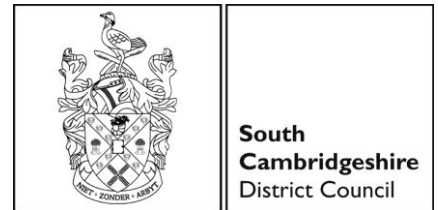


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28 November 2022

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

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –
Councillors Ariel Cahn, Paul Bearpark, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya,
Dr John Loveluck, Dr Lisa Redrup, Peter Sandford and Bunty Waters

Substitutes: Councillors Graham Cone, Heather Williams, Dr. Richard Williams,
Lina Nieto, Sue Ellington, Stephen Drew, Dr. Tumi Hawkins,
Peter Fane and Natalie Warren-Green

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, 6 December 2022** 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

Agenda		Pages
1.	Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2022 as a correct record.	1 - 4
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6. **Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) Business Case Update** 37 - 40
7. **Forward Plan**
8. **Date of Next Meeting**
Thursday 2 February at 2 pm.

Guidance For Visitors to South Cambridgeshire Hall

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Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chairman may call for that part to be cleared. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

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Declarations of Interest - Information for Councillors

As a Councillor, you are reminded of the requirements under the Council's Code of Conduct to register interests and to disclose interests in a meeting. You should refer to the requirements set out in the Code of Conduct which are summarised in the notes at the end of this agenda frontsheet.

Disclosable pecuniary interests

A "disclosable pecuniary interest" is an interest of you or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) which falls within the categories in [Table 1 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#).

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your disclosable pecuniary interests you must:

- disclose the interest;
- not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter; and
- must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to notify the monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election
- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of a disclosable pecuniary interest that is not on the register that you have disclosed to a meeting
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a disclosable pecuniary interest or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

Other registerable interests

These are categories of interest which apply to the Councillor only (not to their partner) and which should be registered. Categories are listed in [Table 2 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#). Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter; and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of non-registerable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects – a. your own financial interest or well-being; b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in Table 2 you must disclose the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied. Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) affects the financial interest or well-being: a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and; b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

[Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Agenda Item 3

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on
Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Committee Members in attendance:

Ariel Cahn
Paul Bearpark
Dr John Loveluck
Dr Lisa Redrup
Peter Sandford
Bunty Waters

Councillors Cllr Dr Shrobona Bhattacharya was in attendance remotely.

Councillors in attendance:

Councillors Dr. Tumi Hawkins and Brian Milnes was in attendance, by invitation.

Officers:

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Peter Campbell	Head of Housing
Bode Esan	Head of Climate, Environment & Waste
Eleanor Haines	Climate & Environment Project Officer
Siobhan Mellon	Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Alex Snelling-Day	Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager
Luke Waddington	Climate and Environment Project Officer

1. Apologies

No apologies were received. It was noted that Councillor Dr Shrobona Bhattacharya was attending the meeting remotely.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dr Lisa Redrup declared a registerable interest as a member of Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of “tonnes” to “thousands of tonnes” in the minute “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounts for the Council’s Estate and Operations 2021-22” under the heading “Transport”.

The Chair stated that since the last meeting of the Committee representatives of the Council had attended the Municipal Journal award ceremony after being nominated for the

Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency award. She congratulated those involved in giving the presentation at the ceremony.

Matters arising from the minutes

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment reported that the ICT section had been asked to provide data on the amount of electricity used by the 3c Shared Services. This will be reported in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions accounts going forward. New hardware was being fitted by 3C, which was expected to reduce electricity usage.

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment reported that reducing green waste and setting up repair workshops were both included in the Waste Policy Team's Resource Strategy.

In response to an action to find out about current work from Ofgem around grid upgrades in relation to Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure the Development Officer – Climate and Environment explained that Ofgem were reviewing the future of local energy institutions and governance and that the shared planning service had provided a response to the call for input on this. It was agreed that this response should be circulated to the Committee members.

4. Revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment explained that the Council's Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan had been revised to ensure that it included all the work being done by the Council. It had been independently reviewed by two external organisations resulting in the revised Plan detailed in Appendix A of the report.

Target dates for completing actions

The Head of Climate, Environment and Waste explained that the Action Plan did not provide precise details of how all the actions would be carried out and when, as some actions were still under development or ongoing. However, he agreed that the updated version of the Action Plan would provide more detail and signposts to further documentation on each action where applicable.

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment agreed to provide a progress report on the actions in Objective 1 that the Council had direct control over. She explained that the Council was on target to achieve 45% carbon reduction by 2025. It was noted that the impact of the Council's strategy to influence issues outside its control was harder to assess.

Doubling nature

It was noted that as a target, doubling nature was difficult to quantify. Countywide data was being sought and the Chair explained that Natural Cambridgeshire had identified fourteen initiatives, relevant to this.

Councillor Brian Milnes stated that the County Council had a shadow carbon cost system and he suggested that this authority could use this to provide some comparative data.

Retrofitting of heritage properties

Retrofitting of historic and listed homes was discussed. The Chair stated that case studies could assist with this and could be helpful nationally. The Development Officer, Climate and Environment agreed to contact the Council's conservation team and report back on the progress of case studies.

Local Plan and planning policies

The Committee requested that members be briefed on the Local Plan. It was hoped that the Plan could identify areas where sustainable energy projects could be constructed. Councillor Brian Milnes explained that clearer Government guidance was required on sustainability issues affecting the Local Plan.

Councillor Tumi Hawkins explained that the work of the Committee was closely linked with the draft Local Plan and the officers working on it. She suggested that the Committee nominate representatives to attend meetings of the Joint Planning Advisory Group, which was discussing the Local Plan.

Home extensions and new homes

The Committee hoped that planning officers could advise residents on how to make their proposed extensions more energy efficient. It was also hoped that similar guidance could be provided to new home builders. Councillor Geoff Harvey advocated Passivhaus standards for new homes.

The practicalities of policing newly revised building standards was raised and it was suggested that a representative from Building Control could explain the changes and how Building Control were enforcing these.

Equality Impact Assessment

It was noted that the Equality Impact Assessment would consider the impact of climate change on vulnerable people.

Investment Strategy

The Head of Climate, Environment and Waste explained that the Investment Strategy was being updated and the Committee would be able to review it.

Improving water quality in rivers

It was suggested that representatives from Cambs Valley Forum should be invited to speak to the Committee.

Working with Partners

The Committee noted that the Council needed to work with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the County Council to reduce carbon emissions. It was agreed that the Committee should support its representatives on the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority to achieve the aims of reducing carbon emissions.

It was noted that the Chair was a member of the LGA's cross party National Climate Change Task Group, which sought to influence Government policy on climate change. The Council also had representation on the officer level net zero forum.

The Committee **agreed** that the C&E team should look again at how actions were allocated to Objectives to ensure a clear consistent approach.

The Committee **agreed** the following amendments to the Plan:

- Additional paragraphs should be included on cost of living work in relation to climate justice and the work being carried out to involve young people in climate and environment work.
- The plan to reduce carbon emissions from Council Estate and Operations by 75% should be included as a separate action under Objective 1.
- Section 1.3 should include charging points at South Cambs Hall.

- Onshore wind power and battery storage should be included in Section 2.2.1.
- The possibility of extracting waste heat from effluent stream should be considered for Section 2.2.2.
- Section 2.4 should include references to shared planning and planning policy.
- Section 2.6 should include an explanation on sustainable food.
- Section 3.2 reference to opportunity of tree planting should be removed and replaced with actions on trees.

5. Forward Plan

The Committee **noted** its Forward Plan.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 December at 2 pm.

The Meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda Item 4



**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) 6 th December 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Lead Cabinet Member for Environment
Lead Officer:	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

GCSWS Circular Resource Plan Update

Executive Summary

1. This report presents an explanation of the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service's Circular Resource Plan. This information was requested at the previous CEAC meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2022 where the Committee discussed SCDC's Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan (ZCDNAP).

Recommendations

2. The Committee are asked to make comments and recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment, to Cabinet or to officers as required.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The update has been brought to CEAC to allow the Committee to fulfil its role advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions.

Details

4. Within SCDC's 'being green to our core' business plan priority, there are several key actions identified regarding waste reduction and increasing recycling. Integral to all our communication and engagement activity is to target less household waste generated; a greater proportion of household waste recycled; and improvement in the quality of recycle i.e. less contamination.
5. The Waste Policy team is designing behavioural change campaigns which are evidence/data based, incorporate the latest in behavioural change theory best practise as well as reflect change in national policy from The Resources and Waste Strategy (DEFRA December 2018). Although behavioural change

campaigns can have delayed result, close monitoring and evaluation will refine the approach.

6. As well as our local action, a review of the Joint Waste Strategy by RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) is imminent – the review is due to commence at the end of this calendar year and will amongst other things consider the impacts of the government’s imminent regulations on DRS (deposit return systems) and EPR (extended producer responsibility), which will have a significant impact on the type of materials that will be within kerb-side bins as well as impacting how materials are collected.
7. The GCSWS’s Circular Resource Plan sets out five focus areas with key actions being undertaken:

A. Fostering a Circular Economy

- i. Work with Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) to update their Circular Cambridge pages and directory of repair shops
- ii. Promote relevant Transition Cambridge & CCF events e.g., clothing swaps
- iii. Support setting up of Cambridge Library of Things
- iv. Work with RECAP partners to promote washable nappies, wipes & period & incontinence products
- v. Promote refill and reuse initiatives
- vi. Community Action days

B. Prevention and recycling of more food waste

- i. Stickers on black bins
- ii. Review and evaluate segregated food waste trial
- iii. Replenish event toolkit
- iv. Promotion of home composting and discounted compost bins
- v. Continued work with Food Hubs / food banks

C. Reducing contamination of dry recycling - streamlining monitoring process and feedback to crews

D. Promotion of recycling

- i. Work with schools, RECAP, and other partners to deliver recycling education
- ii. Attendance at community events
- iii. Advertising
- iv. Welcome pack for new developments

E. Increasing provision for recycling of WEEE (Waste electrical and electronic equipment)

- i. Installing WEEE collection banks at new locations
- ii. Collection of WEEE from Repair Cafes

iii. Promotion of new collection banks

8. The key achievements from actions within GCSWS's Circular Resource Plan to date include:

- Leading a RECAP-wide pilot project to supply locally made reusable wipes to low-income families. Launch of packs planned for January 2023.
- Supporting Cambridge Carbon Footprint with a funding bid for Repair Cafes
- Creation of new Community Waste Reduction Projects page on our website, to facilitate groups setting up circular economy projects and to showcase local exemplars.
- Targeted food waste prevention for black bins on four collection rounds (approx. 2000 bins in South Cambridgeshire).
- New leaflets, banners and practical promotional items (e.g. measuring cups) purchased for events to reduction food waste
- Home composting promoted via tailored content on social media
- Across the Greater Cambridge area, 25 community events attended, engaging with approx. 2500 residents. Kitchen caddies given out at many of these.
- Four new small WEEE collection banks have been installed in the district, along with four in Cambridge. These have been promoted through press coverage, social media and council magazine articles
- A mobile small WEEE collection bin has been provided to five Repair Café events in the district, with over 100 items collected.

9. In preparing for 2023-24, the Circular Resource Plan will be reviewed and updated to take into consideration changes from planned route optimisation which occurs every 3 to 5 years. This exercise takes into consideration the growth within the District and plans collection rounds that are optimised in terms of cost, collection times / frequency, overall productivity per collection stream, and crew well-being. The approach would be to initially model the existing set-up and then seek to re-balance and re-distribute the rounds as best as possible. Once this is done and the route model has been effectively verified, we will then consider a variety of modified operational scenarios (for now and the future) to determine their potential impacts - these will include change to the frequency of bin collections taking into established best practices

10. A review of the top performing councils has been undertaken to look for indicators of their success which could be applicable to our service delivery. Nine out of the top 10 councils all provide a segregated weekly food waste collection and kerbside sorted textiles/batteries/WEEE collected at least fortnightly. Some of

these councils also collect dry recycling more frequently (weekly). A similar exercise was undertaken into 3-weekly residual collections to identify the potential impacts on recycling rates. The findings showed that this did not have a significant impact on recycling rates alone. Those that are performing higher than GCSWS and operating 3-weekly residual waste collections also provided weekly food waste collections, and in some cases, more frequent dry recycling.

Options

11. The plan covers the period from April this year until March 2023, and resources have been identified to deliver this.

Implications

12. There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

13. The Lead Member for Environment has been consulted on this report.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

14. The Circular Resource Plan also includes support to local businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling. Several of our activities support small and community focused businesses including a local Community Interest Company who are part of the reusable wipes pilot project with RECAP.

Being green to our core

15. The Circular Resource Plan is focused on delivering behavioural change resulting in lower residual household waste and a higher proportion of waste recycled.

Background Papers

CEAC Minutes – Tuesday 4 October 2022
[Printed minutes Tuesday 04-Oct-2022 14.00 Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: GCSWS Circular Resource Plan 2022-23 Executive Summary

Report Authors:

Alex Snelling-Day
Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager

Jack Howe
Waste Projects Officer

Vicky Lacey
Waste Projects Officer

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Circular Resource Plan

April 2022 – March 2023

Executive Summary

Goals

Our corporate business plans set out the following priorities:

- CCC – Priority #1: reduce consumption of resources, increase recycling and reduce waste
- SCDC - C9 - reduce amount of non-recyclable waste collected
- SCDC - C10 - pro-recycling and food waste promotional campaign aimed at businesses

The following actions are identified in our service plan:

- Develop campaigns to improve recycling based on the outcomes of the waste composition analyses
- Review of Food Waste Trial Collections
- Develop the Greater Cambridge Trade Waste Business to improve the profitable return

Following the waste hierarchy, our overarching communications goals for the service in order to meet these aims are to elicit behavioural change resulting in:

- Less household waste generated
- A greater proportion of household waste recycled
- Improvement in quality of recyclate (reduced contamination)

In addition, we want to:

- engage with communities in order to improve service and information provision
- innovate in order to improve service and information provision

Objectives

1. Foster a circular economy

- Work with Repair Cafes to identify ways the council can support their work, including promoting the network, recruiting more volunteers and getting more events running.
- Work with Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) to update their Circular Cambridge pages and directory of repair shops

- Promote relevant Transition Cambridge & CCF events e.g. Swishes (clothing swaps)
- Continue to keep in touch with Cambridge Library of Things to offer support in setting up, and look for possibilities for extension into South Cambs
- Speak to County about promoting re-use areas/centres at HRCs. Also promote relevant charities (e.g Emmaus, British Heart Foundation) which collect bulky items.
- Promote clothes exchange/swap/hire apps like NuWardrobe, and brands which repair or have take-back schemes e.g. Patagonia, H&M
- Work with RECAP partners to promote washable nappies, wipes & period & incontinence products
- Promote refill and reuse initiatives
- Review bulky waste booking process – need to triage good items and signpost to charities. Review forms, phone scripts and web pages. Promote initiatives to re-home unwanted items, e.g. Bicycles for Ukraine
- Community Action Days, where appropriate and resources secured.

2. Prevent & recycle more food waste

- Apply stickers to black bins
- Replenish event toolkit – banners, leaflets, bag clips/spaghetti measurers etc
- Promote home composting
- Promote apps like Olio, Too Good To Go and Kitche
- Work with Food Hubs/ foodbanks, Cambridge Sustainable Food, community fridges, farmers, supermarkets etc to identify ways that we can work together to prevent food waste/promote sustainable food system
- Work with and support any community groups which have received council funding for food waste reduction projects e.g. ZCC or Sustainable City grants.

3. Reduce contamination of dry recycling

- Streamline process of sending letters to contaminators – data team to set up report process, train policy team to use, policy team to send letters more frequently
- Data team to run a contamination report for flats
- Feed back to crews how many contamination reports, how many letters policy team have sent, and contamination rate per month– use screen in crew room
- Resolve SCDC flats data issues so crews can report contamination on InCab

4. Promote dry recycling

- Work with schools, RECAP and County to deliver simple recycling education in schools. Classroom video to be sent out to schools with contact details for visits & further support, or offer of Teams session.
- Attend community events with recycling messages
- Investigate radio advertising/interview opportunities
- Review RCV liveries
- Review 2nd black bin policy/web forms
- Promote free additional blue bins? Resource-dependant.
- Flats – new developments – have a welcome pack, promoting recycling, what to do with cardboard, what to do with bulky items, to prevent the mass cardboard/flytipping events that happen when people move in

5. Increase provision for recycling small WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment)

- Install WEEE collection banks at new locations in the city and district
- Collect WEEE from Repair Cafes
- Promote new collection banks

6. Review weekly food waste collection trial and identify next steps

- Separate paper circulated to steering committee group to identify the next steps for the food waste collection at the end of the financial year.

7. Review abandoned bin process

- * This process is also under review as to whether we continue to manage the process. If we do continue:
 - How can we make the process more environmentally friendly? Less mileage driven/operations to coordinate missing bins with other jobs in the City
 - Working together with SCambs enforcement in detecting bins that are further afield

8. Forward plan impacts of DRS scheme and EPR

- How can we innovate to benefit/minimise impact of these schemes?
- Investigate possible scan & bin schemes, reverse vending etc
- Attend LARAC & other conferences to keep up to date

9. Innovate

- Make use of and share learning from CIWM, LARAC, WRAP, APSE and conferences like RECOUP – identify lessons and take actions
- Learn from other similar councils
- Examine case studies
- Carry out a quarterly review of actions

These objectives are in addition to our regular and seasonal communications and campaigns around Christmas, Easter and bank holiday changes to collections and recycling advice, national events like Recycle Week and Plastic Free July and the quarterly council magazines. Most of these focus areas are also shared by RECAP partners and will also be partnership campaigns.

Monitoring and evaluation

The strategy will be evaluated through a quarterly report covering the following performance indicators. This report will be shared with everyone in the service, including the crews via the digital screens or the boards in the crew room.

Agenda Item 5



**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 06 December 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Brian Milnes
Lead Officer:	Bode Esan

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Progress Update

Executive Summary

1. This report presents a revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan (ZCDNAP) with changes responding to points raised by the committee at their previous meeting. The ZCDNAP also incorporates an update on progress in delivering the plan.

Recommendations

2. The committee are invited to review the plan and make comments and recommendations to the lead Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment, to Cabinet or to officers as required.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The progress update has been brought to CEAC to allow the committee to fulfil its role 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

4. The ZCDNAP at the appendix incorporates various changes in response to comments from the committee at their meeting in October, as detailed below.
5. The structure has been simplified. All actions, including those which address the objective of meeting the council's carbon reduction targets, have been retained, and now fall under one of the eight headings:

- i. Reduce consumption of resources and waste
 - ii. Decarbonise planning and land use
 - iii. Decarbonise transport
 - iv. Decarbonise housing and other buildings
 - v. Decarbonise business and industry
 - vi. Decarbonise food systems and agriculture
 - vii. Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy
 - viii. Respond to the ecological emergency
6. Additional detail has been provided under Action 2.1, Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies etc, viz the seven policy areas in the Local Plan First Proposals are listed, (which clarifies that renewable energy projects and infrastructure are included in this work).
 7. Additional detail has also been provided under Action 8.11 Progress planning policies related to doubling nature, etc, viz the seven policy areas in the Local Plan First Proposals relating to this are listed.
 8. An action 4.2.6, Provide information, resources and case studies to support owners to make their heritage homes more energy efficient has been added in the Decarbonisation of housing and other buildings section.
 9. An action 7.4 Develop and deliver appropriate communications around climate change, has been added to the Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy section to capture work being done under this heading.
 10. An action 7.5, Advocacy work to influence and support other bodies, has been added to capture this work.
 11. Responding to comment by CEAC, an additional section on Adaptation will be added to the plan by the time of the next review.

Update on progress

12. An update on progress is included in the ZCDNAP at the appendix, by way of the information in the two columns Progress at 31 October and Next milestone.
13. A further progress update, setting the council's actions in the context of the latest carbon dioxide emissions estimates from BEIS, (the government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy), will be provided following the financial year end.
14. As requested by the committee at their last meeting, this annual report will include an analysis of how the council's actions map onto the emerging climate action plan from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
15. The annual report will also include a report on progress in reducing the council's annual greenhouse gas emissions and plans to meet our stated targets of a 45%

reduction in net emissions by 2025/26 and 75% by 2030/31 (both on 2018/19 baseline).

16. Reporting on the ZCDNAP following the annual review (in May/June next year) will be on a yearly basis.

Implications

17. 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

18. 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

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

Climate Change

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

Consultation responses

21. The action plan has been the subject of internal consultation.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

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

Background Papers

Revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 report to CEAC, 4 October 2022

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s128656/Report%20on%20Revised%20Zero%20Carbon%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

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

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy_.pdf

Appendix

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan Progress Update

Report Author:

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

South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 31/10/22</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
1	Reduce consumption of resources and waste				
1.1	Implement a strategy to reduce consumption of resources and reduce waste	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	n/a	Completed. A Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service Circular Resource Strategy is in place, and the corresponding action plan reviewed, revised and implemented on a weekly basis. Key performance indicators are reported internally each month	n/a
1.2	Move to paper-free Council and committee meetings	Democratic Services Manager	n/a	Completed. IT is now operational for Members to access all papers online.	n/a
	Actions completed pre-2020 Review recycling facilities across the Council and implement changes – completed 2019 Review use of disposable single-use plastic and implement changes – completed 2019				
2	Decarbonise planning and land use				
2.1	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	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	First Proposals include seven policies relating to climate change, viz, CC/NZ Net zero carbon new buildings CC/WE Water efficiency in new developments CC/DC Designing for a changing climate CC/FM Flooding and integrated water management CC/RE Renewable energy projects and infrastructure CC/CE Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration	Draft version of the Local plan to be completed for consultation in 2023.

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
				<p>Details of the proposed policies can be viewed at</p> <p>https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/climate-change</p>	
2.2	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning Policy Manager	2024/25	<p>The submission draft Area Action Plan includes a net zero carbon buildings policy as well as wider policies related to the role of new development in responding to the climate emergency.</p> <p>Further details can be viewed at https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/</p> <p>The Area Action Plan has been prepared on the basis that the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is currently located in the Northeast Cambridge area, will be relocated off-site. The process is now paused until a decision has been made on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant.</p>	Public consultation expected 2024

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
3	Decarbonise transport				
3.1	Decarbonise the council's vehicle fleet				
3.1.1	Procure low emissions vehicles where new vehicles are needed and when replacing end of life vehicles (subject to availability of suitable alternative models and charging infrastructure)	Service Manager, Operations	Fleet decarbonisation strategy sets out a programme from 2020 - 2028	3 electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCV) and 3 electric vans procured	Order to be placed for 4 th eRCV to be delivered in 23/24 subject to available power supply. Still on course and additional power now sourced.
3.1.2	Develop and deliver solar PV, battery storage and electric vehicle charging network at the Council Depot - Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project (WREN)	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	Q3 2023/24	Business case completed and issued to CPCA to draw down £2.7m funding.	Business case to be agreed internally with recommendation to Cabinet 12 December 2022 to enter contract and move to implementation phase.

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
3.1.3	Investigate feasibility of substituting diesel with HVO biofuel in one or more vehicles as an interim measure to reduce GHG emissions	Service Manager, Operations	Q2 2022/23	Trials completed with both Councils' agreeing to deploy fuel use further subject to budgetary sign off on fuel costs	n/a
3.2	Reduce emissions from council's business mileage				
3.2.1	Set up salary sacrifice electric car scheme	HR Co-ordinator	Q1 2021-22	Completed. Green Car scheme opened April 2022. Seven orders for the scheme have been processed, we are still awaiting delivery dates due to the stock availability across many of the models.	n/a
3.3	Work with partners to install EV charging points across the district				
3.3.1	Install Rapid chargers to help meet vehicle charging needs of taxi-drivers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Rapid chargers at SCH installed as noted above. Plans for Rapid charger to be installed at Babraham P&R Discussions ongoing with County Council regarding location and costs of Rapid charger	Completion of installation of Rapid charger at Babraham P&R
3.3.2	Support development of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire-wide Electric Vehicle charging strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	CPCA scoping an EV charging implementation plan for the area, we have fed into this & provided comments on the scoping document Officer working group established with CPCA, County and Districts. Governance, terms of reference and key projects/workstreams for implementation have been identified, monthly meetings of working group	Scoping document considered by CPCA Head of Transport date TBC Allocate project leads and establish

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
					separate project groups
3.3.4	Develop strategy for EV charging infrastructure on Council assets Including single supplier for EV chargers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	completed	Completed, link to be added before report publication	
3.3.5	Deliver publicly accessible EV Charge Points, working with partners.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Public EVCPs installed at 2 sheltered accommodation sites. Grant scheme for parish & community chargers to be considered by Grants Advisory Committee Grant Scheme approved at Grants Advisory Committee 28/10/22	EV Charger Grant to launch early November 2022
3.3.6	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	Corporate Programme Manager	Q3 2022/23	18 x 7kW EV chargers and 2 x 42kW Rapid chargers installed expected to be completed by end of Q1 22/23	Secure a back office system operator January 2023
3.4	Taxis and private hire				
	Completed action Revise taxi licensing policy to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles				
4	Decarbonise housing and other buildings				
4.1	Decarbonise the council's buildings & streetlighting				
4.1.1	Complete retrofit of South Cambridgeshire Hall to include Ground Source Heat Pump,	Corporate Programme Manager	Q4 2022/23	Work almost completed. There have been some issues with the tarmac and sub layer of the car park. These are being rectified. All internal LED are installed. The fire alarm has been replaced. The EV chargers and solar	Q4 completion of car park allowing further implementation

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
	Solar PV car park canopy, Lighting upgrade and new Building Energy Management System			panels have been installed and are awaiting completion of the car park to be used. The new BMS system is installed, awaiting training and final sign off.	
4.1.2	Review community rooms on our sheltered housing schemes to identify and deliver carbon reduction opportunities	Service Manager, Housing Assets	Q4 2024-25	Remote heating controls fitted to all communal rooms. PAS 2035 assessments to be carried out on all communal rooms to determine carbon reduction measures available from current technologies and methods, potential proposals to be created from them, early 2023	Proposals, early 2023
4.1.3	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	Service Manager, Housing Assets	tbc	Business case proposal for installation of green energy measures received, proposal has been revoked and is being repriced by Bouygues but is taking months.	Review business case, potentially review contractor.
4.1.4	Install LED fittings in all Council owned streetlights	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	tbc	Phase 1 completed other than some rectification work to be agreed. Phase 2 - ornate lights - is progressing with a plan for poor condition lights underway and a procurement plan for the remaining.	Discussions are taking place around plans to upgrade lights that are located on HRA land.
4.1.4	Raise energy performance of all Council properties to band C or above	Service Manager – Housing Assets	by end of 2026/7 subject to securing funding from Social Housing	The project funded partly by the government's Green Homes Grant LAD1b scheme to install solar PV to 69 properties and insulate approx. 100 properties has been delivered, administration is in progress.	Result of bid due early 2023.

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
			Decarbonisation Fund	Work is being completed on an SHDF bid to be submitted Nov 22 with a proposal to deliver all properties to EPC C over the next 2 years 23/24 and 24/25.	
4.1.5	Improve energy efficiency of the Council's Ermine St Housing Company properties	Head of Ermine Street	ongoing	Contractor commissioned to inspect the portfolio and aim to introduce energy improvements to those properties with EPCs at a level C and below. Generally most of acquired stock is D and above with some exceptions.	tbc
4.2	Help householders to decarbonise their homes by improving home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heating and electricity				
4.2.1	Working with neighbouring LAs through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), set up a scheme to deliver home energy improvements through government schemes and for self-funding households.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Procurement of a framework of installers is in final stages of completion A separate procurement exercise is underway for marketing material and website. The scheme will be branded as Action on Energy Cambridgeshire. An application has been submitted by lead LA Cambridge City on behalf of CERP for funding for low carbon energy improvements to homes occupied by low income households in off-gas areas through the government's Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme	Contracts for the Action on Energy framework expected to be awarded by the end of Q3. We expect to hear if the bid to HUG2 was successful in the new year.
4.2.2	Deliver the government-funded Sustainable Warmth project to upgrade up	Waste Policy, Climate and	Q4 2022/23	Funding had been approved for measures on 14 properties (3 on-gas and 11 off-gas) on 21/11/22, with around 58 further properties in the pipeline. Measures will be installed to these properties in the coming weeks,	Work will continue until scheme ends on 31 Mar 23

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
	to 80 privately owned properties occupied by low income households	Environment Manager		and work will continue to identify eligible households in suitable properties. A targeted mailshot to 1000 properties was sent out in September.	
4.2.3	Support delivery of the Cambs County Council led Cambridgeshire Solar Together group buying scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	In Round 2 of the scheme, targeted mail drops and publicity through social media and other channels led to 3083 residents signing up to the scheme. 854 households in South Cambridgeshire accepted their offer.	All installations expected to be completed by 31 December though that may slip.
4.2.4	In partnership with Green Energy Switch, provide a free home energy advice to eligible households	Communities Manager	ongoing	Local Energy Advice Partnership scheme had provided 51 advice calls and 59 visits at end of 21/22	Ongoing and active as part of our Cost of Living support package
4.2.5	Provide free thermal imaging camera loan scheme and training for residents	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Revamped scheme has been set up in partnership with Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Five cameras loaned to Cambridge Carbon Footprint and funding given to develop a booking system to deliver project outcomes. One camera sits with the Business Support Team to support energy improvements for businesses.	End of season report expected Q1 2023/24
4.2.6	Provide information, resources and case studies to support owners to make their heritage homes more energy efficient	Historic Environment Team Leader, GCSP	ongoing	A webpage has been created and can be viewed at https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/design-heritage-and-environment/historic-environment/making-historic-homes-more-energy-efficient/ . Work to grow and evolve this webpage and provide case studies of best practice is ongoing.	

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
4.2.7	Raise energy performance of private rented sector properties	Principal Officer – People & Protection	ongoing	Cabinet has approved a new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) enforcement policy for the private rented sector (14/11/22).	Explore feasibility of PRS energy efficiency project
4.2.8	Support community-led projects to improve energy performance of community buildings through Zero Carbon Communities grant	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Various projects supported, see https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/	5 th annual funding round expected to launch Q2 2022/23
	Completed action				
4.3	Design and construction				
4.3	In new build on Council owned land go beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency (part L) subject to feasibility	Head of New Build	ongoing	Update not available at time of publication of this report.	
5	Decarbonise business and industry				
5.1	Decarbonise the Council's commercial property	Head of Economic Development	ongoing	270 Cambridge Science Park solar pv will be complete Q2 22/23. At 140 Cambridge Science Park initial discussions are taking place with the tenant regarding	Other opportunities on commercial

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
		nt & Investment		shared net zero expectations. An Outline Business Case is to be completed for site subject to tenant permission by Q3 22/23.	properties to be reviewed by Q3 22/23
Completed actions					
	Put in place new procurement rules requiring that awarding of contracts >£5,000 takes account of decarbonisation plans of bidders – completed 2019				
5.2	Signpost local SMEs to information, advice and funding on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency and recycling	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	ongoing	See next action
5.3	Develop partnership approaches to supporting local businesses to become more sustainable	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	External funding is being explored alongside partnership working with neighbouring local authorities and business organisations.	n/a
5.4	Explore setting up work hubs and co-working spaces to reduce commuter travel distances	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	This work is underway. Current opportunities are listed on the Business pages of the SCDC website.	n/a
6	Decarbonise food systems and agriculture				
6.1	Run communication campaigns to	Waste Policy,	ongoing	New action	n/a

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
	encourage carbon-friendly diets eg Meat Free Monday, Veganuary	Climate and Environment Manager			
6.2	Explore feasibility of further work in this area, eg Sustainable Food Strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Not started	Proposals for further work in this area
7	Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy				
7.1	Embed environmental sustainability into HR processes	HR Co-ordinator	Q4 2023/24	Work has started, see below	
7.2	Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Staff climate change toolkit has been launched including intranet webpage and Climate Change handbook.	See below
7.3	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Corporate Management Team to be trained by end of 22/23	Carbon Literacy training delivered to refuse crews Feb 2022. C&E team have completed training for Carbon Literacy trainers. Development of climate awareness training is in process.	Climate awareness training starting Jan 23 – first sessions completed by end of Q4 22/23

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
7.4	Develop and deliver appropriate communications around climate change	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Continuing work to develop and deliver co-ordinated messaging to residents through internal Climate and Environment Communications group and as part of the Cambridgeshire Climate Change Communications group.	Ongoing work
7.5	Advocacy work to influence and support other bodies	All, including elected Members	Ongoing	Numerous presentations and articles, including presentation on the Zero Carbon Communities programme to LGA webinar on Neighbourhood approaches to decarbonising buildings and transport. We are looking at how we might best capture the work being done under this heading going forwards.	
8	Respond to the ecological emergency				
8.1	Increase green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity through Planning				
8.11	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.	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	Seven policy areas have been identified under the Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. These are: BG/BG Biodiversity and geodiversity BG/GI Green infrastructure BG/TC Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population BG/RC River corridors BG/PO Protecting open spaces BG/EO Providing and enhancing open spaces CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration	Project planning is underway with our partners to identify the tasks needed to refine these initiatives and identify deliverable projects

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
				<p>Further detail can be viewed at https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces</p> <p>In partnership with Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England, 14 strategic green infrastructure initiatives have been identified and published alongside the First Proposals for the Local Plan.</p>	supporting them.
8.12	Promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development by publishing case study/ies	Natural Environment Team Leader	ongoing	We are currently collating information that can be used to demonstrate positive outcomes for biodiversity from development mitigation. This will be presented as single-side narrative case studies with one or two photos.	Case studies to be posted on website
	<p>Completed action Update and strengthen guidance relating to biodiversity by drafting and adopting a new Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document</p>				
8.2	Increase nature by supporting community action				
8.2.1	Provide grants for biodiversity through the Community Chest	Communities Manager	Completed and ongoing	The Wildlife Enhancement Fund has been incorporated into the Community Chest with £20,000 ring-fenced for Biodiversity themed applications for 2022-23. Applications funded under this theme went to Shepreth Parish Council for the planting of wild orchids (June), Duxford Community Centre Events to plant an Oak Tree in the grounds of the Community Centre (July) and	Promotion of the fund is being stepped up and case studies and a link to Natural Cambridgeshire

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
				Cambridge Past, Present & Future to create a pollinator garden at Wandlebury Country Park (September)	's Local Nature Nature Recovery Toolkit has been included on the Community Led Plan and Community chest webpages.
8.2.2	Support tree-planting through Six Free Trees scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager		2 nd scheme completed with 58 parish councils taking part and 228 trees planted 6 Free Trees 2022 ready to be launched on 14/11/22.	Parish councils to apply by end of December 2022 with trees being delivered on 30/01/23
8.2.3	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Natural Cambridgeshire are developing a suite of resources to support local nature recovery. We are in discussion with them about supplementing this with advice and information specifically aimed at parish councils.	n/a
8.2.4	Support volunteers through our role as	Natural Environment	Under review and on hold	New Trees Officer appointed -	Long-term review

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
	Tree Warden network co-ordinator	t Team Manager		The Tree Warden scheme was impacted from the pandemic and the previous Tree Officer leaving. It is understood that the Tree Warden Network is self-sustaining with the long-term ambition to re-engage when SCDC Planning Tree Services have availability to take up.	
8.2.5	Share community project good practice at Green Connect webinars and Climate and Environment fortnight	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	<p>Six events held in February and March during a fortnight of Climate and Environment sessions including on Electric Vehicles, planning for climate change, community action and cycling. 198 people registered for the events in total and recordings of the events were put on the websites so that they could be accessed afterwards.</p> <p>Autumn programme has included a Green Connect visit to Gamlingay Ecohub and a webinar on the Circular Economy.</p> <p>Planning has started for a Climate Conference next year to connect climate stakeholders within the district and encourage work on getting to net zero.</p>	Climate Conference, provisional date of 17 th March.
8.3	Enhance opportunities for nature on our own estate				
8.3.1	Take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower	Service Manager,	ongoing	We have received funding for tree-planting on two areas of HRA land through a successful joint bid led by Cambs	

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
	strips and other initiatives on Council housing estates	Tenancy and Estates		<p>County Council to the LA Treescapes Fund Tree. Work is in progress to deliver this.</p> <p>We are accessing areas where we can reduce frequency of grass cuts in growing season for 2023, and alongside that considering areas where we could stop cutting altogether and allow wildflowers to grow, again for 2023 growing season. We are working up a pilot of an area where we don't use weedkiller to control weed growth.</p>	
	Completed action: Complete audit of trees on Council housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work				
8.4	Enhance opportunities for nature through our work managing watercourses				
8.4.1	Review management of awarded watercourses with a view to action to improve biodiversity	Environment Operations Manager	ongoing	<p>Over the exceptionally dry summer period we have worked with The Wild Trout Trust to reduce maintenance on our chalk streams in order to preserve water levels. SCDC have also corporately joined the Wild Trout Trust in acknowledgement of our working with Rob Mungovan.</p> <p>Moving forward we will be looking at supporting local nature conservation groups by exploring joint working initiatives that can enable groups to complete improvements to watercourses. Such joint working will look at using SCDC equipment to facilitate works that would be too costly for groups to purchase from a contractor.</p>	

	Action	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at 31/10/22	Next milestone
8.5	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	The bid to the Carbon Theme of Highway England's Environmental Legacy Fund was successful and Highways England are working with land agents to identify off-site partnership opportunities for biodiversity and carbon. Eight opportunities have been identified and are being reviewed internally by Highways England.	Further update awaited from Highways England

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Agenda Item 6



**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) 6 th December 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Lead Cabinet Member for Environment
Lead Officer:	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) Business Case Update

Executive Summary

1. This report presents a summary of the business case and implementation plan for Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN). WREN is a microgrid solution to increase electricity capacity at the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Depot. The microgrid integrates smart technologies to maximise the use of solar generated electricity on site and minimise mains grid electricity. The business case headlines are electricity capacity to power 20-24 electric refuse Collection Vehicles (e-RCVs), lower cost of energy than upgrading the grid (without solar or battery components), independence from both national grid decarbonisation and the cost of main grid electricity, displacement of at least 1,345 tonnes CO₂e over lifetime of project and on-site renewable electricity generation of at least 65% of the site demand.
2. The Council has allocated funding from the capital programme for this project and therefore no funding consideration is required. However, this update shows the business case review undertaken and the next steps for implementation.

Recommendations

3. The Committee are asked to make comments and recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment, to Cabinet or to officers as required.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The update has been brought to CEAC to allow the Committee to fulfil its role advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions.

Details

5. The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has made firm policy commitment to decarbonise the fleet of refuse collection vehicles by 2030. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and has established targets and an Action Plan to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The Council has a fleet decarbonisation target of 50% reduction by 2025 and a 90% reduction by 2030, based on 2018-19 levels.
6. This requires significant fleet decarbonisation for the 50 vehicles currently in operation by the Service. It will require a mix of alternative fuels including electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (e-RCVs) making up approximately half of the fleet. However, electricity grid capacity is constrained due to local/national increase of electricity for transportation and space heating within buildings. Therefore, there is an urgent need for grid capacity at the Depot as once the third e-RCV (currently on order, whilst two e-RCVS are already in operation) is operational no further e-RCVs can be charged on-site.
7. The Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) is a microgrid solution to increase electricity capacity at Waterbeach depot. The microgrid is comprised of:
 - a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array 825kWp on adjacent land to the depot (planning consented),
 - an Energy Storage System (ESS) 2MWh storage capacity to maximise the use of renewable energy from the solar PV array,
 - an Energy management System to control energy and optimise performance,
 - 20 x 50kW smart e-RCV chargers and associated infrastructure,
 - new electrical infrastructure across site,
 - and a point of connection to the electricity distribution network
8. The total project cost is projected at £6m with £2.7m from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined authority (CPCA) and the residual funding from Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (£1.67m per authority). The final ratification of the project and agreement to move to contract and project initiation will be recommended to SCDC Cabinet on 12 December 2022.
9. The business case has concluded that to achieve net zero, investment in the WREN project is required, as grid capacity limits curtail our fleet decarbonisation. The WREN microgrid option modelled a lower cost of energy, 26p versus 35p per unit energy, than upgrading the grid (without solar or battery) and provides independence from both national grid decarbonisation rates and cost unpredictability of mains grid electricity. The business case estimates at least 1,345 tonnes carbon saving on current fleet emissions. The microgrid solution will also enable the addition of more 'generating assets' i.e. further solar photovoltaic arrays or other sources of renewable energy which can accommodate additional electricity demand on-site.
10. With the business case reviewed, and subject to ratification by Cabinet, the project team will proceed to review the design and implementation phase as well

as agree commercial contracts with the delivery team. The indicative programme is to complete commercial contracts/procurement exercise by Q4 2022/23 with start-on-site Q1 2023/24 and completion by Q4 2023/24.

Options

11. The business case options have included a comparison between the WREN microgrid solution with the counterfactual which is an upgrade to the mains electricity grid without solar PV and battery storage components. The long-list options assessment did assess 'do nothing' option however achieving net zero carbon targets requires investment and change to current operations. A relocation option was considered however there are strong co-location benefits of the current GCSWS operational site.

Implications

12. There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

13. The Lead Member for Environment has been consulted on this report.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

14. The WREN project will enable the significant decarbonisation of SCDC carbon emissions from fleet enabling the Council to move towards their carbon reduction targets.

Background Papers

Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) Investment Grade Proposal Summary – commercially sensitive

Appendices

None

Report Authors:

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Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager

