

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Update of the Carbon Management Strategy Action Plan
2025/26

Date: 10 July 2025

Author: Climate Change Manager

Wards Affected

Borough wide (all wards)

Purpose

To seek approval for an updated carbon management action plan to be delivered in 2025/26.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Members approve the updated Carbon Management Action Plan, with revised actions set out in Appendix 1.

1 Background

- 1.1 In 2019, Gedling Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. In March 2022, following public consultation, Cabinet approved a Carbon Management Strategy including an action plan, to ensure the Council

and community achieve net zero Carbon emissions by 2030. The Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan builds on the Council's work to date on low carbon interventions and to improve the local environment. It sets out how the Council will reduce its carbon footprint across the borough.

1.2 In 2023/24 & 2024/25 some completed actions include:

- Implemented the fleet from Hydrocarbon Diesel Fuel to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel
- Climate Change Training launched for all staff
- Climate Impact Assessment introduced for all executive and non-executive decisions.
- Encourage active travel in the borough by installing secure cycle lockers at Redhill Leisure Centre and the Civic centre
- Climate Change Challenge launched for residents to empower positive action
- A collaborative bid led by Nottingham City Council has successfully secured £277,671 of Government funding from the Net Zero Living Innovate UK: Fast Followers competition,
- The Devolution funding delivered home energy efficiency improvements to 29 homes
- Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme delivered improvements to 24 homes not connected to the gas network for heating.
- 3,000 trees planted in the borough
- The Local Area Energy Plan for Gedling, Broxtowe & Rushcliffe, a plan to identify the most cost-effective way to decarbonise
- Fleet Review to Midlands Net Zero Hub has been successful, a report due in July 2025.

1.3 In January 2024, the action plan for 2024/25 was reviewed and approved by Cabinet (refer to appendix 2). The Action Plan has 6 themed objectives that are aligned with the Carbon Management Strategy (the themes include: The Built Environment, Transport, Energy Generation, Consumption & Behavioural Change, Waste Reduction & Recycling, Green Infrastructure – Carbon Offsetting). There are 20 main action headings, with 104 sub actions, with 64 that were identified as being achievable in 2023/24, clearly demonstrating the Council's ambition.

A review of the actions has been undertaken and highlighted the need for more tightly defined and trackable actions to effectively monitor progress.

2 **Proposal**

- 2.1 This updated Carbon Management Action Plan for 2025/26, refines and prioritises actions. This has been refined with the same 6 themed objectives featured in the Carbon Management Strategy, with 12 main action headings and a total of 22 sub actions.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Do nothing and maintain the existing carbon action plan without revising the actions, this may lead to:
- lack of clarity and hinder progress tracking and accountability.
 - risk of failing to meet the net zero goal due to poorly defined actions.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The updated actions focus on cost-effective carbon savings. There will be some actions that are expected to attract external funding (via East Midlands Combined Authority, Midlands Net Zero Hub, Energy Company Obligation 4 and the Warm Homes Local Grant). A separate costed delivery plan will be developed for those projects. Revenue impacts and capital requirements will be considered through the annual budget-setting process.

Updates on the Carbon Management plan will be brought to the Budget & Performance board meetings on a periodic basis to review and track the outputs, along with any realisable carbon savings.

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. This contributes to the national climate targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 and Environment Act 2021.
- 5.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 introduced a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is a legally binding target. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of their functions. Furthermore, section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 introduced a power that permits local authorities to do anything that they consider likely to

promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area.

- 5.3 Legal advice will be sought on a case by case for any actions requiring statutory compliance, procurement, contracting and grant funding advice, along with advice on compliance with the public sector equality duty.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, refer to appendix 3.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed, refer to appendix 4.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – updated carbon management actions in 2025/26
- 8.2 Appendix 2 - summary of carbon management actions 2024/25
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Climate Impact Assessment

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 The Carbon Management Strategy.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 Improves clarity, delivery and accountability.
- 10.2 Strengthens Council leadership and transparency in achieving our net zero ambition.

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer