



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

**Thursday, 26th October
2023**

Subject: Environment and Sustainability Action Plan Annual Progress Report

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officers:

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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 Environment and Sustainability Action Plan for 2024 onwards.

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. In April 2021 a new target was enshrined into law to cut national emissions by 78% by 2035.

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 remain significant implications for a number of areas of this work. Legal implications from this Act and other legislation are accounted for in each of the work themes and service business plans for 2024 onwards. There are no direct legal implications from the establishment and delivery of the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Action Plan. It should, however, be noted that the adequacy and inaction of both national and local government is under scrutiny by environmental interest groups with the threat of potential legal challenge in some areas.

Financial: FIN/72/24/JA

No financial implications arising due to this report.

The Corporate Policy & Strategy Team have been in post for just under two years and as part of that team, there is a 1 FTE Climate and Sustainable Environment officer in post who is responsible for delivery of initiatives, supported by departmental resources identified and agreed through WLDC Officer group and Management Team.

There is also an agreement in place to use APSE on a consultancy call off contract for specific project work, as required.

£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 7th 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. The current balance of the fund is £476k.

All projects brought forward will either be as a result of service business plans or where appropriate, be developed in conjunction with the Climate Change Member Working Group. These will all be subject to Business Cases and funding strategies and signed off in line with the Council's established Governance framework.

Staffing:

Staffing and skills requirements to deliver the strategy will be continually reviewed and monitored.

A training and development programme has been developed to support staff and members. This includes an in-house training module which has been endorsed by the Carbon Literacy Trust which will be rolled out across the Council over the coming year.

There is also a new short on-boarding module for all new starters which provides an overview of the Council's priorities as well as providing a summary of behaviours expected from new employees in relation to Climate change and how that should be integrated into day to day working practices.

It is intended that this approach supports a cultural shift in meeting the challenges of Climate Change and provides a sound basis for the organisation to achieve its overall objective to be a net zero organisation by 2050.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

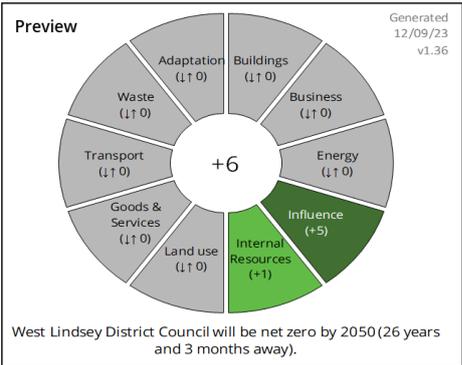
The Council's ambition is to ensure that neither the effects of climate change, nor the costs of reducing emissions, disproportionately affect any residents of the district.

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. Progress against these plans is achieving significant environmental benefits as can be seen by the updates in this report.

As well as the update report against progress against the strategy, this report also includes the greenhouse gas emission updates and details of proposed reporting mechanisms and priority actions for next year 2024/25.

This report also provides a summary of the review undertaken 6 months post adoption of the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Impact Assessments (CESIA) tool, which was implemented to ensure the implications of all decisions were considered in the context of Climate Change. Individual CESIA assessments are carried out for new actions in the plan and a CESIA will be undertaken on the strategy update. 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.

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.

The District Health and Wellbeing Strategy adopted by Prosperous Communities Committee on 11th July 2023 clearly demonstrates this, as Environment and Climate is one of the 5 levers identified by the strategy. This strategy, like the Climate Change Strategy have been developed to align with existing policies, strategies, projects and workstreams in operation across the Council, including the Corporate Plan, the Housing Strategy, and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Such alignment ensures that actions to support delivery of each of the Strategies can be identified and developed through the Council's business planning framework ensuring progress can be monitored through the Environment and Sustainability update report and Corporate Plan measures.

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

[Environment and Sustainability Strategy Progress Report \(Nov 2022\)](#)

[District Health and Well being Strategy \(July 2023\)](#)

[Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy](#)

WLDC's [Carbon Management Plan](#) and [Greenhouse Gas emissions report](#)

Risk Assessment:

WLDC recognised the UK Govt's climate emergency and Members unanimously passed a strategy, action plan and carbon management plan (CMP) in June 2021, following consultations with various stakeholders. Several actions were identified in last year's annual update and in this year's business planning process. The risks associated with this not undertaking this work include:

1. Risk of exacerbating the problems associated with increased levels of CO₂e
2. Risk of a damage to reputation. Having declared WLDC support for urgent action – there is a risk of inaction generating subsequent reputational harm, which could create a relationship breakdown (trust, credibility, and confidence) between the authority and citizens.

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

X

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 second full, formal report on progress against the Strategy's key objectives.

Since the last report West Lindsey's Corporate Plan was adopted by full Council on 26th June 2023 and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee in April.

As part of the process of updating the Corporate Plan, clear linkages have been made between these strategic documents, with Climate Change and the Sustainable Environment identified as one of the six main challenges for the district over the life of the Plan. Improving the quality of our built environment whilst preserving our precious natural environment and protecting biodiversity is considered a key opportunity.

It is considered that as well as implementing specific projects and interventions, developing an organisational culture with Climate Change at its heart is key to achieving our priority to be net zero by 2050. The development of a 'green thread' of activity which seeks to embed the principles of the SCCE Strategy throughout the organisation is the first step to achieving this cultural shift, embodying our 'Small Steps, Big Impact' campaign.

Building on this positive step forward as an organisation, West Lindsey District Council as partner in the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is one of only three Local Planning Authorities in the Country who have adopted a Local Plan which seeks carbon net zero development. This Local Plan is seen as a trailblazing approach to both climate change and sustainability more broadly and will provide a significant springboard for the Council to deliver on the priority to support the development of a sustainable, carbon net zero District.

Embedding climate, environment and sustainability across the whole organisation is considered the most effective way of the Council becoming net zero by 2050. This continues to progress well. The service area, having been audited in May 2022 was found to have substantial assurance, recognising the work undertaken in establishing appropriate governance and delivery frameworks, with implementation and delivery of actions being the next key milestone.

The audit also recognised the need for a regular review of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to ensure it remains up to date with the dynamic nature of this area of work. As such as part of the update to Members at PCC in November 2022 it was recommended that members support a review of the strategy and action plan.

Engagement with the Climate Change Working Group on the review of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy has started and it is

anticipated that the new Strategy will be available in the New Year, following endorsement from this Committee.

Introduction

This report provides the second full annual review of work undertaken in connection with the delivery of the SCCE strategy, the first of which was delivered to PCC in Nov 2022.

The report provides an update of activity undertaken in the last 12 months, establishes actions for the next 12 months and draws together a number of documents used to monitor progress in this area of work, including the Greenhouse Gas Report.

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 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 year, including, where possible, a timeline for delivery.

As the SCCE Strategy is further embedded across the organisation and climate change implications begin to be considered in a similar way to financial implications, it is anticipated that more data will become available and that the narrative and targets will become more sophisticated. Equally there will be more opportunities for monitoring progress through the Corporate Plan and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan which is anticipated to have a significant impact in reducing the carbon footprint of all future developments across the district.

How to Use This Report

Officers have worked with teams across the Council, utilising the business planning process and the Project Management Office to understand what progress has been made over the last 12 months, and what future actions have been identified in support of delivering the Strategy's objectives.

Actions are grouped under the Strategy's 10 key themes, with clear linkages made to the Corporate Plan themes of 'Our People', 'Our Place' and 'Our Council' in order to demonstrate progress against delivery of the Council's strategic objectives from a climate change perspective.

Summary of Achievements to Date

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

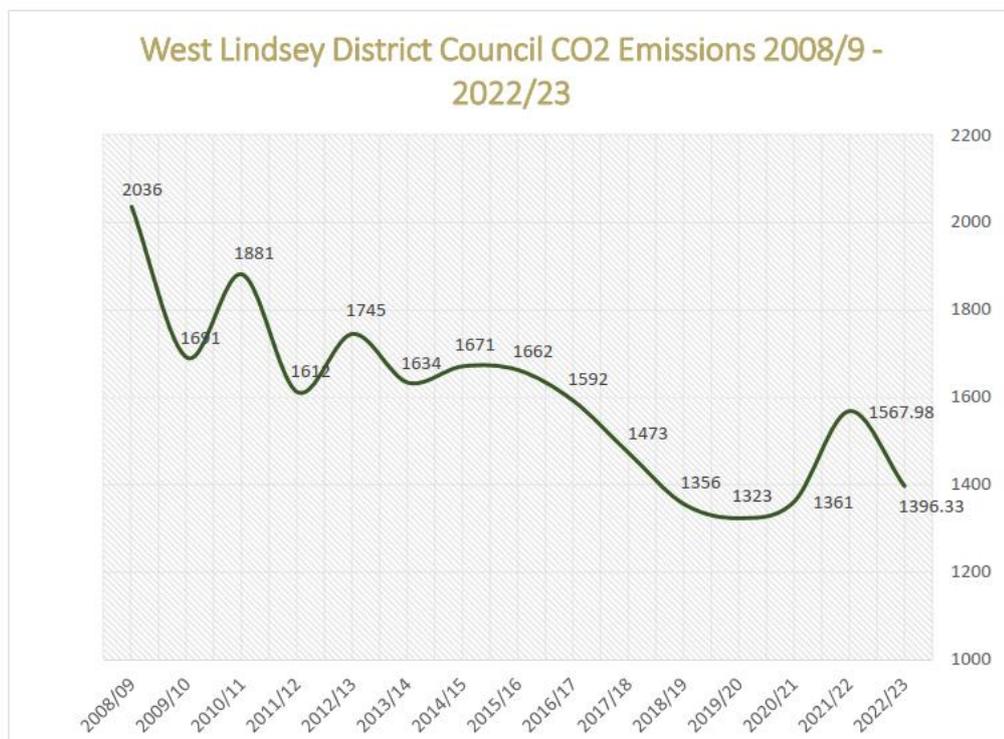
- Reduction of our estate carbon footprint by 11% from last year through a more efficient use of our heating system in the Guildhall and by working closely with Gainsborough Leisure Centre Facility Management team in the use of their Combined Heat & Power system (CHP)
- Adoption of the new Corporate Plan which includes a clear priority to tackle climate change and promote sustainability for the protection our unique environment.
- The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan including all the policies relating to carbon net zero development, renewable energy and bio-diversity net gain has been adopted and is being implemented for all new development across the district.
- 6 of the waste collection vehicles were fitted with solar PV panels saving fuel and at least 6 ton of CO₂e a year as well as making the vehicles more efficient to run.
- 2 diesel vans were replaced with electric models - saving 4.6t CO₂e each year. The overall number of vans has also dropped from 5 to 3. This move and efficiencies following relocation to Caenby depot, mean overall emissions from these operational supervisors' vans will drop by more than 9t CO₂e per annum from 21/22 levels.
- As an organisation we have developed our own Carbon Literacy Trust approved training materials to facilitate a whole-scale staff training programme, building on the 29 staff who undertook the training last year.
- A total of just over £10 million of grant funding has been secured to facilitate energy efficiency improvements to housing across Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium (WLDC, CoL, NKDC, SKDC).
- £304,000 has been secured to target hard to treat properties and support hard to reach residents take advantage of energy efficiency initiatives across the Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium (WLDC, CoL, NKDC, SKDC).
- Following the development of a comprehensive Communication Strategy, which includes the tag line Small Steps, Big Impact we have issued 66 comms messages, reaching an audience in excess of 100,000 people. (Appendix 1: Summary of achievements document '*working together towards becoming a Net-Zero district*')
- Tendered and awarded the Operational Services Vehicle Replacement Strategy, which will provide the framework for moving

our Operational Services Carbon Footprint to Net Zero whilst also ensuring we maintain the excellent service this team provides residents on a daily basis.

WLDC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

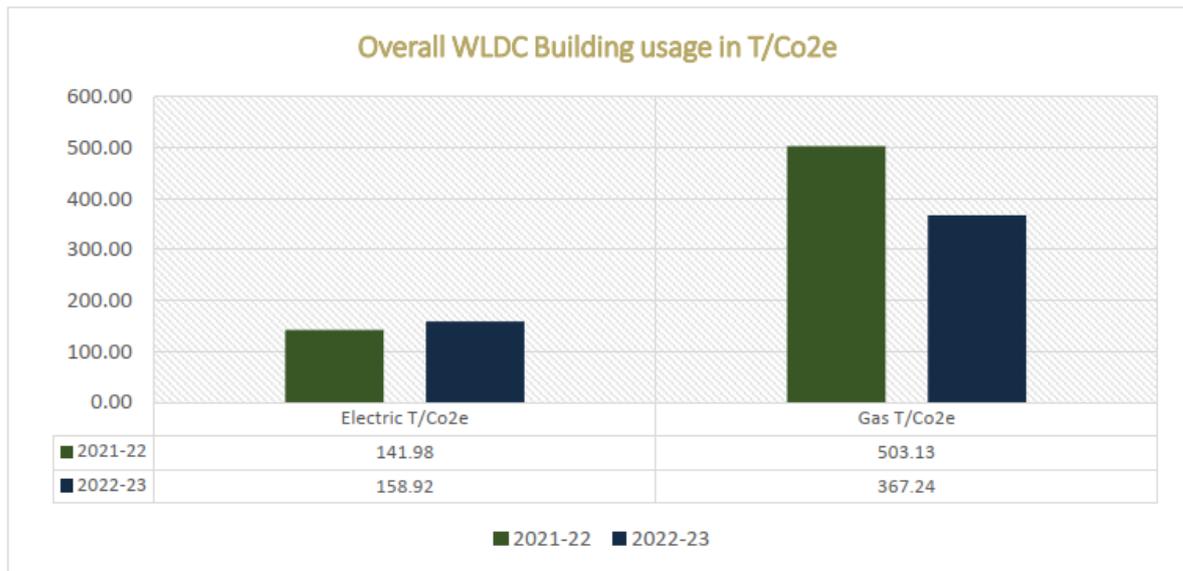
The Greenhouse Gas Emissions has been collated and published annually by the Council since 2009, full report found at appendix 2. In line with guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the report provides an update on scope 1 and scope 2 CO₂e emissions which are owned or controlled by the Council across its operations. In line with good practice, some scope 3 emissions are also included to account for indirect emissions as a consequence of the Council's operations. These include emissions from business travel and the Council's leisure centres. Methodology has remained broadly consistent since 2009, which allows for benchmarking and comparison.

Following an expected increase in the Council's emissions during 2021/22 (due to an increase in activity post-covid and the inclusion of emissions from the new Market Rasen Leisure Centre and Lea Field Crematorium for the first time), work undertaken by officers over the last 12 months has resulted in a reduction in emissions during 2022/23 to near pre-covid levels, down to 1,396.36T/CO₂e. This represents a decrease of 171.61T/CO₂e, or 11%. This is a positive achievement, especially given the expansion of the Council's estate portfolio.



Over the last 12 months, the Property Services Team have worked in conjunction with the Policy and Strategy Team to reduce these emissions back down to near pre-covid levels and resume the downward trajectory. Interventions have included working with the leisure centre and demand

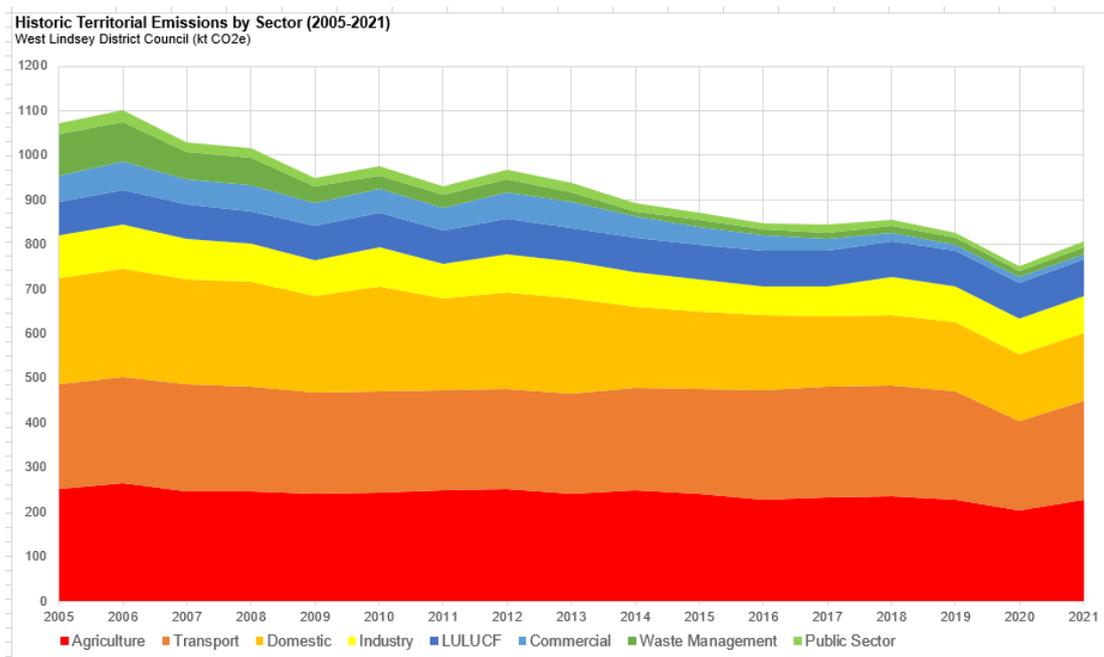
reduction and energy efficiency measures across the estate.



Year on year WLDC have seen a reduction in their overall carbon output across gas and electric. Electricity consumption has increased a little in 2022/23 but the primary reason is that Gainsborough leisure centre has significantly reduced their gas usage – switching to electricity, which has a much lower carbon impact due to de-carbonisation of the electricity grid. The decision to switch WLDC energy to a ‘green tariff’ supplier means that our own electricity is now coming from fully renewable generation sources – further reducing our carbon footprint.

District Wide Emissions

Full emissions estimates for the West Lindsey district currently only go to 2021. They rely on publicly available datasets from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.



In 2021, the estimate in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO2e) emissions for all sectors in West Lindsey was [588.4](#). Benchmarking shows this is below the West Lindsey CIPFA nearest neighbours (a group of 16 other English LAs deemed to have similar characteristics) mean emissions estimate of 834.7.

Emissions are defined as is the grand total from industry, commercial, public sector, domestic, transport, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), agriculture, and waste management. It measures greenhouse gas emissions, minus any removals (by things like carbon capture) from the atmosphere.

It should be noted that circumstances vary enormously between authorities, and local authorities have relatively little influence over some types of emissions. For these reasons these statistics should be interpreted with caution. The 2-year lag means that it is not possible to immediately observe any impacts of our SCCE strategy, or even the return of activities following Covid.

These estimates do assist us in working with our partners in developing emissions reduction strategies. It is recognised that some elements of our emissions are not solely in our direct control and/or will require additional support to achieve, e.g., the availability of low carbon technology and decarbonisation of the power grid. WLDC are advocating for actions in these areas.

Behavioural change is going to be an important factor in significantly reducing emissions in West Lindsey. 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 Delivery of the ESCC Strategy during 2022/23

Below provides a detailed progress against each of the Strategy’s ten themes along with an update against priority actions last year and a forward look to actions for next year.

These actions and actions for 2024 have been developed in line with our strategic vision: **West Lindsey to become a carbon net zero district by 2050.**

The Council will deliver this vision by:

- Taking action to reduce carbon emissions across all aspects of the Council’s operations to achieve a net zero Council by 2050
- Enabling and supporting residents, businesses and local communities to reduce carbon emissions across the West Lindsey district.
- Deliver positive communications & sign posting, including our ‘small steps, big impact’ campaign.

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

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 adoption of the new Central Lincolnshire 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. It is anticipated that through the monitoring of the Local Plan it will be possible to measure the impact of these policies in the coming years and it is expected to have a significant impact on the total emissions attributed to development across the district and wider Central Lincolnshire area.

Below is an update against actions achieved during 2022/23

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Investigate feasibility and implement new heating system for Guildhall offices in Gainsborough	A bid for grant funding submitted in Sept 22 to Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDF) for feasibility study & implementation of a Air-source heat pump system. PSDF funding significantly oversubscribed, bid unsuccessful but no feedback. Exploring alternative opportunities during 2023 onwards to implement a net zero heating system.	Yellow
Our Council	Work with Midlands Net Zero Hub to undertaken energy audits of council owned buildings and explore further opportunities for grant funding	Energy audits undertaken on Guildhall, Gainsborough Leisure Centre Trinity Arts Centre. Following an unsuccessful bid to PSDF. Planning more comprehensive audits on the buildings to feed into the wider asset management plan with a view to undertaking some fabric first works as part of day-to-day asset maintenance programme.	Yellow
Our Place	Adopt new Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP)	CLLP adopted on 23/04/23. Implementation works on going as well as the development of a monitoring framework to capture long term impacts of Climate Change policies.	Black
Our Place	Secure grants to retrofit homes across	£840,000 grant secured in 2022/23	Green

	West Lindsey to improve energy efficiency	99 home improvement measures achieved (HUG1 44) LAD3 currently 55, still ongoing.	
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Priority Actions 2024 onwards – the following actions have been identified for delivery during 2023/24.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Implement full energy audit of WL estate to implement energy efficient design principles for retrofitting existing buildings, in summary: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fabric first 2. Optimisation of services 3. Utilisation of renewable technology 4. Off-setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive understanding of opportunities to retrofit buildings operated & occupied by WLDC. 	Narrative	2023 - 2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a de-carbonisation action plan for each building including a funding strategy, combining day to day asset maintenance budget & Climate Change Initiatives budget to ensure works support net zero aspirations. 	% reduction in carbon emissions across Council Buildings	2023 - 2030
Our Place	Implement new monitoring framework for the CLLP, including measures for impact of Climate Change Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable impact of the Climate change Policies on development across Central Lincolnshire and West Lindsey. 	Narrative	Monitoring Framework 2024/25 Impacts of Policy Mar 25 onwards

Our Place	Delivery grant funding to improve energy efficiency of homes across West Lindsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the energy efficiency of homes across Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium. • Support ECOflex applications for Fuel poor Households 	Target number of 333 homes supported to improve energy efficiency.	2023 - 2025
Our Place	Ensure West Lindsey are positioned to maximise on future opportunities for additional funding for energy efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More homes achieve higher energy efficiency standards. • Improvement in energy efficiency take up of grants across district. 	Narrative on success of funding bids with targets to apply where requirement of funding	2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available

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"> 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
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective campaigning and lobbying strategy which elevates the needs of the district
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate policy and strategy both nationally and locally in place supporting net zero ambitions by 2050

Over the past year, campaigning and lobbying activity has included regular meetings of 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 subject area to enable them to recognise barriers and issues and take positive action through lobbying and campaigning to effect change.

Priority Actions update from 2022/23

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Establish a positive approach to campaigning and lobbying	The Council remains actively engaged in emerging issues and opportunities relating to Climate Change, sustainability and the environment using the Officer & Member Groups approaches to campaigning and lobbying are agreed. This includes responses to national consultations including on the implementation of Bio-diversity Net Gain and also proposals around Future Homes Standards which	

		currently lag behind the standards required by the CLLP.	
Our Council	Review and update Communications Strategy	A new campaign called Small Steps; Big Impact was launched in 2023. This campaign along with other related communication messages have been run consistently throughout 2022/23 reaching an audience in excess of 100,000 people across our various media platforms.	

It is anticipated that issues around access to funding, further improvements to national build standards and support for rural communities will continue to be areas of focus for campaigning and lobbying during 2024 as well as pushing to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation.

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 be some cross over in terms of both actions and outcomes.

Priority Actions 2024 onwards -

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Using the Climate Change Member & Officer working groups continue to engage in active campaigning and lobbying in relation to key priorities for West Lindsey Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is actively engaged in emerging issues and opportunities relating to Climate Change 	Narrative	2023 onwards
Our People	Continue to work collaboratively with the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group (LSOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in knowledge sharing, collaborative working on lobbying and campaigns as well as exploring joint funding bids. 	Narrative	2023 onwards

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.

Bring climate change into the corporate plan is a big step forward in achieving this aim as all new strategies or those being reviewed will need to be cognisant of this priority and where appropriate ensure delivery against the priority.

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

Below is an update against actions achieved during 2021/22

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Development of an effective monitoring framework for the Corporate Plan	<p>A framework has been developed to monitor progress against delivery of the Corporate Plan which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Executive Business Plan Progress and Delivery reporting, with performance measures for 2024/25 currently being developed by officers in partnership with a member working group Project and Programme Monitoring The annual State of the District Report The Medium-Term Financial Plan Progress reporting against strategic documents such as the Climate 	

		Change Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy	
Our Council	Roll out of training for all staff and members	3 Officers have been certified to deliver materials to staff, elected Members and community – replacing the need for external trainers. Bronze certification and an internal staff delivery plan has been approved. An additional 15 staff were trained in 22/23 bringing the number to 29 (11 %) plus 3 Members, with new course delivery underway.	
Our Council	Monitor effectiveness of CESIA tool on WLDC decision making	A case study on the success of the CESIA Tool has been circulated via the Member newsletter. This follows presentations to, and feedback from the E & S Member group and Management Team and a staff survey.	
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	2023 has been the first year where development of new service actions relating to Climate Change has been trialled. There has been positive engagement with around 33 climate change positive actions identified. As work to embed the agenda, including training & more sophisticated use of the decision-making tool progresses it is anticipated that a greater variety of climate positive actions will be identified in the coming years.	

Priority Actions 2024 onwards -

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Continued roll out of staff training & broader awareness raising across the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change outcomes form core part of decision making across the Council 	Narrative	On going
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and Members trained and certified in Carbon Literacy 	Number of staff/members certified in Carbon Literacy	On going

Our Council	All new and reviewed strategies to include an appropriate approach to mitigating the impacts of Climate Change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Green Thread' becomes embedded within all Council business 	Narrative	On going
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New strategy delivery action plans will include deliverables against Climate Change priorities 	Number of new & reviewed strategies with Climate Change priorities & associated actions	2023 onwards
Our Council	Develop approach to monitoring effective utilisation of the CESIA tool across all Governance structures in the Council	Demonstrable outcomes of the use of the CESIA tool in decision making for all Council business	Number of decision outcomes impacted as a result of CESIA assessment	2024

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"> West Lindsey residents, businesses and wider stakeholders share the aspiration and are striving for a carbon net zero district by 2050
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Lindsey District Council have a key role in providing regular, proactive and engaging communication

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear collaboration on key messaging and project delivery across Greater Lincolnshire
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged and proactive residents and businesses striving to deliver net zero across West Lindsey by 2050 • External organisations support and enable the delivery of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental Strategy

Actions undertaken during 2022/23

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Refresh annual communications plan for Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment and establish methodology for assessing coverage and reach	A new campaign called Small Steps; Big Impact was launched in 2023. This campaign along with other related communication messages have been run consistently throughout 2022/23 equating to 66 separate publications on topic relating to climate change.	
Our People	Engage with Parish Councils and Community Groups, through publications, website & training raising awareness of Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment	A comprehensive community toolkit has been approved by the E & S Member working group and integrated onto the WLDC website. Officers regularly attend community meetings and monthly environmental interest groups and events.	
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	<p>2 neighbourhood plans have already been formally adopted this year and they are Hemswell and Harpswell (HHNP) and Keelby (KNP) NPs. By the end of this year, the total will increase to 4 with the expected adoptions of the Hemswell Cliff (HCNP) and Scothern NP review (SNPR) NPs.</p> <p>Each of these NPs include requirements around climate change, sustainability & the environment. The requirements are set out in the NPs individual planning policies which are identified below under the strategy</p>	

		<p>aims: Sustainability, Climate change and the Environment.</p> <p>The action to encourage NPs to deliver particularly on climate change and sustainability is a recent introduction. However, from the evidence below it can be seen to be already having a positive impact. For the more recent NPs there appears to be a general trend towards having more policies addressing sustainability and climate change.</p>	
Our People	Support businesses to access expertise and funds for reducing their carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon advisor available via Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub – Providing: Advice, Energy audit for commercial premises (we may be able to establish numbers of beneficiaries in early Sep, requested today • Green Tourism Toolkit published May 2022 • Business Lincolnshire Webinar – First Steps to Net Zero held 8 June 2022 • Zellar Carbon Calculator tool for SME's launched by Business Lincolnshire • EV workplace grant scheme promoted in July 2022 Business EBrief • LEP Energy Council feature in Aug 2022 Business EBrief • Sustainability Podcast published Aug 2022 to Business Lincolnshire resource library • Business Lincolnshire Energy Toolkit published Sept 2022 • Oct 2022 & Jan 2023 Business EBrief promoted Small Business Britain – Sustainability Basics virtual Workshops. • Hospitable Green Programme (Visit Lincolnshire) launched in Dec 2022 with Programme running Jan to Mar 2023 - 4 x 2- 	

		<p>hour online sessions, finishing with opportunity to achieve an IEMA certificate in Environmental Sustainability Skills for the Workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boiler upgrade grant scheme promoted in Dec 2022 Business EBrief • UK Government's SME Climate Hub promoted in Jan 2023 Business EBrief • British Business Bank Net Zero for SME's online resources promoted in Feb 2023 Business EBrief • Mar 2023 Business EBrief promoted FSB Energy Management Plan support 	
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Priority Actions 2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Increased communications output in line with strategy and campaign 'small steps, big impact' and publishing a summary achievements document (appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General promotion of activities led by West Lindsey, including grants that are available and how we as a Council can support community agendas 	Narrative	2023 onwards
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased coverage relating to communications & messaging 	Number of Climate Change related articles published	2023 onwards
			Audience number achieved	2023 onwards

Our People	Improve the Climate change & sustainability web pages to raise awareness support our Parish Councils and Community Groups to access information	Community awareness of the opportunities in reducing their carbon footprint and increasing sustainability including the tools to implement change within their area	Narrative & number of webpage hits annually	2023 onwards
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	Number of Neighbourhood Plans which include specific policies relating to at least 1 of the 10 Climate Change Strategy Themes	On going
Our People	Support particularly small, medium-sized enterprises (SME) to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon pollution – promote resilience support grants.	A reduction in the carbon footprint of businesses across West Lindsey	Number of Businesses receiving support annually, including cases studies & narrative	2024 onwards
Our Place	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Funding	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service	Summary of projects delivered by Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service as a result of WL support & funding	2023 onwards
		Review 3-year MoA funding agreement to secure DEFRA	Narrative	2025 - 2026

		and other Local Authority funding towards Lincs Wolds AONB Management Plan.		
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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"> Land use across West Lindsey aligns with and supports the objectives of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environmental Strategy
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of positive land use creating sustainable and connected places Enhancement and creation of green spaces and bio-diversity opportunities
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and resilient communities Improved health & wellbeing of residents across the district

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 biodiversity as part of development. The duty will be increased following the enactment of part of the Environment Act. This was, up until recently, due to come into force in November 2023. However, last month the Government announced a delay in this requirement, setting out a new timetable. Under the updated timetable

developers in England will be required to deliver 10% “Biodiversity Net Gain” from January 2024 onwards when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments meaning by law they must deliver a net positive for the local environment, for example by creating new habitats and green spaces. Biodiversity Net Gain for small sites will be applicable from April 2024.

There will be a metric for assessment implemented, which the Development Management Team have received training on, however the requirements are such that access to a qualified ecologist will be necessary. During the last year the Central Lincolnshire partner authorities have been working on a proposal to provide a shared ecology resource. This post will be managed by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team and like the existing Policy Team will be available to provide professional advice to all three Local Planning Authorities on biodiversity net gain.

As well as onsite provision there may be requirements for offsite contributions to achieve a 10% net gain on some sites. The Central Lincolnshire partnership is working with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to set up Green Investment in Greater Lincolnshire (GIGL). This project is designed to ensure that where offsite contributions are required that the money, investment in green credits, remains in Greater Lincolnshire. The project is in its infancy, however it is hoped that once established there will be opportunities to monitor the impact of investment in wildlife and natural habitats across Greater Lincolnshire and perhaps West Lindsey, although a formal approach to monitoring has not been looked at yet.

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	Implement bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including training & monitoring	Some initial training on BNG has been provided and further opportunities continue to be sought. A Central Lincolnshire BNG working group has been set up which includes representatives from the 3 Development Management Teams. Work continues with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to develop & implement GIGL, with an anticipated formal launch at the end of the year to coincide with the enactment of the Environment Act	
Our Place	Promote the use of Neighbourhood Plans to encourage identification of	This action links with the action under influencing others. 2 neighbourhood plans have already been formally adopted this year and they are Hemswell and Harpswell	

	locally important biodiversity areas and open space, including play areas & local connectivity	(HHNP) and Keelby (KNP) NPs. By the end of this year, the total will increase to 4 with the expected adoptions of the Hemswell Cliff (HCNP) and Scothern NP review (SNPR) NPs.	
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Priority Actions 2024 onwards – Because of the nature of the Land Use theme 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. However, to avoid repetition in the report, the action for 2024 around Neighbourhood Plans has been removed from the Land Use theme as it is already included in the Influencing Others Theme above.

As detailed within the Buildings and Assets theme, monitoring the implementation of Local Plan policy will be key to understanding its impact. This 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, however the impact of policy adopted in 2023 may not be captured fully for a number of years due to the time taken to implement development approved under this new policy regime.

Related to planning policy and as discussed above, embedding the principles and understanding the impacts of biodiversity net gain as set out in Legislation following its enactment in November 2023 will also be important. It is considered that as biodiversity net gain credits begin to be traded and landowners are able to implement this new funding stream into land management practices that the variety of human activities such as farming, water management etc. that are central to Lincolnshire’s economy but also impact the natural world can begin to be addressed by nature-based solutions.

The specific measurable outcomes of this initiative are still evolving and monitoring will be some way off, but the continued partnership working between Greater Lincolnshire Authorities’ and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust through GIGL will ensure that all benefits as a result of biodiversity net gains will be retained, as far as possible within Lincolnshire.

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 a theme within the District Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Following the adoption of the strategy in June of this year a West Lindsey delivery plan will be developed in conjunction with members, which will include the use of green spaces and connecting people to nature.

Corporate Plan Theme	Actions	Outcomes	Measures	Timeframe
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Our Place	Implement bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including training, monitoring & promotion of GIGL project	Measurable 10% net gain in biodiversity across West Lindsey	Narrative with the potential to develop measures in relation to net gain in the future, including linked to GIGL and nature-based projects in West Lindsey.	2023 onwards
Our Council	Green Space Management	Improve management and operation of WLDC owned green spaces (linked to UKSPF Green Space Officer).	Narrative	2024/25
		Adoption of woodland management plans to improve accessibility, biodiversity, and overall management.	Adoption of woodland management plan. Option to measure actions following this.	2024/25
Our Place	Implement UKSPF: 1.6 Green Space Management and Community Project Development	Green Space Management and Developing Capacity – appointment of 2 year fixed-term Green Space Officer role.	Narrative updates along with established UKSPF metrics	2024/25
		Green Space Volunteering – additional delivery funded for The Conservation Volunteers.	Narrative updates along with established UKSPF metrics	2023/24
		Woodland Management Plans – for WLDC green spaces	Narrative updates along with established UKSPF metrics	2024/25

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. as such to avoid repetition actions relating to upgrading Council buildings are all captured in the building and Assets theme and not in the power theme.

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

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	Obtain better understanding of the energy market, including supply & demand to better support communities deliver community energy solutions	Written to Govt on reform of the electricity market and distribution network & kept abreast of new legislation & funding. Attended community group meetings in Bigby, Caistor & Market Rasen to support communities in their ambitions. Supporting bids into the Govt's Community Energy fund in Oct 2023	

Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	<p>Phased approach to upgrading parish lights to LED due to begin in late 23/24.</p> <p>There has been a number of challenges in establishing a rolling programme of replacement due to a shortage of contractors and a lack of interest in the contract due to geographical spread of streetlights making the delivery of a whole district contract logistically difficult.</p> <p>Currently any faulted lanterns are automatically repaired with an LED upgrade.</p>	
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Priority Actions 2024 onwards - It is anticipated that further research and understanding into the energy markets will take place and that the streetlight 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	Measures	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	Narrative, case studies	On going
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	Parish streetlights owned by West Lindsey District Council upgraded resulting in a reduction in power & CO2e.	Narrative including % of total lighting upgraded to LED	On going

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.

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

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	Collate data to identify communities susceptible to the impacts of Climate Change	State of the District published for 2023. Full data from the Census in 2021 delayed. Need for a Communities Strategy identified through Business Planning. Initial scoping to start 2024/25.	
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	Initial work been undertaken to better understand how this would be developed and implemented. Considered that a new Communities Strategy should be developed which will be supported by an action to deliver against a number of corporate plan objectives. Work was scheduled from 2023 to 2026 as such this action remains on track.	

Our Place	Establish Flood and Drainage Working Party	Flood and drainage Working Party established during 2022/23 which provides an organisational focus for all areas of work happening across the Council which has implications on flooding and drainage issues.	
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Priority Actions 2024 onwards -

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Place	Develop and adopt a Communities Strategy	A Communities Strategy will establish the strategic approach to delivering community support, services and intervention to achieve corporate plan priorities, including identifying communities at risk, which will include those at risk of impacts due to Climate Change. Strategy will be supported by an Action Plan to oversee delivery of community services and projects.	Adoption of Communities Strategy & associated action plan	2024 - 2026
Our People	Working in partnership with other Lincolnshire local authorities, health, and VCS to support warm & welcome spaces.	Enabling these spaces will provide locations for vulnerable residents to access for warmth and wider social interaction and support.	Narrative	2024 - 2025
Our People	Implement and delivery LEAD project on behalf of Central and South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice and support to hard-to-reach cohorts. 	Target number of 500 hard-to-reach cohorts	2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available

	Lincolnshire consortium		across consortium	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase utilisation of energy improvement measures to hard-to-treat properties. 	Installation of energy efficient measures across over 162 homes	2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available

11.0 Theme Eight: Resources and Finance

Sufficient resourcing and financing of initiatives is key to the success of the project and its 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 taxpayer. 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"> To be a financially sustainable Council through ethical investment in both goods and services
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan which support climate change initiatives, including achieving carbon net zero and ethical investments
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council resourced appropriately to achieve carbon next zero by 2050

Actions undertaken during 2022/23

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	<p>A number of bids have been made over the last year relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sector Decarbonisation LEAD (Local Energy Area Demonstrator) UK Net zero – fast followers HUG / ECO <p>Not all have been successful which is disappointing, however the Council both independently and as part of broader partnerships like the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group (LSOG), have seen success. Highlights include £840,000 grant secured in 2022/23 to deliver energy efficiency improvements under HUG / ECO and a successful £304K joint funding bid for LEAD funding to promote energy efficiency take up. Districts continue to work together well to find and bid for funding which has included that targeted to tree planting, electric vehicle charging, air pollution</p>	

		prevention and energy options analysis – all of which supports our vision: For West Lindsey to become a carbon net zero district by 2050.	
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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.

Actions for 2024 onwards

Whilst there remains significant uncertainty in relation to the future Local Authority Financing there are opportunities for the Council to be more proactive in relation to sustainable and ethical financing. Work has started with the new Director of Corporate Services to understand opportunities; this includes initially reviewing the Treasury Management Strategy which will allow consideration of ethical investments as part of the broader strategy.

As well looking at investments and finance, there are other opportunities across the Council to do things differently in order to support the reduction in our Carbon Footprint and be more sustainable. Through business planning it has become apparent that there are a number of team looking at the way they deliver services which links to efficiency and sustainability principles, for example a shift to digital billing in Revenues & Benefits, including environmental considerations as part of the printer and photocopier refresh is another. Rather than include an individual action for each service area a generic action relating to; reducing our carbon footprint through use of digital technology has been included, this will cover actions like e.g. digital signatures, e-billing, virtual appointments, use of guildhall, hybrid mail etc and will be updated annually through narrative and where possible a measure to demonstrate the reduction in CO2e or other metric will be included.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	Additional monies secured to deliver initiatives in line with the CESS strategy	Number of bids submitted & outcomes	On going
Our Council	Refresh Treasury Management Strategy	To ensure the Council best uses its cash resources to ensure security, liquidity, and	Narrative which includes a new Treasury Management Strategy which delivers opportunities	2024

		yield whilst also taking into account ethical, sustainable and governance factors.	for green and ethical financing	
Our Council	Explore the options relating to an electric car salary sacrifice scheme for officers	Reduction in carbon footprint relating to officer mileage, including home to work & site visits	Narrative, possible numbers of take up if scheme pursued	2024 onwards
Our Council	To reduce our carbon footprint through use of digital technology	More sustainable business practices which includes a reduction in the use of resources and in some circumstances a reduction in the organisations carbon footprint	Narrative on specific projects identified for 2024, including but not exhaustively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital signatures • E-billing • Photocopier refresh 	2024

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.¹ 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"> • To reduce carbon transport emissions across the District of West Lindsey
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¹ 1 UK Climate Change Committee, 2020, The Sixth Carbon Budget: the UK's path to Net Zero, p14

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

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.

To support this, since 01st June 2023 Active Travel England (ATE) have become a statutory consultee on all planning applications for new developments which are equal to or exceeding 150 housing units, 7,500m² of floorspace or an area of five hectares. The mission of this new organisation is *'for everyone to have an attractive and safe choice to walk, wheel or cycle.'* Integrating active travel into the planning system by working with developers and transport organisations as well as highways authorities to ensure a consistent approach to standards, are just some of the ways ATE will deliver against this mission.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	RAG
Our Council	Develop a vehicle replacement strategy	Officers are working with sector experts, the Energy Saving Trust. A tender process has been started to procure a consultant to develop a vehicle replacement and decarbonisation strategy. It is anticipated that it will be completed by end of November, with adoption in early 2024. Work will then start with the service to implement the recommendations through next year's business planning process which will include costed options where appropriate.	
Our Council	Embed behavioural changes and working patterns established as a result of covid	Limited progress has been made against this action due to capacity issues within the team. This action will be rolled forward to 2024/25 and form part of all planned policy reviews.	

Our Place	Improve connectivity & access to Broadband across the District	Various locations supported to access improved broadband infrastructure via providers and other funding schemes. Broadband strategy and action plan to be developed for implementation in 24/25.	
Our Place	Undertake review community 'Wi-Fi' hotspots	Work on-going to improve Wi-Fi hotspot locations with improved speeds and reduced costs	

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

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Implement the new de-carbonisation vehicle replacement strategy	Provision of 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	Reduction in CO2e emissions from the fleet. Metrics for reduction to be established as part of the recommendations in the strategy.	2024 onwards
Our Council	Explore and embed behavioural changes and working patterns established as a result of the impacts of covid	Reduced commuting & business miles staff & members carbon footprint	Reduction in CO2e emissions as detailed within the Annual Green House Gas report	2024/25
		Formalisation of virtual first culture for all staff & members	Reduction of CO2e emissions as a result of travel from home to office	2024/25

Our Place	UKSPF: 1.5 West Lindsey Walking, Cycling & Wayfinding Feasibility and project development	Delivery plans for walking, cycling and wayfinding interventions across the district.	Narrative updates along with established UKSPF metrics	2024 - 2025
	Adopt new Transport and Connectivity Delivery Plan	Influence the provision of transport and connectivity for residents, working in partnership with transport authority and providers.	Narrative	2024 - 2026
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	Narrative which includes the number of communities that have received improved broadband speed	2022 - 2025
Our Place	Undertake review community 'Wi-Fi' hotspots	Improved community access to digital services	Narrative and number of communities receiving WiFi hot spots.	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"> • 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'
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the direction of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership and delivery of the high-level action plan
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents and businesses across the district are more aware of the impacts of their waste and are working to reduce, reuse and recycle. • Measurable improvements are made in the levels and quality of household and commercial waste recycled and reused across the district; and • Ensure significant steps are made towards development of a circular economy across the district/county/region.

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 Council	Consider the introduction of separate food waste collections as detailed in the Environment Act 2021	Enactment of this part of the Environment not happened yet. Action rolled forward within the Operational Services Business Plan for next year.	
Our Council	Progress against the Vision and Objectives through the delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) Action Plan	<p>Positive partnership working continues.</p> <p>Supported by the ‘right thing, right bin’ campaign, and engagement with the public during collection rounds, contamination has fallen significantly in WLDC following twin-stream collections have rolled out. This is largely due to the remarkably clean paper and card (98% in purple lidded bins) but the remaining mixed recyclables are also cleaner than before.</p> <p>To date (Sept) 11 schools in West Lindsey have been visited by LCC waste education officers – supported by Waste and E & S Officer from WLDC</p> <p>School competition launched on ‘name a WLDC bin lorry’ along with further communications to support recycle week in Oct.</p> <p>An initial assessment, using data, identified the main sources of the LWP’s carbon emissions and, most notably, showed the importance of keeping landfill to a minimum. An update on this work is expected shortly, in line with the JMWMS outcome from 2022/23 <i>“On-going, carbon metric introduced in 23/24”</i></p>	

Actions for 2024 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, we continue to 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.

The actions as a result of proposals in the Environment Act continue to feature in the Operational Services Business plans. The continues to be very little detail from Government on the implementation or suggested outcomes from the measures and as such the actions around this area for 2024 onwards remain uncertain. The positive outcome of this is that our Operational Service team is aware and is planning for the action as and when they are enacted.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Consider the introduction of separate food waste collections”	Alignment with national policy, improved recycling and waste reduction	Increase recycling %, reduce waste	Likely to become mandatory in 24/25
Our Council	Progress against the Vision and Objectives through the delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) Action Plan	Measures and targets are largely in place and outcomes monitored. LWP are looking to add carbon emissions to the list in 23/24	Reduced carbon impact from waste management in Lincolnshire	On-going, carbon metric introduced in 23/24
Our Council	Free green waste Possible emerging	To ensure the Council is meeting its obligations	Narrative, possible metrics once implemented,	2025-2026

	policy from the Environment Act 2021	under the new Environment Act, 2021	however may have a detrimental impact on carbon footprint, whilst having a positive impact on waste contamination levels.	
Our Council	Enhanced Producer Responsibility Possible emerging policy from the Environment Act 2021	Packaging producers to fund collection and recycling of certain items, resulting in funding for local authorities	Narrative, possible metrics once implemented	2025 - 2026

Next Steps

We will continue to deliver against our 3 key priorities for Climate change:

- Taking action to reduce carbon emissions across all aspects of the Council's operations to achieve a net zero Council by 2050
- Enabling and supporting residents, businesses and local communities to reduce carbon emissions across the West Lindsey district.
- Deliver positive communications & sign posting, including our 'small steps, big impact' campaign.

In support of delivering the green thread, over the coming years further improvements will continue to be made to the action plan, including more detailed measures of success and methods of reporting progress.

It is considered that business planning will also become more sophisticated and where possible target dates will be defined, and quantitative targets will be identified in services using local or national research.

The Corporate Policy and Strategy team and the member and officer working groups will continue to oversee this development.

Strategy Refresh

As part of the Progress Report to this committee in November 2022, members resolved to refresh the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy in 2023 to ensure alignment with new the Corporate Plan and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This work has started; however, it has been agreed with the Member Working Group that more time be allowed for further

engagement in the strategy refresh, acknowledging the change in administration in May. It is anticipated that the strategy will come to Prosperous Communities Committee in early 2024 for adoption.