Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Progress Report on the Carbon Management Strategy

Date: 16 November 2026

Author: Climate Change Manager

Wards Affected

All wards

Purpose

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

Key Decision

Not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

1) Members note the summary of actions and activities undertaken by the Council

1 Background

1.1 The Carbon Management Strategy and action plan was approved by Cabinet in 2022. In July 2025, Cabinet approved the updated Carbon Management Action Plan for 2025/26. The updated plan aligns with the six themed objectives set out in the Carbon Management Strategy and is structured around 11 main action areas, supported by 22 sub-actions. Steady progress has been made across all these actions, with over half of the actions

completed, as detailed in Appendix 1. Since the last progress report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2024, further strides have been made towards the climate ambition. This report highlights the main achievements.

1.2 To support the Council's ongoing work to reduce its carbon emissions, APSE was commissioned to refresh and calculate the Council's carbon footprint, as they did in 2019 and in subsequent years. The latest assessment uses data from August 2024 to July 2025 and covers Scope 1 (gas consumption and fleet fuel use) and Scope 2 (electricity consumption). The results are summarised below.
The table demonstrates that overall, Scope 1 and 2 emissions have reduced by 50% since 2019/20, representing a significant improvement. The most substantial reduction arises from the change in fleet fuel use in April 2023, when the Council transitioned from diesel to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO).

Further detail is provided in Appendix 2.

Emissions Source	Scope	2019/2020 Tonnes CO2e	2024/2025 Tonnes CO2e	Difference
Natural Gas	1	499	520	4%
Vehicles	1	813	60	-93%
Electricity	2	363	250	-31%
Total		**1,675**	**830**	**-50%**

1.3 Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions that arise from the upstream and downstream activities of an organisation. There are 15 recognised Scope 3 categories, and the Council has assessed 10 of these to understand the scale and nature of its indirect emissions.

Scope 3 Emissions Summary

Emissions Source	Scope	2019 Tonnes CO2e	2024/2025 Tonnes CO2e	Difference
Natural Gas WTT	3	N/A	86	
Council Vehicle Fuel Oil WTT	3	N/A	195	
Electricity T&D	3	N/A	97	
Business Travel Vehicle	3	N/A	9.8	
Water Supply	3	N/A	1.5	
Water Treatment	3	N/A	1.3	
Waste from Council operations	3	N/A	0.7	
Recycling from Council operations	3	N/A	0.2	
Commute to Work	3	N/A	150	
Work from Home	3	N/A	45	
Scope 3 Total		0	**586**	
Total of all scope (1, 2 & 3)			***1,416 (net 1,414)**	**-15%**

**the gross emissions are 1,416 t CO2e, net emissions are 1,414 t CO2e, the net emissions are calculated by*

deducting 2 tCO2e from the gross emissions, as this is an offset from electricity that is exported to the grid that is generated by solar panels.

Scope 3 emissions typically account for 85–95% of an organisation's total carbon footprint. The Council has therefore assessed the most relevant categories to provide a meaningful understanding of its indirect emissions.

Scope 3 emissions have increased from 512 tCO_2e in 2022/23 to 586 tCO_2e in 2024/25**,** an increase of 74 tonnes**.** This rise reflects improved data capture and the inclusion of additional categories.

Despite this, when compared to the 2019 baseline, overall emissions across Scopes 1, 2 and 3 have reduced by 261 tCO_2e, representing a 15% reduction**.** This demonstrates continued progress in reducing the Council's total carbon footprint, even with the expanded reporting boundary that now includes Scope 3 emissions. Further detail provided in Appendix 2.

1.4 In January 2024, a climate impact assessment was introduced, to be completed for any project, policy, decision where there are identified carbon impacts and appended to decision reports. Similar format to the Equality Impact Assessment. The main themes are - Transport, Energy, Natural Resources & Climate Change, Waste Reduction & Recycling, Blue-Green Infrastructure/Biodiversity, these themes align with the Council's Environment Policy. If negative impacts can't be avoided the Council need to consider whether the decision/action is justified. Positive impacts are highlighted and promoted where possible.

1.5 Between January and May 2024, to promote and encourage cycling in the borough, the Council installed cycle lockers. 6 high security lockers at Redhill Leisure Centre in Arnold and 7 lockers at the Arnot Hill park, for people visiting the civic centre or park, the latter was funded through the Safer Street Funding via the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

1.6 To date, 75 members of staff have completed accredited Carbon Literacy training, including the Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet Members. Mandatory sustainability and climate training for all staff also continues to be delivered. The course provides essential information and practical guidance to support improved climate and sustainability practices across the organisation. To date, 253 staff have completed the training out of 454 registered users.

1.7 The Council has installed four 7kW electric vehicle charging points at the Civic Centre in Arnot Hill Park and a further six at Gedling Country Park. In total, 35 charging points have now been installed across ten Council-owned car parks within the borough. Usage data shows that the most frequently used chargers are the ultra-rapid 55kW units located at High Street Car Park, Arnold; Haywood Road Car Park, Mapperley; and St Albans Road Car Park, Arnold.

1.8 A collaborative bid led by Nottingham City Council has successfully secured £287,000 of Government funding from Innovate UK through the 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. Funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Innovate UK, the project aims to develop an efficient and scalable route to net zero for councils within the D2N2 / East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) area. The project commenced in July 2023 and concluded in June 2025, with a final report produced in September 2025 (further detail provided in Appendix 3).

1.9 As part of the Innovate UK Fast Followers Project, the Council hosted the event *"Our Future for a Cleaner, Greener Gedling"* at the Bonington Theatre on World Environment Day, 5 June 2025. The event used a creative, case-study-led approach, including short films designed to demystify the process of "going green" by showcasing practical local examples and speakers from within the borough. More than 85 people attended, and live feedback collected on the day indicated overwhelmingly positive responses.

1.10 The Climate Change Manager has been working with consultants since Spring 2024 on the development of the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), funded by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). The LAEP is a data-driven, whole-energy-system, evidence-based approach that identifies the most effective route for an area to contribute to the national net zero target, while also supporting local carbon-reduction ambitions. The Gedling LAEP is expected to be a valuable tool for strategic decision-making and project development. It will support a place-based approach to decarbonisation, provide a clear pathway for transforming the region's energy system, and help the Council contribute to both local and national net zero objectives.

1.11 In January 2025, the Council updated its Advertising and Sponsorship Policy to include *high-carbon products* on the list of items unlikely to be accepted for advertising or sponsorship. This change reflects the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and ensuring that its commercial activities align with its wider environmental objectives.

1.12 The Council has also been recognised for its actions to address the climate emergency. Climate Emergency UK assessed all councils nationally during 2024 across seven areas, scoring each authority on the extent to which they are delivering climate actions aligned with achieving net zero. Gedling Borough Council received a score of 36%**,** published in July 2025. This was the highest score among the seven borough and district councils in Nottinghamshire, reflecting the Council's continued progress and commitment to climate action.

1.13 In March 2025, the Council was successful in securing a fully funded Fleet and Infrastructure Review through the Midlands Net Zero Hub. The report and dashboard provides a comprehensive assessment of the Council's current fleet operations and depot infrastructure and will be a valuable evidence base to support future funding applications for fleet electrification and associated depot upgrades.

1.14 The Climate Change Manager has continued to engage regularly with a range of community groups throughout the year, providing support, advice and updates on the Council's climate work. In particular, the Manager meets quarterly with the two established climate groups in the borough: the Gedling Climate Group and the Burton Joyce Climate Action Group. The Council has also worked collaboratively with partners at major community events, including those held at Arnot Hill Park and Gedling Country Park, to promote sustainability and climate-change awareness and to engage directly with residents and stakeholders.

1.15 In October 2025, a bespoke business-focused event was delivered in collaboration with the Economic Regeneration Team to update local businesses on the Council's sustainability journey to date. The event also featured speakers from the East Midlands Combined County Authority on regional policy and green-growth opportunities, a case study from a local business outlining its decarbonisation journey, and information on available grant funding. Networking opportunities were also provided. A total of 25 attendees participated, and overall feedback was positive.

1.16 The Climate Change Manager has refreshed and rebranded the climate-related content on the Council's website, incorporating new information and resources for residents. This includes a dedicated section on *Grants and Support for Residents* and the addition of case-study videos under the 'Greener Gedling' theme, showcasing local examples of positive climate action.

1.17 In 2024/25 a total of 3030 trees have been successfully planted. 1,320 trees funded through the Trees for climate were planted at Digby Park, 108 trees funded through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. 1,602 trees were planted at Gedling Country Park through external funding obtained by the Friends of Group. Ongoing establishment and maintenance arrangements are in place to support tree survival and ensure long-term environmental benefits.

1.18 In October 2025, the Council endorsed the adoption of the EMCCA Regional Local Retrofit Strategy, which sets out the strategic approach for improving the energy efficiency of homes across the region. In 2025/26, the Council joined a consortium of local authorities led by Nottinghamshire County Council to deliver the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Warm Homes Local Grant schemes. Under ECO4, a total of 57 measures were installed in homes within the borough, including boiler upgrades and wall and loft insulation. The ECO4 scheme has now concluded. The Warm Homes Local Grant scheme, which runs until 2028, solar panels have so far been installed in four homes in the borough, with further installations expected as the scheme progresses.

2 Proposal

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

3 Alternative Options

3.1 The alternative option would be not to report on the delivery of the Carbon Management Strategy to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. All projects currently in progress are being delivered within existing approved revenue and capital budgets. Some priority actions within the Strategy may give rise to future financial implications for the Council. Where this is the case, these will be assessed on a project-by-project basis and will be subject to separate reports, business cases and the necessary approvals

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There is no statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Carbon Management Strategy or to publish this progress update. This report is for noting only and does not of itself create any new statutory duties, make any regulatory decisions, or commit the Council to specific expenditure or projects.

5.2 The Council has broad powers to act to promote or improve the environmental wellbeing of its area and to take steps that are incidental to the discharge of its functions (including under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Act 1972). The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a national net zero target; while that duty sits at national level, the Strategy supports the Council in evidencing local contribution and managing legal and reputational risks associated with climate commitments.

5.3 If actions in the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan are progressed into individual projects, procurements or funding bids, further legal input will be required as appropriate to ensure compliant decision-making and governance, and legally robust arrangements (including procurement and contract law, grant terms/conditions, data protection and information governance, and subsidy control where relevant). The Council will also need to ensure ongoing compliance with the public sector equality duty when developing and implementing individual projects.

6 Local Government Reorganisation Implications

6.1 Local government reorganisation may alter future delivery structures and governance arrangements, but it also presents an opportunity to strengthen the strategic coordination of carbon management across a wider geography.

6.2 During the uncertainty associated with potential reorganisation and its implications for the future of the Council, the Council continues to make steady progress in delivering its Carbon Management Strategy and reducing organisational emissions.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have equalities impact implications. These are considered on a project-by-project basis and individual equalities impact assessment will then be undertaken.

8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

8.1 The progress made to date will improve the environmental sustainability of the Council and has reduced our carbon emissions. The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy and action plan may have carbon reduction or wider sustainability implications. These are considered on a project-by project basis and individual environmental impact assessments will then be undertaken.

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Carbon Management Action Plan Progress Update Report

9.2 Appendix 2 – APSE 2024/25 Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions

9.3 Appendix 3 – Net Zero Living: Fast Followers End of Project Report

10 Background Papers

10.1 Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan

11 Reasons for Recommendations

11.1 To update Members on the progress of the Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan, since the last update in April 2024.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:
Date:
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:
Date:
On behalf of the Monitoring Officer