

Sustainable Communities EAP Programme Update

5th February 2025

CARBON2030
NEUTRAL



North
Northamptonshire
Council

*Please do not print this report



Purpose



This report provides an overview of reports brought forth to this Committee since March 2023, it also highlights impact and outcomes of the proposals considered.

This report also provides an update on the Climate Change Investment Fund, and an overview of the Council's top 10 emitting buildings.

Topics have been divided into the six main areas of focus from the forthcoming climate change strategy – Homes & the Built Environment, Energy, Transport, Nature, Food & Farming, the Green Economy, and Waste.



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Homes & the Built Environment

November 2023

- Air Quality Annual Status Report for North Northants.
- Air Quality Strategy Update.

Impact & Outcomes

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Air Quality Annual Status Report	There is an annual requirement for an air quality status report to be submitted to and approved by DEFRA. This work is complete and available on the councils website .
Air Quality Strategy	The Local Air Quality Strategy for North Northamptonshire was adopted by the Executive on 11 July 2024 and is available on the councils website .



Energy

August 2023

- Energy Contract Procurement & Renewable Energy Options.

Impact & Outcomes

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Energy Contract Procurement	Laser has been procured for gas and electricity energy management. All four areas have now been migrated to the platform. There is additional work underway to ensure that all supplies are accounted for on the platform.
Renewable Energy Options	On 14 th September 2023, a decision was made by the Executive to not procure green energy due to concerns with Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs) and reliability of energy produced being green energy. Decision was to instead focus on the direct provision of green energy at Council sites.

Transport

April 2023

- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure & Emerging Draft EVI Strategy.
- Update on Kettering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

August 2023

- Hackney Carriages De-zoning, Byelaws & Number Limits.
- Update on Kettering LCWIP Following Public Consultation.

November 2023

- Update on Corby LCWIP Following Public Consultation.

February 2024

- Voi E-scooter Trial Update.

December 2024

- Update on Wellingborough & Rushden LCWIP Following Public Consultation.
- Update on Kettering LCWIP Following Approval.
- Update on Corby LCWIP Following Approval.

Transport - Impact & Outcomes (1/2)

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure & Emerging Draft EVI Strategy	<p>Since April 2023, the EV strategy has been refined and formally adopted by the Council in July 2024. A procurement process has now been launched to appoint a supplier, with a view to having an approved chargepoint operator in place by April 2025. It is anticipated that we will start to see chargers deployed late in 2025. The procurement value is £2.895m and the project is being funded by OZEV as part of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Programme. The strategy was pivotal in getting Government approval for the funding and commencing our procurement. This procurement represents a significant step in achieving the goals set out in the strategy. The strategy can be found here. The strategy was shortlisted in the 2024 Electric Vehicle Innovation & Excellence awards.</p>
Kettering LCWIP	<p>Since the report was presented the Kettering LCWIP was formally adopted by the Council in September 2023. Some initial design work has been undertaken on the priority schemes identified within the LCWIP. This will enable progress with a view to securing funding to progress the identified routes of the LCWIP, either through Section 106 contributions or other external funding.</p>
Corby LCWIP	<p>Since the report was presented the Corby LCWIP was formally adopted by the Council in January 2024. Some initial feasibility assessments have been undertaken on the priority schemes identified within the LCWIP. This will enable initial design work to progressed with a view to securing funding to progress the identified routes of the LCWIP, either through Section 106 contributions or other external funding.</p>

Transport - Impact & Outcomes (2/2)

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Wellingborough & Rushden LCWIP	This LCWIP is due to be reported to Executive in March 2025 for formal adoption.
Hackney Carriages De-zoning, Byelaws & Number Limits	Since August 2023, the Executive agreed to remove the 4 hackney carriage zones in the Authority's area on 11 July. The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing policy has also been reviewed to take account for these changes, and other matters which required attention in the original policy. An application has also been made to the Department for Transport to approve a new set of Hackney Carriage Byelaws for North Northamptonshire, if approved the four existing sets of byelaws will be revoked. All of this work is currently projected to take effect on 1 April 2025, subject to approval of the final set of Byelaws by the Department for Transport. Reports are going through the Licensing and Appeals Committee, Place and Environment Scrutiny, Executive and Full Council. If 1 April 2025 is not achievable then the reports request delegated authority to the Place and Economy Executive Director to set a new implementation date based on the conclusion of all necessary works.
Voi E-scooter Trial	Since the report to EAP, DfT has confirmed that trials will run until May 2026. Over 1m rides have now been undertaken in North Northants. Usage grew 11% in 2024.

Nature, Food & Farming (NFF)



March 2023

- Presentation on the North Northants Sustainable Food Network.

April 2023

- Contaminated Land Strategy and Hardship Policy.

June 2023

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Engagement.

October 2023

- Pollinator Strategy Update.
- Woodland Management Update.
- North Northants Greenway Strategy.

June 2024

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update.
- Urban Greenspace Audit & Strategy.

August 2024

- North Northants Tree Planting Strategy Aims & Objectives.



NFF - Impact & Outcomes (1/2)

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
North Northants Sustainable Food Network	The NN Sustainable Food Network continues to deliver a range of initiatives across the county. More information can be found on their website .
Contaminated Land Strategy and Hardship Policy	Both policies have been formally adopted by the Council. There is no further action relating to the policies required.
Pollinator Strategy	Since October 2023, the principles of the Pollinator Strategy have been taken into account within operational delivery of services. There has been a reduction in the use of Glyphosate, increase in habitat specifically set aside for pollinators and further tree planting with an emphasis on early pollen sources for insects. Work continues to expand the number of Butterfly Banks with funding secured for the creation of 5 additional banks before the end of March 2025.
Woodland Management Update	Since October 2023, the woodland project continues to oversee the active management of several valuable green spaces including King's Wood LNR, Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods, West Glebe woods & Weldon Woodland Park. The project's outcomes support the Pollinator Strategy, Carbon Management Plan and the LNRS through biodiversity enhancement projects. It also hosts the NHLF Volunteer Officer post who has created a Social, Health and Wellbeing Hub at the Coronation Park Pavilion. Some outcomes include: 25 veteran trees identified and protected from competing growth, over 2000 whips to be planted during this season, 22Ha coppicing completed and over 200m of ride management completed to improve access, security and grassland habitat.
Greenway Strategy	Since October 2023, a further public consultation on the draft strategy was conducted. Following this the Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in August 2024. Progress continues to be made with securing funding to progress identified routes of the Greenway, either through Section 106 contributions or other external funding bids. Some of this progress was outlined in the report presented to the Executive in August 2024. Since then further S106 as been secured to implement the Washbrook Road ramp in Rushden, this project has been added to the NNC capital programme. Work will take place on the ramp from late January 2025.



NFF - Impact & Outcomes (2/2)

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	<p>Since June 2024, significant progress has been made with LNRS. The stakeholder engagement completed over the summer, drafting of the document then took place with a pre-consultation version sent to Natural England in Sep/October. Following approval of the draft, public consultation commenced, running until December 9th 2024. During December survey data was analysed and appropriate changes were made to the document and mapping portal. The updated LNRS was sent back to Natural England in January 2025 for their approval of the pre-publication document. A report is scheduled to go before the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee in February, before adopting the document shortly thereafter.</p>
Urban Greenspace Audit & Strategy	<p>The preparation of the Urban Greenspace Audit & Strategy informed the identification of a large number of projects. A shortlist of projects was presented to the UKSPF panel members in July 2024 and was approved. There were 15 projects identified over the urban areas of Corby, Wellingborough, Kettering Desborough, Rushden and Higham Ferrers. The projects include play area improvements for different age groups, tree planting, improved walkways, benches, access and interpretations. Improved habitats including woodlands, wildflower meadows and river banks. Creation of new butterfly banks, and orchards. The projects are to be completed by the end of March 2025. Currently projects are at various stages from being completed to tender, but all are on track for completion.</p>
Tree Planting Strategy	<p>Since August 2024, the Tree Planting Strategy has been published along with information aimed to better inform residents who wish to plant trees within gardens. Principles of tree planting have been adopted and are reflected in the operational delivery of programmed works. Further engagement with stakeholders continues with the expansion of volunteer, corporate, and Council planting programmes to capture vast resources and interest in tree planting.</p>

The Green Economy

February 2024

- DECODE Corby Project Update.

April 2024

- NN2NZ – Boost for Business Initiative Overview.

Impact & Outcomes

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
DECODE Corby Project	This project will end in February 2025. A deliverable is a Decarbonisation Plan for businesses in the area.
NN2NZ – Boost for Business	The NN2NZ Boost for Business programme, led by Electric Places and funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is designed to assist NN businesses to recognise the benefits of carbon reduction. By formulating comprehensive carbon action plans and assisting with access to grant funds, the programme aims to accelerate North Northamptonshire's transition to a low-carbon future. Since April 2024, a series of workshop and 1:1 mentoring sessions have been delivered, and expert guidance has been provided to businesses to support applications for funding. As part of the wider programme, 14 businesses have been awarded NNDecarb grants of up to £5,000 and a further 7 projects supported with larger Green Transition Grants (up to £50,000).

Waste



March 2023

- Future Provision of Household Waste & Recycling Centres and Waste Disposal (verbal update).

April 2023

- Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control.

October 2023

- Update on the HWRC Procurement Following the Options Appraisal Feedback Workshop.

August 2024

- Environmental Crime Offences 2023 – Fixed Penalty Fines Update.



Waste - Impact & Outcomes

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control	The order was adopted by Executive on 19th November 2023, following a two stage consultation process. This is policy is available on the councils website .
HWRC & General Refuse Procurement	Procurement of a Residual Waste Disposal & Treatment Contract, and a separate contract for Operation & Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) - These contracts are required to meet our statutory duty to dispose of waste. These two contracts are due to be awarded (subject to final contract signing) to the successful bidders in the next month (Jan/Feb 25) with them commencing activities on 1st April 2025. Mobilisation activities are already in discussion or underway. Both contracts have been procured using a Competitive Dialogue process with one of the quality questions assessed being the bidders Climate Change and Environment Plan - identifying their own business commitments to cutting carbon, as well as plans for reducing environmental impact of the activities and carbon emissions in relation to the operations and from the treatment/disposal of the waste for North Northants. These activities and data to evidence carbon emissions will be monitored and reported to NNC as part of the contract.
Environmental Crime Offences Update	The updated policy regarding new levels for fixed penalty notice (FPN) for offences related to littering, graffiti, fly-tipping, and household waste duty of care and to give a discount of 25% (i.e., discounted fine value) for early payments was approved for adoption by the Executive in December 2024 . The payment period for FPNs for littering, graffiti, fly-tipping, and household waste duty of care was also amended to 28 days and the early payment (discounted FPN level) period to 14 days.



Other



March 2023

- Carbon Management Plan Update on Short-term Activities.

June 2023

- Carbon Management Plan: Quarterly Performance Report.

February 2024

- Presentation of the New Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) Tool.

April 2024

- North Northants Climate Change Strategy Project Overview.

October 2024

- Bi-annual Carbon Management Report – Update of Activity.
- Climate Change Strategy – Proposed Strategy & Consultation Activity.

December 2024

- Climate Change Strategy – Consultation Update.

Other – Impact & Outcomes

Topic	Impact/ Outcome
Carbon Management Plan (CMP)	Work on the CMP continues to progress. Out of the 94 activities, 28 have Delivered, 55 are In Progress, and 11 have yet to commence.
Climate Change Strategy (CCS)	The CCS was presented to the Place & Environment Scrutiny Committee on 29 th January. The Strategy is scheduled to go before the Executive on 13 th February. Should the Executive approve, work will begin on development of the roadmap to Net Zero action plan for the entire North Northants area.
Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) Tool	The CCIA tool has been in use for 1-year. Since it's adoption, 223 tools have been completed/ approved, the output of which has been used to inform decision-making on Strategic Capital Board proposals, Committee papers, projects, and procurement exercises.

Climate Change Investment Fund Update



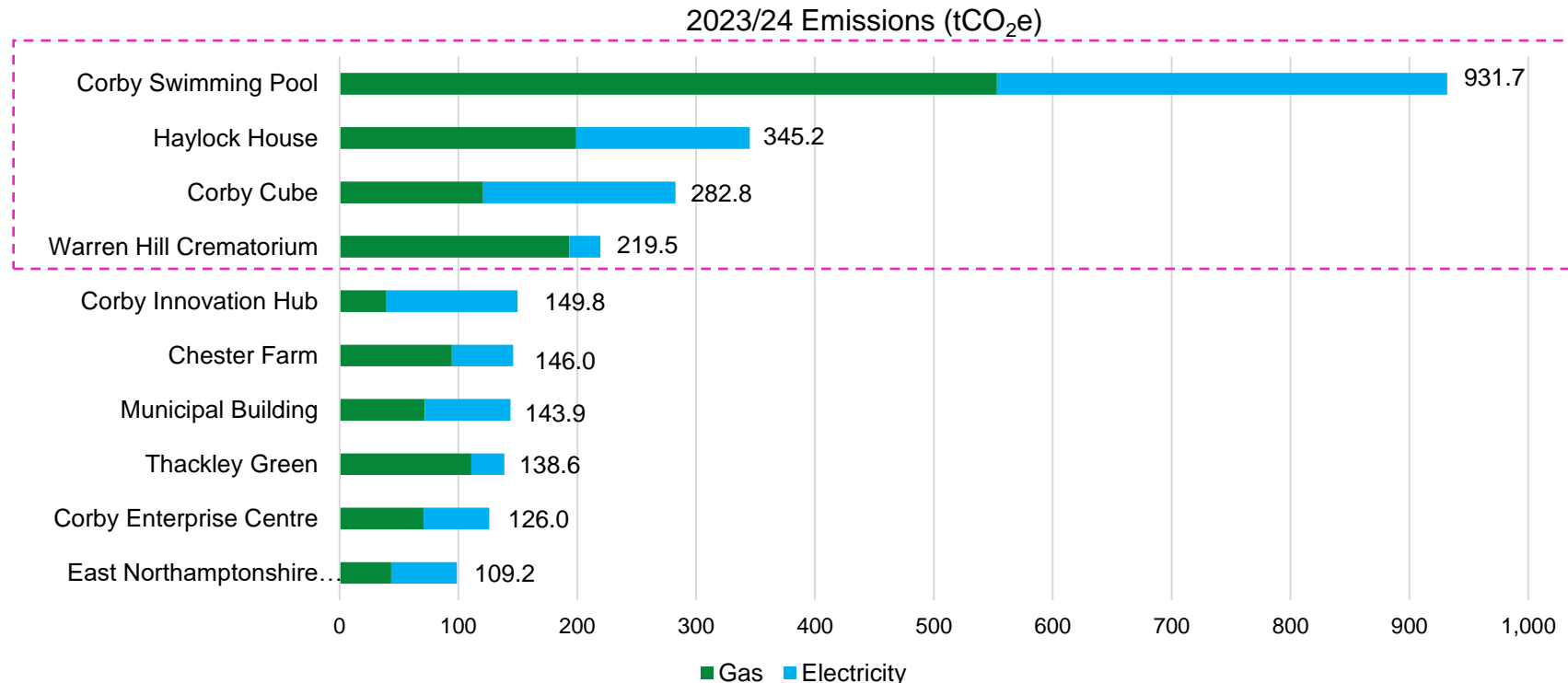
Total awarded to date is £747,080.50

Item	Purpose	Funding awarded
01	Carbon literacy training for staff and councillors	£20,909
02	Investors in the Environment Membership	£4,999
03	Tree canopy data	£3,755
04	Energy and decarbonisation surveys for Corby Sports Centre and Swimming Pool	£13,000
05	Energy and decarbonisation surveys for 10 corporate buildings with highest emissions	£65,000
06	Procurement of battery-operated equipment	£110,000
07	Procurement of 24 Stock Condition Surveys for corporate buildings	£130,000
08	Procurement of net zero and climate change adaptation and mitigation evidence base consultancy	£31,500
09	Residential Energy Efficiency & Energy Officer post	£50,000
10	Fleet Decarbonisation Options Report	£22,917.50
11	Procurement of Environmental Justice location data	£25,000
12	Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	£45,000
13	Procurement of Stock Condition and Structural Surveys for 29 buildings	£225,000



Decarbonisation Pipeline

As part of the Council's ongoing effort to decarbonise our estate a decarbonisation pipeline is in development. The pipeline will work from our Top 10 emitting buildings, which are reflected below.



Thank You!

