



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

**Tuesday, 12th November
2024**

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

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Rachael Hughes
Head of Policy and Strategy
rachael.hughes@west-lindsey.gov.uk,

Steve Leary
Policy and Strategy Officer - Climate and
Sustainable Environment
steve.leary@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

An annual update of activity relating to the
implementation of the Council's Environment &
Sustainability Strategy.

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 detailed under each of the adopted 10 themes for 2024/25 & 2025/26.

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 2025 onwards.

There are no direct legal implications from the establishment and delivery of the 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/87/25/MT/SL

No financial implications arising as a result of this update report.

The Corporate Policy & Strategy Team have been in post for just under three 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). Of the £500k earmarked in June 2021, £477k remains.

There is also £612k of carbon reduction initiative in the capital programme for 2024-25 and 2025-26. This includes £210k for LED streetlight upgrade works and £402k of Swimming Pool support scheme grant funding for Gainsborough Leisure Centre solar project.

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.

There is currently capacity for officers to lead the delivery of the adopted Environment and Sustainability Strategy and associated action plan. Where specialist support or knowledge is required to develop and deliver projects, this will be procured following the Council's established procurement framework. Where possible, funding will be secured through successful grant funding applications, alternatively specialist support will be funded through the earmarked reserve.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

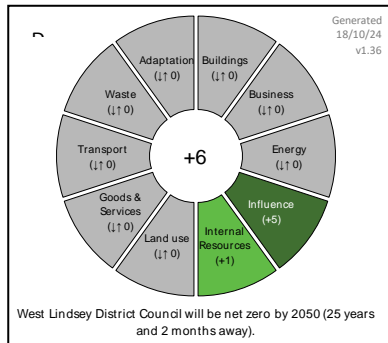
The Council's ambition is to ensure that neither the effects of climate change, nor the costs of reducing emissions, disproportionately affect any residents of the district.

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:



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.

The Carbon Management Plan, 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.

Following the refresh of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, which was adopted June 2024, it includes 3 additional mid-terms targets.

Progress against these targets and 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 2025/26.

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 in 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:

PCC - [Environment & Sustainability Annual Action Plan Update Oct 2023](#)

PCC - [Adoption of the Environment & Sustainability Strategy](#)

CPR - [Vehicle Decarbonisation Strategy](#)

Risk Assessment:

WLDC recognised the UK Govt's climate emergency and Members unanimously supported the adoption of the refreshed Environment and Sustainability Strategy earlier this year. Reasserting the Council's commitment to delivering a net zero Council by 2050. The refreshed strategy also includes specific mid-targets in relation to decarbonising the Council's estate and fleet within the next 10yrs.

Actions to support delivery have been 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

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 and Environment Strategy (SCCE) in summer 2021. It is the third full, formal report in progress against the strategy's key objectives.

Since the last report the SCCE has been refreshed and is now known as the Environment and Sustainability Strategy (ESS) which was unanimously adopted by Prosperous Communities Committee on 04th June 2024. This strategy as well as reasserting the Council's commitment to be a net zero Council by 2050 also included 3 new mid-term targets.

1. Have a fully decarbonised fleet by 2035.
2. By 2028 the Guildhall will be heated using a renewable energy source.
3. By 2030 all other buildings occupied and owned by the Council will have carbon management plans which will include proposals to deliver a fully costed carbon net zero estate.

Following the adoption of the ESS in June the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in July unanimously supported the adoption of the Council's first Vehicle Decarbonisation Strategy. This is an important step in the Council's own journey to becoming a carbon net zero authority, with the fleet being one of the largest contributors to the Council's carbon footprint.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the third full annual review of work undertaken in connection with the delivery of the ESS, the first of which was delivered to PCC in Nov 2022.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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 ESS.
- 1.4 In embedding the ESS and Action Plan, the Policy and Strategy team continue to work 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.
- 1.5 This approach has become even more important since the adoption of the refreshed ESS and the introduction of the 3 new mid-term targets.
- 1.6 With that in mind this report sets out progress against each of the ten themes of the ESS, 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.
- 1.7 As the ESS 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.
- 1.8 Equally there will be more opportunities for monitoring progress through the Corporate Plan using the Executive Business Plan (EXBP) and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which is anticipated to have a significant impact in reducing the carbon footprint of all future developments across the district.
- 1.9 Due to the data collection and monitoring timeframes for the EXBP it is not possible to include the information in this report, however the EXBP will be presented to Full Council in early 2025. The AMR data from the CLLP will be included in next year's report, however again because of the time frames for collection, any information will be retrospective, however it will provide a good

indication of the effectiveness of the policies and contribution to a net zero Central Lincolnshire area.

2.0 How to use this Report

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.

3.0 Summary of Achievements to Date

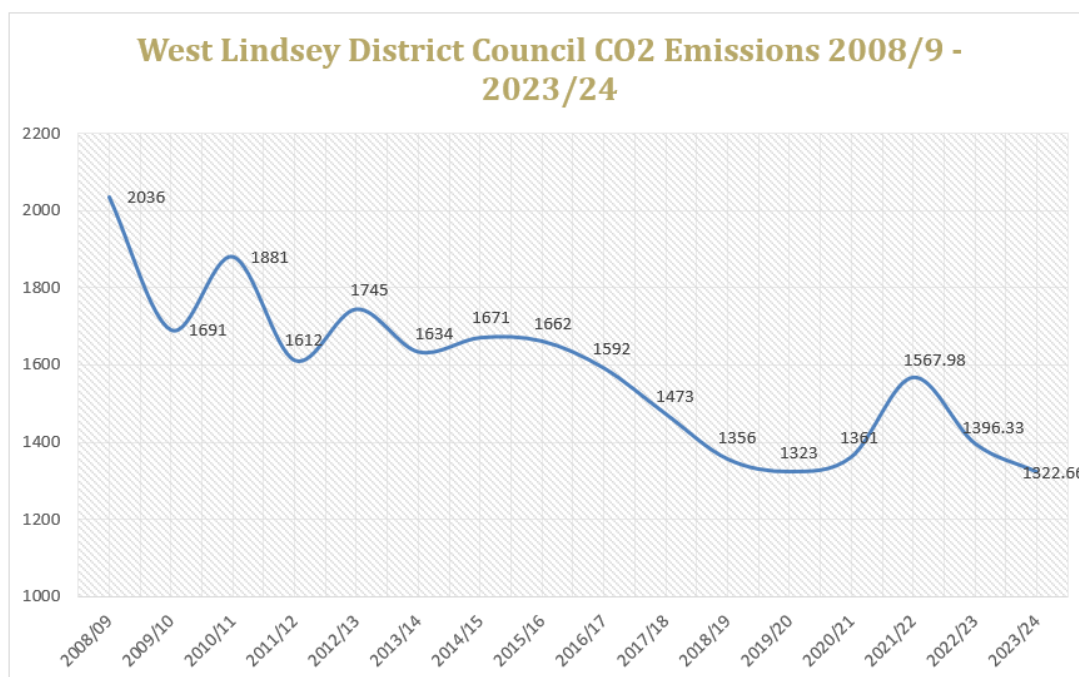
- 3.1 Below is a summary of key actions that have been delivered over the last 12 months. Further detail is included under each of the ten themes that make up the remainder of this report.
 - 5% decrease in our carbon output for the year
 - Adoption of the Council's first Vehicle Decarbonisation Strategy
 - 70.26 tonnes of CO₂e reduction by the Council due to the green energy tariff
 - 72 properties improved through the Eco-flex Grant funding initiative
 - 12 more West Lindsey villages included in full fibre roll out projects
 - 3 new grants secured to support the Council to be carbon net zero by 2050
 - 1 refreshed and adopted the Environmental & Sustainability Strategy
 - £605k total value of business sustainability projects, with £313k in grants awarded
 - 5 dedicated media campaigns & reached over 11 thousand followers across our social media channels
 - 20 business received UKSPF Business Sustainability Grant – projecting a carbon reduction of 17,627kgCo₂e
 - 26 West Lindsey businesses received bespoke energy advice from the Lincolnshire Growth Hub
 - 414 residents reached through the LEAD project, providing support for hard-to-heat homes (105% of target)
 - 17 E-Brief articles relating to net zero/carbon reduction content issued to businesses across West Lindsey within the last year
 - 8 new strategies adopted this year included sections on mitigating impacts of climate change
 - 50 outreach visits to community events & coffee mornings to provide energy efficiency advice & home retrofit options to residents
 - 20 schools visited to promote waste awareness
 - 1 new ecologist appointed to support the delivery of Bio-diversity Net Gain across Central Lincolnshire

- 3.2 Appendix 1 has a highlights document summarising activity this year across the district, looking at business, community & of course the Council
- 3.3 As well as these actions, the Council in recognising it's important role in providing advice and signposting, continues to update and refresh leaflets and the website to ensure the Council remains, one of a number of trusted sources on environment and sustainability.
- 3.4 An example of this can be found at appendix 3 of the type of literature being developed includes the Lincs for Warner Homes. This is a team of officers based at West Lindsey District Council whose primary role is to go out into the committee and provide advice and signposting on retrofit and energy efficiency measures within the home.
- 3.5 This advice service is not a means tested service and is open to all residents and can include bespoke visits to resident homes, the use of a thermal imaging cameras to identify cold bridges and advice on remedies, technology, as well as looking at energy bills ensuring customers are on the best tariff.

4.0 WLDC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

- 4.1 The Greenhouse Gas Emissions has been collated and published annually by the Council since 2009, the full report can be found at appendix 2.
- 4.2 Following 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.
- 4.2 Overall we have seen another decrease in our carbon output for the year and this is predominantly down to a decrease in electricity usage mostly across the portfolio and a decrease in fuel usage at our waste depot. This year, we have seen our CO₂e emissions decreased from 1396.4t to 1322.6t.
- 4.3 We are now seeing the benefit of the green energy tariff that we opted into 2 years ago in the form of carbon reduction. 70.26 Tonnes of Co₂/e reduction is down to the green energy tariff. This works by our energy supplier buying an equivalent amount of energy used from sustainable sources such as wind/solar farms and hydroelectric.

Fig 1. WLDC Combined CO2e Emissions over Time (2008/9 – 2023/24)



- 4.4 The Property Service Team continue to work with the Policy and Strategy Team to look at all opportunities to continue to reduce emission and continue the downward trend. This includes continued close working with the leisure centres and demand reduction and energy efficiency measures across the estate.
- 4.5 The Council’s waste fleet contributes to the scope 1 emissions, this year there has been a reduction in this area across the board. This is good news and can in part be attributed to the use of electric managers vehicles, however next year, following the introduction of separate food waste collections and the need to purchase more waste fleet vehicles, this emission indicator may indeed rise next year.
- 4.6 This unfortunately is the challenge faced by rural authorities who due to the scale of the district don’t have the option of electric vehicles for certain rounds and activities. The positive aspect of this is, however, that as an organisation we can properly prepare for electrification in a manged and sustainable way, giving us time to look for and secure grant funding for infrastructure and also test vehicles as they come to the market to ensure suitability and manage any impacts on customer service.

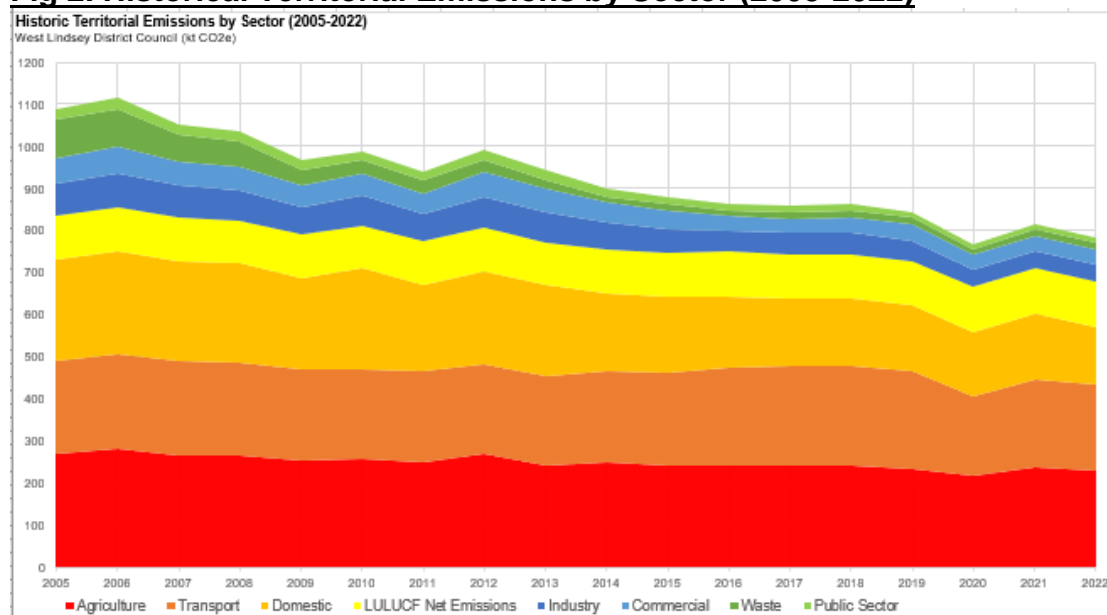
5.0 District Wide Emissions

- 5.1 Full emissions estimates for West Lindsey district currently only go to 2022. They rely on publicly available datasets from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. 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.

- 5.2 As shown in the graph below, in 2022, the estimate of total greenhouse gas emission in kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂e) emissions for all sectors in West Lindsey was 782.0, down from 815.1 in 2021. When taking the figures for carbon dioxide alone for all sectors the figure is 569. In 2022, down from 596.4 in 2021. The data from 2005 shows steady reduction over the last 19 years. The data also shows that the highest contributors to these emissions year on year are unsurprisingly agriculture, transport and domestic, giving a good indication of those priority sectors for change.

Fig 2. Historical Territorial Emissions by Sector (2005-2022)



- 5.3 It is anticipated that following the adoption of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the embedding of these policies over the next decade coupled with greater availability of renewable energy solutions on the market and improved retrofitting will see the domestic figure reduce even further.
- 5.4 Equally it is considered that the modernisation of agriculture and farming techniques and broader policy support for agricultural growth zones and associated research and development being promoted within West Lindsey and Lincolnshire more broadly will help expedite technological developments to further reduce this sector.
- 5.5 As West Lindsey District Council has experienced with its own fleet, decarbonising transport continues to be a challenging issue for large rural areas where sustainable transport options remain limited.
- 5.6 It is important to understand that these estimates assist us in working with our partners in developing emissions reduction strategies. As acknowledged in the previous paragraphs 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, decarbonisation of the power grid and sustainable transport options. The Council does however continue to advocate for actions in these areas.

- 5.7 Equally, behavioural change will also 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.

6.0 Progress Against Delivery of the ESS Strategy during 2023/24

6.1 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.

6.2 These actions continue to be 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.

6.3 As well as the strategic vision, the Council also commits to being a **net zero district council by 2050.**

To support this target, the Council as part of the ESS strategy refresh adopted in June this year, has committed to, the following 3 mid-term targets of:

1. Have a fully decarbonised fleet by 2035.
2. By 2028 the Guildhall will be heated using a renewable energy source.
3. By 2030 all other buildings occupied and owned by the Council will have carbon management plans which will include proposals to deliver a fully costed carbon net zero estate.

6.4 Each of the 10 themes within the report below include an update on the actions from previous years and also includes new actions which have been captured through this year's round of business planning. Progress against each action is rated on a Red, Amber, Green basis. Red being off target, will not be delivered within timescales, Amber being off target, may be delivered within timescales and Green meaning the action is on target to deliver within the timeframes.

R	Off target, will not be delivered within timescales
A	Off target, may be delivered within timescales
G	On target, will deliver within timescales

7.0 Theme one: Buildings and Assets

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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

- 7.3 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.

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Time-frame	RAG
Our Council	<p>Implement energy audit of WL operational estate to implement energy efficient design principles for retrofitting existing buildings, in summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fabric first 2. Optimisation of services 3. Utilisation of renewable technology 4. Off-setting 	<p>Following the publication of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) White Paper, the Council asset portfolio has been mapped and updated EPCs have been provided. This work has highlighted those properties, both operational and rental that may require interventions to meet the requirements of MEES and other efficiency measure that support the Council's net zero aspirations.</p> <p>In line with property management operational guidance, various initiatives based on the intervention hierarchy have been developed.</p> <p>The MEES has yet to be formally adopted by Gov. further updates on this White Paper is expected, including timeframes and final requirements.</p> <p>Challenges around timeframes and future of MEES as well as resource & finance priorities impact on speed of delivery and ability to properly plan for interventions.</p>	2023 - 2030	
Our Place	Implement new monitoring framework for the Central	The monitoring framework has been drafted by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team.	Monitoring Framework 2024/25	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Time-frame	RAG
	Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP), including measures for impact of Climate Change Policies	<p>Work is now being undertaken across the partnership to establish data collection methods to feed into the framework and assess the impacts of the new climate change policies.</p> <p>Initial findings will focus on the use of policy to shape new developments, however as more development is approved using the new policies, it is anticipated that calculations relating to impact on sustainable development will be able to be measured within the next 3 – 5yrs.</p>	Policy monitoring from Mar 25 onwards	
Our Place	Delivery grant funding to improve energy efficiency of homes across Wet Lindsey & Lincolnshire	<p>The Home Upgrade Grant runs until Mar 25. All referrals to this grant need to be made by the end of Nov 24. Like with many grant funding initiatives there is a time lag in reporting. Up to the end of Sept 24 the initiative has achieved 59% of the total spend, with 147 homes having been approved for interventions. The team remains on track to spend the £5mil allocated to the partnership. Full details on the impact of this grant funding in carbon saving terms will be provided in the E&S report in 2025 once the grant has closed and full reconciliation of activity has taken place.</p> <p>The Eco-flex Grant funding initiative also ends in Mar</p>	2023 - 2025	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Time-frame	RAG
		<p>25. To date this grant initiative has delivered improvements to 72 properties. Improvements include additional insulation, solar panels, boiler replacement, air source heat pumps and even battery storage. Unfortunately, this grant fund scheme doesn't record pre- and post EPCs and so it is not possible to estimate the carbon or costs savings to residents.</p>		
Our Place	<p>Ensure West Lindsey are positioned to maximise on future opportunities for additional funding for energy efficiency measures</p>	<p>Proactive approach continues in identifying and securing funding opportunities to support energy efficiency initiatives across the district. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining awareness of upcoming government grant schemes and funding programs related to energy efficiency and low carbon technologies – a bid is being prepared for Warm Homes: Local Grant, which will begin delivery in 2025 • Improving our databases and developing a pipeline of potential projects that can be rapidly progressed when funding becomes available. Staff resource in place and being trained in energy efficiency certification • Building partnerships with other local authorities, housing associations, and community groups to 	2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Time-frame	RAG
		<p>strengthen consortium bids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council staff becoming more skilled in bid writing and grant application processes with several successful bids supported in 23/24. Expertise can be redeployed for bids in other areas • A committee report on processes for allocating resources to provide match funding where required to leverage external grants • Reviewing and updating strategies such as Environment Climate Change & Sustainability in 2024 helps support bids, with up-to-date info in alignment with funders' priorities • Engaging with regional bodies like the Midlands Net Zero Hub to help understand funding criteria and advocate for West Lindsey. 		

Priority Actions 2025 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	<p>Implement energy audit of WL operational estate to deliver energy efficient design principles for maintaining and retrofitting existing buildings, in summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fabric first 2. Optimisation of services 3. Utilisation of renewable technology 4. Off-setting <p>Initial focus on operation building surveys will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting & controls • Insulation • Glazing • Solar shading • Energy use monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive understanding of opportunities to retrofit buildings operated & occupied by WLDC. • Priority areas and timeline for interventions developed • Packages of work including specifications for improvements and changes • Understanding of energy use patterns across the operational estate & options to change usage & habits. 	Narrative	2023 - 2030
Our Place	<p>Implement new monitoring framework for the CLLP, including measures for impact of Climate Change Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable impact of the Climate change Policies on development across Central Lincolnshire and West Lindsey. 	Narrative, possible target development as plan embeds	<p>Monitoring Framework 2024/25</p> <p>Impacts of Policy Mar 25 onwards</p>

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	Delivery of recently announced 3 – 5yr Warm Homes Local Grant scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the energy efficiency of homes across Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium. 	Narrative initially with possible targets once grant conditions published by Government	2025 - 2030
Our Council	Bid for PSDF to replace the Guildhall gas heating system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the energy efficiency & reduce the carbon footprint of the Guildhall 	Narrative & target reduction in CO2 emissions	2024 - 2026
Our People	Redevelopment of the West Lindsey Leisure Centre to improve energy efficiency of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve energy efficiency credentials of the building 	Narrative including baseline & projected efficiencies & carbon savings	2025 - 2026

4.0 Theme Two: Campaigning and Lobbying

4.1 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 communities
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

4.2 Campaigning and lobbying activity continues to be led through the 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.

4.3 It is accepted that this area of work is constantly evolving, as such both groups continue to work hard to familiarise themselves with this subject area. As well as this, the groups also continue to position themselves to better understand which external groups and key sectors are most effective and appropriate to engage with to shape and influence to effect change for Wets Lindsey and its communities.

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
Our Council	Using the Climate Change Member & Officer working groups continue to engage in	The Council is actively engaged in emerging issues. Standing item on consultations and lobbying opportunities, which ensures the Council is well placed to respond to consultations.	2023 onwards	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
	active campaigning and lobbying in relation to key priorities for West Lindsey Residents	Responded to national consultations, including 2 in relation to waste and 1 on energy efficiency standards. Also, continued engagement with Government in relation to the built environment consultations, including changes to the NPPF, Demolition and Embodied Carbon and locally response to the Minerals and Waste consultation objecting to policy that supports continued fossil fuel extraction across Lincolnshire		
Our People	Continue to work collaboratively with the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group (LSOG)	The LSO group now has a joint workplan, which is reviewed and tracked at officer meetings with workstreams currently themed in areas such as communications and engagement, industry and business, the natural environment, decision making and transport. There are also numerous other strands of collaborative work taking place, often under other strategy work areas such as embedding sustainable and green strategic spatial planning Lincolnshire-wide.	2023 onwards	

4.4 Aligning with those sectors which make the highest contribution to the districts carbon footprint, issues around access to funding, further improvements to national build standards and support for rural communities and sustainable transport continue to be areas of focus for campaigning and lobbying during 2025 as well as pushing to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation.

4.5 It will be important for the member and officer working group, as well as the organisation more broadly to ensure that these priorities are also reflected in

the new Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCAs), which is now likely to be formed in latter part of 2024 and early 2025.

- 4.6 This is particularly pertinent when considering the MCCAs strategic influence over the growth of the area, including key industry, infrastructure and transport.
- 4.7 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 2025 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Considered as a monthly standing agenda item Implement a targeted lobbying and campaigning strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is actively engaged in emerging issues and opportunities relating to Climate Change The Council proactively influences policy and funding decisions at local, regional, and national levels Key stakeholders are engaged and supportive of West Lindsey's climate and sustainability goals West Lindsey's unique rural perspective is 	<p>Number of policy consultations responded to annually (target: at least 5)</p> <p>Number of meetings with regional/national policymakers – including representation at webinars and conferences (target: at least 4 per year)</p> <p>Successful inclusion of West Lindsey's priorities in regional strategies or funding allocations</p>	2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
		represented in wider policy discussions		
Our Place	Engage proactively with the new Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) on environmental and sustainability issues” for 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lindsey's environmental priorities are reflected in MCCA strategies and initiatives • Increased funding and support for local sustainability projects • Improved coordination of county-wide environmental efforts 	<p>Narrative relating to MCCA meetings/consultations participated in</p> <p>Inclusion of West Lindsey's priorities in MCCA environmental strategies</p>	2024 onwards
Our People	Expand collaborative work with the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group (LSOG) and other key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge sharing and collaborative working on lobbying and campaigns • Joint funding bids developed and submitted • Unified Lincolnshire voice on key sustainability issues 	<p>Number of joint initiatives or campaigns launched (target: at least 2 per year)</p> <p>Number of successful joint funding bids (target: at least 1 per year)</p> <p>Narrative report on outcomes of collaboration to Member group</p>	2024 onwards

9.0 Theme Three: Decision-Making

9.1 It has long been acknowledged that in order 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.

- 9.2 The Corporate Plan is now over a year old. The Executive Business Plan which will be presented to members in the coming months will provide an update on the organisations progress against priorities, which will include those relating to environment and sustainability. As well as this and to maintain the 'green thread' ensuring all new and reviewed strategies explore and take opportunities to contribute to delivering a net zero council and district.

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
Our Council	Continued roll out of staff training & broader awareness raising across the Council	<p>Awareness raised through embedding throughout key documents and processes. including:</p> <p>Climate change as a key ambition and "green thread" in the Corporate Plan</p> <p>Continued climate environment and sustainability impact assessment (CESIA) for all relevant reports and projects.</p> <p>Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers group developing mandatory in-house climate training for staff to be considered for adoption in 2025</p> <p>Strategy refresh and annual review of SCCE Plan, aligning it with business planning and appraisals.</p>	On going	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		<p>Officers representing the agenda in relevant internal groups and boards</p> <p>Ensuring strong support and communication from leadership, including the Chair of the Council and Member working group</p>		
Our Council	All new and reviewed strategies to include an appropriate approach to mitigating the impacts of Climate Change.	<p>8 new strategies which have been adopted this year have included a section on mitigating impacts of climate change. This includes the; Digital ICT Vision, Customer Experience Strategy & the Cultural Strategy</p> <p>This is a marked step change in approach to strategy development & demonstrates that consideration of these issues is being implemented consistently across all areas of the Council.</p>	2023 onwards	
Our Council	Develop approach to monitoring effective utilisation of the CESIA tool across all Governance structures in the Council	<p>Approach has been benchmarked shared with Lincolnshire Authorities and a case study lesson learned has been shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers now consider environmental and community impact alongside financial implications in the early stages of project planning. • Member feedback that visual representation tool has improved communication and accessibility of climate and environmental impact information in decision-making processes. 	2023	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of this tool has fostered collaboration with other Lincolnshire authorities, enhancing understanding of local issues and strengthening relationships 		

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
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"> New strategy delivery action plans will include deliverables against Climate Change priorities Growth strategy 	Number of new & reviewed strategies with Climate Change priorities & associated actions	2024 onwards
Our Council	Continue to monitor the impact of the CESIA tool across all decisions and Governance structures in the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

10.0 Theme Four: Influencing Others

10.1 The council only has direct control over a small percentage of emissions across the district (our direct emissions).

10.2 It is therefore important that the council works with and influences others to also play their full part in responding to the climate emergency.

10.3 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• 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

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
Our Council	Increased communications output in line with strategy and campaign 'small steps, big impact' and publishing a summary achievements document (appendix 1)	<p>This year, linked to our small steps, big impact initiatives we have run a number of campaigns including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free trees for schools • Small steps Big impact - sharing tips of where people can make savings and help the environment • Promotion of the Business Sustainability Grants • Promotion of the community Grants which support the environment • Flooding - be prepared and sharing advice on grants available from two major flooding events in West Lindsey • Warmer Homes grants available promotion. • Promotion of the metal recycling grants from Lea Fields Crematorium and giving back to the community. • Right thing right bin promotion. • Recycle week <p>Our Facebook followers has increased by 1,000 from January 2024 to October 2024 – which is more than 100 a month.</p>	2023 onwards	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		Our estimated audience reach throughout the year is 47 million – 56million		
Our People	Improve the Climate change & sustainability web pages to raise awareness support our Parish Councils and Community Groups to access information	New strategy and content published. Steve to work with web team to ensure community action toolkit information is published by 1 Nov following approval from the Member group	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	The council has adopted 3 Neighbourhood Plans since the last update report. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemswell Cliff • Scothern • Nettleham All 3 have a greater focus on climate change within all 3 of these NPs, with policies including specific environment & sustainability requirements.	On going	
Our People	Support particularly small, medium-sized enterprises (SME) to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon pollution – promote resilience support grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKSPF Business Sustainability (Green Growth) Grant. • 50 engagements (EOIs); 24 eligible businesses; 21 businesses at full application stage; 20 businesses offer sent/awaiting payment/paid. Of the 20 businesses, project's value = £605k, with grant = £313k (a multiplier of approximately 2). 	2023 onwards	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		<p>Projects reporting outcomes to date identify combined annual carbon reductions of 17,627 kgCO₂e (as well as safeguarded jobs and improved productivity). A number of case studies (not published externally) confirm impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon advisor available via Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub – Providing: Advice, Energy audit for commercial premises. <p>(May 2023 to Sept 2024 21 businesses received advice, 20 of these engaged in WLDC BSG scheme and also received Energy audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Carbon Lincolnshire Programme (Launched in Jan 2024. From launch to Sept 2024 9 businesses engaged in programme and or associated workshops. Online and physical events held across 2024 focussed on Net Zero / Decarbonisation / Energy management / Supply chains including physical workshop in MR (2 businesses from WL 		

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		<p>attended) further event in Gainsborough planned for Feb 2024)</p> <p><u>In total, 26 unique WL businesses engaged with BL support.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Tourism Toolkit (first published May 2022) • Zellar Carbon Calculator tool for SME's available via by Business Lincolnshire • Business Lincolnshire Energy Toolkit (first published Sept 2022) • 'Sustainability and Nert Zero' advice added to our business support flyer (Q4 2023 onwards). • Ebrief Net Zero / Carbon reduction content April 2023 to Sept 2024: 17 articles 		
Our Place	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Funding	<p>WLDC continue to fund the Countryside Service. This fulfils the Councils Statutory duty to maintain a Management Plan for the AONB, it also ensures that the Countryside Service receives more match funding from DEFRA creating a more sustainable service for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Over the last year the service has delivered a</p>	3-year review from 2024	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		<p>large number of positive sustainability & environmental outcomes including carbon sequestration, habitat improvement & landscape resilience projects.</p> <p>The service is in the process of reviewing the AONB Management Plan which is in place for 3 years. WLDC is a consultee in the development of that Management Plan and as such will ensure sustainable and environmental themes are reflected in the priorities of the new Management Plan.</p>		

10.4 In delivering the actions under this theme we will continue to communicate positively and proactively both across the Council and externally at a local, regional and national level, identifying key stakeholders within each sector and building our relationships with them.

10.5 We will use our understanding of what is in the direct remit of the Council to enable us to adopt the relevant strategies and approaches to successfully influence key sectors.

Priority Actions 2025 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	<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 	Narrative	2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measure	Timeframe
	summary achievements document (appendix 1)	community agendas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased coverage relating to communications & messaging 	Number of Climate Change related articles published Audience number achieved	2024 onwards 2024 onwards
Our People	Continued improvement of the Climate change & sustainability web pages to raise awareness support our Parish Councils and Community Groups to access information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	2024 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in the carbon footprint of businesses across West Lindsey 	Number of Businesses receiving support annually, including cases studies & narrative	On going

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measure	Timeframe
	carbon pollution – promote resilience support grants.		(NB - Continued delivery of UKSPF funded business support programmes (and grants) until March 2025 (programme may be extended))	
Our Place	Working with community groups to support raising awareness of environment and sustainability actions & opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising of grant applications opportunities. 	Narrative, including number of communities supported & sign posted	2024 onwards
Our Place	Mapping exercise to understand pipeline of businesses investment opportunities which deliver objectives relating to Environment & Sustainability objectives. Examples include STEP, Scampton, Agri-Zone, Waterways Strategy, Gainsborough Masterplan refresh, Agri-Tech Twinning, Eco Settlement, and the circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of environmental business operating in West Lindsey Improved engagement to deliver synergies & circular economy Improved inwards investment Create a hub for innovation focused on the environment and sustainability across multi-sectors 	Narrative	2025 onwards
	Develop and implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public awareness and 	Number of local campaigns	On going

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measure	Timeframe
	targeted campaigns on key local environmental issues	<p>engagement on local environmental priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural changes supporting sustainability goals • Enhanced support for Council's environmental initiatives 	<p>launched (target: at least 3 per year – Waste minimisation, energy efficiency, community energy, flood preparedness already identified)</p> <p>Reach and engagement metrics for campaigns (e.g., social media interactions, event attendance)</p> <p>Survey results showing increased public awareness of environmental issues</p>	
Our Place	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service 	Narrative	2024 onwards

11.0 Theme Five: Land Use

11.1 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.

11.2 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

11.3 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.

11.4 There is also a duty of the Local Planning Authority to protect nature and biodiversity as part of development. Following the enactment of the Environment Act in the early part of 2024, developers now must deliver 10% “Biodiversity Net Gain” on all new development, with very few exceptions.

11.5 To ensure that West Lindsey and more broadly Central Lincolnshire are in the best position to implement this requirement, the Central Lincolnshire Authorities have recruited a qualified ecologist to support decision making on planning applications. This not only provides a better service for customers

across the area, it also means that the best outcomes from developments can be appropriately secured and monitored, providing a good outcome for nature and ecological diversity too.

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Actions	Update	Timeframe	RAG
Our Place	Implement bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including training, monitoring & promotion of GIGL project	Ecologist appointed to work across Central Lincolnshire	2023 onwards	
Our Council	<p>Green Space Management</p> <p>Implement UKSPF: 1.6 Green Space Management and Community Project Development</p> <p>Improve management and operation of WLDC owned green spaces (linked to UKSPF Green Space Officer).</p> <p>Adoption of woodland management plans to improve accessibility, biodiversity, and overall management.</p>	<p>It was not possible to recruit a green space management officer, as such an appointment of a specialist through an agency was necessary.</p> <p>The budget for this resource is in place until March 2026, however not being able to recruit to the post creates some risk around funding & timescales.</p> <p>Work has started on a woodland management plan which will include improved accessibility.</p> <p>The management plans will also include robust maintenance plans.</p> <p>Once adopted these plans will provide a positive basis on</p>	2024/25	

Corporate Plan Theme	Actions	Update	Timeframe	RAG
		which to make bids for grant funding to improve the long-term sustainability of the green spaces.		

Priority Actions 2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Actions	Outcomes	Measures	Timeframe
Our Place	Continued implementation of bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including continued training & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 links to other nature-based projects in West Lindsey.	2024/25 onwards
Our Place	Green Space Management Implement UKSPF: 1.6 Green Space Management and Community Project Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve management and operation of WLDC owned green spaces (linked to UKSPF Green Space Officer). 	Narrative	2024/25
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

12.0 Theme Six: Power

- 12.1 This theme covers a number of different areas of focus and influence. Reducing the amount of energy consumed to the lowest possible levels is an obvious means of reducing emissions. Initiatives to promote energy efficiency are commonplace and include, installing more energy efficient heating sources and appliances, the use of smart meters and water saving techniques and the use of grey water.
- 12.2 The means by which energy is produced is also a key consideration. The electricity grid is being decarbonised and has less reliance on fossil fuels to produce energy gathers pace. This, coupled with the increase in generation of renewable energy in the form of wind, wave and solar power is a major advance in combatting emissions across the UK.
- 12.3 As a council, we must keep abreast of developments and maximise and realise the potential for low carbon and renewable energy generation and storage, using our own assets and across the district, whilst taking account of major constraints to deployment such as the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- 12.4 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan will be a major consideration in determining the scope for renewable energy production and storage across the district.
- 12.5 As with many of the themes, there are synergies and co-benefits which cut across strategic aims and actions, including Buildings and Assets, Land Use and Transport.

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

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timeframe	RAG
Our Place	Obtain better understanding of the energy market, including supply & demand to better support communities deliver community energy solutions	Engagement with District Network Operators, working with other districts and LCC local energy area mapping completed.	On going	
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	<p>The parish lighting project continues to be challenging to deliver due to a lack of interest from the market in the work package.</p> <p>The budget remains in places and changes are made to street lighting assets when repairs are necessary. To date this approach has led to reduction in power usage, however it is acknowledged that this approach will mean that benefit realisation of replacing the lights with LEDs will take time.</p>	On going	

Priority Actions 2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timeframe
Our Place	Use new mapping exercise with DNO to increase understanding & influence over the energy market, including supply & demand to better support communities deliver community energy solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers and members are better informed and able to provide support to communities exploring community energy solutions Comprehensive understanding of 	Narrative, case studies Progress in completion of the LAEP. Projected carbon emissions reduction	On going

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timeframe
	Work with other Lincolnshire districts to develop a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to guide the transition to a low-carbon energy system	<p>local energy needs, resources, and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear roadmap for decarbonisation of the local energy system • Increased resilience and energy security for the community • Identification of potential community energy projects and investment opportunities 	<p>from LAEP measures</p> <p>Number of identified renewable energy and energy efficiency projects</p> <p>Amount of external funding secured for energy projects</p>	
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

13.0 Theme Seven: Protecting the Vulnerable

13.1 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.


13.2 Our ambition is to ensure that all of West Lindsey's residents are resilient to and where possible protected from the impact of climate change. However, it is well known that certain communities, be it based on location or shared characteristics are more severely impacted by climate change and so it is important we take steps to mitigate these impacts.

13.3 The scale and pace of change needed to tackle climate change will require major investment, changes to the way in which we use energy, and changes to how we live our lives and define success.

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 through greater resilience

13.4 This theme is a cross-cutting theme within the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and also the corporate plan. Many of the actions relate specifically to the Communities, Health and Wellbeing strand of the corporate plan.

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Place	Develop and adopt a Communities Strategy	<p>The Community Strategy is in the early stages of development. It will pull together 6 key strands, as shown below, replacing a number of smaller strategies, including communities at risk and creating a single strategy & monitoring framework.</p> <p>From this strategy a number of action plans for invention will be developed where progress at a project specific level will be undertaken.</p> 	2024 - 2026	
Our People	Working in partnership with other Lincolnshire local	<p>Partnership meeting still takes place on warm spaces and the provision of warm packs. Funding has been provided by WLDC to supply warm packs</p>	2024 - 2025	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
	authorities, health, and VCS to support warm & welcome spaces.	across the County. These packs include household essential items to help individuals stay warm. Funding up to the end of 2024/25. Future initiative similar to this to be considered at the partnership meetings.		
Our People	Implement and delivery LEAD project on behalf of Central and South Lincolnshire consortium	The LEAD project, which was designed to provide additional support to residents of hard to heat homes has a target of 800 residents across Central Lincolnshire and South Kesteven. So far, the scheme has reached over 348 residents, all receiving bespoke advice & referrals on to appropriate schemes. There is currently a 100% customer satisfaction with this service. It is predicted that the scheme will in fact outperform the target by March by 105%. Outreach has included attendance at community events & coffee mornings & has resulted in really positive outcomes. A case study has been developed on a resident of West Lindsey, the summary of which is provided in the summary of activity leaflet.	2023-2025	

Priority Actions 2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Place	Develop and adopt a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Communities Strategy will 	Adoption of Communities	2024 - 2026

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
	Communities Strategy	<p>establish the strategic approach to delivering community support, services and intervention to achieve corporate plan priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 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. 	Strategy & associated action plan	
Our People	Develop resources to support communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better informed communities Communities develop own local resilience plans 	Narrative & numbers	2025 onwards
Our People	Engage with the new LRF Resilient Communities project designed to provide tailored support to communities at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help communities develop a robust resilience plan Provide training for town/parish councillors Coordinate forum for parish, district and LRF representative Develop evidence base and information mapping to support future emergency response Arrange best practice events & information between parish councils 	Narrative & numbers	2025 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our People	Implement and delivery LEAD project on behalf of Central and South Lincolnshire consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice and support to hard-to-reach cohorts. 	Target number of 500 hard-to-reach cohorts across consortium	2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available
		<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

14.0 Theme Eight: Resources and Finance

14.1 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 supports climate change initiatives Council finances and resources are used to support initiatives which promote ethical investment & enable communities & business to support the delivery of a net zero District by 2050
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council achieves a financially viable approach to delivering carbon net zero, including ethical investments Communities & business has access to support to enable delivery of net zero initiative

Update against actions achieved during 2023/24

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	<p>The Council has had some success recently in relation to the securing of funding, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon skills fund • Depot electrification fund • Sports England Sustainable Sports Centre funding <p>Following the change in Gov. there remains uncertainty in relation to funding streams and requirements.</p> <p>A paper has recently gone to CPR, reasserting the governance options in the constitution in where match funding is necessary, to ensure the Council can respond to funding opportunities within prescribed and established governance processes.</p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken on the latest Public Sector</p>	On going	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
		Decarbonisation Fund bid, which will come to CPR in Nov 2024. This will seek approval for a bid to be made & match funding to be included to support the bid to consider fitting air source heat pumps to the Guildhall to replace the existing gas boilers.		
Our Council	Refresh Treasury Management Strategy (TMS)	<p>The annual update to the strategy was approved by Council in March 2024.</p> <p>The first 3 statutory considerations for investments remain the same – security, liquidity & yield.</p> <p>The new TMS introduced ethical, environmental and social considerations.</p> <p>As such some investments have been moved to more ethical & environmentally conscious investment funds.</p> <p>With each annual review of the TMS it is important to ensure that there is a balance between ethical and environmental investment & ensuring positive returns.</p>	2024	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Council	Explore the options relating to an electric car salary sacrifice scheme for officers	<p>Following the appointment of a new HR manager 9months ago, initial work has taken place in relation to updating key policies and strategies, including the adoption of the Agile Working policy.</p> <p>It is too early to fully understand the impact of the agile working policy on mileage and commuting habits, although with more office-based activities it is likely some aspects of milage will increase.</p> <p>Further employee benefit policies, including those that encourage active travel and sustainable travel choices will be rolled out over the coming year.</p> <p>As with all of these types of schemes, it is important that the schemes are appropriate and deliver outcomes for environment and sustainability.</p>	2024 onwards	
Our Council	To reduce our carbon footprint through use	The Council has recently taken delivery of new more efficient	2024	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
	of digital technology	printers and have where possible implemented digital signatures across the Council allowing remote authorisations & reduction in printer & paper generation.		

14.2 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. 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.

Priority Actions 2024 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional monies secured to deliver initiatives in line with the CESS strategy 	Number of bids submitted & outcomes	On going
Our Council	Continue to refresh Treasury Management Strategy to ensure the Council invests a proportion of funding into ethical & sustainable investments. It is anticipated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the Council best uses its cash resources to ensure security, liquidity, and yield whilst also taking into account ethical, sustainable and governance factors. The Council continue to evaluate the market & products available to maximise ethical and environmental investment whilst promoting financial sustainability. 	Narrative which includes a new Treasury Management Strategy which delivers opportunities for green and ethical financing	2025 onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
	that as ethical and environmental investment becomes more mainstream that a greater choice of investment opportunities will be available.			
Our Council	Develop an employee benefit scheme which includes promotion of active travel, sustainable travel options & opportunities to deliver positive environmental outcomes to the broader district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to active travel and sustainable travel options. • Improved environmental outcomes and wellbeing for staff across the district. 	Narrative, & take up numbers	2025 onwards
Our Council	To reduce our carbon footprint through use of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sustainable business practices which includes a reduction in the use of resources and in some circumstances a reduction in the organisations carbon footprint 	<p>Narrative on specific projects identified for 2024, including but not exhaustively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved hybrid options for meetings • Digital technology to allow 	2024 - 2026

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
			Benefits customers to self-serve	

15.0 Theme Nine: Transport and Connectivity

15.1 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
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move towards a fleet replacement programme which is net zero Enable and support modal shift across the district
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in Council fleet emissions Improvement in sustainable travel options across West Lindsey Reduction in District wide transport emissions

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Council	Implement the new de-carbonisation vehicle replacement strategy	The Council's first Vehicle Decarbonisation Strategy was adopted by members on 18 th July 2024. This strategy and decision-making framework will be used to support all future decision making on the purchase of new council vehicles.	2024	

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

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Council	Explore and embed behavioural changes and working patterns established as a result of the impacts of covid	<p>The new Agile Working Policy was adopted by CPR on 19th September.</p> <p>This is a positive step forward in starting to formalise working practices after covid & provide staff with guidance to manage working arrangements & practices.</p>	2024/25	
Our Place	UKSPF: 1.5 West Lindsey Walking, Cycling & Wayfinding Feasibility and project development	<p>Presented walking and cycling routes on a dedicated page on the West Lindsey District Council website - Walking West Lindsey District Council (westlindsey.gov.uk)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Development Fund launched to support Parish & Town Council's deliver aspirations including those around walking and cycling.</p>	2024 - 2025	
	Adopt new Transport and Connectivity Delivery Plan	<p>The plan has been superseded by the establishment of the transport boards by the County Council.</p> <p>Transport will be a devolved service as part of the establishment of the MCCA, as such, in line with the new action under lobbying and influencing work will start to proactively engage with the MCCA at member & officer level to ensure rural transport & connectivity is considered a priority.</p>	2024	
Our Place	Improve connectivity & access to	There have been two new contracts awarded which	2022 - 2028	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
	Broadband across the District	<p>cover parts of West Lindsey, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot 10: Contract awarded to Connexin which covers Nottinghamshire and parts of Lincolnshire 12,000 eligible properties. • Lot 23: Quickline communications covering Lincolnshire / Northeast Lincolnshire and East Riding with 47,000 properties in Lincolnshire. <p>These contracts are due to end in 2028, however could be extended.</p> <p>Key areas announced for full fibre roll out in the recently allocated lots include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemswell • Saxilby • Welton • Binbrook • Laughton • Stow • Nth Kelsey / Sth Kelsey • Sth Carlton • Willoughton • Osgoodby • Newton on Trent. <p>Lobbying continues to promote interventions '<i>very hard to reach</i>' areas across West Lindsey.</p>		
Our Place	Undertake review community 'Wi-Fi' hotspots	<p>There are 26 village hall outlets with either Quickline or BT community 'wi-fi' hotspots.</p> <p>Work continues on options to improve connectivity & speeds in very hard to reach areas. This includes looking at usage at each individual</p>	2022 - 2028	

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
		<p>wi-fi addresses and understanding where improvements can be made to the technology being used to supply and monitor and reduce monthly / yearly contract costings. This area of work is in its infancy. As different areas become available for upgrades and connections, work to reduce costings and improve technology will be implemented.</p>		

15.2 The focus of this theme continues to relate to preparedness, specifically information gathering, strategy and feasibility funding.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Implement the new de-carbonisation vehicle replacement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Reduction in CO2e emissions from the fleet. Metrics for reduction to be established as part of the recommendations in the strategy.</p>	2024 onwards
Our Place	Improve connectivity & access to Broadband across the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 - 2028
Our Place	Undertake review community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved community 	Narrative and number of communities	2022 - 2028

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
	'Wi-Fi' hotspots	access to digital services	receiving WiFi hot spots and or reviews to support technological improvements.	

16.0 Theme Ten: Waste

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 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).
- 16.3 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 • Accelerate the transition towards a circular economy
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 • Established circular economy involving key industry across the district

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Update	Timescales	RAG
Our Council	Consider the introduction of separate food waste collections	Prepared implementation plan for implementation of separate weekly food waste collections with report approved by Committee and decision to implement and procure necessary resources. Significant progress has been made towards implementing separate food waste collections by April 2026. Lincolnshire County Council has secured a 5-year contract with Biotech4 for food waste treatment, utilizing facilities at Hemswell Cliff	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	The 'Right Thing, Right Bin' campaign continues to yield positive results. twin-stream collections (separate paper and card) have been integrated successfully with over 90% of materials in recycling bins are correctly sorted. This improvement in recycling quality aligns with our strategic objective to enhance the value of our recycling stream.	On-going, carbon metric introduced in 23/24	
Our Council	Free green waste Possible emerging policy from the Environment Act 2021	Free no longer on the national agenda. Paid garden waste subscriptions up slightly in 23/24. Business plan	2025- 2026	

		produced with recommendation to keep 18 collections per year as best environmental option. Final decision on fees & charges & frequency of collection to be made by Members as part of the Council's annual fees and charges setting regime.		
Our Council	Enhanced Producer Responsibility Possible emerging policy from the Environment Act 2021	The Partnership is actively preparing for upcoming national waste reforms, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the potential inclusion of Energy from Waste facilities in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028. We are developing strategies to maximize benefits from these changes and minimize potential negative impacts.	2025 - 2026	

16.4 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”.

16.5 Over the past year there has been some additional detail provided in relation to the implications of the Environment Act, with food waste collections becoming mandatory in 2026. This has meant that the Council has had to purchase new, additional waste vehicles, which once delivered to the Council will have an impact on the Council carbon footprint.

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
Our Council	Prepare for and implement separate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with Environment 	Percentage of households with food	Planning 2024-2025, Full Implementation

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
	weekly food waste collections	Act 2021 requirements; reduction in residual waste	waste collections; tonnage of food waste collected	by March 2026 following pilot
Our Council	Improve Recycling Quality and Quantity by Continuing to promote and expand the "Right Thing, Right Bin" campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced contamination in recycling streams; increased recycling rates 	Recycling contamination rates; overall recycling percentage	Ongoing through 2025 and beyond
Our Council	Adapt to Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Changes: [Action] Develop strategies to minimize residual waste sent to Energy from Waste facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced carbon emissions and potential future costs associated with ETS 	Tonnage of residual waste; estimated carbon emissions from waste	Planning 2024-2025, Implementation from 2026 onwards
Our Council	Enhance Waste Prevention and Reuse Initiatives: [Action] Develop and implement a comprehensive waste prevention and reuse program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced overall waste generation; increased reuse of materials 	Total waste per household; participation in reuse schemes	2025- 2026
Our Council	Prepare for Extended Producer Responsibility: Develop systems to accurately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximized financial benefits from EPR scheme; improved data on waste streams 	Accuracy of waste data reporting; EPR payments received	2025 - 2026

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcomes	Measures	Timescales
	measure packaging waste for EPR payments			
Our Council	Prepare for Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Impact: [Action] Assess and plan for the impact of DRS on waste collections and recycling rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smooth transition to DRS implementation; maintained recycling performance 	Changes in recycling composition; overall recycling rates	Planning 2025-2026, Adaptation 2026 onwards

17.0 Next Steps

17.1 We will continue to deliver against our target to be a net zero District by 2050. The Council will deliver this through strong leadership and enabling and will:

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

17.2 As part of the commitment to becoming a net zero Council by 2050, we will meet the following milestones within the next 10 years:

- Have a fully decarbonised fleet by 2035.
- By 2028 the Guildhall will be heated using a renewable energy source.
- By 2030 all other buildings occupied and owned by the Council will have carbon management plans which will include proposals to deliver a fully costed carbon net zero estate.

17.2 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.

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