

## Work undertaken by City of Lincoln Council which supports the low carbon / sustainability agenda

### Policies & Strategies

The Council's vision/objectives/ambitions regarding Environmental Sustainability are set out in various documents;

**Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036** adopted April 2017; Sustainable growth is a key Plan objective. Sustainability has driven the development of all Policies, including the spatial strategy, level and distribution of growth, the need for affordable housing, and the provision of infrastructure the protection of the environment and natural resources and cultural and historic assets.

**Vison 2020** identifies the Council's commitment to sustainability and outlines some of the initiatives prior to document publication in 2017. Recognising the implications that climate change has for environmental economic and social well-being of the city, in 2005 the council produced a **Climate Change Strategy** with a view to minimising its impacts on the environment. One of its key objectives was to identify how to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Lincoln and how we should adapt to deal with predicted changes in climate.

The City Council signed up as a Member of the **Low Carbon Lincoln Partnership** and have as such made a formal commitment to working together to reduce Lincoln's carbon footprint by signing up to the **Low Carbon Lincoln Charter**.

In March 2012, City of Lincoln Council also hosted Lincoln's first low carbon conference, with attendance from 45 organisations out of which a **Low Carbon Lincoln Plan 2014-2020** was developed which included a delivery plan and annual monitoring commitment.

The City Council has included various projects/initiatives in its annual work programmes in response to the plan, including introduction of Electrical Vehicle charging points; energy efficiency improvements to the Council's Housing stock; adoption of a corporate staff travel Plan; City Hall energy and water saving initiatives (rooftop solar panels and motor censored lighting and LEDs; improvements to other Council managed properties including Yarborough, and Birchwood Leisure Centres and the managed workspaces.

### Works carried out to date that support the low carbon strategy (2008 – 2016)

Area	Project carried out between 2008 – 2016
City Hall	Extra on-site bike storage (City Hall)
City Hall	Showers at City Hall
City Hall	Electric van for parking services
Car Parks	EV (electric vehicle) charge points in council car parks
Car Parks	Discount residents parking rate for anyone with a low emission vehicle
City Hall	Low energy lifts have been installed
City Hall	Investment of solar panels on roof of City Hall
The Terrace	Addition of solar panels on roof of Terrace
City Hall	Motion censored lighting in refurbished toilets in City Hall
City Hall	LED lighting in refurbished offices in City Hall

City Hall	LED lighting in all communal areas of City Hall
City Hall	New roof covering, with added insulation at City Hall
Birchwood Leisure Centre	LED lighting at Birchwood Leisure Centre
Managed workspaces	LED lighting in communal areas of managed workspace
Yarborough Leisure Centre	M & E refurbishment (new boiler and pipework) at Yarborough Leisure Centre, substantially reducing energy costs
Council Houses	Implementation of strategy to replace windows in Council owned housing stock with triple glazed windows
City Hall	Installation of bio-mass heating system (City Hall)
Council Buildings	Power perfectors installed in 5 council buildings (They regulate the incoming electricity voltage which not only reduces electricity it also ensures that electrical equipment lasts longer. At the moment this technology is only suited to large sites with 3 phase supply)
Yarborough Leisure Centre	Yarborough sports pavilion has a green roof, rainwater capture and solar thermal hot water
Council Houses	Solar panels on council bungalows
City Hall	Switched to only 1 air-con unit in the IT server room
City Hall	Introduction of Skype facility in Committee Rooms 3 & 4
City Hall	Recycling bins in offices
City Hall	Involved in an office furniture recycling scheme
City Hall	New taps installed in all toilets at City Hall, reducing water wastage
City Hall	Server virtualisation in IT (reducing the number of servers and AC)
Car Parks	LED and light sensors at Broadgate and LTS MSCP
Fleet	Car paring service purchased an electric van and all vehicles in the fleet have been upgraded to more fuel efficient models with tracking devises to monitor mileage.

**Projects listed within Vision 2020 (Phase 1) that could be viewed as supporting the low carbon strategy**

Directorate	Vision 2020 Project (in progress)	RAG Rating
Housing	Deliver the Lincoln Homes Standard across all Council owned homes by 2021	
Housing	Survey, identify and improve all Council owned properties with a SAP of 38 or less	
Housing	Survey, identify and establish an action plan to improve all Council owned properties with an E rated SAP (39-54)	
Housing	Improve 10% of all properties in the private sector which have an SAP (energy rating) of less than 38	
Housing	Identify all prefabricated homes in the city and establish individual property plans to improve energy efficiency	
Housing	Raise awareness of free ways to reduce energy bills	

Housing	Maximise intervention for private sector properties with solid wall insulation	
Housing	Complete an environmental improvement programme for public housing by 2020	
Housing	Average SAP rating for residential council owned properties to be 70 or more	
Housing	Reduce the number of households in the city living in fuel poverty by 5% (230) households	
Housing	New build houses are SAP band B. Looking at opportunities to increase this to band A.	
Major Development	Refresh the Low Carbon Lincoln Strategy and Action Plan	
Major Development	Explore the potential for a Lincoln Smart City Group (A smart city is a term given to a city that incorporates information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance the quality and performance of urban services such as energy, transportation and utilities in order to reduce resource consumption, wastage and overall costs.)	
Major Development	ERDF Environmental Improvement	
Communities & Environment	Recycling campaign (once LWP strategy has evolved)	
Communities & Environment	Air Quality Action Plan	
Housing	Promote bulk energy switching to lower energy bills for residents	

**Strategies and work being delivered and assisted by the Directorate of Major Development that supports sustainability within the Council and the City**

**Low Carbon Task Force**

A Low Carbon Task Force has been instigated to bring together key officers across the council who work in a range of corporate areas. The purpose of the group is to consider all elements of the low carbon agenda and determine how best the City of Lincoln Council can transition to more carbon neutral practice across its services and estate. The task force meets three times annually and a range of works are carried out as part of this group.

**Staff Travel Plan**

We are presently refreshing our 2013 City of Lincoln staff travel plan which shall look at a range of ways that CoLC can support staff members to opt for more sustainable travel options. At present we are undertaking a staff travel survey (end date 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019). Once completed we shall analyse the results and make a set of recommendations to CMT. The staff survey will also include a question canvassing interest in a Cycle to work scheme, a government initiative that allows employers to loan employer's cycles and cycle safety equipment to employees as a tax-free benefit. The survey will not commit the Council to the Scheme and any proposals to develop such an initiative as part of the travel plan will be reported further following analysis of the survey.

A travel plan is a general term for a package of initiatives or projects aimed at promoting sustainable travel and reducing overdependence on the car. Essentially the plan aims to reduce the impact of travel on the environment and provide a framework for a package of actions and targets. The document sets out objectives, targets and some of the measures that are planned to encourage this change. Some of these are corporate actions and approaches. The travel plan being developed is part of an accredited scheme promoted on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council and Access Lincoln. The scheme is administered by STARSfor.org, and provides accreditation to the organisation once the processes have been successfully carried out.

### **Environmental Management System**

Work has been carried out, through the Low Carbon Task Force to determine the need, resources and appropriate package, to re-establish an environmental management system for the City of Lincoln Council. Work is ongoing on this, however approval has been given, via the Low Carbon Task Force, to explore further a system called Investors in the Environment. There is an annual cost of £899 for this system, and as part of this they shall assist with the auditing needing to carry out the scheme. There are three levels of accreditation that an organisation can gain, and it is our intention to go for a Bronze rating in the first instance as this shall allow us to develop our monitoring data.

### **Electric Vehicle Transition Strategy**

The Corporate Management Team have approved the drafting of an Electrical Vehicle strategy that will look at the current provision of EV charging points across the city, assess the current market trends in this emergent technology and determine what role the City of Lincoln Council shall paly in its delivery.

This EV transition strategy has been instigated by the on-street charging point funding that has been made available by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). In October 2016 the government announced that they were to provide grants to support the wider take up of electric and hybrid vehicles via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles. This will support Local Authorities instigating the further role out by the private sector of EV infrastructure. The level of funding available included:

- £1.5m for 2017/18
- £4.5m for 2018/19 & 2019/20

The funding provides for 75% of the capital cost of procurement and installation of on street EV charging points, with the remaining 25% match funded. The maximum award per unit is £7,500, and applications by a Local Authority cannot exceed a total amount of £100k. The costs eligible for funding include:

- Purchase cost of charging unit
- Purchase cost of electrical components related to charge points
- Cost of civil engineering works related to the installation
- Labour costs associated with installation
- Hardware costs of the installation

The take up of electric vehicles has risen exponentially over the last decade as the technology and infrastructure supporting EV cars has improved significantly. It is expected that the Electric Vehicle Transition Strategy shall be taken to Policy Scrutiny on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, followed by Executive on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **Lincoln Transport Task Force**

The provision of improved and integrated transport policy, services and infrastructure form a cornerstone of the City's growth proposals, supporting the economic and housing development necessary to support the long-term prosperity of Lincoln and Lincolnshire. The Transport Task Force provides a strategic forum for setting and championing the movement Strategy to support the ambitious growth of Lincoln. To feed into and influence the refresh of the Lincoln Integrated Transport Strategy and shape the strategic vision and key actions needed to ensure people and goods can move efficiently to, from and around the City now and in the future.

Transport and movement is inextricably linked with seeking more sustainable outcomes within the city. One of the key roles of the Lincoln Task Force group is to inform and act as a consultee to Local Transport Policies and Plans in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council, including the revision of the Lincoln Transport Strategy. The Lincoln Transport Strategy, which is being developed by LCC, shall consider how people will move around the city in the future. This strategy will consider how best to facilitate modal shift and moves toward more sustainable travel options.

### **Climate Commission**

We are currently working with external stakeholders, community activists and city partners to instigate the formation of a Lincoln Climate Commission, similar to that in Leeds. A group from Lincoln visited the Leeds Climate Commission in December to look at the work that has been undertaken in that city and to begin the discussion about how such a scheme could be formulated in Lincoln. How this shall look is being scoped out at present and a meeting between all those in attendance from Lincoln in December, and City leaders is arranged for February 2019.