group established and meeting monthly	
Our People	Engage with Parish Councils and	Neighbourhood Planning has been used to raise awareness of local	

	Community Groups, raising awareness of Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment	policy actions which could contribute to limiting the impacts of climate change and reduce the Districts carbon footprint	
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**Priority Actions 2022/23 -**

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timeframe
Our Council	Refresh annual communications plan for Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment and establish methodology for assessing coverage and reach	Regular and relevant communications to support increased awareness of the issues of Climate Change and encourage behaviour change across the District, including an understanding of engagement through coverage and reach of messaging	2023/24
Our People	Engage with Parish Councils and Community Groups, through publications, website & training raising awareness of Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment	Communities are aware of the opportunities in reducing their carbon footprint and increasing sustainability and have the tools to implement change within their area	2023/24
Our People	Actively encourage all new Neighbourhood Plan Groups to include specific policies to deliver the strategic aims of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment strategy	All new Neighbourhood Plans include policies aimed at supporting the delivery of carbon net zero in 2050 and respond to wider sustainability and climate change issues relevant to their area	On going
Our People	Support businesses to access expertise and funds for reducing carbon footprint	A reduction in the carbon footprint of businesses across West Lindsey	2023/24

## 8.0 Theme Five: Land Use

West Lindsey is defined by its unique natural environment. The district's wide-open landscapes and rich farmlands not only create jobs through agriculture and associated businesses, but they define a way of life and help our residents to experience nature and live healthy lives, consuming local produce in a place that particularly engenders a sense of belonging.

Land use, like building and assets has a fundamental role to play in climate change, this theme is intrinsically linked with many of the other themes within the strategy, primarily because the decisions made around land use fundamentally impacts what and how that land is used including the location and access to facilities.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Land use across West Lindsey aligns with and supports the objectives of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental Strategy</li></ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promotion of positive land use creating sustainable and connected places</li><li>Enhancement and creation of green spaces and bio-diversity opportunities</li></ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sustainable and resilient communities</li><li>Improved health &amp; wellbeing of residents across the district</li></ul>

A key area of influence the Council has over land use is the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Local Plan contains a number of policies which encourages the development and enhancement of open spaces, including play areas and community facilities. It also enables through development sustainable transport options such as walking and cycling, particularly where Neighbourhood Plans have identified key routes connected to allocated development sites.

There is also a duty of the Local Planning Authority to protect nature and bio-diversity as part of development. The duty will be enhanced in 2023 when the requirement to provide 10% bio-diversity net gain on all development. This requirement will also include a metric for assessment and will require monitoring for 30years. Whilst this presents a significant challenge for Local Planning Authorities it presents a fantastic opportunity to enhance the bio-diversity offering across West Lindsey.

Whilst often considered the last resort, this theme also presents an opportunity to understand the best locations for off-setting residual emissions, which can include tree planting and the creation of carbon sinks in the form of peat land.

Many of the actions in relation to this theme for 2021/22 have centred around the development of evidence and key policy within the Local Plan review and making initial preparations for the introduction of bio-diversity net gain legislation.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Place	Complete Bio-diversity Opportunity Mapping	Action complete, mapping showing the potential opportunities for future action around existing networks completed as part of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan evidence base	
Our Place	Develop planning policy which protects and enhances the diverse natural habitats of the district and the wildlife it supports	Submission Draft Local Plan submitted to Planning Inspectorate for examination	
Our Place	Through planning policy promote the development & use of open spaces	Action completed, as above	

**Priority Actions 2022/23** - Continued focus on planning policy both in relation to both the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning, ensuring communities have the tools they need to develop policy which meets the needs of their community. Measuring the impact of Local Plan policy will be undertaken through a monitoring framework which will be developed following the examination of the Local Plan. It is anticipated that some measures from this monitoring framework will be reported within this report in future years.

Related to planning policy embedding the principles of bio-diversity net gain as set out in Legislation which will be enacted in November 2023.

Land use, particularly the provision of green space and connecting to nature is an action within the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and also an emerging theme within the District Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is likely that following the adoption of this strategy and the development of a West Lindsey delivery plan that further shared actions will be established.

Corporate Plan Theme	Actions	Outcomes	Timeframe
Our Place	Implement bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including training & monitoring	Measurable 10% net gain in bio-diversity across West Lindsey	2023/24
Our Place	Promote the use of Neighbourhood Plans to encourage identification of locally important biodiversity areas and open space,	All new Neighbourhood Plans include policies aimed at supporting bio-diversity and the promotion of green space & local connectivity	On going

	including play areas & local connectivity		
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## 9.0 Theme Six: Power

This theme covers two different areas of focus and influence. There is an important role for the Council in relation to lobbying and influencing to ensure that, nationally, future power generation is sustainable, affordable and viable and that power generation facilities are located in the appropriate place to serve local communities.

In the short-term actions will focus on the Council's own power requirements, specifically implementing measures which support the Council's Carbon Management Plan. Unsurprisingly, there is cross over with actions relating to buildings and assets as many new sustainable technologies rely on an element of retrofitting to buildings, including additional insulation, upgrades to pipework etc.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in energy demand across West Lindsey, with all energy consumed from sustainable and renewable sources</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively enable the reduction in the Councils own energy consumption</li> <li>Understand and influence the energy markets</li> <li>Support the district to deliver decentralised energy networks for heat and power</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reduction in energy usage across the Councils estate</li> <li>Sustainable and efficient decentralised energy networks located across West Lindsey</li> </ul>

As such in terms of actions relating directly to the council's own estate, key actions relating to this theme are detailed above in the theme Building and Assets.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Place	Facilitate the delivery of appropriate renewable energy schemes through planning policy	The submission Draft Local Plan includes policy S14, which facilitates the delivery of a range of renewable energy technologies	
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	There is an identified budget in place for this work, however there has been challenges in delivery the upgrades due to contractor availability	

**Priority Actions 2022/23** - It is anticipated that further research and understanding into the energy markets will take place and that the street light upgrade will continue

to be pursued. Equally, in line with the action in Building and Assets, further investigation will take place on initiatives to reduce energy consumption and the Council's overall carbon footprint.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timeframe
Our Place	Obtain better understanding of the energy market, including supply & demand to better support communities deliver community energy solutions	Officers and members are better informed and able to provide support to communities exploring community energy solutions	2023/24
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	Parish street lights upgraded at the Trinity Arts Centre & Riverside Walk	2023/24



## 10.0 Theme Seven: Protecting the Vulnerable

Climate change is something which affects everyone. Our vision is to ensure that all of West Lindsey's residents have the resilience and ability to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

Vulnerable people and communities are most severely impacted by climate change and as such it is important that steps are taken to mitigate risk. This can be done through the identification of vulnerable groups, specific communities and understanding locational factors, across the District, for example, areas at higher risk of flooding.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All residents of West Lindsey have the resilience and ability to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all vulnerable communities are equipped to deal with the impacts of climate change</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of Climate Change on vulnerable residents is reduced</li> </ul>

This theme is a cross cutting theme within the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy and also the corporate plan. Many of the actions relate specifically to the Communities, Health and Wellbeing strand of the corporate plan. Being a relatively new area of focus for the Council, work is being undertaken collectively to develop appropriate actions which will compliment actions being developed as part of the aforementioned District Health and Wellbeing strategy.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Place	Support the development of the Humber 2100+ adaptive pathway strategy with partners, including the Environment Agency	The strategy is currently being developed and seeks to mitigate the impact of sea level rises through adaptive pathways, including helping communities build resilience to flooding. Currently the Environment Agency is developing an evidence base, including an agreed baseline position, on which to build the strategy from.	
Our Place	Set up an officer Flood and Drainage Working Party	The group has been established to provide a strategic oversight of all work areas relating to water management	

\* WLDC representation on Humber 2100+ strategy partnership is as follows: Member (Cllr. Fleetwood), Senior Management (Sally Grindrod-Smith) and Officer (Rachael Hughes) representation.

### Priority Actions 2022/23 -

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timescales
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Our Place	Collate data to identify communities susceptible to the impacts of Climate Change	Robust evidence bases which identifies vulnerable communities	2023/24
Our Place	Consider how the established approach to Communities at Risk can be extended to understand the impact of Climate Change and support future resilience	Help residents and businesses best prepare for the impacts of climate change that we know are coming. Overview and coordination of work and actions in other areas	2023 - 2025
Our Place	Flood and Drainage Working Party	Help protect and prepare residents for future flood events and influence activity of other Risk Management Authorities	Ongoing

## 11.0 Theme Eight: Resources and Finance

Sufficient resourcing and financing of initiatives is key to the success of the project and it's ability to deliver against defined objectives. There is a large amount of uncertainty in future Local Authority Financing and the Council is bound by the Local Government Act in delivering value for money to the tax payer. The Council faces funding gaps in future years and must prioritise sustainability without detriment to delivery of value for money and statutory services.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be a financially sustainable Council through ethical investment in both goods and services</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan which support climate change initiatives, including achieving carbon net zero and ethical investments</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council resourced appropriately to achieve carbon next zero by 2050</li> </ul>

Actions undertaken during 2021/22

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Establish a lead officer and funding to undertake initiative linked to the CCES strategy	Action complete, Steve Leary has been appointed as Policy and Strategy Officer – Climate and Sustainable Environment within the Corporate Policy & Strategy Team and there are earmarked reserves of £500k	
Our Council	Prepare bid to Public Sector De-carbonisation Fund for Council owned buildings	Bid submitted and awaiting outcome. Further technical works underway including development of the full business case	

The earmarked reserve provides an opportunity to bring forward projects which will contribute to the reduction of the Council's carbon footprint. The reserve is limited and other sources of funding should be pursued.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timescales
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	Additional monies secured to deliver initiatives in line with the CESS strategy	2023/24

It is acknowledged there are other actions related to this theme around ethical investment and financing and utilising the Council's funding to promote positive choices in business. Work has started with the new Director of Corporate Services to understand opportunities; actions and the decisions relating to this theme will be considered as part of all revisions of Strategy, Policy and working practices.

## 12.0 Theme Nine: Transport and Connectivity

The national Climate Change Committee has transport as one of the key sectors which will need to be decarbonised if the UK is to reach net zero carbon emissions.<sup>1</sup> It is also one of the areas which is most difficult to implement change, particularly in a sparsely populated rural district like West Lindsey where reliance on cars is essential in many parts of the District. This is emphasised within the Council's own Carbon Management Plan where 26% of the total emission are attributed to the waste fleet and a further 8% to commuting and business miles, both officers and members.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce carbon transport emissions across the District of West Lindsey</li> </ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move towards a fleet replacement programme which is net zero</li> <li>Enable and support modal shift across the district to reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in Council fleet emissions</li> <li>Improvement in active travel options across West Lindsey</li> <li>Reduction in District wide transport emissions</li> </ul>

The allocation of new housing and employment opportunities within sustainable locations is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework, and is promoted by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, including the requirement for new developments to support improved connectivity and modal shift.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Place	Ensure as part of the review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan that opportunities to facilitate modal shift & improve walking and cycling connectivity is included	The submission draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan includes Policy S48 which requires future development proposals to facilitate walking & cycling measures	
Our Place	Digital connectivity	16 communities have been supported to access broadband with an on-going pipeline of interventions to be delivered.	

The focus of this theme in the short-term will be in relation to preparedness, specifically information gathering and strategy.

<sup>1</sup> 1 UK Climate Change Committee, 2020, The Sixth Carbon Budget: the UK's path to Net Zero, p14

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timescales
Our Council	Develop a vehicle replacement strategy	This strategy will provide a pathway to deliver reliable, cost effective and carbon reduced vehicles, plant and associated equipment, at the right time and at the right cost to support the strategic objectives of the Council	2022/23
Our Council	Embed behavioural changes and working patterns established as a result of covid	Reduced commuting & business miles staff & members carbon footprint	2022/23
Our Place	Improve connectivity & access to Broadband across the District	Improved digital access to support a reduction in travel where services can be accessed digitally	2022 - 2025
Our Place	Undertake review community 'Wi-Fi' hotspots	Improved community access to digital services	2022 - 2025

### 13.0 Theme Ten: Waste

The waste workstream looks at the waste produced across the district and considers how best to improve management within the waste hierarchy of refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover. It explores how we can build the value of certain waste materials to develop a more circular economy and how we can use our position of community leadership to change habits and practices within our communities.

Waste interacts with other work streams (building a more circular economy and engaging with businesses over their waste management under the 'Influencing' workstream or requiring best practice waste management in new developments under the 'Buildings' workstream).

It is an area within which the council has a good level of influence and control through statutory waste responsibilities, membership of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP), our own council operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others.

Strategic Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce waste arisings from residents and businesses across the district and accelerate the transition towards a circular UK economy in line with the Government published 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England'</li></ul>
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to support the direction of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership and delivery of the high-level action plan</li></ul>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents and businesses across the district are more aware of the impacts of their waste and are working to reduce, reuse and recycle;</li><li>• Measurable improvements are made in the levels and quality of household and commercial waste recycled and reused across the district; and</li><li>• Ensure significant steps are made towards development of a circular economy across the district/county/region.</li></ul>

We need to align our services with the desire to stimulate and support a circular economy. To this end, we support Lincolnshire Waste Partnership objectives "to improve the quality... of our recycling" and "to seek to reduce our carbon footprint". West Lindsey already achieves high levels of recycling across the District but contamination of materials is a major problem. The priority last year was to successfully introduce the purple lidded bins and collect paper and card separately from other recyclables.

Residents have embraced the scheme! And the clean paper and card now being collected is particularly important because it can pass around the recycling loop multiple times, and thus supports a UK circular economy.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Place	Introduction of twin stream waste collections - purple lidded bins	Made changes which are already helping to support a UK circular economy – collecting high quality paper and card and reduced contamination	
Our People	Keep residents and businesses informed and engaged	Including the launch of our “Right Thing, Right Bin” campaign. Increased use of social media, record engagement and comms material produced adopted by other districts	
Our Council	Continued service improvement	Work continues to ensure services are aligned with emerging national policies e.g. Environment Act 2021	
Our Place	Work to tackle waste crime	Core members of new, multi-agency Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership. Intelligence sharing, countywide campaigns and coordinated enforcement action to reduce fly-tipping	

### Actions for 2022 onwards

A key factor in how we manage our services, both today and into the future, is emerging national policy. We support the government commitment to move the UK economy from a linear approach – “take, make, dispose” – to a “Circular Economy”. Following the Environment Act coming into law earlier this year, we await details from Defra as to what new legislation will look like. Quality of materials remains key as we prepare for new rules around Collections Consistency.

The aim is here is that all households and businesses in the UK should receive the same waste collections, and thus increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling. The proposals include:

- A specified list of materials to be collected for recycling – The good news is that WLDC already recycles everything on the initial list.
- Food waste collections – This initiative has yet to be confirmed nationally, however it is likely that these will have to be provided to all households.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Timescales
Our Council	Consider the introduction of separate food waste collections”	Alignment with national policy, improved recycling and waste reduction	Likely to become mandatory in 24/25
	Progress against the Vision and Objectives through the delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management	Measures and targets are largely in place and outcomes monitored. LWP are looking to add carbon emissions to the list in 23/24	On-going, carbon metric introduced in 23/24

	Strategy (JMWMS) Action Plan		
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## Next Steps

To align more closely with the new Corporate Plan, it is proposed that the Sustainability, Climate Change and Strategy and Action Plan are refreshed early in 2023-2024. This will ensure that the Strategy remains aligned to the Council's key strategic objectives. It will also ensure that the action plan is SMART with clear objectives and defined timescales that are embedded within business planning.

Over the coming year further improvements will be made to the action plan, including more detailed measures of success and methods of reporting progress – for example:

- Quantitative emissions reporting – this is the overall change we are aiming for, although such data can only be reported annually, and with a two-year lag, meaning earlier signalling is required.
- Quantitative activity reporting – things which will have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions – for example the amount of energy consumed or miles driven– these can be reported on more regularly but bespoke data collection may be required.
- Quantitative action reporting – things which will have an indirect impact on emissions – for example the number of businesses receiving sustainable business training, the number of renewable installations or homes insulated.
- Qualitative progress reporting – progress on specific projects and changes.

Where possible target dates will be defined, and quantitative targets will be identified using local or national research. Many of these are either already in place or in development as part of the Business Planning exercise.

This refresh will be overseen by the Policy and Strategy team and the member and officer working groups; with the refreshed Strategy and Action Plan brought back to this committee for approval.