

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Progress Report on Carbon Management Strategy

Date: 22 April 2024

Author: Climate Change Officer

Wards Affected

All wards

Purpose

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

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Members note the summary of actions and activities already undertaken by the Council so far this year.

1 Background

1.1 In March 2022, following public consultation to seek views from stakeholders, Cabinet approved a Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan, which details over a 100 initiatives and programmes of work to ensure the Council and community achieve net zero Carbon emissions by 2030. There are 64 actions set out in the Action Plan that we delivering to in this financial year (2023/24) and we are making good progress in 37 of these. Some of the actions delivered are shown in Appendix 3.

1.2 As part of our bid to address our carbon emissions, the Council commissioned APSE to refresh and calculate our carbon footprint, as they did in 2019/20, using data from July 2022 to July 2023. (Appendix 1). The table below shows the comparison of the emissions between 2019/20 and 2022/23:

Emissions Source	Scope	2019/20 Tonnes CO2e	2022/23 Tonnes CO2e	Difference
Natural Gas	1	499	599	20%
Vehicles	1	813	439	-46%
Electricity	2	363	266	-27%
Total		1,675	1,304	-22%

The table shows that overall, our carbon emissions have reduced by 22%, which indicates a significant move in the right direction, with more to come. The collation of data in the latest set of results for 2022/23 has improved, with more assets being identified. In 2022/23 there are 38 electricity meters and 14 gas meters reviewed and included in the data, whereas in 2019 there were only 7 electricity and 9 gas meters. Even with these additions the result has remained positive with a large reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the change in fleet fuel use in April 2023 from hydrocarbon diesel to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel. This has seen a 90% reduction per vehicle in CO2 emissions.

- 1.3 During the year, our Climate Change officer successfully submitted a bid and received funding from Cycling UK for the 'big bike workplace revival'. As a result, three events were organised and delivered by them, between January and March 2023. This allowed staff to access servicing of their bicycles and associated repairs, which were undertaken free of charge. 10 members of staff benefitted from this. (Appendix 3).
- 1.4 The Climate Change Officer has also worked with local schools in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Wardens to promote the 'car idling' campaign, to encourage vehicle users when dropping off their children at school, to switch off their engines whilst waiting outside the gates. This initiative received good national and local media attention and has served to drive down unnecessary vehicle emissions in such areas. (Appendix 3).
- 1.5 Gedling Borough Council has also introduced an innovative recycling scheme, which has been made available at the Arnold, Calverton and Carlton Forum leisure centres. The Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme makes it easier for swimmers to recycle many common items at their local centres such as goggles, swim caps, and floats. By November 2023 we had recycled approximately 30kg of swimming pool waste. This received good media coverage including an appearance on BBC East Midlands Today when the scheme was first launched. (Appendix 3).
- 1.6 The Climate Change Officer delivered the first Climate Change Assembly to over 315 children and all staff at Arnold Hill View Primary School to celebrate Earth Day in April 2023 (Appendix 3).
- 1.7 As previously stated, the Waste, Fleet and Depot Manager has implemented the transition of our existing fleet from Hydrocarbon diesel fuel to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel in March 2023. This advanced renewable fuel works in the diesel engines used by our fleet vehicles and offers a fast and simple step towards Net Zero. The fuel is used without need for further capital expenditure or changes to our fleet infrastructure,

and though more expensive revenue wise, it nevertheless provides an effective solution on our journey towards decarbonisation. (Appendix 3).

- 1.8 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, 613 Gedling borough residents have registered as members and this number is growing.
- 1.9 A collaborative bid led by Nottingham City Council has successfully secured £277,671 of Government funding from the Net Zero Living: Fast Followers competition. The bid was submitted in partnership with Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, and Rushcliffe Borough Council. The competition funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Innovate UK, aims to accelerate progress towards local climate goals. Achieving net zero goals in the region requires partners to work together, and the Fast Followers funding will build on the positive collaboration between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire moving forwards. This commenced in July 2023 and will run for two years.
- 1.10 The Climate Change Officer attended a Youth Council meeting in September 2023 to discuss how the Youth Council can get involved and this meeting generated various actions to follow up on. (Appendix 3).
- 1.11 In 2023, Nottinghamshire County Council received £5.55 million for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) across the whole Nottinghamshire area. Gedling have been consulted on this and the council has put forward suggestions where these points could potentially be installed locally. We are hoping to work collaboratively in the future, to take this initiative forward.
- 1.12 During the year Gedling Borough Council were announced as 'winners' at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Annual Service Awards in September 2023 in the category 'Best Collaborative Working Initiative (with other public sector or third sector bodies)'. The entry was the Nottinghamshire Green Rewards - Helping Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City residents take action to reduce their carbon footprint and to help tackle climate change. The Council was selected as winners from a shortlisted group of 9 local authorities in this category, including some metropolitan and City councils, so a significant national win, which once again shows Gedling Borough Council and its partnering authorities are leading the way. (Appendix 3).
- 1.13 The Climate Change Officer made a compelling presentation on 'Gedling's journey to net zero' to the Parish Councils at the Parish Council Conference in November 2023. (Appendix 3). The Head of Environment also presented what support can be offered to residents on the impacts of flooding, caused by Climate Change.
- 1.14 To celebrate and promote National Recycling Week in October, the Climate Change Officer organised and delivered workshops. This included an interactive presentation on the importance of recycling paper and saving trees and how this directly links to climate change and then making new paper from the schools' waste paper. (Appendix 3).

- 1.15 Gedling Borough Council has been recognised for its actions to tackle the climate emergency. All councils across the country were graded on the delivery of their climate actions. In October 2023, the organisation Climate Emergency UK assessed all Councils across seven different sections. Councils were then given a percentage on how well they are delivering on their climate actions to achieve net zero. Gedling was graded the highest of the seven boroughs and districts councils in Nottinghamshire with 31%.
- 1.16 Our Climate Change Officer has been regularly communicating throughout the year with various groups, in particular supporting and providing updates for two of our local Climate Groups: Gedling Climate Group and Burton Joyce Climate Action Group. As part of this partnership support approach, Burton Joyce Climate group held a 'warm homes talk' for residents in October 2023. Additionally, the first 'Nature and Climate Convention' took place in November 2023, the first in the Borough and Nottinghamshire, with over 90 people attending. The progress made to date in this report covers many of the recommendations mentioned in the "*Climate and Nature Convention Report 2023*" (Appendix 4 & 5). The Climate Change Officer will continue to support Gedling Climate Change group, to deliver further in these action areas where practicable and possible. This is as well as working collaboratively at events such as at Arnot Hill Park in June and Gedling Country Park in August, promoting the Green Rewards and engaging on the sustainability and climate change message with members of the public. (Appendix 3).
- 1.17 In November, the first climate change debate took place in the Council Chamber, with 60 children taking part, it was chaired by the Mayor of Gedling and Climate Change Officer taking on board a Q&A session. (Appendix 3).
- 1.18 The Climate Change Officer has delivered two Carbon Literacy Training sessions to the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Service Management and Elected Members. (Appendix 3).
- 1.19 A new fitness studio with state-of-the-art accessible equipment is being created at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre. All the new equipment not only meets the needs of disabled and other users but is also self-charging and does not require plugging into a power supply as well as LED lighting being installed in the studio. In terms of the move to promoting sustainable transport, Redhill Leisure Centre have installed 6 secure cycle lockers to encourage sustainable travel to and from the leisure centre. (Appendix 3).
- 1.20 The Climate Change Officer has put together a dedicated section on climate change on the Gedling Borough Council website, so that local residents can be informed and educated and in doing so understand the impact their footprint has on the Borough in terms of the need to reduce carbon emissions, as well as providing information for staff, on sustainability and climate change on the internal intranet.
- 1.21 In 2022/23, 2,388 trees were planted throughout the Borough in the Council's continuing move to mitigate against the effects of climate change. In 2023 Gedling Borough Council also installed new 'Tree Plotter' software to enable a robust tree stock inventory to be made. This is allowing the collection of live field data and effective and efficient tree stock management to take place. To date, 472 trees in the borough have been plotted and this number is rapidly growing. As the collection of Borough Council owned tree data increases it will allow information on the Borough's ecosystem to be made directly available including the amount of carbon sequestered. To date the amount of carbon sequestered for 2022/23 is 30,252.77kg. This is the amount annually removed from the

atmosphere and stored in the canopy's biomass, for the trees plotted to date.

Tree planting funds were explored and for parks and open spaces, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund was selected as the most suitable fund for our needs to assist with levelling up access to nature across Gedling Borough, planting trees in socially deprived urban areas with low canopy cover, in proximity to healthcare and educational facilities. An Urban Tree Challenge Funding bid was compiled by our Tree Officer and GBC were successful with the funding of 170 standard trees. A positive outcome from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, means that parks and open spaces are becoming enhanced through the selection of trees appropriate to site. So far, various sites across the borough have been allocated funding for standard tree planting to level up access to nature and for their future maintenance to ensure they survive into the future.

- 1.22 In terms of Planning and New Housing Developments, Keepmoat is delivering on the first development of new homes that will produce up to 80% less carbon emissions than standard homes. The homes at Gedling Green, a development comprising of 33 new homes at the site of the former colliery will see properties that feature air source pumps, solar PV panels, increased levels of insulation and EV charging points to achieve and deliver to new future homes regulations.
- 1.23 An independent technical advisor has been appointed to assist in the submission of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3b Salix Application. The Council is currently awaiting a response, but the anticipated Council contribution would be in excess of £900k for a £2.1m Civic Centre project. Arnot Hill House and Burton Road projects have been deferred and will be reviewed at a later date.
- 1.24 The Council's Home Upgrade Grant (Phase 1) and the Local Authority Delivery Grant (Phase 3) schemes both concluded in 2023. As a result of both schemes a total of 69 energy efficiency measures were installed in 68 low energy performance homes for residents likely to be in fuel poverty.

The schemes were delivered in partnership with EON Energy Services Limited and Nottingham Energy Partnership to utilise a Government grant and spending a total of £774,089 to install the energy efficiency measures in eligible homes was delivered.

Over the course of the two schemes the project completed the installation of:

- external wall insulation at 25 homes,
- solar panels at 35 homes,
- loft insulation at 3 homes
- and smarter heating controls at 6 properties.

The scheme aimed to address fuel poverty and contribute to reducing carbon emissions. (Appendix 3).

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that members note the summary of actions and activities already undertaken by the Council so far this year.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 A more formalised approach including an annual report will be considered for future reports to Cabinet in line with the Carbon Management Strategy.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council has committed to reducing its carbon footprint and will consider the Carbon agenda when approving projects through the Capital Programme when appropriate, and other projects funded through Revenue. The tables below set out the investment that the Council has committed to various projects that will have a positive impact on the Councils Carbon footprint.

This year the Council has spent circa £190k on capital schemes and £73k on revenue on the following:

Capital Spend
Solar PV panels at the Changing Places toilet at King George V. Arnold
Thermal windows in the Civic Centre; [Out to Tender]
Radiator Valves in the Civic Centre.
Water Heater Replacement Civic Centre (Phase 1)
Lambley Lane PV panels
Fitness Suite at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre
Revenue Spend
Climate Change Officer
EPC assessments, Community Centres – Brickyard, Westdale Lane, Burton Road & Killisick
Pavilions – Loft Insulation works, Various Pavilions
Leisure Loop Recycling scheme
Bike Lockers at Redhill Leisure Centre

Urban Tree Challenge Funding bid:

The Councils has made significant investment in planting trees in the Borough to help to mitigate the impact of climate change, this scheme is detailed in section 1.21 of this report and the table below sets out the investment of both the grant funding received of £113.9k and the Councils match funding of £28.5k.

Year	Grant Funding	Match Funding	Total
2023/24	£36,781	£9,195	£45,976
2024/25	£25,704	£6,426	£32,130
2025/26	£25,704	£6,426	£32,130
2026/27	£25,704	£6,426	£32,130
Total	£113,893.	£28,473	£142,366

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 considered. 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 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 – APSE Carbon Footprint Report
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Carbon Management Action Plan
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Examples of some of the work undertaken through the year 2023
- 8.3 Appendix 4 – Gedling ‘Nature and Climate’ Convention (GNCC) Report
- 8.4 Appendix 5 – Progress on areas of GNCC Report

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To update Members on the actions and activities already undertaken by the Council so far this year.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer