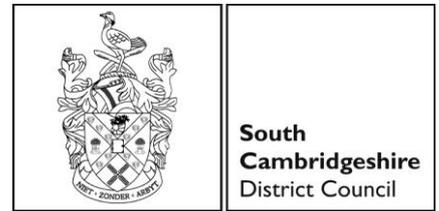


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5 July 2021

To: Chair - Councillor Pippa Heylings  
Vice-Chair – Councillor Dr. Martin Cahn

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –  
Councillors Geoff Harvey, Paul Bearpark, Grenville Chamberlain,  
Graham Cone and Peter Fane

Substitutes: Councillors Heather Williams, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya,  
Nick Wright, Tom Bygott, Ruth Betson, Eileen Wilson and  
Judith Rippeth

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Climate and Environment Advisory Committee**, which will be held in **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Tuesday, 13 July 2021 at 2.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully  
**Liz Watts**  
Chief Executive

**The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you**

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<b>Agenda</b>		<b>Pages</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021.	<b>1 - 4</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Nature Smart Cities Business Model</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Progress report on Zero Carbon Action Plan and Revised Plan with Doubling Nature Actions Added</b>	<b>5 - 20</b>

<b>7.</b>	<b>2020-21 GHG Emissions Accounts</b>	<b>21 - 26</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Update on Grid Capacity Issues Facing Greater Cambridge</b>	<b>27 - 32</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>A428 Environmental Legacy Update</b>	<b>33 - 36</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Six Free Trees Scheme</b>	<b>37 - 38</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Green Investments Update</b>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>CPICC Recommendations to CaPCA - implications for SCDC</b>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Forward Plan and Date of Next Meeting</b>	

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# Agenda Item 3

## South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on  
Monday, 14 June 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

**Chair:** Pippa Heylings  
**Vice-Chair:** Dr. Martin Cahn and Geoff Harvey

**Committee Members in attendance:**  
Paul Bearpark  
Graham Cone

**Councillors in attendance:**  
Councillors Cllr Tumi Hawkins was in attendance remotely, by invitation.

**Officers:**

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
John Cornell	Natural Environment Team Leader
Emma Dyer	Project Officer - Climate and Environment
Jane Green	Built and Natural Environment Manager
Siobhan Mellon	Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Trevor Nicoll	Head of Environment and Waste
Rebecca Weymouth-Wood	Interim SSWS Waste Policy Manager

### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grenville Chamberlain and Peter Fane.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

#### Joint Working Group

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment reported that the setting up of a joint working group of members, officers and tenants by the Housing service, as discussed at the last meeting, would be taking place in due course. They had not wished to overburden tenants who had also been involved in the setting up of the new repairs contract.

### 5. Certificate of Excellence from IESE for the Council's Green to our Core Work

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment presented the Certificate of Excellence from IESE for the Council's "Green to Our Core" work at the meeting.

## **6. Report on the Climate & Environment Fortnight**

The Climate and Environment Project Officer introduced this report, which updated the Committee on the recently held Climate and Environment fortnight of online events. The Committee praised the event and agreed that it should be repeated next year.

## **7. UKYCC/Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (Katie Williams and colleagues)**

Serena Bashal and Katie Williams from the UK Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC) gave a presentation to the Committee. It was noted that the UKYCC was a Non-Government Organisation for people aged 18-29, that was lobbying in support of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

It was understood that UKYCC had contacted Anthony Browne MP regarding the Bill and he was opposed to it. It was suggested that UKYCC lobby Lucy Frazer MP, who also represented South Cambridgeshire. The Chair asked that the link to the new draft of the Bill be sent to the Committee. It was hoped that Anthony Browne would be more likely to support the amended version of the Bill.

## **8. Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document - Report to Follow**

The Natural Environment Team Leader introduced this report, by explaining that a new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document was required, as the existing document had been agreed by the Council back in 2009. In addition, the City Council did not have a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, and this report could rectify this.

### **Balancing competing factors**

In response to questioning, the Built and Natural Environment Manager explained that the Council would be required to balance the benefits of an application for a renewable energy plant against the impact it would have on biodiversity. The Natural Environment Team Leader added that the Document was designed to steer but not instruct councillors when determining an application.

### **Net gain of biodiversity**

It was noted that the Document stated that the biodiversity value of the development needed to exceed the pre-development biodiversity value by 10%. Councillor Tumi Hawkins suggested that the Document include the aspirational aim of 20%. The Committee recommended that a target of 20% be put in the next Local Plan.

Concern was expressed at the possible practice of development achieving the biodiversity target value and then removing trees. It was suggested that some form of offsetting could happen within the District.

### **Engaging with community**

Councillor Tumi Hawkins suggested that the Council engages with schools, parish councils and community groups regarding this Document.

The Committee recommended that Cabinet agree the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.

**9. Chalk Streams Report Presentation by Guy Belcher, Cambridge City Council**

Guy Belcher, Biodiversity Officer at Cambridge City Council, gave a presentation on 17 chalk streams in the Greater Cambridge area and work being carried out to maintain them, including the removal of vegetation, dredging and the adding of gravel banks.

The Committee agreed with recommendations from the Head of Environment and Waste that Guy meet with the Council officer with responsibility for managing awarded watercourses with a view to exploring how the Council can help with work needed on chalk streams in South Cambs; and that the Project Officer, Climate and Environment meet with author of the report, Rob Mungovan, to facilitate applications to the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme from community groups involved in work to chalk streams in South Cambs where appropriate.

**10. Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations, Bryony Rothwell, RECAP Waste Partnership Manager**

Bryony Rothwell, RECAP Waste Partnership Manager, gave a presentation on the Resources and Waste Strategy consultation and its consequences. She provided details of the following aims:

- 70% of plastics recycled (current rate 55%).
- Introduce “polluter pays” principle, to reduce packaging and recyclable material use.
- Fly-tipping to be tackled.
- Separate collection for food waste.
- Deposit scheme for cans and bottles.

The Head of Environment and Waste stated that the current trial in separate food waste collection would be expanded. It was noted that according to a 2019 study 33% of food waste was being put in black bins. The hope was to ultimately reduce the amount of food being wasted. It was noted that due to lockdown both the amount of waste and the amount of recycling had increased. Hopefully by autumn the Council will see how the rates normalise.

**11. Green Investments Update - Waterbeach microgrid scheme**

The Head of Environment and Waste explained that the Council was looking at the possibility of generating electricity at the Waterbeach Depot, which could be used to charge the electric fleet vehicles. The Committee could expect to receive an update later in the year.

**12. Forward Plan (Report to Follow) and Date of Next Meeting**

The Development Officer, Climate & Environment listed the items to be discussed at the next meeting on 14 July:

- 2020-21 GHG Emissions Accounts
- Progress report on ZC Action Plan and new action Plan to include ZC and DN actions
- Update on grid capacity issues facing Greater Cambridge (Emma Davies)
- Item on valuing social and environmental benefits in Investments
- Hatton Road Attenuation Ponds
- A428 Environmental Legacy update
- Green Investments Update

The Committee agreed to schedule an extra meeting on Wednesday 22 September at 2pm to discuss the Local Plan.

The Committee thanked the Head of Environment and Waste for his efforts in transforming the sustainable work of the Council and wished him well in his position at a new authority.

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**The Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.**

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# Agenda Item 6



**South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13 July 2021
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Bridget Smith
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Rebecca Weymouth-Wood

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## Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan

### Executive Summary

1. This report presents the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee with
  - a progress review on the Zero Carbon Action Plan at end of 2020-21
  - a revised and updated version of the plan which incorporates actions to deliver the Doubling Nature Strategy adopted by Cabinet on 3 Feb.
2. The committee is invited to note these and provide comments.

### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC notes the progress review of the Zero Carbon Action Plan at end of 2020-21 and the revised and updated version of the plan incorporating actions on 'Doubling Nature'.

### Reasons for Recommendations

4. The progress update and revised plan have been brought to CEAC to allow them to fulfil their role which includes advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions, and providing updates on progress towards achieving agreed targets and outcomes.

### Details

5. A progress update on the Zero Carbon Action Plan at 30 September 2020 was presented to CEAC on 3 November 2020. The document at Appendix 1 provides a further update of progress at 31 May 2021.
6. This initial version of the plan is in two sections. Section 1 lists actions intended to achieve the target reduction of 45% in GHG emissions from the Council's own

estate and operations by 2025 relative to a 2018-19 baseline. Section 2 lists actions contributing to reductions in GHG emissions in the wider district. Section 2 is further divided into 6 sub-sections: Domestic, Commercial Sector, Transport, Land Use and Forestry, Energy and Waste & Recycling.

7. A RAG rating is provided for each action, with the action marked green where progress is on track for completion by the expected date; amber where progress is continuing but a delay to the expected completion date has been agreed; and red where progress has stalled.
8. Taking each section in turn, Section 1 lists 8 actions aimed at reducing emissions on the Council's own estate and operations.
9. Actions relating to energy improvements at the Depot and to our commercial properties are on track, as are actions to replace diesel refuse vehicles, and to plant trees on our housing estates. Actions to minimise paper at Council meetings, through introduction of the Modern Gov app; and to complete works to South Cambs Hall, streetlight LED replacements and develop a solar pv array are behind the original schedule but otherwise on track.
10. Section 2.1 lists eight actions relating to reducing carbon emissions from housing. Four different service areas – Housing, Planning, Environmental Health and Climate and Environment have actions in this section. Progress is on track except for action relating to energy efficiency in private rented sector homes, which has not been feasible. The two actions here are marked grey. Advice and guidance from our Environmental Health officers on energy efficiency has been available to landlords but has not been sought over this period; there have not been opportunities to develop enforcement action under the MEES legislation. Work in this area will be possible if, and only if, funding for this is secured from the government's Enforcement and Compliance competition. Advice and guidance will continue to be available when a need is identified by the EH team.
11. Section 2.2 lists four actions relating to reducing emissions from the industry and commerce sector. All of these are on track.
12. Section 2.3 lists eight actions relating to reducing emissions from transport. Three of these relate to the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; one is around taxi licensing; one is around supporting staff to reduce travel emissions and three are around sustainable travel more generally.
13. Four actions in this section are green. Progress on actions A14-16 (working with partners on a community transport scheme for the northern villages; installing EVCPs at Sth Cambs Hall as part of the retrofit programme, and reviewing and updating our staff Travel for Work plan) is behind expected schedule and so these are amber. Despite a thorough exploration of options, it has not proved possible to identify a suitable location to install an EVCP for taxis and so this action is marked red.
14. Section 2.4 lists eight actions to reduce emissions from waste. Two of these were adversely affected by Covid and are red and amber. Otherwise all are green.

15. Section 2.5 lists four actions relating to renewable energy generation. Progress is behind schedule with two of these (Cambridgeshire Solar Together and plans for a solar PV array to power our fleet). They are otherwise on track. All others are green.
16. Section 2.6 lists three actions relating to Land and Trees, all of which are on track and marked green.

### **Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan**

17. The 2021-22 revision of the Zero Carbon Action Plan can be viewed at Appendix 2. Following adoption of the Doubling Nature Strategy in February, the action plan has been expanded to include a 3<sup>rd</sup> section listing actions working towards the doubling nature target.
18. These comprise three actions from our Planning teams, five actions supporting community action, three actions on our own estate, one through our work managing awarded watercourses and one working with partners.
19. We have also made changes to the action plan to make it easier to follow. The 21-22 revision includes several sub-headings and has an improved structure. A new section lists actions which cut across several sectors such as those relating to planning policy and to our Zero Carbon Communities programme. The energy section has been removed and actions formerly in this section moved to other sections. Actions which have been completed, or which are, or have become, business as usual are not included in the 21-22 revision. Column O indicates the new location of each action from the original plan in the 21-22 revision. Where an action is not included, the reason is given.
20. Many of the actions are copied directly from the Council's Business Plan. To clarify where this is the case, these are in blue.

### **Implications**

21. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

#### **Financial**

22. Financial resources for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual budgetary processes.

## **Staffing**

23. Staffing for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual processes.

## **Climate Change**

24. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change.

## **Consultation responses**

25. The action plans have been the subject of internal consultation.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

26. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change and double nature.

## **Background Papers**

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s116330/200521%20Zero%20Carbon%20Strategy%20Report%20to%20Council%20FINAL.pdf>

2020-21 Zero Carbon Action Plan progress report to CEAC, 03 November 2020

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s119451/201103%20CEAC%20ZCAP%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

[https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy .pdf](https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy.pdf)

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Zero Carbon Action Plan 2020-25 Progress Update at 31 May

Appendix B: Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan, 2021-22 revision

**Report Author:**

Siobhan Mellon, Development Officer, Climate and Environment  
Telephone: (01954) 713395

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Ref	Action	Business Plan 2020-25 (2020-21 revision) reference, where relevant	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2020	Progress at 31 May 2021	RAG rating	ref no in 21-22 revision
<b>1. Achieve 45% reduction in GHG emissions from the Council's own estate and operations by 2025 relative to 2018-19 baseline</b>							
T1	Explore options for additional energy efficiency improvements at the Depot		31-Mar-21	A project to upgrade lighting has been scoped and the contract for works awarded to a local company. Work is due to be completed by end of October.	Lighting upgrade completed. Together with the solar PV installed in 2019, this completes planned energy improvement works to the Depot building.		n/a because completed
T2	Investigate options for making energy improvements to the trading estate in St Neots, the buildings on the Science Park and to future investment properties		ongoing	The feasibility of energy improvements to all property acquired via the Investment Strategy will be assessed through the new Energy Services Framework, which was awarded in September. Feasibility reports will be presented to the Investment Selection Team and Investment Governing Board for decision.	Options for energy improvements have been explored on two properties and two projects have been initiated. At 140 Science Park, work is on hold pending the outcome of legal discussions regarding the lease and a Power Purchase Agreement. At 270 Science Park work is due to start at the end of July following completion of preparatory legal work and business case.		2.8
T3	Deliver major energy retrofit project to South Cambs Hall	C3) Retrofit our Cambourne office with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	31-Mar-21	Work has commenced on a major project to deliver seven energy conservation measures to South Cambs Hall, comprising solar carport system, ground source heat pump, building energy management system upgrade, air handling unit fan upgrades, chiller modifications and enhancements, internal lighting upgrade to LED and electric vehicle charging points. The project is projected to deliver carbon emissions savings of 49% of the 2018 annual baseline and annual energy bill savings of over £76,000. Completion is expected June 2021.	Project mobilisation started in April 2021 following delays to finalising of contract. Completion and handover are now expected March 2022. Measures are as originally intended other than changes to the specification of solar pv panels due to different manufacturer, resulting in slightly larger total area and higher generation than originally planned.		1.4
T4	Upgrade our 1804 streetlights to LEDs	C6) Upgrade our stock of 1,800 streetlights to LED, which will reduce energy consumption and save Parish Councils money	31-Mar-21	An Investment Grade Proposal for replacement of footway lighting stock was agreed in May 2020. The contract has been signed and work has commenced. Expected delivery completion date end of March 2021	The majority of works to upgrade standard lights are completed, with some residual works ongoing with completion by the end of June 2021. The second phase of works is upgrade all ornate lights.		1.7
T5	Develop a new solar pv array to supply low carbon electricity to power these vehicles.	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	tbd	Options are being explored for electricity to be provided from renewable sources via a Power Purchase Agreement to align with the increase in electric Refuse Collection Vehicles.	Proposals for solar array and mini-grid submitted to Partnership Working Group, Investment Selection Team and Leadership Team. Funding agreed in principle with some details for further development.		1.3
T6	Replace refuse vehicles with electric or hydrogen models.	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	tbd	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has now begun the use of electric refuse vehicles.	A new electric refuse vehicle has been in successful operation since November. A replacement schedule for the Council's fleet has been drawn up, setting out expected dates for replacement of all 25 diesel refuse vehicles by 2026/27. The service has also trial two further company's electric refuse freighter to gauge where the manufacturers are in producing suitable vehicles. A tender spec has been written and should be advertise mid 2021 with the option to buy up to further five electric vehicles. Dependent on the market and tender returns any of the five due not purchased in 2021/22 would move into the next financial year awaiting improvements on the units. .		1.1
T7	Minimise use of paper in our offices.	D5) Council and committee meetings will be run paper-free wherever possible	ongoing	Use of paper in our offices has plummeted from 420 boxes of A4 and 36 boxes of A3 in the first two quarters of 2019 to 80 boxes of A4 and 0 boxes of A3 in the first two quarters of 2020, no doubt largely because of home-working due to Covid. The planned switch from paper to digital agenda and reports for Members has been delayed due to technical issues with Mod Gov app. This is expected to be resolved by the end of the year.	A work around was found for the technical difficulty noted in previous update and some progress in registering Members to the app was achieved in Q4 of 2020-21, but during Q1 of 2021-22 the additional commitments of the elections and arrangements for the end of the remote meetings legislation meant the work has not substantially progressed. Technical issues have recurred in registering new councillors on the app. It is anticipated a development solution will be made available by the provider but the timing is not confirmed. The majority of Members continue to require paper agenda packs, however from January 2021, Cabinet Members have transitioned to digital agendas (using PDFs and second monitors for those not using the ModGov app) for all Cabinet meetings, with the exception of one Member who has recently joined the Cabinet.		1.9

T8	Deliver tree-planting project on our Housing estates in collaboration with our repairs contractor		tbd	<p>Despite Covid, there has been significant progress around trees on our HRA estate. A district-wide audit to identify the type, size, location and condition of all trees on communal land belonging to the HRA is soon to be commenced by our grounds maintenance contractor. It will take about a year to complete with results reported each quarter. It is likely that the survey will reveal that some trees need to be taken down due to their condition. At least one replacement tree will be planted for each tree removed. We have commenced a programme of " Formal Estate Inspections " with Housing Officers, Tenant Inspectors and local residents. These inspections will allow conversations to open up with interested parties about taking care of existing trees and planting additional ones. Our repairs and maintenance contractor has confirmed they are still willing to support the planting of additional trees through the " social value " element of their contract. Our grounds maintenance contractor will continue to support us with expert advice and physical labour to plant these trees. In addition, we have reached out to a couple of residents who came forward late last year with an interest in planting trees close to where they live, and we are in discussion with one of our parish councils who have requested permission to plant trees on land belonging to the HRA in collaboration with their local school.</p>	<p>The tree-planting work in collaboration with our repairs contractor is part of a wider initiative to understand the trees on our HRA Estate, add to these where possible, and improve management. An audit of all trees on the HRA Estate is underway. The first of four parts to this has been completed and has identified 850 trees and outlined the work necessary to keep them safe and healthy. Around 8 trees need to be removed and will be replaced with more than one tree where possible. A new step has been added to the Formal Estates Inspection process and this is identifying opportunities for new trees and wildflower strips. Our repairs contractor has confirmed continued support of this work.</p>		3.6
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**2 Support efforts to achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the district as a whole by 2030**

**i) Domestic Sector**

A1	We will determine what steps are needed to bring down emissions to zero by 2050 in our Council Housing	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	30-Jun-20	An audit showing the energy improvement measures required to meet the standard of zero carbon operational emissions in the Council's housing stock has been undertaken and a report received. The report shows the estimated capital costs of improvement, the estimated fuel cost savings accruing to residents the estimated reduction in CO2 emissions of the measures described and the funding implications.	Completed.		2.1
A2	We will develop a four year programme of work on our Council homes to tackle the areas of highest priority.	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	31-Mar-21	We have joined a major research study (the largest in the UK) into decarbonisation of homes, NetZero CO2llective, in order to develop our understanding of the energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies required for cost effective carbon reduction across our housing stock. We expect to have the necessary data to support the development of a plan for a programme of works within 12-18 months.	Our work with the Net Zero Collective is going well. Equipment monitoring energy and humidity has been installed in five properties. Initial results are expected soon and will support the development of a plan to make these five properties as near net zero as possible. This work will then be carried out by the Net Zero Collective. Monitoring of energy and humidity will continue and will support the development of further plans for work to HRA properties. Alongside the work through the Net Zero Collective, work continues to upgrade insulation on void properties which were missed in earlier improvement programmes due to unwillingness of residents to have the work done. Internal wall insulation is also being installed to two non-standard properties where EWI was not possible.		2.2
A3	We will develop appropriate policies such that our new Local Plan supports the transition to zero carbon in the district.		ongoing	We have commissioned a major study to inform the development of Local Plan policies to support the transition to zero carbon. This is underway with the initial report expected to be ready for publication before the end of the year.	Strategic spatial options assessment: Implications for carbon emissions was published in November 2020. Further work is currently underway to develop preferred options for climate change policies which will be subject to public consultation in autumn 2021.		2.20
A4	We will work towards taking the same approach to reducing energy use and carbon emissions on Ermine Street properties as we do on our Council homes.		ongoing	Ermine Street Housing is in its final phase of acquisition and continues to acquire homes with high EPC ratings. Where this is not the case, funds are set aside to upgrade the dwelling. Several properties had solar panels installed when Feed in Tariffs were available. The Company benefits from the feed in tariff and the tenant benefits from the free electricity. Fifteen boilers have been installed in the past 6 months, replacing obsolete inefficient units with new energy efficient units.	The leased MOD properties have all had upgraded energy efficient boilers installed. Green Energy Switch in partnership with ESH has surveyed a proportion of the portfolio, offering energy efficiency advice, and suggesting improvements where necessary and provides information regarding any grants that are available to undertake improvements. ESH is approaching the target of 500 homes allowing a more focussed approach to greening the stock based on comprehensive stock condition reports and EPC data.		2.4

A5	We will continue to work with partners, including through the Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership, to find ways of supporting and encouraging home energy work, including exploring options for funding and delivering energy efficiency projects for our residents.		ongoing	Together with Cambridge City Council, we explored the possibility of entering a bid for the 1st phase of the government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme but were unable to do so, due to various factors including that nearly all the Council's housing stock have already been upgraded to a level which makes them ineligible for funding. We are currently investigating the possibility of entering bids for further government schemes, the details of which have recently been announced or are expected soon.	We have continued to pursue opportunities as they have emerged. We have secured funding for work to privately owned park homes through a successful consortium bid to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1b scheme. This project was starting to get underway at the end of May and is due to be completed by end of September. We are part of a county-led group purchase scheme for solar PV panels, Cambridgeshire Solar Together. 581 households in South Cambs are participating in the scheme. Installations are expected to be completed by end of August.		2.5
A6	We will support landlords with advice and guidance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes			Our Environmental Health Officers visit private rented properties to investigate tenants' complaints. As part of these visits we check that the property has been issued with an EPC meeting the minimum energy efficiency standards. To date this has always been the case, but if it were not, we would ask the landlord to improve the property so that it is compliant with current legislation. We would signpost to advice and guidance as to how to do this, and provide information on any current funding opportunities.	Work to support landlords with advice and guidance to improve energy efficiency is largely reactive. No requests have been received over the past year in relation to energy efficiency.		If funding is secured from the government's Enforcement and Compliance competition, this will allow development of work in this area. Advice and guidance will continue to be available when a need is identified by the EH team.
A7	We will take appropriate enforcement action where necessary to uphold the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector legislation			Nationally, there are a number of challenges to enforcement of the MEES legislation, solutions to which are currently being explored through pilot schemes in various other local authorities. We are looking at how we can develop our work in this area as part of our service planning for 2021-22, and will draw on the learning from the pilot schemes.	There is a possibility of putting in a bid to the government's Private Rented Sector Enforcement and Compliance Competition for funding to support work under this theme. If a bid is made, and is successful, this would allow development of our work in this area. Other than this, no work in this area is currently included in work programmes.		
A8	We will work with partners to provide home surveys, advice, free insulation and other home energy measures for households in fuel poverty			Following an energy services tender process, Green Energy switch have been appointed to deliver Free energy advice and services to Council tenants and private sector residents within the South Cambs District. The service launched in October. It was originally intended to provide energy advisor home visits but this has been adapted due to Covid to telephone support services with free energy products sent by post to householders.	72 advice calls and 35 short visits completed in South Cambs by the Local Energy Advice Partnership, (LEAP) in the period until 2 February, (latest figures available at the time of completing this report). Anticipated new income generated from the income maximisation process plus estimated bill savings from following energy savings advice and from installed energy savings measures over the next 10 years total £79,715.		2.7
<b>ii) Industry and Commerce Sector</b>							
A9	Require bidders for contracts to confirm that they monitor their carbon emissions and submit plans to achieve net zero emissions. Use this information as part of assessment of bids.		ongoing	Changes have been made to our contract regulations section of the Council's Constitution such that bidders for Council contracts are not required to confirm that they monitor their carbon emissions and submit plans to achieve net zero emissions. This information is now part of the assessment of bids.	Completed.		completed
A10	Raise awareness amongst local businesses of the financial, reputational and well-being benefits of reducing their environmental impact. Make it easier for them to access information, advice and funding on how to improve their energy efficiency, increase their water and waste recycling and generate their own energy.	Section A Ongoing Objectives - Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their energy efficiency, increasing water and waste recycling		A new business support team was set up over the summer and are in the process of developing their full range of services which will include providing guidance to companies on their response to the climate emergency, including advice on generating their own electricity, improving energy efficiency and recycling more waste and water.	Ongoing. An online webinar took place in April 2021 promoting green schemes available for local businesses. We will continue to build green business awareness events and seminars into our ongoing calendar of events for business. This includes continuing to partner with local business networks and academia to promote sustainable business practice e.g. joint webinar with SCDC, chamber of Commerce and ARU on digital innovation in supply chains, including a focus on reducing carbon footprint (22nd July 2021).		2.10
A11	Investigate innovative opportunities to work with businesses and our partners to support the reduction in energy and resource use across the South Cambs economy, eg group purchasing of solar panels.		31-May-21	In collaboration with our neighbouring Cambridgeshire local authorities we have launched a group buying scheme for solar panels. Although primarily targetted at residents, we have also promoted it to our business community. We are also exploring further opportunities in this area of work.	Ongoing		2.10
A12	Work towards divestment in fossil fuels in all investments including our staff pension funds.			Green investments continue to be significant ipart of the Council's Investment Strategy. Staff pensions are part of the Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Fund which is administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. Members will be invited to make representations regarding the investment strategy of this Fund as part of the regular consultation process with participating local authorities.	We responded to the three yearly consultation on the Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Fund urging a more robust approach to fossil fuel investments. Green investments continue to be a significant part of the Council's Investment Strategy, with new opportunities being explored.		Not included because no consultation on Staff Pension Fund expected in 21-22
<b>iii) Transport Sector</b>							

A13	Continue to run the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		The second year of the Zero Carbon Communities scheme launched in July with a pot of £100,000 for parish councils and community groups for projects to cut carbon emissions and engage communities on climate change issues, with a category specifically for projects to promote cycling. Fifty seven applications have been received and are being processed. Funding awards will be made following the Grants Advisory Committee meeting on 27 November.	Five projects totalling £24,240 were awarded funding under the transport theme aimed at reducing carbon emissions by encouraging cycling. Three projects are to install cycle stands, one is to kickstart a commercial share-bike scheme and one is to support local communities to set up of 'School Streets' which are roads with temporary traffic restrictions resulting in safer, healthier environments around schools and encouraging alternatives to car travel.		2.21
A14	Continue to work alongside partners including the Cambs County Council, GCP and CAPCA to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable transport including cycling provision.	C Ongoing objective: Promote walking, cycling and public transport improvements through planning and by working with local communities and partners		There are numerous aspects to our work in this area. We are working on an Active Travel Toolkit for new developments which we have developed with the help of the Design Council. We are currently researching the viability of a Community Transport scheme for the northern villages, funded through Northstowe developer contributions. The three cycling projects funded through our Zero Carbon Communities scheme are in progress, with new electric bike schemes set up this year in the Abingtons and in Teversham, and new cycling infrastructure installed in Waterbeach.	The active travel toolkit is going through internal consultation with a meeting due in mid-June to discuss next steps with the planning policy team. The Community Transport scheme has been on hold pending clarity from CaPCA around their responsibilities in relation to Community Transport. A decision as to whether to resume work on research, commissioning and setting up a scheme is expected in June.		2.11
A15	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	C3) Retrofit our Cambourne office with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures		Electric Vehicle Charging Points are one of the seven technologies making up the South Cambs Hall energy retrofit project.	Installation of EVCPs for staff and visitors is underway as part of the Greening South Cambs Hall project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March 22.		2.13
A16	Explore ways to reduce carbon footprint from staff commuting, eg Salary Sacrifice scheme for cycles and options for encouraging take-up of Evs by staff			We are at the start of a project to review and update our staff Travel to Work plan, which will include consideration of ways to reduce the carbon footprint of staff commuting.	We are working on a Green Car leasing offer to staff which will be rolled out later in 2021.  The Travel for Work plan is on hold due to the need to align with how SCDC Moves Forward with hybrid working etc. One of the questions which has been raised – is it more environmentally beneficial to have more people working at home – heating/lighting individual homes – than to have everyone working in a building with good 'Green credentials'. The other consideration is the claims for business mileage from home and potential changes to contracts of employment.		1.8
A17	Include requirements to move to low carbon vehicles in Taxi Licensing Policy	2019-24 Business Plan C3v		A new taxi licensing policy was adopted in February, under which new licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission from 1 December 2021. From 1 December 2028, renewed licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission	completed.		completed
A18	Install EVCPs for taxis			Funding for six EVCPs (3x rapid and 3x fast) in South Cambs has been secured from the government's Ultra-Low Emissions Taxi Infrastructure scheme. Work is underway to identify suitable locations.	Several possible locations in Sth Cambs were explored but none were suitable for reasons including grid connection costs, reluctance from site owners to host EVCPs restricted to taxis and/or location not convenient for taxis.		closed
A19	Make reductions in staff and Councillor mileage as a result of Council Anywhere IT improvements	2019-24 Business Plan D5ii) Provide new technology to our officers so they can get more done for communities whilst out in the district		Covid has clearly been the main driver of reductions in staff and Councillor mileage in Q1 and Q2. The Council Anywhere IT improvements have made the move to remote working forced on the Council due to Covid far easier than it would otherwise have been. Mileage claims were more than 50% under budget at month 6, creating an underspend of about £50,000. It is unclear as yet how mileage will be affected in the longer term.	Mileage claims at year end were 22,3854 miles compared with 43,7664 for the previous years. Because of Covid it is not possible to attribute this to the Council Anywhere IT improvements although clearly, these made the move to working from home required by the pandemic significantly more manageable than it would otherwise have been.		completed
A20	Support the development of infrastructure for EVs through Planning Policy			EV charging infrastructure is one of the areas under consideration in policy development for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Meanwhile, Policy SC/12: Air Quality in the current Local Plan requires the submission of a Low Emissions Strategy for all major developments and developments where air quality is likely to be an issue. Specific guidance on how this policy should be implemented including provision of EV charging infrastructure, forms part of the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document adopted in January.	Strategic spatial options assessment: Implications for carbon emissions was published in November 2020, which showed that transport was one of the largest sources of emissions associated with new development. Further work is currently underway to develop preferred options for transport policies for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, looking at ways to prioritise sustainable transport modes and ensure that new development provides ev charging infrastructure. The requirements set out in the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD will continue to be applied to new developments in the district in the interim.		2.19 and 2.20
<b>iv) Waste and Recycling</b>							
A21	Increase collection facilities for clothing and small electrical items	C Ongoing Objective - Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling	ongoing	Preparation and planning work for these is underway.	Progress was not possible in 20_21 due t covid although some preparation work has been done. This is carried over into 2021_22		2.14

A22	Continue to support waste reduction events at community level including Repair Cafes	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		These have not been possible due to Covid. No repair cafés have been organised during this period, but support for these still stands.	Progress was not possible in 20_21 due t covid. We hope some can be carried out in 2021_22		2.15
A23	Create a resource toolkit to improve recycling and reduce waste at small community events	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		This was completed in May. It has not been widely promoted as yet due to Covid.	Waste reduction at events guide has been produced, to be promoted as appropriate in 2021_22		completed
A24	Provide equipment and information kit to minimise and separate recycling for larger events	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		This is available as and when required once events are being organised again.	This is available as and when required once events are being organised again.		BAU
A25	Continue to run campaigns to minimise waste, eg Love Food, Hate Waste and Refill campaigns	C9) Run an information campaign to help reduce the amount of food waste in the black bin		We launched our LFHW campaign on may 2020. It will be running for the rest of the year	A Successful 3 staged Love food hate waste campaign was run during the year, which taped into changing attitudes to shopping and food that households have had duiring the pandemic. The 3rd phase was tailored specifically to make the link between Food waste and Climate change.		BAU
A26	Trial separate collection of food waste. If successful at diverting food from landfill, roll out.	C9) Run an information campaign to help reduce the amount of food waste in the black bin		The trial has been extended, and further properties will be added in December, bringing the total number to just under 4,000.	Trail began at the beginning of the year and extended in december. It ha sbeen well received with an average participation rate of 55% and 185 tonnes of food collected for recycling		2.18
A27	Continue to encourage recycling through our waste collection policies, eg collect extra recycling from households where their recycling bin is full; provide additional blue bins at no extra charge	Ongoing objective: Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling		This is ongoing. A rolling schedule of focussed communications is in place to increase recycling rates and maintain the quality of blue bin recycling.	This is ongoing. A rolling schedule of focussed communications is in place to increase recycling rates and maintain the quality of blue bin recycling.		BAU
A28	Continue to collect green bins monthly in winter to reduce transport emissions.			This is continuing as intended.	This is continuing as intended.		BAU
<b>v) Energy</b>							
A29	Continue to explore renewable energy projects to invest up to £50,000,000 between now and 2024.			Options for making energy improvements to all properties acquired via the Investment Strategy are being investigated through the new Energy Services Framework, and feasibility reported through the Investment Governing Board.	Various projects are being investigated and will be reported when they reach a suitable stage.		covered in 1.3, 2.8 and 2.9
A30	Explore opportunities for local electricity generation and supply to ensure that our estate and operations hit zero carbon by 2050 eg smart electrical grids	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation		We are exploring various opportunities through our Green Investments work including for locally generated solar electricity to charge waste collection vehicles at our Depot in Waterbeach and smart grids on new/existing development sites to serve business parks and/or housing stock..	This action is reported under T5 above		1.3
A31	Support the development of community energy projects, eg community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects through the Zero Carbon Communities programme including e-newsletter, information-sharing workshops and ZCC grants.	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		As noted above, the second year of the Zero Carbon Communities scheme launched in July with a pot of £100,000 for parish councils and community groups for projects to cut carbon emissions and engage communities on climate change issues. Fifty seven applications have been received and are being processed. Funding awards will be made following the Grants Advisory Committee meeting on 27 November. In addition to the grant scheme, we have developed an online Climate Emergency toolkit and published three editions of our Zero Carbon Communities quarterly e-bulletin.	Two projects were awarded funding totalling £28,142 under the Community Buildings theme for work to reduce carbon emissions from heating. One of these was for an air source heat pump and solar PV; the other for infrared electric heating panels to replace less efficient electric heating. Energy surveys have been provided to inform carbon reduction plans for 10 buildings.		2.21
A32	Promote group-buying schemes for renewable energy.	Ongoing objective: Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their energy efficiency, increasing water and waste recycling	31-Mar-21	In collaboration with our neighbouring Cambridgeshire local authorities we have launched a group buying scheme for solar panels. Although primarily targetted at residents, we have also promoted it to our business community.	Following delays caused by Brexit and Covid, installation of PV panels to over 500 households is expected to be completed by end of August.		2.6
<b>vi) Land and Trees</b>							
A33	Fund community tree-planting through our Community Chest and Zero Carbon Communities grant schemes	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		Four tree-planting schemes were funded through the first round of the Zero Carbon Communities grant. Due to delays caused by Covid planting has been delayed in three of the four schemes and is expected to be completed by early next year. One project, (Cambourne) is completed.	Ten communities were awarded funding totalling £42,670 for projects to involving the planting of approximately 2,650 trees of varying sizes.		3.4, 3.6, 2.21
A34	Develop policies to double nature through planning policy - commission evidence to support the development of these			A comprehensive study of Green Infrastructure Opportunities in Greater Cambridge has been commissioned. The report is expected to be published as part of the Local Plan evidence base this autumn.	This report has been published		3.1, 3.2

A35	Support tree-planting through our Tree Warden Network		ongoing	<p>The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative co-ordinated by The Tree Council to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The Council is the registered network co-ordinator for South Cambs for the scheme, providing training tailored to local needs and keeping parishes up-to-date on current tree issues. This work is ongoing.</p>	<p>Regular newsletters contain helpful links and possible grants or sources of free/reasonably priced trees. Parishes asking specific questions about tree planting etc have been given assistance. Example is a walk around Fen Ditton with the PC ecology officer who is organising a programme of tree planting, with follow up emails.</p>		3.6
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## Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 (2021-22 revision )

Ref	Action (blue = as stated in Business Plan)	Business Plan 2020-25 (2020-21 revision) reference, where relevant	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2021	Progress at 31 Mar 2022	RAG rating
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### 1. Achieve 45% reduction in GHG emissions from the Council's own estate (not inc housing) and operations by 2025 relative to 2018-19 baseline

<b>Fleet (58% of baseline emissions)</b>						
1.1	Implement depot changes to prepare for electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging	C4) Continue to transition to electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	31-Mar-21			
1.2	Procure five eRCVs to replace diesel version (ongoing)		ongoing			
1.3	Develop a new solar pv array to supply low carbon electricity to power these vehicles.		31-Mar-21			
<b>South Cambridgeshire Hall (18% of b.e.)</b>						
1.4	Complete retrofit of Cambourne office	C3) Retrofit our Council Commercial Property including South Cambs Hall with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	31-Dec-21			
<b>Small sites (85 sites, including gas and electricity for heating and lighting in communal rooms and communal areas in blocks of flats; 12% of b.e)</b>						
1.5	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	C1) In response to global climate crisis e will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050	31-Mar-22			
1.6	Review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction		31-Mar-22			
<b>Waterbeach Depot Office (&gt;1% of b.e.)</b>						
n/a	Action completed in 2020-21		n/a			n/a
<b>Footway lights (4% of b.e.)</b>						
1.7	Install energy saving LED fittings in all council owned streetlights	C6) Upgrade our stock of 1,800 streetlights to LED, which will reduce energy consumption and save Parish Councils money	31-Mar-22			
<b>Business mileage (7% of b.e.)</b>						
1.8	Investigate options to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage including salary sacrifice electric car scheme for staff	C1) In response to global climate crisis e will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050	30-Sep-21			
<b>Further actions to reduce GHG emissions from resource use (not currently included in GHG emissions accounts)</b>						
1.9	With a view to enabling the elimination of paper agendas and reports for Council and committee meetings, explore options for overcoming technical difficulties which are preventing some Members from accessing the ModGov app, and through this, electronic agendas.	D5) Council and committee meetings will be run paper-free wherever possible	ongoing			

### 2. Support efforts to achieve a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the district as a whole by 2030

Housing						
<b>In the Council's housing stock</b>						
2.1	Commission a Stock Condition Survey including an audit of energy efficiency of existing housing stock relative to zero carbon target	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	30-Sep-21			
2.2	Approve a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero carbon target		31-Dec-21			
2.3	Produce an Asset Management Plan		30-Jun-21			
2.4	In our Ermine Street Housing Company, analyse the EPCs of the acquired properties, (generally D and above) and aim to introduce measures to improve the ratings by at least one level)		ongoing			
<b>In private housing</b>						

2.5	Continue to work with partners, including through the Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership, to find ways of supporting and encouraging home energy work, including exploring options for funding and delivering energy efficiency projects for our residents.	n/a	ongoing			n/a
2.6	Oversee delivery of Cambridgeshire Solar Together group-buying scheme for solar pv and batteries in South Cambs	Ongoing objective: Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their energy efficiency, increasing water and waste recycling	31-Aug-21			
2.7	Work with partners to provide home surveys, advice, free insulation and other home energy measures for households in fuel poverty		ongoing			
<b>Commercial Sector</b>						
2.8	install solar pv to 270 Science Park	C3) Retrofit our Council Commercial Property including South Cambs Hall with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	30-Sep-21			
2.9	Undertake energy efficiency and generation audits of other Council owned commercial properties		31-Mar-22			
2.10	Our Business Support team will continue to help local businesses access information, advice and funding on how to increase energy efficiency, generate their own energy, and improve water efficiency and recycling rates.	Ongoing: Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy,	ongoing			
<b>Travel</b>						
2.11	Continue to work alongside partners including the Cambs County Council, GCP and CAPCA to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable transport including cycling provision.	C Ongoing objective: Promote walking, cycling and public transport improvements through planning and by working with local communities and partners	ongoing			
2.12	Identify and deliver opportunities to install publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations, working with partners	C1) In response to global climate crisis we will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050	31-Mar-22			
2.13	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	C3) Retrofit our Cambourne office with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	31-Mar-22			
<b>Waste and Recycling</b>						
2.14	Increase collection facilities for clothing and small electrical items	C Ongoing Objective - Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling	Mar-22			
2.15	Continue to support waste reduction events at community level including Repair Cafes	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events	Dec-21			
2.16	Promote the guide and resource toolkit to improve recycling and reduce waste at small community events		Sep-21			
2.17	Plan and implement campaigns to minimise waste, eg Love Food, Hate Waste and Refill campaigns	C9) Run an information campaign to help reduce the amount of food waste in the black bin	September and 21 and March 22			
2.18	Extend the trial separate collection of food waste. If successful at diverting food from landfill, roll out.					
<b>Cross-cutting actions</b>						
<b>Through Planning</b>						
2.19	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of the work on the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan		Ongoing			
2.20	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan		Ongoing			
<b>By supporting community action</b>						
2.21	Deliver a third round of funding through our Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, awarding grants totalling £100,000 to community-based projects	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, move toward the zero-carbon target and help double nature through habitat enhancement, advisory support for community land acquisition, local green space designation and tree-planting	31-Mar-22			
<b>3. Actions working towards the 'doubling nature' target in South Cambridgeshire</b>						
<b>Through Planning</b>						

3.1	Progress planning policies related to doubling nature as part of wider work on green infrastructure on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan.		Ongoing			
3.2	Draft and adopt a Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to update and strengthen guidance in the SCDC Biodiversity SPD (2009)		31-Dec-21			
3.3	Publish at least one case study to promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development		31-Dec-21			
<b>By supporting community action</b>						
3.4	Review and relaunch the Wildlife Enhancement Grant scheme	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, move toward the zero-carbon target and help double nature through habitat enhancement, advisory support for community land acquisition , local green space designation and tree-planting	31-Dec-21			
3.5	Provide six free trees to every parish		31-Mar-22			
3.6	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans		31-Mar-22			
3.7	Continue to support volunteers to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods through our role as registered Tree Warden network co-ordinator for this area with the Tree Council.	Ongoing objective: strengthen the ability for local communities to deliver on local environmental ambitions and priorities included in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies.				
3.8	Run a second Climate and Environment fortnight of online events highlighting successful community action and inspiring and encouraging further action.		31-Mar-22			
<b>On our own estate and through our operations</b>						
3.8	Add a step to the Housing Estates Inspection process to identify and take forward opportunities for tree-planting and other wildlife-friendly initiatives in appropriate locations.		30-Jun-21			
3.9	Complete the audit of trees on Council-owned housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work		31-Mar-22			
3.1	Identify appropriate locations and set up three pilot schemes to establish wildflower strips or patches on Council housing estate land.		31-Mar-22			
3.11	Review management of awarded watercourses appearing in the 2021 Chalk Streams Report and agree action if and where possible to improve biodiversity.		31-Mar-22			
<b>By working with partners</b>						
3.12	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works		31-Mar-22			

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# Agenda Item 7



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13/07/2021
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Bridget Smith
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

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## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounts for the Council's Estate and Operations, 2020-21

### Executive Summary

This report provides the Committee with Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions accounts for the Council's estate and operations for 2020-21. It is provided to the committee for information.

### Key Decision

1. No

### Details

2. Annual GHG emissions accounts for 2020-21 for the Council's estate and operations are provided in **Appendix A**. This is the third set of annual GHG emissions accounts produced for the Council. As with the previous years', they have been drawn up according to principles and procedures as outlined in the latest Environmental Reporting Guidelines issued by the Government's Departments for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA), and Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). As such, they aim to be relevant, quantitative, accurate (insofar as this is practical), complete (with any exclusions specified, disclosed and justified), consistent, comparable and transparent.
3. In line with the Guidelines, the accounts include emissions from the estate and operations owned and controlled by the Council. Full details of inclusions and exclusions are included in the report, but the following are highlighted:
4. Emissions from the Council's housing stock are excluded because the Council does not control energy use from these properties, (nor does it have access to this data).
5. Emissions from around 1800 street lights owned by the Council, and defined as 'footway lighting', are included in these accounts, on the grounds that they are

owned and controlled by the Council, (although energy costs for these are paid for by parish councils).

6. An external assurance statement on the accounts was completed by the Council's internal auditors in June 2021. This statement noted that all figures used in calculating the tCO<sub>2</sub> reflected the data presented to (the service), and all formulas used were appropriate. It is recommended that a dialogue is opened with the Council's electricity provider in order to gain access to more recent readings, however this has no bearing on the longitudinal accuracy of the reporting.
7. The baseline year used in these accounts is 1 April 2018- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. All reductions in emissions are based on this reporting period. For the same period in 2020-21 there has been an overall 8.8% decrease in emissions for the Council's Scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (indirect energy emissions) and scope 3 (other indirect emissions). For the same period in 2019-20, there has been an overall 10.7% decrease in emissions.
8. **Scope 3 emissions** are defined as the result of activities from assets not owned and/or controlled by the reporting organisation, but that the organisation indirectly impacts in its value chain. The reporting of scope 3 emissions is relatively new, and methodologies are still emerging to allow for measurement in many areas. Our current approach is to include what data which is available to us.
9. During 2020-21 the Council's small sites also switched to a green electricity tariff. Electricity data from two traveller sites- at Whaddon and Blackwell have also been added to the list of small sites. Waterbeach's depot completed a full year's worth of electricity generation from solar PV panels. (The solar PV panels installed on the roof of South Cambs Hall belong to Cambourne Parish Council. For this reason, GHG emissions avoided due to electricity exported from these to the grid is not included in SCDC's GHG emissions accounts.)
10. In line with standard reporting procedures, GHG emissions avoided are included as an offset in the 2020-21 accounts. These amount to 246 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (244 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the green electricity tariffs and 2 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the electricity generated from the solar PV panels). Using this offset data, the Council's total net emissions compared to the baseline year, show a reduction of 29.8%.
11. In contrast to last year, the GHG emission accounts for 2020-21 include 50% (instead of 100% as previously reported) of electricity consumed at the Depot, on the grounds that we are a Shared Service, and similarly, 50% of the offset due to the solar PV panels. This is in line with City's approach. We have made a baseline recalculation to provide consistency with our previous accounts.
12. For further accuracy for this year (and subsequent years) it has been decided to amend the conversion factor used for business mileage. In previous years the figure used fuel type as 'diesel' but for 2020-21 fuel type will be classed as 'unknown' to account for the mixture in fuel types one would expect for a large organisation. The baseline figure has also been re-calculated to account for this change.

13. Five miles of motorbike fuel was used for business purposes in 2020-21. Motorbike fuel uses a slightly different conversion factor to car fuel; due to the small amount of carbon emissions produced (0.0009 tCO<sub>2</sub>), we have not included this figure in the spreadsheet as it would not have any significant impact on the overall data.

#### **14. Progress towards reduction target**

From the data (without including the offset data), compared to the baseline year the 2019-20 emissions are lower for all scopes:

- scope 1- (0.7% decrease in tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- scope 2- (21.4% decrease in tCO<sub>2</sub>e)
- scope 3 (other indirect emissions)- (54.1% decrease in tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

#### **15. Scope 1 emissions have remained roughly the same\***

This is despite an increase in diesel consumption by fleet vehicles due to the increased number of new housing developments. Without the introduction of an extra electric bin lorry in November 2020, this number would have increased.

#### **16. Scope 2 emission decreases could be due to several factors.**

- 37.8 % of the decrease in scope 2 emissions is due to the footway LED lighting upgrade. At the end of March 2021 around 84% of lights had been upgraded. The figures for 2020-21 reflect the fact that this upgrade took place throughout the year, therefore the full impact of this work will not show up until the year following completion of works.
- 40.3% of the decrease in scope 2 emissions is due to a reduction in electricity usage at South Cambs Hall due to changes in building usage since the Covid-19 pandemic\*

#### **17. Scope 3 emission decreases will be due to:**

- A decrease in staff mileage (-55.3% on the previous year) due to an increase in home working due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

18. Avoided electricity figures have increased since 2019-20 which shows a positive impact on the Council's total 'net' carbon emissions. Included this year are avoided figures from a green tariff introduced in all of the small sites owned by the Council, plus a full year of data from South Cambs Hall (last year only 6 months of electricity was supplied on a green tariff).

19. At the time of writing the report, the Council, along with Cambridgeshire City Council are investigating the possibility of including a share of the carbon emissions produced by the 3C ICT servers located at both Pathfinder House (Huntingdon) and Sand Martin House (Peterborough). If agreed, this figure will be included as an additional scope 3 category in next year's report along with a baseline recalculation.

20. In order to reach the Council's target of a 75% reduction by 2030, a reduction of at least 6.25% in emissions of the baseline is needed per annum. With a reduction of 8.8% in emissions since 2018-19 we are currently not on track to reach our target. However the completion of the Greening of South Cambs Hall and purchase of new electric fleet vehicles will have a significant impact on our future figures

\*Please note that since March 2020 the building has remained open for the NHS contact centre staff (sometimes open 7 days a week during pandemic peaks) and for the required skeleton staff (caretakers, post, printing, and key workers) needed for the building to remain fully open and compliant with H&S requirements.

## 21. Plans for the future

- As can be seen, the biggest producer of carbon emissions is from our fleet which runs on diesel as a fuel. We will achieve a more marked decrease in emissions as more electric vehicles are introduced into the fleet; the current 8 year plan being to introduce electric or hydrogen vehicles when the existing vehicles come to the end of their working lives.
- Gas consumption is expected to decrease by at least 80% following the installation of a ground source heat pump at South Cambs Hall, helping to heat the building and produce hot water.
- Electricity consumption will also drop as the remaining ornate footway lights are converted to LED lights.
- A solar car port will generate 20% of the electricity used by the building. This is in tandem with 20 electric vehicle charging points encouraging staff and visitors to travel cleaner will subsequently help to achieve a reduction in scope 3 emissions.
- The setup of three electric vehicle charging points at Waterbeach Depot has also now been completed and launched.
- The replacement of all lights to LED lights will soon be completed at South Cambs Hall.
- More work taking place at South Cambs Hall comprises of a building energy management system upgrade, air handling unit fan upgrades, and chiller modifications and enhancements
- Working from home (which has increased since the Covid-19 pandemic) will further reduce scope 3 emissions, if continued.

## **Implications**

22. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

## **Risks/Opportunities**

23. Prior to 2020, there were no existing risks on the Corporate Risk register in respect to a reduction in carbon emissions. A new risk, 'Failure to meet carbon emission reduction target' was added by Internal Audit in November 2020 following the actions highlighted from the Internal audit Carbon Management report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: GHG Emissions accounts for the Council's estate and operations 2020-21

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# Agenda Item 8



**South  
Cambridgeshire**  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13 July 2021
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Tumi Hawkins
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Joint Planning Director

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## Update on grid capacity issues facing Greater Cambridge

### Executive Summary

1. This paper provides members with an update on progress with work to address grid infrastructure capacity issues across South Cambridgeshire. It provides details of the work being carried out by the Greater Cambridge Partnership to provide new infrastructure in the south of the district, as well as an update on how infrastructure is being considered as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

### Key Decision

2. No this is not a key decision. The purpose of this paper is to provide members with an update on progress with work to address grid infrastructure capacity issues across South Cambridgeshire.

### Recommendations

3. The committee is invited to review and comment on the update provided and agree the recommendation that officers from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service continue to work with colleagues at the Greater Cambridge Partnership and other partner organisations to address grid capacity issues in so far as these are relevant to the work of the planning service.

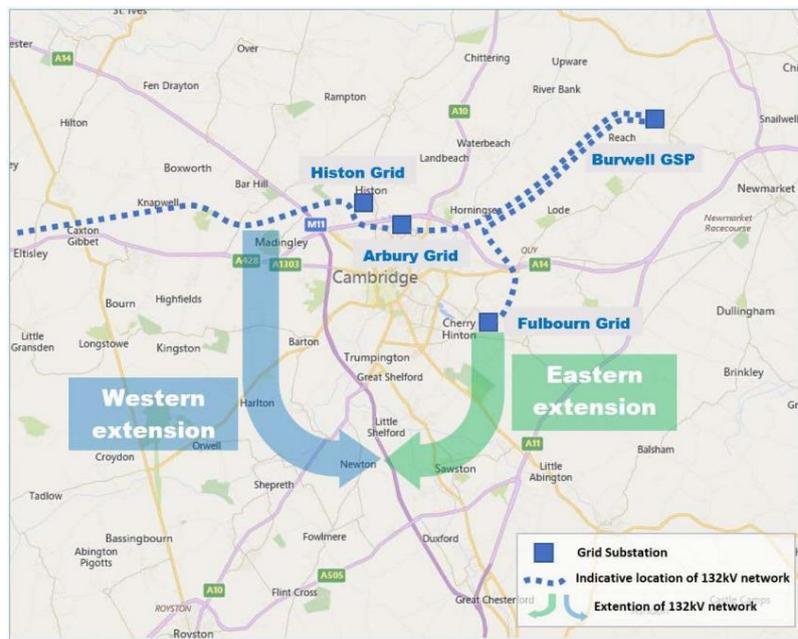
### Details

4. Electricity grid capacity constraints in Greater Cambridge have the potential to represent a significant barrier to growth as well as schemes including clean/renewable energy projects. Utility providers are constrained to operate reactively to confirmed demand and are unable to provide infrastructure ahead of need. As a result, those delivering new housing and commercial developments are often unaware of additional costs to reinforce grid infrastructure to support

their development proposals until after planning permission has been granted. This can then impact on the viability of projects that help to achieve net zero carbon objectives such as the electrification of transport and renewable energy projects.

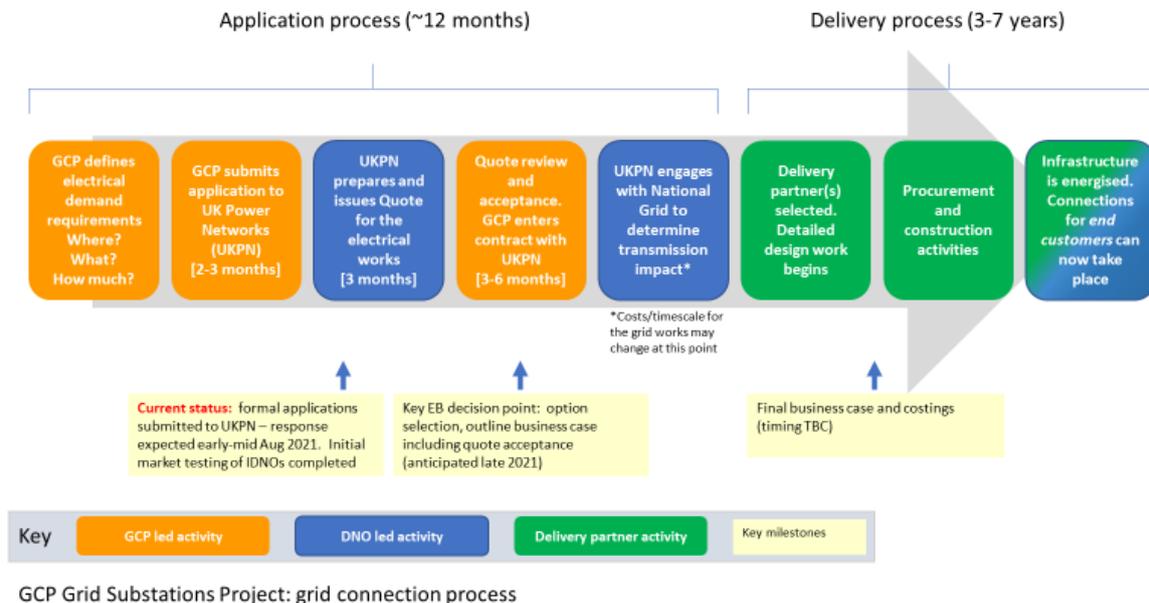
5. Previous work carried out for the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has highlighted the need to triple grid capacity to support the current growth agenda and the electrification of transport. In particular, development to the West and South of Cambridge is currently limited by the absence of 132 kV and 33 kV network infrastructure. GCP are therefore progressing work to support growth via the extension of grid infrastructure in this area, as shown in Figure 1 below. An Eastern extension will allow further growth to the East and South of Cambridge by bringing capacity closer to developments allocated in the current Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire 2018 local plans. The Western extension will provide capacity to West Cambridge, including development at Bourn Airfield and Cambourne and relieve existing grid substations so further growth can be accommodated in the north and central areas of Cambridge. The Western and Eastern extensions will interconnect to form a loop, thereby establishing the necessary resilience to sustain the expected demand growth.

Figure 1: Existing 132 kV network in the Greater Cambridge area and proposed extension corridors



6. The GCP Executive Board has agreed the principle of investing in grid reinforcement and has allocated funding for the project. In October 2020, approval was given to start the scoping stage to develop proposals for these specific electricity grid reinforcements. Specialist external consultants have been engaged and have provided a clear programme framework, decision points and options for progressing this work. This programme is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: GCP Grid substations project - grid connection programme



7. Analysis carried out for GCP indicates that this new infrastructure will provide the capacity to support:
  - a. Around 17,000 new homes
  - b. Thousands of new jobs, including those at Babraham Research Campus, Granta Park, the Wellcome Genus Campus and Cambridge Biomedical Campus.
  - c. The electrification of transport and renewable energy projects.
8. The GCP Executive Board has now approved submission of a formal application for the works to UK Power Networks. For further detail, please see [agenda item 9](#) from the March 2021 GCP Executive Board meeting. Officers from the Shared Planning Service are involved in this project and sit on the Project Board for the scheme.
9. The work described above will provide additional capacity to support the current levels of development set out in the adopted South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans. As work progresses on the Joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan, there will also be a need to consider additional infrastructure that may be required to support future development needs, as well as the achievement of net zero carbon. An initial high level assessment of infrastructure requirements has been carried out by Stantec as part of work to inform the choice of spatial strategy for the plan that was published on the Greater Cambridge Planning website in November 2020. It notes that capacity on the electricity network in the area is a key issue with the CPIER report also identifying challenges in meeting the anticipated growth figures. This is due to capacity constraints on UKPN's electricity network up to 132kV which require grid reinforcement. It is likely that all growth options, particularly the maximum growth option, will lead to considerable additional demand for electricity that poses a significant challenge to provide with associated risks to delivery and viability, although this is likely to be one of timing and financing of solutions rather than acting as an absolute constraint.

10. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is currently investigating options to carry out further detailed work to assess the level of grid reinforcement that will inform the Greater Cambridge Local Plan as it moves through the preferred options to the draft plan stage. Consideration is being given to working with partners including GCP, as well as other partners including the Combined Authority as well as linking to wider work being undertaken as part of the OxCam Arc. This will build on work already undertaken for the North East Cambridge development, which has seen the development of a grid infrastructure capacity study and energy masterplan to support the development of the Area Action Plan for the site.

## **Options**

11. Climate and Environment Advisory Committee could:
- a) Note the progress of work on grid infrastructure as outlined in this report and/or
  - b) Highlight any concerns or comments

## **Implications**

12. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

### **Climate Change**

13. Works to reinforce the electricity grid will help to facilitate the connection of new renewable energy generation equipment as well as helping to facilitate the electrification of heat and transport.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Growing local businesses and economies**

14. Proposals to reinforce the electricity grid will help to support the expansion of existing local businesses as well as enabling new companies to set up in the area.

### **Being green to our core**

15. Works to reinforce the electricity grid will help to facilitate the connection of new renewable energy generation equipment as well as helping to facilitate the electrification of heat and transport. This will help to support South Cambridgeshire's transition to net zero carbon.

## **Background Papers**

Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Thursday 18 March 2021. [Agenda Item 9: Electricity Grid Reinforcement: Update and next steps](#)

[Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategic spatial options assessment: Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(Stantec\) November 2020](#)

## **Report Author:**

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# Agenda Item 9



**South  
Cambridgeshire**  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13 July 2021
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Bridget Smith
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Rebecca Weymouth-Wood

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## **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet – update on securing a positive environmental legacy**

### **Executive Summary**

1. This report responds to a request from the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee for an update on progress with work to secure a positive environmental legacy in South Cambridgeshire from the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet (BC-CG) improvement works.

### **Recommendations**

2. The committee is invited to review and comment on the update provided and agree the recommendation that officers continue to work with Highways England with the aim of securing a positive environmental legacy from the A428 improvement works.

### **Details**

3. Highways England are proposing to upgrade the route between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet roundabout with a new 10-mile dual carriageway and several junction improvements.
4. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the scheme requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State following an examination process conducted by the Planning Inspectorate. Highways England submitted the DCO application in February.
5. Council officers have made initial 'Relevant Representations' indicating areas of concern in the proposed scheme relating to Biodiversity, Landscape, Air Quality, Cultural Heritage, Flooding and Drainage, Climate Change and other matters. An initial meeting with the Planning Inspectorate is expected to be scheduled for late

July or August. Following this Cambridgeshire County Council will co-ordinate and submit 'Written Representations' from the Cambridgeshire local authorities. These are detailed accounts of objections to the DCO application as it currently stands with evidence to support these. The Cambridgeshire local authorities will also prepare a joint Local Impact Report which the Planning Inspectorate will request at some point during the examination.

6. The examination period usually lasts six months from the date of the preliminary meeting, with then up to three months before a formal recommendation is made by the Inspectorate, and another up to three months before a final decision on the application is issued.
7. As well as their investments in operating, maintaining and improving roads, Highways England also invest so-called 'designated funds' in making improvements in four broad areas: Safety and Congestion, Environment and Wellbeing, Users and Communities, and Innovation and Modernisation. £936 million has been allocated on a country-wide basis for these four areas for 2020-25.
8. Officers are working with Highways England's Legacy and Benefits Project Manager for the A428 BC-CG scheme to submit a bid to the Environment and Wellbeing Designated Fund. This stream of the Designated Funds has nine themes: Biodiversity, Noise, Air Quality, Flooding, Water Quality, Carbon, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Environmental Legacy.
9. A proposal is being developed for feasibility funding under the Carbon theme to work with a specialist consultant to identify potential landowners and stewards in the proximity of the A428 project to manage land to maximise carbon sequestration (for example, but not limited to tree-planting).
10. Officers from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Natural Environment team are also engaging in a separate process, co-ordinated by consultants working for Highways England to explore biodiversity options beyond scheme mitigation to be considered for development and potentially supported under the Biodiversity theme of the Environment and Wellbeing Designated Fund.
11. There is also engagement with colleagues at Cambridgeshire County Council to support efforts to secure the best outcomes possible so far as non-motorised user routes, (eg cycle and pedestrian ways).

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

12. The action plan outlines work by the Council with the aim of mitigating climate change and improving outcomes for local nature.

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**South  
Cambridgeshire**  
District Council

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# Agenda Item 10



**South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13/07/2021
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Bridget Smith
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Rebecca Weymouth-Wood</b>

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## Six Free Trees Scheme

### Executive Summary

This report provides the Committee with details on the Council's Six Free Trees scheme. It is provided to the committee for information.

### Key Decision

1. No

### Details

2. The Three Free Trees Scheme was successfully launched by the Council in 2019 to support community action on climate change.
3. Last year the scheme offered was available to all parish councils and was sufficient for three bareroot trees, but parishes could also opt for a larger single tree to suit their needs if this was preferred.
4. Parishes applied to us for a voucher which could be exchanged for trees at the following garden centres in South Cambridgeshire (plus one online based supplier based in Norfolk):
  - Oakington Garden Centre
  - Scotsdales Garden Centre
  - Coton Garden centre
  - Arrington nurseries
  - All growth Ltd
  - Apples and Orchards (online only tree supplier)
5. Trees could be planted on Parish Council land, or if agreed, land owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council or a local charity. Where no suitable land was available, parishes could donate their voucher to a neighbouring parish.
6. In total 54 parishes took up the offer and this equated to a total cost of **£3,360** including sundries.

7. This year, in line with the Council's aspiration to double nature, the Council will be offering every parish in the district six free trees to continue this work to increase the tree canopy cover in South Cambridgeshire.
8. This year Parish councils will be offered trees from a single chosen wholesale supplier. This is likely to result in higher quality trees and better value for money as it will be a bulk order; and will also make the scheme easier to administer. The supplier will also offer an after-sales service if any issues arise.
9. Parishes will be given a choice of native trees which can either be pot grown or bare rooted, to order directly through our chosen supplier. As with last year, parishes will again be given the option to choose one larger tree to the same value as the smaller trees where this suits their needs.
10. A procurement exercise is underway to select a supplier. The chosen supplier will deliver the trees directly to the parishes wishing to take up this offer. Delivery arrangements will be agreed by both the parish councils and the supplier at the time of ordering and will be during National Tree week (27 November - 5 December 2021) where possible, otherwise before the end of December 2021.
11. It is expected that parishes will be able to apply for their free trees from September to allow suppliers enough time to source the chosen trees.

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