



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Report of:** Councillor Mark Whittington

Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change



## Progress update on climate change ambitions

This report aims to provide a short update on workstreams impacting on South Kesteven District Council's climate change and carbon reduction ambitions.

### Report Author

Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer



01476 406125



Serena.brown@southkesteven.gov.uk

Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
<b>A Clean and Sustainable Environment</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>All Wards</b>

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Gareth Dawkins, Interim Assets and Estates Manager	21 April 2022
<b>Approved by:</b>	Andrew Cotton, Director of Housing and Property	25 April 2022
<b>Signed off by:</b>	Councillor Mark Whittington, Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change	29 April 2022

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

- Notes the updates regarding climate change and carbon emissions reduction across areas of South Kesteven District Council.**

# **1 The Background to the Report**

- 1.1 Opportunities are being explored by the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group to work jointly on communication, education and engagement opportunities around climate change within Lincolnshire. The group includes membership from Lincolnshire County Council alongside district officers across Greater Lincolnshire, University of Lincoln, and Lincolnshire Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust, and therefore offers strong opportunities to engage a large number of residents in a wider coherent climate change message.
- 1.2 The Council intends to shortly commence an efficiency review of the fleet of vehicles, with support from the Energy Saving Trust. This is free to eligible Councils with significant vehicle fleets, to encourage a reduction in direct carbon emissions and improve operational issues. The review is expected to examine operational opportunities to reduce mileage and to consider the optimal size of the overall fleet. There is also the opportunity to consider the best approach for electrification of vehicles, including infrastructure requirements. The fuel consumed by the Council's vehicle fleet accounts for around 25% of the carbon emissions baseline, and it is expected the review will help to signal opportunities for carbon emissions reductions both in the short and long terms.
- 1.3 Plans are proceeding to complete the planned upgrade of lighting to energy efficient LEDs in Guildhall Arts Centre. The budget for this was agreed from the climate change reserve fund of £20,000, from the 2020/21 financial year. Once works are complete, the subsequent reduction in electricity use will help to reduce the Council's carbon emissions as well as providing an improved environment for building occupants. The Council is continuing to review opportunities to decarbonise Council assets further, including making use of grant funding opportunities where possible.
- 1.4 Further to the update previously provided to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 March 2022, the Council has been updated by the Woodland Trust regarding the Local Authority Emergency Tree Fund, to which an application was submitted in November 2021. There have been a number of applications from local authorities into this funding stream, which aims to boost the capacity of councils around tree planting and supportive policy development for trees. We are expecting a further outcome on the status of the application in June 2022.
  - 1.4.1 We have also been made aware that the application for Lincolnshire for the Trees Call to Action Fund, submitted by Lincolnshire County Council with district partners, was unfortunately not successful on this occasion. Other opportunities to further tree planting work and support capacity continue to be explored.
  - 1.4.2 Data is now being collated towards the production of the Council's carbon footprint report for the financial year of 2021/22. Several datasets see a lag time of reporting into the new financial year. The updated dataset on district wide carbon emissions, published annually by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is expected to be published in late summer, with South Kesteven's report included alongside our operational carbon emissions. An update will be provided to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in autumn.

# **2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1 Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a verbal update on 8 March 2022 covering a number of items affecting the Council's work on climate change.

### **3 Available Options Considered**

3.1 Not applicable for update report.

### **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 Not applicable for update report.

### **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

5.1 Not applicable for update report.

### **6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

6.1 Not applicable for update report.

### **7 Financial Implications**

7.1 A £20k budget was approved as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process to fund climate change initiatives. Any projects identified which exceed this budget will be subject to a separate business case to demonstrate affordability and payback.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance**

### **8 Legal and Governance Implications**

8.1 There are no significant legal and governance implications of the outlined initiatives.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

### **9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

9.1 No issues identified.

### **10 Risk and Mitigation**

10.1 No issues identified.

### **11 Community Safety Implications**

11.1 None expected.

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

12.1 Each of the initiatives outlined hopes to reduce carbon emissions from council operations or from the wider district.

<b>Report Timeline:</b>	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	N/A
	Previously Considered by: Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 March 2022
	Final Decision date	N/A