

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>14 July 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Green Master Plan</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides a progress update on the Green Master Plan (GMP), highlighting the key activities taken to date and proposing a delivery schedule. The COVID-19 crisis will require resources to be directed towards supporting LCCs green recovery. This will contribute towards the actions likely to be identified within the master plan. It is important that we seize the opportunity to deliver carbon reduction and environmental benefits as early as possible.

The report also highlights the need for a delivery vehicle that will support long term and sustained actions to reduce carbon and improve the Lincolnshire environment.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is asked to consider the development of the Green Master Plan and:

- (1) To endorse the proposed timescale for the delivery of the Green Master Plan by early 2021.
- (2) Provide guidance to officers on how the Committee envisage the green master plan will be delivered and the appropriate means for doing so.

**1. Background**

Lincolnshire County Council committed to making its activities carbon neutral by 2050 on 17th May 2019. This commitment also extended to working with partners and community groups to make Lincolnshire carbon neutral within the same time frame. In addition a key recommendation from the corporate peer challenge in September that year was to develop and implement a climate change strategy for Lincolnshire. The review highlighted that the council has the "ingredients in place for a good response to climate change" and recommended that it should grasp this agenda and move from 'carbon planning' to 'climate leadership'.

Since the peer review, Lincolnshire County Council has reinstated the East Midlands Sustainability Officers working group. This has now met three times to share information about actions across the region and to explore frameworks for others to use. It is hoped that in the different authorities may come together to collaborate on projects to reduce the costs and intellectual burden.

Similarly a renewed group of Lincolnshire sustainability officers has been created following a presentation to the chief executives and leaders in February. Following a first meeting on 17th March, in the coming weeks we will be convening the group on a regular, virtual basis to help to co-ordinate carbon management plans, the Environment topic of the JSNA and future shared project opportunities.

### **The Green Master Plan**

The council directed action to develop a Green Master Plan (GMP) for Lincolnshire in early January. A proposed outline of the GMP was put forward in February, setting some key priorities and outlining a number of actions, including developing an evidence base, and working with consultants to engage with our partner organisations. The scope of the plan was also defined and will cover the impacts on LCC, our partners, and the wider community.

The corporate plan sets out LCC's commitment to reducing carbon emissions for Lincolnshire by 2050 to net zero. It also emphasises the need to show leadership in this area. The corporate plan success framework highlights the GMP as the mechanism by which LCC will deliver net zero. The plan will cover a number of different areas including:

- Carbon emissions
- Natural Environment
- Planning
- Energy
- Waste
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Economic development

This is a broad agenda and will require the support and input of both LCC officers and our partners. To this end a consultation has started to develop the approach and format of activities that partners and senior officers feel are essential to the delivery of the GMP. 2050 is a long-term target which will need long-term thinking and actions to be implemented. We cannot avoid having challenging conversations in order to make the required changes to the way we do business and the way people live and work in Lincolnshire.

Tone and language will be vital in communicating the GMP's priorities and will set the tone for future action. Unambiguous commitments will be vital to ensure wide support across the organisation, partners and communities. The GMP will be ambitious, with carbon reductions being front loaded. The greatest reductions will be planned in the first phase of a 3 phase plan. We think each 10 years of the plan could have 3 priority areas to tackle – however it is important to ensure that views

of all stakeholders are factored into the agreed priorities and consequent action plan.

There will also need to be clear lines of ownership across the partnerships of public sector, business, communities and individuals. The plan will explore links to the youth agenda and how the next generation could lead on some strands of work.

### **Current position**

Key elements of the GMP are now starting to come together. A literature review examining policy and strategy across all the different strands of the green master plan is nearing completion and will form the evidence base vital in supporting future activities and providing a clear overview of current circumstances in Lincolnshire.

The consultants have begun to contact partner organisations seeking feedback on the outline plan and general direction of the GMP and also asking for detail on their current position to understand the key opportunities and challenges for Lincolnshire organisations the communities.

### **Future activity**

Action planning for a 30 year time period will produce many uncertainties with developing technologies and future policy having the potential to significantly influence the outcome of the GMP. The GMP is also likely to produce a large number of projects across the county which will need to be monitored and updated.

The GMP will not be static, requiring the consistent input of officers to maintain the evidence base, project monitoring and delivery and continuous consultation with partners and communities. All actions must be kept under continual review in order to strengthen them as more information becomes available. Remodelling of outcomes will be required on a semi regular basis as new policy/ technologies come on stream.

The GMP will be a living document. More than a masterplan; it is a joined up response across a broad spectrum of society to enable the Lincolnshire environment to thrive. A strong resilient environment will provide a robust launch pad for the economy, transport, and the health of our residents. To achieve this, activities must be linked to provide multiple benefits across a number of areas.

The success of the GMP will largely be measured through the carbon reductions achieved by LCC and the wider Lincolnshire area. These are calculated through the existing carbon management plan, and wider government monitoring. We will explore a full range of measures with our partners, to include for example, changing use of transport and the introduction of innovative clean technologies – eg electric car charging, district heating, and alternative fuels. The GMP will support and identify links between projects with the aim to achieve multiple benefits; any investment in projects through the GMP will be monitored closely.

An appropriate delivery vehicle for the GMP will need to be created. This could be in the form of a document, through a green network or partnership (eg waste partnership model), a website or other means that would enable the GMP to be kept alive and provide a focus for projects and activities. There are many potential options for a delivery vehicle however members are urged to consider governance structures already in place and what input they feel would be appropriate from members.

There are a number of existing groups which could be used to facilitate delivery across the county including various community groups, the Lincoln climate commission and the recently formed sustainability officers working group (recently set up following the leaders and chief executives meeting in March).

The COVID-19 crisis presents an opportunity to achieve carbon reductions and sustainable decision making in advance of what might have possible without it, and there are opportunities to do this through the recovery planning process. While this may lead to a revised timetable for delivery of the GMP, it is suggested that the resulting plan should be more robust as a result.

A new timescale for developing the GMP is proposed as follows:

- Full GMP draft available for E & E scrutiny – 24th November
- Full report to Executive – 1st December
- Final sign off at full council – February 2021

A public launch event is proposed for 2021 to highlight the opportunities to get involved and potential project generation, and a 'Lincolnshire Climate Summit' could be used to bring together local leaders, business and the community to learn, share best practice and information on the environment and climate change.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Committee is requested to consider the development of the Green Master Plan and review the proposed timescale for the delivery of the Green Master Plan by February 2021.

Members of the Committee are also invited to provide guidance to officers on how they envisage the green master plan will be delivered and the appropriate means for doing so. Things to consider include using existing groups, use of websites and the internet, lines of reporting and general governance.

Members are also asked to consider the extent of their involvement in developing the Green Master Plan. Options could include a working group, to feed in through a nominated executive councillor or options for members to submit feedback directly to officers.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

No

#### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

To be carried out along with the drafting of the Green Master Plan.

### **4. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Helen Jenkins-Knight, who can be contacted on 01522 555355 or [helen.jenkins-knight@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.jenkins-knight@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank