





Northamptonshire  
County Council

## Cabinet

Tuesday 10 March 2020

### Agenda Pack Two for the following Cabinet reports:

 Denotes a key decision

Item No.	Subject	Page No	Responsible Cabinet Member	Contact name & Tel. no. (01604)
09. *	Climate Change, Carbon Management and the Environment	3 - 56	Councillor Smithers	Alison Parry – 07785 234089
10. * 	School organisational changes: Establishment of an amalgamation policy	57 - 95	Councillor Baker	Chris Wickens - 07738638249





**CABINET**

**10 MARCH 2020**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRATEGY, DELIVERY & TRANSFORMATION:  
GRAEME KANE**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGHWAYS & PLACE:  
COUNCILLOR JASON SMITHERS**

<b>Subject:</b>	Climate Change, Carbon Management and the Environment
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note progress made to date to address causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire</li> <li>2. Consider actions to enable the County Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that NCC re-instate the partnership tree planting initiative, building upon the success of previous approaches with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees with landowners throughout the County, at a cost of £20k per annum for a minimum of the next 5 years; and</li> <li>• that NCC explore opportunities to invest in Photovoltaics (PV's) and other sources of renewable energy on NCC owned land and other areas with any potential scheme subject to a further Cabinet report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Endorse the refreshed Partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023.</li> <li>4. Agree that this report be taken to Full Council to demonstrate progress with addressing climate change as agreed within the Climate Emergency declaration made in June 2019.</li> </ol>

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 In June 2019, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) declared a Climate Emergency and committed to a target of making Northamptonshire 'carbon neutral' by 2030, and to work in partnership with others to achieve this.

1.2 This report provides an update to Cabinet regarding: progress made to date with tackling the causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire; the carbon emission reductions made by the County Council and the actions required to enable the authority to become carbon neutral by 2030; and to endorse the refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023.

## **2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan**

2.1 The Council's vision is for Northamptonshire to be a county where everyone looks after each other and takes responsibility, where the vulnerable are protected and supported and where the people who can help themselves receive the assistance they need to stay independent and healthy.

This initiative helps the Council to deliver this vision through the following strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan:

- Working in partnership with other public sector organisations (such as the seven district and borough councils, the local NHS bodies, and Northamptonshire Police).
- Enabling individuals and communities to achieve better outcomes.
- Engaging with partners and communities to co-design and co-deliver services.
- Using innovation to find better and more sustainable ways of delivering services ensuring they are efficient and affordable in the long term.
- Commissioning and procuring services and goods with partners.
- Utilising the Council's assets effectively.

## **3. Addressing Climate Change in Northants – A Partnership Approach**

3.1 NCC has been committed to taking action to address climate change since 2006 when the Leaders of all eight local authorities in the County were signatories of the Nottingham Declaration. This was a public declaration in which all authorities collectively committed to partnership action to address the causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire.

3.2 This led to the development of the first partnership Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy which covered the period 2010-2014. It was collectively developed and owned by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG), which has been meeting regularly since 2008, and comprises officers from all local authorities in the County, other public, and voluntary sector bodies, along with business sector partners. The partnership is chaired by NCC.

3.3 The Strategy was endorsed by the then 'Public Service Board' (which became the 'Northamptonshire Partnership' - comprised of the Leaders and Chief Executives of all public, voluntary and business sector partners in the County), and which called upon all partners to formally adopt the Strategy, which NCC did in 2010.

3.4 Building upon the success of this approach, the original Strategy was refreshed in both 2014 and again 2017, to cover the periods 2014-2017 and 2017-2020, respectively. The Strategy has three key objectives; raising awareness of the causes and effects of climate change; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and tackling the impacts of climate change. It is implemented via annual Action Plans which collate the individual and collective actions of all partners to address the causes and effects of climate change in the County.

3.5 Successes from this partnership approach to tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the county has resulted in significant progress with the reduction of emissions in Northamptonshire, with a 36.4% reduction in per capita emissions and a 27.9% reduction in total emissions recorded between 2005 and 2017 (latest available data) - which exceeds the national reduction targets.

3.6 Other notable partnership achievements include;

- Initiatives currently underway to reduce transport emissions include **Smart Move Northamptonshire** see: [www.smartmovenorthamptonshire.net](http://www.smartmovenorthamptonshire.net), which includes various elements to help raise awareness of low carbon modes of travel and how to access information on these (e.g. cycling and Low Emission Vehicle (LEVs)); and supporting LEVs through the **Smart Commuter Initiative** including promoting the role of e-bikes and LEV charging, and as part of an **INNOVATE UK** sponsored project (VPACH) which will see the installation of on-street LEV charging points;
- NCC in partnership with Woodland Trust has **planted 253,000 trees across the county** over the past 11 years – via the provision of tree and hedgerow packs to community groups, schools, parish councils, and landowners.

3.7 NCC has also been successfully working in partnership with a variety of government and non-government agencies supporting vulnerable individuals, schools and communities throughout the county to better manage their energy usage. These projects include:

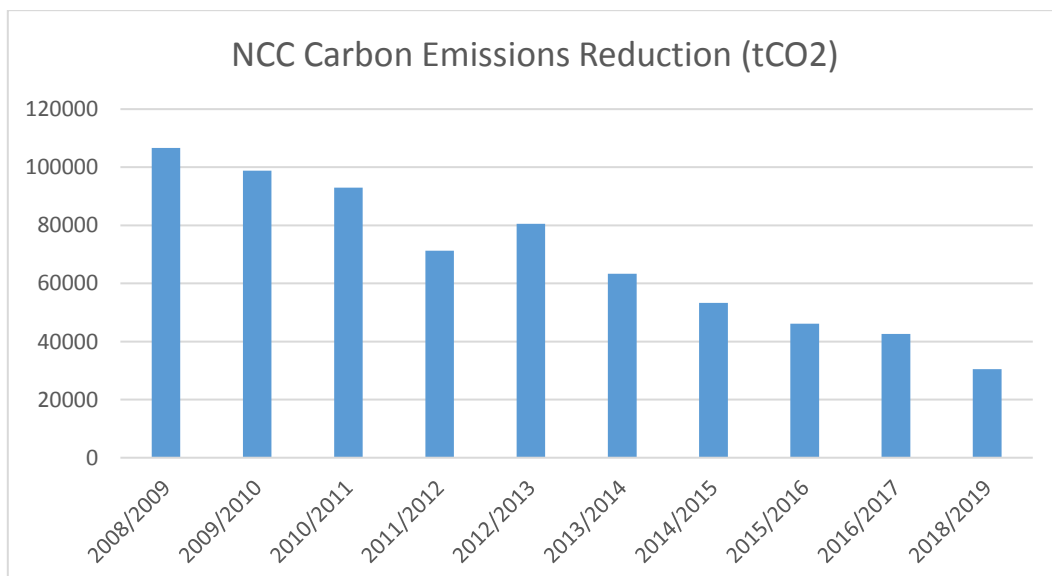
- The '**Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service**' (known as NESS) which is a 3 year project (2018 – 2021) helping address fuel poverty across Northamptonshire. Over £1.2 million of funding was secured by NCC from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund. NESS is being delivered by Community Law Service in partnership with Citizens Advice Services Corby and Kettering, Care and Repair Northamptonshire, South Northants Volunteer Bureau and Northamptonshire County Council through Public Health. It builds upon previous similar schemes which have operated in the County over the past ten years
- **Supporting schools** with both energy procurement and statutory energy measures including the successful 'ZECOS' EU funded project which targeted schools to reduce their energy consumption and installed a number of biomass boilers in schools across the county.
- **National Energy Action**, a national fuel poverty charity, have worked with organisations and local authorities through the Northants Warm Homes Partnership to develop a *Northants Community Directory* which provides details of all agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support for vulnerable householders.

3.8 **Adaptation** - NCC along with its partners has undertaken a number of specified actions to help adapt to the impacts of climate change and seek to reduce the risk from these e.g. increased flood risk, reduced air quality, increased temperatures etc. These include:

- Creation of a **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan** to manage and co-ordinate the response to local flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. The strategy incorporates local objectives to tackle the impacts of climate change;
- Adoption of the **Local Standards and Guidance for Surface Water Drainage in Northamptonshire**, which includes a requirement for all new developments to design surface water attenuation on site to accommodate the +20% climate change allowance, and undertake analysis to understand the flooding implication of the +40% climate change allowance;
- through a DEFRA/ EA funded Pathfinder project, working with over **90 Northamptonshire communities most at risk** from flooding enabling them to become more resilient by offering a number of tools and the provision of the award winning Floodtoolkit.com website; and
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessments** have been undertaken for all local authorities in Northamptonshire to help with planning decisions on locations for development. SFRAs are required to include an assessment of climate change.
- Implemented a number of **flood alleviation schemes** in Northamptonshire, which are required to be designed to include climate change allowances up to 40%;
- **Climate Change Risk Assessments** have been undertaken for ALL local authorities in Northamptonshire. These identify the potential implications for council services from a changing climate and highlights possible adaptations to be considered in future council practices, policies and decision-making.

#### 4. Towards a ‘Carbon Neutral’ County Council

4.1 NCC has also made significant progress in reducing its own carbon emissions (cause of climate change) as an authority over the past ten years as shown in the table below. This equates to a substantial 72% reduction in emissions (since 2008/9) which was mainly achieved by concerted action to reduce energy usage in our assets.



4.2 Cutting NCC carbon emissions by nearly three quarters was achieved by:

- appointing a senior officer to be responsible for energy and carbon management in 2009 who has, in addition to the service cost savings for the Council from the reduction in energy use, subsequently delivered over £2m in income generation for the Council;
- developing and utilising local and national businesses through innovative strategic partnerships;
- consolidating and reducing the number of office buildings, ensuring more energy efficient buildings and reducing the need for staff to travel between sites;
- making significant capital investments in our buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions – with an estimated 76,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saved over the past ten years saving NCC £9.6m in energy savings;
- making a significant capital investment in upgrading street-lighting throughout the county in order to reduce energy consumption and Co<sub>2</sub> emissions; and
- effectively managing our energy systems as evidenced by NCC being the first local authority to be awarded the internationally recognised Energy Management System (EnMS) ISO 50001:2011 accreditation for its work towards continual improvement in managing the county council's energy. The EnMS which contains the Energy Strategy are fundamental to continued success.

4.3 As a result of these efforts, the current carbon emissions produced by NCC has been reduced to 30,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e tonnes per annum, as at 2018/19, which are the latest consolidated figures. The main sources of these emissions are:

- 23% from heating and lighting our buildings (split c.64% electricity and 31% gas);
- 12% from street lighting (c 57,000 street lights);
- 5% from staff travel for work purposes (including rail and flights); and
- 60% from Landfill emissions (methane)

## **5. Measures underway for NCC to reduce carbon emissions to zero**

5.1 The NCC Energy Management System (EnMS) is vital to the ongoing and continual reduction in the emissions of the County Council. It also enables for the systematic measurement and recording of energy use. Therefore, it is vital that such practice should continue to enable informed decision making on energy reduction activity.

5.2 In June 2019, the commitment by the Full Council's declaration of a *Climate Emergency* has already led to two significant actions by Cabinet. In January 2020 Cabinet demonstrated that they support the approach to zero emissions: by purchasing 'carbon neutral' energy as part of the new LASER energy contract; and new capital investment to further reduce energy consumption in our street lights. These actions collectively will result in a 38% reduction in current NCC emissions.

5.3 The current 5% staff travel emissions could be further reduced by purchasing, leasing or utilising Ultra Low Emission vehicles (ULEV) for staff to use on council business, and ultimately these emissions will be reduced when central government targets concerning such vehicles become mandatory. It should be noted, that NCC has supported this approach, and has delivered a national award-winning project in conjunction with Social Care and Health and De Montfort University.

5.4 The emissions produced from NCC owned waste landfill sites in the form of methane remains a technological, and financial challenge. The Council has previously investigated innovative solutions, such as waste mining and using these closed landfills for solar parks. However, the instability of these sites, the inherent environmental and legal compliance risks, challenges with grid connections, and land ownership issues has meant that progressing these solutions has not been possible to date. Therefore, currently, the carbon equivalent of c 19,700 tonnes per annum from closed historic landfills can only pragmatically be addressed by a methodology of 'off-setting'.

## 6. Off-setting opportunities in Northamptonshire

6.1 'Carbon Off-setting' is the action of compensating for carbon emissions by undertaking actions designed to make equivalent reductions on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

6.2 Through its ownership and stewardship of an estimated 600,000 trees in the County (comprised c500k highway trees and 100k trees in our Country Parks), NCC is able to go some way already to off-setting emissions, as 600k trees collectively absorb around **13,000 tCOe tonnes per annum** (based on an estimated average 21kg of carbon absorbed per tree annually).

6.3 NCC has already facilitated the planting of 253k trees in the County over the past several years but on others' land with the Woodland Trust (WT). The planting of an additional c.300k of trees requiring 120-300 hectares of land, depending on planting density, would deliver the required 6,700 tCOe tonnes per annum reduction in emissions enabling NCC to be deemed 'carbon neutral'.

6.4 With the increased appreciation of using tree planting to help mitigate climate change, a number of NCCOG organisations have expressed interest in participating in the successful NCC/WT partnership tree planting scheme. To date, South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) has already identified £20k towards such a renewed collaborative approach. Discussions are currently underway with the Woodland Trust on how such a wider countywide initiative might best be achieved.

6.5 **It is recommended that NCC, in partnership with others, re-instate the tree planting initiative, building upon the success of previous approaches with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees with**



**landowners throughout the County. To at least match the identified funding from SNC, this initiative will require a £20k commitment per annum from NCC for a minimum of the next 5 years to commence during the autumn - winter 2020/21 planting season.**

6.6 As an alternate carbon offsetting approach, investment could be made in green energy technology such as Photovoltaics (PV). To off-set the remaining 6,700 tCO<sub>2</sub>e tonnes, a 19.1 MW solar plant would be required, which would roughly require a £18.2m investment on 14.4 ha of land with connection to the grid. The advantage of this scheme is that it would generate a yearly income of £1.6m (with a c 25+ life).

**6.7 It is recommended that NCC explore opportunities to invest in PV's and other such sources of renewable energy on NCC owned land and other areas, with any potential scheme subject to a further Cabinet report.**

6.8 The Cabinet approval in January 2020 for the new energy contracts additionally gave the flexibility to use these contracts to support partners and service suppliers of NCC. Adoption by such organisations of these contracts will demonstrate emission reduction which has been directly supported and facilitated by the Council as well.

6.9 The best practice of NCC in energy management and reduction in emissions can also be utilised to support the energy management functions of the new unitary authorities and Children's Trust.

## **7. A refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023**

7.1 Building upon the success and effectiveness of the ongoing partnership approach towards tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the County as outlined earlier in this report, the partnership Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy has been refreshed for a further three years to cover the period 2020-2023. See:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx>

7.2 This refresh has been undertaken by partners under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG) now reports. A list of NCCOG Members is listed as an Appendix within the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy.

7.3 The refreshed Strategy provides a review of what has been achieved along with a review of the evidence of progress towards the targets set. It is a working document that can stand-alone, but it also references the preceding strategies where necessary rather than replicating or replacing them.

- 7.4 In particular the annually updated Climate Change Strategy Action Plans have played a critical role in the co-ordination of activities delivered by partners over the last ten years, and are demonstrative of the success of the Strategy's implementation, with over 90% of actions within each year's Action Plans successfully implemented as intended.
- 7.5 All three previous iterations of the Strategy proposed a target reduction in emissions per capita of 1.5% per year to match and support the then UK national targets for reducing emissions. However with the UK government's recent commitment to making the UK carbon neutral by 2050, this updated Strategy has amended its target to meet this nationally agreed target which equates to an annual 3% reduction in emissions.
- 7.6 Whilst it is acknowledged that as individual organisations and collectively as partners we only have a limited ability to affect such a reduction at a local level, we can each play our part in making our best efforts to effect such a step change and it allows partners to adopt even more challenging targets as individual organisations should they so wish.
- 7.7 This partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire with its associated Annual Action Plans provides the opportunity to capture all this activity taking place in the County and present it in a coherent way to demonstrate the reduction to overall emissions and other adaptations being achieved collectively throughout Northamptonshire.

## **8. Commentary – '*Carbon Neutral*' Reality Sense-Check**

- 8.1 All eight Northamptonshire local authorities – whether as businesses in their own right and through their respective activities/ services collectively account for about 1% of overall carbon emissions in the County.
- 8.2 Local authorities could readily become '*carbon neutral*' as organisations through energy efficiency measures, purchasing carbon neutral energy, using electric vehicles and off-setting the remainder through tree planting or investments in renewable technologies as has been demonstrated by NCC.
- 8.3 Local authorities are also well placed to drive and influence emissions reductions in their wider areas through the services they deliver, their role as social landlords, their ability to influence emissions in buildings, surface transport, and waste, as trusted community leaders, and through their regulatory and strategic functions. It is estimated that this 'influence' could reduce up to 8% of local carbon emissions.
- 8.4 However, it is central government through legislation and economic policy etc. which is the key player in any significant carbon reduction nationally. Therefore, whilst it can be shown local authorities can as organisations become carbon neutral, the ability of any individual local authority to achieve a 'carbon neutral' target for their respective administrative areas is limited.

8.5 In this regard, the partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire provides the means through which all local authorities, other public, voluntary and private sector partners and the successor unitary authorities can work collaboratively to address this enormous challenge and do all they can in their ability and scope of influence to make the UK carbon neutral.

8.6 Likewise, the impressive carbon emission reduction of NCC as an organisation is something that the whole Council, past and present staff and partners can be extremely proud of. However, it is acknowledged that in order to achieve zero emissions new innovative approaches will need to be implemented in a pragmatic and flexible approach through the Energy Management System (EnMS).

## **9. Recommendations.**

9.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- Note progress made to date to address causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire
- Consider actions to enable the County Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 in particular:
  - that NCC re-instate the partnership tree planting initiative, building upon the success of previous approaches with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees with landowners throughout the County, at a cost of £20k per annum for a minimum of the next 5 years; and
  - that NCC explore opportunities to invest in PV's and other sources of renewable energy on NCC owned land and other areas with any potential scheme subject to a further Cabinet report.
- Endorse the refreshed Partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023; and
- Agree that this report be taken to Full Council to demonstrate progress with addressing climate change as agreed within the Climate Emergency declaration made in July 2019.

## **10. Consultation and Scrutiny**

10.1 The Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire is a partnership document and has been collectively produced by the organisations which are members of the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which NCCOG now reports. Cabinet is asked to endorse this partnership approach to addressing climate change.

## 11. Equality Screening

Reason that no EqlA is required	✓ as appropriate
The paper is for information only	
The proposal/activity/decision has no impact on customers or the service they receive	✓
The proposal impacts upon staff but the proposed staffing changes will not affect the service that customers receive*	
Other (Please explain further)	

## 12. Alternative Options Considered

12.1 A standalone County Council Climate Change Strategy could have been developed but a decade of partnership working has demonstrated that greater results are achieved through collaborative working in relation to addressing climate change activities.

## 13. Financial Implications

13.1 All the activities detailed in this report have been undertaken within existing budgets and from the savings received from better energy and carbon management.

13.2 In order to achieve off-setting emissions through tree planting a £20k budget allocation will be required from 2020/21. This will need to be found from within existing NCC budgets.

## 14. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Benefits and legacy of partnership working lost in local government review	Refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy 2020-23 provides an effective framework for continued and ongoing partnership approach towards tackling climate change in Northamptonshire.	Amber

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Loss of Reputation - Failure to meet Climate Emergency Declaration and carbon emission reduction commitments	Red
Financial loss to authority	Red
Increases in Carbon Emissions	Red

## 15. List of Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Refreshed Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023

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Background Papers:	<a href="https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx">https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx</a>
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so please outline the timetable here	
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications passed through Capital Programme governance procedures?	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot  N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: G Kane
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Councillor Smithers
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee:
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: D Carter-Hughes
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley
Have any property Issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: J Wheeler
Have the Procurement Implications been referenced in the Paper:	YES Name of Officer: Gus De Silva

Are there any community safety implications?	None
Are there any environmental implications:	Decision seeks to tackle causes and effects of climate change in the county and in particular reduce carbon emissions.
Are there any Health and Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	All

**Northamptonshire  
Climate Change Strategy  
2020 – 2023**

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## Executive Summary

The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy sets out a framework for tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the County. It was collectively developed by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG), which has been meeting regularly since 2008, and comprises officers from all local authorities, other public, and voluntary sector bodies, along with business sector partners.

The Strategy has three key objectives;

- Raising awareness of the issues of climate change and its impact on Northamptonshire;
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases across the County; and
- Planning for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Strategy is implemented via annual Action Plans which collate the individual and collective actions of all partners to address the causes and effects of climate change in the County in order to achieve these objectives.

The Strategy was originally developed in 2010 and was refreshed in both 2014 and 2017. These updates were undertaken due to the rapidly changing context to climate change in terms government policy, technological advancements, regional pressures, societal change and initiatives. These ‘refreshes’ also allowed the opportunity to capture and review what had been achieved. The intention is to continue the partnership Strategy for a further three years, as the previous iterations of the Strategy have provided an effective framework for the co-ordination of activities in the county.

In this regard, this latest refresh covers the period 2020 – 2023. It has been ‘refreshed’ under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which NCCOG now reports. Whilst this is a partnership document, it should be noted that during the period of this Strategy there will be a change to Local Authorities across the County, with the formation of two Unitary Authorities covering North and West Northamptonshire in April 2021.

This refreshed Strategy provides a review of what has been achieved, along with a review of the evidence of progress towards the targets set and future actions, which will be captured within the associated annual action plans. It is a working document that can stand-alone, but it also references the preceding strategies where necessary rather than replicating or replacing them and in this respect is best read in conjunction with the original Strategy from 2010-2014. In particular the annually updated Climate Change Strategy Action Plans have played a critical role in the co-ordination of activities delivered by partners over the last ten years, and are demonstrative of the success of the Strategy’s implementation, with over 90% of actions within each year’s Action Plans successfully implemented as intended.

All three previous iterations of the Strategy proposed a target of a reduction in emissions per capita of 1.5% per year to match and support the then UK national targets for reducing emissions. Overall there has been clear progress in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (from transport, domestic, and industry and commercial) in the county, with a 28.8% reduction in total emissions

recorded between 2005 and 2017 and a 37.2% reduction in per capita emissions. Whilst latest emissions data at the local authority level made available by government shows that in Northamptonshire, a reduction in per capita emissions of 3.9% was achieved between 2016 and 2017, greater than the annual reduction targets prescribed by the previous Climate Change Strategy.

Progress on adaptation to climate change is less clear, due to the challenges in placing a figure or value on this. However, significant progress has been made towards tackling the biggest climate change risk to the County, that of making the county more flood resilient. This has been achieved through advice on sustainable urban drainage systems on new developments, community flood resilience projects, the implementation of property flood resistance measures, and natural flood management landscape interventions.

With the intense international spotlight on climate change and the UK government commitment to making UK carbon neutral by 2050. For Northamptonshire to match the national government ambitions of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 - a 121 kt/year reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is required in the 33 years from 2017 (the most recent year for which greenhouse gas emission data is available with emissions totalling 4009.8 kt CO<sub>2</sub>) to 2050. Precluding any carbon capture measures - **this equates to an overall annual 3% reduction in emissions.**

The actions associated with this Climate Change Strategy will support the uptake of measures which contribute towards the achievement of these national targets.

Whilst it is acknowledged that as individual organisations and collectively as partners we only have a limited ability to affect such a reduction at a local level, we can each play our part in making our best efforts to effect such a step change and allows partners to adopt even more challenging targets and to commit additional resources as individual organisations should they so wish.

This partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire with its associated Annual Action Plans provides the opportunity and a framework to capture all this activity taking place in the County and present it in a coherent way to demonstrate the reduction to overall emissions and other adaptations being achieved collectively throughout Northamptonshire.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The 2017-2020 Strategy and 2020-2023 update

The refreshed Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy for 2014-2017 sought to develop and build upon the success of previous strategies developed through the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG) with this partnership approach providing a mechanism through which local and national climate change policy could be reviewed and assessed in the context of Northamptonshire. The Strategies also highlighted the activities which had taken place to support climate change mitigation and the provisions in place to adapt to future climate change.

In order to implement the Strategies, annual Action Plans detailing the various activities to be undertaken by partners over each forthcoming year were developed. The actions, which follow the headings used in the Strategy, are all funded/resourced and highlight the 'lead organisation' for each activity. These annual Action Plans provide the framework for monitoring and capturing the various activities being undertaken to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. They are actively monitored on a quarterly basis via NCCOG with progress on actions assessed using a RAG rating.

The overall objectives of the Strategy, as detailed in [chapter 5](#) of this document and in line with previous editions, are to:

- 1. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change;**
- 2. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and**
- 3. Plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.**

This document provides a review of what has been achieved over the past three years and updates the Strategy to reflect the changes in the international, national and local context and the developments in the understanding of the impacts of climate change that have occurred since 2017.

### 1.2. Changes in the local, national and international context since 2017

Reporting on the Climate Change Strategy now takes place through the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which will need to endorse this strategy update. The LNP brings together the work of NCCOG with elements of the Local Flood Risk Operational Group, the Biodiversity Partnership and other associated activities.

Local authorities are required to report on data to central government via a 'Single Data List'<sup>1</sup>. The Single Data List includes:

- Emissions from local authority own estate and operations;
- Local nature conservation/biodiversity;
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management and sustainable drainage systems;

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<sup>1</sup> The Single Data List is a list of all the data that local authorities are required to submit to central government departments in a given year - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/single-data-list>

- The government is also still issuing per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emission data so this can be used for monitoring local change.

It is intended to use national government targets as the basis of the partnership Climate Change Strategy, however individual partners, may wish to set more ambitious targets, depending upon the resources, values, and political will within their respective organisations.

### 1.3. Developments in the understanding of the impacts of climate change since 2017

Global temperatures continue to increase at an unprecedented rate, attributable to human activity.

- Global temperatures have increased by 0.2°C in the period 2015-2019 compared to 2011-2015<sup>2</sup> and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) predicts that 2019 will be the warmest year on record.
- Greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) reached record levels in the atmosphere at 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- In the 5-year period 2014 -2019, the rate of global mean sea-level rise was 5 mm per year, compared with 4 mm per year over the 10-year period 2007-2016.<sup>2</sup>
- The amount of ice lost annually from the Antarctic ice sheet increased at least six-fold, from 40 Gt per year in 1979-1990 to 252 Gt per year in the years 2009-2017.<sup>2</sup>
- The first glacier in Iceland to melt as consequence of global heating did so in 2019.<sup>4</sup>

Evidence of exceptional weather patterns in the UK over the last five years, including periods of unusually cold, dry and wet weather, has led to an increased perception that we are already experiencing climate change in this country. This in turn has led to more of a focus on the need to adapt to climate change as well as to mitigate its impacts through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

One hundred potential impacts of climate change in the UK were identified in a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) carried out in 2012<sup>5</sup>. The government agreed to update this assessment every five years with the latest version released in 2017. This identified the top six areas of inter-related climate change risks for the UK<sup>6</sup>:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy supply and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and

<sup>2</sup> [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=5789](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5789)

<sup>3</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/greenhouse-gas-levels-atmosphere-reach-new-record>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-49345912>

<sup>5</sup> Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report 2012 -

[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10067\\_CCRAEvidenceReport16July2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10067_CCRAEvidenceReport16July2012.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/introduction-to-the-ccra/>

- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive and non-invasive species, affecting people, plants and animals.

The CCRA evidence reports inform the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which have been created to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that are inevitable due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. It establishes what government, businesses and society can do to become more climate ready, in response to the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment. The last NAP was published in 2018, covering the period up to 2023<sup>7</sup>.

### **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018**

The NAP stems from the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>8</sup> which obliges government (including local authorities) to produce and review climate adaptation policies. The initial NAP - which was published in 2013 - established a strategy for adapting to the potential impacts of climate change highlighted in the Climate Change Risk assessment 2012.<sup>9</sup> The latest programme has a greater degree of specificity: it includes a set of objectives, the CCRA risks addressed, actions with the organisations responsible for delivering them, timescales, and monitoring, whilst keeping to the original priorities of addressing the six areas of inter-related climate change risks in the CCRA.

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<sup>7</sup> National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-government-report>

## 2. The international and national context

### 2.1. International Context

Based on current pledges made by countries that have signed the Paris Climate Agreement, the planet is predicted to warm 2.9 degrees Celsius by 2100 compared to the present day. Only transformative structural change in human civilisation will be commensurate with meeting the challenge of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; the target set by the IPCC to minimise risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth.<sup>10</sup>

In response to the limited international political action to address climate change, a number of grassroots movements formed in 2018; *Extinction Rebellion*, *Youth Climate Strikes*, *UK Climate Emergency Network and Campaign against Climate Change*. These movements have received significant publicity and have applied pressure on governments to prioritise action to address the climate crisis. In addition, 11,000 scientists from 153 countries declared a climate emergency, in a letter published in 2019 in *Bioscience*. They state “*Despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, with few exceptions, we have generally conducted business as usual and have largely failed to address this predicament*”<sup>11</sup>

### 2.2. Central government policy and greenhouse gas emission targets

Until recently the national target for the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions was an 80% reduction compared to the 1990 baseline to be achieved by 2050, a legally binding target established by the 2008 Climate Change Act. Intermediate targets had also been set with a 34% reduction to be achieved by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2027. Progress to date has been significant with UK emissions [44% below 1990 levels in 2018](#).

However, in June 2019, following the advice of the CCC<sup>12</sup>, the UK government pledged for the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050. Some of the significant step-change measures the CCC recommend to reach carbon neutrality in the UK, include:

- Carbon capture and storage to be implemented as a necessity
- Electric vehicle targets to be moved forward to 2035
- Clean energy to quadruple
- Rewilding 20,000 ha of land annually

Current initiatives to support progress towards these targets include:

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biz088/5610806>

<sup>12</sup> The Committee on Climate Change - [www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk)

- Participation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which covers energy-intensive industrial installations and the aviation industry.
- Supporting the increasing use of renewable energy generation at all scales, through monetary incentives such as the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The SEG has been introduced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and came into force in January 2020 following the closure of the Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme to new applicants in March 2019.
- Limits placed upon the maximum allowable emissions from new buildings through changes to Part L of the Building Regulations.
- The installation of 'smart meters' to facilitate the monitoring of energy consumption.
- Salix finance for energy efficiency improvements by public sector organisations.
- Supporting the increasing use of biofuels for transport and electric vehicles.
- Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, which are primarily nitrous oxide (from fertiliser use) and methane.
- Supporting rural communities across England wanting to set up renewable energy projects in their area through the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF).

The Committee on Climate Change provides independent advice to government on the implementation of the Climate Change Act 2008 and their website is a useful source of accessible data on UK emissions broken down by sector<sup>13</sup>.

### 2.3. The National Adaptation Programme

The NAP sets out what government and others are doing to become more 'climate ready'.

The current iteration of the National Adaptation Programme 2018 -2023<sup>14</sup> was published in July 2018, and has condensed the six priority areas in the previous plan down to five:

- Natural Environment;
- Infrastructure;
- People and the Built Environment;
- Business and Industry.
- Local Government.

The adaptation section of this Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023 will use these 5 NAP headings for the 'Adaptation' section and the Action Plan.

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<sup>13</sup> The Committee on Climate Change - [www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>



## 2.4. National initiatives

There are two national initiatives that partners in the county have participated in in the past – Climate UK and Climate Local.

Climate UK<sup>15</sup> used to co-ordinate and promote local climate action across the UK, offering support to local authorities, businesses and communities to respond effectively to the challenges posed by climate change. It was a network consisting of all of the climate change partnerships across the UK through which Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and other partners in the county formerly contributed. Previously Climate UK was further split into regional arrangements, with Climate East Midlands covering Northamptonshire. Whilst local authorities throughout the East Midlands still meet to discuss progress on regional climate action, Climate UK and the Climate East Midlands body (and other regional bodies) no longer exist.

Climate Local<sup>16</sup> was an initiative promoted by the Local Government Association to support local authorities' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change. It built upon the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change that many local authorities, including all of the Northamptonshire Local Authorities, have signed up to. Daventry District Council has been a signatory to Climate Local since December 2012 with Corby Borough Council becoming a signatory in June 2014. Although no longer operating as a distinct initiative the LGA still support local authorities in their effort to address climate change.

The NHS has announced the “For a greener NHS” programme recognising the major threat climate change poses to health and wellbeing. The programme aims at sharing ideas on how to reduce the impact on public health and the environment, save money and work towards net carbon zero.<sup>17</sup>

## 3. The local context

### 3.1. Changes to local strategies and commitments

The government recognised<sup>18</sup> Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was established to rationalise the number of existing ‘environment’ based groupings operating in the county and provide a coherent framework to ensure that the remaining groups can work effectively together. This has brought together the work of NCCOG, elements of the Local Flood Risk Operational Group, the Biodiversity Partnership and Local Wildlife Sites group.

The LNP coordinates management of the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. It is a strategic partnership of a

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<sup>15</sup> For more information on Climate UK, visit their website - <http://www.climate-em.org.uk/about/climate-uk/>

<sup>16</sup> For more details on Climate Local, see the Local Government Association website - <https://www.local.gov.uk/climate-local>

<sup>17</sup> For a greener NHS: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/>

<sup>18</sup> Information on the formation of LNP's through Defra's Natural Environment White Paper and Government's recognition of them, can be found here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/192580/local-nature-partnerships-overview120402.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192580/local-nature-partnerships-overview120402.pdf)

broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with and influence other local strategic decision makers.

The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy continues to facilitate an increasing focus on planning for adaptation to climate change in the county. Planning officials in Northamptonshire (NCC, districts and boroughs and the Joint Planning Units (JPUs)) are aware of and are planning for the threats posed by climate change through inclusion of salient outcomes and policies in Local Plans. For example, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted July 2016) identifies 'Adaptability to future climate change' as one of ten desired outcomes to be achieved across the area by 2031 and sets out ten linked policies devised to achieve this<sup>19</sup>.

Since April 2015, Local Planning Authorities have been required to consult Northamptonshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) on all major planning applications, with the LLFA reviewing the applications in relation to surface water drainage only. The LLFA is also required to provide technical advice on surface water drainage strategies, and on any designs put forward for new major developments.

The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan<sup>20</sup> establishes transport-related policies, objectives and aims pertaining to transport in the county, outlining the plans which are in place and how they are to be implemented. The Plan consists of a broad range of strategies covering a number of distinct policy areas, and includes the Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy<sup>21</sup>. The Plan recognises that the demand for travel within Northamptonshire is accelerating, in conjunction with significant population growth and major co-ordinated development of urban centres. This could mean that it takes 25% longer to make some journeys by 2021, for example between Daventry and Northampton, or between Kettering and Corby. Greater volumes of vehicles on the road, and the resulting elevated levels of congestion, can have a restrictive impact on economic development and prosperity by impinging upon the competitiveness of local businesses. The Plan therefore provides a reminder of the significant opportunities associated with climate change mitigation activities.

The Northampton Low Emissions Strategy, which was endorsed by Northampton Borough Council Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for full endorsement, aims to influence policies and activities which support the reduction of emissions in the borough of Northampton, with a focus on improving air quality and reducing vehicle emissions. It is recognised that poor air quality can have significant implications on human health, as well as for biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. As such, it is critical that stringent measures are taken to improve air quality within the borough, and one such action is the formalisation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Seven AQMAs have been

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<sup>19</sup> North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 - <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Joint%20Core%20Strategy%202011-2031%20High%20Res%20version%20for%20website.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan 2012 - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Pages/local-transport-plan.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> The Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Highway%20Air%20Quality%20Strategy.pdf>

identified within Northampton<sup>22</sup>, due to the high levels of nitrogen oxide associated at each location. In each case, the most significant contributing factor is emissions from road traffic.

The South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy<sup>23</sup> was published in June 2019. This was produced by SEMLEP in partnership with stakeholders in Northamptonshire and wider South East Midlands area. This strategy sets out specific interventions to address local productivity challenges, to realise innovation, further improve connectivity and create a balanced environment that provides opportunity for our businesses and enhances our vibrant, sustainable communities. The strategy identified opportunities for the area to take a leading role on the Future of Mobility and Clean Growth Grand Challenges, set out in the National Industrial Strategy, by utilising the wealth of relevant assets and expertise in the area, along with the space and willingness to test new technologies in a real-world setting. The strategy has set out various commitments related to climate change where SEMLEP will work with local organisations to support the necessary provision of low carbon energy, support business energy efficiency, support water supply and flood risk plans, support the implementation of the 25 Year Environment Plan and more.

More recently, following the IPCC reports, UK Parliament's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019 and pressure from grass roots organisations, a number of local authorities in Northamptonshire have declared climate emergencies and committed to the target of becoming 'carbon neutral' by 2030 – twenty years earlier than the UK target of 2050. Those that have declared a climate emergency to date include Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, Corby Borough Council and Kettering Borough Council. Whilst this partnership Strategy continues to reflect the national target of supporting the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050, this does not preclude individual NCCOG partners setting and resourcing this even more challenging target.

### 3.2. Report on what has been achieved since 2017

The following is a summary of the high-level achievements:

- **The Climate Change Strategy Action Plan has been successfully delivered** each year over the past three years, with over 90% of actions within each year's Action Plans implemented as intended.
- **Former Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets for reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the county have been exceeded.** Significant progress has been made with the reduction of emissions in Northamptonshire, with a 37.2% reduction in per capita emissions (former NI186) and a 28.8% reduction in total emissions recorded between 2005 and 2017 – and by 3.9% from 2016 to 2017. (Analysis of the latest available emissions data is included in [chapter 7](#) of this document and in Appendix 2).

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<sup>22</sup> Northampton Low Emissions Strategy -

[http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3802/air\\_quality\\_management\\_areas\\_agma\\_s\\_in\\_northampton](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3802/air_quality_management_areas_agma_s_in_northampton)

<sup>23</sup> SEMLEP Local Industrial Strategy - <https://www.semlep.com/industrial-strategy/>

- An update to the **Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)** has been finalised and endorsed and approved by NCC Cabinet, which details the co-ordination and management of local flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater.
- Building on initial the **DEFRA Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme**<sup>24</sup> which was completed in 2015 and provided support for 15 communities to improve their surface water flood resilience and the development and delivery of the **Northamptonshire County Council Flood Toolkit**<sup>25</sup>, two further Pathfinder projects are underway:
  - The **Pathfinder II Project**<sup>26</sup>, funded by the Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, which facilitated community-led improvements in resilience and preparedness amongst 30 communities who were at risk of surface water flooding in Northamptonshire, and a **Pathfinder III project** focussing on 30 urban communities commenced in April 2019;
- NCC's Energy Management System, certified with the **ISO 50001:2011 Energy Management standard**, was independently audited in November 2016 and found to be compliant with the requirements of the standard, with no minor or major non-conformities observed.
- Over the past eight years, NCC has saved 86,000t CO2e, including **significant investment in upgrading street** lighting throughout the county in order to reduce energy consumption and Co2 emissions.
- National Energy Action, a national fuel poverty charity, have worked with organisations and local authorities through the Northants Warm Homes Partnership to develop a **Northants Community Directory**<sup>27</sup> which provides details of all agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support for vulnerable householders.
- **'Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service'** (known as NESS) is a 3 year project (2018 – 2021) helping address fuel poverty across Northamptonshire. £1.2million of funding was secured by NCC from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund. NESS is being delivered by Community Law Service in partnership with Citizens Advice Services Corby and Kettering, Care and Repair Northamptonshire, South Northants Volunteer Bureau and Northamptonshire County Council through Public Health. It will target 6000 Northamptonshire households over the 3 year Project and bring financial benefits to households in the region of £10m.
- **Northamptonshire Warm Homes Fund** – running from 2019-2022 the fund supports homes in fuel poverty to install central heating.

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<sup>24</sup> Defra Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilience-community-pathfinder-scheme-prospectus>

<sup>25</sup> Northamptonshire Flood Toolkit - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/>

<sup>26</sup> Pathfinder II Project - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2/>

<sup>27</sup> Northants Warm Homes Partnership, Community Directory - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/files/2012/09/Copy-of-Northants-Community-Directory-WEB.xlsx>

- **Northamptonshire ECO-flex** – this initiative has helped to support financially low-income homes to install insulation and energy efficient boilers.
- **Nenescape** – the Resilient River Project (restoring 7km of the River Nene) and Farming for the Future project (creating wetland enhancements on agricultural land) have significantly increased the resilience of the Nene Valley to climate change: increasing water storage and slowing flows.
- NCC, along with Nestlé, EA, and Anglian Water is participating in **Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENS)**, a project to brokerage payments for finite natural capital providers from key private and public sector beneficiaries.

### 3.3. East Midlands Regional Climate Change Partnership

NCC and other local authorities in the East Midlands previously met under the auspices of the publicly funded 'Climate East Midlands', however this body no longer exists. Nevertheless, the partners of this group still meet occasionally and actively participate in a regional climate change partnership to deliver action and share best practice.

### 3.4. Local climate change impact

The UK Climate Impact Programme, UKCIP, continues to disseminate information on the impacts of climate change based on the predicted changes in the climatic system in UKCP 18, which is the latest available source of climate predictions.

The Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) for Northamptonshire that is referred to in the 2010-2014 and 2014-2017 Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategies is also still applicable and has not been updated.

## 4. The impacts of climate change

For many of the years which have followed the era of extensive industrialisation within the UK, significant efforts have been made to quantify the likely impacts of human-induced climate change, at first within the scientific community only, but now across a number of disciplines. In 2012 the UK government produced a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which identified one hundred potential impacts of climate change. A second iteration of the CCRA, published in 2017, identified the six most significant inter-related climate change risks or the UK, as detailed in [section 1.3](#) of this document.

As the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy and its annual Action Plans are informed by the NAP, which is in turn informed by the CCRA, it is pertinent to consider each of these risks and the potential impacts they carry for the county.

### 4.1. Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure

Flooding already poses a severe threat to people, communities and buildings, and climate change is expected to increase the frequency, severity and extent of flooding.

A temperature increase of 2°C, which is now considered to be a modest climate change projection, could result in as much as a 40% increase in the number of residential properties in the UK exposed to frequent flooding (1 in 75 years average) by the 2080s, with a rise of 4°C potentially resulting in as much as a 93% increase in the number of residential properties exposed to frequent flooding<sup>28</sup>.

In Northamptonshire, large swathes of agricultural land and heavily urbanised town centres provide the ideal conditions for surface water flooding. Indeed, surface water flooding is the greatest source of flood risk posed to Northamptonshire's residents, with almost 57,000 residential properties already predicted to be at risk without taking into account future climate change<sup>29</sup>. With a rapid speed of onset, surface water flooding can be difficult to respond to, particularly if pre-emptive measures have not been taken to mitigate its risk<sup>30</sup>.

The economic damages associated with flooding can be severe, impacting upon built infrastructure, business competitiveness and agricultural productivity. Equally, there is evidence to suggest that, for individuals, the stress of experiencing flooding can continue for a long time after the flood water has receded<sup>31</sup>. From a mental health perspective, this can be most pronounced in the two years which

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<sup>28</sup> Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Projections of future flood risk in the UK  
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CCRA-Future-Flooding-Main-Report-Final-06Oct2015.pdf.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Northamptonshire-LFRMS-Report-Final-November-2016.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> For more information on how to prepare for a flood, visit the Flood Toolkit - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/emergency/preparation/>

<sup>31</sup> The Effects of Flooding on Mental Health. Health Protection Agency, 2011.

follow the incident<sup>32</sup>. Dangerous pathogens carried by flood water can cause illness and disease, the trauma of losing possessions which may have a sentimental value, and the smell and dampness which can take months to erase from homes are all factors which could contribute to the prevalence of poor mental health amongst individuals who have experienced flooding.

There is a great deal of partnership work being undertaken throughout the county in response to these risks, which is detailed in the Northamptonshire LFRMS and associated Action Plan<sup>33</sup>.

#### **4.2. Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures**

Future changes in climate are likely to result in both changes to mean temperatures and increased weather variability. Ensuring that the risks to health, well-being and productivity associated with these changes are appropriately accounted for in policy is of paramount importance, but at present there are few comprehensive policies in place to adapt existing homes and other buildings to high temperatures, manage the urban heat island effect or safeguard new homes.

Older people are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental health impacts associated with high temperatures, and in the UK the proportion of the population aged over 75 is projected to increase from 8% in 2015 to 18% by 2085, and this is likely to exert increased pressure on the health and care systems. In Northamptonshire, latest figures from 2017 show that the number of individuals aged 65 and over was 131,425 totalling 17.73% of the county's population. This is an increase of 12% from 2014<sup>34</sup>. The percentage of residents aged 85 and over has grown a little less than the national average, 4.7% in Northamptonshire compared to a national average of 6%. Long term Office of National Statistics projections estimate the county's population of individuals aged 65 and over to increase to around 147,100 in 2022, to 166,600 in 2027 and 217,500 by 2041.

The proportion of older people in the county is therefore growing, and careful consideration needs to be given to how to mitigate the risk of this population being adversely affected by warmer temperatures. For instance, there is a risk that insulating homes to improve thermal efficiency could result in overheating.

The average number of hot days per year is increasing, as is the chance of severe heat waves. Past events provide evidence that extreme temperatures can significantly inhibit production and well-

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<sup>32</sup> Alderman, K., Turner, L.R., & Tong, S. (2012). Floods and human health: A systematic review. *Environment International*, 47, 37-47.

<sup>33</sup> See the 'Statutory and Project Documents' section of the Flood Library for the latest versions of the LFRMS and Action Plan - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

<sup>34</sup> Northamptonshire County Council Older Peoples JSNA  
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/health-and-wellbeing-board/northamptonshire-jsna/Documents/Older%20Peoples%20JSNA%20-%20Updated%20Dec%202019.pdf>

being: in July 2016, with temperatures in London of over 30°C, a surge of health problems and transport disruptions were reported, and the media even reported increased levels of violence<sup>35</sup>.

These impacts are particularly pronounced in urban centres, and therefore it is essential that measures are taken to minimise the adverse effects of high temperatures for people of all ages. Incorporating green infrastructure into urban design is a way to lessen the urban heat island effect, and thus urban temperatures, and planning policy is a critical component of the mechanism through which this can be achieved.

In response to these risks, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy<sup>36</sup> has adopted a number of policies to influence development over the coming decades. Policy 9 – Sustainable Buildings, sets out that *“The layout and design of sites, buildings and associated landscapes should...Maximise the use of passive solar design to address heating and cooling...”*. Furthermore Section 3 ‘The Green Infrastructure Framework’ identifies special policy areas which, amongst other aspects, will be a focus for promoting climate change mitigation, and also highlights that green infrastructure *“supports healthier lifestyles, manages flood water, improves air quality and helps to mitigate the effects of climate change”*. Policies 19, 20 and 21 further expand on these areas and set out how green infrastructure will be delivered in North Northamptonshire.

#### **4.3. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy supply and industry**

Climate change will result in changes to the way that water circulates through the water cycle, and this, coupled with significant population growth, is likely to place a great degree of stress on the availability of water in the future.

This presents a risk to the UK economy, with the availability of water for irrigation likely to become a serious limiting factor to agricultural production, and the requirements of freshwater use for cooling in energy generation expected to rise significantly. The public water supply will also be impacted, and the ecology of rivers and lakes may alter in response to reduced water availability, particularly during the summer months, which could have a devastating effect on biodiversity as well as detracting from the amenity value of these environments.

At present, action is primarily targeted at reducing demand, and water companies, abstractors and governments have worked together to attempt to elicit a change in water consumption behaviour. Adapting to a changing climate necessitates a shift in the way we live our lives, and it is not yet clear how dependent this shift is on the availability of water. Thus, action is needed to conserve water now given the uncertainty of its availability in the future.

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<sup>35</sup> Heat waves, productivity, and the urban economy: What are the costs?  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/news/heat-waves-productivity-and-the-urban-economy-what-are-the-costs/>

<sup>36</sup> North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy -  
<http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1573>



In June 2017, the Environment Agency published a document entitled, 'Drought response: our framework for England'<sup>37</sup>. Although this document provides a high-level national response, implementation is underway at a regional and local level, through co-ordination with water and sewerage companies, as well as other groups such as the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association.

An infrastructure assessment report is being prepared for the central area growth board by AECOM, which will cover Northamptonshire. Water infrastructure requirements which factor in climate change projections will be a crucial part of this report.

#### **4.4. Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity**

Many ecosystems have already begun to adjust and adapt to the impacts of climate change, but it is likely that their capacity to do so in the future will be significantly constrained by the increasing pressures of habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, over-exploitation of resources and the spread of invasive species.

A key risk to natural capital associated with a changing climate is the deterioration of productive agricultural land. Higher levels of soil aridity, coupled with reduced water availability for irrigation, is likely to significantly impact upon crop yields and farming versatility. Thus hampering the agricultural output of UK farms and threatening national food security.

Loss of habitat and the corresponding breakdown of ecosystems, in terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine environments, can not only result in the depletion of species populations and thus biodiversity, but also the ability for natural carbon storage, which will become increasingly critical as levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere continue to rise.

Responding to these identified risks, in Northamptonshire through the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) project, a study was undertaken to map, and place a value on, natural capital and ecosystem services in the Nene Valley<sup>38</sup>. It highlighted that natural capital and the ecosystem services these provide, are valued at £109 million annually across the Nene Valley NIA and £300 million across the wider Nene Valley.

Further leading edge work is currently in progress on Habitat Opportunity Mapping, to identify areas where habitat creation could enhance natural capital and ecosystem services throughout Northamptonshire, in order to improve air quality, reduce flood risk and better water quality. The GIS maps identify potential areas for the expansion of key habitats, covering three broad habitat types (broadleaved and mixed woodland, semi-natural grassland, wet grassland and wetland), to reduce surface water runoff, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality, ameliorate air pollution, and increase access to natural greenspace. The maps are to be used to assist with the development of green infrastructure strategies and for agri-environment scheme targeting, natural flood risk

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<sup>37</sup> Environment Agency 'Drought response: our framework for England', June 2017 - [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/625006/LIT\\_10104.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625006/LIT_10104.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Valuation of ecosystem services in the Nene Valley NIA - <http://www.nenevalleynia.org/project/ecosystem-services/> Mapping natural capital and ecosystem services in the Nene Valley - <http://www.naturalcapitalsolutions.co.uk/previous-projects/case-study-2/>

management and catchment sensitive farming schemes, health and wellbeing initiatives, and UK Woodland Carbon Code projects, and as an important step towards informing the development of a natural capital investment plan for the area.

The development of such a Natural Capital Investment Plan, is being progressed with funding from Defra, via a collaboration between five Local Nature Partnership (including Northamptonshire) covering the South East Midlands area. This Plan will help to influence development throughout this sub-region, identifying areas where an investment in natural capital could greatly enhance the delivery of numerous ecosystem services.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency are also working with a number of stakeholders, including Local Nature Partnerships, to deliver a Local Natural Capital Plan for the Ox-Cam Arc. This will look at assessing the Natural Capital throughout the region, improving habitat condition, and implementing some totemic landscape scale projects. Project areas under consideration in Northamptonshire include: the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area, Yardley Whittlewood Ridge and the Rockingham Forest. These include initiatives related to natural flood management and introduction of catchment land advisors.

Together this work helps to highlight the importance and value of natural capital, in terms of health and wellbeing, economic prosperity and biodiversity, to Northamptonshire and the wider South East Midlands area, as well as the need to address the impacts climate change and future development pressures could have on the ecosystem services they provide.

#### **4.5. Risks to domestic and international food production and trade**

Although a changing climate may present opportunities to increase domestic food production, the condition of soils and availability of water, both of which are already impacted by climate change, are likely to be limiting factors to realising these opportunities.

Parts of southern, eastern and central England have already been identified as likely to become unviable for some farming activities due to the intensive water requirements of these activities. The forecasted trend of wetter winters is also likely to exacerbate the problems of soil compaction and erosion, which can severely impact upon agricultural productivity.

Climate change is likely to shift the balance of food production between regions, both internationally and nationally. These changes will influence markets, trade and domestic prices, and the impacts of which are likely to disproportionately affect farmers and lower income households.

A national initiative Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENS) is now active in the County supported by NCC and Anglian Water: a project to brokerage payments to natural capital providers (eg. landowners) from key private and public sector beneficiaries, for which securing better water quality and supply will be an aim.

#### **4.6. New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive and non-invasive species, affecting people, plants and animals.**

There is broad agreement within the scientific community that pests and invasive non-native species may increase in number and range in a warmer, wetter atmosphere, and that there is a significant chance of an increase in the prevalence of pathogens that are already present in the UK, as well as new pathogens arriving from overseas.

However, projections of the impact of climate change on human diseases are uncertain, as it is not clear precisely what conditions are likely to prevail in an altered UK climate. As such, surveillance and monitoring of species and pathogens that are likely to pose the biggest challenge in the changing climate should be prioritised.

The Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership monitors progress being made by partners on several natural environment priorities in the county. Priority 2 focuses on the need to 'promote co-ordinated address and management of specifically threatened habitats or species'.

There are a great many threats from invasive species and emerging diseases both nationally and in Northamptonshire. Two specific examples reported to the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership include the spread of Ash tree die-back (Chalara), with Woodland Trust volunteers carefully monitoring the situation and delivering 'Tree Disease Recovery Packs' where loss is occurring; and the recent identification of the invasive 'Killer Shrimp' (*Dikerogammarus villosus*) in Pitsford Reservoir, which is being responded to through the draft of an action plan by River Nene Regional Park, in partnership with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. This draft plan aims to raise awareness of the threat of this species and promote soft and hard mitigation actions that can be implemented to slow the spread.

## 5. Aims and objectives for future action

The Climate Change Strategy recognises the need to establish key aims that will direct efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts within Northamptonshire over the next three years. Broadly, these aims can be grouped under the following three objectives, which constitute distinct focus and review areas within this Climate Change Strategy:

1. [Raise awareness of the issues of climate change](#);
2. [Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases](#); and
3. [Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change](#).

The aims associated with these objectives are identified below, with further information on progress against the objectives provided in chapters 6, 7, and 8.

Progress against these aims and objectives will be measured and monitored through the Annual Action Plan and NCCOG quarterly meetings.

### 5.1. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Communications and advertising** – engage public and stakeholder organisations through online and social media communications and household leaflets, to help reduce emissions and energy usage as well as assist adaptation to climate change.
- **Events and Workshops** – develop and deliver events to raise awareness of the issues of climate change and sustainability to the public, organisations and partners, to help support behaviour change action.
- **Education in schools** – work with schools to increase awareness of the issues of climate change especially related to waste, energy and adaptation.

### 5.2. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Improve Home Energy Efficiency** – advise on any funding opportunities available to install energy saving measures, such as insulation and boiler replacements, as well as fuel switching and collective tariff schemes which may help homeowners to reduce their energy bills.
- **Improve Resource Efficiency in the Business, Commercial and Voluntary Sectors** – seek opportunities to develop business support programmes which target the proliferation of resource efficiency measures and activities.
- **Improve Resource Efficiency in the Public Sector** – utilise existing funding programmes to develop and deliver resource efficiency projects and explore opportunities for local authorities to undertake holistic resource management, ethical investment, and sustainable procurement, focusing on energy, waste and water.

- **Reduce Energy Use and Emissions from Transport** – initiate and lead the way on a modal shift to sustainable travel and low carbon fuel infrastructure.
- **Encourage Sustainable New Development and Land Use** – capture climate change considerations within local plans and policies and encourage land development which promotes sustainability.
- **Minimise Waste** – identify and support opportunities to reduce emissions by reducing, reusing and recycling waste.
- **Increase Low and Zero Carbon Energy Use** – work with organisations in all sectors to implement low and zero carbon energy measures, with a focus on renewables and investment in carbon off-setting.

### 5.3. Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Local Government and Public Services** – embed ‘planning to adapt’ activities into public sector processes, practices and policies.
- **Business, Industry and Commerce** - identify the businesses that are most sensitive to the impacts of climate change and work with them to help them take adaptive action.
- **Built Environment and Infrastructure** – ensure that policies are effective in encouraging sustainable construction and development, and maximise opportunities for ‘greening’ the county through green infrastructure initiatives and activities.
- **Natural Environment, Agriculture and Forestry** – implement natural initiatives which help to adapt to and minimise the impacts of climate change, as well as preserving and enhancing existing natural assets – to include tree planting to off-set carbon emissions.
- **Healthy and Resilient Communities** – enhance the awareness and preparedness of individuals and communities to the effects of climate change and its mitigation.

## 6. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change

The need to raise awareness on climate change cuts across every area of the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy and for this reason it has been maintained as a distinct focus area.

Raising awareness and understanding of the issues of climate change, can help highlight the impact individual action can have and what people can do on an individual and community level.

A number of events and workshops have been held in the county with the aim of raising awareness of the issues of climate change and sustainability. Examples of these have included:

A Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership conference is usually held annually to outline the key themes and priorities of the LNP and highlight the natural environment projects being delivered in the county.

A series of engagement events were carried out through the Defra Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme to raise awareness of the impacts of flooding and flood risk to 15 communities in Northamptonshire. These have continued with Pathfinder 2 and 3.

A number of workshops on climate change and soil management were delivered to farmers and landowners by the National Farmers Union, Climate UK and NCC.

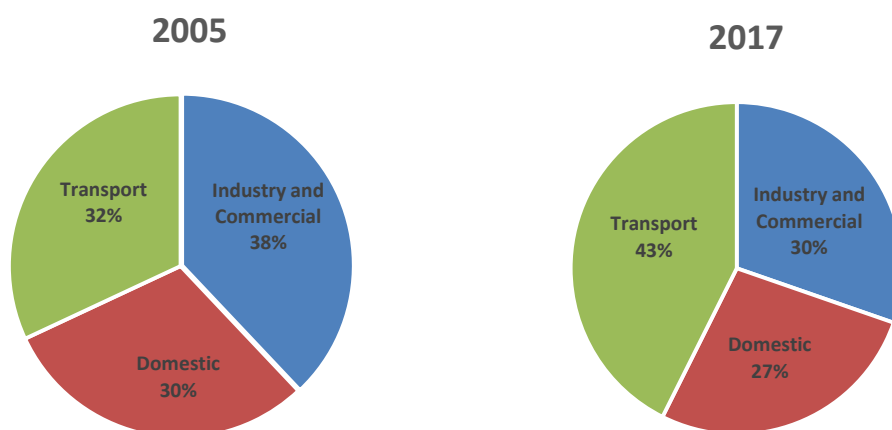
Over the next three years, there is also the opportunity to raise awareness to landlords of properties (in the domestic and non-domestic sectors) that are not energy efficient, that there is now legislation in place which is likely to require them to carry out improvements. For example, since 2016, domestic private rented sector tenants have been able to request consent from their landlord to install energy efficiency improvement measures in the property they rent and the landlord is now unable to unreasonably refuse consent, providing the tenant is able to secure suitable funding for the requested improvements. Furthermore, since 2018, all private rented properties will be required to be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard rating, likely to be set at EPC rating “E”. This legislation will support the achievement of carbon reduction targets as well as reducing energy costs for tenants.

## 7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

### 7.1. Trends in emissions data

Local authority carbon dioxide emissions are published annually by government<sup>39</sup>, with the latest available data relating to 2017 together with revised figures for each year since 2005. Note that two sets of these figures are published – a full data set and a reduced set showing only emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities. It is data from the latter that is quoted below since these correspond to the former NI186 data (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Local Authority area) that was used for the original strategy. The main difference between these is that transport emissions are much lower in the latter set, due to the inclusion of motorways (through Daventry, South Northamptonshire and to a much lesser extent, Northampton), as well as diesel railways.

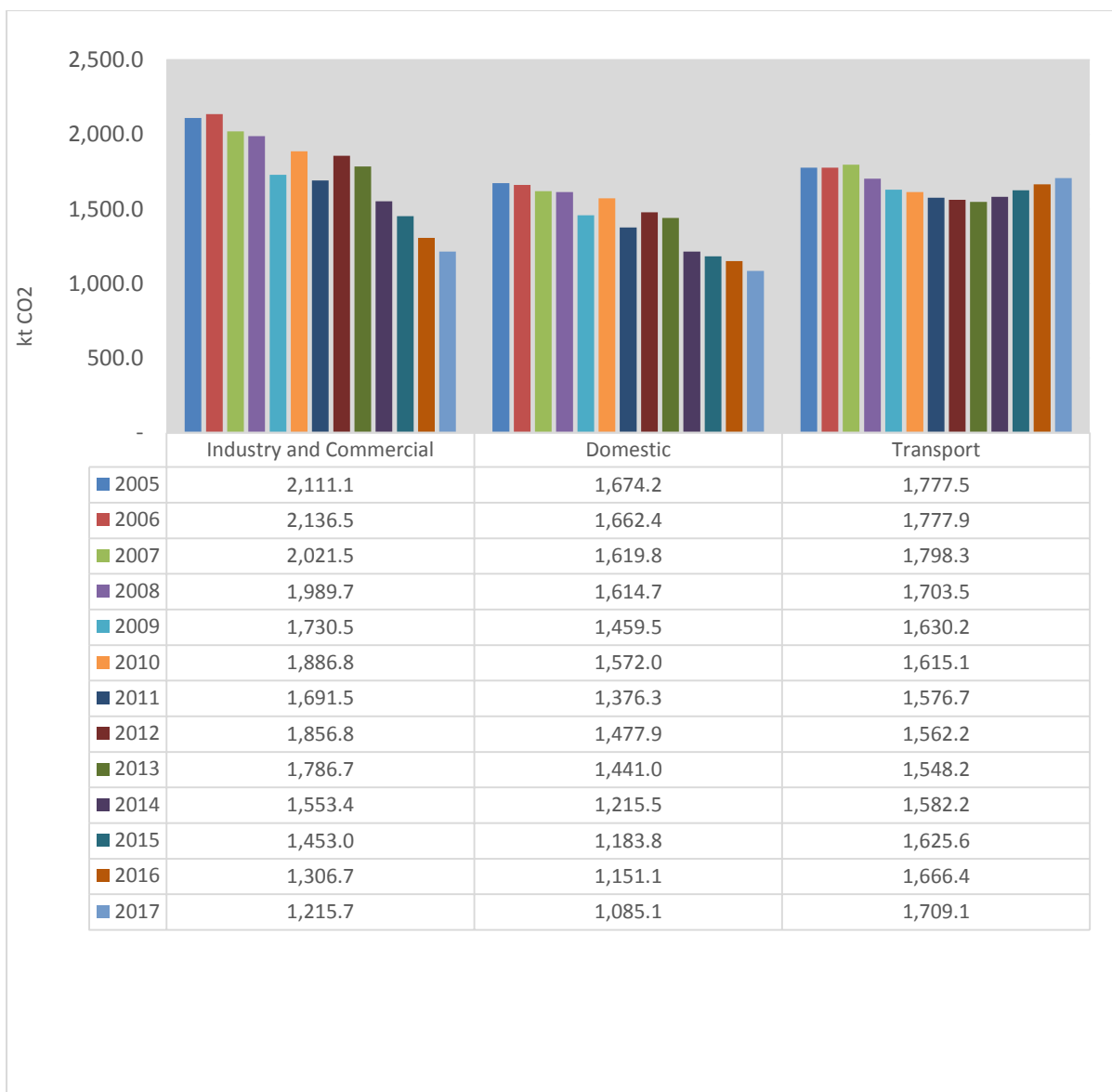
Figure 1 below shows the percentage breakdown of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector in Northamptonshire in 2005 and 2017. This highlights that in 2017, Northamptonshire's transport sector produced the greatest proportion of the county's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at 43%, where as in 2005 it was the industry and commercial sector, with 38%. Since 2005 the domestic sector has seen a 3% decrease in the proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the county, and the industry and commercial sector an 8% proportional decrease.



**Figure 1: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector in Northamptonshire**

The consumption figures between 2005 and 2017 as presented in Figure 2 show that the overall trend is a gradual reduction in the domestic and industry and commercial sectors, whilst transport after a promising trend of diminishing carbon emissions between 2005 and 2013, has seen a year on year increase since then, with 2017 emissions levels almost equivalent to those in 2005, in line with national trends. In this regard, reducing carbon emissions from the transport sector is a key priority area of focus both nationally and locally, one which is heavily influenced by central government policy.

<sup>39</sup> Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions data 2005 – 2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>



**Figure 2: CO<sub>2</sub> emission trend per sector in Northamptonshire**

Therefore overall emissions have fallen in all sectors since 2005, but at a slower rate in the transport sector (a reduction of only 8.3% compared to 30.6% in both the domestic and industry and commercial sectors). Overall the reduction in total emissions for Northamptonshire is 28.8%, as detailed in Table 2.

Year	Northamptonshire			England
	Total emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> p.a.)	Population (thousands)	Per capita emissions (t)	Per capita emissions (t)
2005	5,627.4	654.5	8.6	7.2
2006	5,628.4	663.6	8.5	7.1
2007	5,490.6	672.1	8.2	6.9
2008	5,360.9	678.2	7.9	6.7
2009	4,857.1	683.5	7.1	6.1
2010	5,120.6	688.0	7.4	6.3



2011	4,682.7	694.0	6.7	5.7
2012	4,937.6	700.6	7.0	5.9
2013	4,798.3	706.4	6.8	5.7
2014	4,424.7	714.4	6.2	5.0
2015	4,304.3	723.0	6.0	4.8
2016	4,124.3	732.5	5.6	4.7
2017	4,009.9	741.2	5.4	4.5
<b>Percentage reduction</b>	<b>-28.8%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>-37.2%</b>	<b>-37.5%</b>

**Table 1: Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and per capita Northamptonshire vs. England**

The figures in Table 1 show that the per capita emissions in Northamptonshire have decreased by 37.2% over this twelve year period with a 28.8% decrease in total emissions. For England as a whole, there has been a similar decrease in the per capita emissions from 7.2 to 4.5 tonnes per year (a decrease of 37.5%). Northamptonshire is thus slightly above the national average in terms of per capita emissions.

Whilst the percentage decrease trends in the emissions for the county have been similar to those for England as a whole, there have been significant differences between the decreases in the local authority areas within the county. Table 2 summarises the total emission reductions in each district and borough, as well as Northamptonshire as a whole.

<b>Local Authority area</b>	<b>2005 emissions (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>2017 emissions (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Percentage reduction</b>
Corby	695.1	452.9	35%
Daventry	808.2	582.8	24%
East Northamptonshire	653.7	497.4	22%
Kettering	745.9	615.4	17%
Northampton	1,398.3	897.1	37%
South Northamptonshire	737.7	565.0	23%
Wellingborough	588.4	399.2	31%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	<b>5,627.4</b>	<b>4,009.9</b>	<b>28.8%</b>

**Table 2: Total emissions by local authority area**

These figures indicate that there have been greater percentage reductions in Northampton and Corby in particular and lower reductions in East Northamptonshire and Kettering. However, these differences appear to be primarily due to the respective changes in the Industry and Commercial sector in these areas, which probably reflect changes in economic activity levels, over a period affected by economic recession, rather than investment in measures designed to achieve an overall reductions in emissions.

When the emissions for each local authority area are expressed as per capita (see Table 3 below), a slightly different pattern emerges due to differing rates of population growth, with Corby closely followed by Northampton experiencing the greatest percentage reductions of 49% and 45% respectively.

Local Authority area	2005 per capita emissions (t)	2017 per capita emissions (t)	Percentage reduction
Corby	12.8	6.5	49%
Daventry	10.7	7.1	30%
East Northamptonshire	8.0	5.3	32%
Kettering	8.6	6.1	28%
Northampton	7.1	4.0	45%
South Northamptonshire	8.7	6.2	28%
Wellingborough	8.0	5.1	35%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>37%</b>

**Table 3: Per capita emissions by local authority area**

The 2017-20 iteration of the Climate Change Strategy compared emission data trends from 2014-2017 using publicly available data provided by government. Since the publication of the 2017-20 Strategy, government has released new data which has updated all of the previously provided data. Therefore, for the purposes of this Strategy, total and per capita emissions data by local authority area between 2016 and 2017 has been compared to review progress made towards reducing emissions based on the most up to date and publicly accessible data.

Local Authority area	2016 emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	2017 emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Percentage reduction
Corby	467.8	452.9	3%
Daventry	587.5	582.8	1%
East Northamptonshire	513.3	497.4	3%
Kettering	626.8	615.4	2%
Northampton	935.7	897.1	4%
South Northamptonshire	579.3	565.0	2%
Wellingborough	413.9	399.2	4%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	<b>4,124.3</b>	<b>4,009.9</b>	<b>3%</b>

**Table 4: Total emissions by local authority area (2016 – 2017 comparison)**

Local Authority area	2016 per capita emissions (t)	2017 per capita emissions (t)	Percentage reduction
Corby	6.8	6.5	5%
Daventry	7.2	7.1	3%
East Northamptonshire	5.6	5.3	5%
Kettering	6.3	6.1	3%
Northampton	4.2	4.0	5%
South Northamptonshire	6.4	6.2	4%
Wellingborough	5.3	5.1	4%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

**Table 5: Per capita emissions by local authority area (2016 – 2017 comparison)**

Table 5 demonstrates that between 2016 and 2017, per capita emissions at the county level were overall reduced by 3.6%, a significant reduction which surpasses the 1.5% per annum reduction target prescribed by the 2017-2020 Climate Change Strategy.

A table providing full details of the breakdown of total and per capita emissions by local authority area and by sector is provided in Appendix 2.

## 7.2. Other local achievements in climate change mitigation

NCC has successfully implemented an energy management system which has been certified with the ISO50001:2011 standard and is the first local authority to have received the certification. The system ensures a documented and auditable approach to energy management is undertaken by the authority, and that measures are taken to continually improve the energy performance of all functions and operations.

It is through the implementation of the energy management system that reductions in NCC's carbon footprint are effectively recorded, reported and monitored. In 2009/10 NCC's carbon footprint was calculated to be 106,625tCO<sub>2</sub>; and in 2018/19 it was estimated as 29,425tCO<sub>2</sub>, a reduction of 72.4%. This was achieved through capital energy efficiency investment, property rationalisation and effective management of energy systems.

Additional achievements include reduced energy bills for NCC and schools as a result of an energy procurement risk management strategy; solar PV installations for schools, fire stations and libraries; the provision of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) for Waste and Adult Social Care services and the upgrade of the street lighting stock of fittings to LED. For the latter, the street lighting electricity consumption related emissions dropped from 12 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2009/10 to 4 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2018/19, a reduction of 67.7%.

The INTERREG IVB Project ZECOS was completed in 2015. The project facilitated a high volume of schools being educated in recycling and energy efficiency, the identification of champion schools within three communities (Oundle, Braunston and Crick and Long Buckby), and the installation of biomass boilers within four schools: Yelvertoft Primary School, Crick Primary School, The Gateway School and Oundle CE Primary School.

The Northants Warm Homes Partnership (NWHP)<sup>40</sup> has co-ordinated a number of fuel poverty projects including:

**'Big Switch Daventry'** – Using collective purchasing power to secure better deals on gas and electricity tariffs for householders. More than 4,000 households in the District have signed up since its launch in December 2014 and over 1,600 householders have successfully switched energy provider.

**'Switch, Save, Smile'** – Households in East Northamptonshire Council are encouraged to sign up to the project to receive guidance on switching energy suppliers and to register for collective switching.

**'Climate Friendly Communities'** – Providing help and advice to communities seeking to integrate climate friendly practices into the use of buildings, with the overall aim of reducing the community's carbon footprint.

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<sup>40</sup> Northants Warm Homes Partnership - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/>

NWHP has also overseen Northamptonshire's involvement in the Community Action Partnership (CAP) programme, an initiative delivered by National Energy Action (NEA) and British Gas in partnership with local authorities in eight key geographical areas. As part of the programme, one hundred 'energy champions' have been recruited in Northampton, Corby, Kettering and Daventry to help people in the community to become more energy efficient and to reduce the cost of household energy bills. The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have also received front-line training which has educated crews on the ways in which they can identify people who are in fuel poverty.

A further output of the Northamptonshire CAP programme is the creation of the Northants Community Directory<sup>41</sup>, a resource which details the agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support to vulnerable householders. The Directory serves as a mechanism through which support workers and front-line staff across the county are able to provide more streamlined and efficient referral services.

Implementation of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan has ensured that more focus is given to achieving carbon reduction through modal shifts, with an increased emphasis placed upon sustainable travel.

E-Car Club had established four E-Car Club Hubs within Northamptonshire with electric vehicles, available for public use, provided at each. The four Hubs were located at: Campbell Square, Northampton; Guildhall Road, Northampton; Berrywood Hospital, Northampton; and St Mary's Hospital, Kettering. The E-car club was acquired by Europcar which unfortunately decided to cease the scheme in Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (NWP) has implemented a Waste Strategy and Action Plan which seeks to help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

Chelveston Renewable Energy Park is another example of a local initiative supporting the climate change agenda. Based in East Northamptonshire, the Park is a 750-acre (300ha) scheme which currently generates a combined output around 80MW of renewable energy. The renewable energy includes wind and solar, following an £80m investment by the owners (Chelveston Renewable Energy Ltd). Planning permission has been obtained for an anaerobic digestion plant on the former airfield with a generating capacity of 1 - 5MW. Planning permission was also granted for a bio-fuel proposal with a generating capacity of 6MW. The next phase of the development has commenced with the construction of on-site battery storage, with further investment planned. The energy park currently generates enough power to supply in excess of 10,000 homes.

KierWSP, who run the Northamptonshire Highways contract, has implemented a Sustainability Action Plan. The key performance indicator for this is the reduction in carbon footprint based on fuel (including red diesel), electricity, gas (where available), water (excluding Towcester) and waste to landfill. Latest figures report an overall 47.9% reduction since 2008/09.

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<sup>41</sup> Northants Community Directory - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/files/2012/09/Copy-of-Northants-Community-Directory-WEB.xlsx>

### 7.3. Implications of national emissions targets over 2020 – 2023

It is proposed that any emissions targets set for Northamptonshire should again be set in line with national targets. The government has yet to set out detailed interim targets for greenhouse gas emissions based on the net-zero scenario, but the Committee on Climate Change suggests cutting annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 93% from 1990 levels – which is 13% more than the requirement in the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Most of the target can only be reached by producing energy via non-carbon means. This will require extra CO<sub>2</sub> to be captured or extracted from the atmosphere (“engineered removals”) to counteract residual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which might be expensive or impossible to eliminate, such as from international aviation, and to compensate for remaining emissions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases - especially from farming - which are costly to eliminate. Such CO<sub>2</sub> extraction methods include planting trees (afforestation) and direct air capture.

For Northamptonshire to match national government ambitions of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 - a 121 kt/year reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is required in the 33 years from 2017 (the most recent year for which greenhouse gas emission data is available with emissions totalling 4009.8 kt CO<sub>2</sub>) to 2050. Precluding any carbon capture measures - **this equates to an overall annual 3% reduction in emissions**. The required sectorial reductions in carbon emissions are;

- 52 kt/year for the Transport sector,
- 36.3 kt/year for the Industry & Commercial sector, and
- 32.7 kt/year for the Domestic sector.

The actions associated with this Climate Change Strategy will support the uptake of measures which contribute towards the achievement of these national targets.

## 8. Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change

### 8.1. Built Environment and Infrastructure

Significant growth is planned across Northamptonshire in the coming decade, with over 60,000 houses and associated infrastructure planned to be built by 2031. The National Infrastructure Commission also suggested the construction of 1 million new properties across the Ox-Cam Arc, to help support increased growth and development in this area to 2050<sup>42</sup>. As such there is a vital need to focus on and plan to adapt and mitigate against these substantial pressures and reduce their climate impacts.

The Local Plan documents of the county's planning authorities have been, or are in the process of being, reviewed to ensure policies are in place to encourage sustainable construction and adaptation. Surface water management plans for new developments have also been reviewed.

District and borough authorities are developing Green Infrastructure Plans as part of their evidence bases to inform their Part 2 Local Plans, which will help guide future infrastructure needs.

A number of Green Infrastructure projects have been implemented across the county. These include the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as part of NCC's role as the LLFA for Northamptonshire; working with KierWSP (the contractor working in partnership with the County Council) to maintain and improve the highways infrastructure; working with borough and district councils to increase the number of street trees in the county; and exploring opportunities for large scale woodland creation in planned sustainable urban extensions.

### 8.2. Healthy and Resilient Communities

The **Green Leaders** was a three year project funded via Big Lottery Fund and delivered by Groundwork Northamptonshire, which aims to recruit 50 young adults between 14-19 years old each year, to raise awareness of climate change issues and preparedness to impacts, in their local communities.

An update to the **Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** was endorsed and approved by NCC Cabinet in November 2016 and covers the period until 2021, at which point the Strategy will be updated. An action plan is also updated and monitored annually detailing how local flood risk is being managed across the County.

**Surface Water Management Plans**<sup>43</sup> (SWMP) are now complete for all district and borough councils in Northamptonshire

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<sup>42</sup> MHCLG : The Oxford to Cambridge Arc  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/799993/OxCam\\_Arc\\_Ambition.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> See the 'Statutory and Project Documents' section of the Flood Library for the SWMPs -  
<https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

A **Groundwater Flood Risk Study for Northamptonshire**<sup>44</sup> was completed in 2016 and serves to improve understanding of the risk from groundwater flooding in the county and as a result three groundwater monitoring systems have been installed in Boughton, Helmdon and Corby, which will collect data until 2021 to inform whether a county-wide groundwater alert system could be developed.

A process and formal protocol for the reporting and investigation of flooding incidents is in use and regularly exercised.

Northamptonshire County Council participated in three **Pathfinder Projects**, funded by DEFRA, as one of thirteen local authorities exploring the ways in which communities can be supported to improve their flood resilience. The Northamptonshire Pathfinder Project set out to provide information about community flood resilience through an online toolkit detailing ‘how to’ information on the actions residents, businesses and communities can take to improve their flood resilience. The Northamptonshire County Council Flood Toolkit is now live and publicly accessible: <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/>.

Northamptonshire County Council have also secured funding to carry out a **Property Flood Resilience Pathfinder** project across the Ox-Cam Arc, which will help support the uptake of Property Flood Resilience measures in communities and businesses.

The impact of climate change on health also needs to be considered. In particular, extreme weather conditions such as heat waves, severe cold snaps and flooding present challenges to the delivery of health services as well as introducing new risks to health. The NHS funded Sustainable Development Unit works to promote sustainability across the public health and social care system. They have developed a toolkit – “Under the Weather - Adapting to a changing climate”<sup>45</sup> – to support Health and Wellbeing boards, and others, and ensure organisations and communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change.

### **8.3. Natural Environment, Agriculture and Forestry**

**The Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA)** has created and restored 115 hectares of wildflower meadows, enhanced 4km of river through improvement to water quality and river habitats, and improved public access to the area which attracts 2.4 million visitors a year. A Business Plan for the NIA has been created, which covers 2015-2020<sup>46</sup>.

An annual **Northamptonshire Tree Planting Scheme**, delivered in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, has resulted in over **250,000 trees being planted in schools, communities and farms** across Northamptonshire since 2012.

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<sup>44</sup> See the ‘Statutory and Project Documents’ section of the Flood Library for the Groundwater Study - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

<sup>45</sup> Under the Weather – Adapting to a changing climate - <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience.aspx>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/Nene%20Valley%20NIA%202015-20%20Business%20Plan.pdf>

The **Yardley Whittlewood Ridge project** has engaged with over 250 landowners in an attempt to enhance ancient woodland habitats in the region with tree packs being delivered to over 40% of the landowners engaged.

There has also been the continued **development of the Guidance on Highway Tree Planting**, helping to encourage tree planting on new and existing developments, as well as a trial of a slow/low growing climate resilient grass seed mix for the county verges to help reduce maintenance costs and help in adapting to a changing climate. This trial was completed in 2016 and seed mix sent to Development Control to be used as the standard mix for the future.

**Biodiversity in the county** has improved, with the percentage of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management up to **43% in 2017/18**; from 22% in 2008/9.

The **Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 – 2020**<sup>47</sup> has now been published on the planning section of the NCC website. This document sets out the highest priorities for action to conserve Northamptonshire’s most threatened and declining habitats and species.

Numerous **Wildflower Projects** have been initiated by Daventry District Council since 2014, providing a total of 135 community groups with various mixes of wildflower seeds to improve biodiversity in their local community.

The **Nene Catchment Partnership**<sup>48</sup> (between Natural England, the Environment Agency and River Nene Regional Park) has been running since 2009 with the aim of promoting Catchment Sensitive Farming. This is land management that minimises pollution of watercourses through an arrangement of measures such as appropriate management of the use of fertilisers and pesticides and promoting good soil structure and rain infiltration.

#### **8.4. Business, Industry and Commerce**

Business and supply chain resilience is high on the agenda of many of the partners involved in the Climate Change Strategy.

The **Greater South East Energy Hub** is an excellent source of technical support regarding energy efficiency, or the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.

**SEMLEP** also keeps a list of regularly updated business energy funding and networking opportunities on its website<sup>49</sup>.

#### **8.5. Local Government and Public Services**

‘Planning to adapt’ activities will continue to be embedded into public sector processes, practices and policies.

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<sup>47</sup> Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/Pages/biodiversity.aspx>

<sup>48</sup> River Nene Regional Park, Catchment Sensitive Farming - <http://www.riverneneregionalpark.org/projects/catchment-sensitive-farming-csf/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.semlep.com/energy/>



## 9. Implementation of the Climate Change Strategy

The Climate Change Strategy will continue to be implemented by NCCOG in association with a range of partners as relevant for each activity. In addition there are a number of groups that focus on specific areas of the Strategy (e.g. NCCOG, Northants Warm Homes, Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership and many others) to ensure that the actions are taken forward and that objectives and targets are met.

Each year, the Strategy will be supported by an annual Action Plan that covers each area of the Strategy and provides additional information about what will be done, the measures that will be used to track progress, and the targets that have been set. The actions, which will follow the headings used in the Strategy, will highlight the 'lead organisation' for each activity and be funded/resourced appropriately.

These annual Action Plans will provide the framework for monitoring and capturing the various activities being undertaken to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. They will be actively monitored at the quarterly NCCOG meetings with progress on actions assessed using a RAG rating.

The Action Plan will be reviewed at the end of each financial year and a further Action Plan will be developed for the following year. Targets will also be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are consistent with the evolving science and any changes to related national or regional strategies.

This Climate Change Strategy covers the period 2020-23. Following this period, the Strategy will be reviewed to report on whether the objectives have been met, and to highlight any and all achievements over those three years. A refresh to this Strategy for 2023 will then be considered in light of any legislation changes, and national, regional and local priorities and in light of the formation of the two new Unitary authorities for Northamptonshire.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1 – Northamptonshire Climate Change Officer Group (NCCOG) – Membership**

**Appendix 2 – Summary of emissions by Local Authority area**

## Appendix 1 – Northamptonshire Climate Change Officer Group (NCCOG) Current Membership

- Northamptonshire County Council
- Corby Borough Council
- Daventry District Council
- East Northamptonshire Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- South Northamptonshire Council
- Borough Council of Wellingborough
- Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire General Hospital
- University of Northampton
- SEMLEP
- Groundwork Trust
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit
- West Northants Joint Planning Unit
- Northamptonshire Waste Partnership
- Northants Warm Homes Partnership
- Northamptonshire Highways (KierWSP)
- Electric Corby
- Environment Agency
- Northampton Partnership Homes

**Appendix 2 – Summary of emissions by Local Authority area (within scope of Local Authority influence)**

Local Authority Area	Year	Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Grand Total Emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Population ('000s)	Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t)	Domestic Per Capita (t)	Transport Per Capita (t)	Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t)
Corby	2005	462.0	138.7	94.3	695.1	54.5	8.5	2.5	1.7	12.8
	2006	458.8	138.2	92.7	689.6	55.4	8.3	2.5	1.7	12.4
	2007	440.0	134.4	92.8	667.1	56.8	7.7	2.4	1.6	11.7
	2008	423.7	134.2	88.4	646.3	57.9	7.3	2.3	1.5	11.2
	2009	364.9	122.3	85.8	573.0	59.0	6.2	2.1	1.5	9.7
	2010	412.2	133.0	85.7	630.9	60.1	6.9	2.2	1.4	10.5
	2011	357.2	117.0	84.0	558.1	61.6	5.8	1.9	1.4	9.1
	2012	385.8	124.9	82.5	593.3	63.1	6.1	2.0	1.3	9.4
	2013	385.9	123.3	82.4	591.6	64.2	6.0	1.9	1.3	9.2
	2014	328.6	103.6	85.2	517.4	65.4	5.0	1.6	1.3	7.9
	2015	297.5	102.4	87.2	487.2	66.9	4.5	1.5	1.3	7.3
	2016	280.7	101.3	85.7	467.8	68.3	4.1	1.5	1.2	6.8
	2017	269.7	98.3	84.9	452.9	69.5	3.9	1.4	1.2	6.5
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-41.6%</b>	<b>-29.1%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-34.8%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>-54.1%</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>-29.41%</b>	<b>-49.2%</b>
Daventry	2005	287.6	205.5	315.1	808.2	75.7	3.8	2.7	4.2	10.7
	2006	288.6	205.5	316.3	810.3	76.5	3.8	2.7	4.1	10.6
	2007	271.8	199.5	323.9	795.2	77.0	3.5	2.6	4.2	10.3
	2008	262.4	199.5	300.5	762.3	77.1	3.4	2.6	3.9	9.9
	2009	241.7	180.9	285.4	708.0	77.7	3.1	2.3	3.7	9.1
	2010	265.8	194.5	284.3	744.6	77.7	3.4	2.5	3.7	9.6
	2011	240.6	169.8	283.5	693.9	78.1	3.1	2.2	3.6	8.9
	2012	240.8	182.2	282.6	705.7	78.3	3.1	2.3	3.6	9.0
	2013	230.8	176.0	277.2	683.9	78.6	2.9	2.2	3.5	8.7
	2014	195.9	146.3	281.7	623.9	79.0	2.5	1.9	3.6	7.9
	2015	196.4	140.3	283.8	620.6	80.0	2.5	1.8	3.5	7.8
	2016	171.5	140.4	275.6	587.5	81.1	2.2	1.8	3.2	7.2
	2017	151.0	131.8	300.1	582.8	82.6	1.8	1.6	3.7	7.1
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-47.4%</b>	<b>-35.9%</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>	<b>-27.9%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>-52.6%</b>	<b>-40.7%</b>	<b>-11.9%</b>	<b>-33.6%</b>

Local Authority Area	Year	Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Grand Total Emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Population ('000s)	Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t)	Domestic Per Capita (t)	Transport Per Capita (t)	Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t)
East Northamptonshire	2005	168.1	213.0	272.6	653.7	81.9	2.1	2.6	3.3	8.0
	2006	172.5	213.4	269.2	655.1	83.3	2.1	2.6	3.2	7.9
	2007	162.3	209.0	271.7	642.9	84.8	1.9	2.5	3.2	7.6
	2008	156.4	207.5	258.6	622.5	85.6	1.8	2.4	3.0	7.3
	2009	139.5	188.5	248.0	576.0	85.9	1.6	2.2	2.9	6.7
	2010	153.3	204.6	243.1	601.0	86.3	1.8	2.4	2.8	7.0
	2011	137.3	177.6	238.4	553.3	86.9	1.6	2.0	2.7	6.4
	2012	145.0	192.0	238.3	575.3	87.4	1.7	2.2	2.7	6.6
	2013	132.5	185.7	235.6	553.8	88.0	1.5	2.1	2.7	6.3
	2014	136.8	155.4	239.5	531.7	88.9	1.5	1.7	2.7	6.0
	2015	168.2	150.0	247.6	565.8	89.7	1.9	1.7	2.8	6.3
	2016	116.4	149.2	247.8	513.3	91.4	1.3	1.6	2.7	5.6
	2017	105.0	138.9	253.5	497.4	93.1	1.1	1.5	2.7	5.3
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-37.5%</b>	<b>-34.8%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-23.9%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>-47.6%</b>	<b>-42.3.7%</b>	<b>-18.2%</b>	<b>-33.8%</b>
Kettering	2005	221.8	223.7	300.4	745.9	86.6	2.6	2.6	3.5	8.6
	2006	241.2	223.0	308.3	772.5	88.0	2.7	2.5	3.5	8.8
	2007	222.0	216.9	314.2	753.1	89.9	2.5	2.4	3.5	8.4
	2008	222.1	217.0	298.4	737.5	91.2	2.4	2.4	3.3	8.1
	2009	193.1	195.6	277.6	666.2	92.1	2.1	2.1	3.0	7.2
	2010	239.2	212.0	280.4	731.6	92.9	2.6	2.3	3.0	7.9
	2011	219.5	184.9	274.4	678.8	93.8	2.3	2.0	2.9	7.2
	2012	232.4	199.4	270.9	702.7	94.8	2.5	2.1	2.9	7.4
	2013	234.6	194.1	269.4	698.1	95.8	2.4	2.0	2.8	7.3
	2014	199.7	161.8	277.4	638.9	96.9	2.1	1.7	2.9	6.6
	2015	191.2	157.9	286.1	635.2	97.7	2.0	1.6	2.9	6.5
	2016	180.8	156.9	289.1	626.8	98.9	1.8	1.6	2.9	6.3
	2017	172.6	148.2	294.6	615.4	100.3	1.7	1.5	2.9	6.1
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-22.2%</b>	<b>-33.7%</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>-17.5%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>-34.6%</b>	<b>-42.3%</b>	<b>-17.1%</b>	<b>-29%</b>

Local Authority Area	Year	Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Grand Total Emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Population ('000s)	Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t)	Domestic Per Capita (t)	Transport Per Capita (t)	Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t)
Northampton	2005	585.5	490.2	322.6	1,398.3	196.8	3.0	2.5	1.6	7.1
	2006	578.0	481.9	321.0	1,380.9	200.4	2.9	2.4	1.6	6.9
	2007	546.5	469.1	320.8	1,336.4	203.0	2.7	2.3	1.6	6.6
	2008	547.2	469.7	308.6	1,325.5	205.6	2.7	2.3	1.5	6.4
	2009	448.8	418.1	296.3	1,163.3	207.9	2.2	2.0	1.4	5.6
	2010	466.6	450.7	292.2	1,209.5	210.1	2.2	2.1	1.4	5.8
	2011	424.6	392.8	283.2	1,100.6	212.5	2.0	1.8	1.3	5.2
	2012	487.0	424.8	279.7	1,191.4	214.6	2.3	2.0	1.3	5.6
	2013	445.8	413.0	277.7	1,136.4	216.7	2.1	1.9	1.3	5.2
	2014	397.5	342.6	286.1	1,026.3	219.5	1.8	1.6	1.3	4.7
	2015	332.0	332.0	289.8	953.8	222.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	4.3
	2016	294.4	325.7	315.5	935.7	224.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	4.2
	2017	273.6	307.6	315.9	897.1	225.7	1.2	1.4	1.4	4.0
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-53.3%</b>	<b>-37.2%</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>-35.8%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>-12.5%</b>	<b>-43.7%</b>
South Northamptonshire	2005	220.1	225.6	292.1	737.7	84.9	2.6	2.7	3.4	8.7
	2006	217.3	226.6	289.2	733.1	85.5	2.5	2.6	3.4	8.6
	2007	203.9	222.6	293.2	719.7	85.9	2.4	2.6	3.4	8.4
	2008	204.5	222.7	279.6	706.8	85.8	2.4	2.6	3.3	8.2
	2009	189.1	199.7	264.4	653.2	85.7	2.2	2.3	3.1	7.6
	2010	195.1	216.0	261.6	672.7	85.6	2.3	2.5	3.1	7.9
	2011	177.0	189.6	257.6	624.2	85.4	2.1	2.2	3.0	7.3
	2012	198.0	203.2	257.6	658.8	86.4	2.3	2.4	3.0	7.6
	2013	189.8	197.3	255.3	642.3	87.2	2.2	2.3	2.9	7.4
	2014	190.7	166.2	260.5	617.4	88.2	2.2	1.9	3.0	7.0
	2015	167.1	159.5	270.0	596.6	89.1	1.9	1.8	3.0	6.7
	2016	137.0	156.6	285.7	579.3	89.9	1.5	1.8	3.1	6.4
	2017	128.2	145.7	291.1	565.0	91.1	1.4	1.6	3.2	6.2
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-41.8%</b>	<b>-35.4%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-23.4%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>-46.1%</b>	<b>-40.7%</b>	<b>-5.9%</b>	<b>-28.7%</b>

Local Authority Area	Year	Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport Total (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Grand Total Emissions (kt CO <sub>2</sub> )	Population ('000s)	Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t)	Domestic Per Capita (t)	Transport Per Capita (t)	Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t)
Wellingborough	2005	223.2	180.8	184.4	588.4	74.0	3.0	2.4	2.5	8.0
	2006	226.2	178.4	182.3	586.9	74.5	3.0	2.4	2.4	7.9
	2007	219.4	173.2	183.4	576.1	74.7	2.9	2.3	2.5	7.7
	2008	211.7	173.2	175.1	560.1	75.1	2.8	2.3	2.3	7.5
	2009	187.7	155.0	174.7	517.4	75.1	2.5	2.1	2.3	6.9
	2010	192.6	166.3	171.6	530.5	75.2	2.6	2.2	2.3	7.1
	2011	164.8	144.7	164.2	473.7	75.6	2.2	1.9	2.2	6.3
	2012	190.1	156.6	163.7	510.4	76.1	2.5	2.1	2.2	6.7
	2013	179.9	151.7	160.5	492.1	76.0	2.4	2.0	2.1	6.5
	2014	179.4	126.2	163.5	469.2	76.4	2.3	1.7	2.1	6.1
	2015	152.5	122.8	169.8	445.1	77.2	2.0	1.6	2.2	5.8
	2016	125.8	121.0	167.0	413.9	78.4	1.7	1.5	2.1	5.3
	2017	115.6	114.6	169.0	399.2	78.9	1.5	1.5	2.1	5.1
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-48.2%</b>	<b>-36.6%</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>-32.1%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>-50%</b>	<b>-37.5%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-36.2%</b>
Northamptonshire Total	2005	2,168.3	1,677.5	1,781.6	5,627.4	654.5	3.3	2.6	2.7	8.6
	2006	2,182.5	1,666.9	1,779.0	5,628.4	663.6	3.3	2.5	2.7	8.5
	2007	2,065.9	1,624.6	1,800.1	5,490.6	672.1	3.1	2.4	2.7	8.2
	2008	2,027.9	1,623.8	1,709.3	5,360.9	678.2	3.0	2.4	2.5	7.9
	2009	1,764.7	1,460.1	1,632.3	4,857.1	683.5	2.6	2.1	2.4	7.1
	2010	1,924.7	1,577.1	1,618.8	5,120.6	688.0	2.8	2.3	2.4	7.4
	2011	1,721.1	1,376.5	1,585.2	4,682.7	694.0	2.5	2.0	2.3	6.7
	2012	1,879.1	1,483.0	1,575.4	4,937.6	700.6	2.7	2.1	2.2	7.0
	2013	1,799.3	1,441.0	1,558.1	4,798.3	706.4	2.5	2.0	2.2	6.8
	2014	1,628.7	1,202.1	1,594.0	4,424.7	714.4	2.3	1.7	2.2	6.2
	2015	1,504.9	1,164.8	1,634.5	4,304.3	723.0	2.1	1.6	2.3	6.0
	2016	1306.7	1151.1	1666.4	4124.3	732.5	1.8	1.5	2.3	5.6
2017	1215.7	1085	1709.1	4009.8	741.2	1.6	1.5	2.3	5.4	
<b>Percentage change</b>		<b>-44%</b>	<b>-35.3%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-28.8%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>-51.5%</b>	<b>-42.3%</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>	<b>-37.2%</b>







**CABINET**

**10 MARCH 2020**

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN FIRST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: CATHI  
HADLEY/SHARON MULDOON**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR: CHILDREN, FAMILIES &  
EDUCATION: COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER**

Subject:	School organisational changes: Establishment of an amalgamation policy
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Note the educational, governance, leadership and financial benefits that can be realised through the amalgamation of linked Infant and Junior schools to form ‘all-through’ primary provision;</li> <li>2) Approve the establishment of a Northamptonshire County Council ‘Amalgamation Policy’;</li> <li>3) Note that any proposed amalgamation of a linked Infant and Junior school would be subject to distinct Cabinet approval and an associated statutory process.</li> </ol>

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To provide Cabinet with all the relevant information to make a fully informed decision on the recommendations listed above.

**2. How this decision contributes to the Council plan**

The Council’s vision is for Northamptonshire to be a county where everyone looks after each other and takes responsibility, where the vulnerable are protected and supported and where the people who can help themselves receive the assistance they need to stay independent and healthy.

<p>This initiative helps the Council to deliver this vision through the following strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling individuals and communities to achieve better outcomes.</li> <li>• Engaging with partners and communities to co-design and co-deliver services.</li> <li>• Using innovation to find better and more sustainable ways of delivering services ensuring they are efficient and affordable in the long term.</li> <li>• Utilising the Council’s assets effectively.</li> <li>• Reducing inequalities and disparity of opportunities.</li> </ul>

### 3. Background

- 3.1 There are currently 18 pairs of linked Infant and Junior Schools operating within Northamptonshire. These schools have the capacity to educate up to 10,297 children across the primary phase of education. This equates to approximately 20% of the total number of primary aged children being educated within the county or 10% of the total amount of children and young people attending a Northamptonshire school. Given the large proportion of children being educated in Infant and Junior schools within Northants, it is essential that this model of education is effective and fit for purpose;
- 3.2 Of the 18 pairs of linked Infant and Junior Schools, 6 of these are maintained by the Local Authority and for which NCC retain the responsibility for conducting school organisational changes (the remainder have 'Academy' status). Please note, the Amalgamation Policy only relates to the 6 pairs of NCC maintained Infant and Junior schools;
- 3.3 The full educational, leadership and governance and financial benefits that can be realised through amalgamating a linked Infant and Junior School are detailed in full in Appendix 1 to this report. A brief summary of the major benefits that can be realised are detailed below for ease of reference;
- All-through primary schools provide an organisational structure is aligned with the National Curriculum Key Stages. Planning across Foundation, Key Stages 1 and 2 as a coherent whole for the primary phase provides greater flexibility across and between the Key Stages;
  - Reducing the number of changes for children in a school system strengthens continuity and progression for children and families in the primary phase, both in terms of the curriculum and pastoral experience. National and local data indicates that pupils that experience fewer changes between schools attain better outcomes;
  - A single governing body provides strategic governance and vision, accountability for the all the primary key stages and outcomes;
  - A headteacher of a combined 'all-through', primary school provides over-arching leadership of the school and enables the establishment of coordinated senior leadership arrangements across the school.
  - Combined schools sharing the same site are able to maximise the efficiency of their resources. This is of particular relevance in the current economic climate and Government policy moving towards a schools national funding formula;
  - A combined school staffing structure removes duplication and support functions can be consolidated across the single school.
- 3.4 The establishment of a coherent 'Amalgamation Policy' across Northamptonshire has become increasingly important with the introduction of the new Ofsted framework, which states that;
- 'Ofsted will judge the quality of education a pupil receives by evaluating whether "the providers' curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulative sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment'.*

The organisational structure of ‘all-through’ primary schools provide an inherent advantage in this regard when compared to the infant and junior model of primary education;

3.5 With due consideration to all of the above, NCC’s proposed ‘Amalgamation Policy’ states that, NCC will require Governing Bodies of all separate infant and junior schools to consider amalgamating the two schools when one or more of the following circumstances arise unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to:

- A headteacher vacancy arises in either or both schools;
- Pupil numbers are 25% or more below admission number in either school;
- Ofsted inspection in one of the schools identifies ‘special measures’ or repeated ‘Requires Improvement’ judgements;
- One of the schools has been judged to be ‘inadequate’ and no academy solution can be found;
- One or both of the schools involved is judged to be a ‘School causing concern’ by NCC;
- Other situations whereby the educational provision would be improved; through amalgamations. For example, any building and accommodation or staffing recruitment and retention issues, that would be improved by amalgamation;
- One or each school cannot set a balanced budget or is experiencing financial problems;

3.6 Please note, should Cabinet approve the establishment of the ‘Amalgamation Policy’ it will become NCC’s preferred position with regard to the amalgamation of Infant and Junior schools in the county and utilised as a basis under which linked Infant and Junior schools may be amalgamated. However, any proposed amalgamation will be judged solely on its own merits and only be progressed in the best interests of current and future students that may attend the school(s) in question. The document is not intended to provide a blanket pre-determination that all Infant and Junior schools should be amalgamated.

#### 4. Consultation and Scrutiny

4.1 The ‘Amalgamation Policy’ has been drafted by Officers within NCC’s ‘Learning, Skills and Education’ Directorate. There is no requirement for any statutory consultation on the document itself. However, NCC conducted a 4 week period of consultation on the proposed policy between the 15<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, with all county schools. A summary of responses received is provided below;

For	11
Neutral	1
Against	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

4.2 Consultation responses are provided in full as Appendix 2 to this report, however a summary of responses are provided below;

For the proposal

- *'...have been a primary school since 2012 and can only report positives about the impact this has had on pupils, parents, staff and the local community.'*
- *'I am in agreement with the policy and see only benefits of a combined, all-through school, many of which are set out in the policy.'*
- *'As a member of the Year 3 team I feel I have experienced the downfalls of a separated school system.'*
- *'I strongly believe that the more staff working together means an outcome of more ideas and opportunities to help one another improve children's learning and making it memorable and exciting.'*

Neutral views on the proposal

- *'It would be great to have more opportunities for children to visit the 'Junior School' building more times before moving up to Year 3 so there is less worrying from children and parents.'*
- *'The example of providing opportunities for older children to take on responsibility in an 'all-through' primary can also be achieved through partnership working between infant and junior schools but also in an infant school the Year 2 pupils are given more opportunities to take on responsibility as the pupils at the top of the school.'*

Against the proposals

- *'Loss of £110,000 lump sum for one school – initially balancing the budget.'*
- *'Requires an experienced Senior Leadership team across both all Key Stages to bring it all together successfully.'*
- *'Disruption to both schools while amalgamation takes place.'*

4.3 NCC's proposed 'Amalgamation Policy' has been amended in response to consultation feedback that stated that greater clarity was needed on whom would be responsible for staffing decisions in the event a linked Infant and Junior School amalgamate, please see section 25 'Stage 2 – Preparation' of the proposed 'Amalgamation Policy'.

4.4 Cabinet should note that any actual proposed amalgamation of an Infant and Junior school would be subject to a full statutory process as defined by the Department for Education and relevant legislation. This process is set out in full in section 26 of Appendix 1 to this report.

## 5. Equality Screening

<b>Reason that no EqIA is required</b>	<b>✓ as appropriate</b>
The paper is for information only	
The proposal/activity/decision has no impact on customers or the service they receive	
The proposal impacts upon staff but the proposed staffing changes will not affect the service that customers receive*	
Other (Please explain further)	✓

\*Where a proposal affects staff, the appropriate HR processes will be followed, which have already been subject to the EqIA process and will be compliant with HR legislation

5.1 The proposal to establish an 'Amalgamation Policy' under which linked Infant and Junior schools may be amalgamated has no equality implications in itself. However, full Equality Impact Assessments would be conducted in full, in the event that an amalgamation of any given Infant and Junior school is proposed.

## 6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Do nothing: The under-pinning rationale for any amalgamation is to contribute to school improvement and pupil outcomes and will only be considered when it is in the best interests of current and future pupils attending the schools involved. As such, doing nothing was not considered to be a viable option, particularly with regard to the implications of the new Ofsted framework.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1 This proposal on its own has no financial implications of any kind. Should an amalgamation be proposed under the policy, individual cabinet reports would detail the specific financial aspects of any proposal.

## 8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Establishment of 'Amalgamation Policy' perceived as attempt to progress amalgamation of all remaining NCC maintained Infant and Junior schools	Full and transparent discussions between LSE officers and schools.	Amber

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Pupil outcomes are impacted by a two-tier structure of primary phase education	Amber
Infant and Junior schools Ofsted ratings are adversely affected by their organisational structure under the new Ofsted framework	Red

Risk	Risk Rating
NCC bequeaths a schools (structure?) that is not fit for purpose and has been impacted by issues that could have been rectified prior to move to unitary status	Amber

## 9. List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Amalgamation Policy
- Appendix 2: Consultation Responses

Author:	Name: Chris Wickens Team: School Place Planning
Contact details:	Tel: 07738638249 Email: <a href="mailto:cwickens@northamptonshire.gov.uk">cwickens@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a>
Background Papers:	N/A
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	NO
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	Yes
Will further decisions be required? If so please outline the timetable here	NO
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)?	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot
Have any capital spend implications passed through Capital Programme governance procedures?	N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Sharon Muldoon
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Councillor Fiona Baker
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee:
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Duncan Bisatt
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley
Have any property Issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: James Wheeler
Have the Procurement Implications below been referenced in the Paper:	N/A Name of officer

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you evidenced compliance with the Council's Contract Procedures Rules?</li> <li>• Have you made clear in this paper where you are seeking Cabinet to approve an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules and detailed the risks and mitigations?</li> <li>• Have you identified any EU or UK legislative risks such as non-compliance with the Public Contract Regulations Act 2015, transparency and open competition?</li> <li>• Have you identified the procurement risks associated with a contract?</li> </ul>	(This should be Head of Procurement)
Are there any community safety implications?	NO
Are there any environmental implications:	NO
Are there any Health and Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	All





# **Northamptonshire County Council**

## **Amalgamation Policy**

**March 2020**

**AMALGAMATION POLICY  
FOR INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

# **CONTENTS**

**Introduction**

**The Amalgamation Policy**

**Amalgamation Process**

# Foreword

The Education Act 2010 changed the school landscape considerably. The local authority has a role as commissioner and champion of parents and children. The Government policy to promote the conversion of schools to academy status, coupled with the free school policy has created an increasingly autonomous schools' estate and a new relationship with the local authority. However, the local authority retains a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient and high quality school places.

School organisation with appropriate models of governance, is fundamental to securing sufficient and high quality school places. There are many models of school organisation which are successful including combined and separate maintained primary sector schools. In Northamptonshire and across the country there are also governance models, for example, federations and academy schools that also contribute to quality school provision.

In its role as a commissioner of school places, Northamptonshire County Council's preferred model of organisation of primary phase schools is a combined, 'all-through' school. The educational and other reasons for this are set out in this policy. In the implementation of this amalgamation policy, the local authority will work with governing bodies and other parties to achieve a combined 'all-through' primary schools where appropriate.

There are currently 18 pairs of linked Infant and Junior Schools operating within Northamptonshire. These schools have the capacity to educate up to 10,297 children across the primary phase of education. This equates to approximately 20% of the total number of primary aged children being educated within the county or 10% of the total amount of children and young people attending a Northamptonshire school. Given the large proportion of children being educated in Infant and Junior schools within Northants, it is essential that this model of education is effective and fit for purpose.

The under-pinning rationale for amalgamation is to contribute to school improvement and will only be considered when it is in the best interests of current and future pupil attending the schools involved.

Please note, this Policy will only be applied to NCC maintained schools for which NCC retains the responsibility for conducting school organisational changes of this nature. Any school that has converted to academy status falls under the remit of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) and would not be subject to this policy.

Whilst NCC has facilitated and progressed a number of amalgamations in recent years, the introduction of this policy will form the basis and underpinning rationale for any future amalgamations that may occur in Northamptonshire in future academic years.

# Northamptonshire County Council Amalgamation Policy

## Introduction

1. It is the aim of all Northamptonshire schools to provide a high quality education to their pupils and strive constantly to raise the standard of education. All schools are committed to working collaboratively, in partnership with all their stakeholders and with a strong focus on developing extended service provision for their local communities.
2. Northamptonshire's amalgamation policy aims to establish combined 'all-through' primary schools with continuity across the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The policy is based on an educational rationale that will contribute to school improvement. The policy enables amalgamation to be undertaken within current school development planning and funding opportunities.

## The educational case for amalgamation

3. The creation of all-through primary schools brings a number of benefits, including:
  - Organisational structure is aligned with the National Curriculum Key Stages. Planning across Foundation, Key Stages 1 and 2 as a coherent whole for the primary phase provides greater flexibility across and between the Key Stages.
  - Reducing the number of changes for children in a school system strengthens continuity and progression for children and families in the primary phase, both in terms of the curriculum and pastoral experience. Research shows that the fewer moves children have during their school career the better they perform. However, currently some children could change schools at the end of Year 2 in the Infant School, at the end of Year 6 in the Junior School and at the end of Year 11 in the secondary School. There can be further changes during pre-school provision where a child might attend a number of settings before starting in reception class. If there is a system with combined primary schools, and secondary schools with post-16 available on sites, the number of imposed changes will be minimised. In general, children and their families will have just one major school change. This reduction in the number of school moves is important, particularly for children with special educational needs.
  - Greater opportunities are created for older children to take on responsibility. For younger children the presence of older children provides aspirational role models and also mentoring support.
  - Teachers and classroom staff have access to the whole primary curriculum. This supports and informs whole school planning, assessment, pastoral systems and provides opportunities for wider staff development and experience across the full primary phase.

- National evidence shows that ‘all-through’ primary schools create more consistency between year groups and key stages in learning, planning and assessment. There is improved use of teachers’ skills, specialist teaching and improved pastoral arrangements, as well as benefits for management, leadership and financial management.

*“Where primary education is provided in separate key stages, there is generally very little effective curriculum continuity and progression. In such situations the scope for discontinuity of learning is increased, together with the attendant, wasteful, repetitive teaching of subject content and learning experiences in the receiving key stage.”*

Educational Management Information Exchange

## **Governance and Leadership**

A single governing body provides strategic governance and vision, accountability for the all the primary key stages and outcomes, and acts as a critical friend to the headteacher across the school phases.

4. A headteacher of a combined ‘all-through’, primary school provides over-arching leadership of the school and enables the establishment of coordinated senior leadership arrangements across the school.
5. A combined primary school aids recruitment and retention of the headteacher, and other staff, which has been an issue with separate infant and junior schools.

## **Resources and school site**

8. Combined schools sharing the same site are able to maximise the efficiency of their resources. This is of particular relevance in the current economic climate and Government policy moving towards a schools national funding formula.
9. A combined school staffing structure removes duplication and support functions can be consolidated across the single school. This has a positive impact on the revenue budget. If the school site and its accommodation are managed as a single entity there is greater flexibility and there can be a strategic approach to capital investment.

## **Policy**

11. NCC will require Governing Bodies of all separate infant and junior schools to consider amalgamating the two schools when one or more of the following circumstances arise unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to:
  - A headteacher vacancy arises in either or both schools;
  - Pupil numbers are 25% or more below admission number in either school;
  - Ofsted inspection in one of the schools identifies ‘special measures’ or repeated ‘Requires Improvement’ judgements;

- One of the schools has been judged to be 'inadequate' and no academy solution can be found;
  - One or both of the schools involved is judged to be a 'School causing concern' by NCC;
  - Other situations whereby the educational provision would be improved; through amalgamations. For example, provision of SEN support, building and accommodation issues, staffing recruitment and retention issues;
  - One or each school cannot set a balanced budget or is experiencing financial problems.
- 12.** Unless the educational advantages set out in this policy would not be delivered by combining the two schools it is generally expected that the amalgamation would happen. NCC will consider using the powers available to it to require amalgamation if there is a pressing case for this and Governing Bodies are not addressing the matter.
- 13.** Given the Council's amalgamation policy, governing bodies of separate schools are encouraged to consider how they work collaboratively before the triggers are met. This might include soft or hard federation or joint staff activities. Governing bodies are encouraged to consider the transition to a combined school and how the governing bodies could collaborate on a range of matters and how staff groups could work closely together. Collaboration will help to bring educational benefits and promote effective consultation with the school communities about amalgamation.
- 14.** Through the process of developing and evaluating the amalgamation proposal, the combined school size is taken into consideration. There are different leadership models for schools according to their size and it is expected that this is considered during this phase.
- 15.** Northamptonshire County Council would urge all governing bodies of separate infant and junior schools to consider amalgamation as part of any consideration they have of academy conversion. The local authority considers that a combined school would be more sustainable than separate academy schools, or separate academy and community schools, which are paired in infant and junior phases and service the same local community.
- 16.** In this context, it is important to recognise that once the Amalgamation Policy has been triggered and statutory processes have been initiated, no alternative proposals can be considered until the amalgamation statutory processes have concluded.
- 17.** In the new commissioner role for local authorities, discussions about school organisation matters will be led by the Head of School Place Planning on behalf of the Director of Children's Services/Deputy Director of Education.

## **Process to implement an amalgamation in partnership with Northamptonshire schools**

### **Legislative Framework**

19. Amalgamation involves making changes to the organisation of schools. This is governed by statutory processes that are detailed in the Department for Education guidance booklet 'Opening and closing maintained schools'. Section 3 of the document specifies that the process for amalgamating a linked infant and junior school requires that one or both school undergoes a 'technical' closure.
20. In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") the local authority has power to bring forward proposals to make changes to schools. Within these powers there are three routes for the local authority to achieve a combined school:
  - To extend the age range and expand the capacity of one school and to discontinue the other school.
  - To discontinue both schools and seek proposals for the establishment of an academy school.
21. When it is proposed to amalgamate schools under the terms of this amalgamation policy, Northamptonshire County Council's default position will be to extend the age range and expand the capacity of one school and to discontinue the other school. This approach is adopted to ensure timely processes can be planned and to minimise any risk to the continuity of the current school arrangements.
22. However, should one or both of the schools involved in an amalgamation proposal fail to engage with the process and it is felt that amalgamation still be in the best interest of the school, NCC may close both schools and seek to establish a new school in their place.
23. When the trigger circumstance to amalgamate schools is the resignation of a headteacher, the local authority will usually discontinue the school where the headteacher has resigned and the vacancy occurs. The local authority considers that this provides a consistent and objective approach that does not imply any issue of underperformance or of take over. However, the local authority will consider each case on an individual basis in case there are specific circumstances that should be taken into account.
24. Whichever route is followed to establish the combined school, the governing body of the newly combined school must be representative of the former schools, with experience across the Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2. If one school is closed, the governing body of the other school whose age range is extended will reconstitute itself for the combined school to ensure that this representation is achieved. This will involve processes of resignation of governors, appointment of governors and elections of staff and parent governors.

## **Stages of Amalgamation**

25. The process to implement amalgamation is approached in four stages. The local authority will support schools and governing bodies through each Stage.

### Stage 1: Identification

Circumstances at one or both schools comprising a linked infant and junior school fall within one (or more) of the criterion set out in section 11 of this policy. The schools will be approached by; the Head of School Place Planning and/or the school's Senior School Improvement Manager and/or the Head of Governor Services, to discuss the possibility of amalgamation.

### Stage 2: Preparation

NCC officers will provide support to both the governing bodies and senior leadership at each school with regards to all future stages of the amalgamation process. This includes but is not limited to;

- Steps to establish a new, single governing body;
- Establishing a steering group, formed of representatives of the Governing Bodies of a linked Infant and Junior School. The purpose of this steering group is to inform the direction of any amalgamation that may be enacted under this policy and to appoint a new Headteacher/senior leadership structure. The group will also assist with any other staffing decisions that are required to be made as a result of the amalgamation process;
- HR support;
- Engagement with other relevant stakeholders i.e. Trade Unions;
- Assist with any building or site matters that arise.

### Stage 3: The statutory process

The statutory process that all local authorities are legally required to follow is set out in full below. NCC will conduct this process in all instances with the exception of where the governing bodies of a Foundation school wish to progress a proposal.

### Stage 4: Implementation

Officers within the Place Planning and School Effectiveness teams will continue to support any newly amalgamated school to ensure a smooth transition.



## 26. The Statutory Process

Amalgamating a linked infant and junior school is achieved through the technical closure of one of the schools and performing an extension in age-range at the other. As such, the statutory process defined below must be used for school organisational changes of this nature;

Stage	Description	Timescale
1	Cabinet decision to proceed with consultation on proposed amalgamations	One day
2	Informal period of consultation – including public consultation meetings at affected schools.	Minimum of 6 weeks (exclusive of School Holidays)
3	Full Cabinet decision to issue statutory notices of closure	One day
4	Publication of Statutory Notices	One day
5	Statutory four week period of representation	4 weeks (as prescribed by legislation)
6	Final decision – made at full NCC Cabinet meeting	One day
7	Implementation – one infant/junior school closes and the other extends its age range and gains full primary school status. Implementation date can be changed to suit needs of individual schools.	One day

To allow the smooth transition to ‘all-through’ primary status, NCC will aim to progress any amalgamation so the new school becomes operational from the **1<sup>st</sup> September** or the start of the new academic year. However, in an ‘emergency’ situation where it is considered that the continued operation of an infant and junior school model is harming the interests of the pupils attending the school, NCC will consider progressing an amalgamation as soon as feasibly possible.

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**Rebecca Knight**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** amalgamation policy

To whom it may concern,

As the Local Authority is fully aware we became Denfield Park Primary School following the amalgamation of Hayway Nursery and Infant School and Denfield Park Junior School so we have direct experience of this process.

We have been a Primary School since 2012 and can only report positives about the impact that this has had on pupils, parents, staff and the local community.

As a school we fully support this policy.

Should any schools pursue this route I would be very willing to share my experience of this & how we managed a smooth transition & I still have a couple of governors who were also part of this process and I am sure that they too would be willing to share their experiences.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Denfield Park Primary  
NN10 ODA  
01933 355961



**Rebecca Knight**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Subject:** Amalgamation

Good afternoon

I would like to respond to the consultation in favour of the amalgamation of South End Infant and Junior Schools. I feel that this would be hugely beneficial to the pupils to have one journey from the start to the end of their primary phase, rather than two separate ones, in terms of both their academic and emotional learning.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
**South End Junior School**  
**Wymington Road**  
**Rushden**  
**Northamptonshire**  
**NN10 9JU**

**T: 01933 314611**  
**W: [www.southendjunior.com](http://www.southendjunior.com)**  
**Twitter: @SouthEndJrSch**

**Working days: Tuesday-Thursday**

**Rebecca Knight**

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Subject:** Amalgamation of Infants & Junior schools

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good morning

These are my thoughts on the proposal of an amalgamation policy.

I have been a head teacher in Northamptonshire for 10 years. Five of these years was at a primary school and five years at a Junior school.

I am currently a head teacher of a Junior school on the same site as the Infant school. We have many issues and difficulties we are faced with when children transfer to us in Year 3.

The children take time to settle into y3 due to differences in approach and practice in the junior setting. We spend at least a term plugging basic gaps in their learning which are missing. One seamless primary education would not only benefit the children, but parents and teachers too.

We do collaborate and work with the Infant school but this has not been effective in enabling children to fulfill their full potentials.

Parents struggle with new procedures, even simple ones like a new reading scheme.

As an experienced head I wholeheartedly support the merger of infant and Junior schools to enable a primary education to be the way forward. Many of my staff also leave to gain KS1 experience in another setting. Recruitment in a Junior school is also difficult.

I do hope the policy is adopted and all children given equal access to an education with the best possible chances of succeeding.

Kind regards

[Redacted Signature]  
**South End Junior School**  
**Wymington Road**  
**Rushden**  
**Northamptonshire**  
**NN10 9JU**

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**Twitter: @SouthEndJrSch**

**Rebecca Knight**

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Subject:** amalgamation policy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am in agreement with the policy and see only benefits for a combined all through school, many of which are set out in the proposed policy. I also believe that amalgamation falls in line with Ofsted's curriculum improvement and primary schools have a better means by which to deliver this. Separate sites, with the best will in the world, drive in different directions making transition for some very difficult, including parents.

Having been involved as a staff member and governor during an amalgamation I also believe it builds a cohesive relationship between stakeholders and a clearer vision to follow.

Kind regards

[Redacted Signature]

 **Higham Ferrers**  
Junior School

Tel: 01933 312748

**Rebecca Knight**

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation —  
**Subject:** Re NCC's Amalgamation Policy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good afternoon.

I have consulted my Governing body on this policy.

We agree with it in principal but would like a point added to ensure that both schools have to be made aware at an early stage of any irregularities (stated in Policy section 10) which may detrimentally impact the other setting. No surprises!

Regards

Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School  
Wharf Road  
Higham Ferrers  
Northants  
NN10 8BQ  
01933 312904

*Together, we enjoy learning in a happy, caring and friendly environment*

**Rebecca Knight**

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Subject:** Amalgamation of South End schools

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To Whom it may concern,

As a member of the Year 3 team I feel that I have experienced regularly the downfalls to a separated school system.

I feel my duty as a teacher is to ensure that children transition smoothly between schools and years and this is sometimes rather difficult due to the differences in school schemes, expectations and routines. Although children do settle well into the junior school, this could be improved by consistency throughout the years R-6. The schools follow different English and Phonics schemes which then uses up valuable lesson time reteaching the different ways and sometimes making it more confusing for the children who needs the most consistency and routines. It would be great to have more opportunities for children to visit the 'Junior School' building more times before moving up to Year 3 so there is less worrying from children and parents. I believe that if the school was to become a primary school that the consistency throughout years r-6 would improve, transitions would become smoother and there would be more time given to children on other areas needed instead of reteaching similar things in a different style according to school.

Another valuable point is that if the schools became one then data would be more consistent as Years 2 and 3 would have more and need to work more closely together. If staff were to work together more closely then they would be more aware of the different expectations of each year group but also where the areas of concern or strengths are prior to teaching.

Despite the schools being quite different in styles the priority should be the need for consistency for the children. I strongly believe that the more staff working together means an outcome of more ideas and opportunities to help one another improve children's learning and making it memorable and exciting. There are many parents who are often anxious about the moving of schools and with a joined school this could also be overcome.

There are very little negatives that I visualise for the children by becoming one school, if any. I hope that these points are considered and would be happy to discuss further if needed as I feel very passionately about the need for children to get the best from their school years.

Thank you for your time.

[Redacted]  
**South End Junior School**  
**Wymington Road**  
**Rushden**  
**Northamptonshire**  
**NN10 9JU**



**Subject:** Reminder: Consultation: Northamptonshire County Council Amalgamation Policy

Hi Chris

Anne and I have commented on our experience of the amalgamation below. I was not actually here when the two schools joined but did work in a Junior School prior to joining Redwell and Anne was the Head at the Infants, so we both have experience of separate Infants and Juniors and now Primary.

**Negatives:**

Loss of £110,000 lump sum for one school – initially balancing the budget  
 Up to date condition survey to address building issues of each school before amalgamation  
 Cost to physically join each school to ensure a true through primary school  
 Need for a successful, experienced Senior Management Team across both Key Stages to bring it all together (support from NCC)  
 Disruption to both schools while amalgamation takes place

**Positives:**

Consistent curriculum across the school  
 Consistency for parents / pupils / staff in expectations  
 Transition is smoother  
 Older children can be used as peer support in lower school – role models  
 Shared staff expertise  
 More staff – spread the roles and less workload for teachers  
 One staff team, joint staff meetings, training, etc  
 One Headteacher – would possibly require larger SMT and different leadership structure  
 One School Business Manager – would require an experienced SBM to oversee the amalgamation– can restructure existing teams using skills and expertise of current staff  
 Joint policies and procedures for continuity for the children and families  
 Experience offered to staff to work in both key stages  
 1 governing body and SMT with 1 vision

**Our experience of building since amalgamation;**

It is a shame that the sports hall does not comfortably fit the whole school in, a few more meters would have done it! Consider a full size adult sports hall.

There is a need for a staff room large enough for all staff to gather

Consider kitchen requirements for school meals in both key stages

Consider more storage space for tables, chairs and sports equipment for each hall

**Rebecca Knight**

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Subject:** Primary school Plans

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am emailing to you in regards about turning all Northamptonshire Infant and Junior Schools in to primary schools.

I am a TA in a Junior school in year 3 and have children at both the junior and infant schools. I believe a primary school would serve all our pupils much better for many reasons.

In year 3 we spend quite a few weeks settling children in and showing them round a new school and getting them used to the new routines etc, this is time when we could just be educating the pupils if we were one school. As a parent it would also help as it would not mean a completely new set of uniform. One behaviour plan and the same set of exceptions would be better for pupils throughout their primary education.

I feel SEN pupils miss out on the support they need by having two schools as we often seem to start from scratch in getting them the support they need once they start junior school. I have an SEN pupil in year 5 and although it was recognised that he had problems in reception he is only just getting the support he needs as all the extra support he had stopped once he started junior school.

One school would mean a smooth transition between years 2 and 3 and mean the junior school would agree with the infants levels more. We would be working as a whole school from reception to year 6 to achieve what is best for the pupils.

Kind regards

[Redacted]  
**South End Junior School**  
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**Rushden**  
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Telephone No. 01933 356571

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body and staff of South End Infant School in response to the proposed amalgamation policy. Governors and Staff have also been offered the opportunity having read this document to submit their own personal responses should they feel it necessary.

South End Infants had a long standing Headteacher until January 2020 when I came as his replacement. When he made his intention to retire public knowledge the Governing Body of the Infant School worked on a lengthy amalgamation discussion with South End Junior School with the intention of exploring the possibility of a single Primary structure moving forward.

After much investigation it was decided that at that point the potential educational outcomes did not outweigh the disruption to pupils and staff and the timing and manner of an amalgamation was not right for the Infant School. On that basis it was decided that a new Headteacher should be appointed and interviews were held in June 2019.

The decision making process was tremendously difficult and time consuming for both schools and caused an extended period of uncertainty for all staff. Regardless of the decision not to amalgamate, Governors and Staff of the Infant School remained committed to providing the best educational outcomes for the children which, as research shows and the proposed amalgamation policy reflects, is a seamless transition through EYFS to Upper KS2 that is most traditionally delivered via a single Primary school structure.

With this in mind, the intention for the Infant School to develop closer links to the Junior School was always at the forefront and an integral part of the appointment process for the Infant School Headteacher and candidates had to give a strong presentation about how this could be best achieved. As it was a Headteacher post an NCC representative was involved throughout the recruitment process supporting Governors to make a strong appointment that facilitated Primary outcomes via separate Infant and Junior schools.



My appointment was made based on my commitment to achieve a Primary outcome without the necessity for amalgamation maximising partnership working as two separate schools. As I am an experienced teacher and leader of schools encompassing EYFS to KS2 I have a clear idea for how this can be achieved. Governors and Staff have just made a major decision on a single Primary structure and for extremely valid reasons voted against it with the full awareness of NCC. Therefore I strongly believe that for the South End Schools an amalgamation at this point would be a form of rebranding of the two schools that would have no meaningful change to current or intended practice. They would, in fact, remain disparate key stages under the one corporate title particularly if it were forced or driven by one or other of the schools.

Currently my understanding is that neither school could trigger the implementation of the amalgamation policy if it were, as I expect it will, be approved. Educational outcomes of both schools are good and finances at this point are sound. I am very aware that the Junior School has a perceived recruitment and retention issue that they attribute to being a single Key Stage School. However further work would need to be done to investigate the cause of this as staff may have left to relocate or seek promotion rather than actively widen their experience into KS1 or Early Years which would be the attraction of a Primary School. There is no such retention issue at the Infant School where staffing has remained consistent for a number of years again reinforcing that Primary opportunities may not be the root cause for staff turnover elsewhere.

South End Infants School Staff and Governors are not in opposition to the intention and underlying pedagogy of the proposed policy as we share the overriding aim of achieving the best outcomes for all children. However we would suggest that some minor adjustments in order to help implement the policy in a fair, consistent and effective manner should the need arise for any Northamptonshire Schools in the future.

We would like to see:

- A statement making it clear that no single school is able to drive the proposed amalgamation of two schools. We would like it to be explicitly stated that an amalgamation proposal could only be instigated by NCC based on strict adherence to the trigger guidelines of the policy
- The statement in section 11 be reworded to say that amalgamation (could only) occur if this is the best way to achieve the educational advantages set out in this policy.

Yours Sincerely

**Rebecca Knight**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Schoolconsultation  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** response to consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

As Head Teacher of Alfred Street Junior School, I am in support of the rationale behind the proposal to amalgamate Infant and Junior Schools within Northamptonshire.

It is my opinion that it can only be of a positive benefit for all children involved. An amalgamation will ensure consistency of expectation and approach thus giving all children a better standard of education.

Many children and parents experience unnecessary anxiety when there is a move to the Junior School, something which could be avoided if they were educated in a Primary School. For many children, a move to a different school, can also mean an expectation of a change in their 'Character Development'. From the age of 3 or 4, they have had a set of values, rules and expectations instilled upon them that may be suitable for an Infant school and if those values and ethos are different from that of the Junior Setting, this can be very difficult for the children to change once embedded. In our Junior Setting, we have found that many of the children when they come to our setting, lack resilience and independence, which can result in extreme and challenging behaviour, and impacts upon standards, moral and well-being across the school. It also takes a significant amount of time to start teaching and embedding these skills.

A transition to a different school, that follows a different approach or pedagogy to the teaching of many of the subjects, can also be a barrier to learning. It is very difficult to ensure progression of skills and build on prior knowledge, when the Infant school are following a different curriculum and when there is a lack of liaison between the two schools. This could also have a negative impact upon a Junior school when they are inspected under the New Ofsted Framework September 2019, which has a focus upon the children retaining information and building upon prior learning. In Year 3, the prior learning is not something we can have an influence over, yet we would still be judged on this. It is also my experience, having worked in four different Junior School settings, that the children take a significant amount of time to adjust to the Junior School expectation and routines. The teachers also have to spend time getting to know the children and assessing their existing knowledge. This inevitably leads to some wasted learning time and can be a barrier to children making accelerated progress – a barrier that would not exist in a Primary setting. In a Primary setting, we would also be able to readily draw upon the knowledge and experience of our KS1 colleagues in helping to meet the needs of KS2 children who are still operating at KS1 standard. It would also be hugely beneficial in a Primary School, to be able to readily draw upon physical resources to support low KS2 learners in their learning.

A transition to a Primary school from two smaller schools, may also have a positive impact upon staff workload as the leadership of subjects can also be more widely spread over a greater number of teachers.

For our parents, as we operate from two different sites that are a 15 minute walk away, an amalgamation would also ease their routines, as currently both schools start their school day at 9.00am, as do most schools, and this can often result in children being late as they have to get siblings to school at the same time. This also has an impact upon a school's attendance.

I agree that a change to a Primary setting would also have huge budgetary benefits for two smaller settings who have falling numbers, and as a result depleting budgets. An amalgamation would mean shared resources for the children, such as access to practical equipment, books and schemes that support learning at different levels. It would also mean that savings could be made on things such as staffing, premises costs such as cleaners, insurance,

service level agreements, shared training and CPD costs, maintenance and utilities, so that the monies saved could be spent on improving the standards and experiences for the pupils.

My only reservation currently is that I do not think the policy makes clear how the cost implications of an amalgamation will be covered. For example will NCC be covering the cost of any redundancies that occur during the process? Will the monies saved from amalgamation go directly to the new Primary provision? Will NCC be funding the cost of any building work, changes needed to a site, decoration and resourcing needed to expand a school into a Primary Setting?

I also feel that due care and attention should be given when considering which site would be expanded under an amalgamation, to the impact it would have upon the local community, the views of the wider community and the history of a school.

Kind regards



Alfred Street Junior School  
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Northamptonshire  
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T: 01933 353762



# Long Buckby Junior School AM11

South Close, Long Buckby, Northampton NN6 7PX

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e-mail

[www.longbuckbyjunior.co.uk](http://www.longbuckbyjunior.co.uk)

## Re: School Amalgamation Policy Consultation

Dear Mr Wickens

Please see below the response to Amalgamation Policy consultation from Long Buckby Junior School.

Aspect of policy	Comment
Under-pinning Rationale – contributing to school improvement. <b>Is this correct?</b>	Junior Schools have been shown to outperform Primary Schools at Key Stage 2 – Ofsted School Inspection Handbook, <i>'Pupils at Junior schools, on average, have higher attainment scores at the end of Key Stage 2 than pupils at all other primary schools'</i>
Introduction – point 2. 'Northamptonshire's amalgamation policy aims to establish combined 'all-through' primary schools with continuity across the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The policy is based on an educational rationale that will contribute to school improvement. The policy enables amalgamation to be undertaken within current school development planning and funding opportunities.	What educational rationale is this based on? No references are given. What does the evidence show happens to progress within recently amalgamated schools in the period after one school was closed?  What does this mean? Is the LA going to provide funding for extending existing buildings or a new build?
Reducing the number of changes for children in a school system strengthens continuity and progression for children and families in the primary phase, both in terms of the curriculum and pastoral experience. Research shows that the fewer moves children have during their school career the better they perform.	What evidence is this based on?
Organisational structure is aligned with the National Curriculum Key Stages. Planning across Foundation, Key Stages 1 and 2 as a coherent whole for the primary phase	The coherent flexibility between key stages only works when the school shares a site. What would happen if the schools are opposite ends of the village from each

<p>provides greater flexibility across and between the Key Stages.</p>	<p>other? This statement seems to assume that a school is made up of classes of 30 children with no mixed classes and can adopt a consistent structure year on year. Many village schools have to change year groups within a class on a year on year basis.</p>
<p>Teachers and classroom staff have access to the whole primary curriculum. This supports and informs whole school planning, assessment, pastoral systems and provides opportunities for wider staff development and experience across the full primary phase.</p>	<p>If the school is working across two, quite distinct sites which are a car drive apart this minimises how staff can access the whole curriculum. Are the 'funding streams' going to produce new builds for all through primaries so that they are on the same site?</p>
<p>National evidence shows that 'all-through' primary schools create more consistency between year groups and key stages in learning, planning and assessment. There is improved use of teachers' skills, specialist teaching and improved pastoral arrangements, as well as benefits for management, leadership and financial management.</p>	<p>By 'all through' does the evidence mean within the same building? Just renaming two schools a primary school but keeping them in their existing, separate buildings does not make them an 'all through' school. The roles would still need to be replicated at both sites apart from Head Teacher. However, there would be a need for a strong, experienced (expensive) head of school to run the site in the absence of the head.</p>
<p>A single governing body provides strategic governance and vision, accountability for the all the primary key stages and outcomes, and acts as a critical friend to the headteacher across the school phases. A headteacher of a combined 'all-through', primary school provides over-arching leadership of the school and enables the establishment of coordinated senior leadership arrangements across the school. A combined primary school aids recruitment and retention of the headteacher, and other staff, which has been an issue with separate infant and junior schools.</p>	<p>The governors do this already, irrespective of the school type.</p> <p>This is VERY hard on a split site school. Will the LA pay for the extension of existing sites or new builds to make this happen?</p> <p>Recruitment and retention has not been an issue so far. What evidence is there that this is a particular concern for Infant and Junior schools? There are no references. The recruitment and retention is an issue across all phases of school.</p>
<p>Combined schools sharing the same site are able to maximise the efficiency of their resources. This is of particular relevance in the current economic climate and Government policy moving towards a schools national funding formula. A combined school staffing structure removes duplication and support functions can be consolidated across the single school. This has a positive impact on the</p>	<p>What if the schools do not share the site and are a drive away from each other? The roles would still need to be duplicated. Are NCC planning on extending existing sites or commissioning a new build? This is vital for the savings.</p>



<p>revenue budget. If the school site and its accommodation are managed as a single entity there is greater flexibility and there can be a strategic approach to capital investment.</p>	
<p>NCC will require Governing Bodies of all separate infant and junior schools to consider amalgamating the two schools when one or more of the following circumstances arise unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A headteacher vacancy arises in either or both schools;</li> <li>• Pupil numbers are 25% or more below admission number in either school;</li> <li>• Ofsted inspection in one of the schools identifies 'special measures' or repeated 'Requires Improvement' judgements;</li> <li>• One of the schools has been judged to be 'inadequate' and no academy solution can be found;</li> <li>• One or both of the schools involved is judged to be a 'School causing concern' by NCC;</li> <li>• Other situations whereby the educational provision would be improved; through amalgamations. For example, provision of SEN support, building and accommodation issues, staffing recruitment and retention issues;</li> <li>• One or each school cannot set a balanced budget or is experiencing financial problems.</li> </ul>	<p>Yes – agree.</p> <p>What if the role is rising in the Junior School but not the Infant School? Will the Junior school be made to reorganise even though it is picking up new families that come into the village and also children who did KS1 somewhere else and choose to come to the Junior School in Year 3?</p> <p>Yes – agree. Will support be given to the new head of the amalgamated school to organise the staffing changes that would also need to happen?</p> <p>Would both schools be made to become an academy? What if the school that had a 'good' Ofsted didn't want to become an academy? There is nothing in law that can be done to make them become an academy.</p> <p>What will this be based on? How transparent is this process? Which school will be extended and which one closed?</p> <p>This seems very general. Will NCC be using the threat of amalgamation over schools before they get given extra funding for vital works to be done. Is it going to be – yes you can have your new roof but you need to amalgamate.</p> <p>There are lots of small village primary schools struggling with finances. Are they going to be made to amalgamate with another school? What if one school has been financially managed correctly and is not experiencing financial problems and the other school has not been managed effectively and is experiencing financial problems – which school closes and which one gets extended?</p>

## In summary:

- This policy is dependent upon 'all through' meaning a school on one site sharing a building. This is the only way that resources can be shared effectively. A school run across two sites would remain two separate schools in all but name.
- With regards to saving resources – many of the Junior and/or Infant Schools are actually bigger than the village schools that are all through. For example a Junior School that is at capacity at 216 is surely more cost effective than a village school that has 80 children in total across all 7 year groups.
- The issues raised regarding performance could also be questioned. On a quick glance of the DFE Compare Schools Performance website – 14 Junior schools were found in Northamptonshire, 12 were good and 2 were RI. This is 86% of them good. How does this compare to the percentage of all through primary schools? Of the 17 Infant Schools that could be found on the same website – 4 were outstanding, 9 were good, 4 were RI. This is 76% good or over. How does this compare with primary schools in the LA? Is the difference drastic enough to justify the expense and disruption of a countywide amalgamation of all infant and junior schools?
- There is a danger that amalgamated schools will potentially lose good staff through restructuring which has been forced on them due to issues at another school. This would not seem to be a positive start to any new school and would lead to a drop in standards – at least initially. There is no indication of either the financial savings that can be made by amalgamation or the cost to the LA of amalgamation in the consultation document.

We trust the above views will be shared with the necessary council officials before any decision is made that could have a massive impact on the children in Long Buckby.

Yours sincerely

PP

[Redacted signature area]

**Response to consultation re: proposed NCC amalgamation policy-Tennyson Road Infant school, Rushden**

In response to the consultation on the proposed NCC amalgamation policy, we would like to make the following comments on behalf of Tennyson Road Infant school and from a primary school perspective.

**Aims of the policy**

- We agree with the educational aims of amalgamation of infant and junior schools, to provide improved continuity and progression for children.
- We agree that the amalgamation of infant and junior schools would remove a required change of school at the end of year 2 and improve transition to year 3.
- We would hope that the amalgamation of infant and junior schools would reduce the number of transitions for children but in practice we have found that other factors affect this-in year transfers for children to other schools and receiving in children from other schools will NOT be reduced as a result of amalgamation as schools are often not notified beforehand by the parent, nor by admissions. Parents are able to apply for another school place, without speaking to the school and without completing the in-year transfer form as per NCC policy. Sometimes, the first time a school knows a child is leaving/has left/is joining them is when a letter is received from admissions notifying the school of the child's new place.
- We agree that the time for a newly amalgamated school to begin should be September, the normal transition times for all children. Any other times in the year would not be beneficial for children. This also allows for proper statutory consultation with stakeholders and for proper planning and preparation to be in place to ensure successful transition for children and staff.
- We agree that infant and junior schools working together as a precursor to amalgamation is essential to ensure that children in all stages-EYFS, KS1 and KS2 benefit from this.
- We agree that one school should extend its age range and discontinue the other school.
- We agree that the accessibility of the building is essential to consider.

**Conditions for NCC enactment of the policy**

In relation to when the local authority wishes to/needs to enact an amalgamation of an infant and junior school, careful consideration must be given to the conditions that prompt this:

- We agree that natural situations such as when one of the head teachers leave is a sensible time to amalgamate the two schools, while still maintaining the September start for the newly- amalgamated school.
- If one of the schools cannot set a budget, this should be looked at first to see if savings can be made within that schools budget before any amalgamation is proposed.
- Caution should be taken if using repeated Requires Improvement Ofsted judgements as a condition for enacting amalgamation, especially as these judgements could be and are likely to be, under different Ofsted frameworks, where schools would have been judged Good if the framework had not changed. Individual cases should be considered. This condition should not be used alone.

For many years past, and to come, I believe, the Government's Education Policy has been, and will be, geared for a two-tier system model of Primary and Secondary. As a result, there are few LAs that retain lower-middle- upper or infant-junior-secondary models. Why? The National Curriculum, Key Stages, SATs at Primary and GCSEs at Secondary all fit the Primary-Secondary model; there are no split Key Stages in the Primary-Secondary model.

Continuity of education, consistency of policy and fewer transfers better suit our children. Having children in our care/education in an establishment for longer affords the staff a better opportunity to get to know the children, and vice versa, and for staff to better meet their needs.

Parent would benefit from having all their own under 11-year old children on one site; it would make to logistics of dropping off and picking up so much simpler. This logic also applies to communication, philosophy on approach to education, parents evening an events.

Addressing the Infant-Junior model, resulting in Primary, also tackles the outcomes at KS1 and outcomes, both attainment and progress, at KS2.

**I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document.**

Head teacher recruitment is a serious challenge so combining Infant-Juniors reduces the need to recruit by 50%; it's in children's best interests to have a leader, and hopefully a good one.

Governor recruitment is also a challenge so combining GBs is good; the change might invigorate parent and community interests and aid recruitment.

**I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document.**

In terms of funding, the 50% reduction in school sites by combining, the lump sum costs to the LA will be reduced by 50%; this will be an attraction to the Finance Department but this change isn't about short changing the education provision of our children, quite the reverse.

**I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document.**

Under 'Policy', I support the points bulleted under No. 10; however, I feel a more strident approach should be taken and the amalgamation be 'encouraged' by NCC in the best interests of children and accept no 'truck' from GBs/HTs lacking vision or dragging their feet.

I agree with No.11.

With regard to No.12, this would need to be supported by SIAs, and the like, acting as brokers in the first instance to support governors in a professional approach.

**I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document.**

There are issues around staffing that I do not see covered. Staff (Teachers and Teaching Assistants, office staff, site staff etc) reading this consultation document will be concerned, I feel. I think this is an important issue to address quickly as the good staff can/will get new jobs and the poor ones won't/can't; we want to keep good staff. Staff and Governors would want to know the risks to themselves/the staff and the parameters for protection. Whilst I accept that the school staff are NCC employees, what kind of 'TUPE'/protection of salaries will exist under the staff restructuring that will occur as part of restructuring/amalgamation. How will this be managed?

**Whilst I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document, I am concerned about the lack of clarity on staffing included, and the knock-on effect to staff retention, stress and absence.**

Suitability of Site is key. Sites will be chosen on capacity but any Junior school site might be big enough but not suitable for Early Years Education e.g. replicated indoor/outdoor education/play, canopies and toilets. Possibly, playground space.

I think all Primary schools should have Pre-Schools, Before School Clubs, After School Clubs offering wrap around care 8am to 6pm. This requires flexibility in accommodation; adds to the continuity, care and consistency in education. For the full Primary model, are there plans for this and is there funding?

**I would like to support this aspect of the consultation but I don't see enough information in this document to do this as yet; I look forward on clarity on this.**

I have a question on the disposal of sites. How would monies from the disposal of 'unwanted/not needed' sites be spent? I assume the earmarked funds from site sales would be used to ensure sites are fit for the delivery of Primary education and address issues around Conditions Surveys at the same time e.g. roofs, toilets; windows, IT; is this a fair assumption?

**I would like clarity on plans for disposal of sites and use of funding generated as a result.**

In conclusion, I would hope that Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School would be one of the first amalgamations. This aspiration is supported by the Governing Body of Alfred Street Junior School who would look forward to joining up with the Tennyson Road Governing Body, working together to make this a great success.

**I support the rationale for the amalgamation as set out in your consultation document.**

# Millbrook Junior School

Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP  
Tel: (01536) 517049 Website: [www.millbrookjuniors.co.uk](http://www.millbrookjuniors.co.uk)



Dear Chris

I write in response to the invitation to comment upon the Northamptonshire County Council Amalgamation Policy (January 2020).

The Governing Board of Millbrook Junior School held an extraordinary meeting of the Board on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to discuss the document.

In summary, the Board welcomes the Amalgamation Policy. The Board concluded the following:

- They fully support the reasons for amalgamating infant and junior schools as outlined in paragraphs 3 to 9;
- The criteria to be used in triggering an amalgamation (paragraphs 10 and 11) are sound and appropriate;
- While there are ways of collaborating between infant and junior schools, an amalgamation provides the best option in securing the future for the schools involved and ensuring the best outcomes for children;
- The process and 'stages' underpinning a proposed amalgamation (paragraphs 1 to 22 and 23) provide a clear basis for ensuring a successful amalgamation while recognising the need to ensure all stakeholders are fully engaged in the process and the importance of transparency and effective communication throughout.

Finally, the Board of Governors at Millbrook Junior School would welcome an urgent meeting with officers from NCC to discuss how they can facilitate discussions with both the governors of Millbrook Junior and Infant schools in developing greater collaboration between the schools. The governors of Millbrook Junior School preferred option is to move to amalgamation as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from NCC in response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

*Developing deep roots to grow the strongest trees.*

The Avenue, Wellingborough  
Northamptonshire, NN8 4ET

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Consultation on NCC Amalgamation Policy

Response from the Governing Body of The Avenue Infant School

Following review of the proposed policy for Amalgamation the governing body would like to make the following points:

1. The Governing Body feel that the benefits of 'all-through' primary outlined in the draft policy can also be achieved by strong partnerships between linked infant and junior schools, in terms of curriculum and pastoral support in particular.
2. The Governing Body feels there should be greater regard for reviewing each individual case in the process; for example, for infant and junior schools that do not share a site, would an amalgamation provide any more than just cost saving in terms of leadership structure and capital investment? Point 11 suggests that the educational advantages might be assumed and the policy enforced regardless of the strengths of current arrangements in separate schools and their partnership working.
3. The example of providing opportunities for older children to take on responsibility in an 'all-through' primary can also be achieved through partnership working between infant and junior schools but also in an infant school the Year 2 pupils are given more opportunities to take on responsibility as the pupils at the top of the school.
4. The policy fails to address the impact on morale of the staff and governors of the schools, which could negatively affect having the best people in the roles required.
5. The policy seems to be lacking in detail about how the roles that would be vulnerable in an amalgamation process would be resolved.
6. The Governing Body would be interested to see evidence of improvements to educational outcomes down to amalgamation alone.
7. The future success and improvements for any school should be viewed more broadly and not just a 'one size fits all' approach. Amalgamation could be through expanding infant schools to provide nursery provision which would also reduce school transitions. Creating local strategic partnerships between groups of schools, of all types, can equally provide many of the same benefits listed, in particular for teacher skills / specialism, curriculum / planning / assessment, shared staff activities and resources.

We would appreciate NCC Cabinet taking our response seriously and giving it considerable regard at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March.