

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULES

Report by Councillor Sue Burke, Sustainability Advocate

This is a brief report as it is my first one in the role of Sustainability Advocate and I have concentrated on giving an outline of some of the sustainability work we currently do as a City Council.

I would like to thank City of Lincoln Council officers for their help in producing an outline and a flavour of some of the sustainability work we do as a Council which is included as Appendix 2.

In particular I would like to thank Pat Jukes, Business Manager, Kate Bell, Housing Strategy Officer and Michael Hurtle, Assistant Development Officer who put together Appendix 2 "Work undertaken by City of Lincoln Council which supports the low carbon / sustainability agenda".

When I started, I had a general idea that "sustainability" equals "green" issues. However, a little research showed that considering "sustainability" is a key responsibility in all the projects we do as a Council. The "Lincoln Project Management Model" (Appendix 1) gives our guiding definition of sustainability, "Sustainability is about getting the right balance or harmony between economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability". Not least is the challenge of managing the austerity measures from central government over the past years and our desire to provide good services and where possible add new, enabling us to declare, we are "Proud to be Lincoln".

The City of Lincoln Council works in partnership on many projects, for example promoting Fair Trade in Lincoln. The City was initially granted Fairtrade City status in August 2013 and continues to hold this status.

In May I took part in the Countryside Show in the City, which took place in the Arboretum. This event was organised by groups such as Green Synergy and Lincoln Against Poverty of which the City of Lincoln is a member. This was a fun, and wonderfully sunny family day with stalls promoting countryside and food education together with community stands. I and others helped support and promote the Neighbourhood Boards stand.

Another example of working in partnership is as a member of the Lincoln Food Partnership, which in July 2018 carried out a Lincoln Food Hub Consultation. The idea behind the Food Hub is a central facility where food can be collected, stored, processed and distributed to community projects across Lincolnshire as a means to reduce food waste, reduce food poverty and promote a long-term sustainable mode of food citizenship.

There were two consultation meetings, one with 'food champions' such as the food banks and the second with food suppliers. Councillor Rosanne Kirk represented the Council at the first meeting as her portfolio includes the anti-poverty agenda and I as Sustainability Advocate at the second.

Food poverty is of course only part of the 'food cycle' and as a member of the 'Lincoln Food Partnership' forum we are involved in the work of the Lincoln Food Strategy led by Professor Nigel Curry and the University of Lincoln in developing and implementing an action plan to deliver Lincoln's status as a 'Sustainable Food City'.

Work is ongoing on this exciting Food Hub innovative proposal for Lincoln, including seeking more food suppliers and raising the funds to enable and support this initiative.

The City of Lincoln Council also promotes individual action on the more traditional "green" and sustainable issues such as Fair Trade and the Lincolnshire Real Nappy Network. A key objective is to make your home more energy efficient and this includes supporting our residents to access ECO funding through energy suppliers. More information can be found on the City of Lincoln Council website at: <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/resident/green-and-sustainable-living/making-your-home-more-energy-efficient/>

I attended the Faith and the Environment Conference in May which explored the issue of climate change and what we can do as individuals and government to address this. Cllr Chris Burke, as our Policy Scrutiny Chair, presented the City of Lincoln's commitment to reduce carbon emissions in the city.

The following briefing note on the Low Carbon Lincoln Partnership is from Kate Bell, Housing Strategy Officer.

"The City Council formed the Low Carbon Lincoln Partnership back in 2008 along with a range of organisations, all of which signed up to a target to reduce Lincoln's Carbon dioxide emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. To set out how we can work together to achieve this we prepared a low carbon Lincoln action plan. This is available on our website: <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/your-council/policies-publications-and-information/ppasb-and-environment-policies-and-publications/low-carbon-lincoln/> and is due to be updated next year.

Currently Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions have reduced by 41.3% since 2005 despite the level of growth in the City.

Challenges that need to be addressed include:

- The slowest reduction of CO₂ in Lincoln has been from transport and is proving the most challenging to address. The Access Lincoln programme and the Transport Task Force are working towards solutions to encourage sustainable modes of transport.

- Between 2012 – 2036 Central Lincolnshire is due to grow by 36,960 new homes. New council houses in Lincoln are currently built to energy rating band B. Looking at opportunities to improve new homes to band A without having to limit the number of homes we can fund.
- Existing private sector housing stock, the majority of homes in Lincoln were built before standards for energy efficiency were included in building regulation, as a result 2352 homes are classed as living in fuel poverty. The Greater Lincolnshire Energy Efficiency Partnership are working with energy suppliers to target households in fuel poverty. The City Council have recently installed new boilers for homeowners that are fuel poor and have a health condition related to cold living conditions.
- Existing council housing stock, as part of the council's housing investment programme we are working towards improving the energy efficiency of our own housing stock. The number of properties with a SAP rating of E and F have reduced to 137 (from 1089 in April 2016). The ongoing boiler installation programme will continue to improve the efficiency of homes and contribute towards reducing the number of homes in fuel poverty.
- We as a council are currently reviewing our own impact on climate change and identifying opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emission as a result of our operations and services.
- We have installed Photovoltaic panels on council buildings,
- The Council's vehicle fleet has been upgraded to more fuel-efficient vehicles and we have installed tracking devices to identify opportunities for reducing vehicle mileage.
- We have installed smart meters to improve monitoring of energy usage in our buildings to help identify where further savings can be achieved.
- We have installed LED lighting in many buildings and our car parks to reduce electricity.

As a result of these and many more initiatives we have reduced our corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 34% since 2008 and will continue to look for opportunities to reduce our emissions and environmental impact further.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Low Carbon Lincoln Partnership and Action Plan please feel free to contact Kate Bell, Housing Strategy Officer (Regeneration and Sustainability) at the City of Lincoln Council kate.bell@lincoln.gov.uk .

I look forward to our Council continuing to make progress towards a carbon free future through our sustainable policies and approaches both as a Council and in partnership.

Councillor Sue Burke
Sustainability Advocate