

## **CABINET**

<b>DATE</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Philip Jackson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Carolina Borgstrom, Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Our Green Future Annual Report
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	CB 03/24/05

### **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

This report provides an annual update on the following three strategic plans: -

- NELC Waste Management Strategy
- NELC Carbon Roadmap
- NELC Natural Asset Plan

The Waste Management Strategy supports the Council's outcomes for Sustainable Communities promoting and encouraging a recycling culture, in line with the circular economy model. It also contributes to its priorities of Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities, by ensuring we have a robust Waste Management Strategy and a fit for purpose, cost effective and efficient waste collection service to all wards in the borough that aligns with central government initiatives.

The Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan support the council's outcomes for Investing in Our Future and Economic Recovery and Growth, by ensuring that our residents benefit from a green economy and a high-quality environment; enjoy good health and wellbeing and live in a safe environment, where they can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This annual report sets out the council's aspirations and progress in relation to the following three strategies during 2023:

- North East Lincolnshire Council's Waste Management Strategy (2020)
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon Roadmap (2021)
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Natural Assets Plan (2021)

Since setting out our ambition in 2020 to reduce the environmental impact caused by our household waste, the authority continues to increase the quantity and quality of recyclable material, reduce miles travelled for disposal and minimise waste sent to landfill. Additional plans are in place to deliver further improvements to progress towards government targets by 2035.

In 2023, the Environment Board continued to monitor our progress to carbon neutrality on a quarterly basis against the Carbon Roadmap and the Natural Assets Plan.

Significant progress has been achieved in relation to carbon reduction, with an estimated decrease of 3,007 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 4 years saving, from our 2019 baseline. This estimate is based on the successful completion of decarbonisation targets outlined in the progress table of Appendix 2.

Our target of becoming a carbon net zero Council by 2030 is an ambitious one. Through innovative approaches and carbon offsetting measures we continue to identify opportunities to support the reduction of net carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from the 2023 figure of 3,504 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) to 0 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) by 2030.

In seeking to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 we aim to empower local business and communities to achieve their own carbon targets and climate initiatives.

Significant progress has also been made on the workstreams within our Natural Assets Plan to enhance and protect our natural environment. Whilst legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision are not yet forthcoming, preparatory work is taking place across the organisation with partners and agencies to achieve a sustainable future for our Place.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Receives and notes the annual updates for each plan as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 and its contribution towards delivering net zero by 2030.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan was developed to support the 'Vision for Our Green Future'.

Our aspirations are for North East Lincolnshire to be:

- A thriving low carbon economy powered by sustainable energy.

- A circular economy, where businesses and residents reject the throw-away society, reducing, re-using and recycling.
- A place where residents live in energy efficient, healthy homes and where it is enjoyable, accessible, and affordable for everyone to travel sustainably every day.
- A nature rich place, where wildlife abounds, and everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives.

North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) has set out its vision to become Carbon net Zero by 2030, this report and the escalation of the target will ensure that we: -

- Place environmental impact at heart of decision making and procurement.
- Transition our fleet to sustainable fuels.
- Energy Efficient Street Lighting.
- Energy Efficient Public Buildings.
- Encourage staff behaviour change and a green culture.

## **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

1.1 On the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Cabinet approved and adopted NELCs Waste Management Strategy. The strategy included a commitment to improve recycling to reach government targets of 55% recycling by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The strategy also sets out the Council's ambition to move towards a circular economy, with increase in re-use, reduction in waste disposal and reduction in waste destined for landfill.

1.2 On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Cabinet approved and adopted the following:-

- North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon Roadmap and action plan;
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Natural Assets Plan.

This included formal adoption of the target for the organisation to become carbon neutral by 2040 and for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2050.

1.3 All three Cabinet decisions included a request for an annual report on all strategies to be brought back to Cabinet by the then Executive Director Environment, Economy, and Resources. The appendices to this report provide that update.

1.4 The actions within the strategies have been prioritised as short, medium, and long term and as such, some actions will not yet have started.

- 1.5 In December 2022 a Motion was approved by Full Council for a further commitment to reinforce and accelerate the borough's contribution to tackling the effects of climate change by committing to faster progress with a view to achieving a net zero carbon impact by the Council and our assets by 2030.
- 1.6 The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to engage with partners, businesses, and communities in order to achieve net zero carbon, across the borough as soon as practically possible to the Council's own accelerated 2030 aspiration.
- 1.7 To further facilitate our net zero ambition, it was resolved at Full Council in December 2022 to commit to embark on an ambitious property rationalisation programme which would deliver efficiency savings, reduce the carbon footprint, support new ways of working, drive footfall in Grimsby Town Centre and generate capital receipts which can be applied to support the wider transformation programme.

### **Waste Management Strategy**

- 1.8 The NELC Waste Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2020 and will run from 2020 to 2035 with the aim to rank this Council amongst the best in the country for using our resources sustainably, making changes that support local contractors, manufacturers, retailers and residents to produce less waste and recycle more.
- 1.9 The aspirations in the Strategy are as follows:
  - **Resilient:** We will ensure efficient and reliable collections of waste and recycling from all households, which are responsive to future changes in legislation and local needs.
  - **Customer friendly:** We will provide a waste collection method, which is easy for households to use and encourages residents to recycle more.
  - **Environmentally responsible:** We will ensure our arrangements for collection and disposal of waste are designed and operated in a way that reduce our environmental impact as far as practicable. We will aim to achieve reduction in emissions from disposal, treatment, and transport, but also from the production of the materials long before those materials are discarded as waste via waste reduction.
  - **Education focused:** We will help and encourage learning about sustainable waste management by developing stronger relationships with schools and the community.
  - **Collaborative:** We will work with neighbouring authorities and our business partners to explore better service delivery and contract management for waste disposal.

- **Responsible commissioners and effective contract managers:** We will maximise the use of and value from our current contract and plan for effective commissioning for the future.

## **Progress**

- 1.10 There has been an overall reduction in domestic waste within the borough since the Waste Management Strategy 2020 was produced. This reduction is in line with the national strategy to minimise household waste and to create a circular economy.
- 1.11 There has also been an increase in recycling rates since the adoption of the 2020 strategy and the implementation of the Council's recycling offer, demonstrating significant progress towards the national recycling target for 2025. This in turn is supported by an overall decrease in the percentage of waste being used by our energy from waste (EfW) plant. We have continued to keep our waste to landfill rates below the 10% national target and for the first time, achieving 4 consecutive months of no waste to landfill at the end of 2022. Our continued work to increase the percentage of waste recycled, converting it to energy when it is not feasible and reducing waste to landfill shows our long-term commitment to achieving a circular economy across the borough.
- 1.12 In our 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that government would introduce legislation to mandate local authorities to provide a weekly food waste collection to residents. The council therefore introduced a weekly food waste collection pilot scheme in 5 locations.
- 1.13 Feedback on the pilot scheme was positive, with a reduction rate of waste in residual bins of 50 tonnes a month as a result. The scheme also provided valuable data to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announcing mandatory food waste collections to all households must be in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- 1.14 Defra have announced as part of the new statutory implementation date for food waste, that Local Authorities will be provided with new burdens funding. This will include funding for upfront costs and ongoing operational costs. It is not yet known how much these new burdens funding will amount to.
- 1.15 A detailed report on progress can be found in the appendix 1 to this report under the header NELC Waste Management Strategy Update.

## **Carbon Roadmap**

- 1.16 In 2019 a climate emergency was declared where NELC confirmed its ambition to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, while also bringing new jobs to the local area.
- 1.17 Following the climate emergency declaration, the council, supported by our regeneration partner Equans, carried out an in-depth review of current policies, procedures, and activities. The review identified our current carbon impact, the wider emissions in our Borough and set out an approach to identify opportunities to reduce our own carbon emissions as well as contribute to mitigation work and reduction of carbon emissions across North East Lincolnshire.
- 1.18 Our Net Zero Carbon Roadmap outlines the work areas required to reduce carbon emissions from our own activities and areas where we can enable and inspire others to reduce their own carbon emissions. The focus is on the following workstreams:
  1. Low carbon estate (our buildings).
  2. Low carbon fleet (our vehicles).
  3. Low carbon street lighting.
  4. Climate-conscious decision-making.
  5. Climate-conscious purchasing (goods and services).
  6. Climate conscious behaviours (of our staff and those who work for us).

The following 6 additional workstreams drive change and encourage stakeholders:

7. Climate-conscious community: by facilitating and encouraging community engagement and sustainability actions.
8. Low carbon commercial buildings: working as an enabler to ensure sufficient support is in place for businesses to increase sustainability.
9. Low carbon transport: through policy change, network investment and partnership working we want to enable a local transition to more sustainable travel.
10. Low carbon industry: by supporting our partners and industry in achieving industrial decarbonisation, including carbon capture and hydrogen economy.
11. Enable low carbon new homes-through our role as a policy maker and planning authority.
12. Climate-conscious improvements to older homes, by supporting our partners and residents to improve their homes to become more sustainable.

## **Progress**

- 1.19 Progress has been made on each of the six workstreams required to reduce emissions from our own activities. This includes the implementation of the property rationalisation programme, a successful bid to One Public Estate (OPE) to develop a pipeline of projects, continued use of white diesel for our fleet which has reduced emissions of non-electric vehicles, and an assessment of our street lighting assets to identify opportunities to introduce additional energy efficiency control measures. Progress has also been made on those workstreams that seek to educate, change behaviours, and support decision making to ensure that climate and environmental impact is considered.
- 1.20 Progress has been made on the six workstreams that facilitate, encourage, and support others to reduce their carbon emissions. This includes incorporating Net Zero into the business engagement plan for our commercial estate, and successfully securing funding from the UK shared prosperity fund to continue energy saving support for local business.
- 1.21 A detailed report on progress for each of these workstreams can be found in appendix 2 to this report under the header NELC Carbon Roadmap Update.

## **Natural Assets Plan**

- 1.22 North East Lincolnshire is a place of rich, unique nature and heritage. As the global climate change crisis becomes more real to us, there is a recognition that the pressures that humans are putting on our natural environment exceeds the limits it can cope with. Significant change is required in how we live our lives and manage our business to ensure North East Lincolnshire remains a nature-rich place, where wildlife abounds, and to ensure everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives, with evidence of sustainable ecology, environment, and food systems.
- 1.23 Our Natural Assets Plan sets out the council's aspiration and strategic action plan for the next five years to protect and enhance our natural assets, drive local change, and encourage all stakeholders in the Borough to work together in achieving the government's target of biodiversity net gain, flood prevention, improved air and water quality and increased tree canopy cover.
- 1.24 Improvements to protect and enhance our environment are outlined in the following 8 workstreams:
1. Planning our future land use
  2. Managing our open spaces
  3. Biodiversity and special sites
  4. Trees and woodlands
  5. Water management
  6. Improving air quality

7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing
8. Education, involvement, and enjoyment

## **Progress**

- 1.25 Progress has been made on our short to medium term goals for all 8 workstreams. This includes preparatory work and officer training on biodiversity net gain in preparation for the introduction of new legislation in February 2024. The development and adoption by Cabinet of NELC's first Tree Strategy, demonstrating our commitment to managing existing tree stock and increasing our tree canopy cover. Works have been carried out on the delivery of sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) across Grimsby and Immingham and the designation of a new national nature reserve.
- 1.26 A detailed report on progress for each of the above workstreams can be found in appendix 3 to this report under the header NELC Natural Assets Plan Update.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- 2.1 The Environment Act 2021 placed new statutory requirements on local authorities to protect and enhance their local environment. The Our Green Future suite of reports sets out the strategic direction to fulfil these requirements and aligns climate action with our other strategic aims.
- 2.2 There is the strategic risk of not meeting our targets, which will be controlled and managed through the corporate risk register.
- 2.3 The Equalities Impact Assessment for the original strategy highlighted that we need to ensure that information about climate change and carbon reduction is suitable for a wide range of audiences. We also need to be mindful that climate change is likely to impact unequally across our population. Issues relating to deprivation will be important to consider when assessing adaptations to climate change and introducing lower carbon solutions.

## **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The option for NELC to not be carbon neutral by 2030 has been considered, however this would unnecessarily delay improvements to the environment for the benefit of our residents.

## **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The ongoing delivery of each of these strategies will support the Council's relationships with individuals, communities and partner organisations and



demonstrate our commitment to work together to meet our shared aims of a sustainable future.

- 4.2 Public consultation on the strategic aims and delivery focus has been completed and return an overwhelming support for local climate and environmental action. We also plan to have a better understanding through the responses to Our Place Our Future Survey 2024.

## **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 Approval of the strategy supports the Council's Financial Strategy by aligning resources to local priorities.
- 5.2 There are no immediate revenue implications for the update, however delivery of the strategies will require capital investment. The financial impact will be considered in detail for each decision taken.
- 5.3 By setting out our strategic aspiration for environmental action, we will enhance our opportunities to secure grant assistance or other external funding to assist with environmental improvements, nature recovery, flood prevention, flood mitigation and biodiversity net gain.

## **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

Our environmental strategies aim to improve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Children and young people are especially concerned about our environment, and it is essential to engage with them on environmental matters. Our various workstreams will create opportunities to engage with children and young people.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy underpins the council's environmental priorities by:

- Leading North East Lincolnshire towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure.
- Working towards a low carbon North East Lincolnshire that is prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change.
- Recognising and realising the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality environment and protection of nature and wildlife.

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

The initial proposal for the three strategies was presented to both Economy and Communities Scrutiny Panels. This report will not therefore be presented to a Scrutiny Panel.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst there are no immediate revenue implications arising from this update, there will be financial implications associated with delivering the strategies. It is anticipated that grant assistance or other external funding will be made available to assist with certain environmental improvements which will minimise the impact on revenue and capital budgets going forward.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications immediately arising as the report seeks merely to update Cabinet as to progress generally.

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct HR implications contained within this report.

## **12. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy set out in this report will impact on all wards in the Borough.

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[NELC Waste Management Strategy](#)

[NELC Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)

[NELC Natural Assets Plan](#)

Vision for Our Green Future

## **14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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**COUNCILLOR PHILIP JACKSON**

**LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY, NET ZERO, SKILLS  
AND HOUSING**

## **Appendix 1**

### **North East Lincolnshire Council Waste Strategy Update**

#### **Residual Waste**

Residual waste is the waste that residents do not segregate for recycling and in NEL it is used to produce energy. The Council has continued to make progress on residual waste. Overall, total residual waste has largely remained static in the last year. NELC has seen an overall reduction in residual waste produced within the borough since the 2020 waste strategy was published. Marginal increases in residual waste can result from house building, with the number of properties increasing year on year.

An overall reduction in residual waste collected is in line with the national strategy to minimise waste produced by households and create a circular economy in England. With kerbside residual waste reducing in the borough from 41,382.6 tonnes in 2020 to 36749.77 in 2023, it demonstrates the council's continued commitment to being environmentally responsible and helping residents where possible to reduce or recycle the waste that they produce. Consistent communications since the publishing of the waste strategy have helped residents reduce their waste and manage it in an environmentally responsible way, and the council is committed to continuing this work, to reduce and minimise domestic waste across the borough wherever practicable and feasible to do so. Furthermore, the council has continued to ensure that all of our municipal waste is disposed of and managed within the U.K.

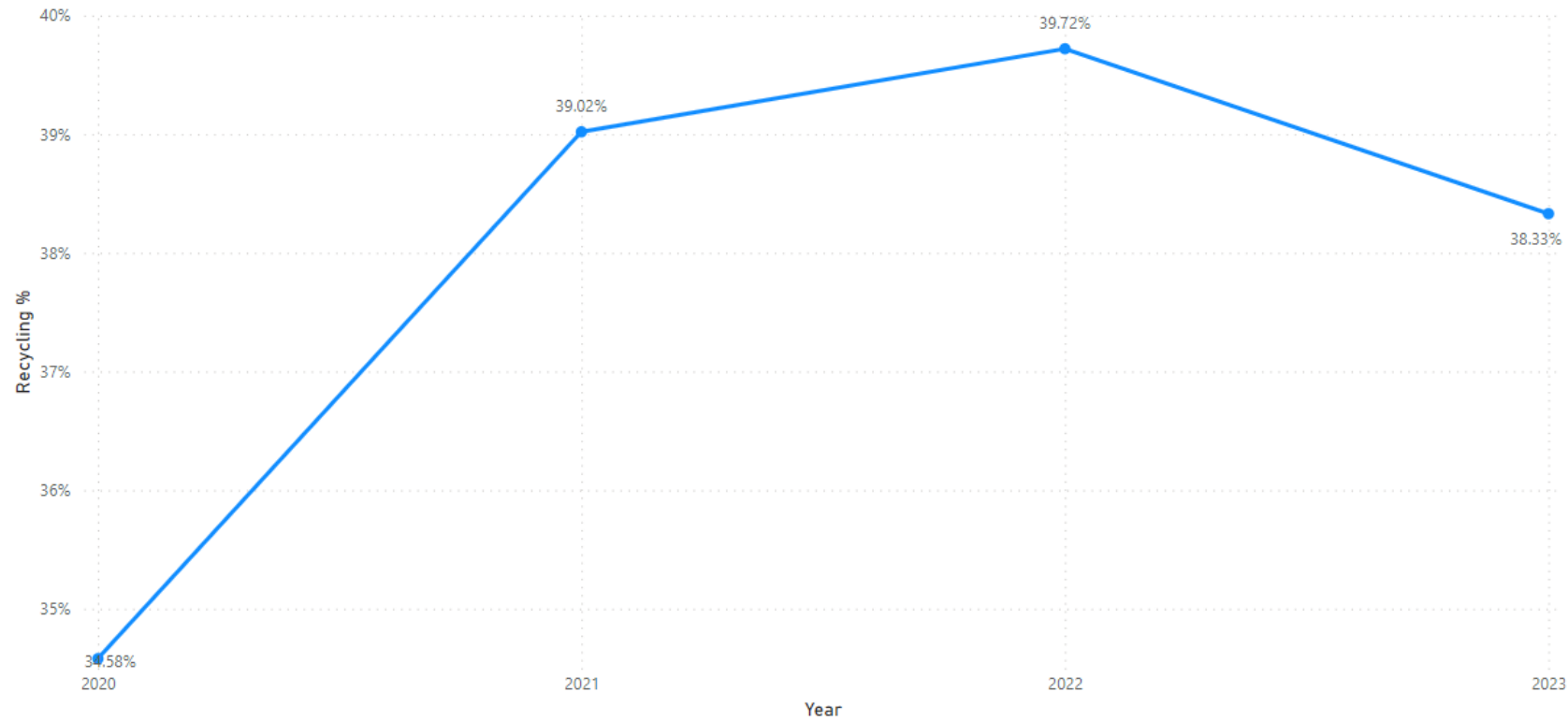
#### **Recycling Rate**

Since the adoption of the NELC waste management strategy (2020-2035), the council has made significant progress towards meeting our key national targets. One of our key national targets is to achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The graph at Figure 1 below shows NELC's progress since 2020 in our recycling rate and the implementation of the council's 2020 recycling offer, which saw an increase in recycling rates, initially rising by 5.14% between 2020 and 2022, followed by a small decrease of 1.39% between 2022 and 2023. The small decrease in recycling rate in 2023 could, in part, be due to the pause in food waste collections, diverting food waste into residual waste bins and the brief suspension in recycling collections over the summer of 2023. With food waste collections due to be implemented nationally in 2026, we hope to see a positive impact on recycling rates in NEL.

While NEL is still some way off our 2025 national recycling target at 38.33%, the most recent national statistics for recycling rates in England show an average national rate of 44.1% in 2021. Nationally the recycling rate was down by 1.5% from 2019 to 2020, with only a 0.1% increase in recycling rate between 2020 and 2021. By comparison NELC's recycling rate has been increasing since 2016, with a massive increase between 2020 and 2021; and while we still have work to do to increase our recycling rate, this demonstrates significant progress in our recycling rate compared to the trends seen in the national picture.

Figure 1

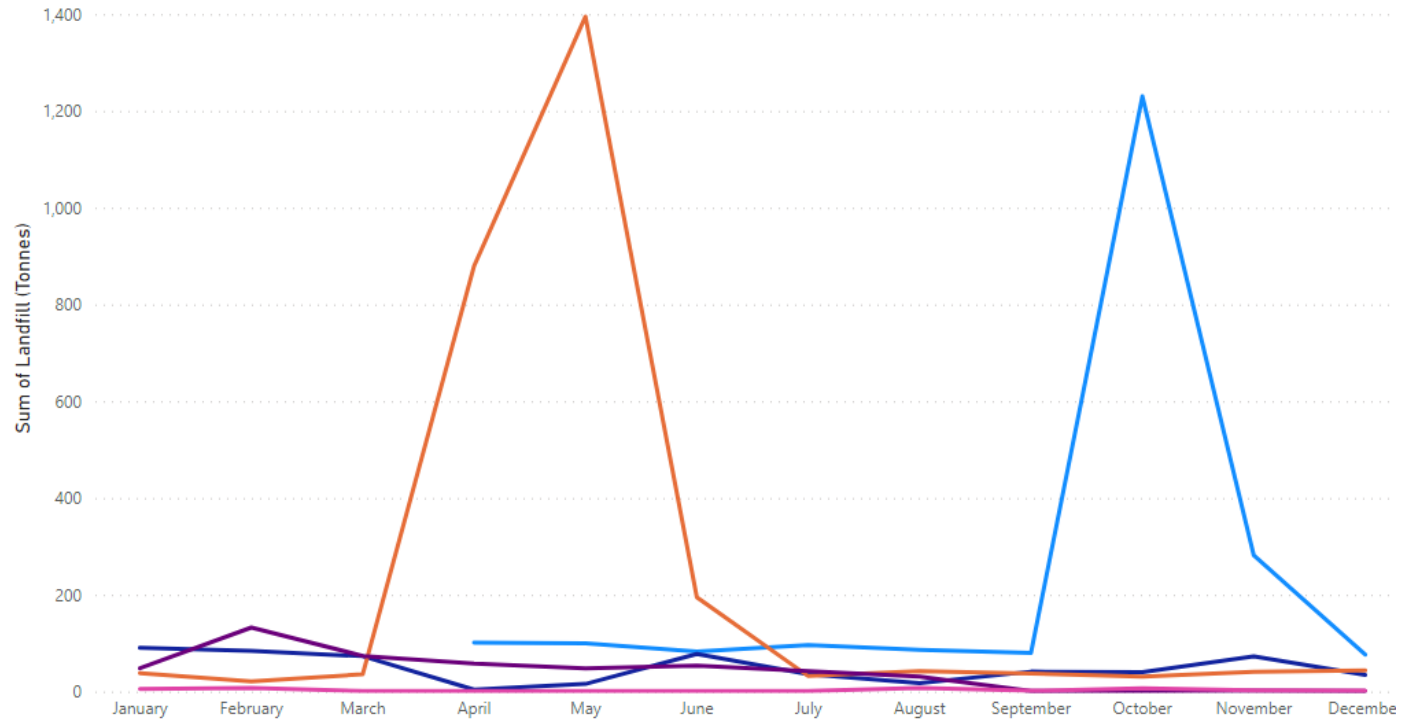
Recycling % by Year



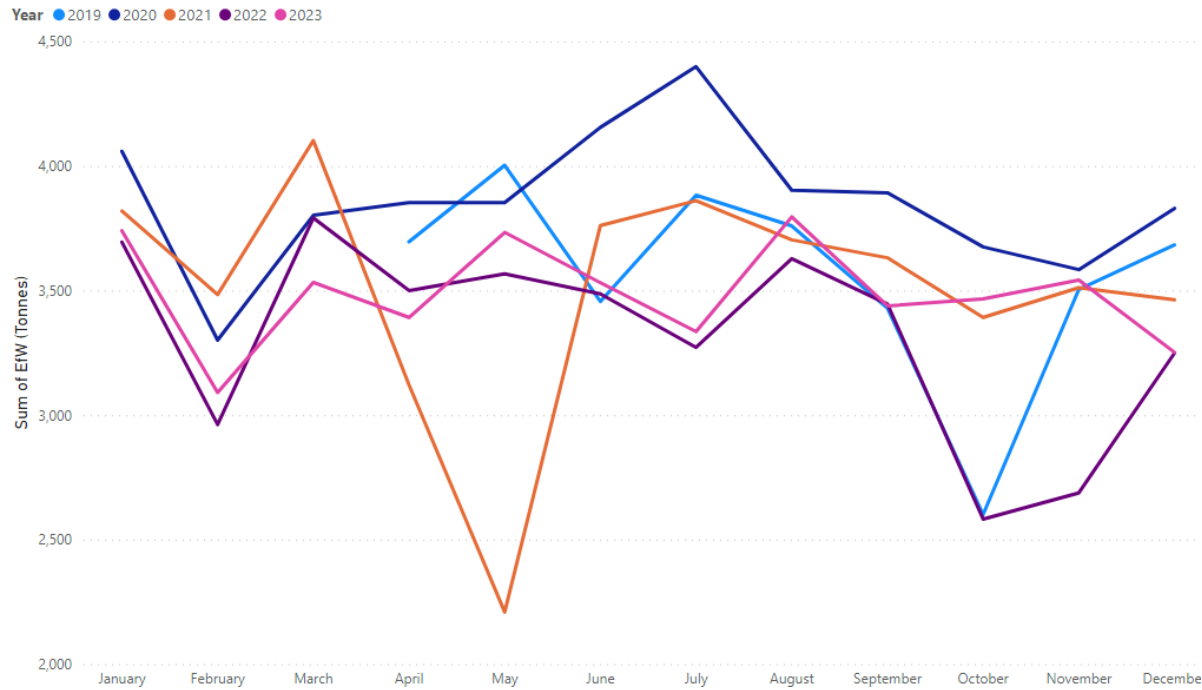
Waste to Landfill

We have continued to keep levels of waste to landfill low. The National target for waste to landfill is 10% of all waste produced by 2030. NELC had already achieved this target by the 2020 waste strategy review and in each year following the publication of the waste strategy. The increases in waste to landfill observed in the Figure 2 below during April and May of 2021 were due to a scheduled energy from waste plant shutdown and work has been ongoing to minimise the impact of this in future. At the end of 2022 NELC achieved 4 consecutive months of no waste to landfill for the first time, showing our continued work and progress to minimise our waste to landfill as much as is feasibly possible. 2023 saw the lowest year ever of residual waste sent to landfill, as evidenced in the graph below. Our continued work on reducing our waste to landfill shows the councils long term commitment to achieving a circular economy within the borough.

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023



## Energy from Waste



As we try to move towards a circular economy and increase the percentage of waste that we recycle, we have seen an overall decrease in the percentage of waste that is being used by our Energy from Waste (EfW) plant. Our EfW percentage has decreased from 64.58% in 2020 to 58.37% in 2022, an overall decrease of 6.21% over a two year period. Our EfW rate increased slightly in 2023. However, when accounting for our decrease in recycling rates, this can account for our increase in EfW rate. Overall NELC is continuing a trend towards a circular economy and is committed to ensuring where it is not feasible for us to recycle material that we convert as much of our residual waste as possible to energy, minimising our waste to landfill. It is possible that our EfW rates are likely to decrease further as we move towards meeting the national recycling target by 2035.

## Food Waste

In the 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that the UK government would bring in legislation making it mandatory for Local Authorities in England to provide weekly food waste collections to residents. This expectation was based on the 2018 national waste strategy which outlined this ambition for national government. To prepare for this, the council has undertaken a food waste collection pilot at the locations outlined in the table below.

	<b>Location Guide</b>	<b>Ward</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Humberston	New Waltham and Humberston
<b>Tuesday</b>	Campden Crescent	Sydney Sussex
<b>Wednesday</b>	St Michael's Road	Yarborough
<b>Thursday</b>	Talbot Road	Immingham and Haborough
<b>Friday</b>	Augusta Street	Park

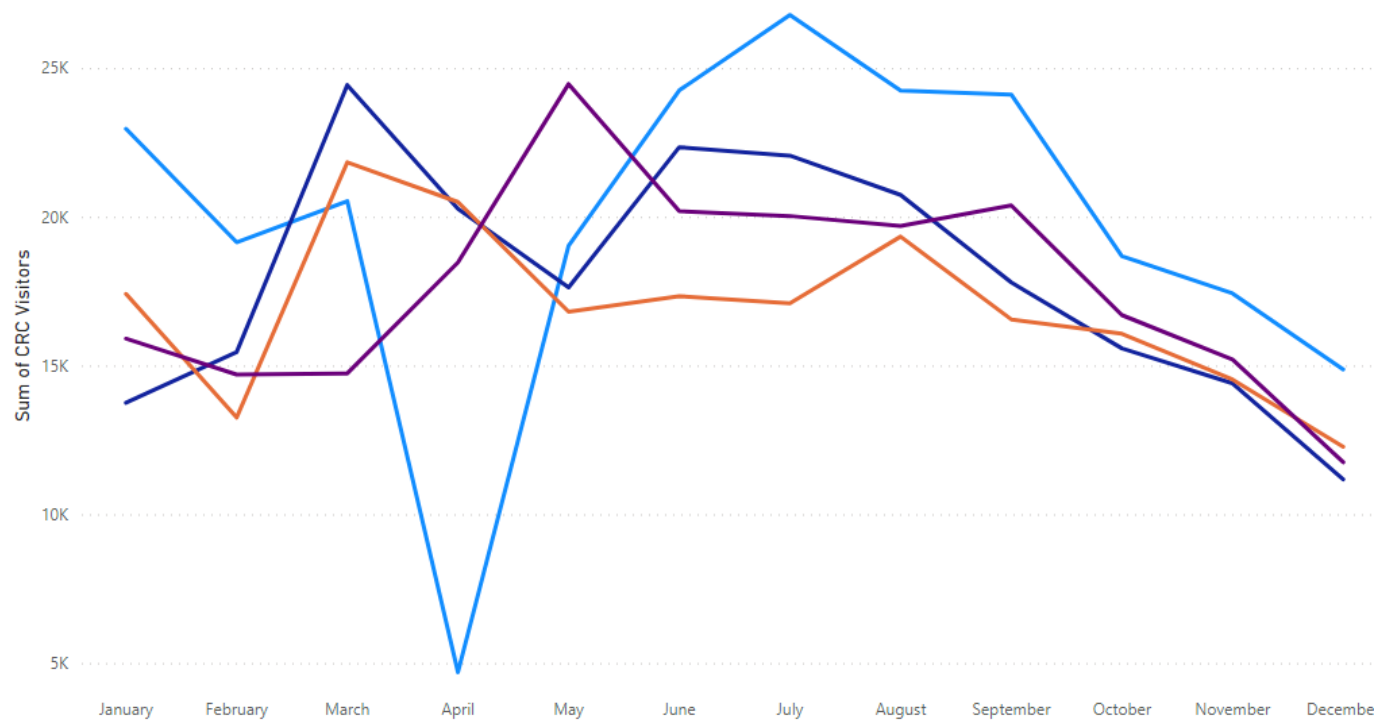
The pilot scheme provided residents with a 23 litre outdoor bin, a 5 litre indoor caddy, a supply of caddy liners and an information booklet. The collections were carried out weekly and we received positive feedback from the pilot scheme. The trial scheme was paused in June 2022, with valuable data collected and shared with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), who have used the trial to help inform other councils on how to prepare for national food waste collections.

Since the pausing the food waste Pilot Scheme, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced the introduction of mandatory food waste collections by March 2026. We are still waiting for more information from DEFRA on when council will be provided with new burdens funding to implement authority wide weekly food waste collections.

## Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)

2023 saw an increase in the number of people visiting our Community Recycling Centre sites (as seen in the graph below) when compared with 2022. The sites provide a valuable service for residents to dealing with occasional increases in waste and recycling or dispose of unwanted items that are not suitable for the wheeled bin collection.

Year ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023





## Appendix 2

### North East Lincolnshire Council – Carbon Roadmap

1. Low carbon estate (our buildings)			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, historic energy and water data was gathered for each building and used to calculate our baseline carbon emissions. This baseline was used to determine where we need to focus our efforts. Our buildings were identified as having potential for energy efficiency savings and as well as green power and thermal energy solutions. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Technical assessments for a further nine of our buildings, supporting an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation (grant) Scheme through Salix. The scheme focuses on heat decarbonisation whilst taking a ‘whole building’ approach.</p> <p>We’re currently in the process of implementing a property rationalisation programme, which will reduce our overall carbon emissions. Further progress to be made in 2024.</p> <p>A successful bid made to One Public Estate (OPE) to look at further pipeline funding opportunities,</p>	<p>Our emission baseline and energy dashboards enable us to identify projects ready for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>Rationalising our estate allows for decarbonisation works and whole building improvements to fewer buildings, reducing the cost of decarbonising our whole estate.</p> <p>As regeneration projects come to fruition there will be further opportunities to explore low carbon technology within our buildings.</p>	<p>We have competing pressures for capital funding and this may delay some energy improvements to our estate, unless grant opportunities can be identified. Grants are often oversubscribed.</p> <p>There are often high levels of technical information needed to support these projects which must be prepared in advance of funding opportunities being identified.</p>	<p>Continue exploring the opportunity to further include buildings into the Team Energy Database to be populated into the Energy Dashboards.</p> <p>Explore a decarbonisation capital programme supported by some revenue feasibility funds for our estate.</p>

specifically targeted at Alexandra Dock, Grimsby Library and other Town Centre Estate.			
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**2. Low Carbon Fleet (our vehicles)**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, our fleet and recorded business mileage accounted for 28.7% of our total emissions, with 26.6% of our emissions from fleet alone. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Continued use of white diesel fuel for vehicles that are not electric yet, as there are fewer emissions.</p> <p>We have 33 fully electric vehicles in total.</p> <p>Implementing an amended fleet capital programme, which will see gradual transition to electric at all end of life fleet purchases, dependent on market viability and availability.</p>	<p>Remodelling the central depot at Doughty Road provides opportunities for solar PV vehicle charging bays as well as opportunities for increased use of pooled vehicles from a central location.</p> <p>Modelling data provides evidence that the increased cost to purchase some EVs can mostly be offset by future savings on maintenance and fuel.</p>	<p>The challenge of finding suitable and affordable EV alternatives for specialist types of vehicles that will be available on the market in line with our end of life fleet purchases in our amended fleet capital programme may delay the EV rollout.</p> <p>Availability from suppliers for EVs is another challenge, timeframes for production of EVs are increasing, which may lead to delays to our fleet capital programme.</p>	<p>Begin engagement on vehicle utilisation within teams to understand trends in usage data.</p> <p>Explore steps for a vehicle rationalisation project in which we can capitalise on the benefits of rationalising our estate by identifying opportunities to share fleet across the organisation, reducing the overall numbers in operation and the cost of replacement.</p>

**3. Low Carbon Street Lighting**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, electrical consumption from street lighting, seasonal lighting and other electrical supplies and equipment made up 20.8% of our carbon footprint with 40.9% of</p>	<p>The switch to LED lighting for most of our street lighting has been successful, with further opportunity to explore whether we can seek external funding to</p>	<p>Some of the remaining non-LED lighting is on leased land and therefore cannot be switched over to LED without leaseholder agreement.</p>	<p>Engagement with private leaseholders on opportunities to switch to LED lighting.</p>

<p>electricity kWh used. The position in 2021 was that 94% of our street lighting was LED, with the electricity for street lighting coming from a renewable source.</p> <p>Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Completing an assessment on opportunities to introduce additional energy efficiency control measures. There was careful consideration to ensure no risk to public safety and recommendations of opportunities have been identified.</p> <p>Continued to convert specialist lighting to LED where market developments have allowed.</p>	<p>modernise remaining lights to reduce the overall fuel consumption even further.</p> <p>There are opportunities for LED lamps in old fittings to be upgraded to new LED, this would further decrease emissions.</p>		
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**4. Climate Conscious Decision Making**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of decision making is important however we recognise that it is often difficult to quantify and imagine. We need to use the growing expertise amongst staff to support with this process. This includes the creation of a decision-making toolkit to support decision makers.</p>	<p>The impact of our green agenda can be widened by considering the environmental impact of all decisions.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to build in mitigation measures when concerns and unidentified consequences of some decisions are raised.</p>	<p>Achieving the balance between financial security and environmental sustainability can be challenging. We need to encourage and support people to consider the whole life cost in decision making and ensure those decisions are being made at the early onset of any project, not solely at the approval stage.</p>	<p>Finalise the decision making toolkit based on feedback received during discussions with teams and from the trial.</p> <p>Identify the training and guidance that best supports the implementation of this toolkit.</p>

<p>Progress on this workstream includes: -</p> <p>Delivered presentations to Leadership and Extended Senior Leadership to improve awareness of our environmental ambitions.</p> <p>Identified opportunities to embed climate conscious decision making into our existing practices, i.e inductions, existing e-learning, future training and e-learning programmes and in our governance process. Sustainability is now a consideration for cases submitted to Business Development Group (BDG).</p> <p>Through trials of the draft toolkit and research into climate conscious decision making, the toolkit has been further developed to better suit our decision making. This will be rolled out as a guide to assist the training above.</p>			
<b>5. Climate Conscious Purchasing (goods and services)</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of goods and services we purchase is identified as a key milestone to achieving our net zero targets. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p>	<p>Procurement can be used as an instrument for our environmental and carbon ambitions, as a route to our supply chain. We have procurement networks where we can share ideas to help us develop low carbon procurement strategies.</p>	<p>We need to ensure that the advocacy for low carbon goods supports the fundamental procurement principles of transparency, equality of treatment and proportionality.</p>	<p>Finalise and implement a procurement e-learning package, which includes education on considerations of a procurement's contribution to our Environmental Vision and Net Zero target.</p>

<p>Developing the new Procurement Strategy, which includes sustainability considerations.</p> <p>Procurement templates updated to include guidance on considering the impacts on the environment of the goods, service and works being procured.</p>		<p>We need to increase knowledge and understanding of all staff making procurement decision on how to assess environmental impact of goods and services.</p>	
<b>6. Climate Conscious Behaviours (to our staff and those that work for us)</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>To help us drive reductions, it was acknowledged that a wide range of actions from many people are required. Improving the workforces understanding of carbon emissions through building management, travel and use of equipment is vital. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Developing a ‘Turn Off Monitors’ comms plan, through messages and instructions to switch off monitors and messages celebrating people taking action.</p>	<p>We can use our work on improving the climate conscious behaviours of employees as a trial to expand out to communities to help reach our wider community workstream of Climate Conscious Communities.</p> <p>There are also opportunities to embed climate conscious working behaviours into regular routines during our property rationalisation programme.</p>	<p>There is a challenge to ensuring we are educating staff on why we are encouraging climate conscious behaviours; an awareness of climate change and our Environmental Vision may encourage more behaviour change.</p>	<p>Explore simplifying our energy dashboards, to allow staff to easily understand our progress, targets, and carbon impact of our buildings.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for Green Champions across the council, who are passionate about our climate ambitions and keen to engage with the teams they work within about climate change and carbon emissions.</p>
<b>7. Climate Conscious Community and Education, Involvement, Enjoyment</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>Community engagement is a key to our success, with some community groups and leaders already providing leadership and taking positive steps to reduce their carbon emissions. We recognise the value</p>	<p>We have supportive local networks and partners. We can use the work we have done within climate conscious behaviours and expand it for the community.</p>	<p>We still need to explore ways in which to measure the effectiveness of community engagement and education as a driver for behaviour change.</p>	<p>Explore with Public Health a joint strategy for engagement and communication with children and young people on climate change.</p>

<p>that joint initiatives and community engagement has in climate resilience planning for the area.</p> <p>Through Levelling Up Parks Fund we were able to work with community groups to construct a community garden, to increase skills of growing health and sustainable food.</p> <p>Engaged with community groups on tree planting projects. The first planting event took place at West Marsh Community Centre in November 2023.</p>			<p>Engagement activity on our SSSI site with residents, visitors and wider stakeholders to develop an engagement action plan.</p> <p>Further engagement with community groups interested in tree planting across the borough.</p>
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**8. Low Carbon Commercial Buildings**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We recognise that there are ways in which we can provide support to businesses and public business owners to reduce their own carbon emissions. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Incorporating Net Zero engagement into our Business Engagement Plan.</p> <p>Successfully securing UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding to enable our support to continue for local businesses, led by E-Factor, providing energy saving advice, workshops, and audits with access</p>	<p>Providing local support, led by E-Factor, allows for more localised approach to giving advice for businesses.</p> <p>We have assessed our commercial properties to see what works needs to be done to meet improved Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings.</p>	<p>External funding opportunities have short application timescales therefore can prove a challenge for businesses to meet these deadlines, especially if there is uncertainty around the costs and savings. We can explore ways in which we can support and signpost businesses to ensure they know where to access information.</p> <p>Some businesses do not own their premises and need to rely on the owner to make energy improvements.</p>	<p>Supporting E-Factor and Team Lincolnshire with their planned Net Zero Events for businesses.</p> <p>Continue delivering year 2 Shared Prosperity Fund funded decarbonisation grants for local businesses.</p>

to capital grants to support decarbonisation projects.			
<b>9. Low Carbon Transport</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) contains a series of local transport challenges including “ensuring transport contributes to environmental excellence, improved air quality, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions”. This also includes behavioural change initiatives and events that support cycling, walking and promotes the use of public transport. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Preparing the Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Successful delivery of Be Seen, Be Safe cycle safety events across NEL where over 300 people who attended received lights and other hi-viz items.</p> <p>Developed a local EV Strategy which includes a central strategic vision for EV infrastructure roll out.</p>	<p>There are many funding opportunities available for EVs and Active Travel including from the Department for Transport. This provides opportunity to bid for significant amounts of funding for highways and transport projects which could help facilitate major improvements to local transport networks including the delivery of low carbon transport projects.</p> <p>Our initial Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) bid was unsuccessful, however feedback from our initial bid has been used to support the bid we are submitting in the next round for EV charging.</p>	<p>Delays to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance from the Department of Transport has delayed the delivery of NELC’s new LTP strategy.</p>	<p>Submissions of On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS) and LEVI bids in support of EV charging infrastructure in NEL.</p> <p>Developing active travel schemes as the basis for future Department for Transport funding rounds.</p>
<b>10. Low Carbon Industry</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>Our economic strategy cements our drive for carbon net zero, with one of the four cornerstones being a green economy. This milestone</p>	<p>We already have many low carbon businesses locating to the borough and expansion of the wind industry continues.</p>		<p>Continue working with industry on the delivery of the Skills Action Plan, which references supporting the decarbonisation and renewable sectors and project.</p>

<p>focuses on how we can work with industry to maximise low carbon and healthy initiatives in industry and our place. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Successfully securing UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Activation Funding for The Projekt. Supported by Myenergi, RWE Renewables UK and the Town Deal, The Projekt launched in August 2023 to show opportunities in the sustainable energy production sector in our area.</p> <p>Completed the Freeport Innovation Strategy with the Humber Freeport Innovation Liaison Group.</p>	<p>The Freeport Innovation Strategy for the Humber is now complete, leaving a legacy of knowledge to support green energy, decarbonisation, and port sectors.</p>		<p>Continue supporting the Humber Leadership Group with the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan's next phase.</p>
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**11. Low Carbon New Homes**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have identified the role that we have in promoting the benefits of low carbon features in new homes. We can use our Local Plan and national guidance as a mechanism for this. Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Developing an evidence base to support the carbon reduction theme to the local plan review.</p>	<p>There is a possibility for geothermal heating through a centralised heat network.</p> <p>The Alexandra Dock Road Map sets out our ambition for ultra-low carbon housing in Grimsby Town Centre.</p>	<p>The current workstream milestones and actions are heavily focused towards the local plan due to the large scale of the work, however as work progresses with the local plan we will need to start engaging with other short-term overall outcomes and related projects.</p> <p>Low carbon features for new homes are generally not required by government and both developers and the public see them as risky,</p>	<p>Continue engagement on the Draft Local Plan.</p>



		expensive, and untried. Some developers are putting in EV charging points, but this is not currently a policy requirement.	
<b>12. Climate Conscious Older Homes</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>In the same way in which we look at our council buildings, we have identified that many homes across the borough would benefit from energy efficiency improvements to become more sustainable.</p> <p>We have Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for 33,000 dwellings and the recommendations for each property, though we have a way to go to get the full picture on all 71,000 properties in the borough.</p> <p>Our progress in the second year of implementation of our Carbon Roadmap includes: -</p> <p>Continued successful delivery of Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3 funding and Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) funding used to improve energy efficiency of housing.</p>	<p>There is now a minimum EPC rating for private rental properties and social housing landlords can now access finance through social housing decarbonisation fund.</p> <p>We have developed plans for Housing retrofit schemes in some areas of poorest energy performance and are now reviewing national funding options to progress.</p>	<p>We have a high quantity of older, poor quality housing stock owned and/or occupied by lower income households for whom fuel poverty is a reality. The bulk of our E and F rated properties are in private ownership.</p> <p>Homeowners may be reluctant to make investments in energy efficiency and low carbon technology as they won't get the payback.</p> <p>Existing funding opportunities are currently targeted to low-income households.</p>	<p>Explore options to develop a strategy to promote the various energy efficiency schemes during the summer, this would give homeowners time to explore energy efficiency options before the inclement weather during winter.</p>

### Appendix 3

#### North East Lincolnshire Council – Natural Assets Plan

1. Planning Our Future Land Use			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We continue to plan for the legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision, including opportunities to increase biodiversity. Progress has been made in finalising the Draft Local Plan, including ongoing engagement. The Draft Local Plan is now in the consultation phase, which closes on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>Work on the Local Plan included a ‘call for sites’ exercise, inviting individuals, landowners and developers to suggest sites across the borough for development over the next 20 years. This was to gain up to date information about land that has potential for housing, employment, or mixed-use development for information and/or allocation as part of the Local Plan review. It also seeks to identify land with potential for delivery of biodiversity net gains (BNG).</p> <p>Finally, the requirement for all major developments to provide a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity came into force from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Officers</p>	<p>The Local Plan provides an opportunity to update our policies to meet the emerging priorities for carbon reduction and increased environmental protection and enhancement.</p> <p>In the Scoping and Issues Paper as part of Local Plan Review, addressing climate change was identified as one key issue to address.</p> <p>BNG is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact (‘net gain’) on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. Developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development.</p>	<p>Developers understanding the BNG process and developing an effective local market for BNG sites.</p>	<p>Continue engagement on the Draft Local Plan and review responses to the consultation.</p> <p>Continue work across the authority, with our partner agencies and developers on the BNG process, finding ways to support effective delivery.</p>

attended a series of training events to increase their knowledge and understanding of the legislative changes. Briefing sessions with developers took place to ensure a mutual understanding of net gain legislation and to explore opportunities together.			
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**2. Managing Our Open Spaces**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst we have statutory duties in relation to managing some aspects of our open spaces (trees, road verges and parks), there are opportunities for our open spaces and highways to contribute to nature recovery.</p> <p>Progress to date includes:-</p> <p>24 play areas across the borough have received new play equipment as part of the Play Area Scheme. In addition, 25 play areas were subject to an external safety assessment by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).</p> <p>Initial progress made on reviewing our Park Management Plans.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to manage sites in a different way, contributing to nature recovery.</p> <p>Build on the community and partnership work in other workstreams to explore ways to involve and include our local community groups in managing our open spaces.</p>	<p>Some of the new play equipment installed has already been vandalised.</p> <p>The decision to seed verges and allow some areas to regenerate naturally may at times look unmanaged. We need to carefully assess and balance community perception.</p> <p>We must ensure that the planting of any new trees comes with the resource for long term maintenance, to allow us to grow trees to maturity. And ensure 'right tree, right place' to avoid future losses from tree removal due to safety and insurance risks.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for volunteer / community groups to deliver management work on our open spaces.</p> <p>Continue our efforts to produce and update management plans for our most important open spaces.</p> <p>Be aware of funding opportunities to support our work and bid when the time is right.</p>

**3. Biodiversity and Special Sites**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a landowner and a competent authority, we have a duty to uphold the ecological and environmental designations of sites with special designations for nature. We also have a duty to promote, protect and enhance priority habitats, species and secure measurable net gain for biodiversity.</p> <p>The nature of this work is ongoing, however efforts to enhance our environment and engage and empower the community include:</p> <p>The launch of the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve, the first in the new King's series of National Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Identified and mapped BNG opportunities across the borough, including an assessment of some council owned agricultural land to determine its true ecological value.</p> <p>Work commenced on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 2021. We are working closely with colleagues in Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Natural England and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to develop the</p>	<p>As a Competent Authority, NELC have a statutory duty to protect our natural environment, increase biodiversity and protect, enhance and maintain our designated sites. Through our work with Heritage Lottery and our newly announced status as a Heritage Place, there are many opportunities to align our continued efforts with the environmental ambitions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and connect our communities to nature.</p> <p>The new legislation provides an opportunity to increase biodiversity across the borough, with developers having to provide a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity, with the net gains being monitored over 30 years.</p>	<p>Balancing the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourism destination, while protecting the designations of the Cleethorpes coastline remains a challenge. A partnership approach to effective engagement, communication and education can alleviate some of the recreational pressures to the designated sites by ensuring people enjoy the Cleethorpes coastline responsibly.</p>	<p>Finalise the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.</p> <p>Fulfil our role of completing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area.</p> <p>Continue to support developers with the new biodiversity net gain requirements through effective communication, stakeholder sessions and guidance.</p> <p>Explore funding opportunities to protect and enhance our natural environment.</p>

<p>Strategy, which includes public surveys, stakeholder engagement and consultation and landowner / manager workshops to prioritise our efforts for nature recovery across Greater Lincolnshire.</p>			
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**4. Trees and Woodland**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty to ensure that highways are safe, which includes the inspection of the highway tree stock. We've identified that planting more trees and protecting our existing tree population has many benefits including heat reduction through shading, reducing the impact of significant rainfall and carbon sequestration and storage, positively contributing to reaching our carbon net zero ambitions.</p> <p>Our progress to date includes: -</p> <p>The approval of NELC's first Tree Strategy, demonstrating our commitment to managing and protecting our existing tree stock and increasing tree canopy cover across the borough.</p> <p>Successful in two funding bids, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) to increase tree canopy cover through the planting of new street</p>	<p>There is increasing public awareness on the importance of trees for not just carbon goals but also physical and mental health, as well as heat reduction and flooding management.</p> <p>There is a real opportunity to build on the partnership approach achieved for the tree planting projects for wider environmental community initiatives across the borough.</p>	<p>Challenges with identifying land in which to plant trees. We are however working with others to support tree planting on private land, demonstrating a collaborative effort to increasing the number of trees in the borough.</p> <p>We must also ensure that we get the right trees for the right location, ensuring that maintenance and management is taken into consideration.</p> <p>Achieving the full potential of the ecological function of trees and woodland by considering ground cover and understory planting in conjunction with increasing canopy cover.</p>	<p>Deliver the second stage of the tree planting projects from 2024/25.</p> <p>Explore further funding streams to build on the work we've achieved so far with these bids to explore other tree and woodland planting opportunities.</p>

<p>trees in urban or peri-urban environments and the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF), the focus of which is the replacement of trees lost to damage or disease.</p> <p>The creation of a new webpage dedicated to trees, in which the community can report their tree planting contributions to increasing our tree canopy covers.</p> <p>Partnership approach to tree planting projects, which includes NHS, Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP), Town Councils, community groups, schools and colleagues across the organisation.</p> <p>The successful appointment of two woodland creation officers, following a joint bid to the Woodland Accelerator Fund with Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council. This is a shared resource, managed by Lincolnshire County Council but appointed to support tree planting and woodland creation across Greater Lincolnshire.</p>			
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5. Water Management			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a local authority, we manage flood risk in urban areas. Our area is also covered by Humber 2100+ strategy, which covers flood management for the estuary. Efforts to manage and increase our resilience against flooding include: -</p> <p>Successful funding from the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Fund to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) across Grimsby and Immingham. Progress is underway on this 6 year project, which uses green infrastructure to control flooding. The first phase of delivery at 4 schools, Western, Wybers, Pilgram and Oasis is complete. The works at the schools include interactive features and weather stations. The schools have all been supportive of the projects and are enjoying the new planters around the schools, with the children getting involved in tending to the plants.</p> <p>The designs for Broadway are complete and resident engagement happened during November / December 2023.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement on the new Local Flood Risk Management</p>	<p>The change in the national approach to focus on resilience and management of flooding rather than prevention provides vast opportunities for water management that previously would not have been favoured.</p> <p>We are awaiting an update on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act. This requires the approval of a SuDs Approval Body to approve surface water draining systems on new developments. We've identified the need for additional resource, at least 1 FTE and supporting staff, creating job opportunities within the borough.</p>	<p>The first draft of the Humberstone Fitties erosion project has been submitted, to try and halt the erosion of the beach and provide nourishment and improvements to critical habitats. The Environment Agency requested additional modelling and analysis to be undertaken, which included an assessment of southern embankment. This hasn't initially been considered as part of the plan however it is a recognised opportunity to use funding available to strengthen the flood defence line.</p> <p>Natural England requested a 12-month bird survey to be completed prior to consenting to the works. The bird survey was completed, and we are awaiting confirmation. Without consent, the works can't go ahead.</p>	<p>Further engagement on the Humber 2100+ project.</p> <p>Continue to prepare for the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act, including recruitment.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the retrofit SUD projects, sharing learning from our experiences and continue to look at Natural Flood Management</p> <p>Continue to engage our communities and voluntary organisations in SUDs with a view to involvement in future monitoring and management.</p> <p>Progress the Humberstone Fitties erosion project.</p> <p>Engagement and consultation on the LFRMS prior to finalising the Strategy.</p>

<p>Strategies (LFRMS). Now at a stage where draft strategies and action plans can be issued. The draft strategy will go out for a 6-week public consultation.</p> <p>The Humber Strategy 2100+ has completed its first stage in which the present-day flood risk position has been agreed by all Strategy partners. The second stage is to identify future flood risk and where and when this will increase.</p>			
<b>6. Improving Air Quality</b>			
<b>Progress</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p>Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties come under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and includes the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels and small scale pollution incidents.</p> <p>NELC continues to enjoy excellent air quality with zero exceedances recorded in 2022; the fifth consecutive year where compliance with Air Quality Objectives has been achieved. As a result, we were advised to take steps towards revoking the existing Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) as per LAQM Technical guidance.</p> <p>We received a positive appraisal from DEFRA commending our efforts for continuing to update our</p>	<p>We've taken the opportunity to ensure that the importance of air quality is a consideration in the planning process, feeding into the Draft Local Plan. This is supported by a technical advice document.</p> <p>Recognise the importance of nature-based solutions in improving air quality. An example being the tree planting efforts in other workstreams.</p>	<p>New legislative changes introduced through the Environment Act 2021, the publication of the Air Quality Strategy and Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 places additional responsibilities and expectations on Local Authorities. This will continue to be researched and reviewed and fed into our action plan.</p>	<p>Take steps to revoke the existing AQMA, with planned communications to showcase the achievement.</p> <p>Reviewing local air quality data for 2023 and continuing with quarterly Air Quality Steering Group meetings.</p> <p>Continue to manage the operation of the air quality monitoring equipment, following a new calibration timetable.</p> <p>Feed into the review of the Environment Website, making it easier for users to access the information that they require and an opportunity to display and share air quality information.</p>



<p>Air Quality Action Plan. Our mapping of all monitoring stations, our extensive trend graphs and consideration of comments made on previous appraisals and actively addressing all actions.</p> <p>We've procured maintenance and service contract for Air Quality monitors and acquired new monitoring equipment.</p> <p>Successful Clean Air Day social media campaign took place on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023</p>			
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**7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty as an authority to protect and enhance the wellbeing of our area and its residents, employees and visitors. We want to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with our natural environment and address inequalities in accessing a good quality environment. Progress towards these outcomes include: -</p> <p>Cabinet approved 2023/24 Local Transport Plan capital programme which includes Active Travel Schemes.</p> <p>Cycle Super highway work nearing completion.</p>	<p>DFT Active Travel Capability grant received by NELC to develop proposals for Active Travel infrastructure schemes.</p> <p>Bid submitted to Active Travel England for capital funding to deliver pedestrian improvements at New Cartergate, Grimsby.</p>	<p>Latest Active Travel Fund bid was not successful. We have however been invited to review the scheme, consider the suggested amendments and resubmit.</p> <p>We had to make the unfortunate decision to end the School Street Trial Project due to</p> <p>Some challenges to be resolved around electricity connections to street lighting on the cycle super highway.</p>	<p>Consider ways in which the Try-an E-bike project can continue once the grant funding is no longer available.</p> <p>Local Transport Plan Project Delivery.</p> <p>Development of new Local Transport Plan Strategy including consideration to the role active travel has on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Review feedback from the Active Travel Fund bid and consider resubmission at a later date.</p>

<p>Delivered 29 successful Dr Bike Cycle Maintenance Events across the year, with reported good attendance. This promotes and supports active healthy travel opportunities in addition to road safety.</p> <p>Showcased our Try-an-ebike project, with promising levels of interest and support.</p> <p>Launched the School Street Trial Project at four school sites across the borough to support walking, scooting and cycling to school.</p> <p>All parks that have children’s play equipment in now have advisory smoke free signage.</p>			
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**8. Education, Involvement and Enjoyment**

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst there is no requirement to educate the community, about environmental matters, providing education and engagement can help to bring about behaviour change, and this means that fewer people make mistakes and become the subject of enforcement action.</p> <p>The following outlines the progress to date on this workstream:</p> <p>A myriad of community engagement on the tree planting projects,</p>	<p>We are currently exploring an opportunity to create a world class partnership approach to protect and enhance our natural environment. Conversations and workshops have taken place with Heritage Lottery, through our status as a Heritage Place, with the first phase of the project centred around engagement, communication and enjoyment. Our intention is that this will provide the evidence base for future grant funded opportunities.</p>	<p>Whilst we recognise that there are huge opportunities for eco-tourism in Cleethorpes, due to the unique position of the resort as an SSSI, which is part of the Eastern Atlantic Flyway bird migration route, we must be careful that the pressure brought by increasing visitor numbers does not cause disturbance to the birds, as this threatens their survival and the whole bird population.</p>	<p>Review community engagement arrangements on environmental issues alongside the Voluntary Community &amp; Social Enterprise review.</p> <p>Continue community engagement on the tree planting projects in preparation for the 2024/25 tree planting events.</p> <p>Continue conversations regarding the potential ‘Green Alliance’ Group.</p> <p>Build on the discussions with Public Health to discuss a collective strategy for engaging and</p>

<p>specifically related to the successful UTCF &amp; LATF funding bids. Planting events started in November 23 and will continue into March 2024. This was a true collaborative effort between us, NHS, Lincolnshire housing Partnership (LHP), local community groups and residents. A new web page was created to support the project with the opportunity for communities to include their tree planting efforts into our ambition to increase tree canopy cover.</p> <p>Completed the public survey on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, inviting community input on where they feel our priorities should be for nature recovery. This will feed into the stakeholder workshops and ultimately the final draft Strategy, which will be out for consultation later this year. We're pleased to report that the survey received the highest response rate from the residents of North East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>We've established a Freshney Parkway Group, consisting of ward members, community groups, residents and council officers interested in working together to improve and promote the Freshney Parkway. The area is already a designated Local Nature Reserve but</p>	<p>Residents and visitors understand our environmental issues and enjoy nature without causing damage.</p> <p>Our local community act as champions for our environment.</p> <p>Cleethorpes to be recognised as an eco-tourism destination with sustainable tourism forming part of the visitor experience.</p>		<p>communicating with children and young people on climate change.</p>
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<p>the group felt more could be done to improve, enhance and promote the area as a collective effort. This work will continue into next year.</p> <p>Started to explore the option of dedicated environmental webpages where residents can go to find trusted information, support and crucially how to get involved in the activities across the community. This includes setting up a dedicated email address for community enquiries.</p> <p>Installed cameras at the mitigation sites to live stream the wildlife activity on site. This allows the community to experience and enjoy the activity on site without risk of disturbance and makes nature more inclusive.</p>			
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