



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



South Kesteven District Council Carbon Footprint and Reduction Opportunities

This report provides an overview of progress to date of work undertaken to understand South Kesteven District Council's carbon footprint and possible projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Agility	Non-Key	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Lee Sirdifield, Strategic Director, Transformation and Change	7 July 2020
Approved by:	Gary Smith, Strategic Director, Commercial and Operations	8 July 2020
Signed off by:	Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations	13 July 2020

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Notes the progress to establish and understand South Kesteven District Council's direct contribution to climate change in the form of organisational carbon emissions.
2. Recommends to the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations to develop a

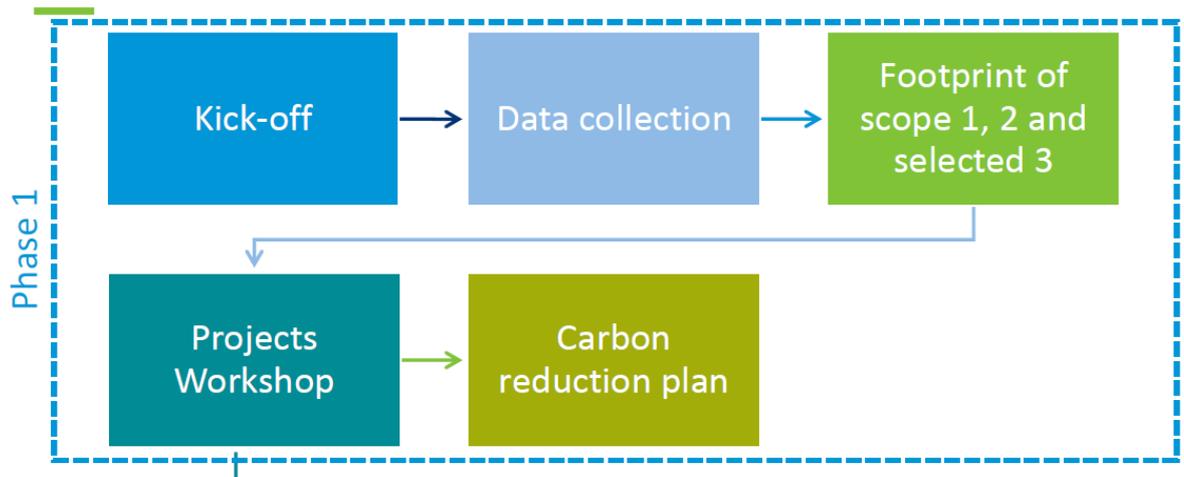
phased carbon reduction plan and initiate feasibility assessments for priority carbon reduction projects outlined in the Carbon Trust's *Carbon Footprint and Reduction Opportunities* report.

- 3. Recommends that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide feedback on any specific areas or carbon reduction initiatives the Committee would like to see prioritised.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 South Kesteven District Council (the Council) made a formal declaration of 'climate emergency' on 26th September 2019 with cross party support. Following this, the Climate Change Action Task and Finish Group was established in October 2019 to identify how the Council's activities can work towards being net-zero carbon. The Carbon Trust were appointed as specialist consultants to work with the Council to establish a baseline carbon footprint and to make recommendations on carbon reduction projects to pursue in November 2019, on the basis of the wealth of work they have carried out with other local authorities and knowledge of the sector.
- 1.2 The Carbon Trust hosted an introductory session in December 2019 with Members and Officers to confirm the scope of work and determine sources of data needed in order to compile the Council's carbon footprint. Officers identified various data sources required from the 2018/19 financial year. The scope of the Council's carbon footprint is set out on page 11 of the *Carbon footprint and reduction opportunities* full report (Appendix 1).
- 1.3 A workshop attended by Members and officers was hosted in February 2020, setting out the Council's provisional carbon footprint based on data provided. The Carbon Trust undertook site visits to Council owned buildings, on the same date, to greater understand opportunities to integrate energy savings.
- 1.4 Supplementary data relating to energy, the Council's vehicle fleet and travel was provided to the Carbon Trust, as requested, to better identify carbon reduction projects and follow up phone interviews with relevant officers were completed in May 2020 to finalise the report detailing full carbon footprint and proposed carbon reduction projects. The final report was presented to members of the Climate Change Action Task and Finish group on 16th June 2020 and is included within Appendix 1.
- 1.5 Work is being undertaken to develop a phased approach to outlined projects recommended in the full report (Appendix 1), in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. In the first instance (Phase 1), carbon reduction elements will be integrated, where possible, into projects that are already underway. Phase 2 specifies projects that have the potential to be instigated within the next 18 months, but require more detailed feasibility assessments or the development of a business case. Phase 3 specifies medium term projects to be investigated within the next 5 years. Phase 4 includes longer term projects to be thoroughly explored, with an aim to implement in line with carbon reduction targets before 2030. Updates on the project timeline will be shared with the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee as work develops.

Our proposed approach



2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has inputted heavily to the development of the Council's approach to climate change over the last year or so. This has included various recommendations and several climate change workshops.
- 2.2 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received various updates from the work of the Climate Change Action Task and Finish Group which it oversees including on the [25 February 2020](#) (item 8) and [26 November 2019](#) (item 27).

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 This report outlines the expected carbon emission reductions from a 'do nothing' business as usual scenario, set detailed on page 18 of the *Carbon Footprint and Reduction Opportunities* Report attached at Appendix 1, which derive from more renewable energy being used in the national supply of electricity. It is expected that by 2030 the Council's carbon footprint would reduce by 1,087 tCO₂e, leaving a gap to the 30% reduction target of 1,193 tCO₂e.
- 3.2 The Council could seek further advice on the scope and detail of its carbon footprint before pursuing projects to reduce carbon emissions. This would slow any operational changes or projects to reduce carbon emissions and make year on year reductions more difficult.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 To develop a phased carbon reduction plan which seeks to prioritise the projects that best align with wider Council plans and represent the best return on investment, this may also include some 'quick(er) wins' to reduce carbon emissions previously considered by the Committee on 25 February 2020 (item 8). As part of this, the Council will undertake further feasibility assessments to investigate the carbon reduction projects, as outlined in the Report at Appendix 1.

- 4.2 Wherever possible, the Council will seek to integrate carbon reduction measures into existing Council projects. In total, the report includes carbon reduction projects that, when completed in full, are estimated to have a 37% reduction on the Council's carbon footprint. Taking no or limited action in the first part of this decade is likely to make cumulative year on year carbon reduction difficult. Each project will need to be individually costed to consider initial financial outlay, return on investment and expected reduction in carbon emissions.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 Taking no action to reduce carbon emissions is likely to lead the Council into missing its target to reduce its carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2030.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 The Carbon Trust's report has been considered by the Climate Change Action Task and Finish Group on 16th June 2020, and no significant issues were raised with the content of the report or the total carbon footprint. The intention now is to develop a phased carbon reduction plan and to identify priority areas for further viability assessments.
- 6.2 Action on the Council's own operational carbon footprint will provide a strong platform for its wider community leadership role to promote carbon reduction by residents, businesses, other public sector organisations and visitors/commuters.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The financial impact of any of the initiatives proposed will need to be assessed ensuring that value for money is integrated into the decision making and prioritisation where possible and relevant. The Medium-Term Financial Plan will need to incorporate the proposals where expenditure is necessary, be it from a capital or revenue perspective.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Interim Director of Finance

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 There are no specific legal or governance implications at this stage. However, this may change if, as a consequence of declaring a climate emergency, the Council seeks to implement policies or other such documents. There could be matters arising which must be assessed further, and in more detail at that time.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Shelley Hardy – Legal Services

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 There are no specific equality or safeguarding implications at this stage, but this will be kept under review. As individual carbon reduction projects develop, analysis of impact on a case by case basis will be carried out.

10 Risk and Mitigation

- 10.1 There are significant risks over the next couple of decades, including increasing the cost of energy use, difficulties in carrying out Council operations and health and wellbeing threats from extreme weather events, if the Council does not take appropriate action to reduce and mitigate the impact of climate change, including the contributions of the Council's own operational carbon emissions. Central Government's policy on carbon reduction and the related regulatory or incentivisation mechanisms will evolve over time

and the Council should ensure it is proactive with its adaptations and changes, including moving away from fossil fuel powered systems, to place the Council in a good position.

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 No implications identified.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

12.1 A finalised carbon footprint is a fundamental step to be able to make informed decisions around which carbon reduction projects to pursue in order to meet the Council's carbon reduction targets of at least 30% by 2030.

13 Background Papers

13.1 (Appendix 1) *Carbon footprint and reduction opportunities* report authored by the Carbon Trust for South Kesteven District Council.

13.2 26 September 2019 – link : <http://moderngovsvr:8080/documents/s23971/2019-9-26%20-%20Council%20Climate%20Emergency%20Report.pdf>
<http://moderngovsvr:8080/documents/g3802/Printed%20minutes%2026th-Sep-2019%2013.00%20Council.pdf?T=1>

13.3 26 November 2019 (item 27) - <http://moderngovsvr:8080/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=630&MId=3785>

13.4 25 February 2020 (item 8) - <http://moderngovsvr:8080/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=630&MId=3826>

Report Timeline:	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	Not applicable
	Final Decision date	To be confirmed