

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	08 September 2020
Subject:	Green Master Plan Update

Summary:

This report is intended to provide an update on progress towards the Green Masterplan (GMP). The report includes an overview of the GMP, update on progress and future opportunities to explore.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the development of the Green Master Plan and consider the options for delivery. Members of the Committee are also invited to consider the publicity for the GMP including any existing networks or activities which could be used.

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'.

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 emissions and environmental impacts of LCC, our partners, and the wider community.

The scope of the GMP is:

- To act as an overarching position statement with a clearly defined target to reach 'net-zero' by 2050 or earlier.
- To set the ambition for 2050 with clear actions to cover the next 10 years (2020-2030) in more detail and have two more phases to cover the period to 2050 (2030-2040 and 2040-2050).

- To include a road map to achieving the net zero target by 2050 or sooner if practicable, along with governance structure, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

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.

Current Position

The consultation with key partners is coming to an end with only a few interviews left to complete. Initial feedback shows support for the overall approach of the GMP. Some key areas of concern raised by our partners were around area wide emissions calculations and monitoring and emissions from land use (likely to be a significant contributor to emissions in Lincolnshire). The conclusions of the consultation will be available in late September and will be included within the drafting of the GMP.

In partnership with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan team (who are currently investigating opportunities to produce a carbon neutral local plan) a baseline emissions calculation has been commissioned for the whole Lincolnshire area. The piece of work will also produce a tool to forecast emissions based on national and local policies. This work will be produced for Lincolnshire as a whole, but will also be viewable at a district level, showing leadership and support for our partners. This piece of work will form the foundation upon which monitoring and evaluation of the plan can take place for the wider Lincolnshire area.

Clear links with the transformation programme have been established. Strengthening links between these two programmes of work should deliver multiple benefits and prevent any unintended impacts on either work stream. The head of Environment will now sit on the transformation board. Similarly the Assistant Director – Corporate Transformation, Programmes & Performance has a seat on the Corporate Environment Board. The Corporate Environment Board will oversee the GMP development and implementation.

The COVID-19 crisis presented an opportunity to achieve carbon reductions and sustainable decision making in advance of what might have been possible without it. Appendix A on carbon emissions reductions during the second quarter of this year highlights in more detail options to capitalise on reductions made to date and extrapolates those savings out to the rest of this year. The total potential carbon savings for 2020/21 are 2708 tonnes. Whilst this falls under the remit of GMP delivery it was vital that action was taken to understand the impacts and implications.

LCC's Carbon Management Plan 3 had a baseline of 28,679 tonnes of CO₂. A 20% reduction was committed to over 5 years amounting to a reduction of 5,736 tonnes of CO₂ needed to meet the target. There are 3 years left to the March 2023 deadline. Making a 2,708 tonne saving annually would yield savings of 8,124

tonnes of CO₂ by March 2023. Failure to capitalise on this opportunity could result in higher costs and reputational damage.

Future Activity

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.

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.

Effective communication and engagement will have a significant impact on the success of the GMP. Opportunities are being explored to do this in such a way as to have maximum impact. Currently ideas involve consultations, workshops and events. Making use of existing networks and exploring opportunities with partner organisations are also being considered to reduce the administrative burden of broader engagement with the public.

Officers continue to work to the timeframes agreed at the previous Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee 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

The indicative project plan is attached as Appendix B.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider the development of the Green Master Plan and consider the options for delivery. Do members agree with the GMP being delivered as a living document?

Members of the Committee are also invited to consider the publicity for the GMP including any existing networks or activities which could be used.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

NA

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Carbon Emissions Reduction During Lockdown
Appendix B	GMP outline project plan

5. 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 07771674845 or helen.jenkins-knight@lincolnshire.gov.uk.