

# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



Tuesday, 3 October 2023 at 10.00 am  
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House,  
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

## Committee

**Members:** Councillor Ian Selby (Chairman)

Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Gloria Johnson, Councillor Bridget Ley, Councillor Charmaine Morgan, Councillor Murray Turner, Councillor Mark Whittington, Councillor Paul Wood and Councillor Paul Martin

# Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, [via the SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

## 1. Public Speaking

The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public.

To speak at this meeting please register no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting via

[democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk)

## 2. Apologies for absence

## 3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

## 4. Minutes from the meeting held on 11 July 2023 (Pages 3 - 16)

## 5. Minutes of the Joint meeting of the Finance & Economic & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 July 2023 (Pages 17 - 26)

Published and dispatched by [democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk) on Monday, 25 September 2023.

01476 406080

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)

6. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
7. **Animal Welfare Policy** (Pages 27 - 58)

This report proposes the introduction of a new Animal Welfare Licensing Policy and a 4-week consultation period with the public, existing animal welfare licence holders and partner agencies.
8. **Climate Action Strategy Update - Post Consultation** (Pages 59 - 151)

Following a public consultation conducted, a revised Climate Action Strategy has been developed setting out South Kesteven District Council's aspirations to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change within the district.
9. **Corporate Climate Work Plan (Carbon Emission Reporting)** (Pages 153 - 166)

The climate and carbon dashboard provides an overview of South Kesteven District Council's operational carbon emissions for the 2022/23 period, including progress against the Council's carbon reduction targets of at least 30% by 2030.
10. **Environment Act - Verbal Update**

To receive a verbal update on the Environment Act from the Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection and Operations.
11. **Recycling of Batteries** (Pages 167 - 174)

This report provides information regarding options for the introduction of a domestic battery recycling service.
12. **Work Programme 2023-24** (Pages 175 - 178)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2023-2024.
13. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

## Minutes

### Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 10.00 am

Council Chamber – South Kesteven House, St.Peter's Hill, Grantham.  
NG31 6PZ



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

---

#### Committee Members present

Councillor Ian Selby (Chairman)  
Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Gloria Johnson  
Councillor Bridget Ley  
Councillor Mark Whittington  
Councillor Paul Martin

#### Cabinet Members present

Councillor Richard Cleaver (Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Ashley Baxter (Deputy Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Phil Dilks (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning)  
Councillor Rhea Rayside (Cabinet Member for People and Communities)

#### Other Members present

Councillor Ben Green  
Councillor Tim Harrison  
Councillor Graham Jeal  
Councillor Elvis Stooke

#### Officers

Richard Wyles (Chief Finance Officer)  
Graham Watts (Assistant Director of Governance, Monitoring Officer)  
Craig Spence (Acting Director of Housing)  
Anne-Marie Coulthard (Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection)  
Adrian Ash (Interim Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection)  
George Chase (Interim Waste and Recycling Manager)  
Debbie Roberts (Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects)  
Serena Brown (Sustainability and Climate Change Manager)  
Amy Pryde (Democratic Services Officer)

---

## 1. Public Speaking

### Anne Gayfer – question in relation to agenda item 7:

*“The paper says that household with a 240l silver bin will be issued with a 240l purple lidded bin. What about those who have a 120l bin?”*

### Response provided via email by the Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection:

The Council had less than 30 households with 140l wheeled bins which could be purchased as part of an initiative a number of years ago and these have not been available for some time. The 240 litre purple lidded bin is the standard size for the scheme across Lincolnshire, where residents have difficulties manoeuvring bins to the kerbside for health reasons they can request an assisted collection from an agreed location. If there are genuine concerns about space, households will be able to discuss their specific circumstances with the team.

### Anne Gayfer – question in relation to agenda item 9:

*“It is recognised that blue-rich white light (BRWL) at night is harmful to human health and ecology, due to human and wildlife circadian disruption. Furthermore, it is detrimental to road safety and contributes to undesirable sky glow, due to excessive glare caused by the so-called “Rayleigh Scattering Effect”. Finally, there is a considerable negative aesthetic impact, particularly in areas with heritage lighting. Based on the growing body of scientific research which shows that BRWL is harmful, emissions of short wavelength, blue-rich light should be minimised in all outdoor lighting applications.*

*Given that with soaring temperatures and associated disruption to weather patterns, the crisis in nature has become even more apparent over the last 2 years, it would be a shame to miss the opportunity to instal lighting that is both safe, economic and nature friendly. Has the council looked at alternatives such as “Warm White” specification, with a Correlated Colour Temperature of less than 3000K?“.*

### Response provided via email by The Sustainability and Climate Change Officer:

#### Considerations for temperature of LED lighting:

- Very early installations of LED streetlamps were associated with blue spectrum light.
- Modern LED streetlights tend towards a colour temperature of 4000k, which is a neutral white and avoids the impacts associated with higher colour temperature light.
- The light scattering effect is reduced with LED installations, due to lower light intensity and that lamps are pre-programmed to dim between midnight and 6AM.

### Considerations for bat friendly lighting:

- Certain spectrums of light have potential to interfere with the natural behaviour of insects and certain species of bats who feed upon them. Location of lamps is an important consideration.
- A trial of bat friendly streetlights was implemented on one main road in Worcestershire adjacent to a nature reserve. These lights are in the amber and red spectrum and are believed to interfere less with wildlife. Worcestershire County Council announced plans to introduce more bat friendly lighting in select areas as part of their ongoing programme to upgrade lights to LED: [More bat lights for Worcestershire as LED streetlight plans rolled out | Worcestershire County Council](#) To date, Worcestershire County Council are the only local authority to implement specific lighting in one specific location.
- It is noted that turning off the lamps during the night (a policy that some authorities have implemented) also allow the bats to resume natural feeding behaviour.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Charmaine Morgan, Councillor Paul Wood and Councillor Rhys Baker, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

## **3. Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

## **4. Minutes from the meeting held on 14 March 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2023 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED** as a correct record.

## **5. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**

The Deputy Leader of the Council drew the Committee's attention to the Climate Change Reserve proposal which was currently being considered. It was noted that any suggestions or initiatives on how the funding of £300,000 could be utilised were welcomed and would be considered at future meetings.

## **6. End of year KPI's**

The Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance presented the report that built on previous reports in order to provide an update on performance to the end of the 2022/2023 financial year. It incorporated the changes recommended by the last KPI review to outline areas of the council's performance which were successful and to advise where challenges may lay.

Appendix A within the report outline the overall performance against the original actions, as well as specific performance against the sub measures contained within those. Specific commentary was provided for each action, and summarised as follows:

- 2 of the actions were rated Green. These are actions which are on or above target as planned.
- 3 actions were rated as Amber, these are those off target by less than 10% or where milestone achievement is delayed but with resolution in place to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.
- There were no actions rated red.

It was noted that the take up of green bins had stabilised. It was queried as to whether any policies or suggestions had been discussed by Cabinet to try and increase the take-up of green waste collections.

The Deputy Leader of the Council confirmed that the number of garden waste bins was a possible indicator of residents being able to afford the £50 green bin, it suggested that residents could compost or dispose of in another way.

One Member expressed their disappointment that a Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste was not present at the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that the Committee could request attendance of a Cabinet Member in advance to the meeting in future.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection highlighted a section of the report that provided commentary around potential reasons for the performance of the use of green waste bins.

Clarification was sought around the 'baseline for growth' and what work was being done to maximise the commercial opportunities of the Council's waste services.

It was confirmed that the 'baseline for growth' was an annual growth that focused on communications through the website and newsletter which was the main core of promotion the garden waste service in place.

The Deputy Leader highlighted that trade waste used to be collected within South Kesteven by commercial contractors and it was thought that collection costs were too high. Therefore, the Council had set up a trade waste scheme where no profit was gained, however this enabled cost recovery rather than high costs paid to commercial contractors.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified that legally, the Council could not make a profit outside of a trading entity. Under the Localism Act, Council's were encouraged to set up companies if they wished to pursue commercial activities.

One Member requested an update on the progress of the insourced grounds maintenance service.

The integration of street scene with grounds maintenance had only taken place recently and the implementation was currently being monitored. It was requested that an update on the insourced grounds maintenance service be brought to the Committee in the future and to include any cost savings that had been identified.

The Deputy Leader of the Council noted there would be a cost to the Council on the closure of Environment SK Ltd. The closure process and the final position of Environment SK Ltd would be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

It was queried as to whether the Council had plans to roll out any further electric changing points within the District.

The Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance noted that there were currently no plans to increase the number of electric charging points at present, however, this topic of discussion could be added to the Work Programme for future meetings.

The action relating to the new depot was below target. The Committee were reminded of the Joint Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where the new depot project would be discussed on the 25 July 2023.

**AGREED:**

- 1. Review and scrutinise the performance against the Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators in relation to the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes.**
- 2. Use this report to inform and support their ongoing Work Programme.**

**7. Introduction of the Separate Collection of Paper and Card (Twin Stream Recycling)**

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report which outlined the adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire. The Strategy set out how the seven Lincolnshire district councils would work together with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) as members of the LWP.

The overarching aim was to protect the environment by delivering sustainable waste management services and establish best value waste management practices for the benefit of Lincolnshire. South Kesteven District Council is a "Waste Collection Authority" and had a duty to collect household waste. Lincolnshire County Council was the "Waste Disposal Authority" and was required to manage the disposal of waste collected by waste collection authorities.

The Council introduced wheeled bins for the separate kerbside collection of residual waste and mixed dry recyclable (MDR) materials in 2007. All target MDR was currently collected in one silver bin or clear sack which is then sorted at a materials recycling facility. Residents can choose to subscribe to the garden waste collection scheme which also contributes to the overall recycling rate.

In 2021/22 the recycling rate in South Kesteven was 43%, which was similar to both the Lincolnshire and average national rates. The quality of the recyclable material collected in Lincolnshire had historically been poor with around 31% of materials collected from households at kerbside being “contaminated”, meaning recyclable materials were either contaminated with other materials such as foodstuffs, nappies etc and are not able to be recycled.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection reiterated that South Kesteven District Council would be the 5<sup>th</sup> authority for the roll out of separate collection of paper and card.

Concern was raised on those residents that lived in flats, terraced houses, or houses with small gardens. It was queried as to how the Council would communicate and work with those who lived in smaller properties.

It was thought that following Cabinet, the report would go to Full Council due to the decision affecting every Ward within the District, it was queried as to why it was no longer going to Full Council as part of the roll-out timetable.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection confirmed that the team at Lincolnshire County Council would be visiting households with a particular focus on flats or those that require support to improve their recycling practices overall and to establish whether they could join the scheme.

Lincolnshire County Council were exploring options for the future for those residents that are unable to have a bin, to enable them to participate through a 'sack-scheme'.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified that there was no requirement for the report to receive a Full Council decision due to no budget amendments required or policy framework changes.

The Leader of the Council informed the Committee the new administration was fully committed to being open and accountable. Cabinet was content to consider an addition to the recommendation from the Committee to consider the item at Full Council.

It was queried as to whether the Council had the provision to implement further food waste bins in the future, which may assist residents in preparing storage space for their bins.

The Deputy Leader of the Council noted the Council that the Environment Act would mandate the collection of food waste with funding but at present the Council did not currently have the financial resources to facilitate collection of food waste themselves. The food waste bins would be reasonably smaller than 240l bins provided.

A Member queried as to whether the collection of paper card would be mandatory to residents or not.

The legislation allowed the District Council to direct how residents presented their waste. The Council were able to mandate how residents separate and sort their waste. Support and education would be provided to residents on the introduction of the separate collection of paper and card.

One Member questioned as to whether a smaller paper and card bin would be an option to explore.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection confirmed that the standard roll out of all purple lidded bins were 240l.

Further concern was raised on those residents that do not have the space to store an additional bin, it was requested what the communication strategy with residents would entail.

It was suggested that Members be provided with a briefing note to be able to answer frequently asked questions by residents within the District.

A query was raised on whether utilising communal storage areas for bins had been considered.

It was noted that some of the South Kesteven owned flats and sheltered accommodation properties had shared 1100l bins in a communal space. Furthermore, the addition of a 1100l paper and card bin could be implemented within communal spaces.

A Member queried the carbon footprint on the manufacturing of the purple lidded bins.

The carbon footprint figures were unknown; however, the information would be brought back to the Committee.

It was hoped that the carbon footprint of the manufacturing of the purple lidded bin would be incredibly less than the waste which would go into the energy from a waste incinerator or landfill.

It was further requested that the report be heard by Full Council as part of a previous timetable.

It was **proposed** and **seconded** that an amendment be made to the recommendation for the item to go to Full Council following Cabinet, to enable all Members to contribute. This amendment fell.

Concern was raised on the timescale of the report being heard by Full Council, which would delay decisions being made.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified that there was no requirement for the report to be heard by Full Council. There was a requirement for the report to be heard at Cabinet where it would be presented. The Committee could only request that Cabinet consider whether the report be taken to Full Council.

The Leader of the Council emphasised that all Members had been given the opportunity to participate in debate on this matter.

**It was proposed, seconded and AGREED that the Committee:**

- 1. Recommends to Cabinet that the separate kerbside collection of paper and card for recycling is implemented across the district.**
- 2. Recommends to Cabinet that the revised South Kesteven District Council Waste and Recycling Operational Policy is adopted.**

*(Councillor Mark Whittington abstained from the vote).*

## **8. Climate Action Strategy Update**

The Sustainability and Climate Change Officer provided a verbal update on the Climate Action Strategy.

In 2019, the UK government set the target to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the whole of the UK by 2050. We were already seeing the impacts of global temperature rise within Lincolnshire, with a record temperature of 40.3°C being recorded in the county last July.

There was a clear role for local government to shape, drive, and deliver local action on climate change. South Kesteven District Council was amongst the majority of local authorities to have declared a climate emergency. In March this year, the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee were presented with the council's first Climate Action Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy was to provide a framework for action for South Kesteven to reduce carbon emissions and safely adapt to the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate. The Strategy includes 8 key themes to be addressed as part of the Council's approach to climate change.

Following discussion at Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed for the Climate Action Strategy to go out to consultation to ensure that key partners and residents are able to input on the strategy. Working around the pre and post-election periods, the consultation was launched on 10 July 2023. Town

and Parish Councils as well as key stakeholder groups would be contacted directly to ensure they have a chance to input on the strategy.

The questionnaire would also capture information from South Kesteven residents on what actions they are already undertaking, for example saving energy at home or changing how they travel.

The consultation was open until 7 August 2023. The results would then be analysed and the content of the Climate Action Strategy reviewed in line with the outcomes of the consultation, and reported back to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the October 2023.

One Member requested an update on the next steps following the closure of the consultation.

It was confirmed that the results of the consultation would be reviewed and brought back to Committee. It was possible for the Climate Action Strategy to be considered by Full Council.

## **9. Update on upgrading street lights to LED**

The Deputy Leader of the Council present the report that outlined options of the provision of LED street lighting. The Council was responsible for 3,893 streetlamps. The Council was not responsible for streetlights on main roads such as the A1 and other highways.

It was noted that the options presented in the report demonstrated a positive payback of approximately five years.

Clarification was sought on the funding around the upgrading of streetlights to LED.

The Chief Finance Officer clarified that this item had been brought back to Committee due to the previous payback excess being 12 years due to energy costs at that time being low enough to not justify the level of investment. Due to unfortunate escalation in costs, this had been brought back to Committee for further consideration.

Members were reminded of the recommendations and were requested to base discussions around the infrastructure of wholesale replacement or replacement when a bulb is replaced with an energy efficient bulb due to coming to the end of its life.

Funding would be allocated appropriately from the existing reserves following the Committee meeting and future Cabinet recommendations.

It was suggested whether the £300,000 climate change reserve could be partly utilised for this scheme.

The Leader of the Council reminded the Committee to include any considerations for Cabinet within their recommendations.

Lincolnshire County Council had an existing policy on streetlights that the Committee could utilise as a template for conditions on the matter.

The Deputy Leader of the Council highlighted that the £300,000 climate change reserve should be used for other schemes rather than one scheme.

A concern was raised on which reserves the £1m would be taken from to fund the scheme.

One Member felt that there was not enough information provided in the report regarding dimming and turning off lights to be able to make a decision.

It was noted that following roll-out of the upgrading of LED streetlights, it was suggested there be a period of time to consult with Parish Council's on locations of where they feel the dimming or turning off of lights be appropriate.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the item would be brought back and further evidence on anti-social behavior hotspots would be requested by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Further consideration had to be given to CCTV cameras being blighted and operational effectiveness as a result of turning off streetlights.

At a previous Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it had been discussed that the £1m would be taken from reserves: £500,000 from the local priority reserve, £250,000 from the invest to save reserve and £250,000 from the budget stabilization reserve. It was hoped that the £300,000 climate change reserve be put to use on other climate change and energy saving efficiencies.

Members agreed for this item to be brought back to Committee on 12 December 2023 where further debate with 'overnight dimming' or turning off lights could be discussed.

**It was proposed, seconded and AGREED:**

1. **To proceed with the strategy for upgrading streetlights with LED lamps.**
2. **To schedule further discussion with 'overnight dimming' between the hours of midnight and 6AM or to turn off some streetlights between 1AM and 6AM.**

## **10. A1 Litter Issues**

The Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection provided the Committee with an update on the litter issues on the A1 and principles around background work on the matter.

The District Council was responsible for litter picking on trunk roads, which included the A1. National Highways were responsible for litter picking on motorways and special trunk roads and had the overarching responsibility for the use of the A1 road and its maintenance.

Lay-bys on the A1 were regularly litter picked by the District Council's street cleansing team. A consideration on this matter was the safety of litter picking on approximately 40 miles of dual carriage way through the District (from Long Bennington to Stamford). This would require a lane closure, speed restrictions and working in conjunction with National Highways to establish when other works were due to take place on the road. Works would usually be undertaken overnight to avoid disruption to motorists.

There were safety considerations to take into account between the Council's staff and other road users at the time around access, lighting, traffic and uneven ground. The Health and Safety Executive had recently prosecuted an Authority where somebody had lost their life as a result of litter-picking on a dual carriage way in Norfolk.

Due to National Highway works being undertaken overnight, the Council were reliant on the street cleansing staff volunteering to complete the works as over time, meaning they would be unavailable to work the following day. The litter-picking would take weeks to complete and would be constrained by any programs National Highways had at that time.

One Member queried whether approaching a specialist company where staff were trained to litter-pick on busy roads was a possibility.

It was noted that approximately 50,000 vehicles passed through the A1 daily and a bad impression may be given to motorists with the considerable drop in the quality of cleanliness of the side of the A1.

Newark and Sherwood District Council had successfully cleaned large stretches of the A1 during the daytime in groups of three employees. Concern was raised that people may not visit or invest in South Kesteven if the A1 stretch of road was badly presented.

It was suggested that Officers undertake work in liaison with National Highways and provide a business case on costs and options.

The Leader of the Council noted that there were lay-bys every half mile on the A1, where bins were available and emptied daily.

One Member highlighted that the scale of the litter issue on the A1 was worse in certain areas and was particularly hidden by vegetation on the side of the A1 road.

The Deputy Leader of the Council noted that other parts of the A1 outside of South Kesteven were also experiencing littler issues. The importance of health and safety was also outlined and risk assessments would be put into place.

Working in conjunction with National Highways on rolling lane closures and alignment of diaries could cause delays in operating the littler-picking.

Further concern was raised in relation to a possible litter abatement order and fines compelled against the District Council if the littler worsened.

It was suggested that a company and trained staff may litter-pick and cut the grass verges at the same time.

The Deputy Leader of the Council clarified that Newark and Sherwood District Council were closing the lanes, working through the night and had stated that previously used methods of cleaning the A1 were no longer suitable and they were now working in conjunction with an external company.

One Member queried whether Officers had the capacity to present a business case on this matter.

**It was proposed, seconded and AGREED:**

- 1. That the Committee recommend that a business case be produced by Officers and brought back to the Committee in December including costing options.**
- 2. That the Committee request The Leader of the Council to lobby on behalf of South Kesteven District Council to enable possible funding opportunities or the legal responsibility shifted back to National Highways.**

## **11. Work Programme 2023 - 2024**

The Committee noted the Work Programme 2023-2024.

The Vice-Chairman made a presentation on biodiversity and requested that the Council explore declaring a Biodiversity Emergency for the District.

The Committee agreed that the following items be brought to Committee on 3 October 2023:

- A1 Litter Issues
- Environment SK Ltd/ Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd final accounts
- Carbon Emissions reporting

The Committee agreed that the following items be brought to Committee on 12 December 2023:

- Tree Policy
- Dimming policy of LED streetlights

It was requested that the Committees remit included street scene and grounds maintenance, which was now insourced.

**12. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

The Chairman and Committee Members thanked the Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection for all her work undertaken at the Council and wished her well for the future.

**13. Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:30.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Minutes

### Joint Meeting of the Finance & Economic & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

**Tuesday, 25 July 2023, 12.00**

**Council Chamber – South Kesteven House, St.Peter's Hill, Grantham.  
NG31 6PZ**

---

#### **Committee Members present**

Councillor Mark Whittington (Chairman)  
Councillor Ian Selby (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing  
Councillor Tim Harrison  
Councillor Graham Jeal  
Councillor Gloria Johnson  
Councillor Robert Leadenham  
Councillor Bridget Ley  
Councillor Paul Martin  
Councillor Virginia Moran  
Councillor Charmaine Morgan  
Councillor Max Sawyer

#### **Cabinet Members present**

Councillor Richard Cleaver (Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Ashley Baxter (Deputy Leader of the Council)  
Councillor Patsy Ellis (Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste)  
Councillor Paul Stokes (Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture)

#### **Officers**

Richard Wyles (Chief Finance Officer)  
Craig Spence (Acting Director of Housing)  
Graham Watts (Assistant Director of Governance, Monitoring Officer)  
Adrian Ash (Interim Assistant Director for Public Protection and Operations)  
Gyles Teasdale (Property Services Manager)  
Debbie Roberts (Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects)  
Sarah Downs (Democratic Services Officer)

---

## **1. Election of Chairman**

Following nomination, it was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** for Councillor Mark Whittington to act as Chairman, for this meeting.

## **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Following nomination, it was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** for Councillor Ian Selby to act as Vice - Chairman, for this meeting.

## **3. Public Speaking**

There were no public speakers.

## **4. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Emma Baker, Rhys Baker, Ben Green, Lee Steptoe and Murray Turner.

Councillor Graham Jeal substituted for Councillor Ben Green.

Councillor Virginia Moran substituted for Councillor Lee Steptoe.

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing substituted for Councillor Murray Turner.

## **5. Disclosure of interests**

Councillor Charmaine Morgan declared that she was Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Members of the Planning Committee also declared an interest, due to the nature of the topic being discussed.

Councillor Mark Whittington declared that the current depot and proposed new depot was situated in his Lincolnshire County Council division.

## **6. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**

There were none.

## **7. Proposed Replacement Depot - Turnpike Close Grantham**

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects provided background information on the history of the current depot at Alexandra Road, Grantham. The existing depot was facing increased maintenance costs and levels of investment to meet adequate welfare facilities. The site was not large enough to accommodate

additional operational vehicles, the Council was one additional vehicle away from maximising their Operators License.

As part of the report to acquire the Turnpike Close, Grantham site a Business Case was completed in 2021. In summary the key components supporting the development of the site were:

- It had good accessibility and no conflict with neighbouring uses meaning the risk of restrictions or the revoking of the licence is mitigated.
- There were no planning risks and the principle of a depot would be supported by the Local Planning Authority.
- The site was fully serviced and benefits from all the main utilities.
- There were no major technical constraints or risks that would prevent the Council from developing a new depot.
- The site was large enough for the Council's new depot.
- The site offered flexibility for future expansion.
- It would provide productive use of a site that had been vacant for a significant period.

The primary element of the business case for the relocation of the depot was based on a single location in Grantham with close proximity to the main trunk roads on the edge of town (A1, A52, A607). This was due to a number of key considerations:

- Close proximity to the waste transfer station at Gonerby Moor Grantham
- The avoidance of duplicate depots sites that would require management, fuel, workshop and other supporting infrastructure
- The acquisition of a site in the south of the District
- The mobilisation of the workforce to 2 locations

The design team were currently at RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage 3 – Spatial coordination, this stage involved the production of spatially coordinated designs to support a Planning Application. A Design PAD meeting had taken place in mid-July and a further meeting was scheduled for September 2023, should a budget allocation be approved.

The scope of the design had changed significantly since July 2021, the development of the drawings now included waste, street scene (including grounds maintenance), the direct works organisation (repairs) and a workshop for in-house fleet repairs and servicing.

The report included a draft outline programme and key milestones:

Budget approval timetable:

- Cabinet 12th September 2023 (recommendation to Council)
- Council 28th September 2023 (Council approval for budget)

Planning:

- Submission of Planning Application 29th September 2023
- Planning Application determination (13 weeks major application) Jan/Feb 2024

Procurement:

- Prepare documents for Expressions of Interest via a framework October 2023
- Evaluate Expressions of Interest November 2023
- Tender on design and build contract December 2023 – February 2024
- Approval of contractor March 2024
- Award Contractor April 2024

Construction Process:

- Mobilisation on site May – June 2024
- Construction programme anticipated 36 weeks June 2024 – March 2025
- Handover and operational for 1st April 2025

The existing site at Alexandra Road, Grantham would remain operational until the new depot was built and handed over (no earlier than April 2025).

Clarification was sought on whether all activity would be removed from the current site and whether the Lincolnshire County Council household recycling site would still be operational at Alexandra Road, Grantham. It was confirmed that the Lincolnshire County Council recycling site would remain at Alexandra Road, Grantham. However, they may relocate in the future.

Further concern was raised on the location of the proposed new depot and neighbouring properties. It was noted that noise-impact assessments were undertaken at the new site and would be submitted as part of the planning application, noise mitigations were proposed as part of the plan for nearby properties.

The Business Case stated that construction costs would be in the region of £5.95 million and the external consultant from Gleeds had quoted £7.9 million. Clarification was sought around which cost was accurate.

It was noted that the value of land at Alexandra Road was in the region of £1.5 million (depending upon the planning permission). It was queried as to how the land could be sold for residential or industrial use if the Lincolnshire County Council recycling site would remain on the site.

One Member queried as to why the new depot would take 3-4 years to be fully operational.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects highlighted that the business case was from 2021 and was based around high level options prior to the purchase of Turnpike Close. In 2021, the costings were for a much-reduced

building due to all operations not being incorporated at that time. The Gleeds report was the most up to date business case for RIBA stage 3 which included costings, risk and included inflation.

As part of the initial business case, options were explored for the sale of Alexandra Road which in 2021, was at a high level. A further detailed analysis would be required on the future of Alexandra Road, once the site was no longer operational in April 2025.

The District Council owns a large proportion of the site at Alexandra Road which could be sold for different uses even if the Lincolnshire County Council recycling site still operated at the site. This work would be undertaken once an outcome of the new depot was known.

It was queried whether the level of design development risk and construction risk was efficient and whether the inflation contingency was sufficient, given the current state of the construction market.

The report had been produced by a qualified quantity surveyor from Gleeds. They were confident with the cost provided for the current stage of design. If any further amendments or changes were made, this may result in increases or decreases. The development and construction risk was £320,000 worth of contingency and the 4.2% for the tender inflation is what Gleeds had proposed for analysis on cost estimates.

A concern was raised that the £7.9 million costing proposed could potentially change. It was queried as to whether the Council would sign a contract for the fixed amount or contract with possible variables, and whether it would be a shared risk with the developer.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects clarified that until the Council went out to the market for the procurement and tender, the exact cost for the build would be unknown. The costings in the report were estimates for the current stage of the design. The procurement would be completed on a design and build basis and the risk would lie with the contractor.

The likelihood that the project was delivered on time and within the assigned budget was queried.

One Member sought clarification on whether any of the £100,000 contingency had been ring-fenced for future proofing and also if fees of £500,000 were typical for a project of this nature.

The average fees for a large project are typically around 15% of a construction project as a whole. However, the fees for this project are around 17% due to amends to the scope of the works incurred. The costs for the professional fees were included within the cost estimate and report.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects informed the Committee that this was a significant project. The aim was for the new depot to be fully operational by 1 April 2025, which was a tight deadline for the Council to meet. Officers had anticipated a 36-week build-out programme.

It was noted that options could be explored of how contingencies be utilised. If the projected costs came in higher than the budget then the Council may request the design team to come up with value engineering options to reduce costs down.

It was noted that due to the increase in inflation, construction materials were now costing up to 25% more than they were in 2020.

Further concern was raised on the cost of the project. The main factors for the volatility of the projects was questioned.

It was requested whether electric charging points were being considered for possible future provision of hybrid waste freighters.

It was confirmed that the new depot would include 6 electric charging points in the car park, which would be used for the Council's pool cars. Ducting for further charging points would be included in the car park for HGV's in order to future proof for any EV fleet going forward. The Council would need to liaise with the National Grid in order to secure more capacity for a larger number of EV fleet.

Clarification was sought around the number around contingency of the project.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects clarified that the original business case completed included contingency as 15% (£750,0000). Within the Gleeds report, contingency was down as risk, it was merely different terminology within the different reports.

When the Council bought the Turnpike Close, the site had only been partially demolished. The site had now been fully demolished and cleared, it was ready for development to start therefore some of the risk had been reduced.

One Member queried whether the Council had penalty clauses in relation to completing a project on schedule.

It was confirmed that timeframes would be included within the contract in terms of a retention and retention figures would be kept back upon completion for a 12-month period. Once a contractor had been agreed, the Council would be expecting them to meet timelines, any delays would be penalised dependant on whether the responsibility fell with the Council or contractor.

One Member queried whether the Officers had considered the use of communication equipment for business continuity purposes.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Corporate Projects clarified that emergency planning was a Lincolnshire County Council function. In the CCTV unit at Mowbeck Way, they currently had a radio function. The relocation of the CCTV unit was potentially being moved into the Police Station at Grantham at a future point.

It was queried as to whether the contingency allocation had been based around a high percentage of inflation and whether this would be a fixed cost.

It was further clarified the contingency allocation was a cost estimate of inflation at present, which was 4.2% in the Gleeds report.

The Chief Finance Officer set out the strategy for the depot project to proceed. There were two elements to the funding of the project: minimum revenue provision of £200,000 per annum for 50 years. The other element was based around how the project would be financed from borrowing internal cash balances or potentially embarking on external borrowing as required. However, the exposure to external borrowing would be mitigated by using capital receipts that had been received following the disposal of surplus assets.

The Council could potentially be required to pay circa £750,000 per year in interest if they had to utilise external borrowing for the whole amount. However, as stated, the actual borrowing would be reduced by the amount of capital receipts generated.

It was queried as to whether contamination had been cleared at Turnpike Close.

One Member requested the types of items that would be viewed as a possibility to be value engineered.

The Council had paid external experts to mitigate any risks of contamination and exposure was limited.

The financial liability placed on the Council could not be underestimated and there would be a new budget pressure that would need to be considered within budget strategy review and Cabinet when preparing budgetary plans.

The Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance highlighted surveys had taken place at the site following civil works which had identified no issues regarding the site. There was a service diversion due to a power cable running through the centre of the site, which would be diverted around the boundary of the site.

Potential value engineering options may include fixtures, fittings, internal finishes and external works.

It was queried as to whether any work had been undertaken on working out what the payback period was likely to be.

The payback period had not been calculated. This was an operational requirement project and the costings of new the site compared to the existing site would need to be revisited in terms of savings on both sides.

The indication of likely responsibilities expected of the Council was questioned.

It was queried as to whether there would be any problems in delaying making a decision.

One Member suggested that residents be notified of upcoming projects from the Council that may affect them.

Members were reminded that the provision of separate food waste may be implemented in the future, meaning the current site would not be suitable for an additional vehicle, due to nearly maximising the operator's license. The new site would also be suitable in line with the Environment Act requirements.

It was unknown when aspects of green and food waste from the Environment Act would be implemented as the results from the consultation had yet to be published.

One Member noted that the RICS code of conduct practice ensured a declaration of the maximum budget in the tender process.

The Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance confirmed that the budget for the scheme would be declared in the procurement documents for contractors to be aware of the budget when going through the bidding process.

Concern was raised on further costs incurred for the Alexandra Road site once the new site was fully operational. It was queried whether the costs incurred would be returned by the tenancy of the industrial units.

The Chief Finance Officer reiterated that options around the Alexandra Road site would be considered parallel with the development of Turnpike Close. The operational costs of Alexandra Road would be mitigated through possible removal of buildings which would reduce any rating liability. The only cost that would remain on that site would be on-going security.

It was queried whether Members would receive regular updates on progress of the construction and whether the budget was being adhered to. It was further questioned as to who will carry out the progress monitoring.

The Deputy Leader of the Council noted that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee's would receive further progress reports on the project, as well as any issues, if the project be approved.

The Chairman suggested that the Finance and Economic and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee's add this project onto their future work programmes.

It was suggested that the contingency fund be in place at the higher rate of 15%, in case more funds are required within the two years.

Members discussed the possible financial impact of the higher rate contingency calculation.

Concern was raised on what options would be considered if the budget and contingency were fully utilised before the project completed.

It was confirmed that once the Council had entered a contract with the construction company, the amount in the contract would be fixed to include all fees and outline project milestones. Officers would meet with the contractor on a regular basis to discuss progress on the building and fees.

A query was made on what due diligence would be given if the contractor liquidated part way through the project.

The report outlined the procurement route recommended where national frameworks would be utilised. Any contractor on national framework goes through a thorough due diligence process to assess their financial resilience and capacity.

It was reiterated that if costings were higher than anticipated, the design team would come back to the Council as the client to recommend any areas for value engineering.

Members discussed that an increase in contingency calculations may affect and increase the MRP of the project.

The Joint Committee discussed the facilities offered by other Council's in relation to their depots.

Concern was raised on Members overruling paid professionals in regard to the percentage of contingency calculations.

It was proposed, seconded, and **AGREED that the Joint Finance and Economic and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- a) Requested Cabinet to recommend to Council that an allocation of £8m be included in the General Fund Capital Programme in order to provide the funding to enable the construction of a new depot at Turnpike Close, Grantham.**
- b) Requested Cabinet to recommend to Council that Officers review the contingency calculation, considering an increase from 4.8% to 15% and the potential impact of that increase on corresponding calculations.**

**8. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

The Chairman of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested the Committees interest on visiting other waste depots locally.

**9. Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 13:55.



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 ENV861

Report of Councillor Phillip Knowles,  
Cabinet Member for Corporate  
Governance and Licensing

## New Animal Welfare Licensing Policy

### Report Author

Heather Green, Licensing Team Leader

 [Heather.green@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.green@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Purpose of Report

This report proposes the introduction of a new Animal Welfare Licensing Policy and a 4-week consultation period with the public, existing animal welfare licence holders and partner agencies.

### Recommendations

**That Committee considers the draft South Kesteven District Council Animal Welfare Policy and agrees it, with or without amendments as the basis for a four week public consultation.**

## Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Healthy and strong communities High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All wards

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

1.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Alison Hall Wright, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

### ***Legal and Governance***

1.2 Whilst each individual licensing application or enforcement decision will be judged on its own merits, a Policy ensures a transparent and consistent approach to licensing that will reduce the opportunity for challenge through the Courts. Any departure from the Policy should be based on material evidence and documented giving clear and compelling reasons.

Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

### ***Diversity and Inclusion***

1.3 An initial equality impact assessment has been undertaken and is at Appendix 2. It has not identified any significant negative impacts.

### ***Community Safety***

1.4 The draft Policy puts into place conditions and standards for all businesses seeking a licence under the Animal Welfare Regulation 2018, to ensure the safety and welfare of animals, those using the facility and the wider community.

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 2.1 This policy covers the licensable activity of Animal Welfare. It sets out the principles the Council will use when dealing with animal related licensing matters. The purpose of animal licensing is to protect animals and ensure their health and wellbeing, those using the licensed facility as well as providing protection for the public within the terms of the relevant Acts and legislative Guidance. To date, the Council has issued animal welfare licences in accordance with the Regulations but has not had a policy providing a framework to support this.
- 2.2 There is no statutory requirement for a local authority to adopt an Animal Welfare Policy. However, the adoption of an Animal Welfare Policy (“the draft new policy”) will give clarity to the public, partner agencies and applicants. It also provides a framework for Officers and Members to enable consistent decision making and transparency.
- 2.3 There is a government proposal to require that primates are kept at zoo-level standards. Whilst within the current Animal Welfare legislation it is an offence to keep primates and not provide for their welfare needs or to cause them unnecessary suffering, if the legislation is enacted the keeping primates as pets would be banned. The draft policy in 4.4 supports this proposal by including that licences for keeping primates as pets in domestic premises will not be supported.
- 2.4 As of July 2023, we had 74 licensed animal premises/activities. A register of these premises is published on our website - [www.southkesteven.gov.uk - Lists and Registers](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk - Lists and Registers).
- 2.4 The draft new policy is provided in Appendix 1.

## **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 Whether the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the implementation of the new policy as drafted or with amendments.
- 3.2 The timescales for issuing, granting or renewing a licence (8.2, 8.3 and 18.1) are all stated in the Animal Activity Licensing Process: Statutory Guidance for local authorities.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 The committee may decide that there is no need to implement a new Policy and the existing arrangements should stay in force. Outline any other options considered.

## **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

5.1 The draft new Policy supports the Authority in fulfilling its statutory duties associated with Animal Welfare licensing.

## **6. Consultation**

6.1 There is no legal duty placed upon the Council to consult on the implementation of this Policy. However, it is good practice to consult with the public, licence holders and partner agencies. It is therefore recommended that a 4-week consultation is undertaken starting on 23 October 2023.

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 [Current Animal Welfare Guidance on our website](#)

7.2 [Government proposals to ban the keeping primates as pets](#)

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft new Animal Welfare Policy

8.2 Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

## Animal Licensing Policy

2023

DRAFT

Version	Stage	Date
V1 (draft)	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	03 October 2023
	Cabinet	

## Contents

Executive Summary .....	2
1. Introduction .....	3
2. Integrating other Guidance, Policies and Strategies .....	5
3. Policy objectives .....	5
4. Licensable Activities .....	6
5. Who can apply ? .....	7
6. Safeguarding .....	7
7. Relevance of convictions .....	8
8. Granting or renewing a licence .....	9
9. Veterinary and Other Inspections .....	10
10. Duration of a Licence and Star Rating .....	10
11. Appeals to Star Rating .....	11
12. Standards and conditions .....	12
13. Refusing an application .....	13
14. Animal Welfare Licensing & Planning .....	14
15. Variations, Suspension and Revocation of a Licence .....	15
16. Status of a licence upon the death of a licence holder .....	17
17. Inspections during the course of a licence .....	17
18. Fees and Charges .....	18
19. Qualifications of Inspectors .....	18
20. Enforcement .....	19
21. Policy Review .....	21
22. Advice and Guidance .....	21
Appendix 1 - Definitions .....	22

## **Executive Summary**

This policy covers the licensable activity of Animal Welfare. The legislation covers activities aimed at protecting animals and makes it an offence for any person to possess, own or keep animals in order to carry out certain businesses and sets standards of care. The possession of certain animals or animal related activities within the District of South Kesteven, must be licensed by the Council.

Animal Licensing is controlled in accordance with legislation. Together this legislation provides a scheme of animal welfare and licensing requirements.

This policy will be reviewed every five years but will remain in force beyond this time if no significant changes are required. In the interim, minor amendments to the policy, such as legislative updates, which may become necessary from time to time to ensure its continued accuracy, but do not affect its direction or intent may be made in accordance with delegated authority.

Decisions taken by the Licensing Authority regarding the determination of Animal Licences will aim to promote the Corporate objectives.

Each application will be determined on its own merits. Decisions can be taken by Officers using delegated powers.

Where relevant, the Licensing Authority will consult with other authorities, local people and Members of the Council with their opinion heard through public consultation on this policy and by making representations.

Enforcement of the legislation is a requirement of the Act and is undertaken by the Licensing Authority. This policy describes the Licensing Authority's enforcement principles and follows the principles of the Council's overarching Enforcement Policy.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Kesteven District Council is one of seven districts in Lincolnshire with a population of approximately 143,400<sup>1</sup>. Two thirds of people live in the four main market towns of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings with the remaining third living in one of over 80 villages and hamlets. With an area of 365 square miles, it is one of the largest districts in the county.
- 1.2 South Kesteven District Council, (hereinafter referred to as the 'Licensing Authority'), is responsible for the licensing of animal welfare activities under various legislation:
  - The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.
  - Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.
  - Zoo Licensing Act 1982.
  - Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- 1.3 The Regulations replace previous licensing and registration regimes under the following legislation:
  - Pet Animals Act 1951.
  - Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963.
  - Riding Establishments Act 1964 & 1970.
  - Breeding of Dogs Act 1973.
  - Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999.
  - Performing Animals Act 1976.
- 1.4 This policy sets out the principles the Council will use when dealing with animal related licensing matters. The purpose of animal licensing is to protect animals and ensure their health and wellbeing as well as providing protection for the public and users of those licenced within the terms of the relevant Acts and legislative Guidance.
- 1.5 This policy will cover the following activities for which the Licensing Authority issue licences:
  - Animal boarding establishment licences.
  - Horse riding establishment licences.
  - Pet shop licences.
  - Dangerous wild animal licences.
  - Dog breeding establishment licences.
  - Keeping or training animals for exhibition.
  - Zoo licences.
- 1.6 In preparing this policy statement the Licensing Authority has consulted with those listed below and taken in account the views of all the appropriate bodies and organisations who responded:

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000141/>

- The Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police.
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority.
- Lincolnshire Highways Department.
- Town Councils.
- The public.
- Current licence holders.
- Departments within South Kesteven District Council:
  - Planning
  - Environmental Health - Public Protection (Health & Safety).
  - Public Protection (Environmental Protection).
  - Legal Services.

1.7 Each licence type has its own application process and requirements that the Licensing Authority needs to take into consideration before determining a licence. Details on how to apply for a licence can be found on the Licensing Authorities website [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk).

1.8 The Acts, Regulations and Statutory Guidance state the criteria which must be satisfied before a licence is granted. Where the relevant licensing officer/inspector is not satisfied that the relevant legal requirements are met, or where a veterinary surgeon has raised concerns that the legal requirements or standards are not met or are unlikely to be met, the applicant for the licence will be notified.

1.9 In undertaking its licensing function, the Licensing Authority is also bound by other legislation, therefore, this Policy should be read in conjunction with this legislation:

- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – which imposes a duty on every Local Authority to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its decision-making process. The duty now extends to anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and behaviour adversely affecting the environment.
- The European Convention on Human Rights, which is given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998, which places a duty on public Authorities to protect the rights of individuals in a variety of circumstances.
- The Provision of Services Regulations 2009 to ensure requirements are:
  - i. Non- discriminatory.
  - ii. Justified by an overriding reason relating to the public interest.
  - iii. Proportionate to that public interest objective.
  - iv. Clear and unambiguous.
  - v. Objective.
  - vi. Made public in advance, and
  - vii. Transparent and accessible.
- Disability and age discrimination legislation. South Kesteven District Council is committed to the implementation and application of this policy in such a manner as to ensure that no applicant or other person is treated less favourably on grounds of sex, marital status, race, nationality, ethnicity, national origin,

colour, disability or age; nor is disadvantaged by the application of a rule, condition or requirement which has a discriminatory effect, which cannot be justified either in street trade licence terms or as a requirement of law.

## **2. Integrating other Guidance, Policies and Strategies**

- 2.1 The Authority may implement government guidance, such as the House of Lords – Delegated Powers and Deregulation Enforcement Concordat (Twenty-Eighth Report) and internal polices, strategies and initiatives that may impact on the activity within the remit of this policy statement. Subject to the general principles of this policy statement, the officers and/or committee may have to have regard to them when making licensing decisions.
- 2.2 By consulting widely prior to this policy being published and working with our partners at all levels, it is hoped this will generate an alignment between this policy and any that may be developed by partner agencies.
- 2.3 In reaching a decision of whether to grant an animal licence, the Licensing Authority will take account of any non-compliance with other statutory requirements brought to its attention. Non-compliance with statutory requirements may demonstrate that the proposed activity or that the management of such is not appropriate to protect either the animal(s) welfare or the public from harm or nuisance.

## **3. Policy objectives**

- 3.1 This policy is designed to ensure that:
  - Any person who carries on, attempts to carry on or knowingly allows a licensable activity to be carried on, holds a licence in accordance with the relevant legislation.
  - The licence holder is not disqualified from holding a licence in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.
  - The five overarching principles of animal welfare (known as the “five needs”) introduced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 are upheld in any decision.
  - The safeguarding of any children or vulnerable persons in contact with a licensable activity is ensured, in accordance with relevant legislation.
  - Each application is considered on its own merits.
  - Decisions by the Licensing Authority are transparent and consistent.
- 3.2 In addition, the Licensing Authority will base its licensing regime on the following principles which arise from the responsibilities arising under the Animal Welfare Act 2006:
  - Responsibility to protect the welfare of all fellow creatures.
  - Ensuring the welfare of domestic or captive animals by implement appropriate standards that promote the “five needs”.
  - Ensuring that those responsible for the management of animal welfare observe recognised standards of good practice.

- Ensuring that, so far as it falls within its powers, the requirements of all animal related legislation is rigorously and pro-actively enforced.

#### 4. **Licensable Activities**

##### The Animal Welfare (licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

4.1 The Regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and have an impact on establishments licensed under previous animal health legislation. The following require to be licensed:

- Animals for exhibition.
- Catteries.
- Dog day care.
- Dog breeders.
- Home boarders.
- Kennels.
- Pet Shops.
- Riding Establishments.

4.2 A licence is required when any of the licensable activities outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations are undertaken. These are:

- Selling animals as pets (Part 2).
- Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs (including the provision of boarding for cats; kennels for dogs; home boarding for dogs; or day care for dogs (Part 3).
- Hiring out horses (Part 4).
- Breeding dogs (Part 5).
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition (Part 6).

##### Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

4.3 This legislation requires that a licence to keep certain animals considered wild, dangerous or exotic. A full list of the animals is outlined in [The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 \(Modification\) \(No.2\) Order 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk).

4.4 The Licensing Authority does not support the licensing of primates under the Dangerous Wild Animal Act 1976 as 'pets' living in domestic premises. Primates are dangerous and highly intelligent animals with complex needs that cannot be met in a home environment. Consideration will be given to applications for animal sanctuaries where it can be evidenced that there is no intention to breed or allow the primates into a home environment.

##### Zoo Licensing Act 1981

4.5 The legislation outlines requirements for a licence to keep wild animals which are displayed to the public for at least 7 days a year, in a place that is not a circus or a pet shop.

## 5. Who can apply ?

5.1 In accordance with the Regulations, any individual who carries on a licensable activity will be designated as the 'operator' of the business and can apply for a licence, providing they are not disqualified from holding a licence in accordance with the Regulations.

5.2 Each licence type has its own application process and requirements that the Licensing Authority takes into consideration before determining a licence. Details on how to apply for a licence can be found on the Council's website but must be made in writing on the relevant application form.

5.3 The Licensing Authority will consider how the applicant intends to operate their business as they will be assuming responsibility for the welfare of animals, either their own that are being used in the running of their business, or customers animals that they are caring for.

(a) **Applicants Experience:** Confidence in the ability to handle and control an animal and a clear demonstrated knowledge of its welfare needs are a paramount consideration and form part of the conditions in law. Experience over years and/or qualifications will be taken into account.

(b) **Premise Suitability:** This not only means the condition and security of the premises as a whole but includes any areas in which animals are to be contained. With a view to ensure the sizes of such areas comply with or exceed minimum sizes set out in the Regulation

(c) **Recording and Storing Information/Records:** Before a premise is inspected, Officers would expect to see templates of client's forms, policies and procedures for the operation of the business that pay particular attention to the record keeping requirements set out in the Regulations including the operator and staff (if employed) development. Future inspections will require the licence holder to produce complete records for the period since the previous licence application/renewal and must be available for inspection upon request.

5.4 In addition to the considerations outlined, the Licensing Authority will take into account whether the person proposed to be the operator of the activity can demonstrate that they have:

- The right to work in the United Kingdom.
- No relevant convictions.
- Not been disqualified from holding a licence.

## 6. Safeguarding

6.1 The Regulations have the aims of maintaining and improving animal welfare standards. However, there are other safeguarding considerations arising from

licensable activities, in particular around the protection of children and vulnerable persons and the Licensing Authority must consider these in light of the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2004.

- 6.2 The Licensing Authority is aware that some licensable activities may involve unsupervised contact with children and/or vulnerable persons (e.g. the tuition of a young person provided at a Riding Establishment or entertaining at a children's party with an exhibition of animals).
- 6.3 The Licensing Authority expects applicants and licence holders whose activities involve contact with children or vulnerable persons to:
  - Have a written safeguarding policy and provide training for staff; and
  - Have a procedure for vetting staff who have unsupervised contact with young/vulnerable persons.

## **7. Relevance of convictions**

- 7.1 In all cases, the Licensing Authority will consider the convictions or behaviour in question and what weight should be attached to it in relation to the applicant's suitability to hold the licence applied for. Every case will be determined on its own merits but in light of these guidelines.
- 7.2 The Licensing Authority will not normally grant a licence to a person with one (or more) convictions for any offence that is related to animal cruelty or suffering. The primary purpose of the Regulations enforced by the Licensing Authority is to ensure the welfare of animals and as such, these types of offences are highly relevant.
- 7.3 In addition, the Licensing Authority has wider obligations to prevent crime and disorder and safeguard both children and vulnerable adults. As a result, the Licensing Authority will not normally grant a licence to a person with one (or more) convictions for any of the following offences:
  - Offences involving violence.
  - Possession of a weapon.
  - Sex and indecency offences.
  - Offences involving dishonesty.
  - Offences involving drugs.
- 7.4 Any offences or behaviour not expressly covered by this Policy may still be considered by virtue of any other Guidance, Policies and Strategies outlined in Section 2 above.
- 7.5 The Licensing Authority must ensure that licence holders remain suitable to retain their licence, therefore licence holders must notify the Licensing Authority in writing within 5 working days if any of the following occurs (in relation to the types of offences outlined above):
  - They have any type of licence suspended or revoked.
  - Are arrested (whether or not charged with an offence).

- Are charged with a criminal offence.
- Are convicted of a criminal offence.
- Any pending charges, to include any notices of intended prosecution.

7.6 Failing to provide such notification will raise serious questions for the Licensing Authority as to the honesty of the licence holder and may result in a review of the suitability of the licence holder to continue to hold a licence.

## 8. **Granting or renewing a licence**

### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

8.1 The application and renewal process must follow these steps:

- The individual sends an animal activity licence application, supporting documents and Part A fee to the Licensing Authority.
- The Licensing Authority appoints an appropriately qualified Licensing Authority Inspector and/or vet.
- The Inspector and/or vet visits the animal activity site and produces a report.
- The Licensing Authority reviews the report and a copy is sent to the applicant. Any outstanding documents or issues raised as a result of the inspection must be resolved by the applicant.
- Once the final report has been submitted the Licensing Authority makes a decision to grant or refuse the licence application.
- The Licensing Authority notifies the applicant.
- The applicant has a right of appeal to the first tier tribunal for a refusal.

8.2 The Licensing Authority aims to issue a decision on a new licence application within 10 weeks of receiving the application. It is possible the process can take longer, for example, if further information is needed.

8.3 Applicants will be notified of the need to renew their licence 3 months before it is due to expire. The licence holder must apply to renew a licence at least 10 weeks before their current licence expires. This is to avoid incurring a break in the licensable activity, if they wish to continue to operate the licensable activity.

8.4 If following the inspection the applicant meets the requirements for the grant of a licence, they will be required to pay Part B of the application fee. Upon receipt of the payment the applicant will receive the following:

- The Licence with the Star Rating.
- Details of how the business has been rated, including a list of the higher standards the business currently fails to meet or a list of the minimum standards the business is failing to meet (resulting in a “minor failing” category).
- A copy of the risk management assessment table.
- Details of the appeals process and timescales.
- Details of the application for re-rating scheme.

### Dangerous Wild Animals 1976 and Zoo Licensing Act 1981

8.3 These premises are not required to be risk rated and as a result no Star Rating is issued. A licence with relevant conditions only will be provided.

## **9. Veterinary and Other Inspections**

9.1 Where Acts or Regulations require an inspection of the premises by a veterinary surgeon, or an Inspector appointed by the Licensing Authority the Licensing Authority will instruct the Vet or approved Inspectors, the cost of which will be recharged to the applicant.

9.2 At the time of making the application the applicant must pay to the Licensing Authority the application fee (Part A) and the sum quoted by the vet or approved Inspector. The Licensing Authority will then instruct that vet or approved Inspector and pay the fee.

9.3 The purpose of the Licensing Authority instructing the vet or approved Inspector is to avoid any conflict of interest that may arise between the vet or approved Inspector and the applicant.

9.4 Where the licensable activity falls under the Regulations an inspection will be required on first application and every subsequent renewal. An unannounced visit may take place during the licence duration and following any complaint or concern regarding the animal licence activity.

## **10. Duration of a Licence and Star Rating**

### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

10.1 Depending upon the nature of the licensable activity , the duration of the licence may be issued for one, two or three years corresponding to the Star Rating for the establishment.

10.2 A copy of the scoring matrix is below:

Scoring Matrix		Welfare Standards		
		Minor Failings (existing business that are failing to meet minimum standards)	Minimum Standards (as laid down in the schedules and guidance)	Higher Standards (as laid down in the guidance)
Risk	Low Risk	<b>1 Star</b> 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	<b>3 Star</b> 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period	<b>5 Star</b> 3yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 36 month period
	Higher Risk	<b>1 Star</b> 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	<b>2 Star</b> 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	<b>4 Star</b> 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period

10.3 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance indicates that any member of the Kennel Club Assured Dog Breeder Scheme, of at least three years standing, should be awarded a five-star breeding licence valid for three years. However, the DEFRA guidance advises that significant evidence of poor animal welfare standards or non-compliance found during a Licensing Authority inspection, would enable the Licensing Authority to not grant a five-star licence for 3 years, where the Authority is of the opinion that it is appropriate and justified.

10.4 Following the issuing of a rating, an operator may wish to apply for a 're-rating' following completion of works to rectify any non-compliance or improvements to achieve higher standards. This re-rating is chargeable in accordance with the Council's published fees and charges.

10.5 Keeping or training animals for exhibition requires a licence but no star rating is provided. A licence is valid for 3 years.

#### Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

10.6 Premises licensed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act are not risk rated and licences, when issued, are valid for 2 years.

#### Zoo Licensing Act 1981

10.5 Premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act are not risk rated and any new premises licence when issued will be valid for 4 years. On renewal, licences will be valid for 6 years.

### **11. Appeals to Star Rating**

#### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 11.1 The Licensing Authority has an appeals procedure in place for an operator to dispute the star rating given. The inspection report will highlight the inspecting officer's decision on how the risk rating, compliance level and star rating has been achieved. The operator is encouraged to discuss any issues with the inspecting officer in the first instance.
- 11.2 An operator may appeal their star rating if they consider it to be wrong as it does not reflect the standards found at the time of the inspection. Any appeal to the rating must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority within 21 days, from when the star rating is issued.
- 11.3 Any appeal must specifically relate to the standards present at the time of the inspection and will be chargeable.
- 11.4 DEFRA Guidance states that no officer or inspector involved with the initial star rating or inspection should consider an appeal. It also states that the appeal should be determined by the Head of the Department or a designated deputy. Appeals will be determined by the Department/Service Manager. If the operator disagrees with the outcome of the appeal, they can request that the Licensing Authority considers their concerns via the Licensing Authority complaint's procedure. The reviewing officer may or may not visit the premises themselves, this will be left to them to determine.
- 11.5 If the operator disagrees with the outcome of the appeal, they can challenge the decision by means of judicial review. There is also the availability of the Local Government Ombudsman where appropriate if they consider that the Licensing Authority has not made decisions in the correct way.

## **12. Standards and conditions**

### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 12.1 The Regulations include mandatory conditions for each licensable activity and DEFRA have produced statutory guidance. The conditions are divided into two categories, namely 'General Conditions and 'Specific Conditions'.
- 12.2 Applicants and licence holders are required to meet all the mandatory conditions, although for existing businesses, minor failing may be noted/recorded providing they do not compromise the welfare of the animals. However, these failings should be predominantly administrative in nature, as highlighted in the relevant statutory guidance.
- 12.3 The higher standards are classified into two categories – mandatory (required) and optional. To qualify as meeting the higher standards the business must achieve all of the required (mandatory) standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher standards.

12.4 Meeting the higher standards is optional but is the only way to gain the highest star rating.

Dangerous Wild Animals 1976 and Zoo Licensing Act 1981

12.5 The Licensing Authority will impose any conditions prescribed in the legislation, suggested by DEFRA or required by the Licensing Authority Inspecting Officer and/or Vet.

12.6 Where the Licensing Authority places conditions on a licence they will be based, wherever practicable, on existing codes of best practice and industry standards produced by organisations.

**13. Refusing an application**

Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

13.1 The Licensing Authority may refuse to issue a licence if it considers that the applicant cannot meet the licence conditions or has a previous history of non-compliance with licensing conditions or requirements. The Licensing Authority may also refuse a licence if the granting of a licence could have a negative impact on animal welfare or if the level of accommodation, staffing or management is inadequate for the well-being of animals.

13.2 A Licence cannot be issued to an operator who has been disqualified, as per regulations.

13.3 If a licence is refused under the Regulations, the applicant will have the right of appeal to a First-tier Tribunal within 28 days of the decision notice.

Dangerous Wild Animals 1976

13.4 The legislation states that the Licensing Authority shall not grant a licence unless it is satisfied that:

- It is not contrary to the public interest on the grounds of safety, nuisance or otherwise to grant the licence;
- The applicant for the licence is a suitable person to hold a licence under the relevant Act;
- Any animal will at all times of its being kept only under the authority of the licence:
  - Be held in accommodation with securities that the animal will not escape, which is suitable as regards constructions, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness and which is suitable for the number of animals proposed to be held in the accommodation, and
  - Be supplied with adequate and suitable food, drink and bedding material and be visited at suitable intervals;
- Appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of any animal concerned in case of fire or other emergency;

- e) All reasonable precautions will be taken at all such times to prevent and control the spread of infections diseases;
- f) While any animal concerned is at the premises where it will normally be held, its accommodation is such that it can take adequate exercise.

13.5 A licence may be refused where an applicant has been convicted of any relevant offence, as per the relevant legislation.

13.6 If a licence is refused under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, the application has the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of the decision notice.

#### Zoo Licensing Act 1981

13.7 The legislation states that the Licensing Authority shall refuse a licence when:

- a) It is satisfied that the zoo, or its continuance, would injuriously affect the health or safety of persons living in the neighbourhood of the zoo, or seriously affect the preservation of law and order.
- b) They are not satisfied that it would be able to meet conditions to take forward the relevant conservation measures.

The Licensing Authority may refuse a licence if;

- c) They are not satisfied that the standards of accommodation, staffing or management are adequate for the proper care and well-being of the animals either individually or as a whole, or otherwise for the proper conduct of the zoo.
- d) They are not satisfied that planning permission has been granted for a zoo (or the granting of a licence can be suspended until the local planning authority confirm that permission has been, or is deemed to be, granted).

13.8 A licence may also be refused if anyone associated with the zoo has a conviction under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 or any of the Acts mentioned in the legislation.

13.9 If a licence is refused under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, the application has the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 28 days of the decision notice.

#### **14. Animal Welfare Licensing & Planning**

14.1 Premises maintained or used for an animal based business or activity may require planning permission for that usage. It is advised that licence applicants seek advice from South Kesteven District Council's Planning department prior to making an application for a licence.

14.2 Whilst applicants are encouraged to make necessary applications for planning permission before or at the same time as they make application for licence, there is nothing in law which specifically precludes an application for a licence being made before planning consent has been sought.

- 14.3 Planning and Licensing Departments operate as separate regulatory regimes, and the absence of planning permission for a particular site will not serve to prohibit the Licensing Authority from granting a licence. There is no legal basis for the Licensing Authority to refuse a licence application because the business does not have planning permission.
- 14.4 Applicants should note that planning and licensing requirements must both be satisfied prior to the commencement of business operations, and if this is not the case then the applicant will be liable for enforcement action for breaches of the relevant legislation.

## **15. Variations, Suspension and Revocation of a Licence**

### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 15.1 The Regulations allow the Licensing Authority to vary a licence:
  - a) On the application in writing of the licence holder, or
  - b) On the initiative of the Council, with the written consent of the licence holder.
- 15.2 The Licensing Authority may suspend, vary or revoke a licence without the consent of the licence holder if:
  - a) The licence conditions are not being complied with.
  - b) There has been a breach of the Regulations.
  - c) Information supplied by the licence holder is false or misleading.
  - d) It is necessary to protect the welfare of an animal.
- 15.3 A suspension or variation of a licence will take effect 7 working days after the decision has been issued to the licence holder unless the reason is to protect the welfare of an animal, in which case the Licensing Authority may stipulate that the decision is with immediate effect.
- 15.4 A decision to vary or suspend a licence will be notified in writing to the licence holder and will outline the reasons for the decision including any specific actions that can be taken to remedy the situation. The notification will also confirm when the suspension or variation will take effect and the rights of the licence holder to make written representations, as well as any deadlines for remedial action/review timescales.
- 15.5 The decision to vary, suspend or revoke a licence will be dependent on the severity of the situation.
  - If an operator fails to meet administrative conditions or provide information when requested, then this could potentially lead to the suspension of a licence. If such a scenario happens repeatedly, the Licensing Authority may consider revocation appropriate.

- Immediate revocation or suspension of a licence may occur in an instance where poor welfare conditions are discovered, or it would otherwise benefit the welfare of the animals involved to be removed from the activity.
- Variations can occur if adjustments need to be made, whether that is to the licence itself or to the premises/animals referred to in the licence.

15.6 Following the issuing of the notice of suspension or variation, the licence holder will have seven working days to make written representations. Upon receipt of this the Licensing Authority will decide whether to continue with the suspension or variation of the licence or cancel the decision.

15.7 If the licence has been altered with immediate effect to protect the welfare of animals, the Licensing Authority will indicate that this is the reason.

15.8 The business must not trade once the suspension of a licence has come into effect and cannot do so until the decision is overturned by the Council, due to either the decision being reversed, or it is satisfied that all licence conditions are being met.

15.9 Other than the right outlined above (15.6) there is no other right of appeal against the suspension of a licence. After 28 days of suspension the licence must be either revoked or reinstated.

15.10 A licence holder may appeal to a First Tier Tribunal if they do not agree with the decision made by the Licensing Authority to vary or revoke the licence. The appeal must be made within 28 days of the decision notice being issued.

#### Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

15.11 The Licensing Authority can, at any time, add conditions, vary conditions or revoke conditions that are in a Dangerous Wild Animal licence (although any conditions prescribed in the legislation cannot be varied or revoked).

#### Zoo Licensing Act 1981

15.12 The Licensing Authority can, at any time, vary, cancel or attach new conditions to a licence if it is considered necessary or desirable to do so for ensuring the proper conduct of the zoo. Prior to doing so, the licence holder will have an opportunity to make representations. If the change is a significant amendment, then an inspection of the premises must be arranged and the report considered, prior to any alteration being made to the licence.

15.13 If a licence condition is not being complied with the Licensing Authority can issue a direction requiring compliance, in accordance with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. The direction will state the steps that the licence holder must take and the period in which they must take them. In addition, the direction can also require the zoo, or part of the zoo, to be closed to the public while the direction is in force. The direction will be revoked once the zoo has complied with the requirements.

15.14 In accordance with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, the Licensing Authority must permanently close a zoo in certain circumstances (e.g. non-compliance with a

direction in relation to a conservation measure). The Council also has a discretionary power to close a zoo which may be used for several reasons (e.g. non-compliance with a direction in relation to a conservation measure).

## **16. Status of a licence upon the death of a licence holder**

### Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 16.1 If a licence holder dies, the legislation outlines that the personal representative of the deceased may take on the licence. The Licensing Authority must be informed, by the personal representatives, within 28 days of the death that they are now the licence holder. The licence will remain in place for three months from the death of the former holder or for the rest of the time it was due to remain in force if that time period is shorter. The new licence holder should apply for a new licence before the expiry of this new period, as outlined in 8 – Granting or renewing a licence.
- 16.2 The Licensing Authority can extend the three month period by up to another three months if requested by the personal representative and if they believe this time is needed to wind up the estate of the former licence holder.
- 16.3 If the personal representative does not notify the Licensing Authority within 28 days of the death of the licence holder, the licence will cease to have effect after those 28 days.

### Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

- 16.4 If a licence holder dies, the licence will continue for 28 days as if it had been granted to the personal representative. If an application is made for a new licence within this period, the licence will be considered as being still in force pending the grant or refusal of the new application.

### Zoo Licensing Act 1981

- 16.5 If a licence holder dies, the licence will continue for 3 months as if it had been granted to the personal representatives. The Licensing Authority may extend this period if it considers it appropriate to do so.

## **17. Inspections during the course of a licence**

- 17.1 There will be cases where inspections must be carried out during the term of a licence.
- 17.2 For the activity of hiring out horses, there is a requirement for an annual inspection by a listed vet, regardless of the total length of the licence. The Licensing Authority must appoint a listed Vet to inspect the premises on which the activity is being carried out before the end of the first year after the licence is granted and then each subsequent year. It is this Licensing Authority's policy that the vet must be independent and not one that is retained by the applicant / licence holder.

17.3 Depending on the type of zoo, inspections may be required on an annual basis, but the frequency of inspections can be less if an exemption (or 'dispensation') is in place. Inspections will include visits by the Secretary of States Zoo Inspectors, in addition to licensing inspectors.

17.5 Unannounced inspections can be carried out and may be used in the case of complaints or other information that suggests the licence conditions are not being complied with or that the welfare of the animals involved in a licensed activity is at risk.

17.6 During the inspection of premises licensed under the Animal Welfare Regulations, the inspector may choose to take samples for laboratory testing from the animals on the premises occupied by an operator. The operator must comply with any reasonable request of an inspector to facilitate the identification, examination and sampling of an animal, including ensuring that suitable restraints are provided if requested.

## **18. Fees and Charges**

18.1 The fees for each licence are made up of two parts, Part A and Part B.

- Part A covers the direct costs associated with processing the application and is payable on submission of the application.
- Part B covers the costs associated with the running of the licensing function. This includes dealing with complaints, enforcement and general administration.

18.2 The Part B fee is payable once a decision to grant a licence has been made and must be paid before the licence is issued and becomes operational and valid. It will be a condition of all licences that the licence itself will be inoperable should the Part B fee not be paid.

18.3 The Part A fee paid by an applicant who has not been granted a licence will not be refunded.

18.4 The fees and charges are reviewed annually and can be viewed on the Council's website [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)

## **19. Qualifications of Inspectors**

19.1 As outlined in the Animal Activity Licensing Process: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities all Licensing Authority Inspectors (whether employed by the Licensing Authority or contracted / appointed) must be suitably qualified.

A suitably qualified person can be any of the following:

- Holds a Level 3 certificate (or equivalent) granted by a body recognised and regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Their certificate must apply to that particular type of activity to count as qualified. The training must cover the application of the licensing conditions for all licensable activities and must contain a practical element.

- Has a formal veterinary qualification recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), together with a relevant RCVS continuing professional development record.
- Can show evidence of at least one year of experience in licensing and inspecting animal activities businesses - this person needs to be enrolled on a course leading to a Level 3 certificate qualification or equivalent to be completed by 1 October 2023 and granted by a body recognised and regulated by Ofqual.

## 20. Enforcement

20.1 The main enforcement and compliance role for the Licensing Authority in terms of animal licensing will be to ensure the welfare of animals. This is done by ensuring compliance with the conditions placed upon the licence and taking action when standards are not met. The Licensing Authority also investigates and will take appropriate action against unlicensed premises.

20.2 In carrying out its enforcement duties, the Licensing Authority has adopted a Corporate Enforcement Policy, which is available on our website at [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)

20.3 The Licensing Authority will appropriately log and investigate complaints regarding animal establishments which are currently licensed or may require a licence. The Licensing Authority will require complainants to provide their name and contact details so that witness evidence may be obtained if required for further action.

20.4 The Licensing Authority aims to maintain a consistent approach when investigating complaints and make decisions. In reaching any decision it will consider, amongst other things, the following criteria:

- Seriousness of any offences or breach of conditions;
- Operator's past history;
- Consequence(s) of non-compliance;
- Likely effectiveness of the various enforcement options;
- Danger to the welfare of animals and/or public.

20.5 The Animal Welfare Act 2006, section 30 allows Licensing Authorities to prosecute offences under that Act.

20.6 The post-conviction power from section 34 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 is in place, whereby a person convicted of an offence under the Act or any relevant regulations may be disqualified from owning, keeping, participating in the keeping of animals and/or from being party to an arrangement under which they can control or influence the way an animal is kept. Disqualification also prohibits the person from transporting or dealing in animals. Breaching these disqualification provisions is an offence.

20.7 The post-conviction power from section 42 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 is also in place whereby a court can cancel an existing licence and disqualify a person from holding a licence for any period it sees fit when that person is convicted of an offence under the Act or any relevant regulations.

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 20.8 The Regulations introduce a range of enforcement powers to allow the Licensing Authority to issue a suspension, variation or revocation notice where licence conditions are not being complied with; where there is a breach of the regulations; or issues relating to the protection of the welfare of an animal.
- 20.9 Anyone who carries on any of the licensable activities without a licence is committing a criminal offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of up to six months, a fine or both.
- 20.10 It is a criminal offence to breach any licence condition. It is also a criminal offence not to comply with an inspector's request with regards to taking a sample from an animal.
- 20.11 It is a criminal offence to obstruct an inspector who has been appointed by a local authority to enforce the Regulations. Committing any of these offences could result in an unlimited fine.
- 20.12 The Regulations also make provision for the inspectors to take samples for laboratory testing from any animals on premises occupied by an operator, for the purposes of ensuring the licence conditions are being complied with. A licence holder must comply with any reasonable request of an inspector to facilitate the identification and examination of an animal and the taking of samples and, in particular, must arrange the suitable restraint of an animal if so requested by an inspector.
- 20.13 Samples should be as non-invasive as possible; however inspectors may deem more invasive samples necessary if there are concerns over the welfare of the animals. The provision for sampling is primarily aimed at vets carrying out inspections and it is not expected that samples be taken by those without the training to properly and safely do so.
- 20.14 Additional information about the suspension and revocation of a licence can be found in section 13 of this policy.

Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

- 20.15 Anyone that keeps a dangerous wild animal without the required licence is committing a criminal offence and is liable for a fine.
- 20.16 It is a criminal offence to breach any licence condition. It is also criminal offence to obstruct an inspector who has been appointed by the Licensing Authority to enforce the Act. Committing any of these offences could result in a fine.

Zoos Licensing Act 1981

- 20.17 Anyone who operates a zoo without the required licence is committing a criminal

offence and is liable for a fine.

- 20.18 It is a criminal offence to breach any licence condition. It is also criminal offence to obstruct an inspector who has been appointed by the Licensing Authority to enforce the Act. Committing any of these offences could result in a fine.
- 20.19 Additional information about the suspension and revocation of a licence can be found in Section 15 of this policy.

## **21. Policy Review**

- 21.1 This policy will be reviewed every five years but will remain in force beyond this time if no significant changes are required. In the interim, minor amendments to the policy, such as legislative updates, which may become necessary from time to time to ensure its continued accuracy, but do not affect its direction or intent may be made in accordance with delegated authority.

## **22. Advice and Guidance**

- 22.1 Further information and advice on the animal welfare licensing process can be obtained by contacting South Kesteven District Licensing Authority Licensing team by e-mail at [licensing@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southkesteven.gov.uk) or by visiting the Business and Licensing area of the Council's website [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk).

## Appendix 1 - Definitions

**DEFRA:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Five Needs:** Introduced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it introduced the five overarching principles of animal welfare;

**1) The need for a suitable environment**

By providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

**2) The need for a suitable diet**

By ready access, where appropriate, to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health.

**3) The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns .**

By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and the company of an animal of its own kind, where appropriate

**4) Any need to be house with, or apart from, other animals.**

By providing the company of an animal of its own kind, where appropriate

**5) The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.**

By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment and ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

**Licensing Authority:** South Kesteven District Council

**Licensing Authority Inspector:** An employee of the Licensing Authority, suitably qualified to undertake animal welfare licensing activities and inspections of premises.

**Operator:** An individual who carries on, attempts to carry on or knowingly allows a licensable activity to carry on or is the licence holder of a granted or renewed licence

**Vet:** A person holding a veterinary qualification recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), together with a relevant RCVS continuing professional development record.

**Zoo dispensation:** Some zoos do not need a licence because of the small number of animals, or the type of animal, kept in them. This is known as having a 'dispensation'. The Secretary of State will make a decision on a case-by-case basis as to whether the zoo requires a zoo licence. Usually both of the following must apply:

- Very small zoos (eg. zoos that have no more than around 120 animals).
- Zoos that don't have many different kinds of animals, eg deer parks.

The Secretary of State will also decide if the animals are hazardous or conservation sensitive.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Equality Impact Assessment

Question	Response
1. Name of policy/funding activity/event being assessed	Animal Welfare Policy
2. Summary of aims and objectives of the policy/funding activity/event	Introduction of an animal welfare policy for the handling of applications, renewals and existing animal licenses for the welfare of animals.
3. Who is affected by the policy/funding activity/event?	Animal licence applicants, users of licensed facilities and members of public (members of public for the purposes of animals escapes etc)
4. Has there been any consultation with, or input from, customers/service users or other stakeholders? If so, with whom, how were they consulted and what did they say? If you haven't consulted yet and are intending to do so, please complete the consultation table below.	Asking Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the draft policy and a 4 week consultation starting on 23 October 2023, at which time we can then review feedback/this initial assessment.
5. What are the arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the actual impact of the policy/funding activity/event?	The policy can be reviewed in light of any operational issues found and will be reviewed if there are any guidance or legislative change. This policy will be reviewed every 5 years.

Protected Characteristic	Is there a potential for positive or negative impact?	Please explain and give examples of any evidence/data used	Action to address negative impact e.g. adjustment to the policy <small>(The Action Log below should be completed to provide further detail)</small>
Age	No impact	Age asked for on the application form.  Inspections are undertaken.	The policy sets out the application process, age is not the sole determining factor but extent of knowledge of subject matter and experience. It also seeks to protect service users and the public
Disability	Positive	No disability specific questions on the application.  Inspections are undertaken	The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.  The inspection process can also advise applicants to ensure those with a disability are able to access/use the licensed facility.
Gender Reassignment	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.



Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Race	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Religion or Belief	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Sex	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Sexual Orientation	No impact	This protected characteristic does not affect the application or the process.	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual protected characteristic has been put place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.



Other Factors requiring consideration			
Socio-Economic Impacts	No impact	Inspections are undertaken	This policy has general protection levels and terms of operating. The policy, whilst not being determined by individual socio-economic status has been put in place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis.
Carers (those who provide unpaid care to a family member, friend or partner)	No impact	Inspections are undertaken.	The policy, whilst not being determined by individual characteristic has been put in place to ensure standards are met and licences are issued on an equitable basis. The inspection process can also advise applicants to assist those with a caring responsibilities if specific issues are evident/asked.

## Consultation

Negative impacts identified will require the responsible officer to consult with the affected group/s to determine all practicable and proportionate mitigations. Add more rows as required.

Group/Organisation	Date	Response
Licence Holders	23 10 2023	
Police, Fire & Rescue & other partner agencies	23 10 2023	
Public	23 10 2023	
Stamford & Bourne Town Council	23 10 2023	

## Proposed Mitigation: Action Log

To be completed when barriers, negative impact or discrimination are found as part of this process – to show actions taken to remove or mitigate. Any mitigations identified throughout the EIA process should be meaningful and timely. Add more rows as required.

Negative Impact	Action	Timeline	Outcome	Status

## Evaluation Decision

Once consultation and practicable and proportionate mitigation has been put in place, the responsible officer should evaluate whether any negative impact remains and, if so, provide justification for any decision to proceed.

Question	Explanation / justification
----------	-----------------------------



Is it possible the proposed policy or activity or change in policy or activity could discriminate or unfairly disadvantage people?		
Final Decision	Tick	Include any explanation/justification required
1. <b>No barriers</b> identified, therefore activity will <b>proceed</b>		
2. <b>Stop</b> the policy or practice because the data shows bias towards one or more groups		
3. <b>Adapt or change</b> the policy in a way that will eliminate the bias		
4. <b>Barriers and impact identified</b> , however having considered all available options carefully, there appear to be no other proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the policy or practice (e.g. in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore you are going to <b>proceed with caution</b> with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision		

Did you consult with an Equality Ally prior to carrying out this assessment? Yes

#### Sign off

Name and job title of person completing this EIA	Heather Green Licensing Team Leader
Officer Responsible for implementing the policy/function etc	Heather Green
Date Completed	08/09/2023
Line Manager	
Date Agreed (by line manager)	
Date of Review (if required)	

Completed EIAs should be included as an appendix to the relevant report going to a Cabinet, Committee or Council meeting and a copy sent to [equalities@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southkesteven.gov.uk).

Completed EIAs will be published along with the relevant report through Modern.Gov before any decision is made and also on the Council's website.



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Councillors Rhys Baker and Patsy Ellis,  
Cabinet Members for Waste and  
Climate Change

## Updated Climate Action Strategy for South Kesteven

### Report Author

Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

[Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Purpose of Report

Following a public consultation conducted, a revised Climate Action Strategy has been developed setting out South Kesteven District Council's aspirations to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change within the district.

### Recommendations

#### That the Committee:

1. Notes the content of the revised South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy
2. Recommends to Cabinet to approve the adoption of the revised South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy
3. Delegates to the Climate Action Working Group and officers to progress the development of the Climate Action Plan and provide regular updates to the Committee

<b>Decision Information</b>	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Growth and our economy Housing that meets the needs of all residents Healthy and strong communities Clean and sustainable environment High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All wards

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 The revised South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy sets a framework for the Council to respond to the issue of climate change within the district. While there are no direct implications from publishing the Strategy, it sets the framework for further investment in a variety of projects against each of the Themes included within the Strategy.
- 1.2 The development of the Climate Action Plan, following publication of this Climate Action Strategy, will need to carefully review financial implications of all proposed projects including any sources of grant funding support or cost implications to the Council.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.3 It is good practice for a local authority to present a strategy on the issues and impacts of climate change within the district. South Kesteven District Council is one of the local authorities to have formally declared a climate emergency, which set carbon reduction targets for Council operations. The climate emergency

declaration also noted the wider leadership potential of the Council to help fulfil the UK government's target to reach net zero by 2050, and this strategy helps to clarify that role.

- 1.4 Consult with Graham Watts, James Welbourn or Mandy Braithwaite (Do not delete)

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

### ***Climate Change***

- 1.5 The South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy sets out the Council's role in facilitating the transition to net zero carbon for the whole district of South Kesteven. The Climate Action Strategy is crucial for formally setting ambition to both reduce carbon emissions from within the district, and to adapt to the expected impacts of a changing climate.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 2.1 There is a clear role for local government to shape, drive, and deliver local action on climate change. South Kesteven District Council made a formal declaration of climate emergency on 26 September 2019 with cross party support. Alongside this, the Council confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net-zero as soon as viable before 2050. Over three-quarters of local authorities in the UK have now taken the step of declaring a climate emergency.
- 2.2 On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the first Climate Action Strategy document was presented to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee recommended that the Strategy be put out for consultation to gauge public opinion, and for a revised Strategy to be brought back to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 It was also noted there is a need to undertake further engagement with our community on the content of the strategy and intentions of the Climate Action Plan, as set out within the Strategy.
- 2.4 The scope, approach and proposed questions for a public consultation on the Climate Action Strategy was subsequently prepared, taking into account that any consultation needed to be conducted after the local elections had taken place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- 2.5 The consultation exercise was designed to determine the level of support from various stakeholders for the newly developed Climate Action Strategy, as well as understanding which areas of activity are priorities for respondents and the commitments from SKDC they want to see to help this happen.

2.6 The consultation was open for just over 4 weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> July. As well as residents of South Kesteven, specific stakeholder groups identified included district Councillors for South Kesteven, Town and Parish councils, voluntary and community groups with an environmental focus, The Woodland Trust, the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Lincolnshire Rivers Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Grantham Rivercare and the South Lincolnshire Green Party, as well as Lincolnshire County Council and the Environment Agency. In total, 175 individual responses were received through the consultation process.

2.7 A full report on the outcomes of the consultation exercise is attached at Appendix A. South Kesteven District Council also received two separate written consultation responses from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and from the Environment Agency, attached at Appendix B and C respectively.

2.8 The feedback from the consultation exercise has been very constructive. While there was a broad support for the eight Themes within the Climate Action Strategy, and for areas of focus and priorities, there were clear themes where respondents believed the Council could go further or improve the Strategy. This included feedback on:

- The length and/or technical content of the Climate Action Strategy, with several respondents noting that the document was overly long
- Further help and guidance for residents of South Kesteven, with a request for the Council to provide more comprehensive information on what individual households can do to contribute towards targets
- The ambition of targets for carbon reduction and whether this reflected a fair level of ambition for the district
- Concerns around the cost of the transition to net zero and how this would be fairly managed for all residents
- Ensuring that adaptation to climate change is considered as important, if not more important, than reducing carbon emissions
- Concerns that the Strategy lacked specific projects and actions to deliver on ambition

2.9 As a result of the feedback received through the consultation exercise, a revised version of the Climate Action Strategy has now been prepared, attached at Appendix D. This has amended the document in a number of areas, including amendments to the vision for the district for 2030, inclusion of a new ambition under the Resources Theme for water management, and various clarifications around the role of climate adaptation.

2.10 In response to feedback on the length and format of the Strategy, a separate Climate Action Strategy Executive Summary document has also been prepared, attached at Appendix E. This three page summary notes the key focuses of the Strategy document, includes an overview of the eight Themes identified in order to effectively embed action on climate change, and notes the co-benefits of pursuing action.

2.11 It is noted that the Climate Action Strategy remains the first part of a two-step process. The Strategy document addresses context, reviews the current policy background and direction for work, considers interaction with other Council corporate priorities and sets out sources of information for carbon emissions available at the local authority level. In depth detail of projects to be delivered across each of the eight Themes identified, including cost and payback, associated benefits and service area within the Council will be presented as the Climate Action Plan once the full Climate Action Strategy is published.

### **3. Key Considerations**

3.1 The South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy is a new strategy to set the direction for how South Kesteven District Council can address and influence carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change. This goes beyond work to address carbon emissions from Council operations (principally from the operation of buildings and vehicles), which have been identified as being less than 1% of the total carbon emissions arising from the district of South Kesteven.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

4.1 There is no statutory obligation to monitor or report on carbon emissions which arise from Council operations or from the wider district. Nevertheless, by doing so and setting out how the Council proposes to address these, it is acting in alignment with its climate emergency declaration of 2019.

4.2 The Committee could amend the South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy and propose an alternative approach for addressing climate change within the district.

4.3 The Committee could reject the South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy and choose not to progress work on climate change within the district.

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

5.1 It is recommended to the Committee to endorse the contents of the South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy, and to recommend to Cabinet to approve a final version. The Strategy sets out a robust framework for action and how the Council is able to respond across different areas to the problems presented by climate change and the net to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

### **6. Consultation**

6.1 South Kesteven's Climate Action Group of twelve councillors and relevant Council officers received a draft Climate Action Strategy and discussed the document on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The document was well received. It was noted it is fundamental the Council considers climate adaptation in regard to its own services, to avoid unintended consequences of increasing carbon emissions and

waste in response to weather events. This will be taken forward as part of our Climate Action Plan.

6.2 The draft Climate Action Strategy was then considered by Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Committee recommended the Strategy be put out for public consultation. The consultation was conducted during July and August 2023 and received a good response rate.

## **7. Background papers**

7.1 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - [Climate Action Strategy for South Kesteven.pdf](#)

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 Appendix A: *Climate Action Strategy Consultation Report*  
8.2 Appendix B: *Consultation response received from the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership*  
8.3 Appendix C: *Consultation response received from the Environment Agency*  
8.4 Appendix D: *Revised Climate Action Strategy for South Kesteven*  
8.4 Appendix E: *Climate Action Strategy Executive Summary*



## Climate Action Strategy Consultation Report



Deborah Wyles

September 2023

## Table of Contents

	Page
Purpose and Objectives	2
Methodology	3
Details	4
Results	5
Conclusion	14

## **Purpose**

1. To consult with a variety of stakeholders on the draft Climate Action Strategy. The purpose being to:
  - Measure the level of public support there is for South Kesteven District Council to tackle climate change
  - Determine the level of support from various stakeholders for the newly developed Climate Action Strategy
  - Understand which areas of activity are priorities for residents and the commitments they want to see from SKDC to help these happen

## **Scope**

2. The scope of this consultation was to:
  - Focus on the Climate Action Strategy. It needed to determine if the CAS is a document which
    - Has the support of stakeholders
    - Communicates the ambitions of the Council with respect to climate change to those stakeholders
    - Will help the Council deliver its priorities in respect of climate change
  - Enable and allow stakeholders to articulate what they would like SKDC to focus on
  - Inform the Council's approach going forward

## **Objectives**

3. The objectives of the consultation were identified as follows:
  - Measure the level of public support to address climate change within South Kesteven
  - Gauge the level of support for the strategy
  - Understand which areas of activity are the most important to stakeholders
  - Communicate the types of activity the Council has done/ will be able to do
  - Identify the actions they would like the Council to undertake – thereby informing the Climate Action Strategy Action Plan

## **Timelines**

4. A briefing session was held with the portfolio holders for Environment and Waste – Cllrs Patsy Ellis and Rhys Baker, on the scope, approach and proposed questions on 9 June 2023. The survey was launched on 10<sup>th</sup> July and open for just over 4 weeks, closing on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Stakeholders**

5. The stakeholders were identified as follows:
  - Portfolio holders for the Environment (including Climate Change) – Cllrs Rhys Baker and Cllr Patsy Ellis

- Chair and Vice Chair of SKDC'S Environment Committee
- Residents of South Kesteven
- District Councillors for South Kesteven
- Town and Parish Councils
- Voluntary and Community Groups with an environmental focus
- Other organisations with an environmental focus. These include:
  - The Woodland Trust
  - The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
  - Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
  - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
  - Grantham Rivercare
  - South Lincolnshire Green Party
- Other statutory organisations with a responsibility for climate change
  - Lincolnshire County Council
  - The Environment Agency

## Methodology

6. The table below identifies the method(s) that were used to contact the stakeholders:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
Portfolio holders for Environment and Waste	Discussion took place with portfolio holders. Approval sought for approach and content of consultation.	Cllr Rhys Baker <a href="mailto:Rhys.Baker@southkesteven.gov.uk">Rhys.Baker@southkesteven.gov.uk</a> Cllr Patsy Ellis <a href="mailto:Patsy.Ellis@southkesteven.gov.uk">Patsy.Ellis@southkesteven.gov.uk</a>
Residents of South Kesteven	Members of the public were made aware of the consultation through the following channels:  Press release to the local press  SKDC Social Media Channels  SKDC website	Potential respondents referred to survey monkey to participate in the consultation. Alternatively, if absolutely necessary, they were able to email the Climate Change officer who would have sent them a printed copy of the survey. No requests were received.  Press release prepared promoting the consultation to district. Release included the link to survey. Survey contained link to the draft strategy.  Consultation promoted on social media channels - Facebook and Twitter. Posts included a link to the survey.  Webpage of consultations updated to include information about the consultation.
District Councillors	District Councillors informed of the consultation via the weekly members email	Weekly members email prepared by CP.

Voluntary and Community Groups (with an environmental focus)	Contacted by email and asked to comment	CD and VH contacted voluntary and community groups
Organisations with an environmental focus	<p>The Woodland Trust  The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership  Lincolnshire Rivers Trust  Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Grantham Rivercare</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council</p> <p>The Environment Agency</p>	<p>Organisations contacted by SKDC's Climate Change Officer:</p> <p><a href="mailto:enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk">enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="https://glnp.org.uk/contact-us">https://glnp.org.uk/contact-us</a>  <a href="mailto:lincsrivers@gmail.com">lincsrivers@gmail.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@lincstrust.co.uk">info@lincstrust.co.uk</a></p> <p>Rivercare Grantham  David Martin  <a href="mailto:sustransranger@hotmail.com">sustransranger@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Ian Simmons  <a href="mailto:iansimmons@icloud.com">iansimmons@icloud.com</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/comments-feedback/contact-us">https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/comments-feedback/contact-us</a></p> <p>and then chose environment and planning</p> <p><a href="mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk">enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>
Town/Parish Councils in South Kesteven	Town/parish clerks contacted and asked to participate	Climate Change Officer contacted town and parish councils with link to consultation.

## Details

7. To help collect feedback about the draft Climate Action Strategy, the consultation officer was asked to support the consultation process during the spring of 2023. Actions undertaken by the consultation officer and the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer included:

- Preparation of a press release to promote the consultation in the local press
- Drafting of Facebook posts and Tweets to promote the consultation on the Council's social media channels Facebook and Twitter
- Setting up a webpage to host the document
- Emailing all parish councils, voluntary and community groups and organisations with an environmental focus
- Preparing, designing and setting up the on-line survey
- Analysing feedback from 175 respondents
- Preparing a report

8. The survey<sup>1</sup> included the following sections:

- An introduction to the consultation. This included some context and background on the actions already undertaken by SKDC, including its declaration of a Climate Emergency
- Section 1: The purpose of this section was to measure the degree of public support for South Kesteven District Council acting on climate change
- Section 2: The purpose of this section was to determine the extent of public and other support for the Climate Action Strategy – both in principle but also content i.e. themes and the proposed approach
- Section 3: The purpose of this section was to establish what stakeholders thought the council should be doing in the future to address climate change. It also asked them what they thought the council should focus on
- Demographic information: This asked participants for their age, gender and first line of postcode

9. The opportunity to participate in the consultation was promoted both in the local media and on the Council's social media channels and website during the consultation period. Articles promoting the consultation were on the websites of both the Grantham Journal<sup>2</sup> and the Stamford Mercury<sup>3</sup> on 12 July 2023. The Facebook posts reached 3,559 people and 37 clicked on the link. There were 994 views on Twitter and 8 clicks on the link.

10. Various stakeholders including parish councils and organisations with an environmental focus, were contacted at the start of the consultation.

11. The consultation opened on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. It closed a few days later than scheduled (7 August) to allow several Parish Councils a further opportunity to respond. 175 responses were received.

## The results

12. The introduction to the survey set the scene. It informed respondents that the purpose of the strategy was to communicate the Council's approach to tackling climate change. It included various targets and commitments – and set out how SKDC plans to achieve its goals. For ease of reference, a link to the draft strategy was also available.

13. The first section of the survey focused on climate change, and asked respondents if they supported the commitments made by the Council in 2019, when it declared a climate emergency. The commitments were:

---

<sup>1</sup> Copy of survey attached at appendix one

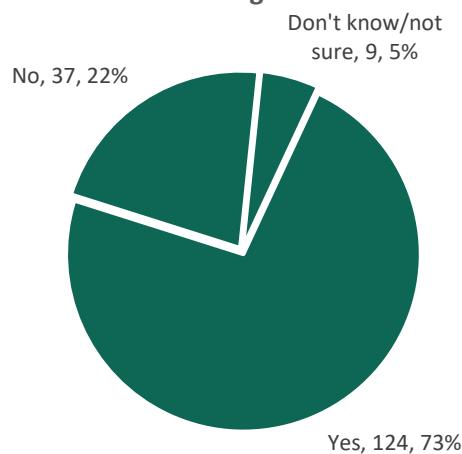
<sup>2</sup> [Have your say on South Kesteven District Council's strategy to tackle climate change \(granthamjournal.co.uk\)](http://www.granthamjournal.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [Have your say on South Kesteven District Council's strategy to tackle climate change \(stamfordmercury.co.uk\)](http://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk)

- To reduce the carbon footprint of the Council by at least 30% by 2030 and
- To achieve net zero carbon as soon as is viable before 2050

14. When asked if they supported these commitments, most respondents (124 or 72.9%) said that they did, as illustrated in the chart below:

**Q1. Do you support these commitments to act on climate change?**

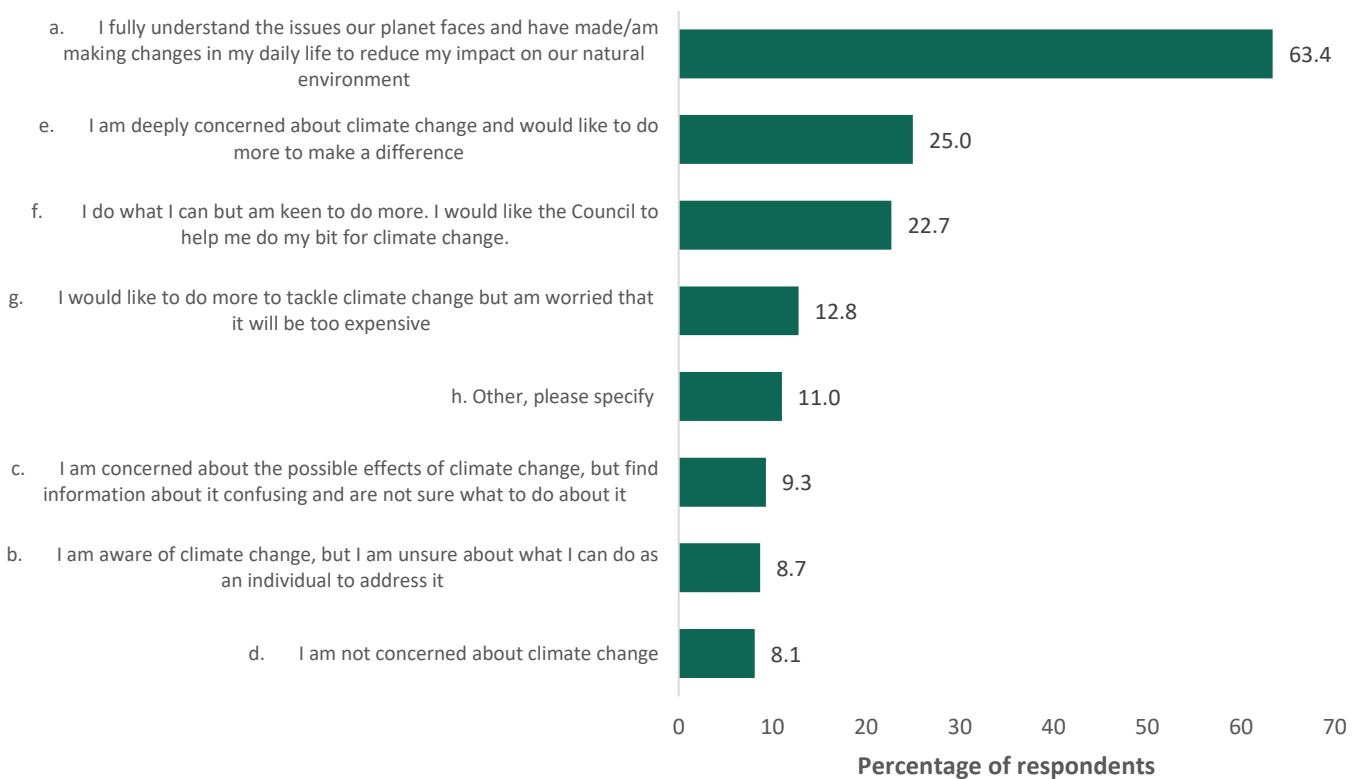


15. If respondents answered no or don't know/not sure, they were given the opportunity to explain why. An analysis of their comments revealed the following broad themes:

- Those who do not think climate change is happening  
**“It’s all nonsense. Don’t believe the climate change narrative.”**
- Those who believe in climate change but don’t think the targets are ambitious enough  
**“They are not ambitious enough in terms of goals and dates”**
- Those who object to the Council committing to tackling climate change on the grounds of cost  
**“because it costs too much money”**

16. Respondents were then asked to pick the statement(s) which most closely resembled their stance or position on climate change. The choices ranged from “I am not concerned about climate change” through to “I fully understand the issues our planet faces and have made/am making changes in my daily life to reduce my impact on our natural environment”. The percentage of respondents choosing each of the seven statements is illustrated in the graph below:

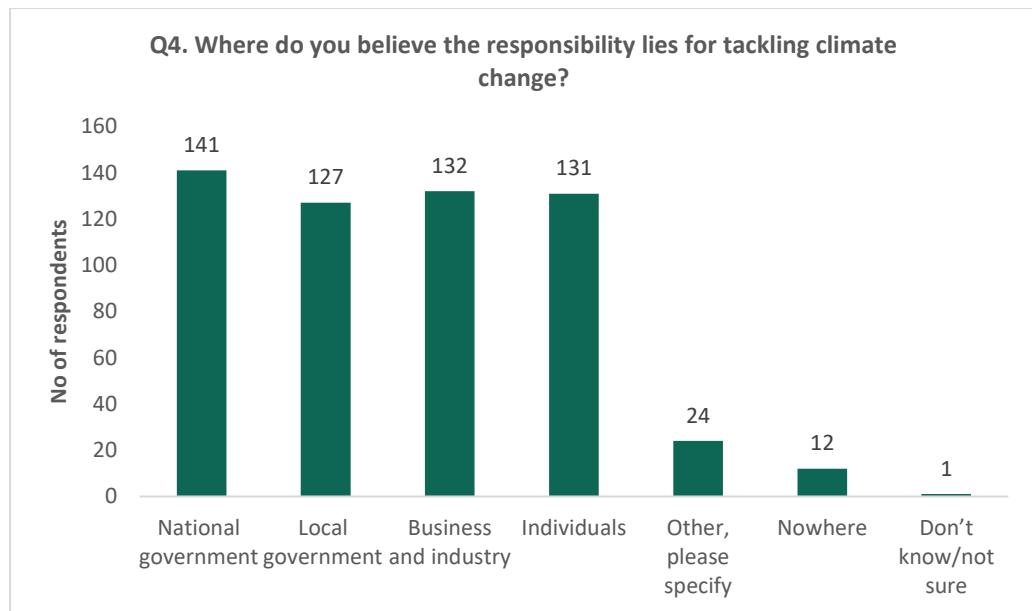
**Q3. Which of the following statements most closely describe your position on climate change?**



17. The most popular choice was the statement which included a commitment to changing behaviour to protect the environment. Two thirds of respondents (109 or 63.4%) chose this option. The next most popular choice illustrated a commitment to want to do more. (43 or 25%) There was also support for the Council to do more to help (39 or 22.7%). Perhaps not surprisingly, given the current cost of living crisis, costs were also a factor – chosen by one in ten responding (22 or 12.8%).

18. Nineteen respondents (11%) chose other. Some were frustrated and deeply concerned that not enough is being done, others were worried but thought there was little point unless there is global commitment.

19. When asked to say where they believe the responsibility lies for tackling climate change, the responses were interesting. Most respondents thought that the responsibility lay equally with both local and national government, businesses, and individuals. This is illustrated in the bar chart overleaf:



20. The second section of the survey asked respondents to comment on the content of SKDC's Climate Action Strategy. Respondents were informed that the strategy includes a three-part framework for action to reduce carbon emissions which have been categorised into:

- short term targets (2023 to 2025)
- medium term targets (2025 to 2030)
- Longer term targets (2030 and beyond)

21. They were also told that there are three main areas of focus:

- To continue to reduce carbon emissions from council activities
- To work in partnership with district wide stakeholders to achieve net zero carbon
- To adapt to the impacts of climate change at a local level

22. When asked if they agreed with these areas of focus, just over three quarters of respondents said that they did. (128 or 76.2%). 40 respondents (23.8%) answered no or don't know/not sure and were given the opportunity to say why. An analysis of their comments revealed the following broad themes:

- Those requesting that the targets included in the strategy are SMART<sup>4</sup>

**"The plan must include specific and measurable targets with a specified time."**

- Those wanting to see more of an emphasis on adaptation as well as mitigation

**"But report doesn't deal much with adaptation."**

<sup>4</sup> Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely

- Those requesting more of a focus on actions which can be undertaken by individuals and households too

**“Maybe individual households”**

23. When asked if they thought South Kesteven District Council’s draft Climate Action Strategy provides enough information about the challenges posed to residents and the district by a changing climate, just under half (66 or 45.8%) thought that it did. Over a third of respondents (51 or 35.4%) didn’t think that it did, with the remainder choosing to answer don’t know/not sure. This is perhaps not surprising given the number of comments received in relation to the targets that have been set and how they need to be more challenging.
24. When asked what else they would like to see, there was a lot of support for providing a smaller and more concise document -summarising the Council’s approach. Participants also wanted to see more detail on how targets will be achieved and more emphasis on the challenges and dangers posed by climate change.

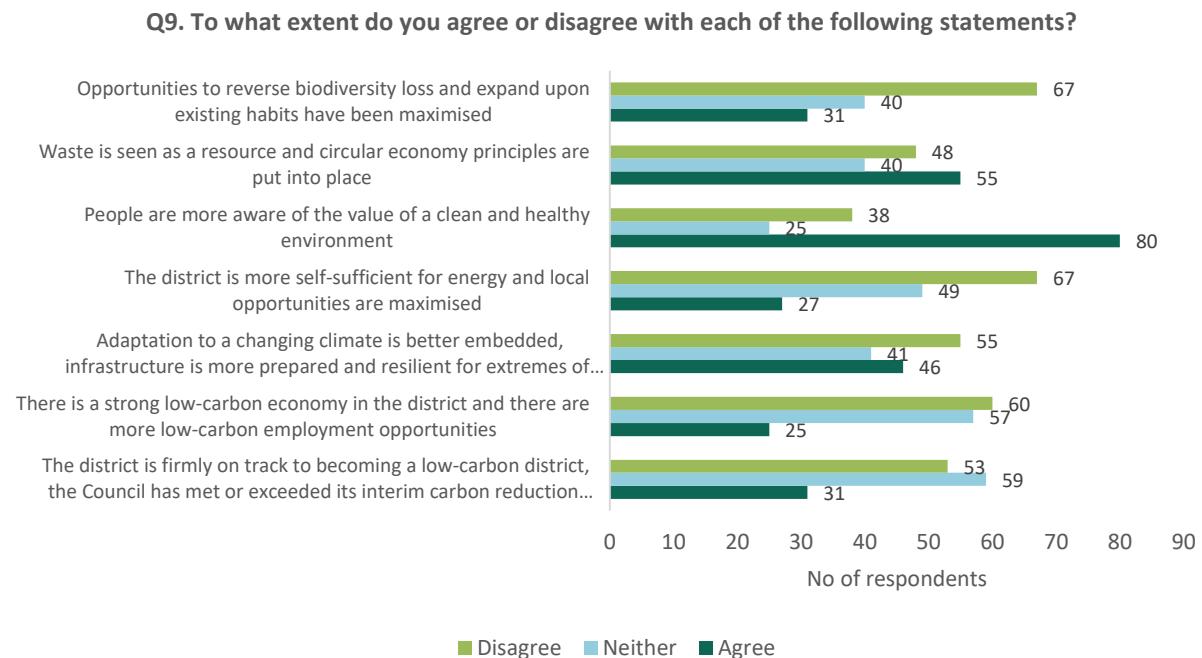
**“The strategy is not targeted enough. It is far too long and muddled”**

**“More info on carbon reduction targets”**

**“there are only a few lines that talk about the challenges and dangers we face through climate change”**

25. Seven statements were included in the strategy. These set out SKDC’s vision for 2030 with respect to climate action. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each.
  - The district is firmly on track to becoming a low-carbon district, the Council has met or exceeded its interim carbon reduction target
  - There is a strong low-carbon economy in the district and there are more low-carbon employment opportunities
  - Adaptation to a changing climate is better embedded, infrastructure is more prepared and resilient for extremes of weather
  - The district is more self-sufficient for energy and local opportunities are maximised
  - People are more aware of the value of a clean and healthy environment
  - Waste is seen as a resource and circular economy principles are put into place
  - Opportunities to reverse biodiversity loss and expand upon existing habits have been maximised

26. The responses to this question were interesting. There were more respondents who disagreed with the statements reflecting specific actions and outcomes than agreed with them. This might be because they weren't convinced that the statements could be achieved. The two exceptions were waste being seen as a resource and people being aware of the value of a clean and healthy environment. This is illustrated in the graph below:



27. When asked if there was anything else they thought the strategy should include, several very constructive comments were received. They included comments on water security, targets, actions and deliverables, requests for more of an emphasis on mitigation and adaptation, and more information for individuals and households on how they can contribute. The importance of ensuring that the strategy is closely linked to SKDC's Local Plan – particularly in respect of any new development taking place – was also mentioned. These are illustrated in the quotes below:

**“Water security and watercourses”**

**“I think there needs to be much clearer and specific targets with a clear route to achieving them”.**

**“SKDC needs to be making specific plans for climate change adaptation and resilience to protect its inhabitants from the serious challenges ahead (i.e., heat, drought, flooding and other predicted climate change emergencies).”**

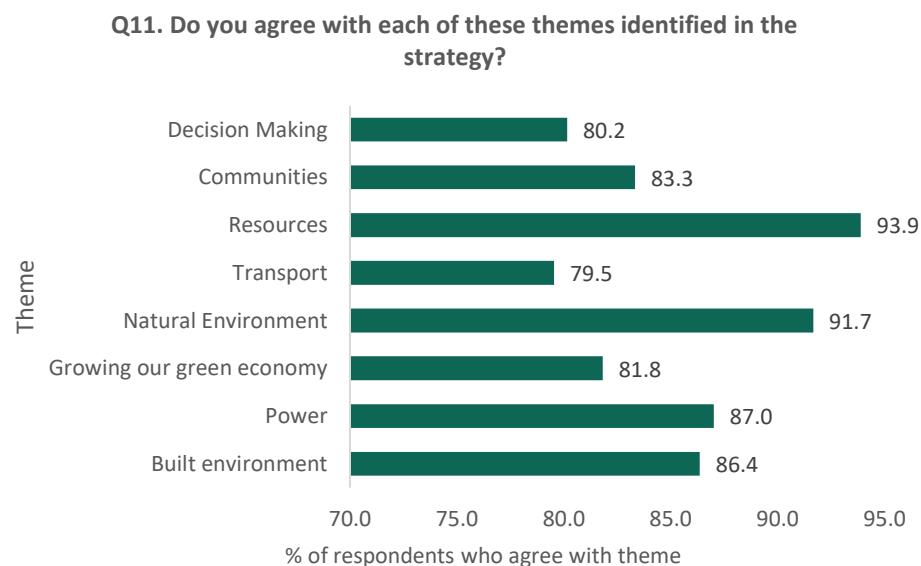
**“Support individual efforts to reduce carbon use & generation, e.g., solar hot water and electricity generation on houses.”**

**“Use their planning powers to force changes in the construction industry with both new build and renovation planning.”**

28. SKDC's draft Climate Action Strategy identified eight priority areas or themes to help address climate change and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. These are:

- **Built Environment** - To lead local action on improving home energy efficiency, embed low carbon principles into new developments and to make public buildings more efficient
- **Power** - To deploy renewable energy for Council properties, facilitate wider renewable energy opportunities for the district and to support energy efficiency opportunities
- **Growing our green economy** - To boost the number of low carbon businesses in South Kesteven, provide support for skills for a low carbon economy and ensure the Council uses its purchasing power to help deliver the benefits of net zero
- **Natural Environment** - To manage Council owned green spaces to benefit wildlife, support tree planting and biodiversity projects, and help to deliver improvements in wild habitats for new developments
- **Transport** - To work to embed public transport and active travel for everyday journeys and ensure South Kesteven has a high-quality network of electric vehicle charging points
- **Resources** - To support a reduction in waste produced in South Kesteven and boost waste reused, recycled or composted
- **Communities** - To communicate and engage with the South Kesteven community on climate change and adaptation to a changing climate, and develop policies and projects which provide a fair transition, ensuring that no resident is left behind
- **Decision making** - To ensure the Council responds to climate change in all areas of service delivery, and reviews where finance can be raised to deliver key projects within the district

29. There was strong support for each of these themes. The graph below shows the percentage of respondents who agree with each of them:



30. When given the opportunity to mention any other priority areas they thought the strategy should include, the following additions were suggested:

More emphasis on walking and cycle routes, and better public transport – particularly in rural areas

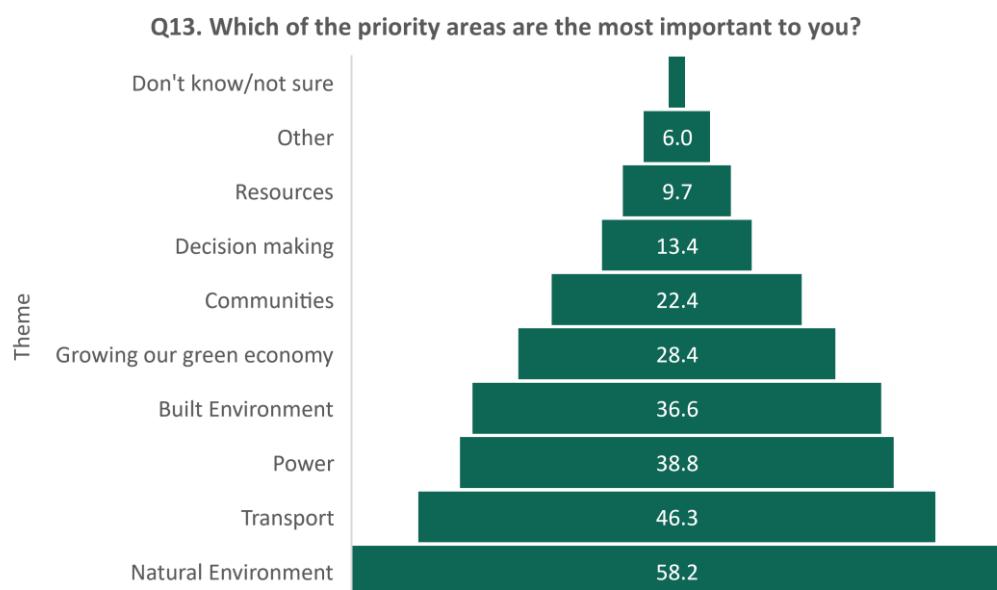
**“Encourage cycling as a form of local transport.”**

**“Making public transport more accessible to rural villages”**

Taking steps to reduce reliance on animal agriculture

**“a shift away from meat and dairy ..... should be a big area of focus”**

31. Keen to establish if there was any difference in how respondents viewed each of the priorities, they were then asked to choose which they thought were the most important. Given instructions to choose at least one but no more than three, the percentage of respondents choosing each of the themes is illustrated in the chart below:



32. This provides a clear view of what respondents think is important.

33. When asked what they thought the Council should focus on going forward, the themes were similar to those that have been expressed previously. These include ensuring new developments are carbon neutral, educating individual households on how they can contribute, and protecting green spaces. Examples of the comments made are listed below:

**“I would like to see more done in terms of making sure yay approved new developments are carbon neutral”**

**“...also help educate local residents on how to use less processed foods, so that there is less packaging, healthier lifestyles, more into compost bins than waste bins....”**

## **“Not building on green fields”**

34. When asked if they thought that as well as helping district residents adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, South Kesteven District Council should also develop local solutions to reduce carbon emissions, three quarters of respondents (96 or 74.4%) agreed with this approach. Suggestions included a community plan which sets out the lifestyle changes people should expect and a focus on local energy initiatives.

35. Respondents were given one last opportunity to raise any additional observations they might have about the Climate Action Strategy. The word cloud below shows the key concepts they raised.



WordItOut

## Demographics

36. To see how representative those who responded to this consultation were of the stakeholders asked to participate in this consultation, respondents were asked to supply some demographic information. Of those who chose to answer this question, most were residents (116 or 90.6%). There were also responses from those representing various organisations and community groups with an environmental focus (16 or 12.5%), as well as parish, district and county councillors (18 or 14.1%).<sup>5</sup>

37. A slightly higher proportion of males responded to this survey than females (64 or 50.4% compared to 55 or 43.3%). Comparing these results to those of the district's population<sup>6</sup> revealed that the sample is broadly representative in terms of gender as illustrated in the table below:

Gender	% (sample)	% (Popln)	Weight
Male	53.8	48.0	1.1
Female	46.2	52.0	0.9
Total	100.0		

38. The majority of responses were received from people aged between 35 and 74 (110 or 85.9%). Only a handful of responses were received from those under 35 (4 or 3.2%). This should be kept in mind when looking at the results. An effort should be made to engage with younger people.

39. The table below shows where responses to this consultation were received from. Most responses were from the urban areas of NG31, PE9 and PE10. There were no responses from the rural area of the district NG23.

Postcode	Number	%
NG23	0	0
NG31	30	23.4
NG32	5	3.9
NG33	5	3.9
NG34	5	3.9
PE6	6	4.7
PE9	51	39.8
PE10	17	13.3
Prefer not to say	6	4.7
Other, please specify	3	2.3
Total	128	100.0

<sup>5</sup> Please note respondents could tick more than one option. % has been calculated on total number of responses

<sup>6</sup> Based on ONS population estimates 2023 - total =145,558. M 69901 F 75657

## Conclusion

40. The feedback from this consultation has been extremely constructive. Whilst broadly supportive of the themes, areas of focus and priorities, some respondents thought there were some areas which were far too important to have not been included. These included a focus on what individual households can do to contribute towards targets, and much more of an emphasis on adaptation and mitigation. Quite a few thought that the strategy needed to be shorter, with more of a focus on outcomes and targets which are specific and measurable.
41. This is reflected in the answers to the question which asked respondents if they thought the Climate Action Strategy provided enough information on the challenges posed by climate change. Whilst just under half (66 or 45.8%) thought that it did, over a third of respondents (51 or 35.4%) didn't, with the remainder choosing to answer don't know/not sure.
42. Members are asked to note the results of this consultation and approve changes to the Climate Action Strategy which address the comments and concerns of respondents.

Prepared by Deb Wyles  
Communications and Consultation  
18 September 2023

# SKDC Climate Action Strategy

GLNP Comments 2023



Thank you for sharing South Kesteven District Council's draft Climate Action Strategy. Overall, it is a comprehensive strategy which positively identifies the Council's actions for addressing the challenges presented by climate change. I have included some comments relating to the role of the natural environment, for your consideration below. I am happy to discuss any of these further should you need.

## General comments

The GLNP understands that the primary focus of the Climate Action Strategy should be the reduction of carbon emissions over offsetting. However, the strategy could be more explicit on the value of nature recovery in terms carbon offsetting, climate change adaptation and the other multiple priorities it meets.

The document is a real opportunity to act as an exemplar by highlighting opportunities to meet the challenges presented by climate change by contributing to nature recovery. A number of the priorities identified throughout hold the potential for solutions to provide multiple benefits including for nature, whether this is through the implementation of green infrastructure or nature based solutions.

## Page 9

Due to their effectiveness the emphasis on trees and peat is important, however care should be taken not to suggest that enhancing other natural habitats isn't important in a climate change context. There is a risk that this could lead to the belief that planting woodland everywhere, even where it isn't ecologically appropriate, is justifiable for the sake of carbon offsetting.

The following wording could potentially address this, "altering the emphasis towards carbon storage and biomass production for fuel, accelerating **the creation, restoration and enhancement of natural habitats, especially through** tree planting and peatland restoration"

## Page 10

The value of the natural environment for climate change adaptation suggests that green infrastructure should be referenced in the third bullet point, especially as where green





infrastructure is used instead of traditional grey infrastructure the amounts of embedded carbon is reduced.

Potential wording could be “Adaptation to a changing climate is better embedded, infrastructure, **including green infrastructure**, is more prepared and resilient for extremes of weather”.

Also, the final bullet point on this page includes a spelling error and reads “**habits**” instead of “**habitats**”.

## **Page 15**

It would be nice to see some reference to the role of blended finance and the role of private investment when referring to funding. This could include encouraging businesses in the area to invest in nature based solutions as part of their corporate environmental responsibility.

## **Page 18**

Specific mention of green infrastructure and its role in meeting multiple objectives of sustainable development could be included here, for example sustainable urban drainage systems. There is also scope to highlight the benefits of green infrastructure over grey in terms of carbon offsetting and embodied carbon. The inclusion of green infrastructure also identifies nature as a co-benefit within the built environment.

Should there also be reference to biodiversity net gain and the role green infrastructure has to play in helping developments meet part of their targets onsite.

## **Page 23**

There is potential under the Power section to include reference to the natural environment. This could be both in terms of protecting it from the impacts of renewable energy installations, but also in respect of the opportunity these installations provide for the creation of more biodiverse landscapes. For example, the potential to create nature rich grassland around solar panels which can create a biodiversity uplift from farmland. A focus on this could give the section a co-benefit to nature.





## **Page 24**

Could the section “growing our green economy” include support for, or reference of, green investments such as water, biodiversity and carbon credit markets? This holds the potential for achieving nature recovery targets through private investment, while addressing climate change and the impacts of climate change, as well as ensuring nature is a co-beneficiary of this priority.

## **Page 28**

The GLNP supports the emphasis on nature recovery, however the “Natural Environment” section is also a great opportunity to highlight the value nature has for meeting objectives for climate change adaptation.

## **Page 29**

It should be clear that while tree planting can have benefits for both carbon storage and biodiversity, that creating woodland this is only this habitat type is appropriate. Not all species are adapted to a woodland environment and therefore in some cases planting could result in biodiversity loss. However, all habitats do capture carbon to different extents and it is a case of balancing the two priorities.

The chapter recognises the value of nature for offsetting emissions, but states that the Council won’t promote nature based carbon offsetting, beyond offsetting its own emissions. The GLNP understands that the council may want to put the emphasis on reducing emissions as this is a priority, however offsetting carbon through nature enhancement has the potential to drive the creation of habitats to adapt to the impacts of climate change and provide the other multiple benefits mentioned within the strategy. While the GLNP also understands that the Council may feel active promotion is not their role, the strategy could include a commitment to supporting such projects where appropriate.

## **Page 30**

It feels like the wording of the first paragraph frames peat soil habitats as the problem, in fact, due to their ability to sequester and store carbon indefinitely, when found in a natural state or managed to good condition, they are potentially a key part of the solution. While the emissions from peat soils should be recognised, the paragraph should be reworded to make it clear that this is due to historic and ongoing poor management. The paragraph should also be clear what “well managed” means, as the inclusion of their value for high





fertility and easy drainage might suggest that traditional farming techniques are how they should be managed, which is not the case. Instead such habitats require a high water level. The GLNP understands the importance of the agricultural sector and therefore how important it is that food production is not framed as the problem. Instead sustainable and regenerative farming methods should be promoted as part of the shift towards resilience for both the climate and the agricultural sector.



# Appendix C



FAO: Serena Brown  
Sustainability and Climate Change Officer  
South Kesteven District Council

<by email> [Serena.Brown@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Serena.Brown@southkesteven.gov.uk)

**Date:** 07 August 2023

Dear Serena

## **South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy Consultation**

Thank you for consulting us on the above draft South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy on 14 July 2023. We have summarised our feedback below:

### **The vision**

We support South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC) commitment to achieve net zero carbon as soon as possible, with an aim to do it ahead of the government's ambition to become net zero by 2050.

It is good to see the council recognise that infrastructure needs to be more prepared and resilient to extremes of weather as part of the Climate Action Strategy outline; this will ensure that our transition to net zero is also resilient to climate impacts. You also highlight the need to reverse biodiversity loss, acknowledging that nature can play a key part in tackling the climate emergency.

We agree that waste should be seen as a resource and support this vision as it promotes the transition to a more circular economy. You may wish to reference [The Waste \(Circular Economy\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) as it gives a legislative framework for establishing a future waste management trajectory.

We would also suggest that the council looks at the [Climate Emergency Design Guide | LETI](#). This should support your ambition to exceed carbon reduction targets. This guide outlines the requirements for new buildings to ensure that climate change targets are met.

### **Themes**

#### Natural Environment

We would encourage the inclusion of blue infrastructure within this theme as an addition to the green infrastructure (i.e. green and blue infrastructure, or green/blue infrastructure) referenced within the text. You could maximise opportunities to integrate green and blue infrastructure along transport corridors for example.

We would add that investment in renewables needs to be future proofed and should recognise the constraints of the natural environment as it is impacted by climate change. Our focus will be ensuring [renewable energy] schemes comply with statutory standards for environmental quality, species, and habitat protection.

#### Resources

We feel that securing water as a resource should be added as an ambition under the 'resources' theme. Whilst it is acknowledged that the district is one of the driest regions in the country and references are made to Policy in the existing Local Plan it may be possible

to take this further. The Local Plan sets expectations for a water neutral position, the council could consider an improvement on this position.

Information is available from [Waterwise](#) on grey and rainwater harvesting policies for new developments. You may also be able to incorporate these techniques into improvements you propose to make to council-run buildings.

Improvements to water supply and sewerage infrastructure will also be required to support climate resilient growth.

#### Further information

We have taken this opportunity to signpost the council to a number of trusted resources which may be of interest.

In terms of planning policy, we recommend the Town and Country Planning Association/Royal Town Planning Institute guide: [The Climate Crisis: A guide for LAs on planning for Climate Change \(Oct 21\)](#). This is regarded to be a key resource to shape planning policy and contains good practice examples.

The climate adaptation toolkit is free for local authorities to use and can be found here: <http://localpartnerships.org.uk/resources/climate-adaptation-toolkit/>

The [Local Government Association's Climate Change Hub](#) contains a wide range of resources designed to support councils tackle climate change, including case studies and planning/housing information.

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) [Preparing for a Changing Climate: Good Practice Guidance for Local Government](#) is designed to help councils prepare for climate impacts.

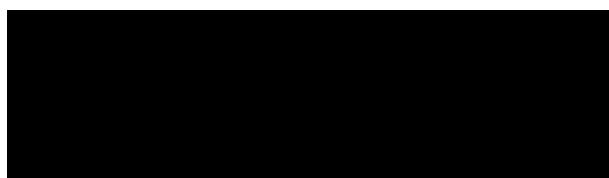
[Ashden](#) provides resources to support council action on climate change.

[Carbon Trust Local climate action planning](#) contains information and examples of Local Authorities that have net zero outcomes in their strategies.

The [Defra Accounting for the Effects of Climate Change](#) provides supplementary guidance to the HMT Green Book. It is designed to support policy makers identify how their proposals can be affected by climate risks and how to design adaptation measures in response. The guidance reflects the [EA's Climate Impacts Tool](#) and some of our place based approaches for tackling climate change, e.g. the Thames Estuary 2100 plan.

Should you require any additional information in the meantime, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address below.

Yours sincerely,



# South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy

Our vision, aims and high level ambition to mitigate and adapt to climate change for our District

Updated October  
2023



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Climate change context</b>	<b>8</b>
Purpose of the Strategy	5	The issue for South Kesteven	8
Format of the Strategy	5	Global, national and local agreements on climate change	8
Timescales	5	What changes do we need to see?	9
Scope	5		
<b>South Kesteven at a glance</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Climate Action Strategy outline</b>	<b>10</b>
		South Kesteven District Council climate emergency declaration	10
		The vision	10
		The ambition	11
		Purpose of document	11
		Focus of the Climate Action Strategy	11
		<b>Framework for Action</b>	<b>12</b>
		South Kesteven District Council policy	12
		Timescales for action	15
		Raising finance	15
		Co-benefits of tackling climate change	15



Themes	16
Built Environment	18
Power	22
Growing our green economy	24
Natural Environment	28
Transport	32
Resources	36
Communities	40
Decision Making	42
<b>Monitoring progress</b>	<b>46</b>
South Kesteven local authority area emissions	46
Per capita carbon emissions	47
Carbon budgets	47

68



Consumption emissions	48
Carbon management plan for the council	50
Carbon management hierarchy	52
<b>Our influence</b>	<b>53</b>
Working together	54
The case for action	55
<b>Conclusion and next steps</b>	<b>57</b>
Climate Action Plan	57
Appendix A: context of climate change	58
National legislation and policies	58
Climate risks and opportunities	58
The triple planetary crisis	59
Appendix B: data on greenhouse gas emissions and monitoring progress	60
Detail on Greenhouse gas emissions data by local authority	60
Net zero defined	60



# Executive summary

The Climate Action Strategy lays out how we can respond as a Council to the global issue of climate change at a local level, and provides a clear place-based vision for South Kesteven's approach to climate change. The strategy covers climate change mitigation as well as considering adaptation to living in a warmer world.

The aspiration is to ensure opportunities to reduce carbon emissions are pursued at every stage, securing the wider benefits to society, economy and the environment.

Climate change is a challenging and cross-cutting issue, and the Climate Action Strategy does not propose an exhaustive list of all the actions required to respond. The document sets out our role as a Council in leading, shaping and enabling local responses to a global issue.

## Purpose of the Strategy

16

The Climate Action Strategy sets out ambitions for the wider district regarding climate change. The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a framework for action for South Kesteven to reduce carbon emissions and safely adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Building on current strategy, including South Kesteven District Council's Corporate Plan and ongoing work to reduce Council carbon emissions, the Climate Action Strategy will provide a significant step forward in helping to address a range of systemic challenges that are seen in South Kesteven.

## Format of the Strategy

The Climate Action Strategy is broken down into two stages: firstly, this document establishes the context for climate action within South Kesteven, including local opportunities and barriers, and proposed a framework of eight areas to focus upon. With this framework in place, a subsequent detailed action plan will be taken forward and act as a live project list with ownership at all levels across South Kesteven District Council.

## Timescales

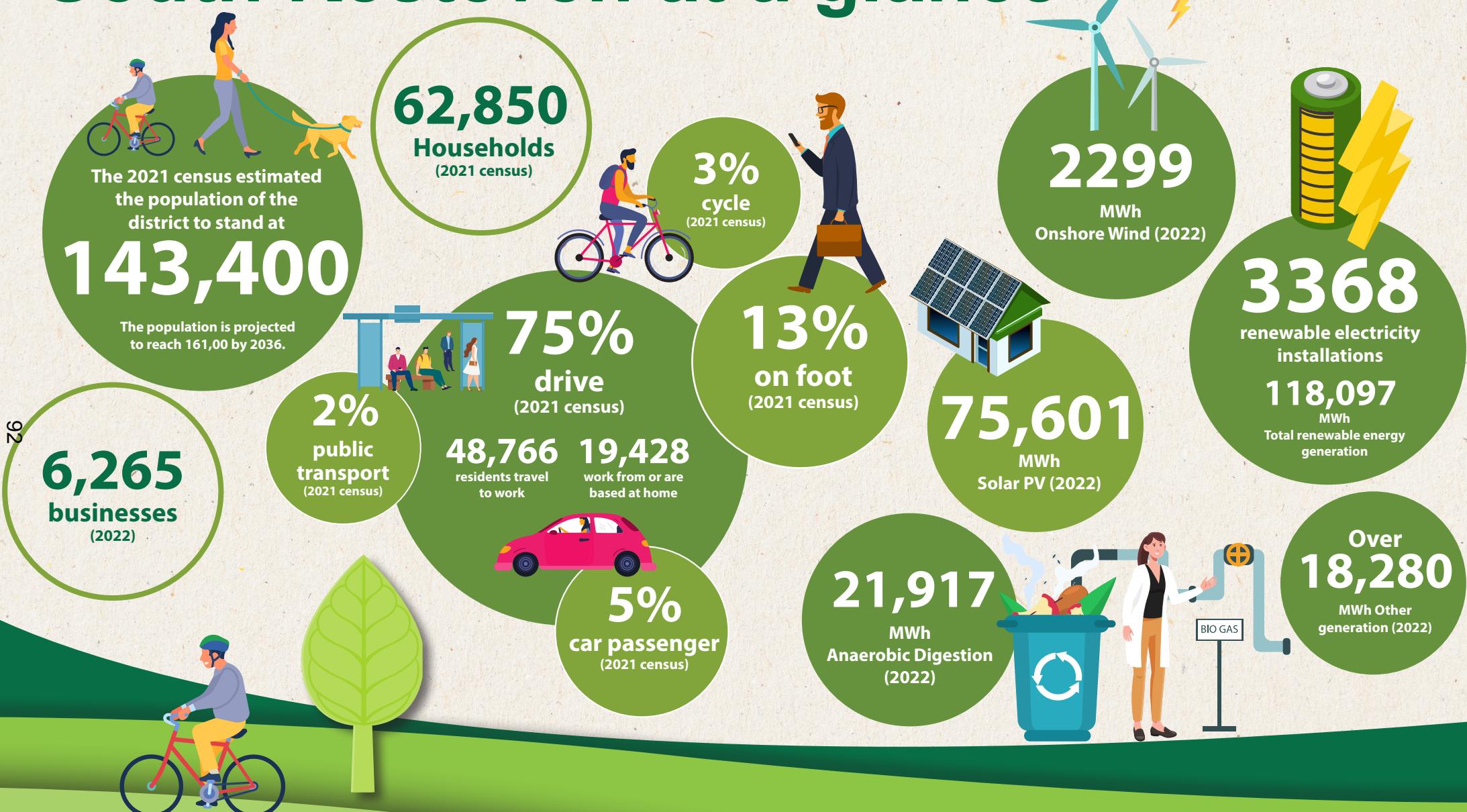
The Climate Action Strategy proposes a three part framework for action: short term (2023-2025), medium term (2025-2030) and longer term (2030 and beyond). This timeframe reflects the Council's own aspiration to reduce carbon emissions from Council operations by at least 30% by 2030.

## Scope

The Climate Action Strategy proposes a framework of eight key themes to target, each with a consideration of key aspects in terms of climate change, carbon reduction and adaptation to living in a warmer world. The implications for carbon removal and offsets are also considered.



# South Kesteven at a glance





# Climate change context

Climate change is driven by the impact of human activity on the earth's atmosphere. Global changes in the earth's average temperature have been rapidly increasing, linked to the accumulation of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>, also referred to interchangeably in this document as carbon) and other greenhouse gases. The world is now about 1 C warmer than it was in the 19th century, and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has risen by 50% as of 2022<sup>1</sup>.

The UK is set to experience a further 0.5°C increase in average annual temperature by 2050, even under ambitious global scenarios for cutting carbon emissions. Failure to significantly reduce carbon emissions would mean average temperatures increase even further. The general impact this will have on the UK is expected to be warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, and the increased likelihood of disruptive extreme weather-driven events.

## 94 The issue for South Kesteven

South Kesteven both contributes to the effects of climate change through carbon emissions and is impacted at a local level by a changing climate. At a local level, the main impacts projected for the East Midlands area include flooding, droughts and water shortages, and periods of prolonged overheating.

It is clear we are already feeling the effects of a changing climate, both at home and further afield. The UK record for the highest ever temperature recorded was broken on 19th July 2022 at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, with a temperature of 40.3°C.

### Further impacts of climate change are likely to include:

- Heatwaves which become more frequent, more prolonged and more extreme
- Periods of drought from low seasonal rainfall
- Surface water flooding from more severe rainfall events and flooding from watercourses
- Disruptive weather including storms and hail
- Increased risk of cold snaps

Being able to adapt to these expected impacts of climate change is fundamental. The risks and opportunities presented by climate change in England are explored further detail at Appendix A.

## Global, national and local agreements on climate change

The world faces a huge challenge to address climate change, but there are solutions to rapidly slow carbon emissions. The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21 in Paris in 2015, represented the first successful global effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The main aim of the agreement is to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 C and work to ensure the overall increase in global temperature does not exceed 2 C, recognising that the disruptive impacts resulting from a changing climate are expected to get progressively worse as temperature passes that threshold.

In 2019, the UK Government set out a target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the whole UK by 2050. This commitment, legally enshrined by the Climate Change Act (2008)<sup>2</sup> means the UK now has less than 30 years to completely decarbonise its economy. Further detail on targets set by the UK government to meet net zero by 2050 are included at Appendix A.

While significant progress has been made since the agreement in 2015, alarmingly these efforts remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise by 1.5 C. UNFCCC published an analysis of global commitments to emission reduction in October 2022 and found combined climate pledges could put the world on track for 2.5 C of warming by the end of this century<sup>3</sup>.

To the end of 2022, over 75% of UK local authorities have declared a climate emergency. Across the country, councils are taking urgent action in their local areas to combat the negative impacts of climate change and to reduce carbon emissions towards the UK government's carbon targets.

56

## What changes do we need to see?

The Committee on Climate Change produced a report ahead of the UK's formal adoption of the 2050 net zero target. Within this, they suggest scenarios which would unlock society wide carbon emissions reductions<sup>4</sup>.

### These include:

- Resource and energy efficiency – comprehensively reducing waste and reducing demand for energy across the economy
- Electrification – particularly of transport and heating, supported by a major expansion of renewable and low carbon energy generation
- Hydrogen development – where there are energy intensive demands in industrial processes or long distance HGVs and shipping, hydrogen could service some of that demand
- Carbon capture and storage – for industry and for residual emissions
- Land use changes – altering the emphasis towards carbon storage and biomass production for fuel, accelerating the creation, restoration and enhancement of natural habitats, particularly through tree planting and peatland restoration
- Behaviour changes across society – especially those that lead to a lower demand for carbon-intensive activities, for example a greater shift towards healthier diets and a reduction in consumption of beef, lamb and dairy products

1 Carbon dioxide now more than 50% higher than pre-industrial levels | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov)

2 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (legislation.gov.uk)

3 Climate Plans Remain Insufficient: More Ambitious Action Needed Now | UNFCCC

4 Net-Zero-The-UKs-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming (2).pdf



# Climate Action Strategy outline

## South Kesteven District Council climate emergency declaration

On 26 September 2019, South Kesteven District Council formally declared a climate emergency, recognising the urgent need to accelerate carbon emissions reductions, and the fundamental role that local authorities can have in leading, shaping and enabling local action.

South Kesteven District Council also set the target to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030 and to endeavour to become net-zero carbon as soon as viable before 2050. The response also recognised the much more far-reaching impact of the Council's community leadership role to reduce South Kesteven's carbon footprint, through engagement with residents, businesses, and other public sector organisations.

96

## The vision

By 2030, our vision for South Kesteven is that:

- Buildings across South Kesteven have high energy efficiency, reduced dependence on fossil fuel heating systems and are better adapted to the impacts of climate change

- South Kesteven has increased renewable energy generation and is more self-sufficient for energy
- South Kesteven has a strong low-carbon economy and there are more low carbon employment opportunities
- Wildlife habitats are valued, maintained, enhanced and created in South Kesteven and biodiversity is restored
- Emissions from transport are reduced throughout South Kesteven and there are more flexible and low carbon travel options
- Waste is valued as a resource and circular economy principles in practice, water efficiency and management is improved
- People are more aware of the value of a clean and healthy environment and we are better adapted to a changing climate and extremes of weather
- Climate and net zero considerations are fully embedded within South Kesteven District Council's decision making at every level



## The ambition

In order to play our part in meeting national net zero targets, it is recommended to follow a science based target and aim for a net zero carbon position for the district by 2041. The target is based upon modelling produced by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, widely adopted by many local authorities. This is explored further in the Carbon budgets section.

## Purpose of document

The Climate Action Strategy aims to formally set out ambitions for the wider district regarding climate change. The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a framework for action for South Kesteven to reduce carbon emissions and safely adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Whilst taking account of South Kesteven District Council's Corporate Plan and existing work to reduce Council carbon emissions, the strategy will provide a significant step forward in helping to address a range of systemic challenges that are posed to South Kesteven.



The Climate Action Strategy supports South Kesteven District Council's declaration of climate emergency and reflects the authority's leadership role to reduce carbon emissions through work with residents, businesses, and other public sector organisations. The Climate Action Strategy will outline the main sources of carbon emissions within the district of South Kesteven, and outlines what role South Kesteven District Council can have to reduce them.

Achieving carbon reductions beyond our own operations will require close collaboration and action from residents, businesses, community groups and many other organisations. This Strategy will set out our approach for engaging with these groups to support, influence and facilitate change.

## Focus of the Climate Action Strategy

1. Continue to reduce the carbon emissions from our own council activities
2. Support and facilitate partnership working of stakeholders throughout South Kesteven and Lincolnshire to achieve net zero carbon in the district
3. Adapt to the impacts of climate change at a local level



# Framework for Action

## South Kesteven District Council policy

The Climate Action Strategy is aligned with and supports the Council's existing policies and strategies.

## Corporate Plan themes

-  Growth and our Economy
-  Housing that Meets the Needs of all Residents
-  Healthy and Strong Communities
-  Clean and Sustainable Environment
-  High Performing Council

86

## District wide focus



## Council operations focus

FIGURE 1: CURRENT AND DRAFT RELEVANT POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR SOUTH KESTEVEN

## Corporate Plan 2020-2023

The Corporate Plan 2020 – 2023 provides the context for the Council's decision making. It sets out our vision for the district, as the 'best in which to live, work, and visit' and our priorities for achieving this. Delivering a Clean and Sustainable Environment is a key strategic priority of the Council. The plan commits the Council to reduce its carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030 and endeavour to become net-zero carbon as soon as viable before 2050.

## State of the District 2023

State of the District is an annual report on the society and economic performance of the district of South Kesteven, including an assessment of the district's carbon emissions by sector and intensity. The report provides part of the evidence base that informs the Corporate Plan and the other policies, strategies and initiatives actioned by the Council.

66

## The Local Plan 2011-2036

The Local Plan provides the spatial framework for guiding development and change across district. The plan is underpinned by a commitment to the principles of sustainable development. All developments shall consider how they can proactively minimise the impacts of climate change in their design, construction and use.



## Draft South Kesteven Economic Development Strategy 2023–2028

The draft Economic Development Strategy provides the framework for the promotion and delivery of investment, job creation and growth in the district. The strategy will explore the development of a low carbon circular economy and commit to promoting the green economy within South Kesteven and utilising economic development to increase the adaptive capacity of communities in preparation for climate change hazards.

## Draft Housing Strategy for South Kesteven

The Housing Strategy is overarching for all of the Council's housing policies and works alongside the Council's Local Plan. It will provide the vision for how housing across the district will be developed and maintained and how households will be supported.

## Draft Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

This county-wide strategy sets out five main areas where councils are able to influence in order to maximise positive health and wellbeing outcomes for residents, with clear links to a healthy environment.

## Air Quality Management Area and Action Plan for Grantham

South Kesteven District Council declared an Air Quality Management Area in 2013, covering the main roads in the town centre of Grantham. The main source of air pollution derives from the volume of vehicle traffic travelling through the area. An Air Quality Action Plan sets out a number of areas to influence a reduction in air pollution in the area.

## Corporate Asset Management Strategy 2022-2027

The Corporate Asset Management Strategy provides the framework for the management of the Council's estate and property portfolio (excluding the housing assets). The strategy contains a commitment to reduce the Council's carbon footprint by making investments in our assets that match commitment to meeting net zero, and identifying whether every investment can achieve net zero in its operation by 2030.

## Carbon Footprint & Reduction Opportunities

This report was produced by the Carbon Trust on the carbon emissions of the Council. The document acts as the de-facto Carbon Management Plan for the decarbonisation of the Council's operations with the target of a 30% reduction in the organisations footprint by 2030 and achieving net zero as soon as viable before 2050.

## Draft Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account separate from the Council's General Fund that contains the income and expenditure relating to the management and maintenance of its housing stock. The draft HRA Business Plan, currently under development, will make links to current work to retrofit and improve the energy performance of Council owned properties and set out priorities, plans and actions for council housing over the next 30 years.

## Tree guidelines for the management of trees within South Kesteven District

Sets out the Council's approach around management of trees within the district. This includes consideration of how to manage trees on Council owned open spaces, and duties around privately owned trees including safety and Tree Protection Orders.



# Timescales for action

In order to ensure sustained action, this plan proposes to cover the period to 2030, aligning with South Kesteven District Council's declared target for carbon reduction. Ambitions and projects which deliver on those (to be detailed in the subsequent Climate Action Plan) are split into immediate short term goals, medium term aims and longer term projects. It is expected the Climate Action Strategy will be periodically refreshed to match action set out in the Climate Action Plan.

## Raising finance

In order to fund and sustain necessary action on climate change, a thorough consideration of the role of finance is critical.

Local government has a key role to play in resourcing the low carbon economy. Projects could be delivered through direct funding awarded by central government, as is the case for the current Home Energy Upgrade Scheme. Sources of funding are also available for activities such as decarbonisation of public buildings and social housing. It is essential that the Council continues to attract grant funding in order to deliver on key climate change schemes.

The role of raising wider funding also needs to be considered, yet councils are dependent on new powers being granted in order to raise money for key projects which deliver a community benefit. The current ability and capacity

of the council to raise finance for projects will be reviewed as part of the development of the Climate Action Plan.

## Co-benefits of tackling climate change

Through our eight identified themes, we outline the multiple co-benefits of pursuing action in each area. We recognise that, beyond carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change, many of the actions needed will also provide wider benefits for people, growth and the environment. By tackling congestion in our urban areas we can improve air quality, and by delivering high quality retrofitted properties we can address fuel poverty and the poor health outcomes of living in cold and damp homes.

We have mapped out eight key co-benefits of action:



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Improving air quality



Reducing the impact of flooding



Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing traffic congestion



Ensuring a fair society

# Themes

Eight key themes have been identified, reflecting the broad scope of work needed to effectively address climate change for South Kesteven.

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**



**POWER**



**GROWING OUR GREEN ECONOMY**



**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**



**TRANSPORT**



**RESOURCES**



**COMMUNITIES**



**DECISION MAKING**





# Built Environment

## Co-benefits



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth

### Our vision

Buildings across South Kesteven have high energy efficiency, reduced dependence on fossil fuel heating systems and are better adapted to the impacts of climate change

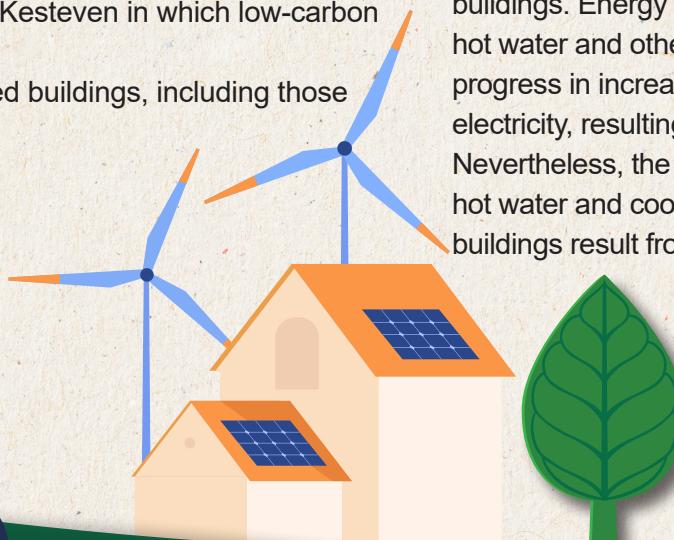
The Built Environment is a central tenet of climate action. Buildings are currently responsible for more than 40% of global energy use, and one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. South Kesteven is in line with this global pattern: in 2020, Domestic, Industrial, Commercial and Public Sector buildings accounted for 40.5% of overall reported greenhouse gas emissions.

As one of our defined themes, Built Environment interacts with other themes, principally under Power for considerations of energy supply and use to buildings, as well as Transport for links for existing and new developments and Resources regarding considerations of build materials and embedded carbon.

## Ambitions

- Lead local action to deliver high quality retrofit of domestic properties, across tenure types
- Help to deliver new developments in South Kesteven in which low-carbon principles are embedded
- Continue to decarbonise public sector owned buildings, including those owned by South Kesteven District Council

Decarbonising buildings is a fundamental challenge. In order to meet the national net zero goal, carbon emissions produced in heating and powering our homes urgently need to be addressed for our homes, workplaces and public buildings. Energy use in buildings is used for heating and cooling, cooking, hot water and other energy-using applications. The UK has made significant progress in increasing the proportion of renewable sources of energy to produce electricity, resulting in rapid decarbonisation of the national supply of electricity. Nevertheless, the majority of buildings still rely on fossil fuel energy for heating, hot water and cooking. As a result, the vast majority of carbon emissions from buildings result from heating: 79% of overall building emissions<sup>5</sup>.

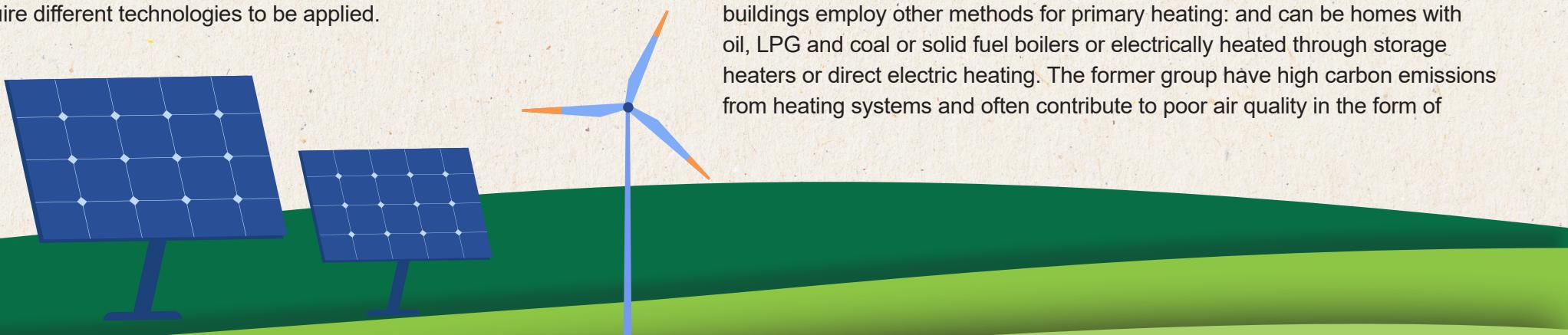


The UK has a number of challenges to decarbonise the building stock of the country. Britain has the oldest housing stock in Europe, a fifth of dwellings were constructed prior to 1919 and still form the backbone of our urban areas today<sup>6</sup>. Despite the immense cultural and historic value of our building stock, this presents a serious challenge in reducing heat loss and more broadly making them healthy, safe and suitable for the future. Of the UK's 28 million households, there are approximately 17 million properties below EPC band C. In order to cost effectively decarbonise heating, most or all of these buildings will need to be addressed before 2050.

The UK's housing stock is also changing very slowly over time, and it is clear that the current challenges we face cannot be addressed alone by substantial replacement by newbuild. Retrofitting existing dwellings will be the backbone of decarbonisation and of climate adaptation actions in the next decades. It must also be recognised there is no one-fits-all solution for retrofitting buildings effectively. In order to deliver on decarbonisation and also address issues of damp in buildings, health of inhabitants and reducing overall energy demand, every property upgraded must be considered on a case-by-case basis. In order to meet the needs of our diverse housing stock, the path to net zero therefore will require different technologies to be applied.

New developments will also need to adapt to meet the challenge of decarbonisation. The UK government has affirmed commitment to building around 300,000 new homes a year by the mid 2020s in England<sup>7</sup>. It is expected that the government's Future Homes Standard<sup>8</sup>, to be affirmed into law in 2025, will require new build homes to be future proofed with low carbon heating and improved energy efficiency. Particularly, it is expected that there will be a ban or rapid phase out of gas boilers installed in new developments from 2025 onwards, and alternative technologies such as heat pumps and heat networks will need to play a key role in heating new buildings, which have a lower heating demand through design. Building low carbon heat into new builds from the outset will ensure these buildings do not need to be retrofitted later to meet national net zero targets.

Buildings off the gas grid are of particular consideration for decarbonisation. There are over 4 million homes in Great Britain<sup>9</sup> and over 278,000 non-domestic buildings<sup>10</sup> that are in areas off the gas grid. South Kesteven is a predominantly rural area which is reflected in building heating fuel source. The district is estimated to have in 2020 around 22% of properties with no connection to gas for heating, compared to a national average of 14%<sup>11</sup>. These buildings employ other methods for primary heating: and can be homes with oil, LPG and coal or solid fuel boilers or electrically heated through storage heaters or direct electric heating. The former group have high carbon emissions from heating systems and often contribute to poor air quality in the form of



5 Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990 to 2020 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

6 The-Housing-Stock-of-the-United-Kingdom\_Report\_BRE-Trust.pdf ([bregroup.com](http://bregroup.com))

particulate matter from combustion. The latter group of electrically heated properties often have ageing, inefficient systems, leading to great expense for the inhabitant to heat satisfactorily and contribute to accelerated energy demand. The government's national Heat and Buildings Strategy outlines off-gas homes as a clear opportunity for decarbonisation in the form of heat pumps, and greater application of communal heating via a heat network<sup>12</sup>.

The potential for buildings to overheat in summer months also must be a more prominent consideration for the built environment. Energy efficiency measures, when installed incorrectly or without the appropriate adaptation measures, can exacerbate summer overheating. New developments need also to take account of the increased likelihood of extreme heat in summers. Overheating in new and refurbished homes can be addressed through passive cooling measures including better shading, reflective surfaces and green cover. Addressing building overheating through passive measures is of particular importance as it is anticipated in a warmer future for the demand for cooling to increase. Improving energy performance, both by sensitive retrofit of existing buildings and by integration of appropriate features into new developments, is key to future proofing the built environment and minimising carbon emissions.



There will be a greater role for energy planning and mapping for decarbonisation. The Heat and Buildings Strategy recognises the value of local authorities leading the process of energy planning at the local level, maximising existing knowledge of the built environment and partnerships with key local stakeholders including utilities, highways, other public sector bodies, the social housing sector, businesses, industry and developers.

In light of the current cost of living crisis and focus on the escalating cost of energy across all sectors, there is a renewed call for action to reduce energy used in buildings and simultaneously decarbonise. The UK Government recently confirmed its target to reduce buildings and industry energy demand by 15% by 2030 (relative to 2021)<sup>13</sup>. To make this ambition a reality, £6 billion of new government funding to back this target will be made available from 2025 to 2028. This is in addition to the £6.6 billion of existing funding through Help to Heat Schemes including the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Home Upgrade Grant and Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

**South Kesteven District Council secured £1.2m of funding to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to homes within the district.**

## Current activities from South Kesteven

### ■ Home Energy Upgrade Scheme (LAD/HUG)

- o South Kesteven District Council secured £1.2m of funding to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to targeted homes within the district. The core aims of the scheme are to alleviate fuel poverty alongside reducing carbon emissions associated with energy used in domestic properties.

### ■ Energy efficiency upgrades completed to 152 Council owned properties

- o A programme funded via the Green Homes Grant allocation to local authorities has delivered upgrades to heating systems. To date, 152 properties have received upgrades to low-carbon heating systems, which will make homes warmer and reduce energy costs for tenants. These properties, with no connection to the gas supply grid, were heated with inefficient storage heaters or solid fuel systems, and as a result are typically more expensive to run and have a higher than average carbon footprint. Upgrades will see an improvement in the property's Energy Performance Certificate.

### ■ Embedding climate change and carbon reduction through the Local Plan review

- o The current Local Plan Review (2041) will enable necessary updates of evidence and relevant national Planning guidance, including local implications of climate change for South Kesteven. The outcomes of the work will enable SKDC to make evidence-based decisions on Local Plan policy.

7 Building\_the\_homes\_the\_country\_needs.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

8 Heat in Buildings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

9 Sub-national estimates of properties not connected to the gas network - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

10 Non-domestic National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework (ND-NEED), 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

11 Sub-national estimates of properties not connected to the gas network - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

12 HM Government – Heat and Buildings Strategy (publishing.service.gov.uk)

13 Government joins with households to help millions reduce their energy bills - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**To date, 152 properties have received upgrades to low-carbon heating systems, which will make homes warmer and reduce energy costs for tenants.**



# Power

## Our vision

South Kesteven has increased renewable energy generation and is more self-sufficient for energy

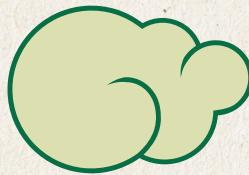
### Co-benefits



Reducing fuel poverty



Boosting jobs and growth



### Ambitions

- Identify and deploy renewable energy solutions where viable for SKDC properties
- Drive partnership opportunities to support and encourage renewable energy generation in the district and unlock green growth
- Support energy efficiency opportunities across the board to reduce overall energy demand



This policy area considers how we generate, store and consume power. Power interacts with many other areas, including Transport for considerations of provision of infrastructure for electric vehicles, and Built Environment for considerations of energy supply and use to buildings.

The carbon intensity of the national supply of electricity has reduced by over 40% in the last 5 years<sup>14</sup>, due to the large-scale integration of renewable energy, displacing generation from fossil fuels. Renewable energy generation capacity is now six times greater in 2020 than it was in 2010<sup>15</sup>, thanks to the contribution of off and onshore wind, solar, bioenergy and hydropower.

The global drive to reach net zero by 2050 will also mean we are likely to be using more electricity than ever before in the coming years, as energy use switches away from fossil fuels. Additional demand will come as more homes rely on electrically driven heat pumps, and as electric vehicles become more predominant. It will be important to pursue opportunities at every turn to combat energy wastage and ensure energy efficiency is embedded.

Transmission and distribution of electricity from where it is generated to where it is used is a fundamental consideration in supporting the move towards decarbonised energy. Our electricity grid will need to be capable of transmitting more energy in the future, which requires significant upgrades across the network.



## SKDC has previously installed solar PV on leisure centres in Grantham, Bourne and Stamford which provide energy used on site, reduce carbon emissions and generate income.

Reducing the amount of energy consumed to the lowest possible amount and addressing energy wastage is an obvious means of reducing carbon emissions. Across the Council's operations, the current Carbon Footprint and reduction opportunities report outlines several actions to reduce energy use from Council buildings<sup>16</sup>. The Council has delivered or is currently delivering projects to domestic properties to improve energy efficiency and switch heat to electric sources (as detailed in the Built Environment section). It is recognised that, alongside furthering these existing projects, the Council can have an important role in encouraging wider energy efficiency action, including through development that incorporates energy efficiency at the design stage and through co-ordinated engagement and communication with residents.

The development of renewable energy at every level will be important to drive local energy generation and provide a tangible contribution to national net

zero targets. SKDC has previously installed solar PV on leisure centres in Grantham, Bourne and Stamford which provide energy used on site, reduce carbon emissions and generate income. When future capital developments are considered by the Council, incorporating renewable energy and low carbon heating will be fundamental to meet our carbon reductions target. Maximising the potential for renewable opportunities for all other SKDC properties is an important next step towards our net zero targets.

In order to expand renewable energy potential at scale, unlocking small and large scale renewable projects throughout the district is necessary. The Council is currently undertaking an early review of its Local Plan, with the Local Plan review setting out the planning framework for the district over the next 20 years up to 2041. As part of this broader work, development of a policy for renewable energy is due to take place to set out expectations for new renewable developments.

### Current activities from South Kesteven

- **Renewable energy generation for South Kesteven leisure centres**
  - Solar PV panels have been installed on leisure centres in Grantham, Stamford and Bourne since 2012. In total 600 panels across the centres generate an average of 150,000kWh of electricity which are used directly in the centres. The on-site generation helps to lower the overall electricity used by each centre.



14 Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990 to 2020 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

15 Energy Trends: UK renewables - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

16 Carbon Reduction Action Plan Design v0.1 ([southkesteven.gov.uk](https://southkesteven.gov.uk))



# Growing our green economy

## Co-benefits



Reducing fuel poverty



Boosting jobs and growth



Ensuring a fair society

## Ambitions

- Provide a supportive structure for skills and training for low carbon and net zero businesses
- Boost the number of low carbon businesses operating within South Kesteven and work towards becoming a regional hub for low carbon business
- Ensure Council procurement activity delivers local benefits for net zero



### Our vision

South Kesteven has a strong low-carbon economy and there are more low-carbon employment opportunities

This theme considers the interactions between the economy and reaching net zero for South Kesteven. Growing our green economy interacts with many other areas, including Built Environment, Power and Transport for considerations around infrastructure, as well as Resources and Communities.

The net zero economy is the economic opportunity of the twenty-first century. Analysis by McKinsey has found that the supply of goods and services to enable the global net zero transition could be worth £1 trillion to UK businesses by 2030<sup>17</sup>. In the UK alone, in order to reach net zero carbon across the country by 2050, nearly 28 million homes and the premises of 6 million businesses will need to improve their energy performance including changes to lighting, heating systems, cooking and microgeneration. This needs to be underpinned by wider changes to our power system, development of alternative fuels, rollout of low-emission vehicles within the next 30 years.

Whilst taking steps towards the UK's target to reach net zero by 2050, the ongoing transition towards a zero carbon economy can bring benefits to the economy as a whole. Companies leading the way on net zero are now contributing more than £70 billion to the UK economy, which represents more than twice that of the energy sector<sup>18</sup>.

Boosting the net zero economy also represents a clear path to levelling up regions across the country. Research conducted by CBI Economics to measure the scale of the UK's net zero economy and geographic patterns found that economic activity associated with net zero is clustered outside of London, with hotspots found from Derbyshire to Leicestershire to Yorkshire and the Humber<sup>19</sup>.

Sub-sector	Definition
AgriTech	Companies developing technologies and services transforming traditional agricultural practices.
Building and building technologies	Companies providing technology and services for increased energy efficiency in buildings.
Carbon capture	Companies dedicated to carbon capture, storage and utilisation.
Low emission vehicles	Companies focusing on the development of technology and infrastructure for electric vehicles.
Energy co-operatives	Energy producers where citizens have ownership over the energy source.
Energy storage	Companies providing services and technology to capture energy for use at a later time.
Grid, demand side response and efficiency	Organisations dedicated to energy management and energy infrastructure development.
Heating	Companies supporting low carbon heating.
Diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill	Companies focusing on landfill management.
Low carbon	Companies providing energy from low carbon sources.
Pollution control and mitigation	Companies providing services and technology for the mitigation of pollution.
Renewables	Companies providing energy from renewable sources.
Waste management and recycling	Companies dedicated to solid waste removal, management and processing.
Low carbon consultancy, advisory and offsetting services	Companies providing environmental consultancy for the low carbon economy.
Green finance	Structured financial activity aimed to create a better environmental outcome.
Renewable Energy Planning Database	A list of companies generated by the Renewable Energy Planning Database – a database of renewable energy projects over 150KW to capture additional renewable energy businesses.

**TABLE 1: NET ZERO ECONOMY TAXONOMY OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY, DEVELOPED BY CBI ECONOMICS FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE INTELLIGENCE UNIT.**

17 Opportunities for UK businesses in the net-zero transition | McKinsey

18 Mapping-net-zero-economy-ECIU-CBI-DataCity-Jan2023.pdf (edcdn.com)

19 *ibid*

For our region, the East Midlands demonstrates a strong net zero economy. Over 4% of Gross Value Added or GVA (an indicator of the value generated from production of goods and services) derives from businesses engaged in the net zero economy and is associated with 3.3% of jobs in the region. This is driven by a strong contribution from the energy sector as well as manufacturing and water and waste management.

Net zero business is also addressing the challenge of struggling productivity rates. Labour productivity is lagging: South Kesteven's productivity was 22.9%, lower than the UK average in 2020. The net zero economy generates an average £135,100 per employee, and 2.5 times higher than the East Midlands average. A large proportion of this is driven by the strong presence of the energy sector, which is highly capital intensive.

Despite these green shoots, the pace of change of the UK economy will need to accelerate in order to meet net zero by 2050. Research conducted for the Local Government Association (LGA) in 2021 found that over 96,000 direct jobs employed in the low carbon economy will be required in England by 2050, including a projected 2,268 employment opportunities within South Kesteven.



Almost half of these are expected to be delivering low carbon electricity or low carbon heating, a further quarter in energy efficiency and the remainder in low emission vehicles, alternative fuels and low carbon services.

Supporting the skills base for this transition towards a low carbon economy in South Kesteven is vital. The average skills requirement for a job in a carbon-intensive industry is 46% lower than the average net zero related job. The district is well placed to capitalise on developing and attracting net zero employment opportunities. The skills profile for South Kesteven residents is superior to local, regional and national trends: in 2021, 81.8% of the district's population aged 16-64 possessed at least a level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs). Mapping out how best the Council can support upskilling for the low carbon economy in South Kesteven and implementing a programme of support for business will be crucial.

There is also a role for South Kesteven District Council to play in the local economy. The council procures a significant value of supporting services and products from within the district as well as further afield. Better understanding the carbon implications of the Council's supply chain, as well as how to improve purchasing to support and stimulate local low carbon businesses, is another important area. There are other areas of activity that have potential to deliver

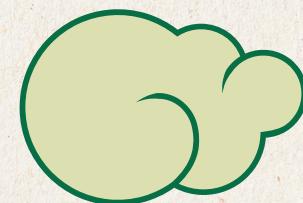
on several ambitions outlined within this Strategy: for example, driving forward a significant programme of domestic retrofit within South Kesteven will not only deliver carbon reduction through improved efficiency, it also offers significant potential to grow South Kesteven businesses operating in the low carbon heat and energy efficiency sectors.

For businesses, there are opportunities to capitalise on the move to net zero with investment in low carbon goods and services that cater to consumers rapidly shifting spending patterns. Local authorities clearly have an important role to play in driving climate action and enabling business to take advantage of these opportunities.

## Current activities from South Kesteven

- **South Kesteven Economic Development Strategy 2023–2028**
  - o The draft Economic Development strategy to 2038 includes the vision for the district to develop a low carbon circular economy, supporting businesses already operating in the low carbon sector and helping existing businesses lower their carbon emissions.

**Driving forward a significant programme of domestic retrofit within South Kesteven will not only deliver carbon reduction through improved efficiency, it also offers significant potential to grow South Kesteven businesses operating in the low carbon heat and energy efficiency sectors.**



20 Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district  
- Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

21 Mapping-net-zero-economy-ECIU-CBI-DataCity-Jan2023.pdf (edcdn.com)

22 Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery in South Kesteven | LG Inform

23 Microsoft Word - SKILLS DRAFT.docx (ukonward.com)



# Natural Environment

## Co-benefits



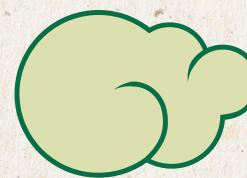
Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing the impact of flooding



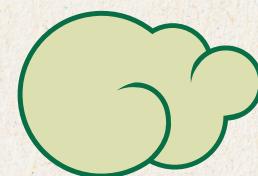
Improving health and wellbeing



## Ambitions

- Engage with partners to support projects boosting biodiversity and tree planting in South Kesteven
- Manage Council owned green spaces to boost biodiversity
- Embed Biodiversity Net Gain principles into new developments

114



## Our vision

Wildlife habitats are valued, maintained, enhanced and created in South Kesteven and biodiversity is restored

This area considers the interaction of the natural environment with carbon reduction efforts and impacts of a changing climate on the natural world. Natural Environment overlaps in some way with all other themes explored in this document.

The natural environment is the fundamental underpinning of life on earth, and a healthy natural environment affects all those who live in it. Nevertheless, the natural environment is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss that have led to the ongoing degradation of our environment.

Key to the effective functions of our natural environment is biodiversity, a healthy network of interconnected species. However, the UK has seen prolonged damage to habitats and ecosystems, resulting in the loss of nearly half of the UK's biodiversity since the Industrial Revolution and the lowest 10% of nations globally for biodiversity loss.

Land is a critical natural asset, but the UK's net-zero target will not be met without changes in how we use land. In 2020, the agricultural sector was attributed to 15.97% of reported greenhouse gas emissions: higher than the UK national average, reflecting South Kesteven's rural geography. Yet, it is possible



to reduce land-based emissions of greenhouse gases while delivering on other strategic priorities including biodiversity, food production, climate change adaptation, and renewable energy generation.

The wider benefits of a healthy, functioning set of ecosystems are also becoming better understood. Integrating and improving blue and green infrastructure into urban environment brings a host of benefits beyond contributions to biodiversity, and the links between health and wellbeing and access to well managed green spaces are increasingly recognised.

Biodiversity loss is also a critical issue to be tackled at the local level. One way this is being approached is via new duties for planning authorities to ensure new developments or significant changes to land management see an improvement of measured biodiversity. This approach, known as Biodiversity Net Gain, aims to deliver measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development. These improvements can be achieved directly on-site, off-site or a combination of the two to ensure measurable progress. The expectation for sites, under the Environment Act 2021, is that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain, and will need

to be secured for at least 30 years. Biodiversity Net Gain will apply from November 2023, and South Kesteven District Council will continue to review the necessary preparations for the planned start date of biodiversity net gain requirements, including understanding where these duties overlap with other areas of the Council beyond planning.

Afforestation, including tree and hedge planting, is one way to deliver on biodiversity improvements whilst providing opportunities to store carbon from the atmosphere in the longer term. Opportunities to take forward projects to boost biodiversity on Council owned spaces will be further explored. Tree planting alone is not suitable for all habitats, and the priorities of carbon reduction and improvements in biodiversity need to be carefully managed.

Whilst recognising the wider benefits of well-managed tree planting schemes for South Kesteven, it is important to also consider carbon offsetting practices. Given the number of opportunities outlined in this document for direct carbon emissions reductions, carbon offsetting via tree planting schemes or other methodologies will not be actively promoted above direct emissions reductions to achieve the Council's carbon reductions target. Nevertheless, there is an important role for appropriately designed and sited schemes, in order to see local benefits for biodiversity.



24 What is the Triple Planetary Crisis? | UNFCCC  
 25 V2 BNG Brochure final edits to make (blog.gov.uk)  
 26 Environment Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)

Consideration also needs to be given to existing areas of peat bog and peat soils within South Kesteven. Tracts of fenland peat soil are found within the district, predominantly bordering South Holland. As an agricultural resource, fenland soils are highly valued due to their high fertility and easily draining nature. Nevertheless, these landscapes are particular sources of carbon emissions if not well managed. Dry peat soils release their carbon to the atmosphere and are exposed to the elements, leading to soil erosion. This effect is exacerbated by the impact of droughts and heatwaves, which Lincolnshire is set to see more of as a consequence of climate change. The government's 25 year Environment Plan has set a target for all peat soils to be sustainably managed by 2030, helping to meet district level carbon emissions reduction.

It is expected in coming years there will be a more formal set of expectations around carbon offsetting. Currently, these schemes can offer an interested buyer a set amount of carbon offset credits, which are typically through tree planting schemes or peatland restoration. Nevertheless, the Committee on Climate Change has recommended to government that stronger guidance, regulation and standards should be developed and put in place to ensure purchase of carbon credits is not used as a substitute for direct emissions reduction, following the carbon management hierarchy, in order to improve the integrity and transparency of carbon credits.

With stronger guidance in place, credit based systems for carbon offsetting and biodiversity net gain offer the double benefit of also supporting adaptation to a warmer climate. Sensitive siting of new trees can deliver benefits including cooling street temperatures, or stabilising river banks during periods of heavy rainfall.

In order to maximise opportunities to boost local biodiversity, support ecosystems into the future and seek to naturally store carbon, it will be necessary to work closely with partners, including public sector organisations, to develop jointly led projects and provide a supportive role to wider opportunities for the district.

**The government's 25 year Environment Plan has set a target for all peat soils to be sustainably managed by 2030, helping to meet district level carbon emissions reduction.**

## Current activities from South Kesteven

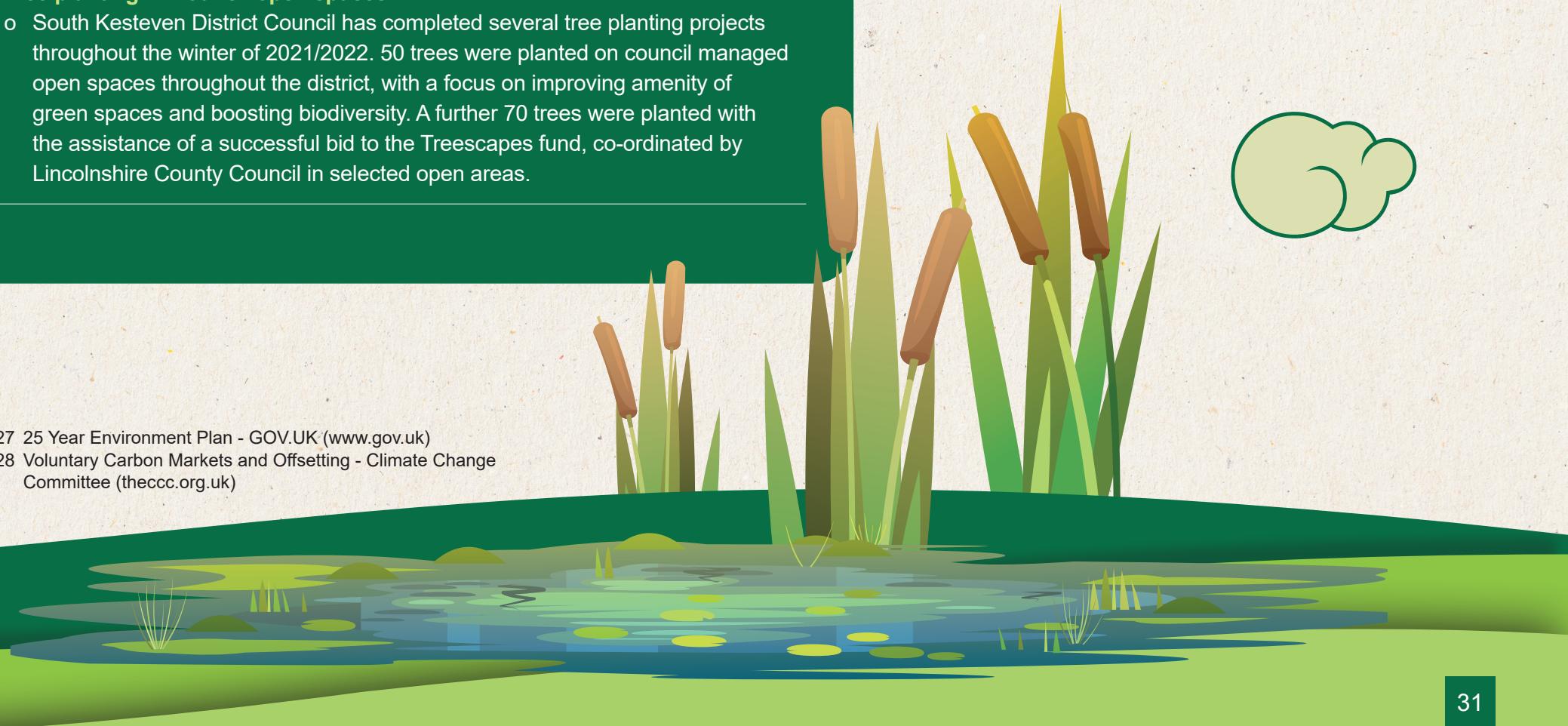
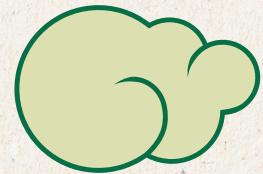
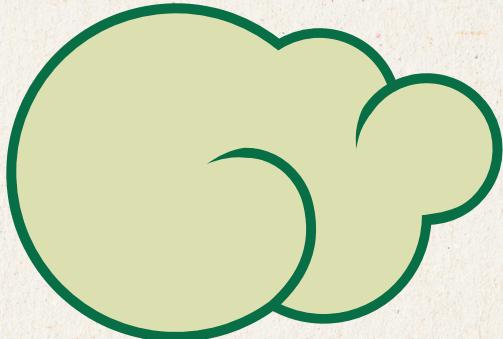
### ■ Witham/Slea blue-green corridor project

- o Major ecological improvements are being implemented for 14 areas of North and South Kesteven in a major partnership project including the Environment Agency. As well as delivering and improving habitats in or near the river, the aim is to help connect communities and provide health benefits for residents.

### ■ Tree planting in Council open spaces

- o South Kesteven District Council has completed several tree planting projects throughout the winter of 2021/2022. 50 trees were planted on council managed open spaces throughout the district, with a focus on improving amenity of green spaces and boosting biodiversity. A further 70 trees were planted with the assistance of a successful bid to the Treescapes fund, co-ordinated by Lincolnshire County Council in selected open areas.

27 25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))  
28 Voluntary Carbon Markets and Offsetting - Climate Change Committee ([theccc.org.uk](http://theccc.org.uk))



# Transport

## Co-benefits



Improving air quality



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Reducing traffic congestion

## Ambitions

- Support opportunities to reduce need to travel and unlock near term carbon reductions
- Ensure South Kesteven has a high-quality network of electric vehicle charging points that meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors
- Work to embed public transport and active travel options for urban journeys

### Our vision

Emissions from transport are reduced throughout South Kesteven and there are more flexible and low carbon travel options

As one of our themes, Transport interacts with other areas, including Power for considerations of provision of infrastructure for electric vehicles, and Built Environment for transport links to existing and new developments.

Transport fundamentally shapes our towns, cities, countryside as well as our living standards and health. Transport is also the largest single contributor to domestic GHG emissions: responsible for 24% in 2020, and 27% in 2019 pre-pandemic<sup>29</sup>. 90% of these emissions derived from travel on minor or major roads or motorways. Government data for local authorities does not include international aviation or shipping, but a commitment has been made to include these aspects in national carbon reporting in future.

South Kesteven is a district of 364 square miles, spanned by the A1 and traversed by the A52 in the north of the district. This geography and predominantly rural aspect of the district by its nature causes many to be reliant on cars. In 2020, current transport networks contributed 30.4% to South Kesteven's overall greenhouse gas emissions, principally through the road transport network.

Aside from carbon emissions, transport also remains one of the largest sources of air pollution in the UK, with significant implications for health and wellbeing. It is estimated that if poor air quality is not addressed, it could cost health and social care services in England £5.3 billion by 2035<sup>30</sup>. Noise from the road network also has a significantly detrimental effect on health: it is estimated the annual social cost of urban road noise in England is £7 billion to £10 billion<sup>31</sup>.

Within South Kesteven, there is one declared Air Quality Management Area covering a section of Grantham town centre, deflecting the poor air quality principally deriving from vehicle emissions from the established road networks of the A1, A52 and A1175<sup>32</sup>.

There is strong public support for action to remove transport's emissions. Decarbonisation of transport has the potential to shape better places for us to live and work and represents a prime opportunity to increase economic growth and future prosperity through uptake of electrification and sustainable low-carbon fuels<sup>33</sup>. In 2020 the UK government has made the headline commitment to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030, with all new cars and vans being fully zero emission from 2035 .

In order to facilitate this transition, the provision of an effective network of electric vehicle charging options will be fundamental. As of 1 October 2022, there were almost 35,000 public electric vehicle chargers in the UK, of which 6395 were rapid chargers, defined as a device where the fastest connector is rated at 25kW or above. To date South Kesteven possesses forty-seven public charging devices. Of those thirty-one are rapid chargers. This equates to 32 chargers per 100,000 residents and places South Kesteven in the top twenty percentile of districts UK wide for public charging devices installed . We believe the Council has a part to play in ensuring that the transition to electric vehicles is not inhibited by a lack of appropriate infrastructure in our area. South Kesteven District Council have installed 12 charge points within our managed car parks in the four towns of the district and continue to monitor uptake and future opportunities to expand on this, alongside work with Lincolnshire County Council for on-street charging opportunities and incorporation of charge points into new development plans.

Nevertheless, a decarbonised transport network cannot rely on the switch of private vehicles to electric alone. The provision of more mobility options is fundamental to decarbonisation efforts, reflecting that the majority of trips are



short distance. The UK government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan of 2021 sets out the ambition for urban areas to see a reduction in motor traffic, and trips to be replaced with greater uptake of public transport, cycling and walking. Simultaneously, providing options beyond private motor transport in rural areas can be transformative for allowing the elderly, less mobile and younger people to travel further afield.

Changes in commuting, business travel and shopping habits embedded during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 have the potential to lead to a reduction in traffic more widely. Reducing the need to travel through hybrid working and remote meetings is also an opportunity for the Council to reduce our operational carbon footprint and those of the district, whilst enhancing work-life balance for many staff and improving productivity. Reviewing travel related policies to maximise these benefits will be important. A significant increase was also recorded in people walking and cycling for leisure and for everyday journeys, and the government confirmed the target that active travel (including walking, cycling and scooting) should make up at least half of all journeys in towns and cities by 2030. Achieving this will require a commitment at all levels of decision making to ensure active travel becomes the natural choice for short, urban journeys.

The vast majority of all transport journeys are local and thus the role of local governance is fundamental. South Kesteven District Council has a number of roles regarding shaping transport decisions, in our role as planning authority and in our oversight of the declared Air Quality Management Area in Grantham town centre. In order to develop on the ambition set out in this document, we must continue to work closely with Lincolnshire County Council in their role as highways authority for the county and in shaping key decisions for our district. Greater consideration of providing public transport and active travel infrastructure for new developments will also be critical. Embedding transport decarbonisation principles and a clear hierarchy of travel for developments is essential for effective spatial planning.

South Kesteven District Council can also have a role regarding our own fleet of vehicles. Currently over 150 vehicles are operated by the Council, to fulfil functions including repairs to Council properties, service dependent travel throughout the district and for waste collection. A review of the Council's vehicle fleet was completed in 2022, with assistance from the Energy Saving Trust, with recommendations for short and longer term savings to be made in order to reduce carbon emissions arising from the Council's fleet of vehicles.



## Current activities from South Kesteven

### ■ Electric vehicle charge points in Council car parks

- o SKDC have installed 12 electric vehicle charge points in Council managed car parks across the district, part funded through the On-Street Residential Charging Point Scheme. The uptake of each installed charger is monitored to understand demand and inform future installations.

### ■ Provision of electric vehicle charge points for new developments

- o Local Plan policy SB1: Sustainable Building states that All new developments should demonstrate how they can support low carbon travel. In order to achieve this, residential development will be expected to provide electric car charging points and new commercial development should make provision for electric car charging points.

29 Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990 to 2020 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

30 Nitrogen dioxide: effects on mortality - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

31 Noise pollution: economic analysis - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

32 Air quality ([southkesteven.gov.uk](http://southkesteven.gov.uk))

33 Decarbonising Transport – A Better, Greener Britain ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

34 The ten point plan for a green industrial revolution - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

35 Electric vehicle charging device statistics: October 2022 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

36 SKDC Electric Vehicle Charging Points ([southkesteven.gov.uk](http://southkesteven.gov.uk))

37 Decarbonising Transport – A Better, Greener Britain ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

38 Gear change: a bold vision for cycling and walking ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

**It is estimated that if poor air quality is not addressed, it could cost health and social care services in England £5.3 billion by 2035.**



# Resources

## Co-benefits



Boosting jobs and growth



Boosting Biodiversity



## Ambitions

- Reduce the quantity of waste produced in the district
- Increase proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted to support the regional circular economy
- Ensure water is used in the most efficient way



### Our vision

Waste is valued as a resource and circular economy principles are in practice, water efficiency and management is improved

Resources relate to waste, water, as well as the wider use of materials throughout the economy. It relates all themes outlined in this document.

The way that we use materials and resources is a fundamental consideration for climate change. The Consumption emissions section sets out the breakdown of an average UK household's carbon emissions in 2019. On average, each person in the UK emits 5 tonnes of carbon each year from consumption of every items, principally food but also including clothing and footwear, household goods and appliances, use of restaurants and hotels and consumption of wider services.

Moving towards a circular economy in the way we all use resources is vital. It is estimated that the whole global economy is only 7.2% circular today: of the 100 billion tonnes of virgin materials extracted from the earth, only 7.2% make it back into the economy in the form of recycled or reused materials . Better management of waste is one way to support the transition to greater circularity of materials. Within South Kesteven to 2020, 40% of waste collected from households was recycled, composted or reused, compared to a UK rate



of 44.4%. This missed the government target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2050.

Building on the value of certain waste materials will not only boost recycling efforts but support in the move towards a more circular economy. Improved segregation of materials improves their ability to be reused or recycled into new products, as opposed to becoming contaminated and being diverted to incineration.

South Kesteven District Council is one of the member authorities of the cross-county Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, which focuses partnership efforts to improve waste management. Introduction of new schemes in Lincolnshire to separate mixed recycling further will provide a direct boost to the value of materials and ability to reuse. The volume of waste produced from households is also a key area of action, and waste minimisation efforts including sustained communication to residents about opportunities to reduce waste will also deliver a carbon reduction.

Commercial waste represents another opportunity. There are distinct opportunities for businesses to make use of waste streams and make the most of reuse opportunities. Upcoming changes from government including Extended Producer Responsibility will provide an incentive for use of packaging materials that are easier to recycle. The recent announcement of a Deposit

Return Scheme (DRS) has also set an initial target for collecting over 85% of returnable drinks containers once the scheme is up and running.

New restrictions banning the sale of certain damaging single-use plastics, including plastic plates, trays, bowls and cutlery from October 2023 aim to dent the massive volume of throwaway items used in the UK every year. It is important that opportunities to phase out the need for single use items, rather than replacing plastic with another material, are fully exploited in order to maximise carbon reduction.

Each of these schemes will also go on to have an impact on consumer behaviour around product choice and recycling, and the Council can have an important role in boosting understanding through our communications on waste and recycling.

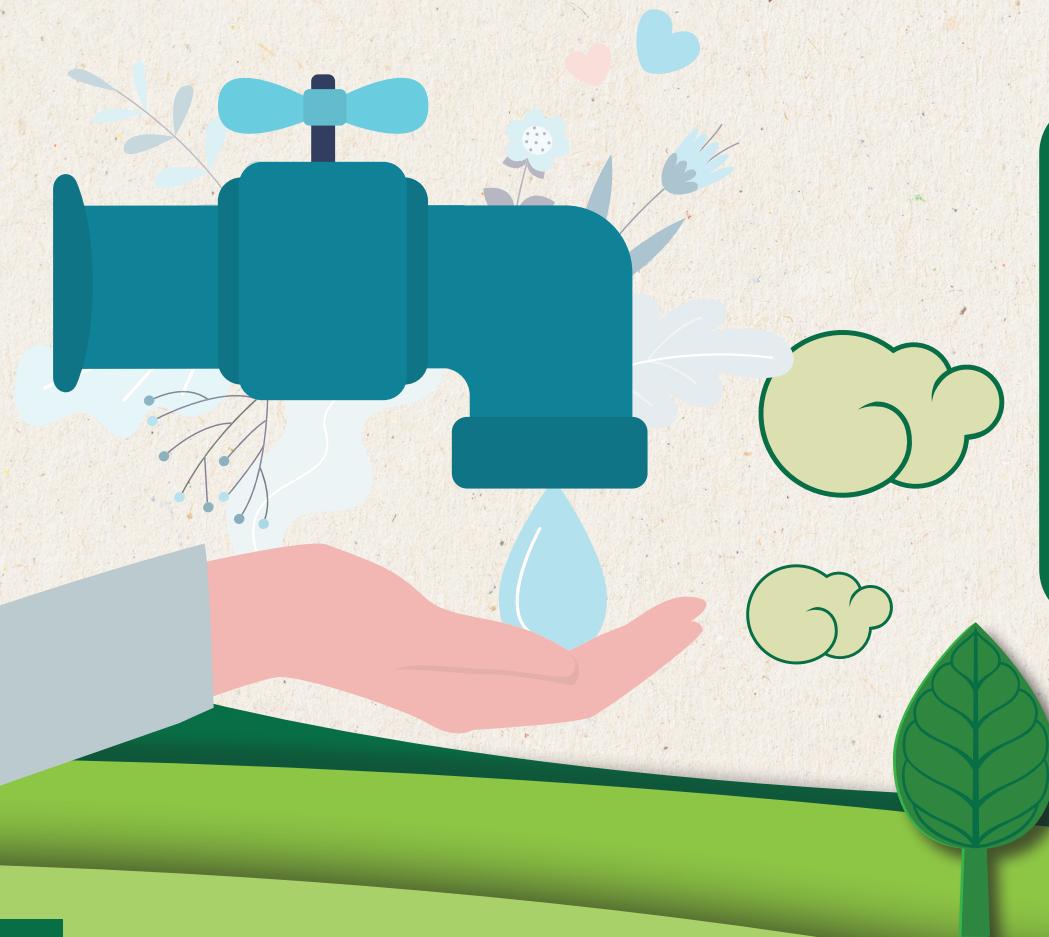
Management of natural resources within our district is also vital, particularly



for management of water. Water provides valuable services which underpin our natural environment, economy, and agricultural productivity. As one of the driest regions of the country, the judicious management of water becomes even more important. One of the expected impacts of climate change in coming years is extended periods of drought from low seasonal rainfall, further exacerbating the need to preserve the use of water. The existing Local Plan sets expectations that new development should seek to achieve a 'water neutral' position, and

include features to minimise water use. Across Council operations, there is the opportunity to review hotspot areas of use and ensure new developments meet best practice standards for water use.

Finally, the Council procures a range of products in order to deliver some of our key services. Reviewing opportunities to phase out some products in favour of more reusable alternatives will help to reduce production carbon emissions and boost the local circular economy.



## Current activities from South Kesteven

### ■ Lincolnshire Waste Partnership

- The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) is a co-ordination of efforts of the seven district councils within Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire County Council and the Environment Agency. Around 350,000 tonnes of waste is dealt with by LWP annually, the majority of which is household waste. The Joint Municipal Waste Strategy has set 10 objectives for partners, including improving the quality of the recycling stream, contributing to the UK wide recycling targets and reducing the carbon emissions associated with waste collection and disposal.



One of the expected impacts of climate change in coming years is extended periods of drought from low seasonal rainfall, further exacerbating the need to preserve the use of water.

- 39 1. Report: CGR Global 2022.pdf - Google Drive
- 40 Packaging waste: prepare for extended producer responsibility - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- 41 Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers moves a step closer - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- 42 Far-reaching ban on single-use plastics in England - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- 43 Worries about climate change, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](http://ons.gov.uk))

# Communities

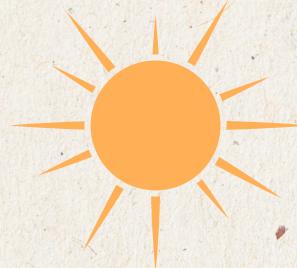
## Co-benefits



Ensuring a  
fair society



Boosting jobs  
and growth



## Ambitions

- Lead on communications and engagement within the district on climate change, adaptation and carbon reduction
- Engage with the South Kesteven community on the Climate Action Strategy and carbon reduction aspirations
- Ensure that projects and policy from the Council addressing net zero provides a fair transition, ensuring that no resident is left behind



### Our vision

People are more aware of the value of a clean and healthy environment and we are better adapted to a changing climate and extremes of weather

This area considers the twin considerations of ensuring the communities of South Kesteven are enabled to take action against climate change, and that vulnerable communities can adapt to the impacts of a changing climate at a local level. As one of our themes, Communities underpins all other identified areas of this Strategy.

Climate change is already affecting people in South Kesteven. The impacts of a changing climate are being observed within Lincolnshire: record breaking heat, prolonged droughts, and more damaging flooding. The impacts of disruptive weather affect our ability to travel, the crops we are able to grow, and crucially the health and wellbeing of South Kesteven residents.

The general pattern of climate change in the UK is towards warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, and an increased likelihood of extreme weather events. This presents a risk to our communities, particularly those who are more vulnerable and at risk of the adverse impacts of climate change. Within South Kesteven, some of those vulnerabilities are likely to include: homes, businesses and other infrastructure that are susceptible to flooding, transport disruption, residents experiencing fuel poverty, and overheating in homes during summer months.

By understanding the impacts on residents, businesses, and other partners within South Kesteven of extreme weather events will allow for an improved response and better preparation. Four types of severe weather can be

considered most disruptive in the UK: storms and gales; sub-zero temperatures with the risk of snow; heatwaves with high temperatures lasting several weeks; and drought through a lack of rainfall for a prolonged period.

These impacts brought about by extreme and disruptive weather will also have an impact on the ability of the Council to deliver services. Spells of very hot weather may mean that conducting work outdoors becomes difficult or even dangerous. Disruption to the road network from extreme weather could affect services including waste collection. By conducting a thorough analysis of these impacts across Council services, we will be both more aware of specific risks and better prepared for the impacts of different kinds of disruptive weather.

The Council can have an important role in shaping and communicating what action on climate change looks like within South Kesteven in order to play our part in reaching net zero. Communicating the specific risks brought about by a changing climate, as well as a local vision of what changes are needed to bring about reductions in carbon emissions will form the basis of our messaging with residents, businesses and wider partners. There is a distinct potential to amplify the range of breadth of our engagement and communication by working at a cross Lincolnshire level, reflecting the joint ambitions of all councils in the county.



Ensuring that all individuals and groups have the opportunity to input and to be involved is critical for success. Concern about climate change among the public is at a historic high; in late 2020, 90% of respondents reported awareness of the UK government's targets to reach net zero by 2050. It is also crucial that climate action does not exacerbate existing socio-economic issues or worsen inequalities. Maximising the co-benefits of tackling climate change is fundamental to this, and actions and workstreams proposed through the Climate Action Plan will embed this approach. In order to ensure that our work on climate action is effective, appropriate and fair, we will engage with the community of South Kesteven following publication of this Climate Action Strategy.

## Current activities from South Kesteven

### ■ Cost of living support for residents

- South Kesteven District Council has established a Cost of Living task force to co-ordinate efforts to support those most affected by increases in energy and household prices. An online hub has been developed, signposting to resources and sources of support, and up to date information has been included in the Council's SKToday resident magazine.

# Decision Making

## Co-benefits



Ensuring a  
fair society

## Ambitions

- Embed response to climate change and carbon reduction across all areas of the Council
- Review capacity to raise finance to deliver key projects for the Council and district
- Provide comprehensive training to Council staff and Councillors on climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability



### Our vision

Climate and net zero considerations are fully embedded within South Kesteven District Council's decision making at every level

The ability of South Kesteven District Council to make informed and effective decisions regarding the wide impacts brought about by climate change is fundamental. Decision making cuts across all themes outlined in this document.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-23 provides the context for the Council's wider decision making. One of the five key themes is Clean and Sustainable Environment which sets out the Council's commitment to tackle climate change by reducing the Council's carbon footprint. The next iteration of the Corporate Plan will ensure the commitment to tackle climate change is taken a step further by going beyond carbon reduction from Council operations to wider action within the district of South Kesteven.

From 2020, reports to each of the Council's committees have included a section stating any climate or carbon impact the proposal would have, in order to aid effective decision making. The author of each report must state if the proposal is expected to have a positive, neutral or negative impact on carbon emissions and note any other sustainability issues that should be considered. This has allowed for greater transparency when considering major projects with a carbon implication.

The Monitoring Progress section sets out how and using what data progress on



reducing carbon emissions can be effectively monitored. Since South Kesteven District Council's declaration of climate emergency in September 2019, regular reporting into the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken place on the Council's climate change work. This includes an annual report on carbon emissions arising from Council operations, a high level overview of district-wide carbon emissions, and the Climate Matters report detailing key climate projects.

This Climate Action Strategy aims to formally set out ambitions for the wider district regarding climate change. Clearly, detailed on-going monitoring of all available datasets of carbon emissions for South Kesteven will be imperative. This duty will continue to sit at a formal level within the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Nevertheless, given the extensive nature of climate action, different aspects of the Council's approach will be discussed across the committees of the Council. Where major decisions are being discussed, there is a need for a detailed assessment of climate and carbon impact, and for this understanding to be balanced on an equal footing against other considerations. A decision should clearly set out the climate related issues, benefits, opportunities, risks and associated costs. Policy making should also carefully consider sustainability related aspects to avoid locking in high carbon emissions: for example, a policy which encourages greater vehicle travel within the district or does not adequately assess the strategic value of energy infrastructure to contribute towards local and national net zero targets.

There is also a greater need to understand the risks presented by a changing



climate across the Council. The impact of heatwaves and drought, as well as the increased likelihood of extreme and destructive weather can and will affect the ability to effectively deliver key services. By reviewing and mapping out each of these expected impacts brought about by weather, it will be possible to put in place mitigations and plan for worst case scenarios effectively.

Climate change and carbon reduction issues can be complex and technical. In order to ensure decision makers and representatives of the Council are adequately equipped, additional training for Councillors and officers will be required to ensure the principles of the Climate Action Strategy are embedded across all spheres of action. Linking to the Triple Planetary Crisis, it is necessary to understand the links between the enormous challenges of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

It is also fundamental to consider how the Council will be able to raise capital to fund a number of projects identified through the next stage Climate Action Plan. Over recent years, the Council has been affected by a reduction in

government grants and a loss of specialist staff. The policy landscape and expectations for local authorities to deliver place-based climate action have been turbulent, which has led to intermittent delivery of projects.

Sources of external funding, including grants and loans, for decarbonisation and adaptation projects have become available, and it is essential that the Council continues to secure these. The ability to work across administrative boundaries and collaborate with both district and county councils will unlock greater efficiencies and share knowledge and resources.

The ability of the Council to raise finance for projects outside of grant funding streams will be carefully reviewed through the process of developing the Climate Action Plan for South Kesteven.

## Current activities from South Kesteven

- **Climate change and carbon assessment included in committee reports**
  - From 2020, reports considered at South Kesteven District Council committees have included a section stating any climate or carbon impact the proposal would have, in order to aid effective decision making. This allows for evidence based decision making when considering major projects or policies with a climate or carbon implication.



131

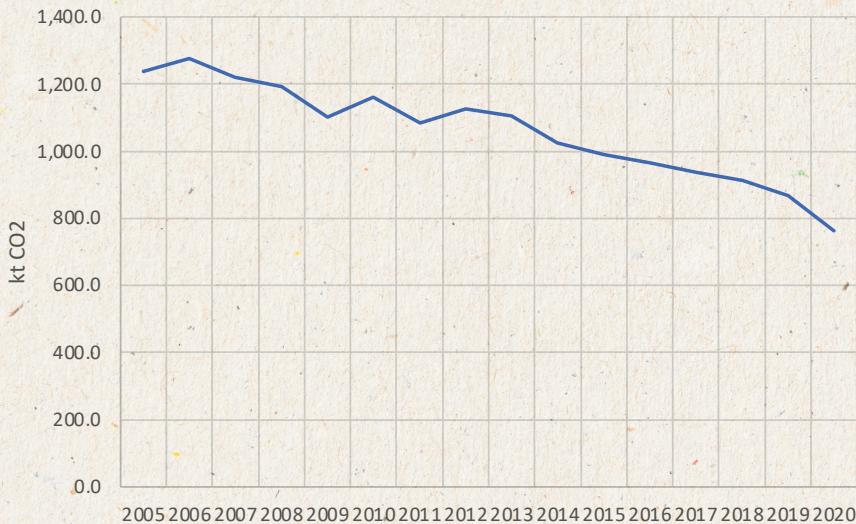
# Monitoring progress

This section considers an overview of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the district of South Kesteven. A fuller context of carbon emissions data is given at Appendix B.

## South Kesteven local authority area emissions

Overall, carbon emissions arising from the district of South Kesteven are on a downward trend, principally through the contribution of renewables to the national supply of electricity.

132  
FIGURE 2: CHANGES IN TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS WITHIN SOUTH KESTEVEN FROM 2005 TO 2020



Carbon emissions from South Kesteven reduced 38% between 2005 and 2020.

The key categories of GHG emissions are included in Figure 3 below. As of 2020, the single largest single category contributing towards the district's carbon emissions is Transport, responsible for 30% of total emissions, principally from the contribution of road transport. Domestic energy use represents the second largest sector at 22%, followed by Agriculture at 16%. Industrial and Commercial energy use account for 17% together.

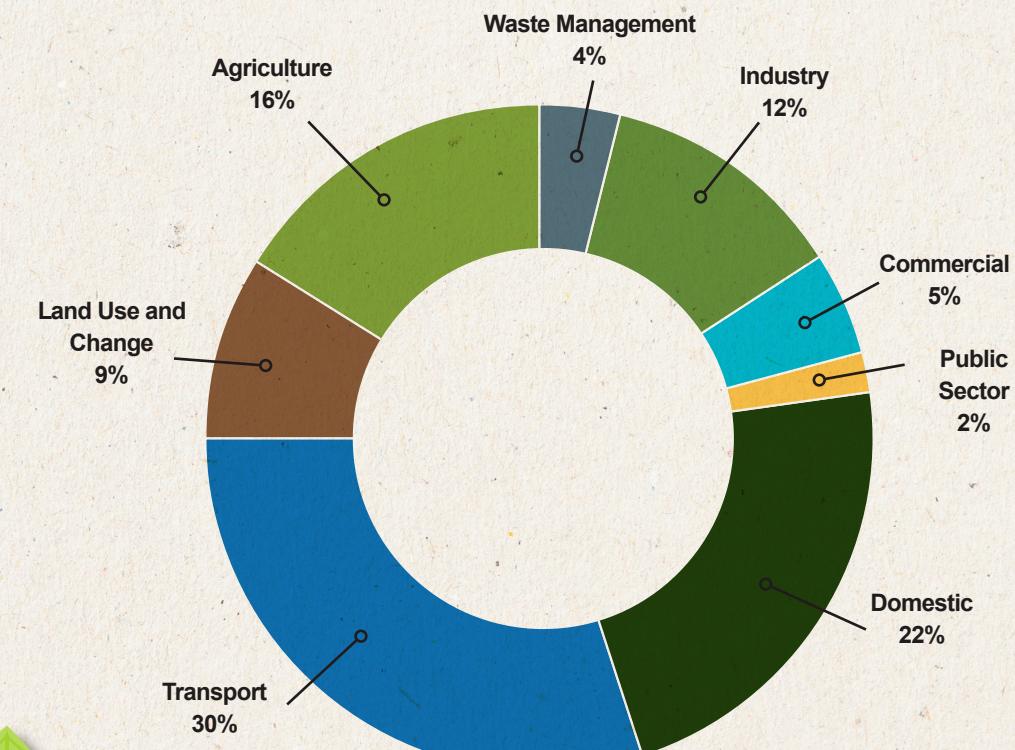


FIGURE 3: KEY CATEGORIES OF GHG EMISSIONS FOR SOUTH KESTEVEN (2020 DATASET)



## Per capita carbon emissions

Insight is also available for carbon emissions within a district on a per capita basis. As of 2020, carbon emitted in South Kesteven was 739.4.1 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e. This equates to 5.3 tonnes per capita, above the average for Lincolnshire (all districts) at 5.2 tonnes, equal to the East Midlands at 5.3 tonnes and above the average for England, which produced 4.3 tonnes per capita.

9.7  
Per capita carbon emissions  
from South Kesteven  
2005

5.3  
Per capita carbon emissions  
from South Kesteven  
2020

## Carbon budgets

While carbon emissions continue to reduce in South Kesteven, in order to achieve the UK's target emissions reductions further and faster action is needed. Figure 4 below uses data from SCATTER, a local authority focused carbon emissions tool, to model both a Business as Usual pathway to decarbonisation, as well as a High Ambition pathway which assumes the district goes significantly beyond current national policy<sup>44</sup>. The graph also includes a pathway based on recommendations for the district from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change.

44 SCATTER (scattercities.com)

45 Local and Regional Implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change (manchester.ac.uk)

The Tyndall Centre recommendations are based on territorial carbon budgets on an international, national, regional and local scale and their projections are used by local authorities across the UK. Their research found that for South Kesteven to abide by the carbon budget periods of the Climate Change Act and to make our fair contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the district must stay within a carbon dioxide emissions budget of 5.3 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) for the period of 2020 to 2100. Without action the budget would be used up by 2026. To stay within budget South Kesteven should aim for cuts in emissions of at least 13.7% per year<sup>45</sup>.

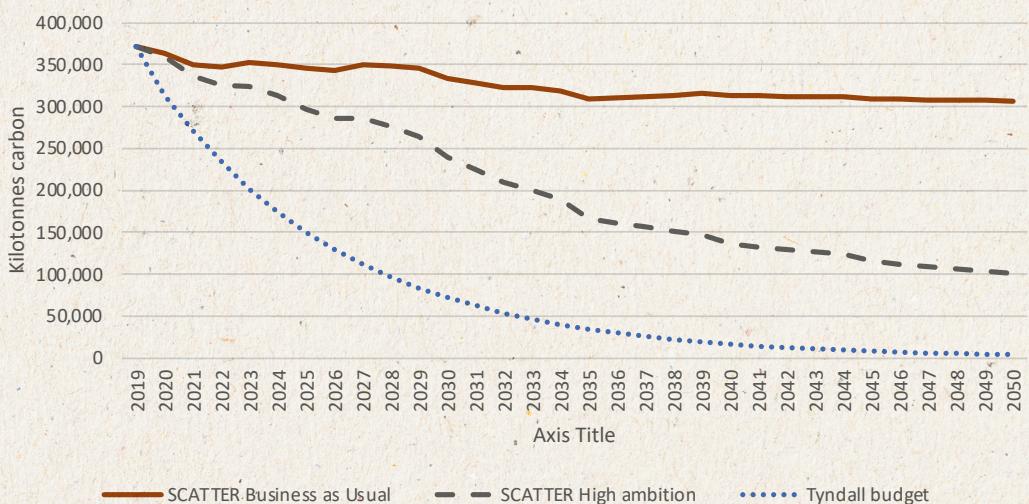


FIGURE 4: CARBON BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR SOUTH KESTEVEN, BASED ON SCATTER AND TYNDALL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS.



## Consumption emissions

While the dataset explored above in Monitoring Progress sets out greenhouse gas emissions associated with production of a good or service within the district, it is also important to consider the role of consumption based emissions. Unlike territorial carbon emissions, which emanate exclusively from within the UK, consumption emissions reflect the UK's consumption of all manufactured goods such as food, clothing and household appliances, and services provided from outside the country. The key categories of consumption emissions are included in the diagram on page 53<sup>46</sup>.

The consumption emissions dataset refers to emissions that are associated with the consumption spending of UK residents on goods and services, wherever in the world these emissions arise along the supply chain, and include the territorial emissions discussed above including energy use and transportation. In 2019, the consumption emissions reported for the UK were 41% higher than territorial emissions alone. Additionally, the consumption emissions dataset has a different reporting cycle to the annual data release of territorial emissions and is not available by local authority area. For our purposes, the data here is used for reference and is not intended to become part of regular reporting.

On average, these consumption emissions mean that each person in the UK emits around 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. It is important to consider ways in which consumption can be influenced, as so to reduce the emissions of production, alongside work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from within the district, in order to reach a state of carbon neutrality.

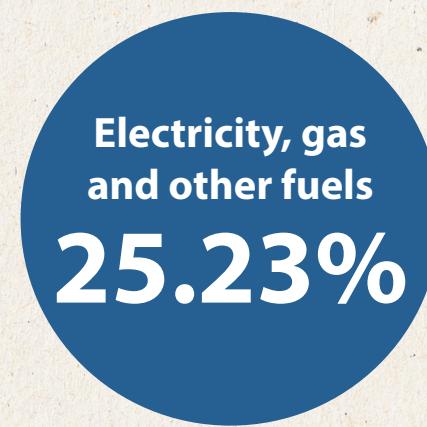




FIGURE 5: CONSUMPTION BASED CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR THE UK (2019)

46 UK and England's carbon footprint to 2019 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))47 Carbon footprint for the UK and England to 2019 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## Carbon management plan for the council

Following the Council's declaration of climate emergency in 2019, work was undertaken with the Carbon Trust to re-establish the Council's operational carbon emissions. The Carbon Footprint and Reduction Opportunities report was published in 2020, establishing the new baseline for monitoring future years' emissions against of the 2018/19 financial year<sup>48</sup>. The boundary of these operational elements can be seen in Figure 2.

This found that the total annual GHG emissions from the Council were 7,600 tonnes of carbon equivalent.

### The four main sources of carbon emissions derive from:

- Energy used in South Kesteven leisure centres
- Fuel used in the Council's fleet of 155 vehicles
- Gas used for heating and hot water in Council buildings
- Electricity used to power Council buildings

The report also plots a path of recommended carbon reduction actions, principally addressing these four main areas, in order to meet or exceed the Council's interim carbon emissions target of at least 30% by 2030. Our definition of net zero is set out at Appendix B for clarity.

South Kesteven District Council is making good progress towards that goal. In the last reporting year of 2021/22, an overall emissions of 6,518 were reported, equivalent to a 14.23% reduction on the baseline year. Further projects will need to be developed, for buildings and for the Council's vehicles, up to 2030 in order to meet the reduction target.

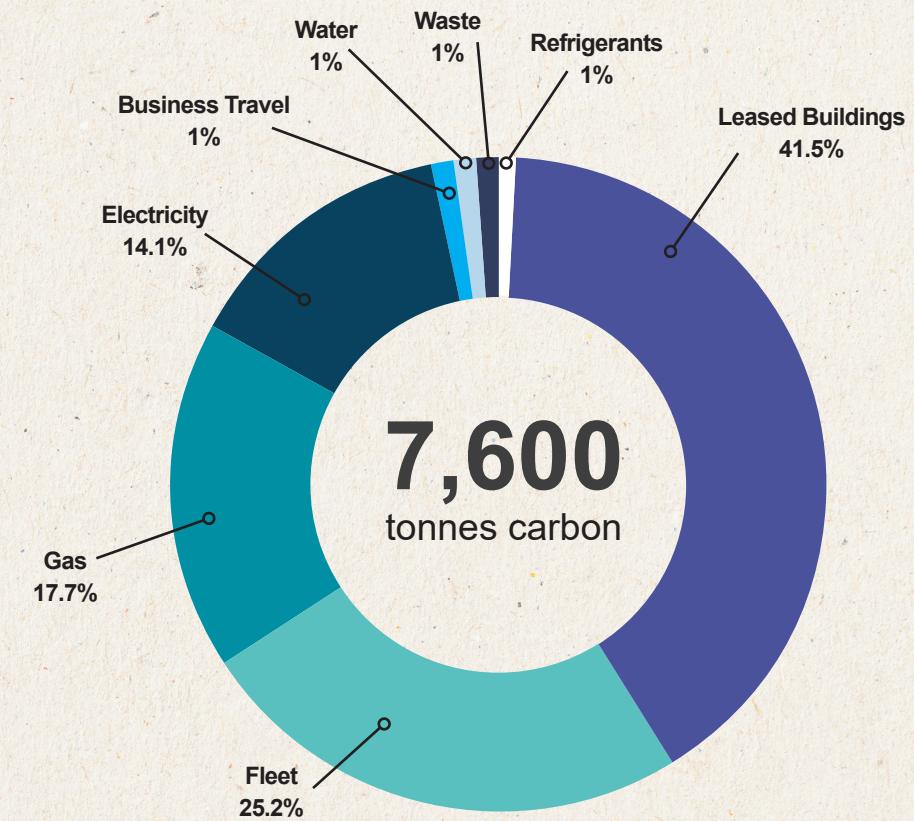


FIGURE 6: MAIN SOURCES OF CARBON EMISSIONS FROM SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

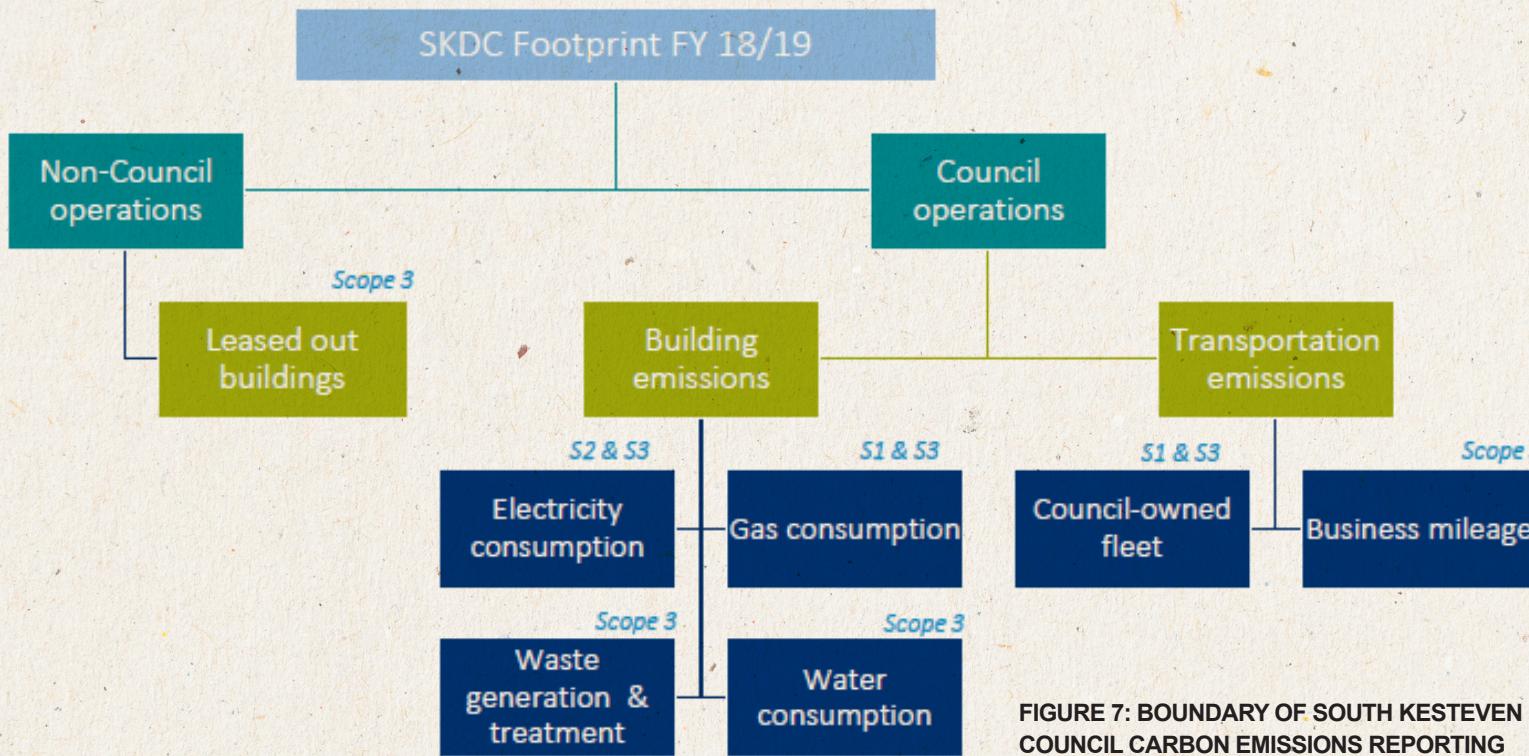
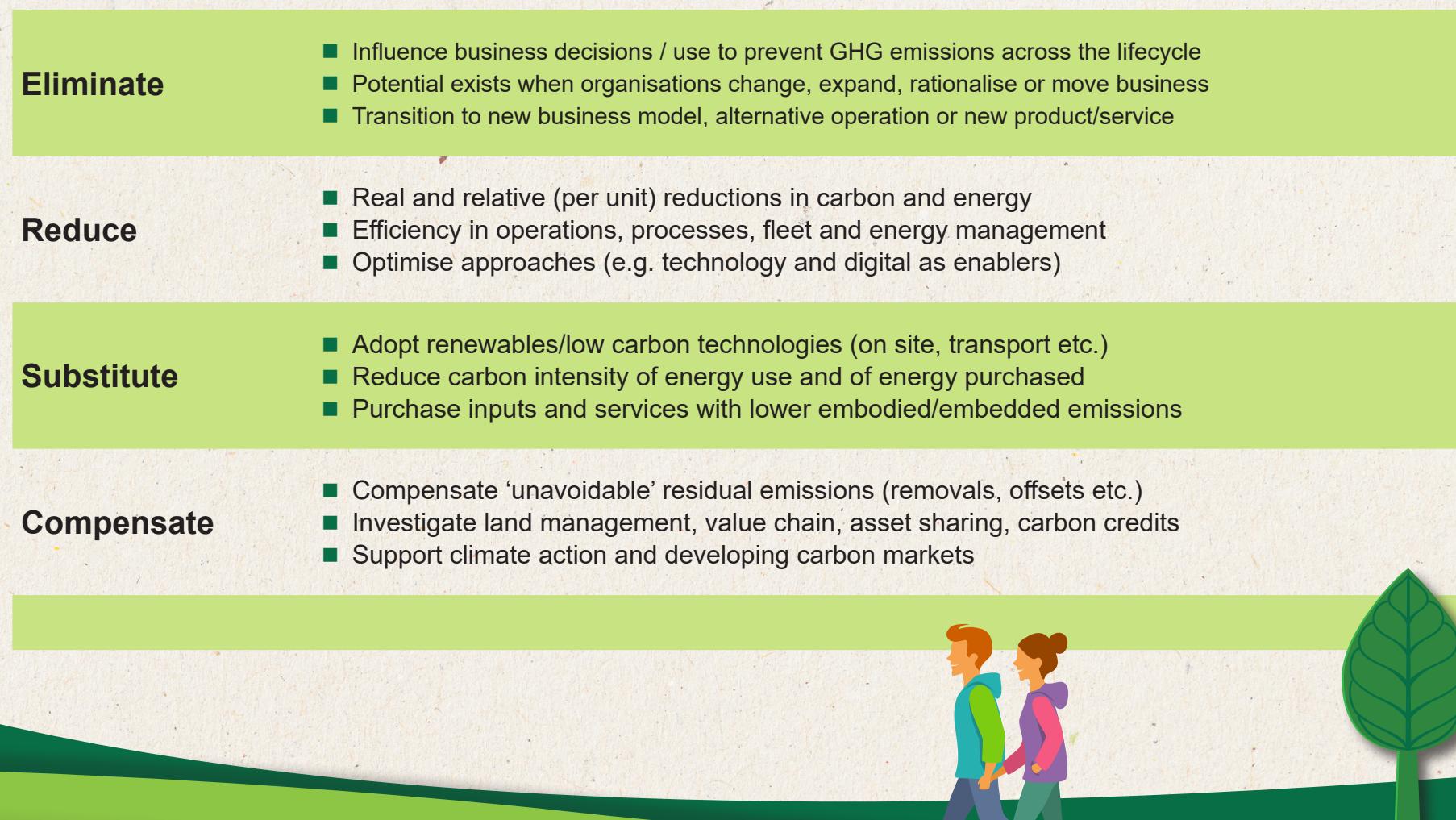


FIGURE 7: BOUNDARY OF SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS REPORTING



## Carbon management hierarchy

In order to effectively reduce carbon emissions, there should be a well understood hierarchical approach to their management which looks to eliminate them as far as possible, followed by a decrease through reduction. Substituting through implementing low carbon alternatives, including renewable energy, is the next recommended step. Compensation measures including carbon offsetting are the final step once other measures have been exhausted. These principles are best outlined in the IEMA Greenhouse Gas Management Hierarchy<sup>49</sup>.



49 GHG Management Hierarchy updated for net-zero - IEMA

# Our influence

The Climate Action Strategy formally sets out ambitions for the wider district regarding climate change. It is therefore essential to consider the role that South Kesteven District Council can and will have to unlock that ambition.

Our carbon management plan covers all assets where we as a Council have direct control of assets or services and are able to swiftly implement changes to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions. This includes energy used in buildings owned and occupied by the Council, vehicles operated to conduct Council services such as waste collection, and other aspects such as staff and councillor business travel. Our carbon footprint also includes leisure centres operating within South Kesteven, reflecting our influence and ownership.

There are assets which are owned by South Kesteven District Council but not included within our carbon management plan. These principally include tenanted council properties. We are able to unlock significant carbon reductions for these properties through delivering upgrades to reduce energy use and move towards cleaner energy sources.

There are services provided by the Council within the district which are also able to deliver on our ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and help to adapt to a changing climate. Some of these services are considered statutory obligations that a Council is duty bound to deliver (for example, waste collection), and there are also areas where services are provided on

a discretionary basis (for example, delivery of energy efficiency upgrades). Our role as Local Planning Authority has a clear role to determine that developments which come forward seek to reduce carbon emissions as well as being prepared for the impacts of climate change.

The Council also has the ability to indirectly influence activity within the district. This can be through ongoing communications with residents, businesses and other partners, convening key stakeholders or lobbying for further support, funding or powers to act.

The vast majority of carbon emissions arising from South Kesteven are found outside of the Council's direct control: less than 1% of the district's total emissions can be attributed to Council operations. Nevertheless, the Council has a distinct leadership role to shape and drive change in order to collectively work towards the goal of net zero. It is important to maximise our indirect influence to support the transition towards a low carbon economy and to identify further areas, streams of work and sources of funding in order to provide a direct influence for carbon reduction.



## Working together

To maximise our ability to shape and deliver net zero for South Kesteven, we must work closely with partner organisations across a breadth of different areas. Our eight themes set out the extent of this challenge.

Our framework for delivery is in three key strands: Low carbon Council, Low carbon Communities and Low carbon Business. This reflects our ability to control and to influence change, as well as our need to work with others to deliver that change.

There is a clear consensus across Lincolnshire that authorities must act to address climate change. Development of our following Climate Action Plan will outline our current and expected partners across areas of activity. Work with Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire district councils will allow us to combine efforts and accelerate the pace of change. A Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group has already been established to facilitate partnership working on net zero and will provide a forum for joint projects and greater collaboration.

Involving, engaging and communicating

Partnerships

Showcasing

Place-shaping

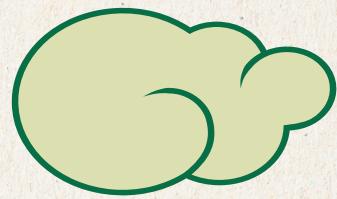
Procurement and commissioning

Direct control

FIGURE 9: LOCAL AUTHORITIES POTENTIAL TO CONTROL AND INFLUENCE EMISSIONS,  
ADAPTED FROM CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY<sup>50</sup>.



Focus	Example
<b>Low carbon Council</b>	Own activity and emissions
<b>Low carbon communities</b>	Facilitating district wide carbon reduction and climate adaptation
<b>Low carbon business</b>	Leadership and lobbying



## The case for action

Public concern about the disruptive impacts of climate change is at a high. Around three in four adults polled in October 2022 reported feeling somewhat or very worried about climate change<sup>51</sup>.

Concern about climate change has remained largely stable over the last few years, ranking among public concerns around covid-19 and the cost of living crisis.

Rising temperatures within the UK was the biggest impact of climate change that people expect to experience, with 75% of adults polled by ONS expecting to experience the impact of higher temperatures before 2030<sup>52</sup>.

Awareness of climate change and the concept of net zero is also widespread. In late 2020, 90% of respondents reported awareness of the UK government's targets to reach net zero by 2050.

Public awareness of the linkages between established issues of climate change, economic growth and health and wellbeing has also been

50 Climate Emergency Action Planning Tool for local government | Centre for Sustainable Energy (cse.org.uk)

51 Worries about climate change, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

52 Worries about climate change, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)



established. People recognise that responses to climate change issues do not necessarily require trade-offs, for example that improved green space helps to adapt towns and cities to increased summer temperatures, while providing improvements to air quality and wellbeing. These Co-benefits to tackling climate change are fundamental to successful action and embedded in our approach.

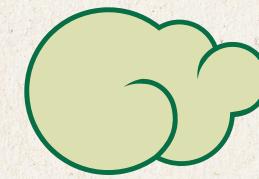
There is a clear role for local government to shape, drive, and deliver local action on climate change. Polling commissioned on behalf of UK100 found that the public believe local authorities are well placed to act on climate and sustainability: 40% agreed local authorities were best placed to take action, compared to 30% believing central government was best placed, and 19% stating a belief that individuals are preferred<sup>53</sup>.

In terms of translating concern about climate change into action, many people recognise the need to take personal action on climate change. Polling by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on public behaviours to tackle climate change found almost all people (98%) regularly engaged in at least one behaviour to reduce carbon emissions, such as minimising waste, saving energy or changing behaviours around transport<sup>54</sup>. Nevertheless, there is a need to ensure that the impacts of public action are directed towards those activities that are most impactful and relate to the carbon hierarchy of avoid, decrease, replace, offset.



Individual action can also help reduce the cost of delivering net zero. By making more sustainable choices around travel, consumption and energy use, the impact of individual actions across the economy will help to lower the costs of moving to a net zero carbon economy<sup>55</sup> – as long as these behaviours are supported by the necessary systemic changes.

The opportunities and challenges set out within our eight themes will form the basis of a consultation with the community of South Kesteven to shape and develop our following Climate Action Plan. This next stage of work will embed the priorities identified by residents, businesses and other partners within South Kesteven to shape the speed and range of projects proposed and the role the public can and will have to determine action.



53 The powers local authorities need to deliver on climate | UK100

54 BEIS PAT Autumn 2022 Net Zero and Climate Change ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

55 MISSION ZERO - Independent Review of Net Zero ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))



# Conclusion and next steps

The Climate Action Strategy maps out the main concerns and areas of focus relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the district.

**The time to act is now.** A step-change is needed to accelerate action on climate change, from council operations to work in the wider district. In order to play our part to meet the UK's national net zero target of 2050, rapid carbon reductions need to be locked-in this decade.

**South Kesteven cannot act alone.** It is important to understand that changes in the climate, felt locally and further afield, need to be tackled in a systemic way and the value of partnership is absolutely vital in order to work towards a net zero economy. There are several existing strong partnerships with and beyond Lincolnshire, but these relationships will need to be taken further in order to accelerate and embed our response to climate change.

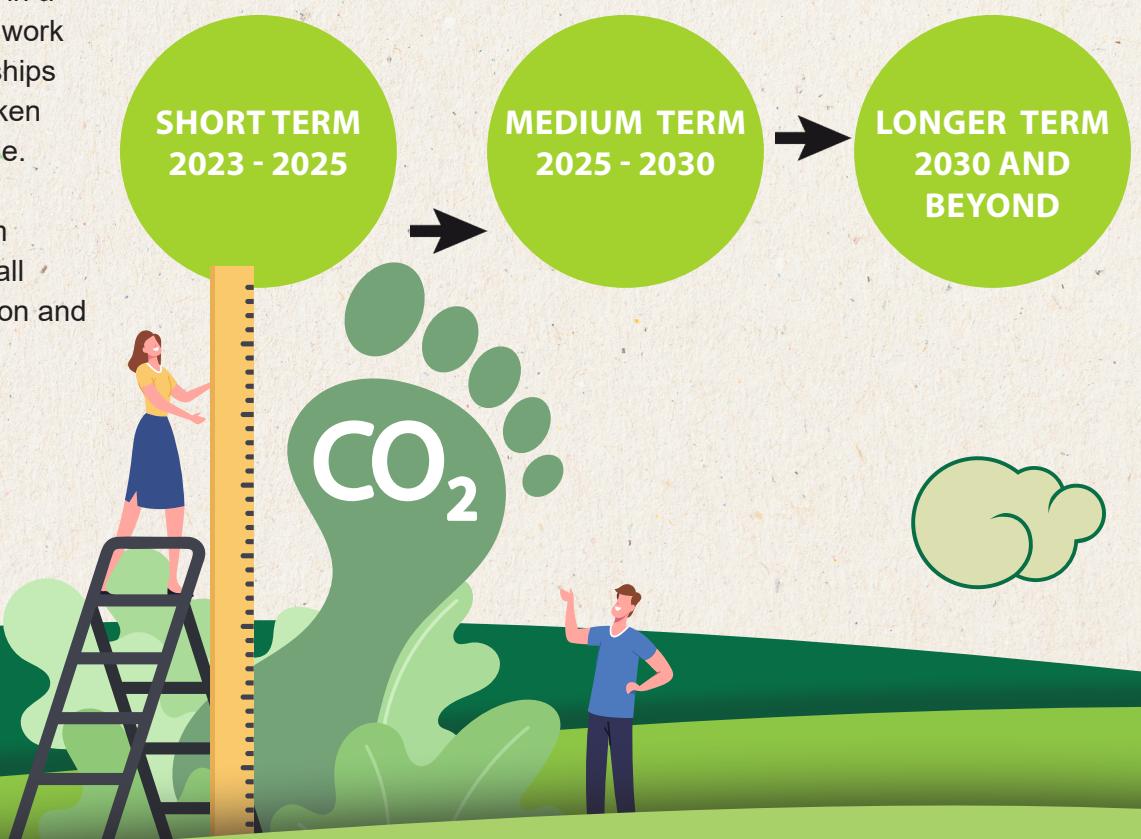
**We need to act across the board.** Carbon emissions do not arise from one source and reducing them has no one solution. We must consider all opportunities for energy reduction, low carbon energy use and generation and valuing our resources better as part of our core approach.

143

## Climate Action Plan

Our Climate Action Plan will be developed throughout 2023, through work with internal colleagues as well as town and parish councils, neighbouring authorities, and wider partners.

Using our structure of eight themes, projects, activity and focus for the future will be mapped out on a short, medium or longer term time frame aligning with South Kesteven District Council's declared target for carbon reduction.



# Appendix A: context of climate change

## National legislation and policies

In 2019, the UK Government set out a target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the whole UK by 2050, amending a previous target to reduce carbon emissions from within the UK to 80% to 2050. This commitment is legally enshrined by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019<sup>56</sup>.

To ensure sustained progress towards net zero, the government set a series of targets to reduce near and medium-term emissions through legally binding carbon budgets. The fourth, fifth and sixth carbon budgets cover the periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2037 respectively. In December 2020, the UK committed to an interim target to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 as part of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution towards delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The UK's Net Zero Strategy recognises the essential role that local government must play if national ambitions are to be achieved<sup>57</sup>. The sector's legal powers, assets, access to targeted funding, local knowledge and relationships with stakeholders, enables local authorities to drive action directly and to inspire action by local businesses, communities and civic

society in a way that central government cannot. Government analysis has found that 30% of the emissions reductions required across all sectors to deliver the Carbon Budget 6 target rely on local authority involvement to some degree, while 82% of emissions are within local authorities' scope of influence.

## Climate risks and opportunities

As well as the direct impacts of disruptive weather, it is important to thoroughly consider the holistic impacts of climate change and the risks and any opportunities they present. The UK government is required to undertake an assessment every five years to set out these risks and published the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment report in 2022.

In total, 61 risks and opportunities were identified for England, including to business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our health, and risks from the impacts of climate change internationally<sup>58</sup>.

Adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk<sup>59</sup>. Of the identified 61 risks, the report found over half require further action to address them and the gap between the level of risk we face and the level of adaptation underway has already widened.



## Some of these main risks for England include:

- The impacts of climate change on the natural environment
- An increase in the range and voracity of pests, pathogens and invasive species
- The risk of damage to vital infrastructure, including energy, transport, water, and ICT
- A reduction in public water supplies and periods of water scarcity
- The impact of extreme weather on the transport network
- The impacts of high temperatures on people's health and wellbeing
- Increased frequency and severity of flooding of homes, communities and businesses
- International impacts that may affect the UK, including supply chain disruption and risks to food availability

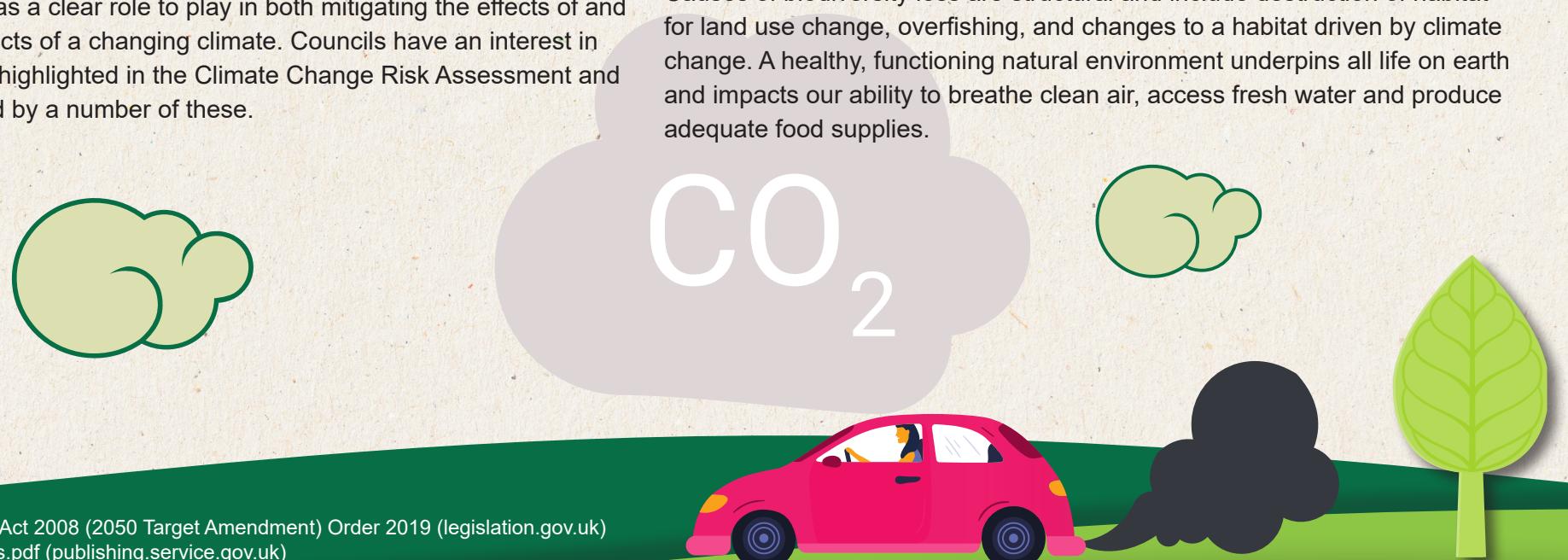
Local government has a clear role to play in both mitigating the effects of and adapting to the impacts of a changing climate. Councils have an interest in each of the 61 risks highlighted in the Climate Change Risk Assessment and are directly impacted by a number of these.

## The triple planetary crisis

Climate change is one of the three aspects of the Triple Planetary Crisis. Defined by the United Nations as three main interlinked issues facing humanity of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change<sup>60</sup>, each of these grand challenges has its own causes, effects, and methods of resolution.

Pollution of the air is now the largest cause of disease and premature death in the world. The World Health Organisation have found that 99% of the world's population breathes air that exceeds WHO guideline limits for level of pollutants<sup>61</sup>. The sources of this pollution are widespread, including traffic, industrial emissions, indoor cooking and the presence of mould in homes.

Biodiversity loss refers to the dramatic reduction in the variety and volume of natural life on our planet, including plants, animals and whole ecosystems. Causes of biodiversity loss are structural and include destruction of habitat for land use change, overfishing, and changes to a habitat driven by climate change. A healthy, functioning natural environment underpins all life on earth and impacts our ability to breathe clean air, access fresh water and produce adequate food supplies.



56 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (legislation.gov.uk)

57 net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

58 CCRA-Evidence-Report-England-Summary-Final.pdf (ukclimaterisk.org)

59 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

# Appendix B: data on greenhouse gas emissions and monitoring

## Detail on Greenhouse gas emissions data by local authority

Global climate change is being driven largely by emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), however emissions of other gases, such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) from agriculture, also make significant contributions to warming.

The key indicator of concern is the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) produces annual data showing each local authority area's territorial GHG emissions, expressed in kilotons (kt) of carbon. This dataset is available at a local authority level, allowing for an understanding of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which arise from within the administrative boundary of the area. These can be considered territorial carbon emissions, as opposed to consumption carbon emissions which are explored in further detail in the section below.

Historically this dataset would only detail CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. From the 2022 release onwards, the dataset now presents the combined emissions of all the GHGs under the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur

hexafluoride<sup>62</sup>. This dataset is produced two years in arrears, meaning that any CO<sub>2</sub> reduction achieved in 2018 will be published in the dataset in 2020.

The integration of these GHGs into the dataset is welcome and does give a more informed picture of emissions at a local level, including aspects such as agriculture and land use. Nevertheless, the change in methodology makes direct comparison of local authority area's GHG emissions with previous years more problematic. Data for total GHGs emissions is only available from 2018 onwards, whilst CO<sub>2</sub> only emissions date back to 2005.

## Net zero defined

A number of different terms are used in reference to efforts to reduce carbon emissions sufficiently to avoid the worst impacts of a changing climate. However, it is fundamental to distinguish between the number of terms used to define decarbonisation efforts, in order to understand the differences between them.

South Kesteven District Council has set a target to reduce carbon emissions from our own operations by at least 30% by 2030 and to net zero as soon as viable before 2050, against our baseline year of 2018/19. Achieving net-zero emissions means to pursue an ambitious science-based target, aligned to keep global heating below 1.5°C, across the whole value chain. Where residual carbon emissions remain which cannot be further reduced by operational changes, certified Greenhouse Gas (GHG) removal mechanisms can be employed such as tree planting through a registered scheme or carbon capture technology.

60 What is the Triple Planetary Crisis? | UNFCCC

61 Air pollution (who.int)

Scope of carbon emissions	Emission type	Definition	Examples
Scope 1	Direct emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions of carbon directly into the atmosphere, arising from sources directly owned, managed, or controlled by the reporting body</li> </ul>	Natural gas, vehicle fleet operation, refrigerants
Scope 2	Indirect emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect emissions of carbon associated with the generation of purchased energy, used by the reporting body</li> </ul>	Electricity, purchased heat
Scope 3	All other emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upstream and downstream emissions of carbon arising from the value chain of the reporting body</li> </ul>	Business travel, waste, water, procured goods and services, operation of leased assets



62 Atmospheric emissions: greenhouse gas emissions intensity by industry - Office for National Statistics

# Contact Details

Alternative formats are available on request:  
audio, large print and Braille

South Kesteven District Council  
01476 40 60 80

✉ [customerservices@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@southkesteven.gov.uk)  
🌐 [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)





# South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy

## Executive Summary



South Kesteven District Council is committed to responding to the global issue of climate change at a local level through developing a framework for action to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030 and to reach a net zero carbon position for the district before 2050.

To achieve this, we are focusing on:

1. **Continuing to reduce the carbon emissions from our own Council activities**

2. **Supporting and facilitating partnership working of stakeholders throughout South Kesteven and Lincolnshire to achieve net zero carbon in the District**

3. **Adapting to the impacts of climate change at a local level**

Our first Climate Action Strategy maps out the main concerns and areas of focus relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the district. The programme of work has been structured into three phases: short term (2023 – 2025); medium term (2025-2030); longer term (2030 and beyond).

Our framework for delivery is in three key strands: Low carbon Council, Low carbon Communities and Low carbon District. This reflects our ability to control and to influence change, as well as our need to work with others to deliver that change.

A Climate Action Plan will be developed setting out projects and plans to deliver on the goals set out in the Climate Action Strategy. Eight key Themes have been identified, demonstrating the broad scope of work needed to effectively address climate change for South Kesteven:

## Built Environment

- Lead local action to deliver high quality retrofit of domestic properties, across tenure types
- Help to deliver new developments in South Kesteven in which low-carbon principles are embedded
- Continue to decarbonise public sector owned buildings, including those owned by South Kesteven District Council

## Power

- Identify and deploy renewable energy solutions where viable for SKDC properties
- Drive partnership opportunities to support and encourage renewable energy generation in the district and unlock green growth
- Support energy efficiency opportunities across the board to reduce overall energy demand

## Transport

- Support opportunities to reduce need to travel and unlock near term carbon reductions
- Ensure South Kesteven has a high-quality network of electric vehicle charging points that meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors
- Work to embed public transport and active travel options for urban journeys

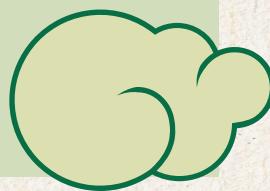


## Growing our Green Economy

- Provide a supportive structure for skills and training for low carbon and net zero businesses
- Boost the number of low carbon businesses operating within South Kesteven and work towards becoming a regional hub for low carbon business
- Ensure Council procurement activity delivers local benefits for net zero

## Resources

- Reduce the quantity of waste produced in the District
- Increase proportion of waste reused, recycled or composted to support the regional circular economy
- Ensure water is used in the most efficient way



## Communities

- Lead on communications and engagement within the district on climate change, adaptation and carbon reduction
- Engage with the South Kesteven community on the Climate Action Strategy and carbon reduction aspirations
- Ensure that projects and policy from the Council addressing net zero provides a fair transition, ensuring that no resident is left behind

## Natural Environment

- Engage with partners to support projects boosting biodiversity and tree planting in South Kesteven
- Manage Council owned green spaces to boost biodiversity
- Embed Biodiversity Net Gain principles into new developments

## Decision Making

- Embed response to climate change and carbon reduction across all areas of the Council
- Review capacity to raise finance to deliver key projects for the Council and District
- Provide comprehensive training to Council staff and Councillors on climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability

Through our eight identified Themes, we also outline the multiple, wider co-benefits of pursuing action in each area:



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Improving air quality



Reducing the impact of flooding



Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing traffic congestion



Ensuring a fair society



Since the Council's declaration of climate emergency in September 2019, regular reporting into the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken place on our climate change work. This includes an annual report on carbon emissions arising from Council operations, a high level overview of district-wide carbon emissions, and the Climate Matters report detailing key climate projects. We will continue to report and monitor progress on the Climate Action Strategy in this way.

**[Click here for the full version of South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Strategy](#)**  
(including background, methodology, development and strategic framework).

This page is intentionally left blank



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Councillors Rhys Baker and Patsy Ellis,  
Cabinet Members for Waste and  
Climate Change

## Climate and carbon dashboard for 2022/23

### Report Author

Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change officer

✉️ [Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Purpose of Report

The climate and carbon dashboard provides an overview of South Kesteven District Council's operational carbon emissions for the 2022/23 period, including progress against the Council's carbon reduction targets of at least 30% by 2030.

### Recommendations

#### That the Committee:

1. Notes the reported carbon emissions for the 2022/23 period which cover operations from South Kesteven District Council buildings and vehicles.

## Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Clean and sustainable environment High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 There are no direct finance or procurement implications from the report. Any projects and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and seek financial support will need to be considered on a case by case basis.

**Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer**

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 As part of good governance, it is important that Members are updated on the council's carbon emissions and on progress towards the declared carbon reduction target for council operations.

**Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive**

### ***Climate Change***

- 1.3 The climate and carbon dashboard sets out the emissions reductions seen in the 2022/23 financial year. There is an overall reported reduction in the year of 23.9% against the baseline.

**Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer**

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 South Kesteven District Council made a formal declaration of climate emergency on 26 September 2019 with cross party support. Alongside this, the Council confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net-zero as soon as viable before 2050.
- 2.2 In order to monitor and manage the Council's carbon footprint, it is recommended to publish an (at least annual) update on reported carbon emissions. This carbon dashboard includes the full scope of South Kesteven District Council's carbon emissions for the 2022/23 financial year, against the Council's baseline year of 2018/19.
- 2.3 The reported carbon emissions for 2022/23 show an overall reduction against the baseline of 1817 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), or a 23.90% reduction from the baseline year. Further specific detail reporting specific categories of carbon emissions (including consumption of gas and electricity, operation of leisure centres and operation of a vehicle fleet) can be seen at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The continued inclusion of the Deepings Leisure Centre facility in the baseline year has resulted in a significant reported reduction in carbon emissions for the 2022/23 year. The facility attributed in the baseline for 994 tonnes of carbon emissions, or 13% of the whole carbon footprint of South Kesteven District Council.
- 2.5 While reductions from leisure centres in South Kesteven has provided a large contribution to the Council's carbon reduction target, further opportunities need to be pursued to maintain a downward trajectory.

### **3. Key considerations**

- 3.1 The report is provided for information rather than decision. Members are asked to take note of the reported emissions and associated emission categories.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 There is no statutory obligation to monitor or report on carbon emissions which arise from Council operations, nor to set or adhere to a reduction in carbon emissions. Nevertheless, regular review of carbon emissions is considered good practice to monitor progress against the Council's declared target to reduce carbon emissions.

### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

5.1 The report is provided for information to track progress towards the Council's carbon reduction target.

## **6. Appendices**

6.1 Appendix 1: Climate and carbon dashboard for 2022/23.



# **South Kesteven District Council Carbon Emissions Tracker**

## **Commentary :**

This dashboard provides an overview of South Kesteven District Council's carbon emissions for the period of April 2022 to March 2023, including the use of gas and electricity, emissions from the vehicle fleet and operation of leisure centres in the district. Greater understanding of carbon emission changes is essential to track progress towards the Council's carbon reduction target of at least 30% by 2030 and to net zero carbon as soon as viable before 2050.

The 2022/23 financial year saw a decrease in carbon emissions of 23.9%, or an overall reduction of 1817 tonnes of carbon compared to our baseline year of 2018/19. A significant contributor to this sharp reduction is due to reduced gas, electric and fuel oil consumption for the leisure centres through closure of the Deepings leisure centre, as well as slightly reduced consumption at the Stamford, Bourne and Grantham facilities. This contributed towards a reduction in carbon emissions from the leisure centres alone of over 41%.

Carbon emissions associated with electricity use in Council buildings also dropped significantly, due to a reduction in electricity used during the year as well as the ongoing national decarbonisation of the grid. A reduction is also reported for gas used in Council buildings due to decreased overall consumption. The relocation of the Council main offices at the beginning of 2023 to a significantly smaller and electrically heated facility have contributed to a slight reduction in both gas and electricity consumption.

The carbon emissions from the operation of the Council's vehicle fleet remains stubbornly high, demonstrating little change since 2018/19. Reporting includes a breakdown of Council department the vehicle is used within, with waste management and street cleansing responsible for the majority of fuel consumption. Business travel associated with staff and councillor travel in own vehicles has seen a reduction on the previous year.

While reductions reported from leisure centres in South Kesteven has provided a large contribution towards the Council's carbon reduction target of at least 30% by 2030, further opportunities need to be pursued to maintain a downward trajectory.

## **Data Quality Index :**

Source	Frequency	Confidence
Electric	Quarterly	Green
Environment SK	Annual	Orange
Fleet	Quarterly	Green
Gas	Quarterly	Green
Leisure Centres	Variable	Green
Member Travel	Monthly	Green
Refrigerants	Annual	Orange
Solar	Annual	Green
Staff Travel	Quarterly	Green
Waste	Quarterly	Orange
Water	Annual	Red

## **Confidence Description**

Green	High level of confidence in the data supplied.
Orange	Moderate Level of confidence in the data supplied. May include estimated or proxy data.
Red	Low level of confidence in the data supplied. Data may be incomplete or has not been effectively validated.

# South Kesteven District Council Emissions 2022/2023



1849  
Leased Asset CO2e  
**-41.43%**  
Leased Asset change from 2018/19 Baseline



1941  
Fleet CO2e  
**1.19%**  
Fleet change from 2018/19 Baseline



1310  
Gas CO2e  
**-2.50%**  
Gas change from 2018/19 Baseline



602  
Electric CO2e  
**-43.80%**  
Electric change from 2018/19 Baseline

**-23.90%**  
Difference From Baseline (%)  
  
**- 1817**  
Difference From Baseline (Tonnes)

70.23  
Business Travel CO2e  
**-29.06%**  
Business Travel change from 2018/19 Baseline



2.27  
Water CO2e  
**-54.51%**  
Water change from 2018/19 Baseline

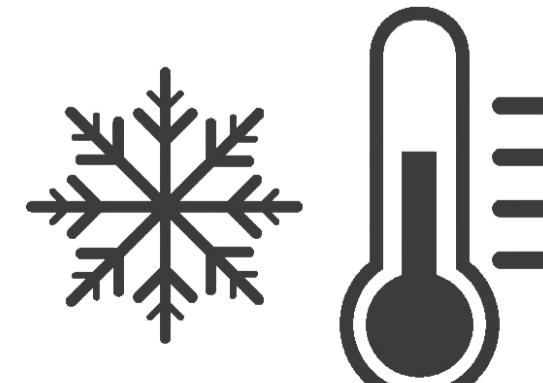


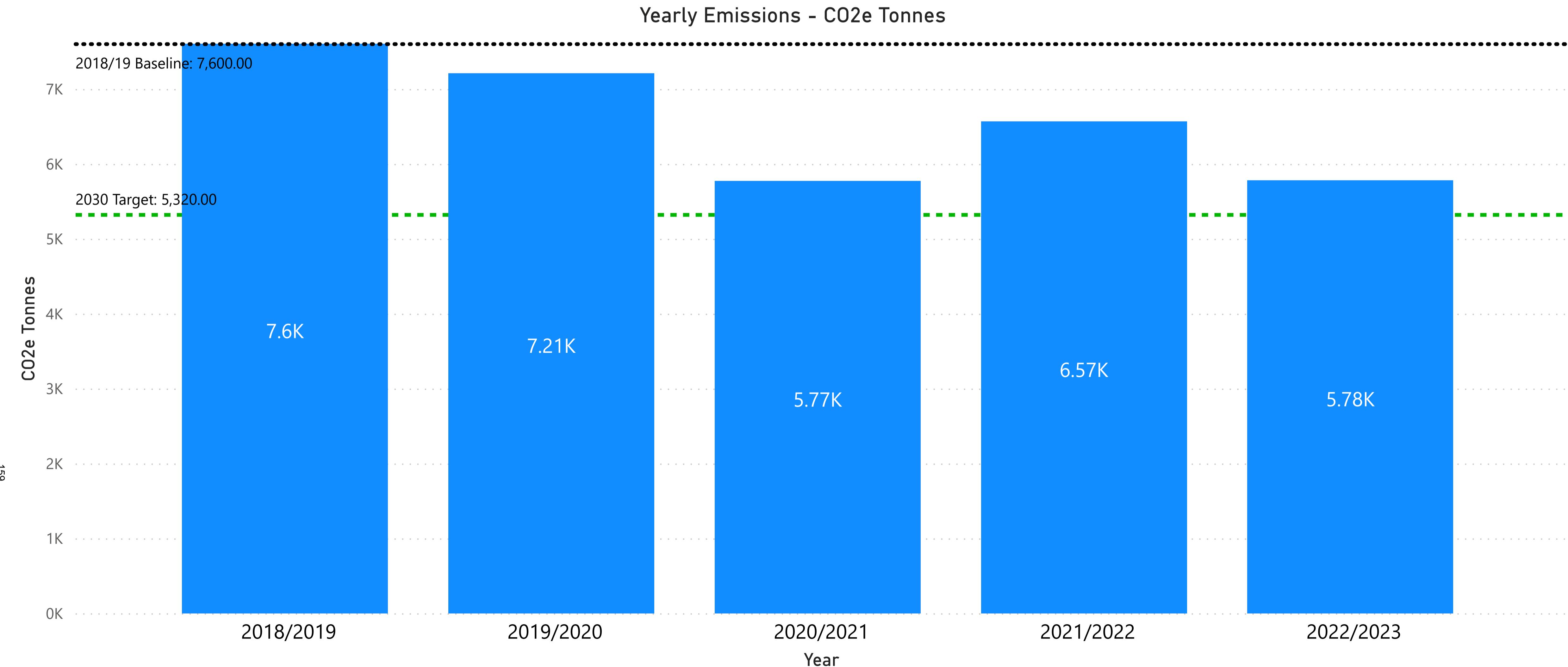
3.03  
Waste CO2e  
**1.15%**  
Waste change from 2018/19 Baseline



**5,783**  
Total CO2e Tonnes  
  
**6840**  
Target Emissions

0.00  
Refrigerants CO2e  
**-100.00%**  
Refrigerants change from 2018/19 Baseline

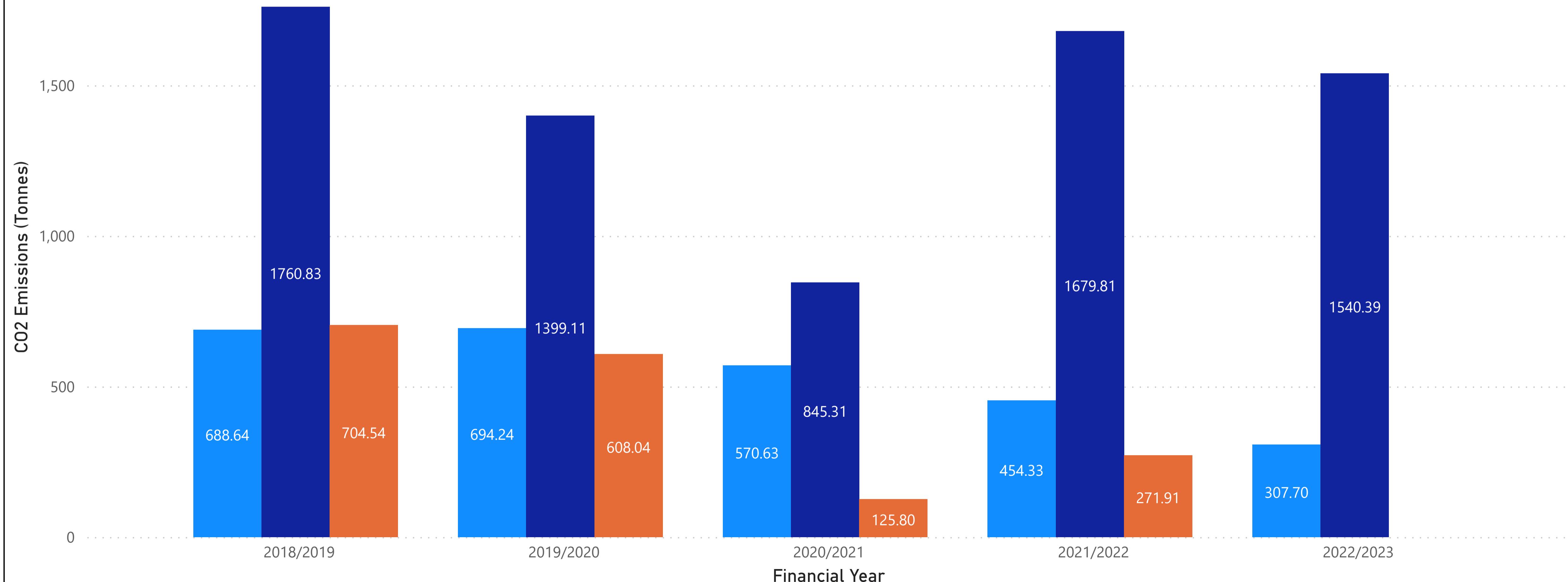






## Leisure Centre CO2 Emissions By Financial Year

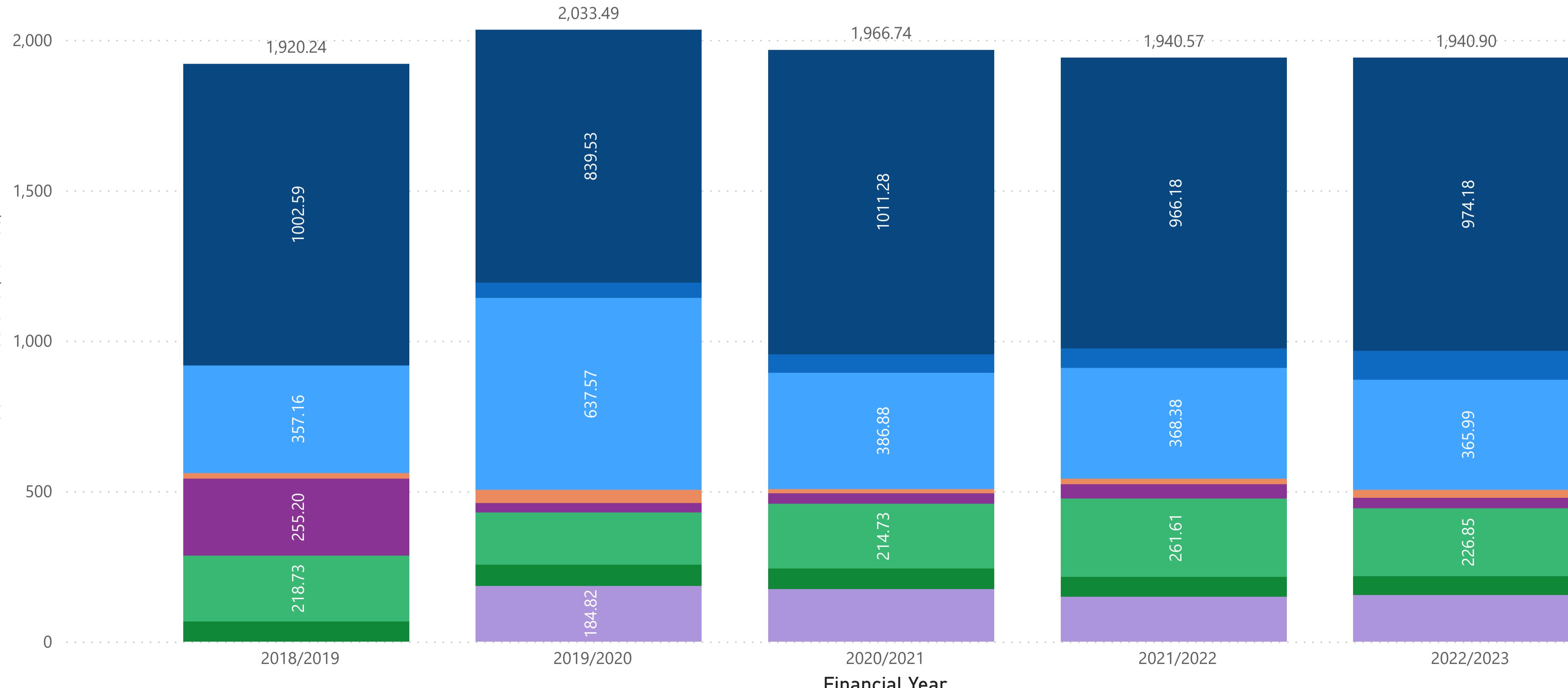
● LC Electricity ● LC Gas ● LC Fuel Oil





## Fleet CO2 Emissions By Financial Year

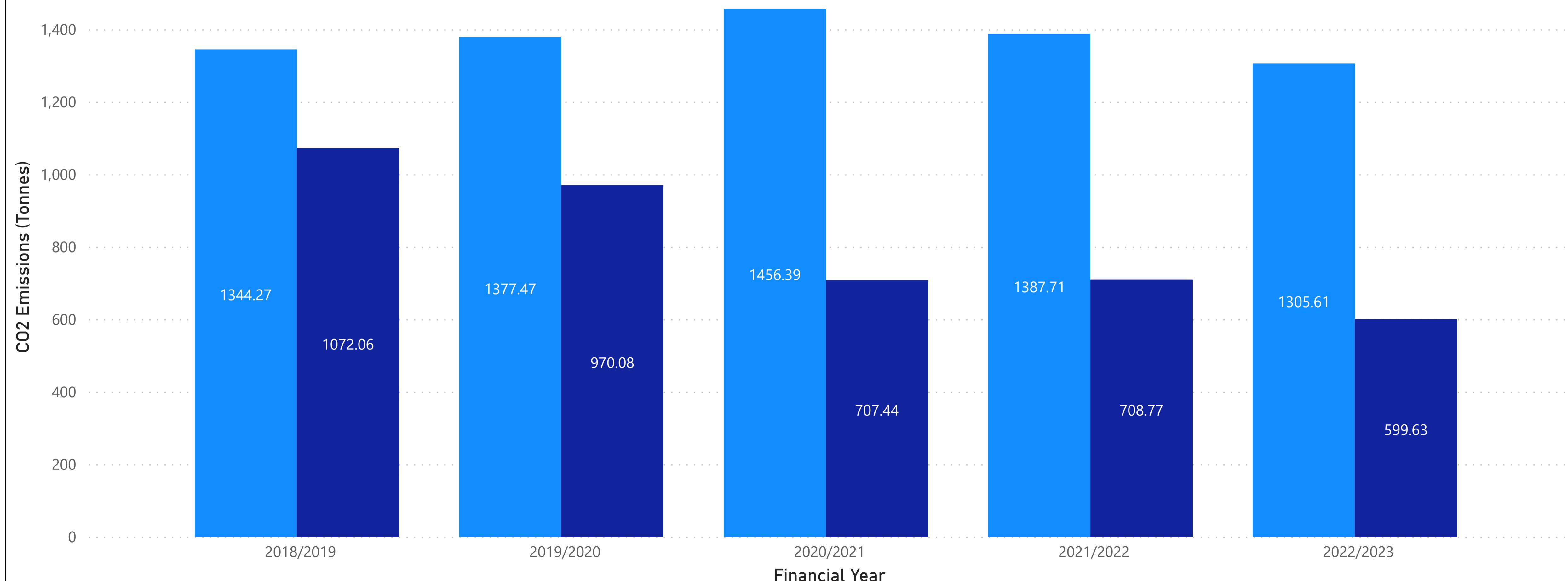
Department ● DWO ● EnvironmentSK ● Green Waste ● Other ● Pool Cars ● Street Cleaning ● Trade Waste ● Waste Management





## SK Gas & Electric CO2 Emissions By Financial Year

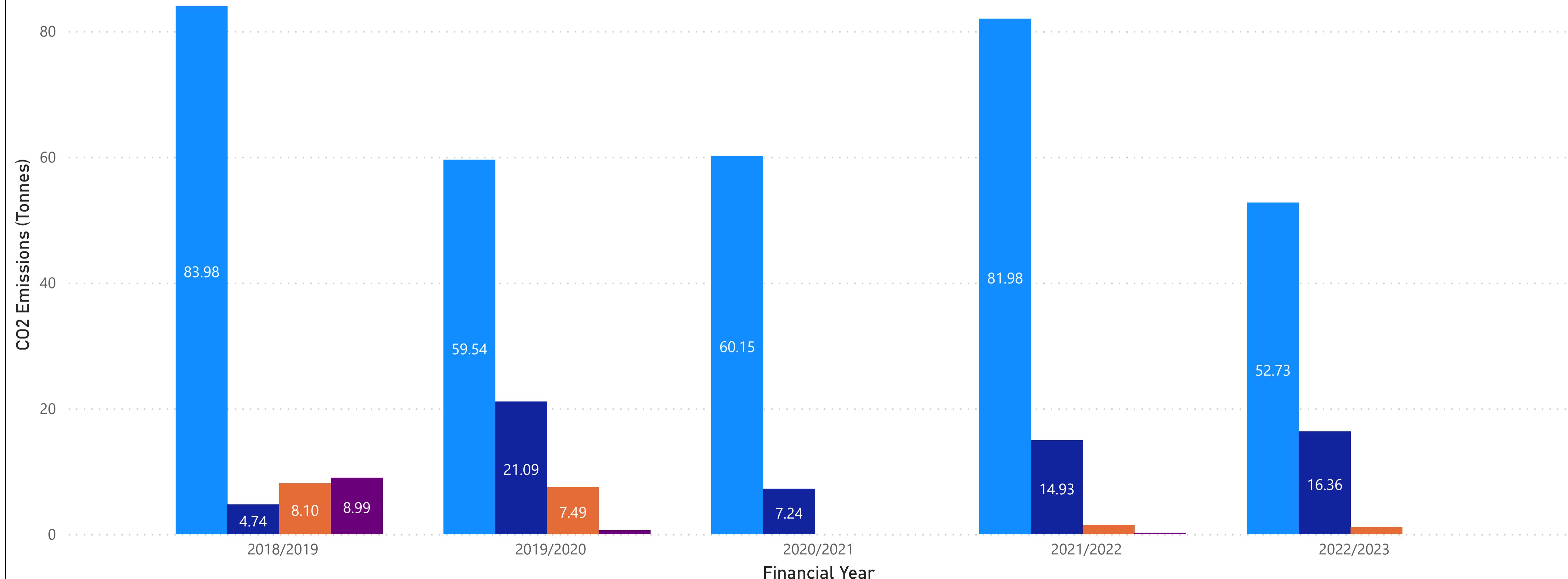
● Gas ● Electricity





Staff Travel CO2 Emissions By Financial Year

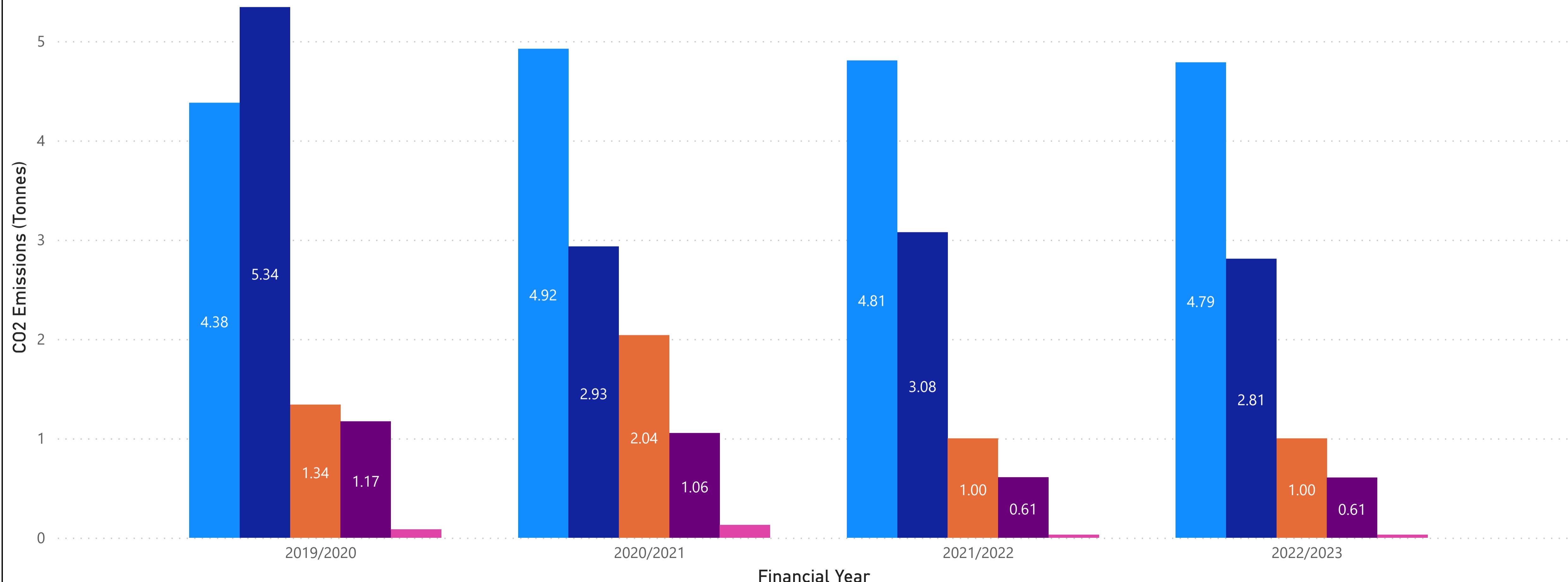
● Staff Travel ● Member Travel ● Staff Train Travel ● ISK Travel





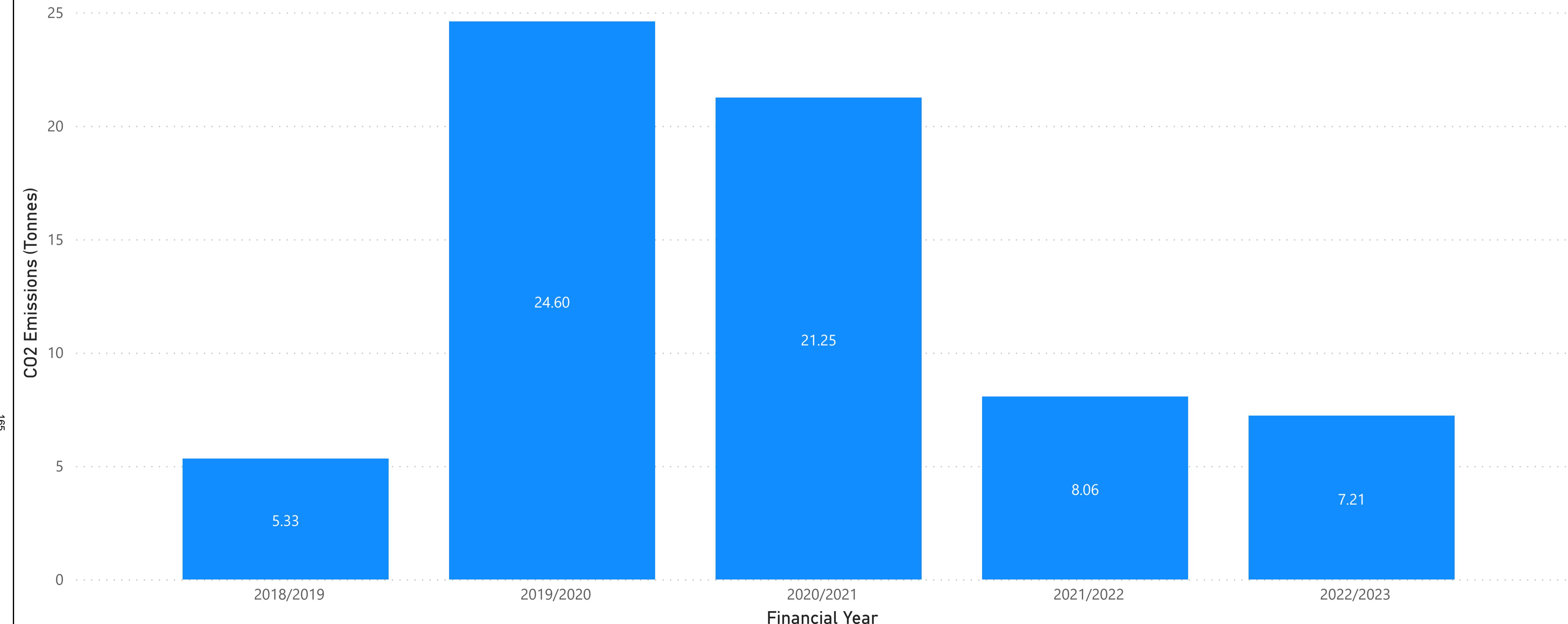
## ESK CO2 Emissions By Financial Year

● ESK Gas ● ESK Electric ● ESK Waste ● ESK Green Waste ● ESK Water



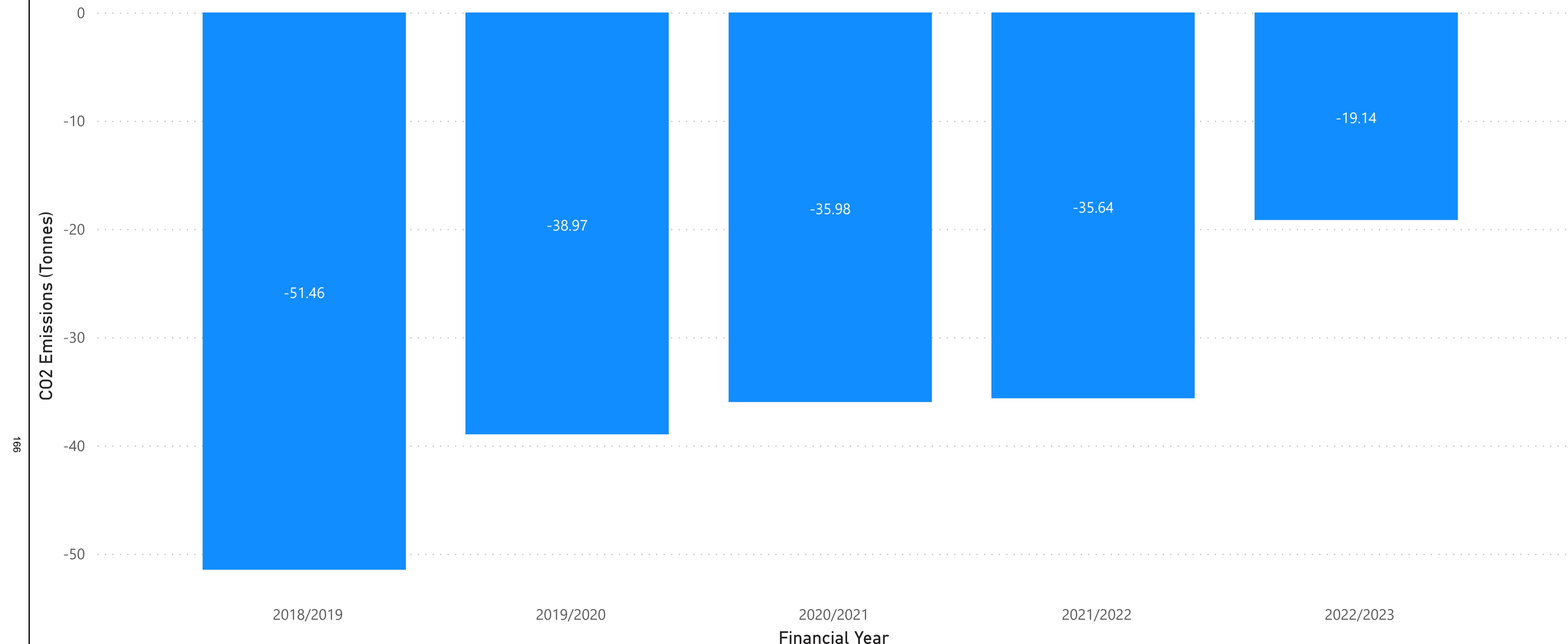


## Water CO2 Emissions by Financial Year





## SK Equivalent Tonnes of CO2 saved through use of Solar Power





SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Report of Councillor Patsy Ellis &  
Councillor Rhys Baker

## Domestic Battery Recycling Service

### Report Author

Adrian Ash Interim Assistant Director of Operations and Public Protection

 [adrian.ash@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.ash@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### Purpose of Report

This report provides information regarding options for the introduction of a domestic battery recycling service.

### Recommendations

#### That the Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Recommends that consideration be given to the options in terms of which provides the most cost efficient and sustainable method.

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Clean and sustainable environment
Which wards are impacted?	All

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 This report contains a number of options and the financial implications of each are detailed accordingly. The financial implications of whichever option is proposed, if supported by Cabinet, will be incorporated into the budget setting proposals for 2024/25.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 Local Authorities are not required to collect used batteries from households. Any legal requirements fall upon the retailers and distributors which is enforced by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

Completed by: Graham Watts (Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

### ***Health and Safety***

- 1.3 A full assessment of the risk and required mitigation, including a safe system of work and appropriate training for operatives would be required. Appropriate containers would need to be procured to ensure the safe collection, storage and transportation of batteries from general household waste.

Consult with Phil Swinton (Delete if not applicable)

Completed by: Phil Swinton

### ***Climate Change***

- 1.4 Recycling can help to extract the raw materials from used batteries and support the move towards a circular economy. The options for battery collection set out within the report are not expected to generate additional trips for the Council's waste collection vehicles, therefore not adding to the carbon emissions of operating the vehicle fleet. The outlined Option b) ensures the principle that the 'producer pays', as they are responsible for the collection and onward recycling of the product.

Consult with Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 2.1 Currently Local Authorities are not required to collect used batteries from households and the Department for Environment & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation (Environment Act 2021) on the separate collection of recyclables does not propose to introduce this.
- 2.2 South Kesteven Council's waste operations as with many local authorities does not directly collect batteries as part of their recycling initiatives. Although, they are accepted at the local household waste recycling centres within the district.
- 2.3 Members raised concerns in respect of the safe recycling of batteries as a result of an incident in March 2023, when a refuse vehicle was forced to empty its smoking and smouldering contents onto the ground in Ingoldsby, Lincolnshire. The source cannot be confirmed but may have been due to a suspected spark caused by the battery within a single use vape.
- 2.4 Retailers and distributor do have responsibilities which means they must offer free collection points ('takeback') of waste or used batteries if they sell or supply 32kg or more of portable batteries per year, (this equates to one pack of 4 AA batteries per day). This requirement is enforced by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

## **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 Officers were tasked to look at a number of options in respect of safe battery recycling which also included reviewing the scheme of another local authority who are collecting directly from the householder.

### 3.2 **South Kesteven District Council**

3.3 **Regulations** – South Kesteven District Council is a waste collection authority and as such does not hold the appropriate Environmental Agency Licence to store batteries at its depot.

3.4 However, Lincolnshire County Council have indicated that they would be willing to set up an arrangement for batteries to be tipped at the Waste Transfer Station or Household Waste Recycling Centre in Grantham, but the types of battery would need to be agreed along with the method and receptacle the batteries are collected in from the householders.

3.5 **Operational Implications** - The refuse fleet is not currently adapted to carry batteries separately. However, it is considered that a suitable container could be sourced and attached without impacting on the vehicle manufacturer's design specification.

3.6 As indicated in 3.4, if a proposed scheme were to be introduced either the Council would need to provide an approved bag / container for householders (this may be an ongoing cost) or the resident would need to present the batteries in a suitable receptacle / bag which was acceptable to the disposal authority. If this taken forward, then guidance will be given regarding the suitability of any bag used by the resident.

3.7 Adding batteries as a separate collection is unlikely to add any significant time in terms of collections from properties or on a round (any possible increased collection time would be dependent on the take up of the scheme and method used for collection).

### 3.8 **Other Collection Authorities**

3.9 It is understood that Rushcliffe Borough Council's has been running a battery collection scheme for a number of years which has evolved over time. The scheme currently recycles approximately 1 ton of household batteries each month and carries out the operation as follows: (Wow! That is an amazing number)

- Initially Rushcliffe Borough Council provided a battery bag for each resident, this was to raise the profile of recycling batteries and the take up of the scheme. Although, now residents can request replacement bags or use their own bags. This can include AAA, AA, C and D size household batteries as well as button, mobile phone, laptop and rechargeable batteries.
- Residents are told 'Not to Overfill the Bag' and to leave the bag on any colour bin on any collection day.
- The battery bags are collected and stored in a caged box on the vehicle and offloaded at the end of the round for onward transportation and recycling.

## 4. Other Options Considered

### 4.1 Other Options:

a) **Status Quo** - Continue as currently, with residents using the take back scheme and household waste recycling centres.

No Additional Cost

b) **Communications Campaign** - Carry out a managed communications campaign promoting the “take back” scheme through social media, the Council’s website and other communication channels to raise the profile and benefits of recycling batteries safely.

Cost – up to £5,000 depending on the type, timescale and extent of campaign.

c) **Kerbside Collection** - Implement a kerbside scheme with bags provided for residents use (supply of 4 bags per annum but has an ongoing cost)

Cost £71,800

d) **Kerbside Collection** - Implement a kerbside scheme with residents providing their own bags.

Cost £13,000

### 4.2 Summary of Estimated Costs

Item	Initial Cost (bags provided)	Ongoing Costs (exc. inflation bags provided)	Cost (residents' providing own bags)
Retrofitting of 32 vehicles	£8,000		£8,000
Annual letter delivery and supply of WEEE Bags (4) to all households (70,000 @ £0.84) (Ongoing Costs)	£58,800	£58,800	
Comms campaign / ongoing	£5,000		£5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£71,800</b>	<b>£58,800</b>	<b>£13,000</b>

## 5. Reasons for the Recommendations

### 5.1 Members are invited to consider the following points and recommend a chosen option.

- Local Authorities are not required to collect used batteries from households.
- The collection of batteries shows commitment from the Council for recycling additional items safely.
- The introduction of a battery recycling scheme would not necessarily eliminate incidents of waste collection vehicle conflagration.

- The March 2023 incident is the only recorded one of this type in SKDC.
- There are varying costs for each of the options which the service will need to absorb as detailed in 4.2 should a scheme be implemented.
- Retailers and distributor have responsibilities if they sell or supply 32kg or more of portable batteries per year, in terms of providing free collection points ‘takeback scheme’.
- The ‘takeback scheme’ scheme aligns with producer responsibility as identified in the Environment Act – ‘producer pays’.
- There are significant number of retailers within walking, cycling and driving distance within South Kesteven District Council who provide containers for the deposit of batteries - Morrisons, Asda, Sainsbury’s, Waitrose, Tesco, Lidl, Co-op along with other independent retailers).
- Batteries can also be taken to the local Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## 6. Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix 1 – Rushcliffe Borough Council – Battery Recycling



Rushcliffe Borough Council

## Battery Recycling

In the United Kingdom, we throw away over 600 million batteries every year. The main method of disposal for batteries is sending them to landfill sites, which are rapidly running out of space.

We currently recycle about 1 ton of Rushcliffe household batteries each month.

Put your used household batteries in the battery bag and leave it on the top of any colour bin on any collection date. We'll recycle them and leave you a replacement bag.

- Simply place your used or unwanted batteries - including AAA, AA, C and D size household batteries as well as button, mobile phone, laptop and rechargeable batteries in this bag.
- Please DO NOT OVERFILL this bag.
- Place bag on any of your bins on collection day and our collectors will remove it and leave you a new bag.
- For more information about household battery recycling please call our customers services centre on 0115 981 9911.

We can recycle the following types of household batteries:

- AAA
- AA
- C
- D
- Button batteries
- Mobile telephone batteries
- Laptop batteries
- Accumulators (rechargeable batteries).

**We can't accept car batteries or any batteries with gel or acid inside them.**

**How to store your batteries for safe recycling**

Batteries are made from many different materials including lithium-ion (used in laptop batteries), zinc (used in AA batteries) and nickel cadmium (used in power tool batteries); all are recycled into their component parts.

The recovered materials can be used to manufacture new batteries and electronics; they can also be used in the steel industry and even in paint production.

1. Store your batteries away from children and pets. Many batteries contain hazardous materials.
2. Keep your batteries in a cool dry place. If your battery becomes corroding or overheated they could leak or rupture.
3. Tape up the terminals and any wires of your batteries. Dead batteries sometimes hold a small charge, fires can result from batteries coming into contact with conductive materials like other batteries.
4. Store used batteries in a plastic container (like our battery bag) or cardboard box. Storing batteries in a non-conductive container will reduce the risk of fire, leakage or rupture.
5. Do not store different types of batteries together. Try to store different batteries separately before placing them out for collection.

# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023/24

## WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
<b>3 October 2023, 10:00am</b>				
Animal Welfare Policy	Heather Green (Licensing Team Leader)	To present a new policy for consideration	Added by the Assistant Director for Operations and Public Protection	A Clean and Sustainable Environment
Climate Action Strategy Update – Post Consultation	Serena Brown (Climate Change and Sustainability Officer)	To receive an update following consultation	Update requested a Committee meeting.	A Clean and Sustainable Environment
Corporate Climate Work Plan (Carbon Emission Reporting)	Serena Brown (Climate Change and Sustainability Officer)	To present a revised Climate Action Strategy has been developed setting out South Kesteven District Council's aspirations to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change within the district, following consultation.	Update requested at every Committee meeting.	A Clean and Sustainable Environment
Environment Act – Verbal Update	Adrian Ash (Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection and Operations)	To receive a verbal update on the Environment Act.		A Clean and Sustainable Environment
Recycling of Batteries	Adrian Ash (Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection and Operations)	To provide information regarding options for the introduction of a domestic battery recycling service.	Update requested a Committee meeting.	A Clean and Sustainable Environment

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
<b>12 December 2023, 10:00am</b>				
<b>Q2 KPIs</b>	To review the end of year Corporate Plan key performance indicators - <b>Debbie Roberts (Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance)</b>	To scrutinise performance against agreed measures		High Performing Council
<b>Environment SK Ltd/ Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd final accounts</b>	<b>Richard Wyles (Chief Finance Officer)</b>			
<b>Tree Policy</b>	<b>Serena Brown (Climate Change and Sustainability Officer)</b>		Update requested twice annually.	
<b>LED streetlights</b>	<b>Serena Brown (Climate Change and Sustainability Officer)</b>	Requested at previous Committee meeting	Progress Update on Street Lighting – dimming of LED streetlights	A Clean and Sustainable Environment

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
A1 Litter Issues	<b>Karen Whitfield (Assistant Director – Culture and Leisure)</b>	To provide an update on littering issues on the A1 and to request guidance from the Committee on the future actions to further explore.	Requested by the Chair of the OSC	A Clean and Sustainable Environment
Contaminated Land Strategy	<b>Ayeisha Kirkham (Public Protection Manager)</b>			
Biodiversity Emergency	<b>Serena Brown (Climate Change and Sustainability Officer)</b>			
<b>13 February 2024, 10:00am</b>				
Animal Welfare Policy – Post Public Consultation	<b>Heather Green (Licensing Team Leader)</b>			
Annual Air Quality Status Report	To provide the Annual Air Quality Status Report (ASR 2023) - <b>Adrian Ash (Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection and Operations)</b>	For Awareness/ for noting	Last Report (2022) presented at ENV OSC in November 2022.	A Clean and Sustainable Environment

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
<b>Update on Clean Air Lincolnshire project</b>	To update the Committee on the Clean Air Lincolnshire county wide project - <b>Ayeisha Kirkham (Public Protection Manager)</b>	For Awareness/ for noting	New item	A Clean and Sustainable Environment
<b>19 March 2024, 10:00am</b>				
<b>Environmental Crime Partnership</b>	<b>Ayeisha Kirkham (Public Protection Manager)</b>			

### Unscheduled items

### The Committee's Remit

The remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to work alongside Cabinet Members to assist with the development of policy and to scrutinise decisions in respect of, but not limited to:

- Air quality
- Animal welfare licensing (Policy)
- Commercial, industrial, and clinical waste collection and management
- Dog breeding and control orders
- Domestic waste and recycling management
- Energy efficiency
- Environment SK Ltd
- Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd
- Estate and grounds maintenance
- Flooding
- Food hygiene and safety
- Health and safety
- Noise
- Renewable energy
- Scrap metal dealers
- Green open space management