



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 November 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Green Fleet Action Plan Update

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the timetable for the implementation of the actions highlighted within the Green Fleet Strategy 2025 - 2028, following its approval by Cabinet in January 2025.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the Action Plan and associated timescales for delivery.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Sustainable South Kesteven
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 Green Fleet Strategy sets out actions to encourage efficient vehicle use which will maximise the use of the fleet of vehicles operated by the Council and help to manage the need for additional vehicles as service requirements expand.
- 1.2 The measures to adopt cleaner technologies and fuels include some actions that do or will have an associated budget for implementation. This is included in further detail at Appendix 1.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 To demonstrate good governance and leadership on the Council's stated ambition of meeting the net-zero carbon target of a 30% reduction by 2030, it is important that Members are updated on progress of the Green Fleet Strategy.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Climate Change

- 1.4 The Council's vehicle fleet remains a significant contributor to overall greenhouse gas emissions, being responsible for 36% of reported emissions in the most recent 2024/25 year. The ongoing implementation of the Green Fleet Strategy will tackle fuel consumption through managing demand and maximising efficiency, whilst also implementing alternative technologies where appropriate including electrification of vehicles and alternative fuels.
- 1.5 These initiatives will be implemented and monitored over the lifetime of the Strategy and, alongside reducing carbon emissions, will also contribute to improvement of local air quality through reduced emissions.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. The Green Fleet Strategy 2025-28 was designed as an enabling Strategy which will transform the way SKDC considers the environmental impact of its fleet of vehicles. It is the first Green Fleet Strategy the authority has considered. While the Council is on track to achieve its interim target of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from its 2018/19 baseline, the fleet is now the largest single category contributing to the Council's annual emissions. It is therefore important that an action plan to drive down emissions associated with operation of fleet vehicles is implemented, to support the Council's longer-term ambition of reaching net zero as soon as viable before 2050. The strategy has been designed to enable a flexible approach to making important changes to the way vehicles are procured and used.
- 2.2. The draft Strategy was taken to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10th December 2024. The Committee reviewed the Strategy and recommended the Strategy to Cabinet, where it was approved on 16th January 2025.
- 2.3. The current fleet is made up of over 150 vehicles which are used across multiple service areas including Housing, Waste and Street Scene. The vehicles vary in size and type and cover everything from basic cars through to refuse collection vehicles. These vehicles are vital to the delivery of effective and efficient services in a district which is both geographically large and predominantly rural.
- 2.4. The Strategy focusses on the following areas:
 - **Adopting cleaner technologies and fuels** – embedding green criteria (for example choosing electric vehicles where feasible) within the Council's procurement process to encourage the exploration of alternative vehicles.
 - **Encouraging efficient vehicle use** – introduce a system for monitoring and analysing vehicle usage across all service areas to explore how to reduce overall fuel use.
 - **Managing demand** – reducing mileage, encouraging efficient journey planning and optimising routes. This will include rationalising the fleet to reduce the number of vehicles required where possible and ascertaining where vehicle life cycles can be extended. Current practices will be examined and improved to ensure demand is managed to maximise resource efficiency.
 - **Improving supporting infrastructure** – the new depot project (due to complete in late 2025) offers the opportunity to increase the number of EV charging points. This increase will influence the vehicle replacement schedule moving forward.

- 2.5. The Strategy is formatted to highlight what the Council wants to achieve and how they will achieve it. This is presented as:
1. **Vision and Key Objectives** – this section sets out the high-level vision of the Council and highlights the agreed key objectives, which will remain the same throughout the period of the Strategy. They form the basis of this Strategy and are essential for building a solid foundation for a change of culture around fleet management.
 2. **Action Plans** – this will be a living document. It will be reviewed and updated annually, to reflect any changes in strategic direction, policy or legislation. The action plans will be monitored to identify strengths and weaknesses. These will help guide decisions made at the annual review. The key KPI's will be monitored through the Corporate Plan performance management process.
 3. **Policy Statements** – these sections set out key changes to the Council's procurement policy and travel policies. These changes, whilst they will take time to implement, are key to the long-term success of the green fleet aspiration.
- 2.6. The Strategy is made up of three key Outcomes; each Outcome has a separate Action Plan which sets out how the Outcome will be delivered and measured. The three outcomes are:
1. Facilitate the transition to a carbon neutral fleet through the usage of green technology including electric vehicles and alternative fuels,
 2. Facilitate the transition to greener driving behaviours and more effective fleet usage by ensuring vehicles are used as efficiently as possible and eliminating unnecessary journeys, and
 3. Ensure the fleet is fit for present and future service delivery.
- 2.7. Appendix 1 contains an operational delivery Action Plan which combines the three separate Action Plans contained within the Strategy document. This workable delivery plan outlines timescales, costs and resource requirements, and is an outline of the practical steps SKDC will take to achieve the vision and key objectives laid out within the Strategy.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. The costs of delivering the Strategy must be considered and additional costs will be considered through the annual budget setting process.

- 3.2. For 2026/27 a revenue budget bid has been made for the alternative fuel commitment. Currently, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) is a more expensive fuel than diesel and transferring one third of our fuel usage to HVO in year 1 will increase fuel costs by £50,000. This will increase the current spending on fuel by around 5.6%. However, this is expected to reduce the carbon emissions associated with operating the whole fleet by between one quarter and one third. This is equivalent to a 6-8% total carbon reduction against the Council's baseline.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. No other options have been considered at this time.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The report recommends that the Committee note the Action Plan and associated timescales. The Action Plan shown in Appendix 1 will enable the Council to deliver the Fleet Strategy within the agreed timescales.
- 5.2. All the actions contained within the Action Plan are taken directly from the Green Fleet Strategy. The Action Plan in Appendix 1 highlights the timescales and resource requirements for the delivery of the strategy and it should be noted that it does not contain any new actions.

6. Appendices

- 6.1. Appendix 1: Green Fleet Strategy Action Plan