

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Progress Report on Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan

Date: 3 November 2022

Author: Head of Environment

Wards Affected All

Purpose To update Members on the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

Key Decision Not applicable

Recommendation(s)

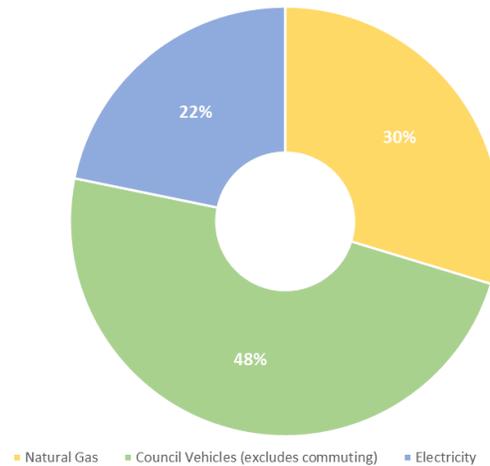
THAT:

- 1) Members note the progress that has been made to date on the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

1 Background

- 1.1 In October 2021 the council adopted a draft Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan which was subject to a public consultation to seek views from stakeholders before adopting the final version in March 2022.
- 1.2 As part of our bid to address our carbon emissions, the council also commissioned APSE to establish our carbon baseline from which we will measure our improvements moving forward. From the Council's own operations, vehicles accounted for the greatest proportion of carbon emissions, comprising 48% of the total, followed by natural gas and electricity (see below). This report not only provides us with valuable information as to where we should be

focussing our efforts moving forward, but will also serve as a benchmark enabling us to measure our carbon reduction targets year on year.



- 1.3 In support of this the Council employed a corporate Climate Change Officer in December 2021 and has set aside a corporate capital budget for climate change work. The strategy and action plan lists over a 100 initiatives and programmes of work to ensure the Council and community achieve net zero Carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.4 In relation to the Climate Action Plan, The Climate Change Officer has undertaken a series of meetings with Heads of Service to go through actions within the Carbon Management Strategy relevant to individual service areas, to support implementation and obtain more accurate timescales for delivery. These actions will be incorporated into the Service Planning cycle for 2023/24 and onwards, as will any newly arising Gedling Plan actions following its review. They will be monitored using our performance management software.
- 1.5 In April 2022 an update on the Carbon Management Strategy report was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and a joint PowerPoint presentation was delivered by the Head of Environment, the Climate Change Officer and the Food, Health and Housing Manager. This was well received and reassured the Committee that progress was taking place and accountability for actions was being addressed.
- 1.6 The Climate Change Officer now regularly communicates with and updates with two of our local Climate Groups: Gedling Climate Group and Burton Joyce Climate Action Group. The Climate Change Officer was invited to attend and present at meetings with both groups to suggest ways of collaboration and to encourage partnership working.
- 1.7 Gedling Borough Council has been recognised for its actions to tackle the climate emergency. All councils across the country were graded on their climate action plans last year, with the organisation Climate Emergency UK assessing

authorities across nine key sectors. Councils were then given a percentage on how well they are meeting their targets and addressing each individual area. Gedling alongside Rushcliffe were graded the highest of the seven borough and district councils in Nottinghamshire with 46% each.

- 1.8 In March/April 'the Great British Spring Clean' took place and the Climate Change Officer engaged with local schools in the borough. As part of this initiative they organised and delivered a 'bin lorry visit' to local schools so children and staff had the opportunity to see how a bin lorry works, in order to find out more on what happens to their waste and what materials can go into a recycling bin. This educational initiative served to reinforce the waste hierarchy and educate our next generation. The Climate Change Officer encouraged all schools to take part in the 'Spring Clean', by actively supporting and delivering litter picking equipment to schools to enable them to take part in the week of action to promote the need for environmental cleanliness and sustainability to both the school children and the wider community.
- 1.9 Over the summer months the Climate Change Officer also attended environmental events during the Queens Jubilee weekend at Arnot Hill Park in June, Nottinghamshire Day in Arnold in August and other community events, for example one held in Burton Joyce Village Hall to promote the transition to net zero. In support of this two promotional banners have been made for such events, as well as educational resources and practical demonstrations to help engage members of the public, e.g. a solar car educational activity for children.
- 1.10 The Climate Change Officer met with Age UK and 'Men In Sheds' (MIS) as a partnership working initiative and as a result they have updated their promotional leaflets and manned an information stand at the Jubilee Event promoting their repair and recycle programme and what they offer such as wooden bird & bat boxes. Out of this joint work, the Burton Joyce Climate Group commissioned MIS two to make two large precinct planters. These planters have been installed outside the Burton Joyce Co-op using peat free compost and contain plants for pollinators.
- 1.11 The Climate Change Officer also gave a presentation to the 'Arnold Local Area Forum' chaired by Cllr Sandra Barnes in June on the Carbon Management Strategy.
- 1.12 In July as a 'Plastic Free' council, we promoted 'Plastic Free July, through a series of videos, promoted on social media. The first video was filmed at 'Shop Zero' in Nottingham, a sustainable shop that promotes ways to reduce single use plastic when purchasing everyday items. The video gives tips on how individuals can reduce single use plastic. Another video was filmed at Cafe 1899 at Gedling County Park, meeting the Meek sisters (Kids Against Plastic) to find out why single use plastic is such a problem and what it means to be 'plastic clever'. To date these videos have received a total of 1,600 views.

- 1.13 The Green Rewards scheme, launched at the end of October 2021, has been extended for a further year. Green Rewards is an online platform designed to incentivise and encourage residents to undertake positive environmental behaviour change. The platform is a shared partnership project between the Nottinghamshire boroughs and districts and Nottingham City Council. To date, 392 residents of Gedling Borough have registered as members.
- 1.14 Between April - May 2022 an internal audit was conducted by BDO Global, entitled 'Sustainable Environment', of our carbon management approach, Strategy and Action Plan. The draft internal audit reported that there were no high risks and that there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve carbon management system objectives in place, but that in terms of its effectiveness there was evidence of system objectives being at risk as some targets may be unachievable. As a result the Action Plan targets have been reappraised and set with each Head of Service and are being embedded into Service Delivery plans to ensure that the required outcomes are delivered in conjunction with the Climate Change Officer.

The audit identified that funding and capacity are regarded as the biggest barriers to achieving the actions in both the Gedling Plan and the Carbon Management Strategy by 2030. The Council's Climate Change Officer is responsible for researching funding opportunities and, although some opportunities have been identified, these are currently limited in number and the Council has limited capital funds to make progress without these.

To support this, a quarterly progress meeting with each Head of Service will take place to ensure the actions are progressing and on track to be completed by the target deadlines, and to understand and address (subject to availability of funding) the root cause of any delays. Any actions from other service areas relating to the sustainable environment objective will feed into this process.

- 1.15 The new Waste, Fleet and Depot Manager is currently working on a proposal to transition the existing fleet to Electric and Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO). An advanced renewable diesel that offers a fast and simple step towards Net Zero. The fuel can be used without capital expenditure for changes to infrastructure, whilst removing cost barriers and enabling a practical step towards decarbonisation.
- 1.16 Working externally within the Borough the council has successfully implemented its first Local Authority Delivery Green Homes Retrofit scheme in partnership with Midlands Net Zero Hub, Nottingham Energy Partnership, and Eon Energy Services Ltd. The area based scheme targeted home energy efficiency improvements to homes with an Energy Performance Certificate rating D to G and household income of less than £30,000 as per the funding eligibility criteria set out by Government.

The scheme was targeted in the Netherfield ward which has the highest proportion of eligible households and a high volume of solid wall properties which were a target retrofit measure for the scheme. In total measures were installed to 48 homes which included the following:

- 18 owner occupiers receiving solid wall insulation
- 19 owner occupiers receiving solar panels, and
- 11 social rented tenants receiving solar panels.

Despite promoting the scheme cross tenure, no private landlords supported their tenants to benefit from the scheme. It is believed that the 1/3rd landlord contribution up to a maximum of £5,000 was prohibitive to landlord participation. In total £538,699 was spent on measures in the ward.

The council is now commencing its next phase of Local Authority Delivery retrofit work in Netherfield and Newstead Village using its funding allocation from Midlands Net Zero Hub of £891,000. A proportion of this funding is directed at homes that are not connected to the gas network for heating fuel.

- 1.17 The council has also completed the Arnold Market Place AMP building which has had 51 solar panels installed as part of the scheme's plans to be more sustainable and use renewable energy sources. The 51 solar panels on the roof of the building will generate an estimated annual yield of 14,924 kWh of power to the units, saving energy costs for the tenants while providing clean, renewable energy.

The building has been designed to use less energy, use more renewable energy and reduce its CO2 emissions. The two storey building has had a number of energy efficient designs included, such as natural ventilation points and high efficiency LED lighting.

The building has also been fitted with rainwater retention tanks that will reduce flood risks and feed the semi-mature trees that are planted around the public realm to offset carbon emissions.

- 1.18 In order to achieve the Council's targets, cultural and behaviour change within the Council is integral for success going forward. A number of proposals to facilitate this change have been taken to Senior Leadership team and are currently being progressed, the proposals include the following:

- Changes to the Gedling Employee/Manager/Leader Standards to include the following: "***will behave in a way that protects the environment and enhances the environment for present and future generations***". This change requires consultation through the unions and would ultimately be approved by the Head of Paid Service. This change to

behavioural standards demonstrates the commitment the organisation and its staff would make to enhance the environment.

- Inclusion of a specific section in Performance Development Review (PDR) forms for staff to suggest initiatives to support the Council's targets in respect of climate change. PDRs are conducted annually for all employees and inclusion of this section would enable staff initiatives to be identified and progressed where appropriate.
- The creation of a Corporate Environmental Group chaired by the Director responsible for Environment to assist delivery of the Council's targets in respect of climate

1.19 In addition to the measures listed above, the Climate Change Officer has commissioned some Carbon Literacy Training that has been delivered to Directors, Heads of Service and senior managers. Also, the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service have worked in a consultative manner to develop an Environmental Policy Statement for the Council. This statement demonstrates how the Council will commit to fulfil its ambitions in relation to zero carbon emissions and the delivery of the Carbon Management Strategy. The document also sets out how the Council will embed a culture within the organisation that sets climate change at its centre as a priority. It was approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 October 2022.

1.20 The Carbon Management Action Plan (Appendix 2) has now been colour-coded to show each department that has taken responsibility for leading agreed actions to reduce carbon emissions. A summary table (Appendix 3) details the progress made against these actions and those included in the Gedling Plan from the end of 2021 to the later part of 2022.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that Members note the summary of actions and activities already undertaken by the Council so far.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 Progress reports should be delivered annually as part of Carbon Management Strategy as stipulated in the Strategy.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Sums of £100,000 were included in the Capital Programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22 for Carbon Reduction Initiatives. Expenditure of £10,900 was incurred in 2020/21 and £8,000 in 2021/22. The remaining £181,100 has been carried forward for inclusion in the 2022/23 capital programme and is planned to be spent as follows:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Gedling Country Park Charge Points | £62,900 |
| Civic Centre Charge Points | £14,100 |
| Arnold Market Solar Panels | £16,000 |
| Bee Pollinator Plan (Wildflower Planting) | £15,000 |
| Future allocated [For Match Funding etc] | £73,100 |

The 2022/23 capital programme also includes £49,200 for the Green Lung Project. A project set to deliver Health & Wellbeing, carbon mitigation and Biodiversity gains in the Carlton and Gedling area through tree planting, habitat improvement and the establishment of bee pollinator wildflower meadows and an arboretum.

There is the potential for revenue savings to be achieved as a result of the implementation of these and other capital schemes. These may then be considered as a funding source for further environmental initiatives including climate change culture and behaviours.

Going forwards, business cases for any proposals will be produced and evaluated before approval is sought for including them in revenue and capital budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Achieving net zero emissions of carbon dioxide by 2030 is not a legal requirement. However, the Council has agreed a motion that establishes an expectation to deliver widespread carbon reductions through the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan has been consulted on, this has given the opportunity for consideration of the views of residents, community groups and staff to be taken into account. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken prior to adopting the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 This cabinet report gives an update on actions and activities undertaken so far on carbon reduction / environmental sustainability. Adopting the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan strengthens the carbon reductions for the future.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Photographic examples of some of the work undertaken through the year 2022.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Carbon Management Action Plan
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Carbon Management Actions Progress

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To update Members on the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Examples of some of the work undertaken through the year 2022.

School Engagement:

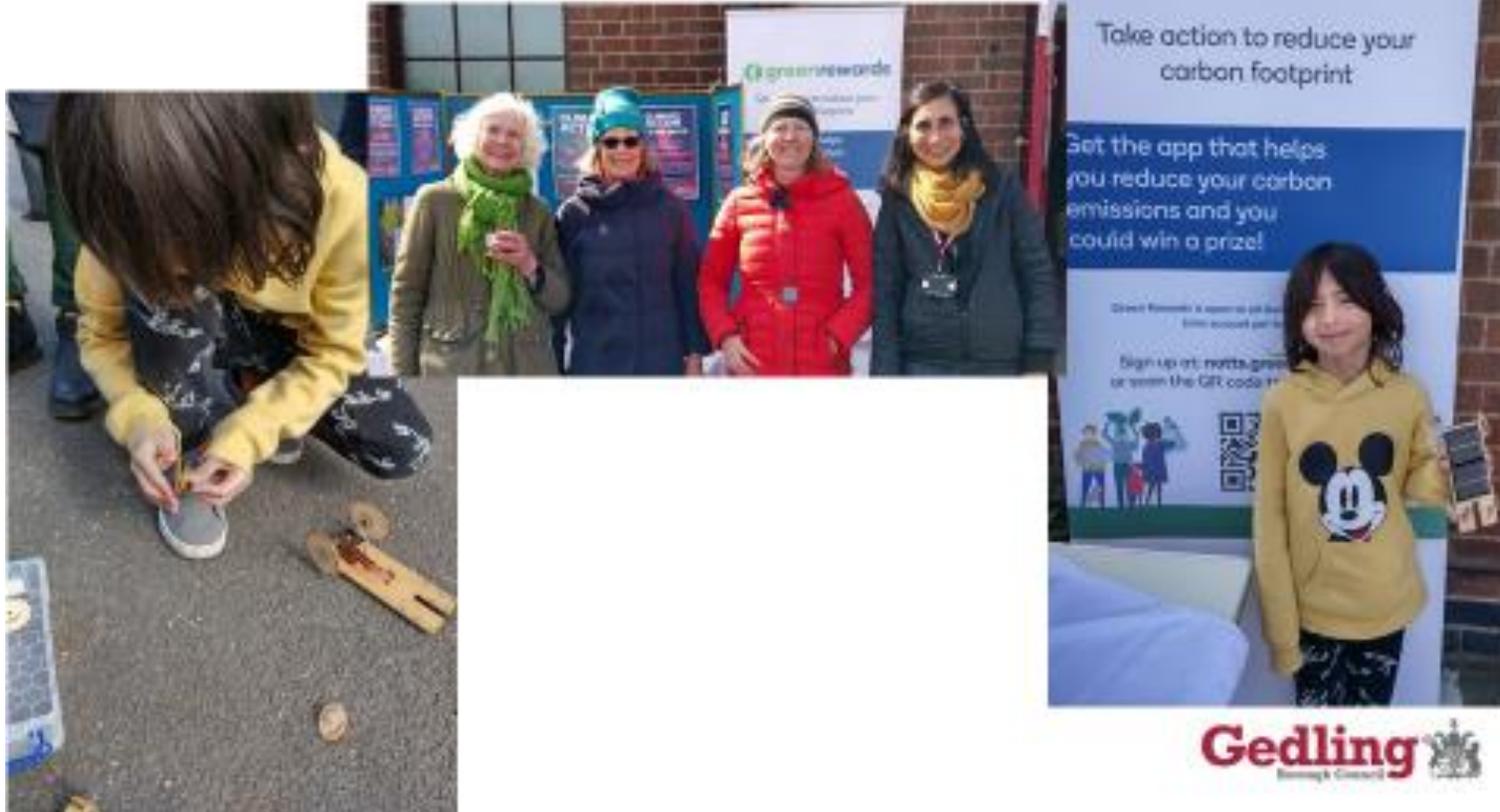


The Great British Spring Clean



Events:

Burton Joyce Community Event:





Meeting with the Meek Sisters

Collabration with Age UK:



Planters:



Solar in progress



Solar Complete



External Wall Insulation in progress



External Wall Insulation Complete

