



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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 January 2021
Subject:	Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan

Summary:

This report invites the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan, which is due to be considered by the Executive on 2 February 2021. The views of the Committee will be reported to the Executive as part of its consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to: -

- 1) Consider the attached report and to determine whether it supports the recommendation to the Executive as set out in the report.
- 2) Agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Executive in relation to this item.

1. Background

On 2 February 2021 the Executive is due to consider a report on Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan, which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive. Comments from the Committee will be reported to the Executive on 2 February 2021.

3. Consultation

This Committee is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Executive on 2 February 2021.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Report to the Executive on 2 February 2021 on Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan, including: Appendix A - Text of the Final Draft Green Masterplan Appendix B - Initial Delivery Plan

5. Background Papers

No background papers, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, were relied upon to a material extent in writing this report.

This report was written by David Hickman, who can be contacted on 07919 045257 or david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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

Report to:	Executive
Date:	02 February 2021
Subject:	Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan
Decision Reference:	I021368
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

This report presents the Draft Green Masterplan to the Executive for approval.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive approves the Green Masterplan attached at Appendix A.

Alternatives Considered:

- | | |
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| 1. | Not to approve the Green Masterplan. |
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Reasons for Recommendation:

The Council has committed to achieving net carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with current national targets. The Green Masterplan provides a framework for achieving this ambition, as well as co-ordinating action across the County Council and with partner organisations. Without an approved Masterplan the Council is less likely to achieve the target it has set.

1. Background

In May 2019 Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) determined that it wished to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2050 in line with national objectives. This is reflected in the current Corporate Plan. Subsequent government initiatives have further developed this agenda nationally, most recently in November with a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, with the aspiration to create 250,000 jobs.

Focusing on clean energy, transport, nature and innovative technologies, the plan emphasises the development of offshore wind power, hydrogen as a fuel for heating, promotion of electric vehicles, decarbonised public transport, carbon capture technologies, protecting and restoring the natural environment, and introducing targets such as 600,000 domestic heat pumps installed by 2028.

In response to this developing national agenda, local authorities have been working through national networks such as ADEPT and Solace to develop common approaches to key elements of the sustainability agenda. Principally these are

- Growing the zero and low carbon economy
- Retrofitting homes and buildings
- Decarbonising transport
- Planning to deliver zero carbon development that protects and enhances nature
- Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption
- Restoring nature for all
- Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose

In Lincolnshire the Green Masterplan has been developed to take advantage of these opportunities and to set out the Council's approach to achieving long term sustainable objectives. As such, the Green Masterplan is designed to articulate the Council's own future actions to reduce its emissions, and also to provide a co-ordinating framework that will engage partners in LCC's approach, while supporting them to achieve their own ambitions.

The Green Masterplan sets out three broad principles, which are further developed through a series of actions in the immediate, medium and long term. These are:

- Not wasting anything
- Taking advantage of the wider opportunities
- Taking responsibility and pride for our contribution

As a cross-cutting agenda with relevance across LCC's service delivery portfolio, the Green Masterplan is integrated within the corporate transformation programme.

An action plan has also been defined to identify specific projects that will carry forward this agenda while ensuring that actions across service areas can be effectively monitored and co-ordination can be maintained. This is attached with Appendix A. It consists of ongoing and planned actions, as well as opportunities for further development in the medium and longer term.

The Green Masterplan is designed to be easily accessible and open, usable as a paper document but primarily intended to be used as a web-based resource that can be updated rapidly to reflect changing circumstances, and new and emerging opportunities. The intention is that it will remain current, guiding ongoing service planning across the Authority so that the Council can clearly demonstrate its leadership in driving a more sustainable future for Lincolnshire.

Key areas for delivery in the next few years include:

- 20% further reduction in carbon emissions from LCC's operations by 2023 (from 2018 baseline)
- Emissions of carbon from street lighting across Lincolnshire reduced by over 1,000 tonnes a year by 2024
- Increased on-site generation of low carbon electricity through provision of solar panels on Highways depots and through refurbishment of assets such as Orchard House
- Longer term decarbonisation of transport
- Further reductions in LCC staff travel costs and mileage
- Promotion of tree and habitat provision across Lincolnshire, working with the Local Nature Partnership to deliver the Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire
- Supporting partner organisations to achieve their ambitions for sustainable operations
- Developing a suite of adaptation measures, such as improved resilience to flood risk and the impacts of climate change
- Strengthening the role of sustainability in the Council's decision-making processes during 2021-22

In addition there are a range of smaller scale activities, such as reducing use of paper, printing and electricity that can be carried out at work and at home, that will also contribute to the Council's overall sustainability profile while helping to engage individuals personally in promoting changing attitudes towards energy use.

The Green Masterplan will provide a framework to promote co-ordination between services and organisations, while maintaining a clear monitoring regime so that progress can be reported and sustained.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

While individual projects within the remit of the Green Masterplan will be subject to an equality impact assessment, the plan as a whole aims to provide a framework for achieving greater sustainability and resilience for all people across Lincolnshire. Detailed research exists showing the capacity of sustainable approaches to transport, economics and housing to alleviate inequalities, and this will be reflected in project specific impact assessments.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The Green Masterplan will support delivery of key elements of the JHWS, including promotion of effective digital technologies and support for mental health and well-being through environmental initiatives that will enhance access to high quality green space. The JSNA formed part of the initial research in developing the main themes within the Green Masterplan.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The Green Masterplan is intended to provide improved quality of life for all people across Lincolnshire. There is evidence to show that access to green space and to a higher quality environment helps to reduce the incidence of crime and disorder and can also reduce the fear of crime.

3. Conclusion

The Green Masterplan is designed to articulate the Council's future actions to reduce its emissions, and also to provide a co-ordinating framework that will engage partners in LCC's approach, while supporting them to achieve their own ambitions. This will support LCC in its ambition to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2050.

4. Legal Comments:

The adoption of the Green Masterplan is lawful. It is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive.

5. Resource Comments:

Development of the Green Masterplan is funded from the Development Fund (an earmarked reserve) approved in the Council's 2020/21 Budget. Although there are no direct financial implications from approval of the Green Masterplan any implications arising from the accompanying action plan will be dealt with, as required, through normal budgetary processes.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes.

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee supported development of the Green Masterplan at its meeting on 24 November 2020. Formal scrutiny by the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 12 January 2021 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks and impacts will be undertaken in detail for each project included within the action plan. Existing risk and impact assessments are available relating to activities within the Carbon Management Plan, which forms part of the Green Masterplan.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Text of the Final Draft Green Masterplan
Appendix B	Initial Delivery Plan

8. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
Minutes of the County Council meeting dated 17 May 2019 Item 16 Notices on Motion	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=5274&Ver=4
Report to County Council dated 11 December 2019 entitled "Climate Change Update"	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=5661&Ver=4

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