

CLIMATE CHANGE - ROUTE MAP TO DELIVERY

Introduction

The United Nation COP26 conference in Glasgow aimed to plot out a route to achieving net zero carbon growth by mid-century, and a lower than 1.5% increase in global temperatures. Delivery of this goal relies on everyone's contribution, not just that of national governments.

Similarly, at a local level, whatever North Northamptonshire Council can deliver as an organisation and landowner, as the deliverer of services and as an employer and educator, is small in proportion to what the whole community can deliver, working together or in tandem.

The Council adopted a framework and action plan (March 2021) and declared a Climate and Environment Emergency (July 2021) as first steps in its strategic journey on climate change mitigation. As part of this declaration a commitment was made to develop a Climate Change Action Plan to Council as soon as is reasonably practicable, setting out the earliest date that North Northamptonshire Council and the area as a whole can be carbon neutral, and establishing targets to meet that date. In February 2022 NNC announced its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 and work continues on the development of a carbon management action plan (due to be complete later in 2022) and key performance targets, to ensure the 2030 date is met.

Progress on a range of actions has been made and reported into the Climate, Growth and Environment Executive Advisory Panel in August 2021 and, through the Route Map, again in November 2021. Further reports linked to elements of the Action Plan have and will continue to be reported into the Advisory Panel. The updated Route Map will also go to full Council in March 2022.

Where the Council can act alone, it will. But the greater impact will be in forging a consensus amongst partners and with the business, voluntary, and community sectors to identify priorities and agree on targets. There are many things that can be done, but not all of them will be impactful on the scale required, or the time required, nor are all of them affordable by any one organisation or group of people. NNC's adopted framework referred to above, specifically recognises the need for partnerships to achieve objectives.

The Council also needs to set aside a dedicated resource to map out plans and strategies, co-ordinate delivery, communicate, build partnerships, monitor and report on progress and explore innovative approaches. In February 2022, NNC confirmed £1m of funding

over a three-year period to deliver actions detailed within this route map as well as other separate activity (to be determined as work progresses).

Climate change mitigation should not be seen in isolation – many of the outcomes from this strand of work also have positive impacts on health, welfare, poverty, and prosperity, on the lifetime of assets and on people’s wider quality of life. Mainstreaming these actions serves corporate and social objectives and should be seen and funded accordingly.

The following route map therefore builds on the existing Climate Change Framework and sets out what can be achieved in the short term to December 2022 to provide clear timelines on progress.

Further work will be developed on what could be delivered in the medium term (from January 2023 to December 2024) and what should be the focus of corporate effort in the longer term (2024-2030). Targets need to be set for each of these stages, but these need to be further explored and agreed with others.

SHORT TERM - April 2022- December 2022

A) LEADERSHIP, AMBITION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
Establishing dedicated resources to drive progress	By February 2022	Establish a budget for Climate Change activity as part of the current 2022/23 budget setting process. Complete – budget of £1m (in total) confirmed for the next 3 years
	By October 2021	Secure external expertise, on a short-term basis (6 months), to provide resources to drive short term actions between November and April 2022. Complete – dedicated resource in place
	By May 2022	Commission external consultants for higher level strategic work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Elected Member and staff awareness and training - Organising virtual partnership conference(s) – November 2021 - Building local network of climate change champions

	<p>By October 2021</p> <p>By July 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designing education and engagement programme - Establishing NNC’s carbon baseline output and a plan of how this can be mitigated <p>Ongoing – original commission concluded in February but resulted in no returned bids. Going back out to the market in smaller lots in March 2022</p> <p>Develop a cross-council dedicated team to focus on the work and provide future strategic direction to the council and wider partners. Complete – dedicated team in place and chaired by the Assistant Director for Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Establishing NNC Climate and Flood team. Ongoing – business case complete and recruitment process to begin in Spring 2022</p>
<p>Increased awareness and understanding of the Climate Change agenda amongst members</p>	<p>From January 2022 onwards</p> <p>From May 2022 onwards</p>	<p>Member workshop sessions on Carbon Literacy with a view to becoming an accredited Carbon Literacy organisation</p> <p>Ongoing – Carbon Literacy training scheduled for March and May 2022</p> <p>12 month rolling programme of awareness sessions on climate change threats and mitigations, actions taken to date, and examples of best practice.</p> <p>Not started – programme to be developed in the next 3 months</p>
<p>Increased awareness for staff (beginning with Executive Directors and Assistant Directors) towards climate change goals</p>	<p>From March 2022</p> <p>From April 2022</p> <p>By December 2021</p>	<p>Ensure all Executive Directors and Assistant Directors undertake Carbon Literacy training with a view to cascading this out across wider teams</p> <p>Ongoing – Carbon Literacy training scheduled for March and May 2022</p> <p>Ensure that service plans for 2022-23 specifically reference climate change mitigations.</p> <p>Develop Climate Change Staff Network</p>

	<p>From April 2022</p> <p>From April 2022</p> <p>From April 2022</p>	<p>Complete – Staff Network in place</p> <p>Ensure all new job descriptions reference the importance of climate change in their roles</p> <p>Ensure the new Corporate Performance Plan includes reference to achieving corporate climate change objectives.</p> <p>Design staff induction topic to include carbon literacy training for all new staff</p>
Explore the development of a Virtual Climate Change Partnership	By September 2022	Research models of best practice and explore the most appropriate approach to engage with members of the wider community, that can collaborate with NNC and help to reduce the wider carbon footprint of the NN area.
Community engagement, awareness raising and partnership building	November 2021	<p>Host inaugural NNClimate 21 Conference to create momentum and energy behind climate change activities; engage speakers from outside and within the North Northants area. Tie into the COP26 event.</p> <p>Outcomes from the first conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased awareness of what is already happening across the North Northants geography to mitigate carbon emissions b) Consider, alongside COP26 outcomes, how these could help inform a new Climate Change and Environmental Strategy for North Northants c) Explore and develop the top 10 priorities for collective action over the medium term <p>Complete – successful conference held with over 300 views on YouTube</p>
Develop a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy and Action Plan	<p>By January 2022</p> <p>By June 2022</p>	<p>Report to EAP on the outcome of NNClimate21 conference, and the approach to be taken in developing a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy.</p> <p>Part complete – report on the NN21Climate Conference to the EAP took place in December 2021. The wider approach to developing a Climate Change and Environmental Strategy forms part of the commissioned work detailed above</p>

		Begin development of a five-ten year strategy for the delivery of outcomes that engages and consults with the sector and the public.
Development of several Single Page, high-level Policies to demonstrate strategic direction of travel	By April 2022	Single Page Policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Policy • Energy/carbon Policy

B) POLICY, FINANCE, ASSET AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
Ensure Procurement Policy and practice maximises climate change mitigation outcomes.	By June 2022	Ensure procurement rules reflect the recommendations from the Climate change framework and enable the adoption of a Social Value Approach
	By May 2022	Explore how NNC can make best use of local suppliers who have a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and promote green practices Ensure new Highway’s contract has a strong focus on climate change and clear targets on developing a low emission fleet and matching the Council’s ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.
Understand and manage emissions from fleet and property assets, to guide	By August 2022	Produce a carbon management plan which sets out the means of capturing carbon emissions from buildings and vehicles

<p>future investment priorities</p>	<p>By April 2022</p>	<p>Confirm how emissions reporting to Members and more widely is best achieved. Implement test for inclusion of capital programme bids which scores energy efficiency highly amongst intended outcomes, in time for 2022/23 capital programme</p>
<p>Understand the Energy efficiency performance of NNC owned homes, with the twin objectives of directing future investment in stock renewal and reducing energy costs for tenants</p> <p>Work with Registered Providers to understand the Energy efficiency performance of their housing stock</p>	<p>By March 2022</p> <p>By October 2022</p> <p>By July 2022</p>	<p>Develop a plan, and roll out Year 1 activity in 2022-23, enabling the Council to build a comprehensive picture of the energy efficiency of all of its house types, heating and ventilation measures, water usage and insulation across the stock. Ongoing – the first stage is to ensure all housing stock has an EPC rating and this is the first phase of activity. A further plan will then be developed to assess the energy efficiency of each home.</p> <p>Produce a baseline data set for the Registered Provider sector across North Northants</p> <p>Develop a consultation plan to engage with tenants on fuel and water usage, insulation, and future investment plans, with a view to wider dialogue later in 2022.</p>
<p>Develop a strategy for the roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP's) across the Council's estate and on street</p>	<p>By March 2022</p>	<p>Explore funding options, sites, and test practicality for further EVCPs across North Northants Update: Initial phase of EVCPs now installed and operational. First phase involved seven locations in areas without access to off-street parking. A further four sites will be installed and commissioned by end of March 2022. Engagement has taken place with NNC councillors, town and parish councils, and residents to identify potential sites for a further phase.</p>

C) SOCIETY AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	ACTION
<p>Ensure spatial planning frameworks and policies as part of the wider Strategic Plan are guided by climate change mitigation objectives</p>	<p>Begin scoping of Strategic Plan development by January 2022</p>	<p>Plans should examine and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of sites for wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, and other forms of renewable energy production - Flood protection and mitigation measures in new developments - More sustainable domestic and commercial energy usage and generation, electric vehicle charging facilities, water use minimisation - Woodland and biodiversity protection and enhancement, delivering biodiversity net gain - Blue and green infrastructure planning and support for projects such as Forests for Life, River Nene, and River Ise initiatives - Measures which encourage walking, cycling and greater use of public transport and less private vehicle usage within the design of new developments and their connectivity <p>Ongoing: Progress being made to form an officer group to drive the Council’s management of biodiversity net gain, with a paper to be presented to the Planning Policy; and Climate Change, Growth & Environment EAPs in March/April. Ise Valley Strategic Plan, the creation of an identifiable footpath/cycle link following the River Ise between Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby, and Tresham Garden Village has been created and will be reported to both EAPs and to Executive for agreement. The North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan – Issues and Scope consultation will be published to seek views on the content of the Plan on 28th March 2022.</p>
<p>Develop a Waste Strategy which focuses on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste minimisation and reduction 	<p>Completed strategy by August 2022</p>	<p>Plans to take account of changes in national policies and the roll out of those policies and maximise the opportunities arising from them.</p> <p>Update:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of a circular economy - Sustainable and local disposal and waste treatment options - Food waste collection - Green waste options - Harmonisation and simplification of waste and recycling collection - Re-use of waste materials - Fuel efficient collection methods 	<p>Individual progress on specific areas continuing from November 2021 onwards</p>	<p>By April 2022, the harmonisation of waste and recycling collection service will progress by transferring services from Wellingborough Norse to North Northamptonshire Council. This will provide the Council with greater opportunity to align services and standards across Wellingborough, common with Corby and Kettering.</p> <p>During 2022, the Council is seeking to harmonise the garden waste service, which will be informed by the consultation taking place during March and April 2022. The intention is for residents to receive the same service, funded in the same way, across the whole of North Northamptonshire.</p>
<p>Develop a local Pollinator Strategy</p>	<p>By June 2022</p>	<p>Extend the principles of the Kettering strategy throughout NN area with implementation thereafter, and engagement with town and parish councils on its delivery across the area.</p>
<p>Develop and review the Tree Planting Strategy and plans – “right tree, right place”</p>	<p>By March 2022</p> <p>By March 2022</p> <p>Ongoing throughout 2022</p>	<p>Utilise investment from the Treescape Fund for tree planting on council owned land to improve tree coverage – Complete – Trees planted early 2022. Further Treescape bid being developed for 2023 planting season.</p> <p>Establish principles by which local community groups can secure advice on tree planting on land outside the Council’s ownership. - Complete – advice provided as part of NNC’s Queens Green Canopy webpage and ongoing through the ground's maintenance team.</p>

	<p>By September 2022</p>	<p>Work alongside the Queen’s Green Canopy to maximise awareness of activity – Part complete – land page on NNCs website created with tree planting events throughout Winter planting season. Further events planned for the end of 2022.</p> <p>Understand total number of trees in NNC ownership and how this can be used for offsetting our carbon emissions</p>
<p>Develop an Active Travel Strategy</p>	<p>March 2022 onwards</p> <p>By March 2023</p> <p>By September 2022</p> <p>Ongoing from December 2021</p> <p>By September 2022</p>	<p>Continue progress of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans in Wellingborough, Rushden, Corby, and Kettering</p> <p>Develop design schemes to enable future funding bids to be submitted</p> <p>Explore the potential options for the future use of how e-scooters and e-bikes, following the end of the current Department for Transport</p> <p>Continue development of the Greenway Project through the development of the Design Study between Rushden and Wellingborough Procurement exercise complete for the feasibility study. Greenway Project Board being reset and reconvened to scope further phases of the programme</p> <p>Progress an e-cargo bike trial – using public health funding to implement a scheme during 2022. Contact to be made with Public Health in Q1 to update and progress</p>

<p>Review Air Quality Action Plans and introduce six monthly monitoring</p>	<p>By February 2022</p>	<p>Develop strategy for rolling review and regular reporting to the EAP (first report in October 2021) Complete – Initial position statement on NNC air quality reported to Climate Change, Environment and Growth EAP on 20th October 2021. Subsequent review of 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Reviews (ASR’s) undertaken by AECOM and reported to Climate Change, Environment and Growth EAP on 23rd February 2022</p>
<p>Develop an ongoing public dialogue with transport providers to explore accelerated adoption of electric vehicles</p>	<p>From October 2021 onwards</p> <p>From May - September 2022</p>	<p>Work with bus operators to explore how progress can be made to move the transport fleet to electric vehicles</p> <p>Update: The Council’s adopted Bus Strategy Implementation Plan includes a commitment to undertake a study using Department for Transport (if forthcoming) capacity funding and then develop and deliver identified priority projects through Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) funding. BSIP: North Northamptonshire bus service improvement plan</p> <p>Explore with the private hire and taxi trade on how adoption of electric vehicles could be developed. Ongoing – Measures included in consultation draft of proposed NNC Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policies to require move to self-charging hybrids and fully electric vehicles only for new applications from 2025. To utilise £80k of Public Health Funding awarded to fund two Air Quality Project Officers for 12 months to work on air quality improvements projects including looking to source and utilise grants available to work with the local hire vehicle trade to switch to electric vehicles.</p>
<p>Review the support structure for working with a local green community interest company (such as the Electric Corby)</p>	<p>By March 2022</p>	<p>Consult on effect it could have and how best deployed, with a view to any implementation taking place during 2022-24</p> <p>Update: North Northamptonshire 2 Net Zero (NN2NZ) project has commenced with support via the Community Renewal Fund. This project is led by Electric Corby and will identify potential projects and activity. Guidance is expected shortly from Government on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and it is</p>

		anticipated that this will provide further opportunities working with local community organisations such as Electric Corby.
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