

SUBJECT: CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL DECARBONISATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN REPORT

DIRECTORATE: MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR: KATE BELL, CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Executive and seek comments on the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.2 To request that the Executive approve the City of Lincoln Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 23rd of July 2019 Full Council passed a Motion to Declare a Climate and Environmental Emergency, resolving to deliver a carbon neutral vision for Lincoln by 2030.
- 2.2 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 Council's carbon dioxide emissions and identify opportunities to achieve a net zero carbon target for the Council's own emissions by 2030.
- 2.3 In September 2021 the Council submitted an environmental performance report to Investors in the Environment for external audit, this included the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan. The Council achieved a green level and 92% score for its environmental performance and plans in place to achieve a net zero carbon target. The Council were also shortlisted and won the Overall Outstanding Achiever Award 2021.

3. City of Lincoln Council Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan

- 3.1 To achieve the net zero carbon target and adhere to all the council's commitments in the Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration a Decarbonisation Plan has been prepared following extensive internal consultation.
- 3.2 The plan sets out how the Council intends to achieve net zero carbon for its own operations and services and contribute towards Lincoln's area wide carbon neutral ambitions. **A copy of the Decarbonisation Plan is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.**

- 3.3 The basis of the Decarbonisation Plan is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the carbon impact of the Council's own operations, including a calculation of our carbon footprint and an action plan.
- 3.4 The plan identifies eight decarbonisation pathways, includes Carbon data where available and identifies key challenges and opportunities for each pathway towards a net zero carbon target by 2030.
- 3.5 The plan would need to be reviewed and updated annually to reflect emerging knowledge and understanding to ensure the council achieve a net zero carbon target by 2030.

4. Corporate Strategic Priorities

4.1 Let's Address the Challenge of Climate Change

The proposals covered in this report are part of a programme of projects that will deliver the Council's aspirations and priorities outlined in the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance

- 5.1.1 The Decarbonisation Plan has no direct financial implications. Subject to the plan being approved, delivery of actions will be funded under existing budgets or, where required, external funding will need to be identified and secured to carry out feasibility or capital works.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Decarbonisation Plan has no legal implications

5.3 Human Resources

The projects within the Decarbonisation Action Plan report will be managed by existing staff within the Major Development Directorate. The Vision 2025 Climate Challenge taskforce is a multi-disciplinary team and will oversee this programme and ensure a coherent approach to delivery.

5.4 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 Options Explored

- 1) To progress a 2021/22 Decarbonisation Programme which delivers the Council's Vision 2025 ambitions and the commitments made in the Climate Emergency Declaration.
- 2) To reduce the scale and ambition of the council's 2021/22 project proposals and deliver the programme over a longer timescale to relieve pressure on Council resources.

6.2 Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach

The preferred approach, option 1, seeks to mitigate the risks associated with option 2, which include the failure to respond to the Climate Emergency declaration in a timely fashion.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Executive are asked to approve the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.

**How many appendices
does the report contain?**

One

List of Background Papers:

None

Lead Officer:

Kate Bell, Climate Change Manager