



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5th July 2022

Report of: Councillor Mark Whittington

Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change



Progress update on climate change and carbon reduction projects

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

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
A Clean and Sustainable Environment	Administrative	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Gareth Dawkins, Assets and Estates Manager	21 June 2022
Approved by:	Andrew Cotton, Director – Housing and Property	23 June 2022
Signed off by:	Councillor Mark Whittington, Cabinet Member for Waste and Climate Change	27 June 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 Climate Action Group

1.1.1 The Climate Action Group met on 7th June 2022 to discuss a number of items, including:

- Updated Terms of Reference for the group confirming meeting frequency
- Consideration of paperless Committee meetings
- Update on vehicle fleet review supported by the Energy Saving Trust
- Draft workplan for the group

1.2 Sustainable Warmth competition

1.2.1 The Council has been allocated a capital budget of £1,245,000 to deliver energy efficiency upgrades via the Sustainable Warmth fund, with an additional 10% allocation for administration and ancillary costs. The focus of funding is to primarily low-income owner occupied and private rented sector properties. The delivery timescale for this is currently up to March 2023.

1.2.2 The scheme has a focus on alleviating fuel poverty in households, by improving the energy efficiency of homes and thereby reducing the cost of utility bills, whilst contributing to national net-zero carbon targets and supporting low-income households in the transition to low carbon heating. Eligible properties will receive such energy upgrade measures as cavity, wall or loft insulation, external wall insulation, solar PV panels, and low-carbon heating upgrades. The scheme is being delivered as a consortium between the councils of City of Lincoln, West Lindsey, North Kesteven and South Kesteven, who each have allocations of funding to deliver to eligible residents.

1.2.3 The Sustainable Warmth funding is targeted towards households that meet the criteria of being both low-income and with poor energy efficiency. This is defined under scheme criteria as having an annual household income of less than £30,000, and the property having an energy performance certificate of D, E, F or G.

1.2.4 This scheme has now been launched for South Kesteven residents, under the banner of the "Home Energy Upgrade Scheme". Marketing is now live, with updates published on the Council's webpages, and residents are coming forward for assessment. Current expectations are that the funding allocation will be able to deliver a maximum of 50-60 energy efficiency upgrades in the district.

1.2.5 Other sources of grant funding and support are being explored for future decarbonisation work across Council assets.

1.3 Other updates

1.3.1 The Council's work on upgrading the stock of just under 4000 streetlights to LEDs is progressing. Since installations commenced in October 2021, 200 units from 8W to 25W have been upgraded to the end of May 2022. The majority of upgrades have taken place in Grantham, Great Gonerby and Allington. All upgraded lights have a dimming schedule which sees a 50% reduction in lighting intensity between the hours of midnight and 6am. It is expected approximately another 240 units will be upgraded in the first phase of the project.

1.4 The Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund was recently announced by the Forestry Commission, as a £7.8 million fund to support councils with new staff and expertise

needed to accelerate woodland and tree planting plans. Upper tier authorities including county councils are able to apply for funding to increase tree planting.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

2.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided with an update on 10 May 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 The allocated budget for the Sustainable Warmth funding is included in the approved budget for 2022/23. The budget and any drawdown will be monitored as part of the project.

7.2 A budget carry forward request of £49k has been included in the Outturn Position Report which will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 12 July 2022.

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 No issues identified.

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.

