

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

<by email> 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 governments 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,

