

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017-22 – PROGRESS UPDATE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on what the council has achieved as a result of implementing our Carbon Management Strategy in 2017 and consider future priorities.
- 1.2 The council's Carbon Management Strategy 2017-2022 (strategy) is our strategy and action plan for reducing carbon emissions and associated energy costs.
- 1.3 We are now halfway through the period covered by our strategy. We are making good progress towards becoming a 'low carbon council'.
- 1.4 For the remaining period covered by the strategy we need to consider how we prioritise our activity to ensure a 'one council' approach to all carbon management priorities.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Carbon Management Strategy 2017-22 (strategy) was approved by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Greener and Cleaner Places in February 2018. The strategy sets out our approach and action plan towards reducing carbon emissions and associated energy, fuel and utility costs. The strategy builds on the Carbon Management Plan 2009-16, which delivered a 40% reduction in carbon emissions and is estimated to have realised overall financial benefits of circa. £12 million through cost reduction and avoidance.
- 2.2 The 2017-2022 strategy scopes out four priorities for action. Priority 1 is '**Low Carbon Council**'. The aim is to reduce our carbon emissions across our estate and operations. Consequently, the strategy includes an ambitious target to reduce our carbon emissions by an additional 25% set against a 2015/16 baseline. It also includes a plan for delivering cumulative financial benefit of circa. £4m in cost reduction and avoidance.
- 2.3 Priority 2 is '**Low Carbon Economy**'. This is intended to promote business resource efficiency and help low carbon businesses grow in North Lincolnshire.

- 2.4 Priority 3 is '**Low Carbon Communities**'. This is intended to support and promote community action for low carbon living.
- 2.5 Finally, priority 4 is '**Low Carbon Transport**'. This is focused on reducing energy use and carbon emissions from transport.
- 2.6 To date, the focus of activity has concentrated on priority 1 - '**Low Carbon Council**'. Details of achievements to date are set out below across all of the four priorities. For the remaining period covered by the strategy we need to consider how we prioritise and organise council-wide activity to ensure an optimised, 'one council' and area wide approach to carbon management.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 That Cabinet welcomes the progress achieved to date in delivery of our Carbon Management Strategy 2017-22 and as a result, the significant progress achieved so far towards becoming a 'low carbon council'.
- 3.2 That Cabinet agrees that work should continue to make our 'low carbon council' performance even better over the remaining period of, and as set out in, the strategy. With this in mind, that we re-set our carbon emissions reduction objectives towards achieving a challenging 'stretch' target of an overall 45% reduction in carbon emissions across our estate and operations for the period 2017-22, thereby representing a 20% increase above our original target and 12% above what we have already achieved.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

#### 4.1 **Low Carbon Council**

- 4.1.1 As at March 2019, our total annual carbon emissions were 12,289 tonnes. This means the council had reduced its carbon emissions by 33%, set against the strategy target of 25% by 2022. This is relative to the baseline year 2015-16 and is calculated in accordance with the standard industry methodology, as used previously. It takes account of National Grid supplied electricity being derived from cleaner sources.
- 4.1.2 Significant reductions in emissions from street lighting (4,435 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>), electricity use in our buildings (particularly lighting, 663 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>) and an increase in the use of energy from renewable sources (672 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>) have been key in achieving this 33% reduction.
- 4.1.3 Carbon emissions relating to our fleet and business related travel have also reduced. Further improvements in this area could be a focus of activity for the remaining period of the strategy.
- 4.1.4 Further, the council has avoided in excess of £1.3m in fossil fuel based energy costs. We have achieved this primarily by reducing our building and street lighting related energy consumption.

## **4.2 Low Carbon Economy, Communities and Transport.**

4.2.1 The council supports businesses within the area, including attracting inward investment. We offer specialist carbon management information, advice and guidance to businesses on request. This contributes to increasing the competitiveness and environmental performance of our commercial sector. The main source of resources for any interventions is the Greater Lincolnshire Smart Energy Grant.

4.2.2 Further, the development of our new Local Plan is taking into account carbon management, energy efficiency and sustainable/resilient environmental measures. The aim is to strengthen the 'low carbon' characteristics of our economy, communities and transport.

4.2.3 North Lincolnshire remains vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As such, taking action to achieving a low carbon economy, communities and transport is an important area of work to consider. Positive action has the clear potential to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve the overall competitiveness of our economy.

4.2.4 The appendix to this paper provides further detail and examples of progress achieved to date on the priorities set out in our strategy.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 Reducing the carbon footprint of the council achieves significant financial benefits as described above and in the attached appendix.

5.2 Rationalising our property portfolio as part of our work to become a 'low carbon council' delivers both environmental and financial benefits, while at the same time improving the quality of services we offer to our customers

## **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The positive environmental impacts of our action is set out above and in the attached appendix. These impacts make a significant contribution to our Grow the Economy, Keeping People Safe and Well and Enabling Communities to Flourish priorities.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable

## **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Not applicable.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Cabinet welcomes the progress achieved to date in delivery of our Carbon Management Strategy 2017-22 and the as a result, the significant progress achieved so far towards becoming a 'low carbon council'.
- 9.2 That Cabinet agrees that work should continue to make our 'low carbon council' performance even better over the remaining period of, and as set out in, the strategy. With this in mind, that we re-set our carbon emissions reduction objectives towards achieving a challenging 'stretch' target of an overall 45% reduction in carbon emissions across our estate and operations for the period 2017-22, thereby representing a 20% increase above our original target and 12% above what we have already achieved.
- 9.3 That officers from across the council are encouraged to consider the contributions they can make towards achieving the stretch target.

### **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

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#### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**

- North Lincolnshire Council Carbon Management Strategy 2017-2022
- Minute 20 (20) of the Safer, Greener and Cleaner Places Cabinet Member, dated 28 February 2018

## Appendix 1 –

### Progress on Priority 1 (Low Carbon Council) and other Priority Areas Identified in the Strategy.

#### **Street Lighting**

Cross council work has been progressed to develop a Business Case for the LED Street Lighting Scheme. As a result of this Business Case being approved and work subsequently being implemented, by March 2019 our council had installed over 21,000 LED lanterns. This has **delivered total cost savings of approximately £600k** and massive **carbon reduction in excess of 4,300 tonnes** per year.

#### **LEDs in Buildings**

The retrofitting of LEDs in the WorkWell Transformation of Church Square House has saved over £15k in energy costs. Energy Management also helped secure funding and implement improvements on the Riddings Pool/Library refurbishment. A complete LED refurbishment has been implemented at Wootton School. We have also worked with several other schools including Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School, Althorpe and Keadby Primary School, Scunthorpe C of E School and Belton All Saints Church of England Primary School to arrange major LED replacement schemes. Our Energy Management team has worked with Salix Finance to reserve funding for a Salix loan to retrofit LEDs in all our Council buildings and schools. Our work in this area is **reducing our carbon emissions by over 600 tonnes** per year.

#### **Renewable Energy Technologies and Battery Storage**

Our council continues to drive innovative sustainable technologies. Our Energy Management team has led cross council work to secure funding for, and support the continued application of, renewable technologies at many of our key sites. Projects have included biomass boilers at Axholme North Leisure Centre and Riddings Pool, solar panel systems at Baysgarth Leisure Centre and Church Square House and air source heat pump systems at Church Square House Extension, Belton Visitor Centre and Bottesford Visitor Centre. These renewable energy technologies are helping us **save over 670 tonnes per year in carbon emissions**. Additionally, as a direct of adopting these technologies since 2017 we have **generated over £640,000 in income** via the Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed In Tariff arrangements.

Feasibility work is underway on the potential benefits of battery storage and this will be explored further during the period covered by the strategy.

#### **Building Rationalisation**

The energy efficiency of buildings is always a key influence when deciding which buildings we should continue to operate and develop or disinvest from. Decisions by the council to cease operations from the Civic Centre, former Scunthorpe Market and Glanford House will all yield significant carbon and energy cost savings – and the regeneration of these sites and buildings will ensure the economic growth of North Lincolnshire is more sustainable, cleaner and greener.

As a result of collective activity to use our buildings more effectively, including taking steps to be more energy efficient in how we use our buildings, we are **now saving over 260 tonnes of carbon emissions per year**. This is linked to our asset management processes and the emerging Corporate Landlord concept and this saving is forecast to increase.

### **Promotion of Energy Awareness in Schools, Businesses and the Wider Community**

This support is a key part of our core offer to schools via an SLA. As noted in the main body of this report, the council supports businesses within the area, including attracting inward investment. Where our Economic Development Team identify a need, we provide specialist carbon management information, advice and guidance to businesses. This contributes to increasing the competitiveness and environmental performance of our economy.

### **Biomass Pellet and Water Frameworks**

We have completed 3 major Utility Framework procurements for biomass pellets, water and electricity. This will generate at least **£50,000 savings in management costs** annually and ensure we get the best prices we can from the market at all times. This is a key contributory factor towards the financial sustainability of the council as over the period of the strategy, market predictions are suggesting gas will increase in cost by a predicted 35% and Electricity by 47%.

### **Business and Community Energy Action Plans**

As noted above, our council supports businesses within the area, including attracting inward investment. Where our Economic Development Team identify a need, we provide specialist carbon management information, advice and guidance to businesses. We can help North Lincolnshire's businesses and potentially community groups access funding from the £9.2m Greater Lincolnshire Smart Energy project. This funding will be available up until 2021.

### **Low Carbon Transport**

The council has **achieved a reduction in annual carbon emissions from our fleet and business related travel by 226 tonnes**, taking our annual emissions from 3,221 tonnes to 2,995 tonnes. Major factors in this in achievement are:

- The replacement of over 40 vehicles in our fleet resulting in less pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and diesel exhaust particulates being emitted in vehicle exhaust gases.
- The replacement of fossil fuelled vehicles in our fleet with clean, electrically powered vehicles.
- An overall increase in the efficient use of council vehicles – less unnecessary movements, less idling engines, actively managed and remotely monitored vehicle use etc, all of which are enhanced by good fleet management practices.

At an area wide level, our council will be promoting a clean growth strategy. The Carbon Strategy has influenced work on our Infrastructure Plan and the Draft Local Plan to take into account policies that adapt and mitigate against Climate Change. Allied to this, cross council work is being progressed to create an Electric Vehicle Charging Policy for our Local Plan – this is aimed at ensuring North Lincolnshire has a good network of charging points via new homes and future commercial developments.