


Agenda Item No:	9	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	12 December 2022	
Report Title:	Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 Further to the carbon reduction and climate adaptation Council Motion of 11th July 2022 to present an action plan for review by Cabinet and referral as appropriate to Council for approval.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 As early as 2007, the Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration which required monitoring and reporting of carbon emissions for all council assets and activities.
- 2.2 This work was taken forward through the Fenland Strategic Partnership and included the development of an Energy Plan for the Council.
- 2.3 The Council undertook capital works over several years to reduce energy needs across our buildings and assets whilst accessing funding through the Salix scheme. The Salix scheme came to an end in 2021.
- 2.4 The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK government by law to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 which will require action by all local authorities.
- 2.5 The Environment Act 2021 places responsibilities on local authorities in the fields of waste, resources, air quality, water, and nature conservation. The government are developing guidance for local authorities to follow in achieving these requirements. This guidance is expected in late 2022.
- 2.6 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires English Local Authorities to produce a report that sets out the energy conservation measures that the Authority considers practicable, cost- effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area.
- 2.7 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have developed an action plan following their commissioning of an Independent Climate Change Report in 2020. The action plan contained in this report complements many of the priorities within the CPCA report.
- 2.8 The Council has a good track record of supporting residents and businesses in accessing support to reduce the cost of energy, support being focussed on the most vulnerable and offering choices to residents for energy efficiency measures.

- 2.9 Fenland's unique geography presents challenges, such as a natural susceptibility to fluvial and tidal flooding. In addition, our transport network makes households highly reliant on the motor car.
- 2.10 With energy costs continuing to rise, addressing increasing fuel poverty remains a key issue.
- 2.11 The developing action plan will integrate the objectives of the July motion by embedding the principles within the work of the council generally. This will establish an accumulative annual estimate of CO_{2e} the reductions achieved through the council's activities and through the funding of schemes to third parties, using 2018 as the base year.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet recommend Council approve the adoption of the Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation report and the related action plan.
- 3.2 That Appendix A of Part 3, Table 4 of the Constitution is amended so as to also include reference to the Environment Act 2021 and so as to enable officer to fulfil Fenland District Council's obligations under that Act in accordance with their ordinary delegations; and
- 3.3 That Cabinet delegate responsibility to portfolio holders to take forward the actions in the plan in line with their portfolio holder responsibilities.

Wards Affected	<i>All</i>
Forward Plan Reference	<i>[Insert Reference No. From Forward Plan. (It is a legal requirement to include key executive decisions on the forward plan for 28 days before the decision requested in this report is taken).</i>
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Chris Boden Council Leader Councillor Steve Tierney Portfolio Holder for Communication and Environment
Report Originator(s)	Annabel Tighe - Head of Environmental Health and Compliance Mark Mathews - Head of Environmental Services Jo Blackmore - Head of Corporate Support
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd Chief Executive Carol Pilson Corporate Director Peter Catchpole Corporate Director
Background Papers	C19/22 Council Motion presented by Councillor Tierney CPCA recommendations on climate change Cabinet minutes - 11 July 2007 Council 3R's approach

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 has set out national net zero carbon targets. With the introduction of the Environment Act 2021 local authorities are expecting further statutory responsibilities relating to waste, resources, air quality, water, and nature conservation.
- 1.2 As a district council with a unique set of challenges, the focus in Fenland has always been to create opportunities, lever in funding to those most in need and not to lose sight of local priorities. For example, the reliance on motor cars for transport in Fenland is critical to many households for school, work and healthcare.
- 1.3 In July 2022 a council motion set out the direction for the Council in addressing carbon reduction and climate adaptation. The motion included 3 specific actions:
 - a. to promote measures which alleviate the anticipated effects in Fenland of future global climate change, that are affordable and financially viable, and which we believe have a good chance of achieving their proposed end results.
 - b. to commit to meeting all carbon reduction and climate adaptation targets which are legally required by the UK Government.
 - c. to measure accumulatively the CO₂ emission reductions achieved by the Council's actions, both through FDC's own activities and through the funding of schemes directed by or channelled via FDC to third parties in the District, using 2018 as the base year.
- 1.4 The Council's approved approach to resource management was approved within the 3R's Statement of Intent to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle when considering all of its activities" The statement has been successful in its adoption of these guiding principles across the organisation with a focus on financial savings or the facilitation of grant funding.
- 1.5 Many projects have been delivered to make our own buildings more energy efficient. These actions were possible through grant funding and match funding including boiler replacement within our leisure centre buildings, lighting schemes in our council buildings and heat recirculation within our ICT facilities.
- 1.6 The environmental services fleet of vehicles has been on a journey of efficiency for many years, with investment in technology, fuel efficiency through logistics software, reduced emissions from modern diesel engines, hybrid-electric bin lifts, and implementing modern shift working. All this means that fuel usage has decreased by more than 20% in the past 10 years, whilst the number of properties has increased by 12%.
- 1.7 Fenland has since 2004 collected a large range of recycling materials from domestic and commercial customers. Data provided by Wrap, a Defra funded

environmental charity, from 2019/20 showed the average weight of recycling per property in Fenland was above both the national average and the weights achieved by local authorities with similar demographics to Fenland.

- 1.8 Since 2007 the Council has been a part of the Cambridgeshire Action on Energy and Retrofit Partnership. The partnership provides greater opportunities for the council to access government funds for residents to insulate and retrofit their properties. Currently government grants are being made available to local authorities through several schemes. These include Local Authority Delivery Grants and the Social Housing Demonstrator Fund.
- 1.9 The Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership has successfully bid for a grant of £6.5 million for energy efficiency upgrades to domestic properties. £1 million of this fund is allocated to be distributed in Fenland which will be targeted at on- gas and off-gas properties in the owner occupied and private rented sectors. These opportunities include insulation and heating upgrades. This will complement the work currently being undertaken in the district to improve the energy efficiency of social housing, through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) demonstrator project with Clarion Housing and now the Wave 1 Social Housing Decarbonisation fund.
- 1.10 The Council has also continued to support wider environmental enhancement projects to increase access to green space and enhance the environment, often through the work of volunteers.
- 1.11 In April 2022 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board approved an action plan to tackle carbon reduction and climate adaptation. The action plan covers a range of areas for focus including energy, buildings, transport, waste, water, business and commercial, nature, soils and peat, engagement, and finance. These priority areas link closely to the requirements of the Environment Act 2021. Although the council is not signed up directly to the actions within the CPCA action plan, there are areas of work which complement this plan.
- 1.12 Local authorities are uniquely placed to work together with residents, businesses, and partners to develop knowledge, strategies and practices that equip the local community to take reasonable steps to become more resilient and to play a part in reducing potential future consequences of changes to climate, rising energy costs and issues such as flooding.
- 1.13 Creating an integrated approach to water management for the Fens is important for the region to reduce the risk of flooding whilst also providing water for communities, industry, agriculture and the natural environment. Part of the long-term approach is a proposed reservoir for the area, along with developing improved means of water management. These should be delivered to ensure that they benefit the local Fenland environment, economy and community. An action plan has been developed, based on the Council motion on carbon reduction and climate adaptation, taking account of Fenland's uniqueness with a focus on no unnecessary duplication of existing plans or strategies.
- 1.14 Many of the issues raised within this report are also identified within the Emerging Local Plan for Fenland and are consistent with the objectives of this report, including potential changes to planning regulations.

- 1.15 Where revenue funding is available this will be sought, and any new funding or actions will be subject to financial scrutiny to ensure they are viable and of benefit to Fenland communities.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve an updated action plan to meet the priorities of the Council motion dated 11 July 2022, to work towards the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 and mitigate against rising energy costs.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There are no requirements to consult on this action plan, however the plan has been developed jointly with portfolio holders and relevant partners.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Fenland Council could sign up to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Acton Plan.. These actions cover a broad area of responsibility and are not sufficiently focussed on the direct needs of and benefits to the Fenland community.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 The actions proposed in this plan meet the current requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008, Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. and the Environment Act 2021.

- 5.3 During 2022 local authorities are expecting further guidance which will set out any statutory requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

5.4 Financial Implications

- 5.5 The current action plan can be delivered within existing budgets. If further statutory responsibilities are to be placed on local government, the action plan will be reviewed regarding future financial implications.

- 5.6 Funding referred to in relation to energy saving projects has been secured by the Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership is managed by the lead council for that partnership, Cambridge City Council. This funding has included revenue funding for officer time and these projects are only deliverable with this officer recourse in post. Further funding is being requested to cover the future work programme; home upgrade funding covers a 2-year period.
- 5.7 Government and other relevant grant schemes will be accessed where appropriate and available.

5.8 Equality Implications

- 5.9 There are no equality implications.

5.10 Associated Strategies and Plans

- [Fenland's Emerging Local Plan](#)
- [Fenland Cycling, Walking and Mobility Aid Improvement Strategy](#)
- [Recap Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)
- [Air Quality Action Plan](#)
- [Fenland's Business Plan](#)
- [Rail Development Strategy](#)
- [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Digital Connectivity Strategy](#)
- [Asset Management Plan](#)

REDUCING THE COUNCILS ENERGY AND FUEL USE - Projects relating to the internal day to day running of the Councils services. These contribute the 'Council for the Future' agenda by ensuring that service delivery processes are continually refined to reduce energy and fuel use and to ensure that the Council's operational accommodation is able to meet changing business and working needs.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
ENERGY - Reducing the energy use of Council buildings.	Monitor energy use and carbon emissions from Council buildings against a baseline year of 2018 and publish these figures annually.	Publication of Council's CO ₂ e emissions data	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Build on the success of retrofit measures already installed in Council buildings, by identifying 'invest to save' measures and securing funding to implement these in buildings to be retained within the Council's portfolio.	Scheduled in line with the Council's future Accommodation Strategy, measures identified, funding secured and projects completed at all sites.	Subject to review, likely 2024	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs
	Secure funding to Improve the energy efficiency of commercial properties owned by the Council and explore the installation of renewable energy sources at these sites.	Energy Performance Certificate EPC ratings of Council owned commercial properties improved and renewable energy generated.	Completed 2025	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs
TRANSPORT - Fleet Management	Monitor fuel use and carbon emissions from council fleet vehicles against a baseline year of 2018 and publish emissions figures annually.	Annual publication of CO ₂ emissions data.	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Utilising logistics software, to regularly review fleet operations to maintain efficiency and incorporate development.	Capture and publicise the results of periodic route optimisation.	Ongoing	Accommodating growth with limited fleet miles
	Maximise the benefits of using In-cab technology, by using it to provide real time information, to ensure that collections and deliveries are completed in the most efficient manner.	Reduction in fuel use, miles travelled and repeat visits to properties.	Ongoing	Reduced mileage
	Recognising the embodied emissions in new vehicle purchases, to maintain the council's vehicle fleet to the highest standards, maximising fuel efficiency and extending the life of refuse vehicles to 9 - 10 years, and exploring viability of alternative fuels upon end of life.	Litres fuel used/CO ₂ produced on an annual basis	Ongoing	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs

SUPPORTING HOMES TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND ENCOURAGING ACTIVE TRAVEL - Ensuring homes are warm, cheap to heat, comfortable and healthy places in which to live, encouraging active travel and transport options across Fenland.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
ENERGY - Improve the energy efficiency of residential and non-residential buildings. Work with partners to provide advice to	Publish the annual emissions data for the District provided by central government and monitor the CO ₂ e reductions achieved as a result of projects being undertaken to reduce emissions within the district.	Annual publication of CO ₂ e emissions for the District Of Fenland	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities as part of the Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership (CERP) to allocate central government funding to upgrade the energy efficiency of owner occupied homes and those in the private rented sector.	Amount of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding received and homes upgraded as a result.	Completed 2025	Measures installed
	Work with Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) and Citizens Advice to provide advice and sign post assistance for those at risk of fuel poverty.	Number of residents at risk of fuel poverty assisted annually.	Ongoing	Advice Calls Annually
	Continue to invest in improving the energy efficiency of Social Housing using funding secured under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.	Amount of grant funding received and number of homes improved.	Completed 2024	Homes Improved

residents at risk of fuel poverty.	Continue to give residents the opportunity to install Solar PV and battery storage systems through the Cambridgeshire Solar Together Scheme	Number of Solar PV and Battery storage systems installed annually.	Annually	Number of Installations
	Heat Pump Ready Cambridgeshire Feasibility Funding (Phase 1) received to assess the barriers to installing Air Source Heat Pumps in 25% of the properties in a single off-gas community.	Feasibility study leads to a successful capital bid to government Nov 2022.	Phase 2 from 2023	Report Completed
	As part of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to hold learning events for businesses in the District to consider how they can take advantage of business opportunities in the energy efficiency/renewables sector.	Number of events held and businesses attending.	Completed 2025	Number of Events
WASTE - Minimising the creation of waste and increasing the awareness of recycling and composting.	Working with both domestic and commercial customers, to promote waste as a resource and encouraging waste reduction, recycling, the composting of municipal food and garden waste	Maintaining consistently high recycling tonnages, when compared to similar authorities.	Annual	kg/hh/yr
	Maintain the best possible level of contamination of domestic dry recycling bin through education, communication and direct engagement via the 'Getting it Sorted' network of community volunteers.	Levels of incorrect materials maintained and improved.	Ongoing	92% or more good quality recycling
	To deliver the waste collection service improvements as required within the Environment Act	Increased recycling as a result of improved range of materials available for domestic and commercial recycling.	Timeline anticipated from Defra	Compliance
TRANSPORT - Encouraging local active travel and ensure that new and existing developments are served by good transport links.	Create the best conditions and infrastructure for walking, cycling and mobility aid across Fenland particularly for access to places of education and employment.	The implementation of Active Travel schemes in the district in collaboration with partners including the County Council and Combined Authority.	Ongoing	Number of schemes
	Enable home working and business development through supporting further development of full fibre broadband connections for the Fenland communities and businesses.	Percentage of local communities with full fibre broadband connections	Ongoing	Performance
	Continued implementation of the Fenland Rail Development Strategy 2011/2031 designed to improve the railway in Fenland.	Implementation of the measures included in the 'Getting On Track' action plan.	Ongoing	Measures installed
BUILDING RESILIENCE - Ensuring Communities remain resilient and thrive.				
Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT - Working with partners to address the risk of flooding.	Work with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners in the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership to manage flood risks.	Continue to engage fully with the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
	Work with partners including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to promote household level flood defence advice and defence measures.	Identify funding to allow individuals to benefit from household level flood defence measures.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
	Reduce the risk and impact of 'flash flooding' on the road network by influencing partners to review maintenance regimes for the clearance of roadside gullies, culverts and drainage assets.	Maintenance regimes provide suitable drainage capacity.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
HEATWAVES - Ensuring the district is resilient to hotter drier	Work with partners to address the impacts of excess heat and ensure that when a heatwave is declared action is taken in line with the National Heatwave Plan.	Vulnerable residents are protected through the provision of support and advice on how to reduce health risks during heatwaves.	Ongoing	Reduced Excess Deaths

summers.	Support the long term development of infrastructure able to cope with increased summer temperatures, in the public realm and by supporting individuals to make adaptations.	The provision of advice through the planning process regarding the design of buildings to assist in reducing internal temperature and also in existing buildings and public spaces.	Ongoing	Advice Provided
WATER CONSERVATION - Delivery of an integrated approach to water management in the area.	Participation in the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation (FFIA) Project. Led by Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the CPCA to deliver an integrated approach to water management for the Cambridgeshire Fens.	Food security maintained, new water resources developed to help meet future needs, drought and flood risks alleviated.	Ongoing	FDC Engagement
	Work with partners including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to promote water saving messages to householders and businesses.	Information provided, numbers of households and businesses reached.	Ongoing	Measures installed
	Work with partners including Anglia Water to ensure that the Future Fens Reservoir Plan benefits the local environment, economy and community.	National infrastructure project timescales and success criteria.	Ongoing	Project Timescales
	Aspire towards water neutrality by meeting high water efficiency standards of 110 litres per person per day and incorporating facilities to recycle, harvest and conserve water resources.	Homes built using enhanced Building Regulations standard for water efficiency.	Ongoing	New Homes Compliant

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT - Work closely with all sections of the community to maintain and enhance the district.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Continuing to work closely with local Communities to Develop pride in the district.	Getting it Sorted Volunteer network - Focusing on recycling, reducing and reusing waste – volunteers share what they have been doing to inspire others, upcoming events etc...	Number of Volunteers/ Number of Subscribers to E -newsletter	Ongoing	Number of Volunteers
	Street Pride Groups - Support for and development of the network of voluntary Street Pride Groups across the District, providing communities with resources to help them undertake environmental activities locally.	Number of Street Pride Groups active across Fenland. Number of Street Pride events and volunteers participating	Ongoing	Number of Groups
	Administer and promote the successful Community Environment Funds in the District. Distribute grants from 3 section 106 funds to communities in the catchment area of wind turbines.	Grants issued, measures installed and carbon reductions achieved.	Annually	Grants issued
	Golden Age Fair Events - Working with partners offering help with energy advice, claiming benefits, health checks, fitness tips, home safety, and much more.	Number of Golden Age fairs held Annually	Ongoing	Number of Events
	Increase in tree planting where appropriate to provide shading and help regulate temperatures and mitigate CO2e emissions.	Additional trees planted in partnership with community groups.	Ongoing	Number of trees planted
	Using existing networks and communications, signposting of any financial assistance available to residents and businesses for improvements such as energy storage, power generation and similar.	Number of campaigns promoted	Ongoing	Campaigns promoted
	River Care Project - Working in Partnership with the Environment Agency to hold clean-up of Town Centre river locations in the District.	Number of Clean-up events held annually	Ongoing	Clean Rivers/Riversides

FURTHER MONITORING AND REPORTING

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
Ongoing commitment to carbon reduction and climate adaptation	Continue to reduce CO2e and put in place climate adaptations wherever possible	Calculate and publish the cumulative CO2e savings since 2018	Ongoing	Report Annually