

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 January 2022
Subject:	Green Masterplan: 2021 Progress Report

Summary:

This report provides an update on progress towards developing and delivering the County Council's Green Masterplan. It covers the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Council's carbon emissions, projects undertaken in 2021 and the plans for 2022.

Actions Required:

The Committee is asked to review and comment on the progress that has been made in initiating the delivery of the Green Masterplan and to give its support for the project programme for 2022.

1. Background

The Green Masterplan was approved by the County Council in February 2021. The Masterplan sets out the principles of how the Council will develop and respond to reducing its carbon emissions to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The Green Masterplan is supported by an action plan setting out projects to deliver net zero carbon.

2. Lincolnshire County Council: Carbon Emissions

In 1990 the carbon dioxide emissions for the Council were 55,000 tonnes per annum. By 2019 this total had been reduced to just under 22,000 tonnes. This had been achieved by reducing the size of the Council's estate, investing in energy efficiency measures in buildings, switching street lighting to low energy LED lamps, adding photovoltaic panels to the roofs of buildings and through the decarbonisation of the electricity supplied through the national electricity grid.

3. Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Carbon Emissions

The coronavirus pandemic and the requirement for staff to work from home, if possible, had a significant impact on the Council's energy consumption and carbon emissions. The

work from home directive began from the last week of March 2020; therefore, it makes a direct year on year comparison of the impacts on energy consumption and carbon emissions possible.

Below is a summary of carbon savings in LCC buildings:

LCC Buildings - Electricity

- Quarter 1 (Q1) 19/20 compared to Q1 20/21 – 27% saving.
- Q2 19/20 compared to Q2 20/21 – 25% saving.
- Q3 19/20 compared to Q3 20/21 – 27% saving.
- Q4 19/20 compared to Q4 20/21 – 18% saving.
- 2019/20 total consumption compared to 2020/21 total consumption - 24% saving.

LCC Buildings - Gas

- Q1 19/20 compared to Q1 20/21 – 24% saving.
- Q2 19/20 compared to Q2 20/21 – 2% saving.
- Q3 19/20 compared to Q3 20/21 – 5% saving.
- Q4 19/20 compared to Q4 20/21 – 10% saving.
- 2019/20 total consumption compared to 2020/21 total consumption - 10% saving.

LCC Buildings – Total (Gas & Electricity)

- Q1 19/20 compared to Q1 20/21 – 26% saving.
- Q2 19/20 compared to Q2 20/21 – 19% saving.
- Q3 19/20 compared to Q3 20/21 – 15% saving.
- Q4 19/20 compared to Q4 20/21 – 13% saving.
- 2019/20 total consumption compared to 2020/21 total consumption - 17% saving.

Total annual carbon savings from LCC buildings is 932 tonnes.

It should be noted that most of these carbon emission savings will have been transferred from Council buildings to emissions from employees' homes.

4. Green Masterplan 2021 Update

The Green Masterplan was approved by the County Council in February 2021. Since the approval was confirmed the Sustainability Team has been working to develop an action plan and to deliver carbon saving projects. Highlights from 2021 include:

Lincolnshire Climate Summit: An in-person event was held at the EPIC Centre at the Lincolnshire Showground in October. The event featured speakers looking at the national policy response to climate change and speakers from Lincolnshire who are helping to

deliver low carbon projects within the county. The Summit included an exhibition with over 30 local suppliers from the environmental sector.

Prior to the event, the Sustainability Team held a series of webinars focussing on sustainability issues with local businesses, charities and community groups. Overall, over 300 people took part in the Climate Summit and the webinars.

Zero Carbon Castle: A project to make Lincoln Castle a zero-carbon tourist attraction is underway. The Sustainability Team has been working with a local consultancy to develop a series of small scale projects, which will reduce the environmental impact of the castle. In 2021 an action plan of projects to reduce the carbon emissions of the building was developed. It is intended that the knowledge gained from this project can then support reducing emissions at other heritage sites within the county.

Establishing a Countywide Carbon Baseline: A project to calculate a zero-carbon baseline for the whole of the economy in Lincolnshire has been developed. This project is discussed in more detail in a separate report for the January 2022 Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Local Climate Impacts Profile Update: The Lincolnshire Climate Impacts Profile has been updated. This report looks at extreme weather impacts over the last ten years in Lincolnshire, including from flooding, drought and heatwaves. The Team worked with students from the School of Geography at the University of Lincoln to collect the background data for the project.

Tree Planting: A successful bid was submitted to the Forestry Commission Treescapes Fund. This will allow an initial round of planting in early 2022. Opportunities for further funding bids are being followed up.

Active Travel: The Active Travel work has moved into the Sustainability Team. The Council was awarded funding from the Department for Transport for active travel projects. The initial trial projects were implemented and plans for larger scale interventions, such as cycle paths connecting surrounding villages to their local towns have been proposed.

A new Travel Plan for the County Council's own activities is in development. This will look at how staff and visitors travel to the Council's buildings currently and will examine options for encouraging active travel. The Travel Plan will also examine infrastructure improvements to encourage active travel at the Council's buildings.

Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA): A tool was developed to use when new projects and policies are developed to ensure that the environmental implications are considered in project development. This would sit alongside the existing Equalities Impact Assessment process. The SIA tool has already been used as a trial in several projects by the Transformation Programme Team.

Directorate / Department Zero Carbon Plans: action plans for zero carbon activity were developed with Property and the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service. Additional action plans are being developed with Highways and Public Health.

Assessment of the Impact of the Environment Act 2021: The new Environment Act 2021 put extensive new responsibilities on local government, including on waste management, air quality and habitat creation. An assessment of the Act has been produced to identify the areas where the County Council will need to do additional work and may require additional resources.

5. Green Masterplan Projects in 2022

The progress on the Green Masterplan will be continued in 2022. A series of projects have been developed and will be funded from the dedicated Green Masterplan budget.

Project	Details
Lincolnshire Climate Partnership	Engagement with businesses on environmental issues. Already Development of the Energy Services Company proposal. Comms Campaign - Working with, ideally, an external PR firm to signpost businesses towards sources of support and funding for carbon negative projects.
Schools Engagement	Working with a small number of schools to promote carbon neutrality on fuel etc., establishing these schools as beacons for other schools (and our own corporate property) to see the benefits. This could bring in funding from other sources – such as the Salix Fund or PSDF. Work with children in schools through drama and arts to encourage uptake in the wider green agenda.
Tree Planting Projects	Providing match funding to the Treescapes Project (£20k) and the Trees Call for Action Fund (£20k). Potential to support the Lincolnshire Forest Partnership – to plant larger areas of woodland using the Woodland Trust MoreWoods grant.
Zero Carbon Parishes	Working with parish councils to develop zero carbon action plans and related projects. This will include energy audits, renewable projects, biodiversity. The project will collect evidence that can be part of a bid to the Shared Prosperity Fund.
Carbon Management Plan (CMP) Update	The current CMP runs up to 2023 – so an updated version is required.
Biodiversity Net Gain Analysis	The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) process has begun with the passing of the Environment Act 2021. The BNG process will be introduced over the next two years. This project will look at how the process will be introduced and opportunities to look at a co-ordinated response across the county.

Project	Details
Cargo Bike – Last Mile Project	This project will look at developing a cargo bike system for Lincoln – it will aim to reduce the number of delivery vehicles entering the centre of the city.
Local Energy Asset Review	A study looking at the energy opportunities in the county – including solar roofs, electric vehicle charging and heat networks.

6. Conclusion

Significant progress has been made in implementing and delivering the Green Masterplan in the first nine months after its approval. The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the direct carbon emissions of the Council and efforts to “lock-in” these savings will be made.

In 2022 the Sustainability Team intends to engage more widely with businesses and communities around the county to work with them to reduce carbon emissions across the county.

7. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable

8. 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 Dan Clayton, Sustainability Manager - Environment, who can be contacted on 07825 607157 or by e-mail at Dan.Clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank