

SUBJECT:	CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
DIRECTORATE:	MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT AUTHOR:	KATE BELL, CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Council's Environmental Policy and comment on the recommended amendments prior to Executive on the 20th of September 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 6th of January 2020 the Council's Executive approved the Lincoln Zero Carbon report, recommending that the Council adopt an environmental Policy by Spring 2020.
- 2.2 On the 23rd of July 2019 Full Council passed a Motion to declare a climate and environmental emergency. The Motion includes a commitment from the Council to take action to deliver carbon reductions to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions.
- 2.3 On the 24th of September 2019 Full Council passed a Motion to support Lincoln to achieve plastic free community status and to eliminate, wherever possible, single use plastics from the Council's operations.
- 2.4 On the 23rd of March 2020 the Leader of the Council approved the Council's Environmental Policy and it was published on the Council's website.
- 2.5 The Council's Climate Change Vision group, which includes representatives from a range of service areas and all Directorates, have worked together to review the Environmental Policy.

3. The purpose of an Environmental Policy

- 3.1 The purpose of an Environmental Policy is to set out our goals for protecting and improving the environment. The Policy covers all of our activities and estate, including our 'landlord' responsibilities for property and council homes.
- 3.2 Adopting an Environmental Policy will help to ensure that all Council employees apply the policy where it relates to their role in the authority's corporate activities. In addition the policy will enable the Council to encourage and support our partners to adopt their own policies, leading by example.
- 3.3 During 2021 the Council have established an environmental management system (EMS), which was independently accredited in September 2021 and achieved a Silver award. The EMS is a systematic approach that enables organisations to work towards achieving environmental improvements over the short, medium and

long term. An Environmental Policy is a minimum requirement to achieve accreditation for any EMS and should be reviewed on an annual or biennial basis.

3.4 Without an Environmental Policy the Council are not able to ensure, through the procurement process, that suppliers and outsourced service providers apply the policy to services or goods supplied to the Council, or require that they have their own equivalent policy to work to.

3.5 The Environmental Policy demonstrates that the council is honouring its commitment to deliver the actions outlined in the Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration as well as its commitment to be a single use plastic free council.

4 Achievements of the Council’s Environmental Policy during 2020/21

4.1 The following table provides an update on the Council’s achievements to deliver the Environmental Policy since it was adopted in March 2020.

Policy Commitments	Achievements/delivery
Work with partners on a city-wide programme to make Lincoln a zero carbon city and reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gas.	We have worked with our partners to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Lincoln Climate commission. • Prepare the Lincoln Roadmap to Zero Carbon • Establish a commission website and presence on social media • Produce a quarterly newsletter • Prepare a virtual and physical Climate Exhibition • Produce a Lincoln Sustainability Toolkit
Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services to protect the City.	A Local Climate Impacts profile is underway and due to be completed in September 2021. This will inform a Climate Adaptation Plan and risk register.
Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility (where appropriate) of Lincoln’s open space, trees and natural environment for people and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of 47 Local Wildlife sites has been recently completed and all sites have maintained their local wildlife status. • Enhancements to Boultham Park Lake to improve biodiversity. • Retain two green flags for Hartsholme and Boultham Park. • Working with the University to develop a Environmental Plan for the Brayford Pool and secure funding. • Delivered a rewilding scheme at various open space sites in the city.
Contribute to the creation of a sustainable, built environment through Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policies	Working with Central Lincolnshire Local Authorities to develop draft planning policies ‘designed to secure’ that the development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The draft Local Plan proactively contribute towards the legally

	binding requirement of emissions in the UK to become net zero by 2050
Wherever possible take steps to improve the environmental performance of residential and commercial, Council owned properties.	In 2021the Council have: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured funding to deliver the Green Homes Grant Local Authority delivery scheme in 2021/22 and are seeking additional funding to extend this to 2022/23. • Established an Environmental Management System and new 18/19 baseline. • Reduced CO2e emissions from its own premises and operations by 24% since the baseline year.
Consider the embodied carbon and take steps to minimise the energy and water demand of all our planned new buildings, both residential and commercial	Where council owned buildings have been demolished and rebuilt materials are reused on site wherever possible, i.e. De Wint Court. Materials from the refurbishment of council homes are reused, recycled or used to create refuse derived fuel, with no waste going to landfill.
Encourage and adopt the appropriate generation and use of renewables and low carbon energy.	43% of electricity purchased by the Council is from a renewable source. The following Council sites have Solar photovoltaics on site generating electricity:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 council homes • 3 sheltered housing sites • 2 multistorey car parks • 3 Council buildings Providing just over 100kWh capacity of electricity.

5 Amendments to the Environmental Policy

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5.1 To ensure the Council's Environmental Policy is communicated and implemented across the authority it is proposed to add the following requirements:-

5.1.1 All Council committee reports will need to consider any environmental implications.

5.1.2 Environmental issues should be given preliminary consideration as part of the procurement of new Council contracts and when reviewing existing contracts to ensure that enough time is allowed to explore options, consider best practice elsewhere and to consult with the Climate Change Vision group.

See Appendix A for the Environmental Policy with suggested amendments

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Implementing the Environmental Policy

6.1 The Council manage the significant environmental aspects of its activities through a single Council-wide environmental management system (EMS).

- 6.2 The EMS is used as a mechanism to monitor and steer the implementation of the Council's Environmental Policy. The EMS ensures that the Council takes the necessary steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities, and to respond to opportunities for environmental improvement.
- 6.3 The climate change vision group are responsible for monitoring and delivering the EMS and EP as part of the council's V2025 commitment to address the challenges of climate change.
- 6.4 In addition to support from the climate vision group, guidance will be made available to support report writers to consider the environmental implications in committee reports. This will be available on City People and a new SharePoint site, in addition to a range of online training and a list of officers within the council who are able to provide additional support.
- 6.5 It is proposed that the Environmental Policy and EMS will be included in the climate change vision 2025 annual progress report to Performance Scrutiny Committee. Any amendments to the policy will be considered and require approval by Policy Scrutiny Committee. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Lincoln to hold us to account.

7. Corporate Priorities

- 7.1 The Environmental Policy will help to deliver the Council's priority to Address the Challenge of Climate Change.

8 Organisational Impacts

8.1 Finance

The Environmental Policy will not have any direct costs associated with it, other than existing officer resources. It is anticipated that any indirect costs as a result of implementing the Policy will be either covered within existing budgets or included in a project specific report to CMT/Executive.

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

- 8.2.1 The Environmental Policy is likely to have implications to the procurement of goods and services as well as to existing contracts. Consideration in both instances will need to be given to the environmental and finance implications.
- 8.2.2 In respect of new procurement exercises the engagement of the Climate Change Manager at the outset is recommended.
- 8.2.3 It is proposed that any changes to existing contracts, which enable the council to reduce the environmental impact through its supply chain are introduced gradually and on a case by case basis.
- 8.2.4 It is proposed that once the Environmental Policy has been approved by Executive the committee report template is amended to extend 'Significant Community

Impact' to include '&/or environmental impact' in order to enable officers to explain any anticipated environmental impact as a result of the new policy, project or proposed service change.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 To consider the amendments to the Environmental Policy and propose that the Environmental Policy is referred to Executive for consideration and approval.