



*Meeting:* **Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

*Date/Time:* **Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 2.00 pm**

*Location:* **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

*Contact:* **Anna Poole (tel: 0116 305 2583)**

*Email:* **anna.poole@leics.gov.uk**

### **Membership**

Mr. M. Frisby CC (Chairman)

Mr. G. A. Boulter CC    Mr. Max Hunt CC  
Mr. N. Chapman CC    Mrs. R. Page CC  
Mr. D. Harrison CC    Mrs B. Seaton CC

**Please note:** this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via YouTube  
at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWFpwBLs6MnUzG0WjejrQtQ>

### **AGENDA**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2023.	(Pages 5 - 10)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.	
5. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	



6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.
7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 35.
8. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2027/28.      Director of Environment and Transport and Director of Corporate Resources      (Pages 11 - 30)
9. Environmental Performance Report 2022-23.      Director of Environment and Transport      (Pages 31 - 134)
10. Date of next meeting.  
  
The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday 11 March 2024 at 2.00pm.
11. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

## QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The ability to ask good, pertinent questions lies at the heart of successful and effective scrutiny. To support members with this, a range of resources, including guides to questioning, are available via the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny website [www.cfgs.org.uk](http://www.cfgs.org.uk). The following questions have been agreed by Scrutiny members as a good starting point for developing questions:

- Who was consulted and what were they consulted on? What is the process for and quality of the consultation?
- How have the voices of local people and frontline staff been heard?
- What does success look like?
- What is the history of the service and what will be different this time?
- What happens once the money is spent?
- If the service model is changing, has the previous service model been evaluated?
- What evaluation arrangements are in place – will there be an annual review?

Members are reminded that, to ensure questioning during meetings remains appropriately focused that:

- (a) they can use the officer contact details at the bottom of each report to ask questions of clarification or raise any related patch issues which might not be best addressed through the formal meeting;
- (b) they must speak only as a County Councillor and not on behalf of any other local authority when considering matters which also affect district or parish/town councils (see Articles 2.03(b) of the Council's Constitution).



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Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee. held at County Hall, Glenfield on Thursday, 2 November 2023.

PRESENT

Mr. M. Frisby CC (in the Chair)

Mr. G. A. Boulter CC  
Mr. N. Chapman CC  
Mr. D. Harrison CC

Mr. Max Hunt CC  
Mrs. R. Page CC  
Mrs B. Seaton CC

In attendance

Mr. B. L. Pain CC Cabinet Lead Member for the Environment and the Green Agenda.

26. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

27. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 34.

28. Questions asked by members.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

29. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

30. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mrs. R. Page declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 – Recycling and Household Waste Sites Consultation as a member of Harborough District Council.

31. Declarations of the Party Whip.

There were no declarations of the party whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

32. Presentation of Petitions.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 35.

33. Recycling and Household Waste Sites Consultation.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the consultation on the Recycling and Household Waste Sites. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Pain CC said that the proposals were being brought reluctantly to the Committee due to the challenging financial climate and the financial pressures in both Adult and Children and Families Social Care. He encouraged residents to engage in the consultation and recognised that the proposals would present challenges to residents.

Arising from discussions, the following points were noted:

- i. The Kibworth site had been redesigned to draw traffic away from the main road to reduce congestion. A traffic assessment would be carried out to assess whether the Kibworth site would cope with potential increased usage should the Market Harborough site be closed. This would be made available to Members as part of the consultation. A member expressed concern that the housing growth proposed for Harborough would increase visitor numbers to the RHWS, and would therefore, increase use of the Kibworth site and place increased pressure on local roads. They were advised that future housing growth was one of the criteria in determining the proposals and that there was not a direct correlation between increased housing and a growth in waste as there had been a change in recycling behaviour post Covid 19. Mr. Boulter CC asked that his reservations to the proposals related to traffic assessment and management around the RHWS site in Kibworth be noted in the minutes.
- ii. A report would be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2024, setting out the outcome of the consultation and presenting revised proposals should they be changed following the consultation, prior to submission of a report to the Cabinet for a decision on the future of RHWS.
- iii. There were significant funding gaps across the Council and all departments were being asked to make significant savings to enable other services, for example Adult Social Care, to be supported. The Scrutiny Review Panel had explored various factors to determine which sites would reduce opening hours, or would be proposed for closure, which included usage numbers and cost of operating, for example. The Director recommended that Members looked at the Scrutiny Review Panel report which was now available on the Council's website.
- iv. The Council did not currently have a policy on usage of RHWS by people living outside of the Leicestershire border, although this had been considered by the Scrutiny Review Panel. Data showed that usage of RHWS was reciprocated across boundaries and was usually determined by people's commute to work. Members recognised that policing cross boundary usage would be a challenge. The consultation questionnaire allowed for people to identify their location, so cross boundary usage would be evident.
- v. For sites proposed for closure, the land occupied would be 'mothballed'. Members were assured decisions about what would happen to vacated sites would be made in the future once final decisions had been made about the RHWS.
- vi. Leicestershire had 14 RHWS, which was more than in other neighbouring counties. The statutory duty placed on councils was to provide the ability for

householders to dispose of their rubbish and the offer had to include the weekend period. The location and number of sites was discretionary and based on need and locality.

- vii. The level of fly tipping in an area was linked to the level of enforcement carried out by district councils, and not linked to the availability of RHWS in the locality. Levels of deprivation in the area was also a contributing factor to the levels of fly tipping.
- viii. The Scrutiny Review Panel was keen for the consultation questions to be succinct and direct rather than include wider information for residents to consider. Members said that it would be useful to include information in the consultation on the Council's statutory obligations to enable people to be fully informed when responding to the consultation.

Members acknowledged the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel and recognised the challenge presented in forming proposals for the consultation.

The Lead Member for the Environment and the Green Agenda highlighted that it was a legal requirement for the Council to present a balanced budget and that all departments had a responsibility to contribute to the financial challenge faced by the County Council. He assured the Committee that all responses from the questionnaire would be considered in formulating the final proposals for consideration by the Cabinet.

#### RESOLVED:

That the following proposals for the consultation on Recycling and Household Waste Sites be noted:

- a) Closure of three of the Council's Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS): Market Harborough, Shepshed, and Somerby;
- b) Change to part time opening at the Bottesford RHWS;
- c) Reduction in summer opening hours at all RHWS; and
- d) Introduction of Christmas Eve closure at all RHWS.

#### 34. Tree Management Strategy Annual Update.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the work taking place under the Tree Management Strategy to manage the County Council's trees and woodlands. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

Members commended officers for their efforts in delivering the Tree Management Strategy, especially that the targets for tree planting would be achieved in eight years rather than 10 as set out in the Strategy.

Arising from discussions, the following points were noted:

- i. The County Council had been successful in attracting funding and planting trees by working in partnership with other bodies, for example, other local authorities and developers. The Leicestershire Tree Charter had been developed in partnership with the National Forest. The Tree Management Strategy would be reviewed next year and would look forward by five years from 2025.
- ii. A member expressed concern about the financial sustainability of the ambitious targets for tree planting and maintenance considering the increase in pressures on the Department and also questioned the lack of clarity in the Strategy on timelines for maintenance and management of the trees. The Director explained that the

Tree Management Strategy was a guide to appropriate planting and that the Council had a duty to ensure each tree was maintained and inspected in order to manage the impact on neighbours, the highways and traffic. A risk-based approach was adopted to schedule tree inspections and the timing and process was determined by whether planting was near a highway, a highly populated area or in middle of farmland or a copse. Officers had worked closely with the Highways Service to agree clear programmes of inspection for trees planted along the highway. The Director acknowledged the challenging financial position of the Council and explained that measures were in place to make the inspection and maintenance of trees more financially sustainable and highlighted a trial in the Hinckley area to seek developer funding for a 60-year period to cover the maintenance of trees planted as part of the development. This resilience was currently being built in for new trees coming into the system. It was explained that the high volume of calls received from the public related to trees were prioritised on a safety basis. It was suggested that training for members could be organised which could include details of the Tree Management Strategy, how trees would be managed, and how enquiries would be dealt with and triaged.

- iii. A member expressed concern that contact details in the Tree Management Strategy were out of date due to a change in members or officers. The Director agreed to update the front page of the Strategy.
- iv. Officers agreed to send a link to members with details for registering trees on i-tree and for how trees planted by Parish Councils could be registered. The next stage would be to integrate i-tree with each of the Council's trees.
- v. The Director informed members that since the report had been published, the Council had been successful in securing funding from the DEFRA Coronation Living Heritage Fund to plant orchards. These would be planted on public land and would be accessible to the community.
- vi. The next Tree Management Strategy from 2025 would take account of pests and diseases that affect other trees, not just ash, such as chestnut, sycamore and oak.
- vii. The Lead Member for the Environment and Green Agenda explained that legislation on biodiversity net gain would be released in November and come into effect from January 2024. He added that the legislation related to the submission of a planning application and the need for the applicant to demonstrate that there would be a 10% increase in biodiversity. Officers were working with planning colleagues at the County Council and district councils to dovetail the approach to following the new legislation.

#### RESOLVED:

That the update provided on work taking place under the Tree Management Strategy to manage the County Council's trees and woodlands be noted.

35. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 2pm.

2.00 - 3.30 pm  
02 November 2023

CHAIRMAN

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**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY 2024**

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2027/28**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND  
TRANSPORT AND THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - a) Provide information on the proposed 2024/25 to 2027/28 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it relates to the Environment and Waste Management Services within the Council's Environment and Transport Department; and,
  - b) Ask the Committee to consider any relevant issues as part of the consultation process and make any recommendations to the Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet accordingly.
  - c) Seek the Committee's views on proposals to recommend to the Cabinet that the Council's net zero target dates are revised from 2030 to 2035 for the Council's own emissions and from 2045 to 2050 for the County's emissions in light of the Council's wider financial position.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The County Council agreed the current MTFS in February 2023. This has been the subject of a comprehensive review and revision in light of the current economic circumstances. The draft MTFS for 2024/25 – 2027/28 was considered by the Cabinet on 19 December 2023.
3. The County Council approved the Council's net zero target of 2030 for its own emissions at its meeting in May 2019 and subsequently approved the wider County target of 2045 at its meeting in December 2022 as part of the Net Zero Strategy. The potential revision of these commitments will require consideration by Cabinet and approval in due course by the County Council. This would also necessitate reconsideration of the Council's environmental priorities, including those in the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan which would be brought before the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval by the Cabinet and the County Council.

4. The County Council decision in May 2019 on the 2030 target recognised a number of important qualifying features affecting the Council's decision making as follows:
  - a) It can only operate within its own scope of control and influence;
  - b) There is a need to balance the competing demands on its decreasing resources and finances;
  - c) Not all the technological solutions nor the required powers and resources are currently in place.
5. The 2045 decision also recognised that the ambition could not be delivered by the Council alone.

### **Background**

6. The MTFS is set out in the report to the Cabinet on 19 December 2023, a copy of which has been circulated to all members of the County Council. This report highlights the implications for the Environment and Waste Management Services within the Council's Environment and Transport Department.
7. Reports such as this one are being presented to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The views of this Committee will be reported to the Scrutiny Commission on 29 January 2024. The Cabinet will consider the results of the scrutiny process on the 9 February 2024 before recommending an MTFS, including a budget and the Capital Programme for 2024/25, to the County Council on the 21 February 2024.

### **Proposed Revenue Budget**

8. Table 1 below summarises the proposed 2024/25 revenue budget and provisional budgets for the next three years thereafter for the Council's Environment and Waste Management Service. The proposed 2024/25 revenue budget is shown in detail in Appendix A of this report. It should be noted, however, that the environment related budgets that sit within the Chief Executive's Department and the Corporate Resources Department are not included to avoid double reporting.

	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>	<b>2027/28 £000</b>
Original prior year budget	33,268	37,096	36,616	36,101
Budget transfers and adjustments	2,843	0	0	0
Add proposed growth (Appendix B)	1,060	285	130	0
Less proposed savings (Appendix B)	-75	-765	-645	-115
<b>Proposed/Provisional budget</b>	<b>37,096</b>	<b>36,616</b>	<b>36,101</b>	<b>35,986</b>

Table 1 – Revenue Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28

9. Detailed service budgets have been compiled on the basis of no pay or price inflation, a central contingency will be held which will be allocated to services as necessary.



10. The total proposed expenditure budget for the Council's Environment and Waste Management Services in 2024/25 is £41.12m with contributions from grants, service user income, recharges to the Capital Programme and various other income totalling £4.03m. The proposed net budget for 2024/25 of £37.10m is distributed as shown in Table 2 below:

	<b>£000</b>
E&W Management	452
E&W Commissioning	2,195
E&W Waste Management Delivery	31,287
Departmental & Business Management	3,162
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,096</b>

Table 2 - Net Budget 2024/25

### **Budget Transfers and Adjustments**

11. A number of budget transfers (totalling a net increase of £2.84m) were made during the 2023/24 financial year. These transfers include:
- a) £0.07m for increase in employer's contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
  - b) £2.65m for running cost/contract inflation for waste management from the central inflation contingency.
12. Budget transfers to cover the additional costs associated with the 2023/24 pay award are still to be finalised but will be reflected in the final MTFS to be reported to the Cabinet.
13. Adjustments were made across the Environment and Transport Department to manage the budget within the overall funding envelope. This has resulted in an overall increase of £0.12m for Environment and Waste Management Services.
14. Growth and savings have been categorised in the appendices under the following classification:
- \* item unchanged from previous MTFS
  - \*\* item included in the previous MTFS, but amendments have been made
  - No stars - new item
15. This star rating is included in the descriptions set out for growth and savings below.
16. Savings have also been classified as 'Eff' or 'SR' dependent on whether the saving is seen as efficiency, service reduction or a mixture of both. 'Inc' denotes those savings that are funding related and/or generate more income.

### **Growth**

17. The overall growth picture for Environment and Waste Management Services is presented below.

References			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
			£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>GROWTH</b>						
<b>Demand &amp; cost increases</b>						
*	G21	Contribution to Regional Waste Project (temporary growth removed)	-35	-35	-35	-35
*	G22	Confirm replacement - licensing costs	40	110	110	110
*	G23	STADs replacement - licensing costs	80	80	80	80
	G24	Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS)	350	375	375	375
	G25	DIY Waste - loss of income	380	510	615	615
**	G26	HGV Driver Market Premia (E&W element only)	245	305	330	330
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,475</b>
References used in the tables						
* items unchanged from previous Medium Term Financial Strategy						
** items included in the previous Medium Term Financial Strategy which have been amended						
no stars = new item						

18. For 2024/25 growth represents an increase of £1.06m (or 3.2%) compared to the original prior year budget on account of continuing market premia and retention payments, and statutory changes across Environment and Waste Management Services. This is expected to increase to £1.48m by 2026/27. More details on each growth line are provided in the following section.

### **Demand and Cost Increases**

G21(\*) Contribution to Regional Waste Project – Temporary growth removed: - £0.04m in 2024/25

Temporary growth was provided in 2021/22 and 2022/23 to allow options for the Council's longer-term waste treatment disposal approach to be explored and developed in partnership with nearby authorities in the East Midlands. Savings represent removal of the growth following a one-year delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

G22(\*) Confirm replacement – licensing costs: £0.04m in 2024/25 rising to £0.11m in 2025/26

Increase in license cost following extension to contract whilst a replacement solution is being sourced.

G23(\*) STADs replacement – licensing costs: £0.08m in 2024/25

Increase in license costs associated with replacing the line of business system used for school transport provision (STADs) following migration from a hosted solution to a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution.

G24 Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS): £0.35m in 2024/25 rising to £0.38m in 2025/26

Cost arising from statutory changes in the collection and treatment of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs). WUDS includes any domestic upholstered seating item, such as sofas,

chair, bean bags etc, that requires revised disposal arrangements. Legislative guidance dictates all upholstered domestic seating is assumed to contain POPs and will need to be managed accordingly.

**G25 DIY Waste – Loss of income: £0.38m in 2024/25 rising to £0.51m in 2025/26 and £0.62m in 2026/27**

The Government has announced intentions to cap the Council's ability to charge for most non-household waste at the Recycling Household Waste Sites (RHWS). This change came into force on 1 January 2024. Growth reflects the estimated cost to the Council from lost income, increased waste inputs and associated waste haulage costs. Capital costs are also likely to be required including the introduction of a new permit system and necessary changes to site infrastructure subject to volumes received.

**G26(\*\*) HGV Driver Market Premium: £0.25m in 2024/25 rising to £0.31m in 2025/26 and £0.33m in 2026/27**

Removal of time limited growth and increased funding to cover costs associated with awarding Market Premiums and retention payments to specialist HGV drivers and waste operatives on a permanent basis.

## **Savings**

19. The overall savings picture for Environment and Waste Management Services is presented below.

References				2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<b><u>SAVINGS</u></b>							
*	ET8	Eff/Inc	E&T Continuous Improvement Programme - review of processes and potential income across a range of services	-10	-10	-10	-10
*	ET9	Eff/Inc	Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS) service approach	0	-110	-110	-110
**	ET10	Inc	Trade Waste income	0	-45	-90	-90
**	ET11	SR	Review RHWS provision	-5	-400	-400	-400
	ET12	Eff/Inc	Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging	0	-345	-745	-745
	ET13	Eff/Inc	Food Waste Implementation	0	130	-70	-185
	ET14	Eff/Inc	Residual Waste Treatment	-60	-60	-60	-60
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-75</b>	<b>-840</b>	<b>-1,485</b>	<b>-1,600</b>
References used in the tables							
* items unchanged from previous Medium Term Financial Strategy							
** items included in the previous Medium Term Financial Strategy which have been amended							
no stars = new item							
Eff - Efficiency saving							
SR - Service reduction							
Inc - Income							

20. Environment and Waste Management Services expect to be able to deliver £0.08m savings in 2024/25. This amount is projected to rise to £1.60m by 2027/28 subject to the delivery of a number of reviews and initiatives.

**\*ET8 (Eff/Inc) E&T Continuous Improvement Programme – Review of processes and potential income across a range of services: -£0.01m in 2024/25.**

Replacement of leasing arrangement with purchase of JCB mobile plant at Whetstone RHWS.

**\*ET9 (Eff/Inc) Recycling and Household Waste Sites service approach: -£0.11m in 2024/25**

Ongoing cost reductions through insourcing Whetstone RHWS, which took place in April 2021, and increasing income from the sale of items for reuse collected at the RHWS. This saving was previously reprofiled to account for the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the service and re-use market.

**\*\*ET10 (Inc) Trade Waste Income: -£0.05m in 2025/26 rising to -£0.09m in 2026/27**

Increased income arising from rates charged for trade waste at Whetstone Transfer Station and the district trade collected waste disposed of through Leicestershire contracts.

**\*\*ET11(SR) Review RHWS provision: -£0.01m in 2024/25 rising to -£0.40m in 2025/26**

Public consultation is underway concerning proposals to close three of the Council's RHWSs at Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby; a permanent change of opening hours at the Bottesford RHWS from five to three days a week; the reduction of summer opening hours at all RHWS in the County; and the introduction of Christmas Eve closure at all RHWS. The 12-week public consultation period ends on 24 January 2024, with savings delivery being subject to the outcome of the public consultation. Should the proposals be agreed, it is anticipated that closure would be implemented in October 2024, summer opening hours changed from April 2025 and Christmas Eve closures commence with effect from 24 December 2024.

**ET12 (Eff/Inc) Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging: -£0.35m in 2025/26 rising to -£0.75m in 2026/27**

Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR) will make producers pay the net cost of managing the packaging they place on the market. The Council expects to receive payments from 2025/26 onwards for the management of packaging waste through the pEPR scheme. The figures shown above are initial estimates produced by the Council pending release of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) calculation methodology.

Significant data returns are expected to be required to fully access the pEPR funding. Procurement and contract management implications are expected with additional staffing requirements to support this process. These will be funded from the pEPR allocation. Furthermore, increased sampling requirements (of dry recyclables) will need to be undertaken determining levels of packaging in the residual waste.

Sampling and reporting via normal practices (the national WasteDataFlow system) will not provide the necessary detailed information to evidence pEPR funding requirements. Savings represent additional income net of additional staffing costs and estimated loss of income from, for example, drinks cans and plastic bottles following the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme (estimated to be in the order of £0.9m).

**ET13 (Eff/Inc) Food Waste Implementation: £0.13m additional cost in 2025/26 resulting in savings of -£0.07m in 2026/27 rising to -£0.19m in 2027/28**

Mandatory food waste collections are expected to be introduced in April 2026 as part of the 'Simpler Recycling' reforms. Indications are that Waste Disposal Authorities will not receive new burdens funding for the management of food waste. The Government expects capital requirements (e.g., additional transfer capacity, containers, vehicles etc.– estimated for the Council to be in the region of £0.8 to £1.5m) and revenue costs (treatment, drivers, procurement, contract management costs etc.) to be funded from disposal savings arising from food waste treatment (Anaerobic Digestion), which costs less per tonne than residual waste disposal.

Capital investment and procurement of treatment capacity will be required in advance (likely during 2025/26) for the commencement of food waste collections in March 2026.

**ET14 (Eff/Inc) Residual Waste Treatment: -£0.06m in 2024/25**

Optimisation of residual waste disposal / treatment outlets has resulted in an efficiency saving of £0.06m.

**Savings under Development**

21. There are a number of potential savings under development (SUD) which are not yet currently developed enough to be able to quantify and built into the detailed savings schedules.
22. Conversion to Electric Vehicles (EV): Transitioning the fleet to EVs for extensive fuel savings and a substantial cut in carbon emissions aligns with the Council's Net-Zero Leicestershire Strategy.
23. Future Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Trade Waste Commercial work: The Council operates a WTS at Loughborough. With the insourcing of Whetstone RHWS and WTS, and the construction of Bardon WTS, there is an opportunity to optimise these assets with a view to maximising income generation.
24. Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) – Income and Service Efficiency: Amalgamation of previously discounted smaller income generation and service efficiency SUDs that can be managed as a single initiative to provide greater clarity on benefits tracking. This SUD will be subject to the outcome of the existing saving on RHWS changes as some aspects below would no longer be available if that saving is delivered:

- a) Burnable waste;
  - b) Optimisation of recycling and separation on site;
  - c) On site sales/services;
  - d) Vehicles ban/restrictions to reduce non household waste;
  - e) POPs disposal/haulage cost reduction;
  - f) Review of compaction methods;
  - g) Review roles to optimise efficiencies in light of emerging savings challenges.
25. Considering the scale of the challenge faced by the Council to balance the MTFS, existing financial control measures are being reinforced and new ones being applied to ensure a tight focus on eliminating non-essential spend. Inevitably, further savings beyond those identified in this report will be needed and where possible included in the final MTFS.

### **Other Factors Influencing MTFS Delivery**

26. Historically, housing and population growth were the main contributors to rising waste tonnages that the Council as a Waste Disposal Authority had a statutory responsibility to dispose. However, policy change combined with changes in waste composition have decoupled this tie. The MTFS assumes no overall waste growth i.e. waste per household drops each year to offset any growth for increased number of residents/households. Close long-established ties with Waste Collection Authorities in the delivery of the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy, combined with long standing campaigns to stimulate positive behaviour change (focusing on reuse, recycling and composting) continues to help to avoid growth in waste tonnages and reduces costs by diverting waste from the more expensive methods of disposal.
27. The Government has embarked on a landscape scale change to waste legislation, not least the roll out of countywide food waste collections and consistent collections of recyclables as the Government implements the Collection and Packaging Reforms. Some previously identified risks e.g., the treatment of waste containing POPs, and removal of the Council's ability to charge for all DIY waste from January 2024, are now materialising and have been included as a growth requirement. Nevertheless, further legislative changes are anticipated for which the net effect of the cost implications remains unknown. For instance, Energy from Waste facilities are expected to be brought into scope of the Emissions Trading scheme in 2028. This is estimated to equate to an additional cost pressure of £4.8m per annum for the Council with no new funding expected to be made available for this new burden.
28. Recruitment and retention of staff across Environment and Waste Management Services continues to impact on ability to deliver business as usual activity alongside service change projects. There is an increasing reliance on agency staff in operational areas and an ageing workforce. Across the Waste Management Delivery service alone, only 72% of posts are filled with Council staff, with an additional 20% of roles filled with agency staff. More than 20% of the staff on a Council contract have less than 12 months service. Without the

necessary staff resources, the savings outlined in this report cannot be realised. Factors affecting recruitment and retention include below inflation pay rises/higher levels of pay in the private sector, ever increasing levels of stress, cost of living pressures, lack of funding for permanent roles (temporary roles are less attractive) and a competitive market for both operational and skilled/subject matter expert roles. Previously, the LGPS was considered a significant benefit. However, this is no longer a key factor as staff struggle to pay bills in the short-term. In short, the Council is no longer an employer of choice.

29. After a decade of austerity and on-going necessity to manage down cost pressures, the ability to identify savings opportunities is proving significantly challenging. Quick wins have all been exhausted and wider savings opportunities, including income generation and the ability to revise approaches for major disposal and treatment arrangements, have been optimised leaving the service with no other alternative than to focus on reductions to discretionary service provision and alternative delivery of statutory services. The largest area of spend across the Environment and Waste Management Services is in the waste disposal and treatment contracts and the operation of the RHWSs. Beyond reducing these demand led services where viable, there is limited scope to make substantial savings. Implementation will also be a challenge, with resources already dedicated to managing existing service challenges and savings delivery. Delivery of savings beyond those already identified in the MTFS will be a struggle given resource constraints and escalating financial controls. Inevitably strong financial control, plans and discipline is fundamental to the proactive approach being taken to the delivery of the MTFS.

### Net Zero Targets

30. It was always anticipated that as progress is made with decarbonisation further reductions would become more difficult and expensive. The Environment Team has estimated that an additional £475,000 of funding is required each year to progress the Council's ambitions to deliver the Government's carbon and environment agenda. This funding would provide resource in the team to progress the investigation of initiatives, develop funding bids and increase local awareness of the need to decarbonise and how a significant level of additional funding would be required to implement any initiatives. The County Council is operating with an increasingly constrained financial position, with a significant deficit forecast. Any additional funding commitments would require reductions in other services.
31. When the net zero commitments were made it was expected that progress would be aided by Government grants, legislative changes, and improvements in technology. Whilst this is happening, and there have been some notable successes for the County Council, the Government signalled a shift in priority for this agenda with a number of recent announcements. Forecasts for the national finances, in the next parliament, show a savings requirement for unprotected departments, which includes Local Government. Regardless of the outcome of any national election, there is greater likelihood that significant grant funding required to support a transition to net zero before the national

2050 target will not be forthcoming. The Council's financial position does not allow it to make up for the shortfall in national support.

32. In light of these factors, the existing commitments of achieving net zero on the Council's emissions by 2030 and on the County's emissions by 2045 need to be reconsidered.
33. It is, therefore, proposed that as part of the 2024-28 MTFS process, these commitments are revised to delivering net zero emissions on the Council's activities by 2035 and net zero emissions on the County's emissions by 2050 and this proposal will be recommended to the Cabinet and, subject to Cabinet's view, to the County Council on this basis. This revised position, if approved by the Cabinet and the County Council, would still mean the Council continues to comply with the national net zero target by 2050. Again, if approved by the Cabinet and the County Council, officers would reconsider the Council's environmental priorities, including the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan to reflect these new targets and provide an updated set of prioritised actions and costs aligned to the approved MTFS. The approval process for the updated Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan will again give members an opportunity to consider this change.

### **Other Funding Sources**

34. For 2024/25, a number of additional funding sources are expected and allowed for within the budget outlined in Appendix A. These funding sources include external grants and other contributions from external agencies towards the cost of schemes delivered by the Department. The key ones include:
  - a) Fees and charges/External works charges to other bodies (trade waste income and income from charging at RHWS) - £2.04m.
  - b) Income from the sale of recyclable materials - £1.23m.
  - c) Income from reserves (including funding for Carbon Reduction initiatives) - £0.40m.

### **Capital Programme**

35. The 2024/25-2027/28 Capital Programme for Waste Management projects amounts to £2.37m. Details are shown in Table 3 and set out in Appendix C. The Capital Programme is funded from discretionary funding, Council reserves and developer contribution via Section 106 agreements.

	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>	<b>2027/28 £000</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
Recycling Household Waste Sites (RHWS) – general improvements	446	974	164	250	<b>1,834</b>
RHWS Lighting	195	0	0	0	<b>195</b>
S106 funded schemes	91	60	86	0	<b>237</b>
Ashby Canal	27	27	27	27	<b>108</b>
<b>Total Waste Management</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2,374</b>
Funded by:					



	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>	<b>2027/28 £000</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
Corporate Funding (capital receipts and revenue)	648	979	184	250	<b>2,061</b>
Revenue and Earmarked Funds	27	27	27	27	<b>108</b>
S106 Contributions	84	55	66	0	<b>205</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2,374</b>

Table 3 – Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28

36. The largest risk to the Capital Programme is the rising costs due to inflation. This risk is putting pressure on the affordability of completing major works and delivering within budget.

### **Capital Programme – Future Developments**

37. Where capital projects are not yet fully developed, or plans agreed, these have been included under the heading of 'Future Developments' under the Department's programme in Appendix C. It is intended that as these schemes are developed, during the year, they will be assessed against the balance of available resources and included in the Capital Programme as appropriate. These include:

- a) New Melton RHWS
- b) Compaction equipment
- c) DIY Waste Equipment

### **Background Papers**

Leicestershire County Council Climate Emergency Declaration, 15 May 2019 - <https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5112&Ver=4> (item 10a)

Report to the County Council 7 December 2022 - <https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=6912&Ver=4> (item 29b)

Report to the Cabinet 19 December 2023 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7081&Ver=4> (item 302)

### **Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

### **Equality Implications**

38. Under the Equality Act 2010 local authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:
  - a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not; and,
  - c) Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.
39. Given the nature of services provided, many aspects of the County Council's MTFS will affect service users who have a protected characteristic under equalities legislation. An assessment of the impact of the proposals on the protected groups must be undertaken at a formative stage prior to any final decisions being made. Such assessments will be undertaken in light of the potential impact of proposals and the timing of any proposed changes. Those detailed assessments will be revised as the proposals are developed to ensure decision-makers have information to understand the effect of any service change, policy or practice on people who have a protected characteristic.
40. There are several areas of the budget where there are opportunities for positive benefits for people with protected characteristics both from the additional investment the Council is making into specialist services and to changes to existing services which offer improved outcomes for users whilst also delivering financial savings.
41. If, as a result of undertaking an assessment, potential negative impacts are identified, these will be subject to further assessment.
42. Any savings arising out of a reduction in posts will be subject to the County Council's Organisational Change Policy which requires an Equality Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the Action Plan.

### **Human Rights Implications**

43. Where there are potential Human Rights implications arising from the changes proposed, these will be subject to further assessment including consultation with the Council's Legal Services.

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Revenue Budget 2024/25  
 Appendix B – Growth and Savings 2024/25 – 2027/28  
 Appendix C – Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2027/28

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**ENVIRONMENT & WASTE**

**REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25**

Net Budget 2023/24 £		*	Employees £	Running Expenses £	Internal Income £	Gross Budget £	External Income £	Net Total £
	<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; WASTE</b>							
	<b>Environment &amp; Waste Management</b>							
446,654	Management	S/D	449,884	1,900	0	451,784	0	451,784
	<b>Environment &amp; Waste Management Commissioning</b>							
1,464,142	Staffing and Admin	S/D	1,547,682	5,700	-76,484	1,476,898	-14,000	1,462,898
706,542	Initiatives	S/D	239,759	870,364	-125,750	984,373	-302,420	681,953
50,000	Recycling & Reuse credits	S	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
	<b>Waste Management Delivery</b>							
384,680	Staffing & Admin	S	578,960	257,956	-171,000	665,916	0	665,916
3,597,239	Landfill	S	0	3,977,872	0	3,977,872	0	3,977,872
16,720,650	Treatment & Contracts	S	0	16,630,017	0	16,630,017	0	16,630,017
2,563,000	Dry Recycling	S	0	3,228,000	0	3,228,000	-665,000	2,563,000
1,989,000	Composting Contracts	S	0	1,989,000	0	1,989,000	0	1,989,000
4,371,969	Recycling & Household Waste	S	3,373,586	2,077,753	-77,000	5,374,339	-587,370	4,786,969
2,376,929	Haulage & Waste Transfer	S	464,324	1,845,604	-5,000	2,304,928	0	2,304,928
-1,548,000	Income	S/D	0	0	0	0	-1,548,000	-1,548,000
-62,000	WEEE Funding	S/D	0	0	0	0	-82,000	-82,000
<b>33,060,806</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,654,196</b>	<b>30,934,166</b>	<b>-455,234</b>	<b>37,133,128</b>	<b>-3,198,790</b>	<b>33,934,338</b>
	<b>Departmental &amp; Business Management</b>							
2,269,755	Management & Admin	S/D	2,280,969	128,548	-82,833	2,326,684	-6,000	2,320,684
780,547	Departmental Costs	D	56,000	1,069,586	-116,000	1,009,586	-168,500	841,086
<b>3,050,302</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,336,969</b>	<b>1,198,134</b>	<b>-198,833</b>	<b>3,336,270</b>	<b>-174,500</b>	<b>3,161,770</b>
<b>36,111,108</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8,991,165</b>	<b>32,132,300</b>	<b>-654,067</b>	<b>40,469,398</b>	<b>-3,373,290</b>	<b>37,096,108</b>

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## APPENDIX B

### ENVIRONMENT & WASTE GROWTH & SAVINGS

References		2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000
<b><u>GROWTH</u></b>					
<b><u>Demand &amp; cost increases</u></b>					
*	G21	Contribution to Regional Waste Project (temporary growth removed)			
		-35	-35	-35	-35
*	G22	Confirm replacement - licensing costs			
		40	110	110	110
*	G23	STADs replacement - licensing costs			
		80	80	80	80
	G24	Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS)			
		350	375	375	375
	G25	DIY Waste - loss of income			
		380	510	615	615
**	G26	HGV Driver Market Premia (E&W element only)			
		245	305	330	330
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,475</b>
<b><u>SAVINGS</u></b>					
*	ET8	Eff/Inc	E&T Continuous Improvement Programme - review of processes and potential income across a range of services		
			-10	-10	-10
*	ET9	Eff/Inc	Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS) service approach		
			0	-110	-110
**	ET10	Inc	Trade Waste income		
			0	-45	-90
**	ET11	SR	Review RHWS provision		
			-5	-400	-400
	ET12	Eff/Inc	Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging		
			0	-345	-745
	ET13	Eff/Inc	Food Waste Implementation		
			0	130	-70
	ET14	Eff/Inc	Residual Waste Treatment		
			-60	-60	-60
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-75</b>	<b>-840</b>	<b>-1,485</b>
					<b>-1,600</b>

#### References used in the tables

\* items unchanged from previous Medium Term Financial Strategy

\*\* items included in the previous Medium Term Financial Strategy which have been amended

no stars = new item

Eff - Efficiency saving

SR - Service reduction

Inc - Income

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ENVIRONMENT & WASTE - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024-28

Estimated Completion Date	Gross Cost of Project £000		2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	Total £000
		<u>Environment &amp; Waste</u>					
Mar-28	1,834	Recycling Household Waste Sites - General Improvements	446	974	164	250	1,834
Mar-25	195	Recycling Household Waste Sites - Lighting	195	0	0	0	195
Mar-28	108	Ashby Canal	27	27	27	27	108
Mar-27	237	Recycling Household Waste Sites - S.106 funded schemes	91	60	86	0	237
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2,374</b>
<u><b>Future Developments - subject to further detail and approved business cases</b></u>							
New Melton RHWS							
Compaction equipment							
DIY waste equipment							

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**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY 2024**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022-23**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report provides details of the Council's environmental performance on progress in delivering its commitments to net zero and on the performance of the Council's Environmental Management System for 2022-23. The report provides an update on progress in delivering the aims and objectives of the Council's Environment Strategy 2018–2030.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The Cabinet approved a new Environment Strategy 2018-2030 on 6 July 2018. The vision of the Strategy is that "Leicestershire County Council will minimise the environmental impacts of its own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action. The Council will continue to play a significant role in protecting and enhancing the environment of Leicestershire, meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change, and seeking to embed environmental sustainability into both social and economic development in the county."
3. A revised Strategy was subsequently adopted by the County Council on 8 July 2020 to account for the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in May 2019.
4. The declaration committed the Council to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 for its own operations. Furthermore, the declaration committed the Council to working with partners and lobbying the Government to make the wider 2050 net zero target possible for Leicestershire and to limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement.
5. Subsequently, the County Council signed up to the UK100 Race to Zero Pledge and committed to achieving net zero emissions for Leicestershire by 2045.
6. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan.

## **Background**

7. For 2022-23 reporting, a new report format and approach has been introduced. This is to provide a single report which gives a clear and comprehensive update on the Council's wider environmental performance, and on progress in delivering its commitments to net zero.
8. The full performance report has been appended to this report and divided into two main sections. Section 1 provides details of the environmental performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council as an organisation, while Section 2 provides details of performance and progress for Leicestershire as a county, accepting that there are some areas of overlap.
9. The report provides details of performance and progress in relation to the Council's commitments to net zero, including the 2030 net zero target for Council operations and the 2045 net zero target for Leicestershire as a county.
10. The report also provides details of performance on a wider range of environmental aspects both for the Council and the County, mainly in relation to progress in meeting the aims and objectives set out in the Environment Strategy 2018-2030.
11. Furthermore, the report provides an assessment of performance against the Council's Environmental Management System.
12. Where circumstances have changed since the end of 2022-23 in relation to environmental risks, the current position is provided where appropriate. Details of progress in delivering the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan are provided as of December 2023. Reference is also made to more contemporary changes that may affect the Environmental Management System where this is appropriate.

## **Report Headlines**

13. The main headlines from the 2022-23 Environmental Performance and Progress report are as follows:
  - a) Leicestershire County Council
    - i. There has been a 7.2% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for Council operations compared to 2021-22 with emissions at 9,395 tCO<sub>2</sub>e;
    - ii. The Council's greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 73.7% since 2008-09;
    - iii. The percentage of Council land in better management for nature remains at 97%;
    - iv. Office waste recycling from Council sites has fallen to 51.2%;
    - v. Office paper purchased has risen by 12% but remains 5.5m A4 sheets less than 2019-20;

- vi. There are two environmental high risks and eight climate change high risks;
- vii. A total of 78 Government policies, legislation and changes in regulation were identified as relevant to the Council;
- viii. There have been a number of new statutory duties for local government introduced as part of the Environment Act 2021 including, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, the Biodiversity Reporting Duty and new duties from the waste collection and packaging reforms;
- ix. A total of £3.6m energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades were completed on Council properties;
- x. Whole estate buildings decarbonisation plan is underway;
- xi. Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition Plan is under development;
- xii. Information on the progress and performance of action on carbon reduction and climate adaptation in the County was submitted to the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the Carbon Disclosure Project, to enable them to benchmark the Council's progress and advise on areas of improvement. The County Council scored a B in this process.

b) Leicestershire

- i. Greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire in 2021 were 4.85 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>, an increase of 323,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub> compared to 2020, due to the expected bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- ii. Per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire in 2021 were 6.8 tCO<sub>2e</sub>;
- iii. Greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 28% since 2005;
- iv. 52.6% of existing domestic properties have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of C or higher, meaning that Leicestershire moved from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> quartile when compared to comparable local authorities (Note: The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English authorities which cover large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, it is indicated which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The 1st quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators (the best). The 4th quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of comparators (the worst));
- v. The Solar Together project has supported 460 solar panel installations across the County, saving an estimated 7,385 tCO<sub>2e</sub> over the next 25 years;
- vi. The Warm Homes scheme delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth funding to 250 households across the County. A further £6m in funding has also been secured;
- vii. Securing of £2.56m in funding to deliver the Pathfinder Places project with partners, to support delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.

### **Resource Implications**

14. The report has identified that there are concerns about the sufficiency of existing staff and financial resources to meet the growing environmental workload that is arising from a combination of factors, including new Government obligations and the increasing need for action to meet the environmental challenges.
15. Since the Council's adoption of the updated Environment Strategy in 2020 and the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan in 2022, the context in which the Council is operating has altered. The local government financial position has progressively become more challenging with significant implications for the County Council. The Council has moved from a position of being able to balance in-year and the following year's budget to struggling to balance in-year with the prospect of having to use reserves to balance for the following year. Additionally, the largest ever expenditure gap at the end of the four-year MTFS period has been identified. To add to this challenging context, in recent months the Government has put out mixed messages on the environment agenda including pushing back the date for ceasing production of petrol and diesel cars and the launch of the Plan for Drivers.
16. While officers have worked hard to proactively deliver on the environment agenda, the scale of the task within the challenging financial position has hampered environmental performance to an extent. As set out in the MTFS report elsewhere on this agenda, revised net zero targets are being recommended to the Cabinet and the County Council to better reflect the reality of the Council's funding position. Subject to approval of these new target dates, there will be a need to reconsider the Council's environmental priorities, including the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan and provide a credible plan to deliver on the revised targets within the limited resources available for this agenda. This plan will be reported to Members for approval.
17. The Environment Act 2021 and subsequent legislation has already placed and is expected to place new or additional duties on local government. Once these are fully known and understood, it will be necessary to assess whether there are any further resource implications for the Council.
18. In addition, business cases will be developed for specific projects as required which may identify resource implications.
19. The Director of Law and Governance and Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

### **Conclusions**

20. The following key conclusions have been drawn from the report:
  - a) Leicestershire County Council

- i) While emissions have continued to reduce by almost 74% since the 2008-09 baseline, the County Council needs to continue to achieve an average reduction of 1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year to meet the 2030 Net Zero target. However, the reduction in emissions for 2022-23 fell 45% short of what is needed. This shows that the Council is not currently on track to meet its 2030 net zero target and that more work will be needed to meet the emission reduction target.
- ii) While generation of renewable energy on Council sites is not currently on target, there is an expectation that there will be an increase going forward, as the repaired and new solar panel arrays and the improvements to the biomass boiler take effect.
- iii) The new ways of working are overall helping to reduce the Council's environmental impact, though some of the environmental impacts will have been shunted to the homes of staff.
- iv) While some good activity is taking place on biodiversity such as tree planting and the wildlife verge scheme, the need to demonstrate how the Council is meeting the new strengthened biodiversity duty will highlight if there is more to do going forward.

b) Leicestershire

- i) The Council is currently not on track to achieve the net zero 2045 target but action in this area is in the early stages and will need ongoing review. At the moment, this highlights the scale of the challenge more than lack of progress.
- ii) Particularly, there is a need to target action on reducing transport, domestic, industry and agriculture emissions, with a focus on actions to increase electric vehicle take up, encouraging more active travel, increasing renewable energy generation and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- iii) Significant amount of work is needed to engage with partners on the delivery of projects within the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
- iv) There are concerns about the water quality of the County's rivers.
- v) There will be a significant amount of work needed to implement the collection and packaging reforms which contribute to meeting the national 65% recycling target by 2035.

c) Overall

- i) The insufficiency of action on climate adaptation is a concern.
- ii) The current workload and staff capacity issues are a concern.

- iii) The current financial position of the Council is a concern in terms of resourcing action on the environment.
  - iv) There is a need to prioritise actions on the environment and the use of staff and financial resources. Within that, there is also a need to decide how best to allocate resources between meeting the Council's own and the wider County net zero targets.
  - v) The uncertainty regarding Government policy on the environment and implications of recent environmental legislation are a concern.
  - vi) There is increasing public interest and scrutiny of local authority action on the environment.
21. In light of the varied Government statements on environment in recent months, as well as the Council's unprecedented financial challenges, consideration is being given to revising the Council's net zero targets for its own operations and for the wider County. Subject to the Cabinet and the County Council approval of revised net zero commitments, there may be a need to reconsider the Council's environmental priorities, including the Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan and provide a credible plan to deliver on the revised targets within the limited resources available for this agenda.
22. The Committee is asked to note the findings included in the appended Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report for 2022-23.

### **Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

23. None.

### **Equality Implications**

24. This paper provides a report on the County Council's environmental performance and therefore in itself has no equality implications.

### **Human Rights Implications**

25. This paper provides a report on the County Council's environmental performance and therefore in itself has no human rights implications.

### **Environmental Implications**

26. The report shows how the Council is performing in terms of reducing its impact on the environment and provides an indication of the state of the environment in Leicestershire based on the data currently available and used. The report also highlights a concern that insufficient action is being taken on addressing the impacts of climate change on the Council and on Leicestershire as a county.



## **Background Papers**

Environment Strategy 2018-30 -

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/13/Environment-Strategy-2018-2030-delivering-a-better-future.pdf>

2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/net-zero-council-action-plan.pdf>

2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy & Action Plan -

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero/net-zero-leicestershire-strategy-action-plan-and-reports>

Action for Nature document -

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/8/16/action-for-nature-strategic-approach-to-biodiversity.pdf>

## **Appendix**

Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report 2022-23

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2022-23

# Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report



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## Introduction

1. For 2022-23 reporting, a new report format and approach has been introduced. This is to provide a single report which gives a clear and comprehensive update on the Council's wider environmental performance, and on progress in delivering its commitments to net zero.
2. The report is divided into two main sections. Section 1 provides details of the environmental performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council, as an organisation, while Section 2 provides details of performance and progress for Leicestershire as a county, accepting that there are some areas of overlap.
3. Section 1a focuses on performance and progress in relation to the Council's commitment to net zero, in particular, on the progress of the 2030 net zero target for Council operations. Part 1 of the report provides a contextual overview of performance across a range of greenhouse gas emitting activities within the Council for 2022-23.
4. These greenhouse gas emitting activities feed into Part 2 of the report which provides a summary of the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022-23, setting out the overall figure and the key sources of emissions.
5. Part 3 of the report provides an update and a review of progress on delivering the actions within the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan.
6. Section 1b provides details on performance across a range of other environmental aspects which contribute to Leicestershire County Council becoming a greener council (Part 4). Section 1b also provides an assessment of performance against the Council's Environmental Management System for 2022-23 (Part 5).
7. In Section 2 of the report, Part 6 provides details of progress towards meeting the 2045 net zero Leicestershire target, and also progress in delivering the Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan. Firstly, Part 6a sets out the greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire, based on the latest figures for 2021, as provided by the Government. In addition, some contextual figures are provided setting out how the County is performing in terms of several activities that influence greenhouse gas emissions within Leicestershire.
8. Part 6b provides a summary of how the Council scored on the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Climate Scorecard.
9. Part 6c provides an update and review of progress on delivering the actions within the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan. In addition, updates on the Council's Net Zero Engagement Plan and Funding Plan are provided.
10. Part 7 provides details of performance on several other environmental aspects, such as nature, resource use and air quality. These provide some wider contextual information on progress towards creating a greener county.

11. The report finally provides a set of conclusions, firstly on performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council, secondly for Leicestershire and thirdly on additional overall conclusions that can be taken from the performance results and the progress made.
12. The report is supported by several appendices that provide more detailed or background information, that expands on the information provided in the body of the report.
13. For the 2022-23 report changes have been made to some of the key performance indicators (KPIs) used in the reporting. The main changes of note are:
  - Switching all the Council's greenhouse gas emission KPIs from carbon only (CO<sub>2</sub>) to carbon equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), to be in alignment with the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report.
  - Switching to the 'Local Authority territorial emissions full dataset' instead of using the 'Local Authority territorial emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities dataset', to be in alignment with the figures used in the Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy.



## Executive Summary

14. For 2022-23 reporting, a new report format and approach has been introduced which provides a clear and comprehensive update on the Council's wider environmental performance and on progress in delivering its commitments on net zero within a single report, as an organisation and for Leicestershire as a county.
15. In terms of Leicestershire County Council's environmental performance for 2022-23, the report shows that the Council's net greenhouse gas emissions were **9,395 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, a fall of **7.2%** compared to 2021-22. Emission reductions were seen across all major sources except for business travel. Emissions from fleet vehicles, which remains the second largest proportion at 29%, showed the smallest reduction of only 2.6%. Direct emissions from buildings are also a concern with only a 7% reduction on last year's figure (the second smallest change). This is due to a continued reliance on gas heating and inconsistency in the performance of the biomass boiler system. This is likely to improve in subsequent years as new parts have been fitted.
16. Overall, the Council's emissions have reduced by almost **74%** since the 2008-09 baseline year. However, while good historic progress has been made, more recently there has been a slowdown in progress, with most of the easy win actions having been taken. The Council now **needs to achieve an average of 1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year** in order to meet its net zero target by 2030. The 2022-23 emissions reduction **fell short of this by 45%**, meaning the Council is currently off track to meet net zero by 2030.
17. In December 2022, the Council adopted the **2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan** which set out how the Council aims to achieve net zero for its own operational emissions by 2030. This report provides an update on progress in delivering the action plan and refreshes the actions where needed (Appendix D).
18. Progress has been made in delivering a number of the Council's carbon reduction actions, in particular, the completion of £3.6m in energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. In addition, the initial trial of some of the Council's hard to electrify fleet vehicles to HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel, and support and encouragement of low carbon commuting for Council staff.
19. Progress has also been made on a number of the Council's enabling actions including, the launch of the £2m Carbon Reduction Fund, embedding carbon pricing within business cases and decision making, launch of the Net Zero Leicestershire webpages, and reporting to the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the CDP.
20. The review of the 2030 action plan identified a number of **key risks** to the Council achieving net zero by 2030 including, **access to funding** and a **shortfall in staff capacity and resources**.

21. The first year of the action plan lays the foundations for some of the key actions that will support the Council's net zero by 2030 commitments, in particular, the development of the decarbonisation plans for the Council's fleet and buildings. The plans are expected to be completed in 2024 and delivery will be dependent on the approval of appropriate business cases and staff resources to enable them to be delivered.
22. The Council continues to make progress in taking action on nature with **97% of suitable Council land in better management for nature**. This is through the activities taking place on Council land such as country parks, county farms and on the roadside verges, with the Wildlife Verge Scheme winning a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Bees Needs Champion Award in July 2023.
23. The Council's recycling rate for office waste is struggling to recover after the Covid-19 pandemic, with a recycling figure of **51.2%** in 2022-23. This is mainly due to a reduction in the amount of recyclable waste being produced, most notably, a 65% reduction in the amount of waste paper, largely driven by a fall of 5.5m A4 sheets in the amount of paper used in photocopiers since 2019-20. More importantly, there has been a 30% drop in the annual amount of waste produced since 2019-20, with only **250 tonnes** of office waste produced in 2022-23.
24. In terms of **environmental compliance**, the Council is performing relatively well, with one environmental complaint upheld, one environmental incident reported, no enforcements or prosecutions, two minor non-conformities found during the external ISO14001 audit, and four minor non-conformities found during the internal environmental audit process in 2022-23.
25. At the end of 2022-23 there were two environmental high risks and eight climate change high risks. Due to limited staff capacity, it has not been possible to undertake significant work to address the **climate change risks**. Insufficient action on the climate change risks will expose the Council to the risk of harm from future extreme weather events. Work will be undertaken to see if the re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.
26. In relation to the Council's **Environmental Management System (EMS)**, a number of aspects have been noted such as the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the creation of the Office of Environmental Protection, the full implications of the Environment Act 2021 and whether any further legacy EU legislation will be repealed. Also noted was the risk of the Council's financial position and the current staff capacity issues making it more difficult to achieve some of the Council's environmental targets and maintain its environmental performance.
27. Some 78 new or updated general environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance released during 2022-23 were identified as possibly relevant to the County Council. This included **new statutory duties** in relation to Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, the strengthened biodiversity duty, Simpler Recycling reforms including mandatory

food waste collections and the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging.

28. The development and delivery of the **2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan** and the **2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan** will present opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the Council and producing possible financial savings in some cases.
29. According to the latest Government data, **Leicestershire's greenhouse gas emissions** for **2021** were **4.85 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**. While this was an increase compared to 2020, this was due to the expected bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2021 emissions were 3.6% lower than the 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Emissions have reduced across Leicestershire by 28% since 2005, while per capita emissions have reduced by 37% to 6.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
30. Within Leicestershire there were increases in electric vehicle charging locations, electric vehicle ownership, renewable energy generated and capacity, and most significantly, in the proportion of existing domestic properties with an energy performance certificate of C or above. The launch of the Green Living Leicestershire Warms Homes schemes, in collaboration with the district councils, which provides support to vulnerable households and those at risk of fuel poverty to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes, will have contributed to this improvement.
31. During 2022-23, the Council commenced work on preparing a report to the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the **CDP**. The submission was made in July 2023, with the Council **scoring 'B'**. This means the Council has been recognised for having an emissions inventory, having implemented a mitigation plan and for taking action to reduce emissions, alongside having an awareness of the main local risks and impacts of climate change.
32. The 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in December 2022 which sets out how the County Council intends to collaborate with others to deliver the action plan over the next 5-year period. An update of the Action Plan has been carried out and provides a commentary on progress. However, if the net zero target dates change, the Strategy and Action Plan will require refreshing to reflect any such changes.
33. Several projects have already been delivered successfully including Solar Together, the Warm Homes scheme, and the Net Zero Town and Parish Council Toolkit. In addition, the Council and partners has been successful in securing funding from Innovate UK for the Pathfinder Place project.
34. Some initial work has taken place to progress an Engagement Plan and a Funding Plan. The report includes updates on their progress and next steps.
35. In terms of the **wider environmental position** for Leicestershire, the data shows that, like the rest of England, the County's rivers are not in a very good

ecological or chemical status. Leicestershire remains in the 4<sup>th</sup> quartile<sup>1</sup> relative to comparative English authorities, for air pollution from fine particulate matter, while no nitrogen dioxide exceedances were recorded. The amount of household waste per household has fallen by 74.2kg in 2022-23 to 939.4kg, while recycling performance is still below the 50% target at 41.8%. Both figures were affected by the fall in green waste, due to the heat wave in the summer of 2022.

36. The key conclusions of the report are as follows:

- i) The Council is currently **not on track to meet its 2030 Council operations net zero target**.
- ii) The Council is currently **not on track to meet its 2045 County-wide net zero target**. Though the delivery of the 2045 net zero action plan has only recently started, so this more highlights the scale of the challenge than progress.
- iii) Particularly, there is a need to target action on reducing emissions from transport, domestic, industry and agriculture sources, with a focus on actions to increase electric vehicle take up, encouraging more active travel, increasing renewable energy generation, and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- iv) There will be a **significant amount of work needed** to implement the Collection and Packaging Reforms, that contribute to meeting the **national 65% recycling target by 2035**.
- v) The **insufficiency of action on climate adaptation is a concern**.
- vi) The current **workload and staff capacity issues are a concern**.
- vii) The current **financial position of the Council is a concern** in terms of resourcing action on the environment.
- viii) There is a need to **prioritise actions on the environment** and the use of staff and financial resources. Within which there is also the need to **decide how best to allocate resources between meeting the Council's own and the County net zero targets**.
- ix) The **uncertainty regarding Government policy** on the environment and **implications of recent environmental legislation** is a concern.
- x) There is a need to be aware of the **increased public interest and scrutiny** of local authority action on the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English authorities which cover large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, it is indicated which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The 1<sup>st</sup> quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of relevant comparators (the best). The 4<sup>th</sup> quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of comparators (the worst). Quartile positions are updated annually.

## **Section 1: Leicestershire County Council**

### **Section 1a: Net Zero Council**

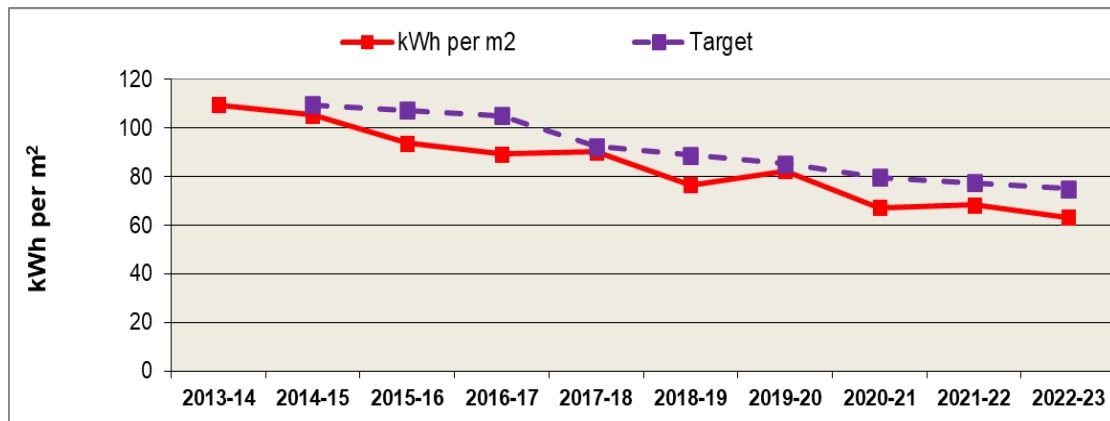
37. This section of the report provides details of the Council's performance and progress regarding its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions for Leicestershire County Council, as an organisation by 2030.

### **Part 1: Greenhouse gas emitting activities**

38. Part 1 of the report provides some of the contextual performance data in relation to the Council's greenhouse gas emitting activities, which contribute to the figures set out in Part 2 and the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022-23.
39. It covers performance in the following areas:
- Electricity consumption
  - Gas/Biomass consumption
  - Business mileage
  - Waste produced
  - Water consumption
  - Renewable energy generated

#### **C2a – Electricity consumption per m<sup>2</sup> in LCC buildings**

40. This KPI looks at the efficiency of electricity use in Council buildings. Only buildings that have been in the Council's portfolio for six years (currently 76 sites) are included, so changes in energy consumption should reflect actual changes in energy efficiency.
41. Some revisions and updating to the methodology were undertaken this year which has led to some changes to previous figures, although trends are similar. Note this KPI does not currently include renewable electricity generated and used on-site.
42. The electricity consumption per square metre for 2022-23 was **63.2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>** compared to the target of 75 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, therefore ahead of target (low is good). This was an improvement on the 2021-22 figure of 77.3 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> and is in line with the long-term trend.

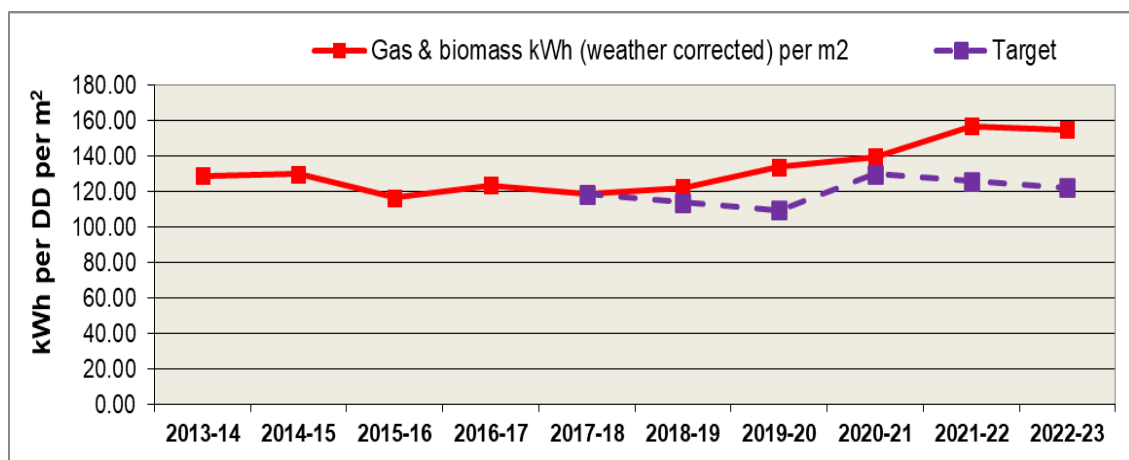


**Figure 1: Electricity consumption per m<sup>2</sup> 2013-14 to 2022-23**

43. This positive performance reflects lower grid electricity usage, which remains over 1GWh per year less than before the pandemic. This is believed to reflect a combination of lower building occupancy, reduction in non-seasonal ventilation, energy efficiency measures and increased solar PV output.

C2b – Gas/biomass consumption (weather corrected) per m<sup>2</sup> in LCC buildings

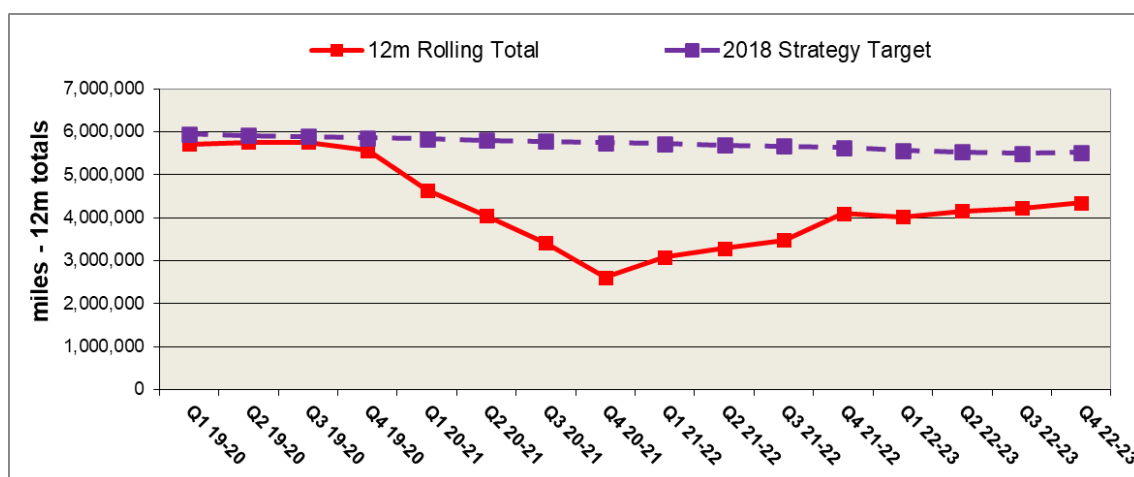
44. This KPI looks at heating efficiency in Council buildings. Only the buildings that have been in the Council's portfolio for six years (currently 76 sites) are included so that any annual reductions seen in both electricity and gas consumption represent genuine efficiency improvements.
45. Gas/biomass consumption per square metre for 2022-23 has reduced slightly to **155 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>** compared to the figure for 2021-22 of 156.9 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. This is still noticeably above the target of 110.1 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.
46. This reflects the fact that heating demand has not always fallen in line with milder weather. In addition, the biomass boiler was out of action during January and February 2023, meaning more reliance on gas heating. Improvements to the biomass heating system are expected to improve the position in 2023-24.



**Figure 2: Gas and biomass consumption per m<sup>2</sup> 2013-14 to 2022-23**

### C18 - Total business mileage

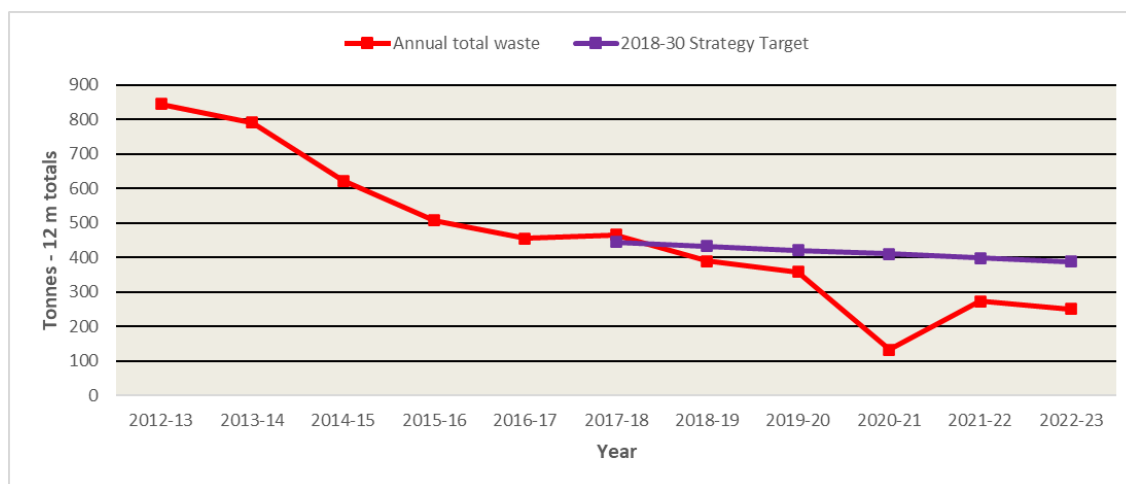
47. Annual business mileage claims rose by almost **6%** in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 with total business mileage of about **4.3m miles**. This slight rise was likely due to the ongoing bounce back following the Covid-19 pandemic as Council services continued to return to some form of normality. Note business mileage claims do not include commuting to and from work and only include mileage claimed by staff in carrying out Council business.
48. Business mileage claims are still 22% (almost 1.2m miles) less than the pre-pandemic level in 2019-20. This can largely be attributed to many Council staff taking advantage of smarter working policies, such as online and hybrid meetings, and flexible working.
49. Work is planned to take place on developing an additional KPI that sets a target for reducing emissions from business mileage in line with the net zero commitment. This should encourage both a reduction in mileage, as well as an increase in the use of lower emission vehicles. The recently introduced financial controls which will restrict non-essential spend on travel, including business mileage, are likely to reduce emissions from December 2023 onwards.



**Figure 3: Rolling 12-month business mileage 2019-20 to 2022-23**

### LW1 - Total waste from LCC sites

50. The rolling annual total waste figure reduced by over 8% (23 tonnes) in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. The figure of **250 tonnes** is in line with expectations as more staff returned to the office and Council service returned to a new normal. The figure follows the downward trend since 2012-13. This figure is 30% (108 tonnes) less than the pre-pandemic level in 2019-20.



**Figure 4: Annual total waste 2013-14 to 2022-23**

#### WA1 - Total water consumption per FTE

51. The data for 2022-23 shows reported consumption of water falling to **51,593 m<sup>3</sup>** from the high of 74,046 m<sup>3</sup> in 2021-22. This level of water usage is closer to the average for the last five years. The number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff was broadly stable, so that the water consumption per FTE member of staff fell from 15.23 m<sup>3</sup> in 2021-22 to **10.61 m<sup>3</sup>** in 2022-23. This means that performance once again was ahead of the target of 11.2 m<sup>3</sup> (low is good).
52. It is believed that the figure for 2021-22 was overstated due to a change in the water provider and the significant use of estimated billing. Discussions will be held with relevant parties to seek to improve the quality and reliability of readings in future.

#### C17a - Renewable energy generated as a percentage of consumption on County Council land and properties

53. The amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of total energy consumed was **10.9%** at the end of 2022-23, significantly under the 27.8% target. The targets for this indicator reflect the Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-30, which has a target of 50% on-site renewable or zero carbon energy generation as a percentage of annual consumption at corporate Council buildings. The figure is slightly up from the 2021-22 figure of 10.3%.
54. The largest contributor to renewable energy generation is the biomass boiler at County Hall, which provides approximately three-quarters of the total renewable energy generated. During 2022-23 there was a mixed picture across the year, with higher energy production in quarter 3 offset by technical issues in quarter 4, causing two months of lost energy production. Total annual biomass generation fell from 2.2m kWh last year, to around **1.5m kWh**. During 2021-22, works took place as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to expand the biomass network and install a thermal heat store. This will enable use of the biomass boiler all year round and will significantly increase energy output once it is up and running correctly.



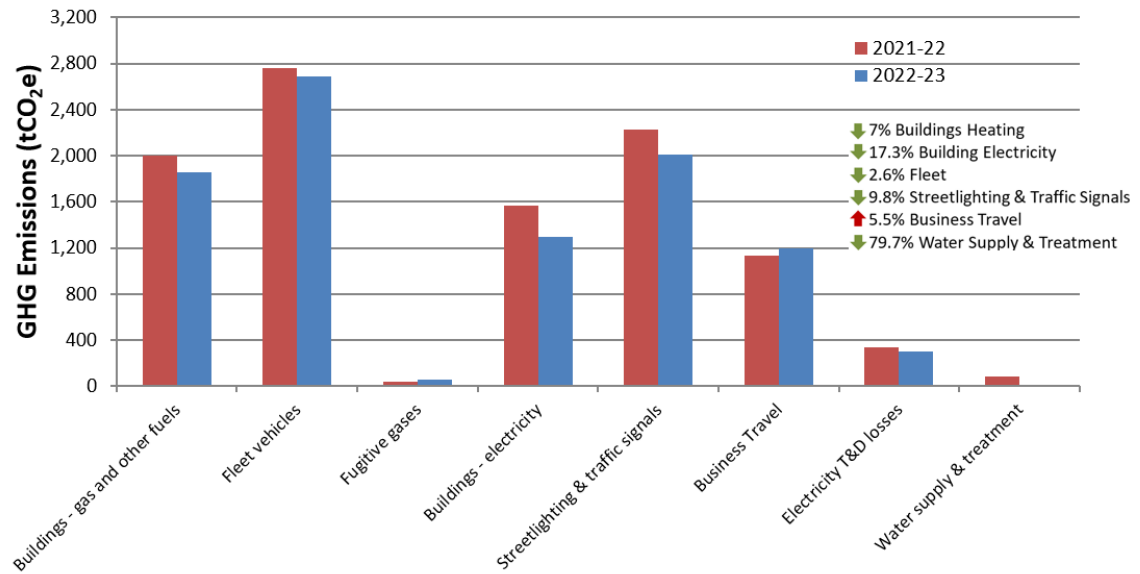
55. Solar energy generation at corporate sites showed a strong recovery in 2022-23 to a record **568,469 kWh**. This follows a disappointing 2021-22, when production fell to a five-year low of 413,000 kWh due to faults and upgrades. Much of the recovery is attributable to new rooftop systems at County Hall, which contributed over 150,000 kWh. As a result of further upgrades in early 2023-24, along with a new maintenance contract, additional increases in solar energy generation are expected in the future.

## Part 2: Greenhouse Gas Report

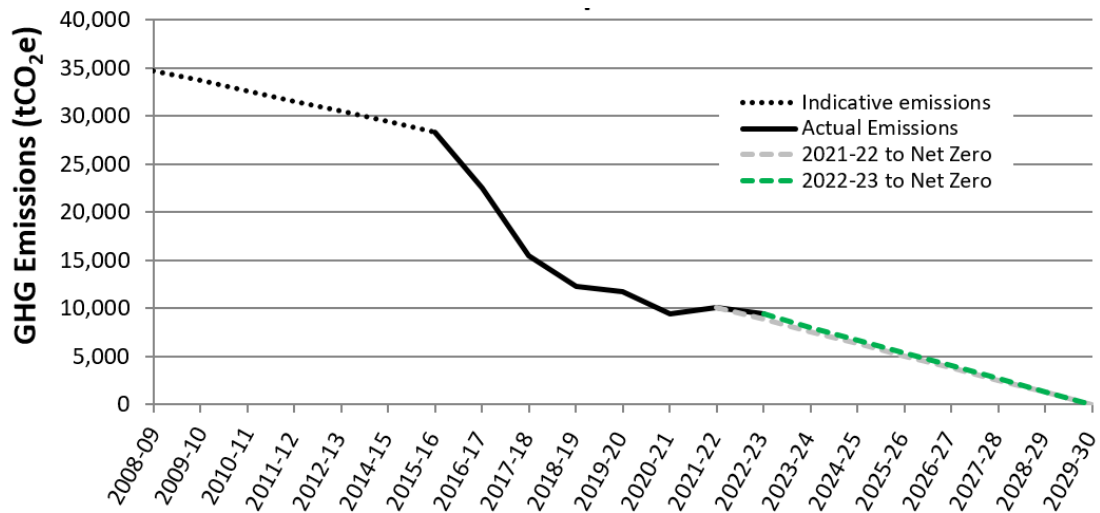
56. Part 2 provides a summary of what the performance figures set out in Part 1 above, as well as the other sources of emissions, have meant for the Council's overall greenhouse gas emissions as an organisation.
57. Leicestershire County Council's net greenhouse gas emissions for 2022-23 **decreased by 7.2% (732 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)** compared to 2021-22 to **9,395 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. This is equivalent of **1.93 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per full-time equivalent employee** (0.15 tCO<sub>2</sub>e decrease compared to 2021-22). The reduction in Council emissions is welcomed following the Covid-19 pandemic bounce back experienced in 2021-22.
58. Emission reductions have been found across all major sources, except business travel, which continues to see a bounce back in emissions following the pandemic. Emissions from fleet vehicles which remains the second largest proportion at 29% - showed the smallest reduction of only 2.6%. Direct emissions from buildings are also a concern with only a 7% reduction on last year's figure (the second smallest change). This is due to a continued reliance on gas heating and inconsistency in the performance of the biomass boiler system (this was offline due to repair work for part of the year). It is hoped that this will improve with the boiler being fully functional in future years.
59. Overall, Council emissions have now **reduced by 73.7% since the 2008-09 baseline year**. Table 1 below provides more details of the figures behind the Council's greenhouse gas emissions for 2022-23.
60. On-site renewable energy generation, including solar power and biomass heating, avoided **355 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** of greenhouse gas emissions in 2022-23 (equivalent to 3.8% of net emission), compared to if gas and grid electricity were consumed.
61. The Council now needs to achieve an average of **1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year** reduction to meet net zero by 2030 (77 tCO<sub>2</sub>e more per year than in 2021-22). The 2022-23 emissions reduction rate falls short by 45% compared to the required annual average reduction needed to meet net zero by 2030 (Figure 6).
62. The Council's full 2022-23 Greenhouse Gas Report is attached to this report as **Appendix B**.

Greenhouse gas emissions data for period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)						
	Sector	2022-23	2021-22	% Change	Base Year 2008-09	% Change
Scope 1 – Direct emissions e.g., boilers, owned transport, air conditioning gases	Buildings	1,860	2,000	-7.0%	4,317	-56.9%
	Fleet vehicles	2,685	2,756	-2.6%	4,358	-38.4%
	Fugitive gases	60	44	35.1%	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	4,605	4,800	-4.1%	8,675	-46.9%
Scope 2 – Energy indirect e.g., purchased electricity	Buildings	1,297	1,567	-17.3%	6,562	-80.2%
	Streetlighting and traffic signals	2,009	2,228	-9.8%	15,581	-87.1%
	<b>Sub-total</b>	3,306	3,795	-12.9%	22,143	-85.1%
Scope 3 – Other Indirect e.g., business travel and water supply/treatment	Business travel	1,193	1,131	5.5%	3,237	-63.1%
	Electricity transmission and distribution losses	302	336	-10.0%	1,722	-82.4%
	Water supply and treatment	17	84	-79.7%	-	-
	Waste	5	6	-9.3%	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	1,518	1,557	-2.5%	4,959	-69.4%
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>		<b>9,428</b>	<b>10,152</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>	<b>35,778</b>	<b>-73.6%</b>
Carbon offsets		0	0	-	0	-
Renewable energy exports		-33	-25	35.4%	0	-
<b>Total Location-based Net Emissions</b>		<b>9,395</b>	<b>10,127</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>	<b>35,778</b>	<b>-73.7%</b>
Full time equivalent (FTE) employees		4,864	4,860	0.1%	6,880	-29.3%
Intensity measure: tCO <sub>2</sub> e/FTE		1.93	2.08	-7.3%	5.2	-62.8%
Renewable electricity tariff		3,306	3,795	-12.9%	-	-
<b>Total Market-based Net Emissions</b>		<b>6,123</b>	<b>6,357</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>35,778</b>	<b>-82.9%</b>
Petrol and diesel (outside of scope)		0.16	0.15	11.5%	-	-
Woodchip (outside of scope)		694	711	-2.3%	-	-

**Table 1: Council 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions, with a comparison to 2021-22 and the 2008-09 baseline year**



**Figure 5: Council 2022-23 greenhouse gas emissions by source, compared to 2021-22**



**Figure 6: Council net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2030 net zero**

### Part 3: Net Zero Council Action Plan progress update

63. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan. This action plan outlines how the County Council aims to achieve net zero for its own operational emissions by 2030. Activity within the plan is separated between the main sources of emissions (estates, fleet, business travel and streetlighting) and actions needed to enable the successful delivery of net zero (i.e., finance, decision making, engagement and reporting).
64. Appendix D of this report provides a progress update and refresh of all the actions within this plan, ensuring the plan stays up to date and the Council remains informed about its progress towards delivering net zero by 2030.
65. The following actions are currently in delivery or have been completed:
  - a) Carbon Reduction Actions:
    - i. Completed £4.3m energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to Beaumanor Hall, County Hall and Embankment House, £3.6m of which was funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
    - ii. Phase 1 future wind and solar feasibility study has been completed, with phase 2 being underway.
    - iii. Whole estate buildings decarbonisation plan is under development (66 surveys complete).
    - iv. Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition plan is under development.
    - v. Part HVO transition (£110,000) for hard to electrify fleet vehicles is under procurement.
    - vi. Future streetlighting dimming and trimming. Pilot project is to start in early 2024.
    - vii. Ongoing support and encouragement for low carbon commuting (e.g., bike loans, Dr Bike, Betterpoints, Cycle to Work scheme).
  - b) Enabling Actions:
    - i. Launch of the £2m Carbon Reduction Fund, including embedding carbon pricing within business cases and decision making.
    - ii. Launch of Net Zero Leicestershire webpages.
    - iii. Reported to the environmental reporting platform CDP (paragraphs 151-154 of this report).
66. The first annual progress review has identified key areas of risk and gaps to enable net zero, including:
  - a) Funding to enable the delivery of the building decarbonisation and fleet Electric Vehicles transition plans at the pace and scale needed.
  - b) Limited progress on business mileage decarbonisation (13% of emissions) due to staff resources over the last 18 months.
  - c) Staff resources to support development and delivery of relevant carbon awareness/management training and practices to different levels of staff.

- d) Influencing and reducing out of scope emissions (i.e., purchase goods and services, commuting and investments) due to limited staff resources available.
  - e) Staff capacity overall, to deliver projects at the scale and speed required.
67. The first year of delivery lays the foundations for what is needed from the Council to enable net zero by 2030, including the development of two key decarbonisation plans for fleet and buildings. Once complete, the findings of these plans will advise on the required delivery approach and timescales to support the Council's 2030 commitments. However, they are dependent on the availability of significant funding to enable them to be delivered (e.g., investment in electric fleet vehicles, electric heating in buildings etc).
68. With the current resources available to the Council (both financial and staffing), delivery of these key initiatives will not be possible at the scale and speed required to enable it to meet net zero by 2030. The figures for 2022-23 emissions reductions demonstrate this - falling short by 45% compared to the required annual average reduction needed to meet net zero by 2030.

## Section 1b: Greener Council

69. This section of the report sets out the Council's performance as an organisation on a range of environmental areas, as set out below. It also provides an assessment of performance against the Council's EMS.

### Part 4: Wider Environmental areas

70. Part 4 of the report provides details on the Council's performance across a range of environmental areas, which are not covered in Part 1, in particular:
- a. Nature
  - b. Resources
  - c. Staff perception
  - d. Compliance
  - e. Risks

#### a. Nature

##### B3a Hectares of LCC land in better management for nature

71. At the end of 2022-23, there were **3,854 hectares** of Council land in better management for nature. This is an increase of 10 hectares compared to 2021-22. This change can be explained by any acquisitions or disposals that have happened since and the fact that the data has been updated (categories changed and GIS extents amended where discrepancies have been found).
72. This figure includes a combination of Council land including country parks, rural and urban highway verges, county farms and playing fields.

### B3b % of suitable LCC land in better management for nature

73. At the end of 2022-23, **97%** of suitable Council land was in better management for nature, the same as 2021-22.

### Wildlife Verges

74. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **69 wildlife verges** and **51 parish councils** included in the Wildlife Verge scheme. The total area of wildlife verges was **37,185m<sup>2</sup>**.
75. Up to the end of 2022-23, a total of **3,986 volunteer hours** were spent undertaking verge baseline surveys and **3,038 wildlife records** were generated.
76. In July 2023, the Wildlife Verge scheme won the Defra **Bees Needs Champion Award** under the Community Category. The award recognises and celebrates examples of exceptional initiatives undertaken by local authorities, community groups, farmers, and businesses to support pollinators.

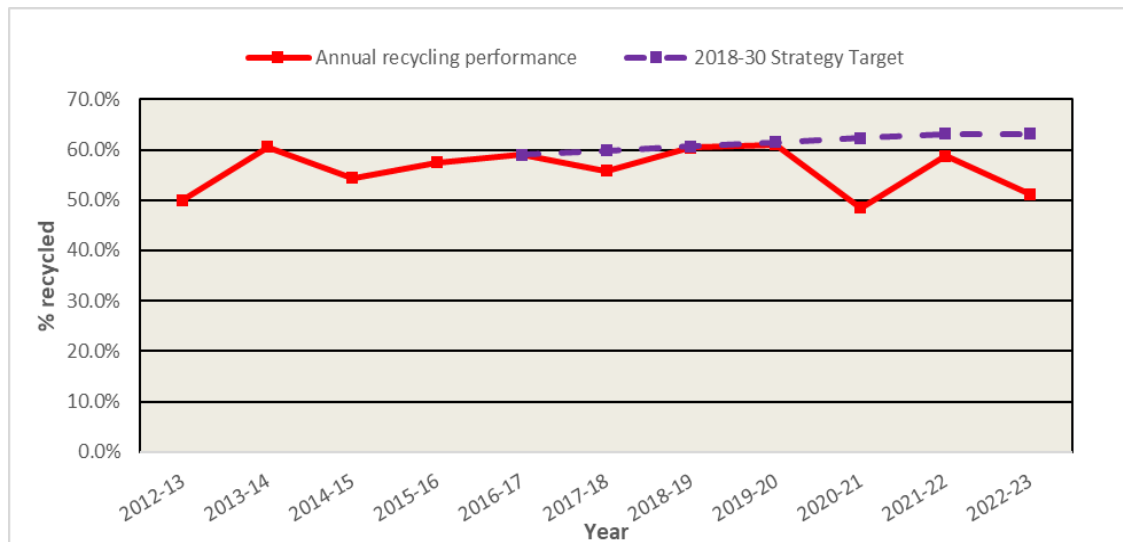
### Tree Wardens

77. In March 2023, Leicestershire celebrated **40 years** of running the Tree Warden network in the County, in partnership with the Tree Council. Currently, there are **124 Tree Wardens** in the network. There are 78 parishes and one independent organisation (Harborough Woodland) which manage volunteer Tree Wardens.
78. The role of a Tree Warden is diverse and involves maintaining trees (watering, weeding, minor tree work like coppicing); checking for pests and disease; looking for places to plant trees; encouraging schools to educate pupils about trees; interpretation of trees through guided walks; checking planning applications to identify impacts on designated; and non-designated trees.
79. The Leicestershire Network has a clear process for recruiting, supporting, and offering strategically beneficial training to its Tree Wardens, which has been replicated in other parts of the UK. Leicestershire is well regarded by the Tree Council which refers new networks for advice and best practice.
80. Tree Wardens have supported access to Treescape grants by providing evidence of the demand for trees in Leicestershire. They have also helped with data collection for Local Wildlife Sites, Ancient Trees and assessing trees for Tree Preservation Orders, as well as helping in the delivery of the Council's target to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.

## b. Resources

### LW2 - % Recycled from LCC sites

81. The recycling figure for 2022-23 was **51.2%**, falling from 58.7% in 2021-22. This is below the target of 64% for 2022-23. The current target is to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030.
82. The level of recycling performance is struggling to recover after the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the reasons for this is that there is less recyclable and compostable waste being produced. Examples of this include a 65% (47 tonnes) reduction in the amount of paper waste produced and the ceasing of the kitchen compost collection scheme, resulting in a reduction of about 20 tonnes of compostable waste. The latter is also resulting in this waste (though likely of a lesser tonnage) going into the residual waste stream. In addition, there is also anecdotal evidence of higher levels of contamination and improper use of the waste bins in County Hall since 2019-20.



**Figure 7: % waste recycled 2013-14 to 2022-23**

### P1a - Total office paper purchased

83. The data is received directly from the Council's primary paper supplier.
84. The amount of paper purchased at the end of 2022-23 was about **2.7m A4 sheets**. This was an increase of about 12% on 2021-22, but still significantly less than the pre-pandemic figure of 8.2m A4 Sheets.
85. This reflects the persistence of changes arising during the pandemic, including the move to digital service delivery, and working from home (now part of the Council's new ways of working). Work is and will take place to maintain the reduction in paper usage where possible. The reduction in paper use in part contributes to the fall in recycling performance, as there is less paper to recycle.

### LW10 - % of recycled aggregates used in highways

86. The proportion of recycled aggregates used over 2022-23 was **89%**, an increase from 63.5% the previous year. The amount of recycled aggregate used varies from quarter to quarter, but there were two quarters where the amount of recycled aggregate used was 100%.
87. Use of recycled aggregates is affected by availability and feasibility (e.g., not suitable for base layers) and is not always the best environmental option when processing, logistics and energy use are factored in. However, use of recycled aggregates in certain schemes can significantly reduce transportation and waste costs, and therefore, it is encouraged where suitable and locally available.

### **c. Staff perception**

E1 - Proportion of staff supporting the statement “I believe the Council is doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment” and E2 - Proportion of staff agreeing with the statement “I understand how I can contribute to green issues at work”

88. As part of a refresh of the mandatory Environmental Awareness E-Learning training in 2017-18, a survey was included in the module to gather data for this KPI.
89. Of the staff that completed the survey in 2022-23, **90%** agreed that the Council was doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment and **94%** agreed they understood how they can contribute to green issues at work.
90. While these results are positive, a slight downward trend has been observed. This may reflect the new ways of working and the fact that many staff are working from home, so feel less able to contribute to green issues in the workplace. In addition, with most staff working from home, there is less scope for staff engagement. The results may also reflect an increased public awareness and concern about the environment, and a recognition that more and urgent action needs to be taken.
91. The staff behavioural change scheme Go Green has been revamped and improved as Greener Together. As part of the new scheme, initiatives will be undertaken to support staff, tenants and building users to reduce the Council’s environmental impact. As the scheme is rolled out through information provision, training, and opportunities for staff to learn and work together on reducing the Council’s environmental impacts, it is hoped that it will address this decline.



## d. Compliance

### M1 - Environmental complaints

92. There was **one** environmental complaint upheld during 2022-23 compared to three in 2021-22. The complaint related to blocked drain works that had not been completed. The works have subsequently been undertaken.

### M2 - Environmental incidents

93. There was **one** environmental incident reported in 2022-23. This related to a fire at the former Birkett House School. This caused some fire damage asbestos contamination, which was removed by HSE licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by accredited consultants, under the control of Council Operational Property Services.

### M5 - Environmental enforcements/prosecutions

94. There were no enforcement notices or prosecutions logged in 2022-23.

### External and Internal Audit results

95. External audits are carried out annually by BM Trada to ISO14001 EMS Standard, with a full re-certification audit every three years. A full re-certification audit is due in 2024.
96. An external ISO14001 EMS recertification audit was carried out in February 2023. **Two minor non-conformities** were found at Beaumanor Hall, relating to an out-of-date environmental risk register and an out-of-date environmental checklist. Corrective action has since been taken on both non-conformities.
97. Only those Council services externally certified to ISO14001 are subject to external audits. Namely, Strategic and Operational Property Services – County Hall operations and Beaumanor Hall operations; Central Print Services; Countryside Services and the Environment Policy and Strategy team. Internal audits may be carried out on any service but are focussed on those previously identified as potentially having high environmental risks.
98. A set of internal audits was carried out during 2022-23 as part of a rolling 3-year programme. These covered Hard Facilities Management, Multi-Agency Travellers Unit, Beaumanor Hall and Bosworth Battlefield. **No major non-conformities** were recorded. **One minor non-conformity** was recorded at **Beaumanor Hall** relating to the availability of pesticide training records. **Three minor non-conformities** were recorded at **Bosworth Battlefield** in relation to non-availability of keys for utility enclosure on site, printer paper not conforming with the Council's Timber Products Policy and a piece of electrical equipment incorrectly disposed of in the general waste bin. A total of 19 observations (potential opportunities for improvement) were recorded across all the service areas.

## e. Risks

### i) Environment Risk Register

#### M3 - Environmental risks scoring >15

99. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **two** environmental risks scoring 15 or more. These environmental risks relate to areas where the Council is not meeting legal requirements or Council policy is significantly failing to address Environment Strategy objectives.

100. The remaining risks sit within the Environment and Transport Department (previously three risks, now two) and are summarised as follows:

- a) Biodiversity considerations not sufficiently taken into account in Highways mowing regimes (**one risk**).

Urban verge trials are continuing and expanding, but still make up only a small proportion (less than 1%) of the verge network. These are being used to inform possible changes to mowing regimes. There is an increasing public interest in having wildlife verges, but further systematic change is needed. This risk will continue to be reviewed to determine if sufficient progress has been made to reduce this risk.

- b) Operational risks at Recycling Household Waste Sites (**one risk**). The risk relates to inadequate access to waste disposal outlets due to infrastructure closures.

Since the end of 2022-23, a new long-term contract for residual waste treatment and disposal has come online. This change has reduced the risk score, meaning this is no longer a high risk.

101. The previous high risk in relation to compliance with the Cleaner Vehicle Regulations has been reduced to a medium risk due to the steps that have been taken by the Fleet team to procure more environmentally friendly vehicles, and the fact that the enforcement risk is low.

### ii) Climate Change Risk Register

#### R1 - Outstanding actions on climate change risk register

102. There are **eight high risks** on the climate change register following the completion during 2021-22 of a review and assessment of the risks to the Council from climate change. The identified risks relate primarily to highways and property assets, business continuity and flood risk.

103. Due to capacity issues within the Environment Policy and Strategy team, it has not been possible to undertake significant work to address these risks. Work will be undertaken to see how re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.

## Part 5: Environmental Management System

104. Part 5 of the report provides an update on a range of aspects in relation to the Council's EMS. Many of these aspects relate to requirements within the ISO14001 standard, for which some service areas in the Council are certified to. It covers the following:

- a. External and internal issues relevant to the EMS;
- b. Needs and expectations of interested parties;
- c. Changes to statutory duties;
- d. Changes to environment legislation;
- e. Environmental risks and opportunities;
- f. Adequacy of resources;
- g. Relevant communications from interested parties;
- h. Opportunities for continual improvement.

### **a. External and internal issues relevant to the EMS**

105. A number of uncertainties persist such as the implications of the creation of the Office of Environmental Protection, the detail of the regulations and guidance that are to follow the Environment Act 2021 and whether any further legacy EU legislation will be repealed.

106. Key recent Government policies and draft legislation, which may affect the environment and be relevant to the EMS and/or Council services, include:

- Environment Act 2021 and subsequent regulations;
- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023;
- Retained EU Law Act;
- Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill;
- UK Chemicals Strategy.

107. Recent and current Government consultations on environmental policy, which may be relevant to the EMS and/or Council services, include:

- Consultation on the draft Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024;
- New approach to environmental assessments;
- Draft Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023;
- Amendments to the persistent organic pollutants regulation;
- Review of Net Zero: call for evidence;
- Landfill tax grant scheme: call for evidence;
- Household waste recycling centres: DIY waste disposal charges and booking systems;
- Environment Act 2021: environmental targets;
- Nature recovery green paper;
- Review of the Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance.

108. During 2022-23, work was completed on the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan, which sets out how the Council plans to achieve net zero as an authority by 2030. In addition, work was also completed on developing the 2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan which sets out how the County could achieve net zero by 2045. Both were approved by the County Council in December 2022.

**b. Needs and expectations of interested parties, including compliance obligations and changes in political priorities/direction**

109. The 2021-22 report identified some concerns about the Government's pledge to its various environmental policies and commitments following the changes in the Government in October 2022. While there has been some positive action, particularly in relation to the Environment Act 2021 and action in relation to nature, there has also been, especially in recent months a rowing back on the pace of action in relation to net zero, moves to more sustainable transport solutions through support for public transport but also a signalling of more support for driving through the launch of the "Plan for Drivers", improvements in the management of waste and improving water quality.
110. The Council Strategic Property team require new environmental data from the Environment Policy and Strategy team on energy usage and cost to support its annual report for the Corporate Asset Management Plan.
111. The rise in inflation over the last two years is increasing costs and putting pressure on the budgets of the Council and residents. This is making it more difficult to take action on the environment and progress identified projects. This situation is further exacerbated by the difficult financial position that the County Council finds itself in, like many councils across the country. This will mean that tough decisions have to be made about how the Council spends its resources to deliver its statutory duties and priorities.
112. During 2022-23, the Council responded to data and information requests from Climate Emergency UK as part of their scoring of councils on the action they are taking on climate change. The results of this scoring were released in October 2023, with Leicestershire County Council achieving a score of 46%. This was the fourth highest score for a county council in the UK. The average county council score was 35% and the highest county council score was 53%. More information on the scores can be found in this link:  
<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

**c. Changes to statutory duties**

113. The Environment Act 2021 and subsequent regulations resulted in changes to the Council's statutory duties in relation to the environment. The Act introduced a requirement that local authorities within England should produce a **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**.
114. During 2022-23, Leicestershire County Council was appointed as the provisional 'responsible authority' for developing a strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland. Subsequently, in June 2023, the County Council

was appointed as the 'responsible authority'. For more information on what a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is and what is taking place locally follow this link: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/local-nature-recovery-strategy/what-a-local-nature-recovery-strategy-is>

115. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 also introduced a requirement that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exceptions) will have to deliver **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** from January 2024. This placed a new statutory duty on local planning authorities, including the County Council, to support the delivery and administration of this new requirement.
116. Furthermore, the Environment Act 2021 also introduced a **strengthened legal duty for public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity** and new **biodiversity reporting requirements** for local authorities.
117. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 introduced several new statutory duties relating to waste which are due to come into effect over the coming years. These were concerning the Simpler Recycling reforms including **mandatory food waste collections**, which is due to come into force in 2025 for businesses and non-household municipal premises and in 2026 for households, the **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging** which is due to come into force in 2025 and a **Deposit Return Scheme** for drink containers which comes into force from October 2025.

#### **d. Changes to environment legislation**

118. There were a range of new or updated general environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance released during 2022-23, with **78** identified as possibly being relevant to the County Council. A full list can be found in **Appendix C** of this report.
119. The main areas included were in relation to **waste, natural environment, and energy performance of buildings**. Of most significance to the County Council were the regulations coming out of the **Environment Act 2021** in relation to new national environmental targets, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain, the Government's updated Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, and new guidance on the managing of waste containing persistent organic pollutants.
120. The Environment Policy and Strategy team have access to a specialised Environmental Legislation Information and Register Service, which provides a database, alerts and training on energy and environmental law and regulations. The supplier also provides a regular quarterly update of the Council's legislation register, including notification of new potentially relevant legislation.

#### **e. Environmental risks and opportunities**

121. During 2021-22, a comprehensive review and assessment of the risks to the Council from climate change was carried out. This assessment identified eight high risks and 56 medium risks from climate change on Council services, with

the report putting forward seven recommendations. Since then, three of the recommendations have been completed as part of the process of approving the report.

122. Due to limited staff capacity and the need to progress other priorities, it has not been possible to make significant progress on the other recommendations. Some work has taken place on defining what would be involved in developing an area wide climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities and partners. More recently, some research support has been secured from De Montfort University to assist with work in this area.
123. The Government will soon be releasing guidance to local authorities on climate adaptation reporting, including how to undertake a climate change risk assessment and to develop an action plan.
124. Insufficient action on the climate change risks will expose the Council to the risk of harm from future extreme weather events. Work will be undertaken to see how re-prioritisation of workload and reallocation of staff resources could enable action to be taken to reduce the risks identified.
125. The new ways of working and the financial pressures on the Council are making it more difficult to achieve some of the Council's environmental targets. This is particularly the case for the 2030 and 2045 net zero targets as well as the target to achieve 70% recycling of the Council's office waste by 2030.
126. On the other hand, the new ways of working are helping some of the Council's other environmental targets, in particular those in relation to electricity consumption, business mileage, paper use, and total office waste produced.
127. There is a combined risk and opportunity in relation to the increased public awareness of and activism on environmental issues, particularly with the increasing concern about climate change and the loss of nature. This could provide an opportunity in terms of the public support for the Council in taking action on the environment but could also be a risk in terms of greater public scrutiny and expectations of the scale and nature of any actions taken.

#### **f. Adequacy of resources**

128. During 2022-23, there was a vacancy in the Environment Policy and Strategy team until September 2022. The vacancy and the need for the new member of staff to be trained up and get acquainted with their role had an impact on the team's capacity. Vacancies in the Waste Data team also meant they were unable to process the environmental data meaning this task was undertaken by the Environment Policy and Strategy team further effecting the team's capacity. This resulted in a need to prioritise workload and to stop or reduce activity in some areas.
129. During 2022-23, the post of Carbon Reduction Team Manager was vacant which resulted in the Senior Carbon Reduction Officer taking on some elements

of the Team Manager role in addition to their current job while a recruitment exercise was carried out. This resulted in capacity issues within this small team and the need to prioritise workload and to stop or reduce activity in some areas.

130. More broadly across the Council, difficulties with retaining and recruiting staff as well as increased workloads have put pressure on some teams to maintain service levels and ensure continued positive environmental performance.

**g. Relevant communications from interested parties**

131. No relevant communications were received.

**h. Opportunities for continual improvement (EMS, including opportunities for improved integration with other business processes or environmental performance)**

132. The development of the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan, both adopted in December 2022, present opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the Council and producing possible financial savings in some cases.
133. Access to the legislation update service that was procured in 2020-21 continues to support the ongoing work to improve the robustness and effectiveness of the EMS.
134. Work continues on implementing the new environmental sustainability performance monitoring and reporting software, with a view to replacing large elements of the current spreadsheet-based system. The new Rio system will eventually provide a more effective and stable system for monitoring the Council's environmental performance.
135. Work is ongoing with colleagues to better understand the impact of severe weather events on the Council and the County by improving the use of existing Council data from sources such as flooding, property and highways. This work will inform updates of the Climate Change Risk Registers as well as the planned high risk service areas climate adaptation action plans.
136. The Climate Change Risk Review and Assessment report and the recommendations therein provide an opportunity to improve how the Council responds to the threats from the environment in the form of the impacts from climate change.

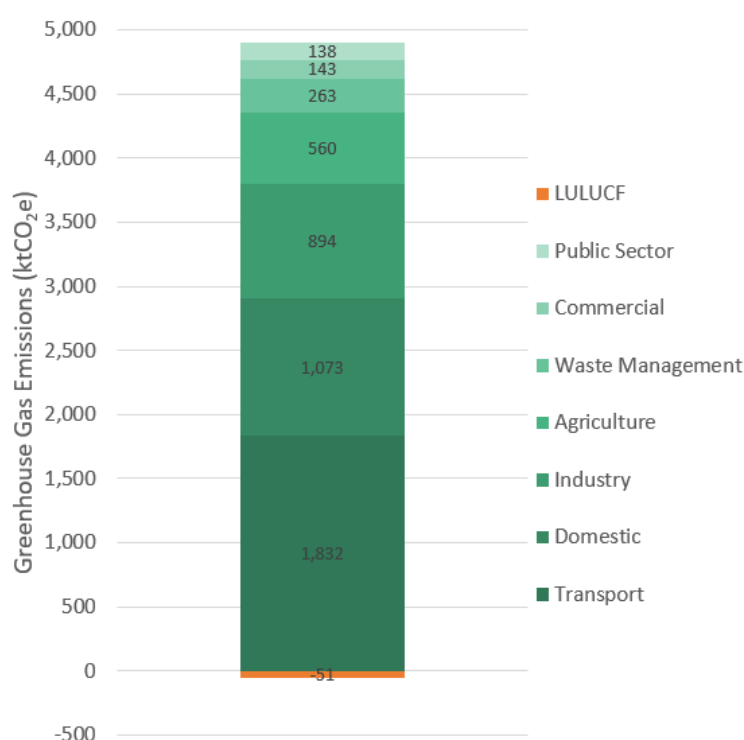
## Section 2: Leicestershire

### Part 6: Net Zero Leicestershire

137. Part 6 of the report provides details of how Leicestershire is performing as a county in relation to the Council's commitment to work with others to achieve net zero by 2045 for the County area. Data is presented based on the figures provided by the Government for 2021 on the levels of greenhouse gas emissions attributed to Leicestershire, as well as other contextual data on how Leicestershire is performing in relation to activities that can contribute to reducing the County's emissions.

#### a. Greenhouse Gas Emission Figures for Leicestershire

138. Using the latest available Government datasets<sup>2</sup>, Leicestershire's emissions during 2021 were **4.85 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**. Figure 8 below provides a breakdown of these emissions into eight key sources and demonstrates transport emissions contribute the greatest proportion (38%) of Leicestershire emissions, followed by domestic (22%), industry (18%), agriculture (12%), waste management (5%), commercial (3%), public sector (3%) and land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) helped remove, by carbon sequestration, 1% of emissions.

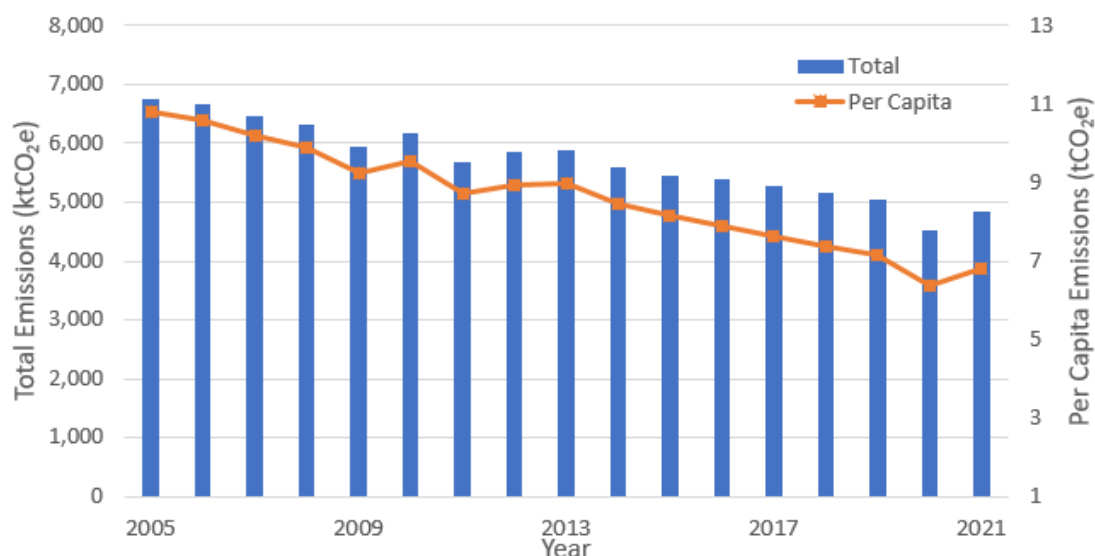


**Figure 8: Leicestershire's 2021 greenhouse gas emissions by source**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021>



139. Since 2005, greenhouse gas emissions across Leicestershire have reduced by 28%, meanwhile per capita emissions have reduced by 37% to 6.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Emissions in 2021 increased for the first time since 2012, which was expected because of the significant impact on emissions of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which led to a bounce back in emissions during 2021. Despite the increase, emissions remain **3.6% lower** than the Net Zero Leicestershire 2019 baseline year (pre-pandemic levels) and the average change in emissions over the last five years is a 1.8% reduction per year.



**Figure 9: Leicestershire's total and per capita greenhouse gas emissions 2005 to 2021**

140. The following paragraphs provide other contextual data on how Leicestershire is performing in relation to activities that can contribute to reducing the County's emissions.

#### Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population

141. At the end of 2022-23, there were **41.1 electric vehicles charging locations per 100,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was an increase from the 33.5 figure for 2021-22. However, Leicestershire still sits within the **4<sup>th</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
142. Following a successful bid to the Government for funding to deliver an initial 100 public electric vehicle chargepoints across all seven districts through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot, the County Council continues to work proactively with Midlands Connect and a number of other local authorities to bid for further LEVI funding. This would bring hundreds of additional public electric vehicle chargepoints to Leicestershire, to help meet the needs of the growing electric vehicle market. The locations of these chargepoints have not yet been identified and the County Council will now look to gather information about charging requirements across the County and develop a suitable delivery plan.

143. To this end, during October and November 2023, the County Council carried out a County-wide electric vehicle consultation survey, together with an Interactive Chargepoint Map, providing an opportunity for current and future electric vehicle owners to share information about their charging habits and potential charging concerns, and place markers on a map in locations where they would like to see a chargepoint.
144. The results of the survey will allow the Council to better understand charging requirements and start to plan a network of chargepoints that works for Leicestershire communities.

#### Electric vehicle ownership rate per 10,000 population

145. At the end of 2022-23, the electric vehicle ownership rate was **154.1 per 10,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was a significant increase of about 60% compared to the figure of 96 for 2021-22. Leicestershire sits in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Local figures show that 32% of the electric vehicles owned in Leicestershire are in Harborough District (while containing 13.7% of the County's population) while only 5% are in Oadby and Wigston (while containing 8% of the County's population). These results are highlighting an uneven distribution of electric vehicle ownership across the County.

#### Renewable electricity generated in the area (MWh)

146. The latest available figures (2022) show that **355,263 MWh** of renewable electricity was generated in Leicestershire. This was more than the figure for 2021 of 326,437 MWh. Leicestershire sits in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities for 2022.

#### Renewable electricity capacity in the area (MW)

147. The latest available figures (2022) show that the renewable electricity capacity for Leicestershire was **340.2 MW**. This was a slight increase from 2021 when the figure was 333.4 MW. Leicestershire sits in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. The Council has limited influence over County-wide renewable energy capacity, which tends to change in response to Government incentive schemes and the wider energy market.

#### % Domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (new properties)

148. At the end of 2022-23, **97.7% of new properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was in line with the previous year's figure. Leicestershire sits in the **1<sup>st</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.

% Domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (existing properties)

149. At the end of 2022-23, **52.6% of existing properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was an increase on the figure for 2021-22 of 41.4%. Leicestershire sits in the **1<sup>st</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
150. The Council launched “Green Living Leicestershire” in partnership with the district councils, which supports vulnerable households and those in or at risk of fuel poverty to reduce their bills by installing cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps and other energy efficiency measures. The Council also worked with Solar Together to provide residents with the opportunity to reduce their energy costs by investing in solar panels. Between March 2021-22 and March 2022-23 there was a 27% increase in the energy efficiency of existing homes in Leicestershire (those with an Energy Performance Certificate C+ rating).

**b. Carbon Disclosure Project Reporting**

151. During 2022-23, the Council commenced work on submitting a report to CDP for the first time, with the submission being made in July 2023.
152. As the world’s leading environmental reporting platform, CDP enables the Council to publicly disclose Leicestershire’s climate change mitigation and adaptation risks, plans, actions, and impact. Leicestershire’s disclosure is evaluated by CDP to help identify gaps, benchmark its performance against peers and find areas of opportunity to help deliver its environmental commitments.
153. Through reporting to CDP, Leicestershire is helping to inform policy and decision making far beyond the County boundary, including within the United Nations, the IPCC, World Health Organisation, and the World Bank, helping to shape national and international climate policy and initiatives.
154. Leicestershire County Council’s progress towards climate mitigation and adaptation was scored as being at Management Level, scoring a B. This means the Council has been recognised for having an emissions inventory, implemented a mitigation plan and is taking action to reduce emissions, alongside having an awareness of the main local risks and impacts of climate change. The Council’s 2023 disclosure is available through the CDP Open Data Portal (<https://data.cdp.net/>).

**c. Net Zero 2045 progress**

i) Net Zero 2045 Action Plan

155. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan. These documents outline how the County Council intends to work with others to achieve the net zero target for

Leicestershire by 2045. The Net Zero Action Plan was developed to demonstrate how the Council can work with others to deliver this target over the next five years.

156. Tackling climate change for the County is too big a job for any one organisation, therefore, the County Council aims to encourage a team effort with its partners and stand as a community leader in the fight to reduce global warming.
157. Appendix E of this report provides a list of all actions within the plan and an update on each of these actions including the current delivery status of the action and whether it is on track or due to start at a later point within the 5-year plan. Many actions are only deliverable with others such as partner organisations. Such actions are labelled with 'Ask' or 'Influence' from a County Council perspective. Updates have been sought from partner organisations where possible to help update and refresh these actions as necessary.
158. Since the Action Plan was adopted in December 2022, there have been staff capacity issues within the Carbon Reduction team which has put a strain on the team's ability to drive forward actions within the plan. However, work has progressed well in some areas.
159. Several actions have been successfully progressed, including the Solar Together project (Action B34, Appendix E), which in 2022 saw 460 solar panels installations across the County, saving an estimated 7,385 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the next 25 years. The solar panels were purchased as part of a group buying initiative and cost 27% less than typical market prices. The project created a total contribution to renewable energy production of 1.6MW in Leicestershire through £4.3m of investment.
160. In addition, the Warm Homes scheme delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth funding to 250 households across the County. The scheme was also successful in a further funding bid to deliver £6m of Home Upgrade Grant funding to off-gas households through to March 2025. The impact of the promotion of national funding and the consistent delivery of multi-million-pound energy efficiency schemes locally has had a demonstrable impact on the number of homes now meeting an above average Energy Performance Certificate rating of band C or higher in the County, having accelerated over the period of delivery from a rolling average of 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023 (GOV.UK Live Tables 2023).
161. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a County-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding (through to March 2026) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low-income households. A comprehensive Warm Homes advice booklet has been created to circulate in community and health settings, which has been well received. It is updated annually and published on the energy grants webpages [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/home-energy-grants](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/home-energy-grants).

162. The Green Living Leicestershire group launched the Net Zero Parish and Town Toolkit in July 2023 to enable local parish and town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training (Action C16, Appendix E). The parish toolkit includes case studies of community action for others to learn from and replicate.
163. To support the delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan with partners, the County Council led a funding bid to the Innovate UK fund as part of the Pathfinder Places initiative. The County Council and partners were successful in early 2023 in phase 1 of this funding and received £64,000 for investigation into the barriers to progressing net zero activity in the County. This money was used to pay for expert consultants 'Energy Systems Catapult' to investigate these barriers and the key requirements for the County in collaborating to deliver net zero. Key findings included the need for an effective governance structure to drive activity forward and support delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
164. In September 2023, the Carbon Reduction team subsequently led partners through a second larger round of funding, which required significant staff resources to develop the bid. This funding bid was announced as successful on 30 November 2023 and will provide the Council and its partners with £2.56m of funding to support net zero activity across Leicestershire. The project will commence from 1 February 2024 and last for 21 months. It will deliver four distinct work packages which will be delivered across a consortium of partners including National Grid, Energy Systems Catapult, the Universities Partnership and local experts Green Fox Energy. These work packages will include:
- a) Development of a stakeholder governance model to support net zero delivery for the County;
  - b) Development and delivery of a County-wide decarbonisation pathway plan;
  - c) Establishment of new community energy projects and support for the delivery of community energy organisations within each district (Actions B23-B25, Appendix E);
  - d) Development and delivery of a net zero advisory service to support County businesses and organisations to act.

## ii) Engagement Plan

165. The 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan identifies development of an Engagement Plan as a key priority. The purpose of this plan is to create meaningful engagement with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in order to educate and inspire change to support Net Zero Leicestershire.
166. This would be achieved through the following objectives:
- a) Providing science-based climate change information and education.
  - b) Sharing the range of actions that individuals and organisations can take to support Net Zero Leicestershire.
  - c) Motivating others to act by promoting the co-benefits of climate action.

- d) Gaining a better understanding of climate action that is underway and any barriers to delivery or uptake.
  - e) Supporting others to shape just and inclusive climate policy.
167. The Carbon Reduction team have started work on shaping the engagement activity including setting up of an internal focus group to undertake a stakeholder mapping exercise as well as assessing possible engagement opportunities.
168. As part of the next steps, support would be sought from the Council's Engagement team to further shape the engagement plan. This will consider the stakeholder mapping work, and plan the engagement activities going forward, within the resources available. This plan will also need to consider and engage with the work of the Pathfinder Places project (as described in paragraph 163-16 of this report) and ensure any communication activity is complimentary and does not duplicate efforts.
169. Further work on the Net Zero Engagement Plan has been paused to allow the Pathfinder Places project to develop further and ensure comms activity complements and supports the work of the project. In addition, given the Council's difficult financial position and the proposal to reconsider net zero commitments, planned future engagement activity will need to be tailored to the resources available.

### iii) Funding Plan

170. A priority action in the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan is the production of a Funding Plan. The Funding Plan would inform the Council of different sources of funding and finance for the delivery of the Leicestershire 2045 Net Zero Action Plan. It would also explore a range of solutions and planning for how the Council can successfully secure and encourage ongoing funding and investment to deliver its net zero commitments.
171. The aim of the Funding Plan is 'To increase the deliverability of the Net Zero Action Plan by maximising funding and investment into the County for net zero delivery.'
172. The key objectives of the draft funding plan are as follows:
- a) Identify financial requirements for key priority areas needing investment, to help support the delivery of the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
  - b) To explore different funding and financing sources to help the delivery of 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan, using both tried and tested approaches which are being delivered successfully by the Council and other local authorities, as well as innovative approaches which could be developed and adopted.
  - c) To identify the required resources (including any necessary verification standards e.g., Woodland Carbon Code) and steps needed to attract or deliver different funding and financing mechanisms.

- d) Produce clear actions for how the Council and Net Zero Leicestershire stakeholders will deliver the Funding Plan within the 3-year period.
173. The Chief Executive's Department is leading on the development of the Funding Plan, where existing and potential approaches to funding are being researched and explored. The next stage will involve reviewing and appraising each approach, before developing an action plan for taking forward preferred options. Acknowledging the level of specialist staff resource available, progressing this work will require the commissioning of specialist consultancy support. Taking forward the next stages will need to be considered in the context of other priorities and any changes to the net zero commitments.

## Part 7: Greener County

174. Part 7 of the report includes details of performance across several environmental aspects for Leicestershire, namely:
- a) Nature
  - b) Resources
  - c) Air quality
  - d) Public perception
175. These are intended to provide a picture of the wider environmental situation across the County, in addition to that set out above in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

### a. Nature

#### % of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) in good ecological status

176. The latest available figures (2019) show that the **9.4%** of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) were **in good ecological status**. The figure for England was 14%; therefore, Leicestershire's rivers are in a poorer ecological status than the England average. This was an improvement for Leicestershire compared to the previously available figure from 2016 when just 0.67% of the County's rivers had good ecological status.

#### % of Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) in good chemical status

177. The latest available figures (2019) show that the **0%** of Leicestershire's rivers (excluding Leicester) were **in good chemical status**. This reflected the figure for England which also showed that no rivers in England had a good chemical status. This was a significant decline for Leicestershire compared to the previously available figure from 2016 when 99.6% of the County's rivers had good chemical status.
178. It should be noted that the main reason for this significant decline is that for the 2019 assessment there were new substances added to the assessment list and new standards were developed for substances in aquatic wildlife. This resulted

in a more sensitive and accurate assessment of the chemical status of England's rivers.

#### A Tree for Every Person – Number of trees planted

179. At the end of 2022-23, there were a total of **248,342 trees planted** (equivalent to 71 hectares) in Leicestershire, since July 2021, under the Tree for Every Person initiative, which aims to plant 700,000 trees by 2030. A total of **192,708 trees** (20 hectares) were recorded as planted during 2022-23. As of December 2023, there were 356,011 trees recorded as planted, the equivalent of 244 hectares.

#### **b. Resources**

##### HW1 – KG of household waste per household

180. During 2022-23, the amount of household waste per household in Leicestershire fell to **939.4kg**; a fall of 74.2kg compared to 2021-22.
181. It is believed that some of this drop can be attributed to the significant hot spell during 2022, which resulted in lower than usual green waste being collected. In addition, the continuing trend in less newspapers and magazines and packaging light weighting and use of substituted packaging is resulting in a reduction in household waste tonnage.

##### HW2 - % Household waste reused, recycled, and composted

182. The annual household waste recycling figure was **41.8%** for 2022-23. This is below the 50% recycling target which is in line with the Waste Framework Directive. Recycling performance reduced by 1.8% compared to the previous year.
183. Recycling performance was also affected by the fall in green waste, the continuing trend in less newspapers and magazines and packaging light weighting and the use of substituted packaging and possibly by the cost-of-living crises, which can result in changes to purchasing habits.
184. The Leicestershire Waste Partnership reviewed and adopted the **Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy** during 2022-23. The Strategy includes a range of initiatives to reduce waste sent to landfill and to promote waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. It includes a commitment to reduce waste to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the national target of 10% by 2035. The Strategy also includes a pledge to 'put in place collection systems to contribute towards the achievement of the national 65% recycling target by 2035'.
185. Recent Government announcements on three packaging reforms (a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Simpler Recycling) are being introduced with the intention to reduce waste and increase recycling within the UK.



### Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill

186. At the end of 2022-23, **23.7%** of Leicestershire's municipal waste was sent to landfill. This was less than in 2021-22 when the figure was 25.3%.  
Leicestershire sits in the **4<sup>th</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
187. The new energy from waste contract started in April 2023 and this will result in the amount of municipal waste being sent to landfill falling significantly further in 2023-24.

### Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population

188. The latest available figures are for 2021-22 and they show that there were **5.6 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population in Leicestershire**. This was down from the recent high of 8.6 in 2020-21. Leicestershire sits in the **1<sup>st</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Overall, the trend has been relatively static since 2017-18.

## **c. Air quality**

### PM2.5 Air pollution – fine particulate matter

189. The latest available figures (2022) show that the amount of PM2.5 was **7.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**. This was the same as the figure for 2021. Leicestershire sits in the **4<sup>th</sup> quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Overall, the trend is downwards since 2017 when the figure was 9.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, however, there has been a slight increase since a low of **7µg/m<sup>3</sup>** in 2020.

### NO<sub>2</sub> exceedances in Leicestershire

190. The latest available figures (2021) show that there were **no NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Dioxide) exceedances** in Leicestershire. This was a reduction from 2020 when there were two exceedances. Overall, the trend is downwards since 2017 when the figure was 11 exceedances.

## **d. Public perception**

### % of residents who feel protecting the environment is important

191. Taken from the Community Insight Survey, the figure for 2022-23 was **94%**. This was a slight drop from 2021-22 when the figure was 98.4%.

### % of residents who think the Council should do more to help protect the environment

192. Taken from the Community Insight Survey, the figure for 2022-23 was **67.3%**. This was a slight rise from 2021-22 when the figure was 60.3%.

## **Conclusions**

### **a. Leicestershire County Council**

193. The following key conclusions for Leicestershire County Council have been identified:

- i) While emissions have continued to reduce by almost 74% since the 2008-09 baseline, the County Council needs to continue to achieve an average reduction of 1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year to meet the 2030 net zero target. However, the reduction in emissions for 2022-23 fell 45% short of what is needed. This shows that the Council is not currently on track to meet its 2030 net zero target.
- ii) While generation of renewable energy on Council sites is not currently on target, there is an expectation that there will be an increase going forward, as the repaired and new solar panel arrays and the improvements to the biomass boiler take effect.
- iii) The new ways of working are overall helping to reduce the Council's environmental impact, though some of the environmental impacts will have been shunted to the homes of staff.
- iv) While some good activity is taking place on biodiversity such as tree planting and the wildlife verge scheme, the need to demonstrate how the Council is meeting the new strengthened biodiversity duty, will highlight if there is more to do going forward.

### **b. Leicestershire**

194. The following key conclusions for Leicestershire have been identified:

- i) The Council is currently not on track to achieve the net zero 2045 target, but action in this area is in the early stages and will need ongoing review. At the moment, this highlights the scale of the challenge more than lack of progress.
- ii) Particularly, there is a need to target action on reducing transport, domestic, industry and agriculture emissions, with a focus on actions to increase electric vehicle take up, encouraging more active travel, increasing renewable energy generation, and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- iii) Significant amount of work was needed to engage with partners on the delivery of projects within the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
- iv) There are concerns about the water quality of the County's rivers.

- v) There will be a significant amount of work needed to implement the collection and packaging reforms, that contribute to meeting the national 65% recycling target by 2035.

**c. Overall**

195. The following additional overall key conclusions have been identified:

- i) The insufficiency of action on climate adaptation is a concern.
- ii) The current workload and staff capacity issues are a concern.
- iii) The current financial position of the Council is a concern in terms of resourcing action on the environment.
- iv) There is a need to prioritise actions on the environment and the use of staff and financial resources. As part of doing this, there is also a need to decide how best to allocate resources between meeting the Council's own and the wider County net zero targets.
- v) The uncertainty regarding Government policy on the environment and implications of recent environmental legislation is a concern.
- vi) There is increasing public interest and scrutiny of local authority action on the environment.

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## Appendix A – Environmental Performance Summary Dashboard

Performance Summary												
Report for 2022-23 Year End												
KPI							Your Rating	Trend				
Carbon / Energy												
C2a	Elec consumption per M2 in LCC buildings						GREEN	improving				
C2b	Gas consumption per m2 in LCC buildings						RED	improving				
C17a	Renewable energy generated as a % of energy consumed						RED	worsening				
C18	Total business miles claimed						GREEN	worsening				
C20	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources)						AMBER	worsening				
C20a	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources by sector)						AMBER	worsening				
C21	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources) per capita						AMBER	worsening				
R1	Outstanding actions on climate change risk register						RED	no change				
Waste												
LW1	Total waste from LCC sites (tonnes)						GREEN	improving				
LW2	% recycled from LCC sites						RED	worsening				
HW1	Total household waste per household						no target	improving				
HW2	% household waste reused, recycled & composted						RED	worsening				
LW10	% recycled aggregates used in highways						No target	worsening				
Resources												
P1a	Total office paper purchased (A4 sheets)						GREEN	improving				
WA1	Potable water consumed per fte						GREEN	improving				
Staff engagement												
E1	Staff agreeing - council doing enough for environment						AMBER	worsening				
E2	Staff understanding how to contribute to green issues						AMBER	improving				
Quality and compliance												
M1	Environmental complaints upheld						no rating	improving				
M2	Environmental incidents						no rating	worsening				
M3	Environmental risks scoring >15						RED	no change				
M5	Environmental enforcement/prosecutions						GREEN	no change				

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# Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-23

Part of the Leicestershire County Council  
Carbon Reduction Programme

**Authors:**

Michael Suddens  
(Senior Carbon Reduction Officer)

**Reviewers:** Carbon Reduction  
Team

**Date:** November 2023



## Introduction

Leicestershire County Council ('the council') is committed to measuring and reporting its environmental performance in order to better understand its impacts and to monitor progress towards the targets in its [2018-2030 Environment Strategy](#).

The 2022-23 Greenhouse Gas Report forms part of the council's Carbon Reduction Programme and its commitment to become a net zero<sup>1</sup> council for its own operational emissions by 2030. This commitment was made in May 2019, alongside the council's declaration of a climate emergency<sup>2</sup> and later followed with a further commitment of working with Leicestershire people and organisations to become a net zero county by 2045 or before.

This report focusses on the council's own operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the 2022-23 reporting period and the council's 2030 net zero ambition, which includes emissions from the council buildings, fleet vehicles, streetlighting and traffic signals, business travel, water and waste. The full scope of emissions included in this report are provided in Appendix.1.

The council has followed the [Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines](#), published by BEIS and DEFRA (2019), alongside international best practice guidance from the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#).

In accordance with Government recommendations, this report is published on the council's website.

“ Leicestershire County Council 'declares a climate emergency' and 'recognises that there is an increasing urgency for action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change'. The Council 'will aim to achieve carbon neutrality from its own operations by 2030' and 'commits to work with business and other public bodies across the county and region to deliver this ambitious goal through all relevant technologies, strategies and plans'.

Leicestershire County Council, 15 May 2019



<sup>1</sup> **Net zero** refers to the point when greenhouse gas emissions being emitted into the atmosphere are balanced with their removal, meaning there is no overall addition to atmospheric levels.

<sup>2</sup> A **climate emergency** is a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.



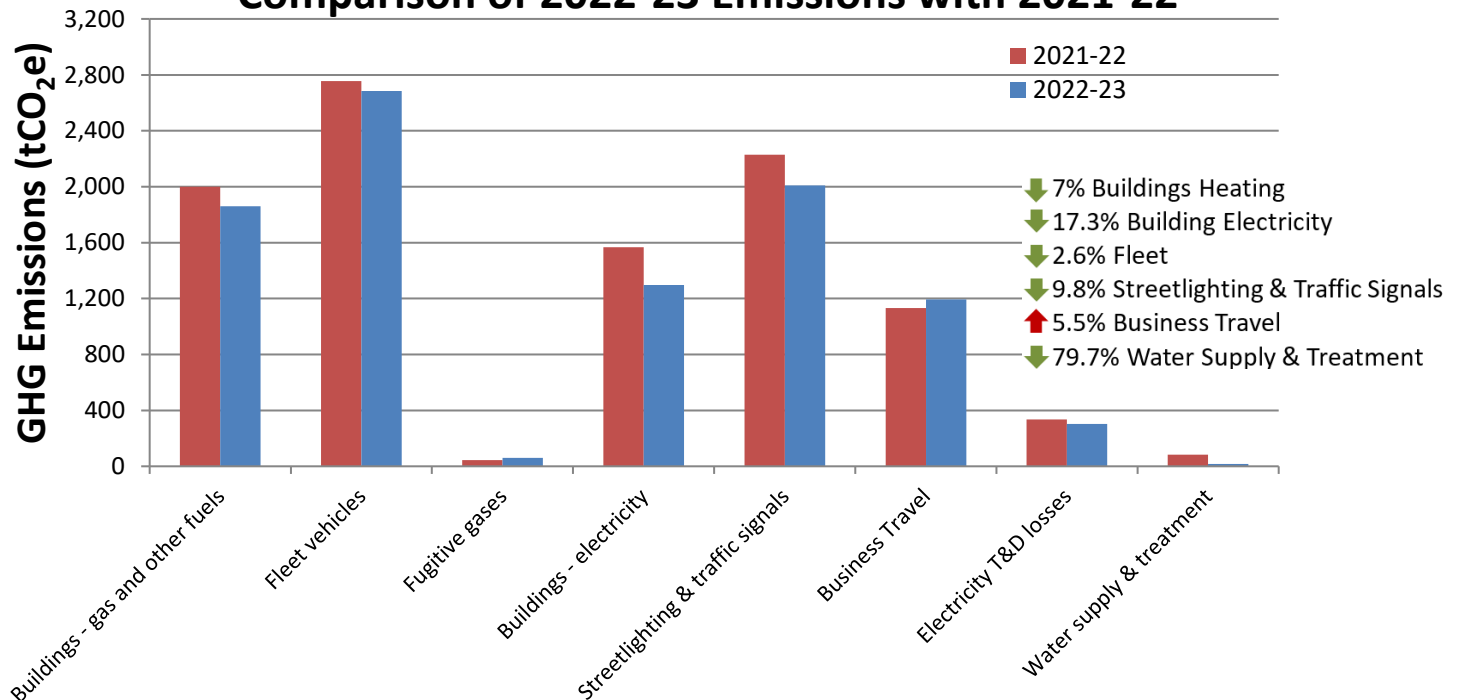
## Headline Figures

Total net 2022-23  
GHG Emissions  
**9,395 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

**73.7%** reduction since  
2008-09 baseline

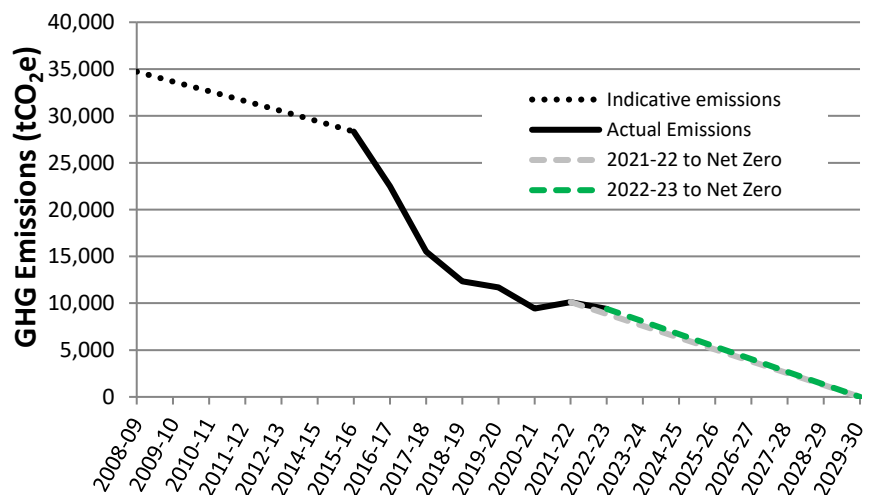
**7.2%** decrease compared  
to 2021-22

## Comparison of 2022-23 Emissions with 2021-22



- ✓ 732 tCO<sub>2</sub>e decrease since 2021-22
- ✓ Reductions in all significant emissions sources, except for business travel.
- ✓ 324 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction associated with the greening of the national grid
- ✓ 355 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoidance through the use of on-site renewable energy, equivalent of 3.8% of 2022-23 emissions
- ✓ 1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e average annual reduction required to meet net zero targets

## Progress Compared to 2030 Net Zero



## Organisation Information

Leicestershire County Council is the local government authority that provides council services within the Leicestershire area.

Registered address is:

County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicestershire  
LE3 8RA.

Leicestershire County Council does not operate outside the UK, all emissions are UK based.

## Reporting Period

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Organisational Boundary and Operational Scope

The organisational boundary for reporting the council's GHG emissions, for its own operations and activities, is operational control.

The operational scope includes the direct emissions from building heating and fleet (scope 1) and purchased electricity for buildings, streetlighting and traffic signals (scope 2), resulting from owned and leased assets and operations where the council is in operational control and is responsible for the purchase of energy or fuel. Some scope 3 emissions are also included: business mileage (grey fleet), transmission and distribution losses for electricity consumption, water supply and treatment, and waste.

The council has excluded GHG emissions from schools (all scopes) and contracted services such as waste disposal and business travel by public transport (scope 3), due to the cost of data collection and/or its availability. The council has also excluded the emissions resulting from activities undertaken by contractors, due to the limited requirements for contractors to annually monitor energy and fuel usage within existing contracts.

All greenhouse gas emissions are expressed as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

See Appendix 1 for more information about scopes and sources of emissions, alongside commentary describing the basis for inclusion or exclusion within the council's GHG footprint.

## Baseline Emissions Year and Targets

The adopted baseline year is 2008-09, which the council set in its 2011 Environment Strategy using a fixed base year approach.

Where there are relevant significant changes in the factors that informed the calculation of the base year emissions, such as the sale of council buildings, that result in a greater than 5% cumulative change in the total base year emissions, then the emissions for the base year and the year prior to the reporting year will be recalculated.

The Environment Strategy 2018-2030 includes a commitment to reduce carbon emissions from the council's own operations to net zero by 2030.

Joanna Guyll, Assistant Director for Environment and Waste Management, Environment and Transport Department, is responsible for the achievement of the target.

## Calculation Method

The council has followed the Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines, published by BEIS and DEFRA (2019), alongside international best practice guidance from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Following this guidance, activity data has been collected for energy, resource and fuel consumption in buildings and vehicles under the council's operational control. Wherever possible, this has been actual consumption based on bills, invoices, and receipts. Activity data by volume or mass, e.g., kWh of electricity or litres of fuel, have been prioritised for accuracy. Where this is not available, other methods have been employed, for example miles travelled have been used for some transport sources. Estimated activity data covers less than 5% of emissions from building energy consumption and is based on extrapolation from known previous activity data.

The appropriate emissions factors for each year are drawn from the DESNZ Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factor Repository.

Emissions factors published in 2022 have been used for the purpose of this report, as the majority of the period covered by this report fell within the 2022 calendar year.

The council has adopted 'full time equivalent employee' as the intensity factor across the organisation. From 2014-15 onwards, the intensity measure has only been applied to the council's emissions, excluding schools, as employee and energy data for schools are no longer held by the council.

Leicestershire County Council has not sought independent external assurance of the Greenhouse Gas Report.

## 2022-23 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

GHG emissions data for period 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)						
	Sector	2022-23	2021-22	% Change	Base Year 2008-09	% Change
Scope 1 – Direct Emissions e.g., boilers, owned transport, air conditioning gases	Buildings	1,860	2,000	-7.0%	4,317	-56.9%
	Fleet vehicles	2,685	2,756	-2.6%	4,358	-38.4%
	Fugitive gases	60	44	35.1%	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	4,605	4,800	-4.1%	8,675	-46.9%
Scope 2 – Energy Indirect e.g., purchased electricity	Buildings	1,297	1,567	-17.3%	6,562	-80.2%
	Streetlighting & traffic signals	2,009	2,228	-9.8%	15,581	-87.1%
	<b>Sub-total</b>	3,306	3,795	-12.9%	22,143	-85.1%
Scope 3 – Other Indirect e.g., business travel and water supply/treatment	Business travel	1,193	1,131	5.5%	3,237	-63.1%
	Electricity transmission & distribution losses	302	336	-10.0%	1,722	-82.4%
	Water supply & treatment	17	84	-79.7%	-	-
	Waste	5	6	-9.3%	-	-
	<b>Sub-total</b>	1,518	1,557	-2.5%	4,959	-69.4%
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>		9,428	10,152	-7.1%	35,778	-73.6%
Carbon offsets		0	0	-	0	-
Renewable energy exports		-33	-25	35.4%	0	-
<b>Total Location-based Net Emissions</b>		9,395	10,127	-7.2%	35,778	-73.7%
Full time equivalent (FTE) employees		4,864	4,860	0.1%	6,880	-29.3%
Intensity measure: tCO <sub>2</sub> e/FTE		1.93	2.08	-7.3%	5.2	-62.8%
Renewable electricity tariff		3,306	3,795	-12.9%	-	-
<b>Total Market-based Net Emissions</b>		6,123	6,357	-3.7%	35,778	-82.9%
Petrol and diesel (outside of scope)		0.16	0.15	11.5%	-	-
Woodchip (outside of scope)		694	711	-2.3%	-	-

Table 1: Council 2022-23 GHG emissions, with a comparison to 2021-22 and the baseline year

## 2022-23 GHG Emissions by Source

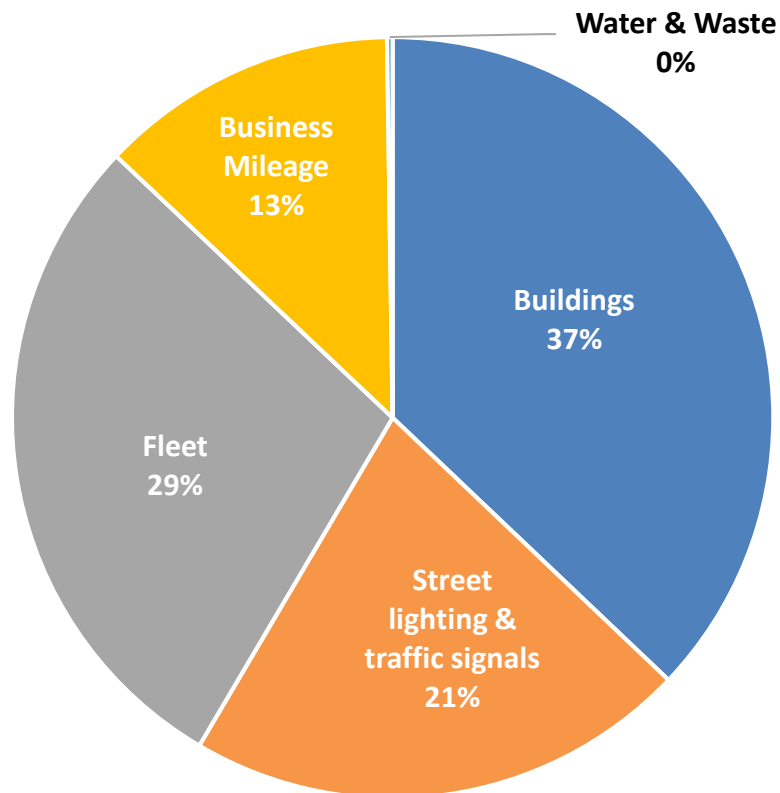


Figure 1: Council 2022-23 GHG emissions by source.

## 2022-23 GHG Emissions by Scope

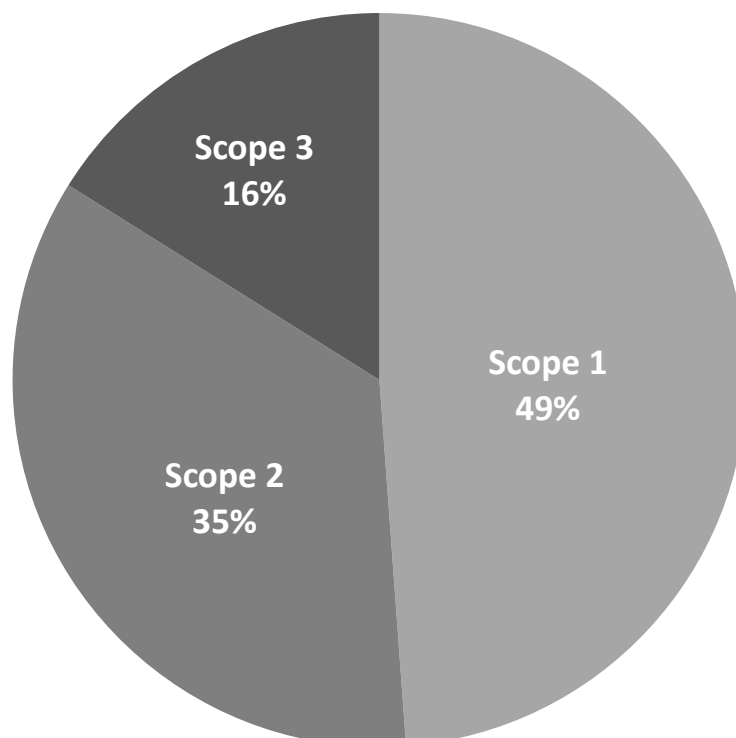
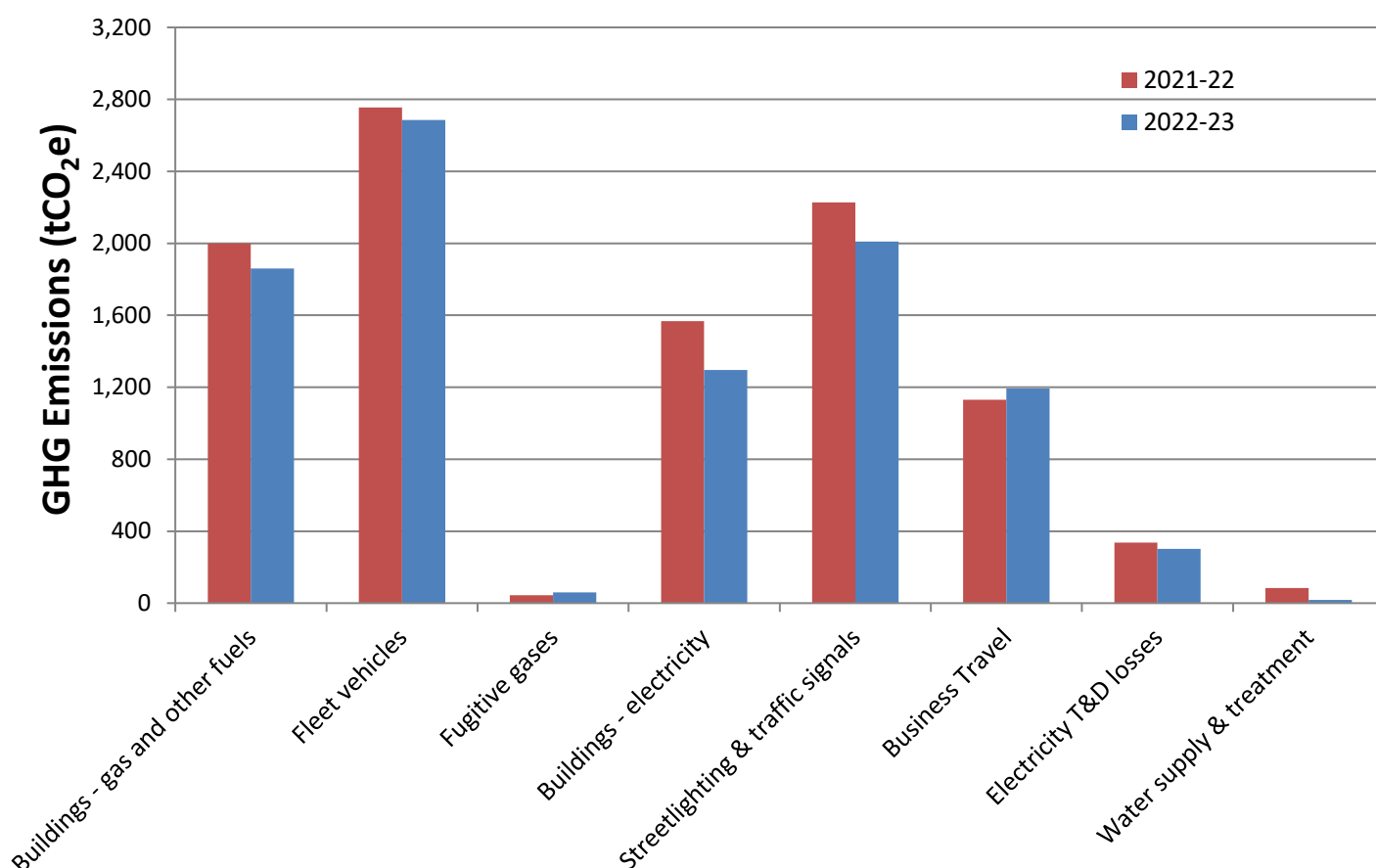


Figure 2: Council 2022-23 GHG emissions by scope.

## Comparison of 2022-23 GHG Emissions with 2021-22



*Figure 3: Council 2022-23 GHG emissions by source, compared to 2021-22.*

## Performance Against Baseline and 2021-22

Leicestershire County Council net greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 7.2% (732 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to the 2021-22 financial year to 9,395 tCO<sub>2</sub>e – equivalent of 1.93 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per full-time equivalent employee (0.15 tCO<sub>2</sub>e decrease compared to 2021-22). The reduction in council emissions is welcomed following the COVID-19 bounce back experienced in 2021-22, with emission reductions seen across all major sources, except business travel which continues to see bounce back in emissions. Overall, council emissions have now reduced by 73.7% since the 2008-09 baseline year. The below sections discuss the reasons behind these changes in more detail.

## Scope 1 Emissions

### ***Buildings (Heating and Fugitive Emissions)***

Emissions from gas and other fuels used in buildings decreased by 7% (140 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22 levels. The main cause of this was due 4 site closures leading to a 103 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction in emissions. Gas emissions decreased despite the County Hall biomass boiler being offline between January 2023 and February 2023 due to the replacement of a boiler component.

Of the other heating sources, LPG emissions rose 54% (7.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), meanwhile, gas oil and kerosine emissions increased compared to 2021-22 by a combined 6.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The rise in LPG can be linked to a return to pre-Coronavirus levels. The rise in gas, oil and kerosine is from its use at two locations for heating and power, previously not included in the council's carbon footprint.

Fugitive emissions increased by 35% (16 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22. These emissions are calculated from information the council maintains on refrigeration and air conditioning equipment to ensure compliance with F-gas regulations. The data experiences large annual variations due to the varying nature of leaks in systems and subsequent maintenance to top up F-gases.

### ***Fleet Vehicles***

Council fleet emissions reduced by 2.6% (71 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22, which can all be attributed to a significant reduction in gas oil emissions (74%, 226 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), offset by a 6% increase in diesel emissions. A trial of hydrotreated vegetable oil, helped to reduce the rise in diesel emissions by 54 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Emissions reductions have been noticed within Highways Operations (9%) and Sustainable Travel (2%). Meanwhile, emissions increased at Recycling and Household Waste Sites (17%) and Operational Property (1%). The rise in diesel emissions can be attributed to the change in government restrictions on the use of gas oil (red diesel), meaning there was a shift to diesel usage.

Diesel fuel use remains the greatest source of council fleet emissions (97%), followed by gas oil use (3%) and petrol, propane and distance claims making up <0.4% of emissions

## Scope 2 Emissions

### ***Building Electricity***

Emissions from electricity consumption in council operated buildings fell by 17.3% (270 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22. Most of this reduction can be attributed to the national impact of greening the electricity grid – the carbon conversion factor for UK electricity fell by 8.9% compared to 2021-22. Additionally, there was a 7.2% (93 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) decrease in electricity used in council buildings. The reduction in electricity use can be attributed to a combination of lower building occupancy, reduction in non-seasonal ventilation, energy efficiency measures and increased solar PV output.

### ***Streetlighting and Traffic Signals***

Greenhouse gas emissions from council street lighting and traffic signals continue to improve in performance, as emissions fell by a further 9.8% (219 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22. This is

mostly due to decarbonisation of the national grid (91%), followed by a 100,000 kWh reduction in electricity usage, saving an additional 19 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The reduction in electricity use can be associated with energy saving measures completed at the end of 2021-22 to trim the operational hours and dim appropriate streetlighting assets, which were fully realised during 2022-23.

## Scope 3 Emissions

### ***Business Travel***

Council business travel emissions increased by 5.5% (62 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) due to 355,000 more business miles being claimed by staff in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. This increase can be attributed to the continued return of council services and operations post-Coronavirus, including the need to travel for business purposes. Business mileage emissions remain significantly lower than pre-Coronavirus (25%, 392 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), with many council staff utilising smarter and more flexible working practises, such as online and hybrid meetings. Note business mileage claims do not include commuting to and from work and only includes mileage claimed by staff in carrying out council business.

### ***Electricity Transmission and Distribution Losses***

Electricity transmission and distribution loss emissions reduced by 10% (34 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22 and can be explained by an 6% lower carbon conversion factor, alongside a reduction in building and streetlighting electricity use as discussed above.

### ***Water Supply and Treatment***

Water emissions reduced by 79.7% (67 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2021-22 and can be attributed mainly to a change in supplier and use of estimated meter readings in 2021-22, which exaggerated water use compared to the longer-term average. Roughly a third of this decrease in emissions is from water supply and the other two thirds from the treatment of wastewater used by the Council.

### ***Waste***

Council emissions from office waste decreased by 9.3% (1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) since 2021-22 as a result of a cumulative reduction in different waste streams across council operations.



## Performance Against 2030 Net Zero Target

Leicestershire County Council's net GHG emissions in 2022-23 are 73.7% lower than the 2008-09 baseline. Figure 4 below demonstrates that despite the rise in emissions during 2021-22, council emissions are now at the lowest ever levels. The previous 5-year period has seen an average emissions reduction of 9% per year. It should be noted that emissions reductions have started to slow down over the last 3 years, which is expected as the council's emissions become nearer to net zero and opportunities for emissions reductions become less frequent and smaller in magnitude. The council now requires an average of 1,342 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year reduction in future years to achieve net zero in 2030 (77 tCO<sub>2</sub>e higher than in 2021-22). The 2022-23 emissions reduction rate falls short by 45% compared to the required annual average reduction needed to meet net zero by 2030.

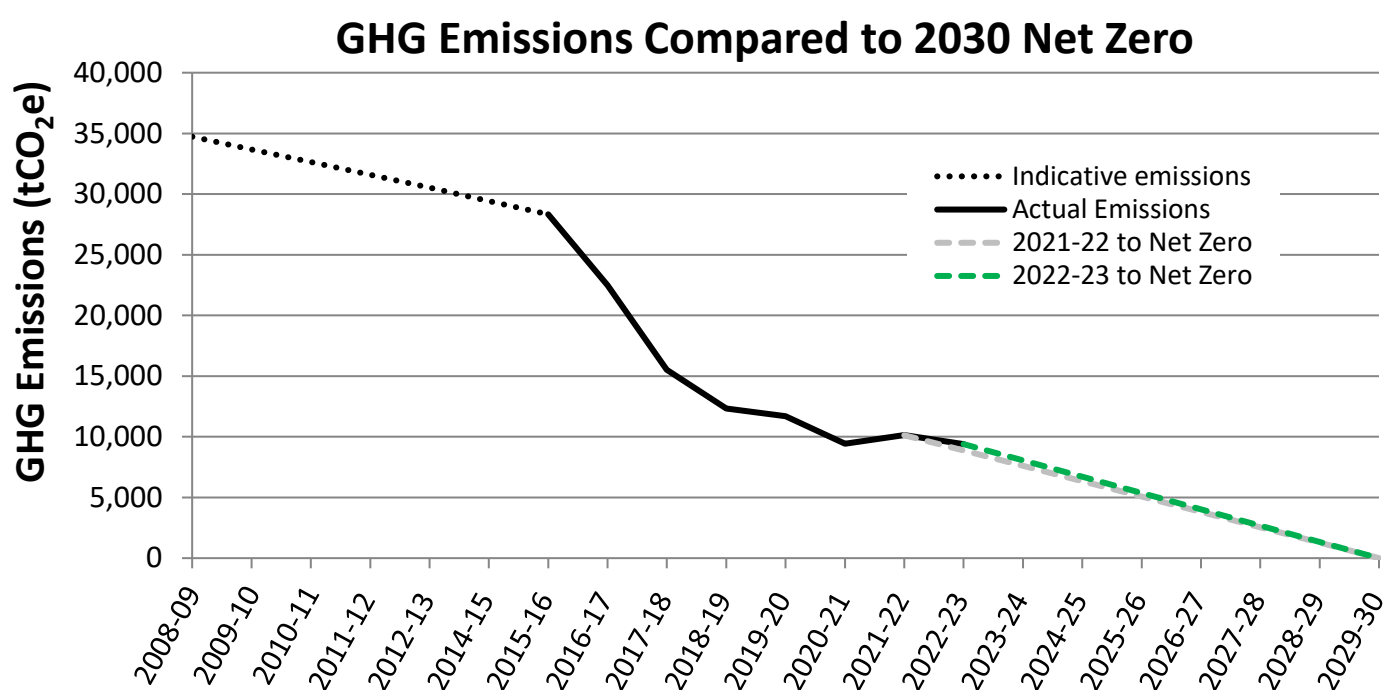


Figure 4: Council net GHG emissions compared to 2030 Net Zero

## Positive Actions

### Renewable Energy and Emissions Avoidance

The council has invested in solar photo-voltaic (PV) panels on many of its buildings. It is estimated that 25% of the electricity generated is not used directly in these buildings and is instead exported to the national grid for use by others outside of the council. This effectively replaces the need for electricity to be generated from a fossil fuelled power station and can be used to 'net' off the council's 'gross' emissions. County Hall generation has been excluded from the calculation as the high energy consumption in this building is likely to mean that all generated electricity is used on site.

In 2022-23, the Council is estimated to have exported 171,668 kWh of electricity to the grid, accounting for 33 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (0.4% of the council's gross emissions). Compared to 2021-22, exported solar PV netted off 35% (8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) more GHG emissions. This can be attributed to the largest amount of solar power ever generated across the council's estate, despite the reduction in carbon intensity of the grid (discussed above).

Leicestershire County Council also uses biomass to provide heat to most buildings on the County Hall campus. When combined with local solar PV generation on the council's corporate buildings, 10.9% of energy used by the council is from on-site renewables and avoided 355 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of greenhouse gas emissions in 2022-23 (equivalent to 3.8% of net emission), compared to if gas and grid electricity were consumed. In 2022-23, council biomass use was at its lowest level in the last 6-year period, as a result of the boiler being offline between January 2023 and February 2023 due to the replacement of a boiler component.

The council continues to source biomass from a local supplier, Milner's Forestry, based in Markfield, which provides benefits of cost savings, carbon reduction, and biodiversity improvement, as well as local economy and woodland management benefits. 90% of the material used is sourced within The National Forest under management plans and felling licences. The remaining 10% of material is sourced from local arboriculture waste. The distance travelled to transport biomass to County Hall is reduced through this contract, whilst supporting local sustainable forestry management and reinforcing green jobs across the county.

### ***Market-Based Emissions and Green Tariff***

The council changed its electricity contract to a green tariff in October 2019, meaning all grid electricity used now comes from renewable energy sources. In line with DEFRA/BEIS guidance and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the council's headline emissions figures focus attention on location-based emissions, where this renewable generation is taken into account when calculating the national average grid electricity carbon emissions factor for the year.

In recognition of the council's positive step in having a green energy tariff and supporting national decarbonisation of the electricity grid by increasing demand for low-carbon energy, the GHG report also considers the council's emissions following a market-based approach to reporting emissions. A market-based approach enables the council to directly reflect the emissions associated with the electricity it purchases for its operations. Following this approach, the council's 2022-23 electricity emissions (3,306 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) are considered zero emission due to the electricity being produced by renewable sources. Total market-based emissions for the council in 2022-23 were 6,123 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (82.9% reduction compared to 2008-09 baseline).

## Appendix 1 - Operational Scopes

The council has measured scope 1, 2 and a subset of scope 3 emissions within the GHG Report, where accurate and annual data is available. The different scopes of emissions are described below:




- **Scope 1** (direct emissions) Activities owned or controlled by the council that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples include emissions from owned or controlled boilers and vehicles.
- **Scope 2** (energy indirect) Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of the council's activities, but which occur at sources not owned or controlled.
- **Scope 3** (other indirect) Emissions are a consequence of the council's actions, which occur at sources which are not owned or controlled. Examples of scope 3 emissions include business travel (e.g. use of staff vehicles or public transport), employee commuting, and purchased goods and services.











	Notes on inclusions and exclusions
<b>Scope 1</b>	
Council combustion e.g. gas, solid and liquid fuels in boiler plant	All fuel used in council owned and leased buildings where we are responsible for the bills (excludes schools). Less than 5% of total fuel use excluded where information was unavailable.
Owned and leased transport	Fuel consumption has been excluded if the council does not pay for fuel
Fugitive emissions	Data is gathered from information the council maintains on refrigeration and air conditioning equipment to ensure compliance with F-gas regulations. The data experiences large annual variations due to the varying nature of leaks and maintenance between years.
<b>Scope 2</b>	
Purchased electricity	All electricity used in all council owned and leased buildings where we have operational control and are responsible for the bills (excludes schools).
<b>Scope 3</b>	The council is working to improve its data availability and quality for scope 3 emissions reporting and has included wider actions to influence these emissions within its 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan.
Fuel well to tank emissions	Well to Tank emissions from energy, gas, liquid and solid fuels consumption have been excluded e.g. diesel, LPG, coal, electricity and natural gas.

Business travel	Business travel by public transport has been excluded, based on previous years this represents approximately 1% of scope 3.
Employee commuting	Excluded due to lack of good quality information and availability of data. The council does not routinely monitor commuting, so information was not available.
Water supply and treatment	Included since the 2020-21 GHG Report
Waste generated in operations	Waste generated in council offices has been included since the 2020-21 GHG Report. Other sources of waste generated in council operations (e.g., highways construction) have been excluded due to data availability.
Purchased goods and services / Capital goods	Excluded due to lack of good quality information and availability of data.
Downstream leased assets	Some included within the council's scope 1 and 2 data. Separation of third-party emissions where another organisation leases areas within some council assets is not possible due to lack of good quality information and availability of data.
Investments	Excluded due to lack of good quality information and availability of data.
<b>Out of scope</b>	
Biomass fuel - woodchip	As a renewable fuel source, the carbon emitted from burning biomass is not included in the calculation as this will be reabsorbed by growing fuel trees as part of the natural carbon cycle.
Vehicle fuels – petrol and diesel	Standard vehicle fuels include a small percentage of biofuels. The carbon emissions from this element is 'out of scope' as it will be reabsorbed by new biomass crops.

## Appendix C: List of new and updated environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance 2022-23

(Source: Barbour Consolidated)

Key					
	Updated		New		Not in force

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
		Environmental Outcomes Reports: a new approach to environmental assessment	20 March 2023	Environment / Legal
	SI 2023/159	Countryside Stewardship (England) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2023/159	16 March 2023	Property
		Draft Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023	15 March 2023	Waste
		UK GOV - Bans on F gas in new products and equipment: current and future	10 March 2023	Property / Environment
		UK GOV - Calculate the carbon dioxide equivalent quantity of an F gas	10 March 2023	Environment
		Amendments to the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) regulation	03 March 2023	Waste
	SI 2021/839	Occupational Pension Schemes (Climate Change Governance and Reporting) Regulations SI 2021/839	01 March 2023	Pensions
		Climate Change Act 2008	01 March 2023	Environment
	SI 2023/96	Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations SI 2023/96	16 February 2023	Public Health
	SI 2023/93	Environmental Targets (Water) (England) Regulations SI 2023/93	16 February 2023	Environment

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●	SI 2023/90	Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside Woodland) (England) Regulations SI 2023/90	16 February 2023	Forestry / Environment
●	SI 2023/92	Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations SI 2023/92	16 February 2023	Waste
▲		S2 waste exemption: storing waste in a secure place	15 February 2023	Waste / Highways
▲		S1 waste exemption: store waste in secure containers	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		T4 waste exemption: preparatory treatments, such as, baling, sorting, shredding	15 February 2023	Waste / Property
▲		UK GOV - Manage waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing food waste: RPS 269	15 February 2023	Property / Waste
▲		UK GOV - Risk assessments for your environmental permit	15 February 2023	Property / Environment
▲		Accepting, classifying and disposing of household packaging waste: RPS 234	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Temporary storage of waste sandbags after a flood	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Storing and treating asphalt waste	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Legal operator and competence	15 February 2023	Various

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
		requirements: environmental permits		
▲		Recycling waste spectacles	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing waste aerosol containers	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Storing fly-tipped waste and waste from trash screens and litter bins	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		Disposing of trees and plants affected by disease or pests: RPS 71	15 February 2023	Forestry / Property
▲		Storing waste bitumen at depots for recovery elsewhere	15 February 2023	Highways
▲		Storing dead animals collected from highways and public areas	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Storing waste plasterboard	15 February 2023	Waste
▲		How to stop invasive non-native plants from spreading	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Fire prevention plans: environmental permits	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Collect and treat waste from different sites within the same premises: RPS 224	15 February 2023	Property
▲		Replacing the use of 'not otherwise specified' waste codes	15 February 2023	Waste
■		A guide to Display Energy Certificates and advisory reports for public buildings	09 February 2023	Property

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●		Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	31 January 2023	Environment
▲	SI 2001/1701	Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for use Outdoors Regulations SI 2001/1701	20 January 2023	Highways
▲		UK GOV - Packaging waste: producer responsibilities	01 January 2023	Waste
▲	SI 2007/871	Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations SI 2007/871	01 January 2023	Waste
▲		Tree felling licence: when you need to apply	01 January 2023	Forestry
●	SI 2022/1336	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order SI 2022/1336	21 December 2022	Property
●		UK GOV - Manage waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	20 December 2022	Waste
●		UK GOV - Reusing upholstered domestic seating containing POPs	20 December 2022	Waste
●		UK GOV - Identify and classify waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	20 December 2022	Waste
▲		Shredding waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs: RPS 264	20 December 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/1293	Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations SI 2022/1293	20 December 2022	Waste



	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
▲	SI 2020/1358	Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations SI 2020/1358	20 December 2022	Waste
●		Temporary storage of waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs: RPS 265	19 December 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/1292	Air Quality (Designation of Relevant Public Authorities) (England) Regulations SI 2022/1292	19 December 2022	Public Health
▲	Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill		19 December 2022	Environment
▲	Forestry Act 1967		16 December 2022	Forestry
●	SI 2022/1266	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations SI 2022/1266	16 December 2022	Various
▲		Invasive non-native (alien) animal species: rules in England and Wales	12 December 2022	Property
●	SI 2022/1222	Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2022/1222	06 December 2022	Waste
●	Carbon Emissions (Buildings) Bill		25 November 2022	Property / Environment
●	Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill		22 November 2022	Public Health
●	Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2022		16 November 2022	Environment

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●	Draft Climate Change (Targeted Greenhouse Gases) Order 2022		16 November 2022	Environment
●	SI 2022/733	Occupational Pension Schemes (Climate Change Governance and Reporting) (Amendment, Modification and Transitional Provision) Regulations SI 2022/733	19 October 2022	Pensions
▲		A guide to display energy certificates and advisory reports for public buildings	17 October 2022	Property
●	SI 2017/1012	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations SI 2017/1012	13 October 2022	Property / Environment
●	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981		13 October 2022	Property / Environment
●	SI 2022/988	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations SI 2022/988	07 October 2022	Various
■	Review of Net Zero: call for evidence		03 October 2022	Environment
●		Invasive non-native (alien) plant species: rules in England and Wales	26 September 2022	Property
■	Landfill tax grant scheme: call for evidence		21 July 2022	Waste
●		Landfill and deposit for recovery: aftercare and permit surrender	18 July 2022	Planning
■	Consultation on Extending the UK REACH Submission Deadlines		07 July 2022	Environment / Health & Safety
●		UK REACH: rationale for priorities in 2022 to 2023	30 June 2022	Environment / Health & Safety

	Number	Title	Date	Service Area
●		UK REACH Candidate List	10 June 2022	Environment / Health & Safety
●	SI 2022/518	Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations SI 2022/518	25 May 2022	Various
●		Taking stock: protecting, restoring and improving the environment in England - report	12 May 2022	Environment
■	Environment Act 2021: environmental targets		09 May 2022	Various
●		Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice (accessible version)	09 May 2022	Waste
●		Waste operations and installations: assessing and scoring environmental permit compliance	29 April 2022	Waste
●		The Environment Agency (Environmental Permitting and Abstraction Licensing) (England) Charging Scheme 2022	14 April 2022	Various
■	Household waste recycling centres: DIY waste disposal charges and booking systems		11 April 2022	Waste
●	SI 2022/413	Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2022/413	07 April 2022	Property
●		19 August 2020: Environment Bill - environmental targets	01 April 2022	Various

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## Carbon Reduction Projects

**Key:**
**Project Stage**

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
- Completed (work has been finished)

**RAG rating**

- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
- Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible

Action ID	Project Description	Estimated Completion	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
<b>Workstream: Estates</b>					
COM1.1	Beaumanor Hall PSDS: Installation of heat pumps	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.2	County Hall PSDS: LED Lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation, district heat connections and thermal store	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.3	Embankment House PSDS: LED lighting upgrade, solar PV installation, BMS optimisation	Mar-22	Completed		Successfully installed and now generating carbon savings.
COM1.4	Phase 1 Wind and Solar Feasibility Study to investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on council land	May-23	Completed		Phase 1 assessed and shortlisted potential sites for renewable energy, phase 2 now underway (see DEL1.4).
COM1.5	Energy efficiency surveys carried out across 61 council buildings to inform the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan	Oct-23	Completed		Energy surveys will now inform condition and energy reports for each building, which will identify energy efficiency, heating & lighting improvements, these will further inform a prioritised decarbonisation plan for the whole council estate (see DEL1.3).
<b>Workstream: Fleet</b>					
DEL1.1	HVO Fuel Transition: Switch from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as approved by DMT (Jan 23) to growth awarded (£100k) and maximise carbon benefits on difficult to transition to electric vehicles, in Waste and Highways.	Mar-24	Delivery		Currently under procurement and expected to be in place by end of 2023-24 financial year. Estimated completion date revised from March 2023 to March 2024 due to procurement challenges.
DEL1.2	Production of a EV Fleet Transition Plan, to include EV infrastructure and vehicle replacement for all small and light fleet vehicles.	Jan-24	Delivery		Delivery timescale extended to allow for a robust review of the like for like EV replacement vehicles, needed to inform the infrastructure assessment.
<b>Workstream: Estates</b>					
DEL1.3	Production of a Buildings Decarbonisation Plan, covering 61 gas heated operational controlled properties energy efficiency, heating and lighting improvements	Mar-24	Delivery		Individual building surveys will inform the estate wide decarbonisation plan, drafts in January and finalised in March 2024.
DEL1.4	Phase 2 wind & Solar Feasibility - Investigate future wind and solar farm development potential on 3 council sites	Mar-24	Delivery		Phase 2 underway with more indepth assessments and site visits, expected to be complete by the end of 2023-24.

DEL1.5	Quorn Solar Farm: Build and use solar energy from the farm for council operations	Nov-25	Delivery		Procurement for a energy performance contractor currently underway, with estimated approval to Cabinet in summer 2024. Estimated completion date revised due to complexities in the procurement process.
<b>Workstream: Streetlighting and Traffic Signals</b>					
DEL1.6	Carryout the 18 month dimming streetlights to 30% intensity trial	Jun-25	Delivery		In December Cabinet approved the proposal to trial dimming streetlights to 30% intensity from 20:00 hours for an 18 month period, starting in January 2024.
<b>Workstream: Business Mileage</b>					
DES4.2	Production of a Business Mileage Decarbonisation Plan: to include identification of appropriate solutions and implementation of a travel hierarchy.	TBC	Design		Preliminary data analysis conducted to better understand high mileage teams and individuals. Next step will be discussions with teams identified to better understand their need for business mileage and explore potential solutions. Progress has been delayed due to staff capacity and resource, planned to be progressed from April 2024.

Carbon Projects (Discovery)

Key:

**Project Stage**

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
- Competed (work has been finished)

Carbon Saving: L = <1%, M = 1-3%, H = >3% of the council’s greenhouse gas emissions  
Cost: L = <£100k, M= £100k-£250k, H = £250k+  
Financial Saving/Income: L = <£50k pa, M = £50k-£200k pa, H = £200k+ pa

Action ID	Project Description	Carbon Saving Potential	Cost	Financial Saving/Income	Priority	December 2023 Update
Workstream: Estates						
DIS1.2	Deliver the Decarbonisation of Buildings Plan (DBP) to: decarbonise heating in council operated buildings (e.g. heat pumps)	H	H	L	H	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.3	Deliver the DBP to: Improve the energy efficiency of all council operated buildings (e.g. wall insulation)	H	H	M	H	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.5	Upgrade external lighting to LED in council car parks and on the outside of buildings	L	M	L	L	Potential pipeline project.
DIS1.6	Deliver the DBP to: Upgrade and improve efficiency of air conditioning in council operated buildings	L	M	L	L	Awaiting the development of the DBP, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS1.7	Investigate opportunities to maximise rooftop solar power generation	L	M	H	H	Ongoing process.
Workstream: Fleet						
DIS2.1	Deliver the Fleet EV Transition Plan: transition all appropriate small and light vehicles to electric.	H	H	H	H	Awaiting the development of the EV Fleet Transition Plan, expected commencement 2024-25.
DIS2.2	Investigate centralised fuel management and subsequent benefits for implementing other projects	L	M	M	M	Potential pipeline project.
DIS2.3	Alternative fuel switch for heavy commercial vehicles	M	H	L	M	Potential pipeline project.
Workstream: Business Travel						
DIS4.1	Implement a travel hierarchy to decarbonise business mileage, to include smarter working, active travel, EV pool cars, car share, EV lease car	H	M	H	H	Awaiting the development of the Decarbonisation of Business Mileage Plan.
Workstream: Carbon Removal						
DIS5.1	Prepare opportunities for local carbon sequestration on the council’s estate, insetting within the council’s value chain and other carbon removal practices and techniques.	M	H	L	L	Potential pipeline project to help address residual carbon emissions.

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Enabling Actions

**Key:**  
**Project Stage**  
- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)  
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)  
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)

**RAG rating**  
- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)  
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed  
- Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible.

Action ID	Project Description	Timescale	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Workstream: Finance					
F1.1	Track and monitor the financial cost and savings of the Carbon Reduction Programme	Ongoing	Delivery		Carried out within Discover, Design and Deliver project monitoring, alongside key plans under development for electric vehicle transition and buildings decarbonisation.
F1.2	Investigate innovative and alternative funding sources to drive forward carbon reduction projects	2022-23	Design		In progress, forms part of the Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan, the aim of which is to inform the council of different funding opportunities and resource requirements for the delivery of Net Zero Leicestershire.
F1.3	Where possible, continue to generate financial income and savings through delivering carbon reduction	Ongoing	Delivery		Recently completed projects including streelighting dimming and trimming, and public sector decabronisation led to significant financial savings. Though it should be noted key future projects required to meet net zero (e.g. heating decarbonisation) could increase running costs due to switches in the type of energy used.
F1.4	Financially support council carbon reduction projects through the £2 million recycling fund and monitor its impact	Ongoing	Delivery		The Carbon Fund was launched internally in Autumn 2023. Action description and timescale updated to reflect ongoing delivery.
F1.5	Trial assigning a financial value to carbon, to help inform decisions and business cases	2022-23	Completed		Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon fund. Action will be archived.
F1.6	Explore the approaches recommended by the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures on governance, strategy, risk management and targets.	2024-25	Discovery		Potential pipeline project, expected to begin to be explored within the Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan.
Workstream: Management & Governance					
MG1.1	Review and develop a new governance structure for monitoring progress with implementation of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan	Sep-22	Completed		Highlight reports for delivery groups taken to Carbon Reduction Programme Steering Group every 2 months, Senior Responsible Officer is the Head of Environment and Waste Commissioning. Action to be archived.
Workstream: Decision Making and Procurement					
DM1.1	Integrate the carbon impact of projects into Transformation Unit business case templates	2022-23	Completed		Completed through embedding carbon pricing within the business case template and process for applying to the £2 million carbon reduction fund. Action to be archived.
DM1.2	Pilot working with key suppliers to reduce emissions of high emissions contracts and meet environmental goals	2024-25	Discovery		Timescale updated to reflect planned strengthening of the environment within the council's Procurement Strategy
DM1.3	Investigate common suppliers with partners and potential actions to reduce carbon	2024-25	Discovery		Timescale updated to reflect planned strengthening of the environment within the council's Procurement Strategy, alongside existing work to develop a governance framework for Net Zero Leicestershire.
DM1.4	Strengthen environmental needs within the Procurmeent Strategy, to integrate council sustainability specifications and requirements into supplier contracts and the procurement process	2024-25	Discovery		Expected update to the Procurement Strategy expected in 2024-25, and can be informed by DM1.2 and DM1.7.
DM1.5	Investigate incorporating net zero requirements into project approval and spend control forms	TBC	Discovery		Current spend controls are in place to support the council's financial position additional spend controls to support carbon reduction are on hold.

DM1.6	Investigate incorporating carbon impacts of key decisions into Democratic Services report templates and guidance	2024-25	Discovery		Environmental implications must be included if reports relate to a project classified as a major project, i.e. it is over the value of £250,000 or is corporately significant. An Environmental Implications Tool is provided for reports to use.
DM1.7	Design and collate responses to a supplier questionnaire on the environment, to gather insight into supplier commitments, actions and progress in supporting net zero ambitions.	2023-24	Delivery		Survey is currently in design and expected to be sent out and responses analysed by April 2024.
<b>Workstream: Learning &amp; Development</b>					
LD1.1	Facilitate a net zero community of practice with regular opportunities to explore best practice in carbon management for key staff	Ongoing	Delivery		Embedded within delivery groups of the Carbon Reduction Programme and production of highlight reports for Carbon Reduction Steering Group.
LD1.2	Incorporate net zero into mandatory Environmental Awareness e-learning	2024-25	Discovery		Delayed due to staff capacity to 2024-25.
LD1.3	Incorporate net zero into the new Environment Management System e-learning training course for key staff	2024-25	Discovery		Delayed due to staff capacity to 2024-25.
LD1.4	Investigate creating a dedicated net zero e-learning, detailing more in-depth information on climate change, council/county emissions & actions and staff actions	2024-25	Discovery		Action to be picked up by the proposed Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy. Currently paused due to staff capacity. Priority given to CE1.3 and LD1.2.
LD1.5	Investigate specific and professional carbon reduction training and development needs and opportunities e.g. Carbon Literacy Training	2023-24	Design		Investigations underway for IEMA Corporate Partnership and Carbon Literacy Training. Action proposed to be undertaken by the Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress of this group has been paused due to staff capacity. Change to timescale to reflect forward plan of activity.
LD1.6	Develop a business case for net zero corporate learning and development support	<del>2023-24</del> 2024-25	Design		Investigations underway for IEMA Corporate Partnership and Carbon Literacy Training. Action proposed to be undertaken by an Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress has been paused due to staff capacity. Change to timescale to reflect forward plan of activity.
<b>Workstream: Communications &amp; Engagement</b>					
CE1.1	Ensure net zero has a regular presence on the council's Yammer pages	Ongoing	Completed		Successfully communicated information regarding the launch of Net Zero Leicestershire, Go Green in 2023 Campaign, Greener Together launch, Couch to Carbon Zero, COP27, Great Big Green Week. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7).
CE1.2	Provide regular representation of Net Zero Leicestershire in the Environment Bulletin	Ongoing	Completed		Net zero related articles included within quarterly Environment Bulletin. Average number of staff views per article is 580. Action to be archived & captured as ongoing under Greener Together (CE1.7)
CE1.3	Create a net zero information hub and resources for staff on the Intranet	<del>2023-24</del> 2024-25	Design		Action incorporated within forward plan of Greener Together and pages are currently being designed. Timescale delayed to reflect forward plan.
CE1.4	Develop a net zero information hub on the council's website	2022-23	Completed		Completed in 2022, kept up to date and available here: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero</a> . Action to be archived.
CE1.5	Create a net zero carbon email address and promote it as the main contact for matters relating to Net Zero Leicestershire	2022-23	Completed		Completed, email address is netzero@leics.gov.uk. Action to be archived.
CE1.6	Embed key net zero guidance, principles and training opportunities across the council, through the Organisational Development Working Group for the Environment Strategy	2024-25	Design		Action updated to reflect the change from Ways of Working to Organisational Development, project stage changed from delivery to design - Action proposed to be undertaken by the Organisational Development Group for the Environment Strategy - progress of this group has been paused due to staff capacity.
CE1.7	Ensure net zero and climate action has a firm foundation within Greener Together, encouraging and empowering staff to take action, and provide opportunities for learning and development.	Ongoing	Delivery		The newly launched Greener Together Programme aims to make the council a greener organisation by involving all staff, those we share our buildings with, and suppliers. Change to timescale to reflect ongoing commitment to engage staff on net zero.
<b>Workstream: Out of Scope Emissions</b>					

AS1.1	Improve data collection, understanding and reporting of out of scope emissions (e.g. wider scope 3 emissions) to inform appropriate actions the council can take to support their reduction	Ongoing	Delivery		This action remains ongoing due to the complexity in measuring and monitoring many out of scope emissions, however the council continue to work to understand its wider scope 3 emissions impact – for example 'working from home' emissions analysis using government conversion factors.
AS1.2	Work towards providing a portfolio of low carbon leased assets (e.g. renewable installations and improved energy efficiency)	Ongoing	Delivery		This is part of an ongoing programme of work.
AS1.3	Work with tenants to reduce the carbon footprint of leased assets (e.g. follow the council's net zero principles and behaviours)	Ongoing	Discovery		To be progressed
AS1.4	Support the shift of council investments towards clean, green and sustainable portfolios to support the low carbon economy	Ongoing	Delivery		The council has facilitated Section 106 developer contributions to fund the development of 2 carbon neutral schools within the county, alongside launched its £2 million fund for carbon reduction across the council's own operations. Additionally, the Invest in Leicestershire Programme, is funding the development of Quorn Solar Farm.
AS1.5	Encourage and support staff where possible to commute to work by a low carbon method of transport (e.g. active travel, public transport, EV vehicles and charge points)	Ongoing	Delivery		Various projects are underway to support this, including: provision of 23 EV chargepoints across council sites, Gold Level Cycle Friendly Employer: providing bike loans, Dr Bike events, promoting Betterpoints and improvements to the Cycle to Work scheme. The Councils salary sacrifice scheme makes EV's more affordable for staff and supports this choice of vehicle for commuting.
AS1.6	Encourage smarter and more efficient working practices across the council e.g. hybrid working, meeting/site visit planning, virtual meetings	Ongoing	Completed		The council encourages staff to work flexibly, offering a range of workplaces and technologies to best meet service and customer needs, alongside supporting wellbeing - implemented through the Ways of Working Programme.
<b>Workstream: Performance &amp; Monitoring</b>					
PM1.1	Monitor and publish an annual greenhouse gas report for the council's own operational emissions and progress towards net zero 2030	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2022-23 financial year.
PM1.2	Conduct an annual review of the Carbon Reduction Programme action plan – to include new, updated and completed actions	Ongoing	Completed		Completed for 2022-23 financial year.
PM1.3	Review the requirements and prepare to report to the Carbon Disclosure Project	Ongoing	Completed		Successful submission during summer 2023, the outcome of which was released in November giving LCC a score of B.

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Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'strikethrough'

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**RAG rating**

- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Policy and Strategy											
T1	All	Develop a vision and strategy for decarbonised transport for Leicestershire in the new Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	M	M	18	Design		The Council is developing Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), gathering evidence and planning initial engagement. Carbon savings are now classified as medium, recognising the county's rural nature and challenges reducing car use, especially given the Government's current emphasis on road travel and limited support for electric vehicles.
T2	All	Continue to engage with the public and stakeholders to get a better understanding of their needs and aspirations and source suggestions for travel improvements and infrastructure opportunities.	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with the public and stakeholders to help shape transport policy for Leicestershire.
T3	All	Work with others to investigate models and tools to quantify the carbon impact of policy decisions and scheme design.	Ask	Midlands Connect MHA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with partners such as Midlands Connect to support this action.
T4	All	Identify opportunities for research into clean transport technology and local demonstration projects.	Ask	Universities Enterprise Zones LLEP Midlands Connect	M/L	H	H	4.5	Design		EMA's partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP), Freeport, Midlands Net Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects.
T5	All	Support planning policies for development that reduce the need to travel for essential services and promote walking, cycling and public transport.	Ask	Districts	M	L	H	18	Delivery		The Council reviews new development plans and provides travel packs with information on walking, cycling and car sharing to new residents/employees, aligning with planning obligations.
T6	All	Revise the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide to incorporate environmental and net zero carbon objectives consideration .	Lead	Developers Districts	M	L	M	12	Design		Material pallets are being developed that integrate environmental, sustainability and carbon criteria. The delivery approach for green infrastructure in the Leicester Highway Design Guide is also being reviewed.
T7	All	National government policy and long term funding allocations to support the delivery of capital schemes and promotional activity to decarbonise transport and to clarify its role.	Influence	Leicester City LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands ADEPT	S	L	H	27	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery.
Active travel and reducing mileage											
T8	1, 2	Implement the actions identified in Deliver the Cycling and Walking Strategy, in line with national policy and funding, to enable Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Developers Public transport providers	S	H	H	9	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery, contingent on funding. The Cycling and Walking Strategy action plan update can be found here: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/transport-policy-plans-and-studies">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/transport-policy-plans-and-studies</a>
T9	1, 2	Identify and build key walking and cycling infrastructure in line with national policy and funding	Lead	Districts	S	H	M	6	Design		Initiatives in progress where possible, however, contingent on funding.
T10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Continue to deliver sustainable travel planning advice and support to businesses and residents through the Choose How You Move campaign.	Lead	Business Districts Health partners Residents Leicester City Schools	S	M	M	12	Delivery		The Council has been conducting behavioural change campaigns, with a branding refresh planned. The Schools Street campaign is active and encouraging low carbon methods of transport for the school run such as; walking and using scooters.
T11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Work with local employers to encourage remote and flexible working to reduce the need for business travel and commuting.	Ask	Business Districts Health partners LLEP	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council has been working with partners to aid businesses in flexible working policies and offering alternative transport options such as e-bikes and bus vouchers.
T12	All	Work with partners to promote sustainable travel and transport choices with their staff, customers, suppliers, residents and service users.	Ask	All partners Business LLEP	M	M	M	8	Delivery		There is continuous collaboration with partners regarding sustainable transport through events, travel planning, and general promotion via social media and local advertising.
T13	2	Work with local employers to develop shared office space and work hubs.	Ask	Business Districts	M/L	H	M	3	Discovery		Initiatives in progress are expected to move forward in coming phases.
T14	3	Encourage businesses to educate drivers in fuel efficient driving and other fuel efficiency strategies such as route planning, vehicle maintenance etc.	Ask	LLEP Energy Saving Trust Business	M	M	M	8	Delivery		The Council aids journey planning through the 'Choose How You Move' website.
Public Transport											
T15	2, 4	Improve public transport through the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Leicestershire in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Public Transport providers	S	H	M/H	7.5	Design		The Council has a target to ensure all buses used on the Leicestershire registered local bus network will meet Euro 6 standards by March 2025.
T16	2, 4	Trial modern IT enabled, dynamically routed Demand Responsive Transport service to improve passenger transport offer in rural communities, improving rural mobility	Lead	Residents Public Transport providers	M	H	M	4	Delivery		Fox Connect pilot for rural Leicestershire was launched October 2022 allowing citizens to book journeys via an app or call centre.
T17	2, 4	Subject to appropriate mitigation, facilitate new rail services and other rail improvements (e.g. electrification), including exploring schemes such as the Ivanhoe Line.	Ask	DfT Districts Neighbouring Authorities LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands Great British Rail	M	H	H	6	MMLe - Delivery  Ivanhoe - Design  Network North - Discovery		The Council has actively supported Midland Main Line electrification for lower carbon trains. A business case for Ivanhoe Line Passenger services to provide further alternatives for car travel is also being developed. LCC working closely with partners such as Midlands Connect on rail schemes that are emerging following the recent Network North announcements.
Ultra Low Emission Vehicles											

T18	5	Develop a strategy for increasing the uptake of <b>ultra-low-emission electric</b> vehicles infrastructure.	Lead	Midlands Connect Business Residents Districts	S	M	H	18	Design		The Council is adopting an EV Strategy by late summer 2024, supported by Local Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEV).
T19	5, 6	Work with others to plan for <b>ultra</b> low emission vehicles and <b>alternative</b> fuelling infrastructure at a regional level.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities Districts	S/M	H	M	5	Discovery		The Council continues to deliver the LEVI funded projects to support electric vehicle use and infrastructure. Also supportive of the Midlands Connect work into alternative fuelling.
T20	5	Develop and adopt policy to support the uptake of electric vehicles and highway planning policy to promote the deployment of charging infrastructure.	Lead	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		This work is in development as part of the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide and electric vehicle infrastructure strategy.
T21	5	Collect and collate information on demand for public charging in Leicestershire from residents.	Lead	Districts Residents Business	S	L	L	9	Delivery		This work is underway - a countywide electric vehicle survey was launched in October 2023.
T22	5	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing c. 100 on street charge points and seek opportunities to secure further LEVI funding to install further public charging points across the county.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring Authorities Districts Residents Business WPD	S	M	M	12	Delivery		There has been ongoing collaboration with Midlands Connect and Local Authorities to identify ChargePoint locations and procure operators as part of the LEVI project.
T23	5	Increase public charge point infrastructure at Leicestershire County Council sites e.g. country parks.	Lead	District Councils Energy Saving Trust	<del>\$</del> M	M	L	6	Discovery		Current fleet transition work will guide new charging point locations. The LEVI project will also support securing providers for charge point infrastructure.
T24	5	Deliver the FLEX-D project to develop a business case for charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	S	H	M	6	Delivery		A plan is in development to install an EV charging hub in each district. Tilton car club has been launched with plans for four more in development.
T25	5	Work with partners to consider options for joint procurement of low emission vehicles and refuelling infrastructure.	Ask	Districts Health partners Energy Saving Trust	<del>\$</del> M	H	H	9	Discovery		Fleet vehicles joint procurement project is in discovery. This aligns with waste management plans for new vehicles, but the timeline has been adjusted.
T26	5	National investment in the electricity supply network to reduce the cost of connections to the grid linked to electric vehicle charge point infrastructure.	Influence	WPD Ofgem ADEPT Districts	S	L	L	9	Delivery		LCC actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Future series ensuring county representation. Ofgem's creation of new Regional Energy Planning roles will support local energy planning, with the Distribution Network Operator covering upgrades from April 2023.
T27	5	Investigate opportunities to provide incentives for green number plate vehicles. (could this be merged with T18/T19)	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4	Discovery		Scheduled for further action at a later point.
T28	5	National framework for charge point suppliers to provide consistent, simple payment options and support interoperability across networks.	Influence	ADEPT Government Business - charge point operators	S	L	M	6	Design		The Government's October 2023 legislation guarantees transparent and comparable prices for consumers using charge points. A significant portion of new charge points will be contactless. It will also ensure providers open up their data so drivers can easily find an available chargepoint.
T29	5	Investigate and support opportunities to deploy EV car clubs in Leicestershire.	Ask	Districts Local councils VCSE Residents	S	H	M	6	Delivery		Tilton on the Hill Electric Car Club was launched in August 2023 with plans for 4 more in development. This initiative is being supported by local experts Green Fox Community Energy.
<b>Freight</b>											
T30	6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of long-haul freight road mileage such as shift to rail freight.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M/L	M	LM/H	3	Discovery		LCC has supported Midlands Connect on rail and HGV alternative fuels. Carbon savings have been changed from medium to high as Leicestershire is a through route for much road freight, therefore transfer to rail/alternative fuels would create a big reduction in linked county emissions.
T31	5, 6	Investigate opportunities for low emission alternatives for freight and logistics.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery		EMA's partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Freeport, Midlands Net Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects
T32	5,6	Support national investment and policy to enable the transition of freight movements to low carbon alternatives with less impact on the environment, including through a new Freight Energy Forum.	Influence	LLEP Midlands Connect Midlands Net Zero Hub	S/M	L	H	22.5	Delivery		LCC persistently lobbies for better rail freight links post HS2 cancellation. The East Midlands Freeport focuses on airport projects including increasing rail freight capacity, and exploring East Midlands Airport decarbonisation. There is also ongoing investigations with regional partners into hydrogen use in HGVs.
T33	5, 6	Work with others in the H2GV project to develop a business case for use of Hydrogen in HGVs, apply for funding to pilot the project, disseminate knowledge and seek to develop local demand and supply chain.	Ask	H2GV/Mids project group	S/M	H	H	7.5	Discovery		HS2GV/Mids funding bid was unsuccessful; there is potential for future development linked to two prior actions T31 and T32.
T34	1, 2, 5, 6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of local delivery hubs and alternative 'last mile' delivery e.g. cargo bikes.	Ask	Local Councils District Councils Leicester City Council LLEP	M / L	M	L	3	Discovery		Potential pilot project being considered, lead partner yet to be identified.

## Buildings and Energy

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'strikethrough'

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
<b>Engagement</b>											
B1	1, 2, 3	Provide information and materials to educate and engage residents in behaviour change, energy efficiency, low carbon sources of heating and renewable energy.	Lead	Low carbon industry Government Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		Leicestershire's Warm Home service is launching a Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO) project, funded by Midlands Net Zero Hub, to offer personalised energy and retrofit advice, targeting hard-to-reach individuals and properties, starting winter 2023-2024.
B2	1, 2, 3	Continue to provide information, advice and signposting to households at risk of Fuel Poverty through First Contact Plus and Warm Homes Teams.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	L	9	Delivery		The Warm Homes service continues its ongoing commitment, delivering projects that enhance energy efficiency locally. Over the past three years, projects like the £2.5m Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding, benefiting 250 households have been delivered. The ongoing £6m Home Upgrade Grant Funding aims to improve off-gas households EPC ratings by an average of 2 bands by March 2025. These efforts have significantly increased homes meeting or exceeding band C, rising from 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a county wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding (through to March 2026) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low income households.
B3	2, 3, 6	Engage with commercial building owners to share best practice on building retrofit and low carbon solutions including energy storage and renewables.	Lead	Low carbon industry Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		The County Council is advancing work on retrofitting its buildings with low-carbon solutions, building internal expertise in this area.
B4	1, 5	Continue to deliver and expedite smart metering programmes and introduce opportunities for new tariff structures which support flexible energy solutions.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ Energy Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery		In response to evolving Government positions, Leicestershire County Council remains proactive. In 2022 several energy providers faced fines for missing smart meter installation targets. The Government's objective is to achieve 80% smart meter coverage in homes by the end of 2025.
<b>Retrofit</b>											
B5	2, 3, 6	Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	L	H	18	Delivery		The Warm Homes Team secures funding, ensuring continued support for energy efficient initiatives - see actions B1 and B2 above.
B6	2, 3, 6	Improve and extend the funding programmes for clean heat and energy efficiency.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ	S	L	H	27	Discovery		The County Council remains responsive to Government changes, recently adapting to the gas boiler ban shift and plans to secure increased grants for air source heat pumps.
B7	2, 3, 6	Deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme for Leicestershire to increase the energy performance of homes across the county, reducing emissions and fuel poverty.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	M	18	Completed		The Warm Homes Team has successfully delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding to enhance energy efficiency in 250 households. Leveraging Better Care Fund support from district councils efficiently reduced spending risks and maximised the main grant's impact. The underspend from off-gas properties allocation facilitated additional delivery to on-gas properties. The Home Upgrade Grant now offers further support to non mains gas heated homes, utilising a mapping tool for targeted outreach in deprived areas and to households with low EPC ratings.
B8	2, 3, 6	Secure funding to deliver retrofit programmes to social housing, increasing the energy performance of homes across the county and reducing emissions.	Ask	Districts Social Housing Providers	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration has secured £6.6m for the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2, targeting non-mains-gas heated homes until March 2025.
B9	2	Promote ECO funding, including utilisation of LA Flex mechanism.	Ask	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		The Warm Homes service aims to improve access to national funding through a county-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism, widening access to National Energy Company Obligation funding and the Great British Insulation Scheme for low-income households, to be implemented from winter 2023/24.
B10	2	Enforce private rented and non-domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations.	Ask	Districts	S	M	M	12	Design		Continual progress is noted.
B11	3	Promote and encourage the uptake of government incentives for low carbon technologies including the Renewable Heat Incentive, Heat Pump Ready etc.	Lead	Government Residents Districts	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Warm Homes service connects residents to various initiatives, offering advice on energy efficiency, grants and self-finance options. It is recognised that more could likely to done to directly engage households and this is the aim of the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator scheme which is in development (referenced in action B1). In addition, the service has launched a newsletter to provide updates on energy policy and initiatives supporting energy efficiency improvements.
B12	2, 3	Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat projects to a range of buildings including schools and education, health sector, public sector and business premises.	Ask	Districts LLEP Academies NHS	S/M/L	H	H	7.5	Discovery		District councils are developing plans for their buildings, focusing on energy efficiency measures. Work has not started in this area as yet, timeframes moved to M/L due to limited resources available at present.
B13	2, 3, 4, 6	Explore opportunities for the <del>Corporate Asset Investment Strategy Invest in Leicestershire Programme</del> to support net zero targets through retrofit, low carbon development, increased renewable energy generation and zero-carbon flagship development	Lead	Left blank in published action plan	M	H	M	4	Discovery		To be progressed - medium term timeframes.
B14	2	Develop a new programme of business support for energy efficiency and carbon reduction to build on the success of Green Belle and Zellar pilot	Ask	Leicester City Council LLEP Growth Hub	S	M	H	18	Discovery		The Pathfinder places project (launching in February 2024) will build on existing initiatives, including an advisory service for businesses.
B15	2	Work collaboratively to deliver efficiencies or fuel switching to industrial processes	Ask	Businesses Universities	M / L	H	H	4.5	Discovery		To be progressed - changed action to long term.  The East Midlands Hydrogen Group is exploring hydrogen technology for significant energy users with the potential for collaborative work across partner organisations.
B16	2, 3	Improve the understanding of energy efficiency in the building/housing stock <del>quality</del> in Leicestershire to support energy improvement.	Ask	Districts	S/M	M	L	6	Design		District councils await new Government information fon the development of a housing stock condition survey tool, emphasising the importance of EPC data.
B17	2, 3, 4, 6	Provide support to develop retrofit and renewable energy supply chains and skills.	Influence	BEIS DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		Regional funding was launched in December to support a 'net zero building retrofit skills' pilot programme. LCC's Economic Development Team are developing a questionnaire to go out to employers to investigate what they want in terms of retrofit skills.
<b>Policy and Strategy</b>											
B18	4, 6	Implement national planning policy and building standards that support net zero, including a high level of energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.	Influence	DLUHC	S / M	L	H	27	Design		The County Council continues to influence and seek alignment with national planning policy



B19	4, 6	Develop consistent local planning policies to support the net zero transition using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes (including embodied carbon in new builds).	Ask	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S / M	M	H	15	Design		The County Council continues to seek to influence and comment on Local Plan policies as they progress
B20	4, 6	Develop a vision and key principles for green growth and sustainable development in Leicestershire. Work with partners and as the County Planning Authority to adopt and integrate the vision into policies to protect and enhance the environment and support net zero.	Lead	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S	M	L	6	Discovery		Initiatives are planned to be progressed through various teams, from influencing national planning policy to reviewing The Strategic Growth Plan.
B21	4, 6	Review and update the Strategic Growth Plan to ensure it supports the transition to net zero carbon.	Ask	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S/M	M/H	L/H	6	Discovery		Reviews to updates to The Strategic Growth Plan will involved discussions and agreements with all partners.
B22	2, 6	Explore opportunities for developer contributions to support net zero infrastructure and carbon reduction projects in the revision of the County Council Planning Obligations Policy.	Lead	Developers Districts	S	M	M	12	Discovery		District Councils guide developers to consider the environment in their developments including net-zero targets, carbon reduction and Biodiversity Net Gain. Leicestershire County Council's Planning Obligations Policy ensures comprehensive funds for sustainable, carbon neutral infrastructure, particularly new schools. This policy (which is under review) targets maximum utilisation of the bus pass/voucher scheme to promote mode shift.
B23	All	Investigate options for developing a Local Area Energy Plan including decarbonised heating and low carbon energy, working with key partners.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Public Sector Universities Business WPD	S	H	H	9	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support this initiative.
B24	3, 5, 6	Undertake research including heat mapping and identification of potential locations for energy projects, and secure funding to test innovative technologies to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Government Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	M	M	10	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B25	3	Provide support with identifying potential locations for low carbon heat networks across the county.	Influence	HNDU	S / M	M	L	5	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B26	2, 3	Review the MNZH commissioned District Eating findings and consider opportunities for delivery in Leicestershire.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	M	M	8	Design		A study launched by the Council explores links between waste heat and horticulture, with next steps currently being drafted.
B27	3	Explore opportunities and plan for Hydrogen Infrastructure.	Ask	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP ERA	M / L	M	L	3	Discovery		Local hydrogen infrastructure development is still in its infancy - further works needed to consider this at a regional level.
B28	All	Continue to support the Local Electricity Bill. <b>UPDATE</b>	Influence	Parliament	S	L	L	9	Discovery		The Energy Act recently received Royal Assent - LCC will review this and its influence on Leicestershire's Net Zero targets.
B29	2, 3, 6	Provide an evidence base for new business models and financing options for low carbon technologies including Heat as a Service models.	Influence	<b>BEIS DESNZ</b>	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		To be progressed
B30	All	Rebalance environmental levies between electricity and gas bills.	Influence	Ofgem	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
B31	All	Consider carbon pricing and its role in achieving net zero.	Influence	<b>BEIS DESNZ</b> Ofgem LGA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design		Leicestershire County Council has integrated a carbon price into business cases and decisions for the 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme, aligning with Government figures.
B32	All	Deliver the Air Quality Partnership Action Plan to support carbon reduction	Ask	Air Quality Partnership National Highways	S	M	L	6	Design		The Air Quality Partnership is active - further work will be progressed to align its action plan to support carbon reduction.
<b>Renewable Energy and Infrastructure</b>											
B33	6	Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and storage through innovative business models, sourcing of investment and technical solutions.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Districts Investors Universities	S / M	H	H	7.5	Design		Leicestershire County Council's Solar Wind feasibility study advances to phase 2, examining three sites in detail for potential investment.  This action will also be supported by the work of the Pathfinder Places project.
B34	6	Deliver the Solar Together Leicestershire group buying project to support householders to install solar photovoltaics and battery storage.	Ask	Districts i-Choosr	S	L	M	27	Delivery		Solar Together 2022 concludes with 460 installations, saving 7,385 tCO2e at prices 27% lower than typical market costs.  Solar Together 2023-24 is underway through Green Living Leicestershire.
B35	2, 3, 6	Provide support for community energy including investment and business models.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Government Investors	S / M	L	M	15	Design		Funding to support Community Energy establishment and development is included in the Pathfinder funding, commencing work from February 2024.
B36	5	Complete research to support investment in the electricity network in Leicestershire to deliver the capacity required for electrification of heat, transport and connection of generation assets.	Ask	<b>WPD NGED</b> National Grid Ofgem	M / L	L	L	4.5	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Futures series, ensuring county representation and contributing to future planning.
B37	5, 6	Promote and incentivise flexible energy and demand side management and facilitate increased energy storage capacity.	Ask	<b>WPD NGED</b> National Grid Ofgem	L	L	M	6	Discovery		Octopus Energy offers saver sessions for customers to trial flexible energy use in the home. Battery Box has approached the County Council, requesting the use of their land for battery storage options, currently under consideration.
B38	5, 6	Create fair and consistent markets and regulatory frameworks for low carbon generation and storage	Influence	<b>BEIS DESNZ</b> Ofgem	M	L	H	18	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council commits to supporting consultation exercises for improved competition in renewables as they arise.



## Business and Economy

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
<b>Policy and Strategy</b>											
E1	1, 2, 3, 4	Deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and ensure economic plans and programmes support the net zero transition.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Universities Chamber	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is actively implementing the Innovation strand, including initiatives like the Zellar platform offering 100 free licenses to businesses. Through this 114 tonnes of CO2e have been saved and £151k in energy costs.
E2	1, 2, 3	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Lead	LLEP	S	L	M	18	Design		The County Council has developed a Digital Strategy pending updated mapping of 'hot spots'. This strategy awaits political approval and an associated action plan.
E3	1, 2, 4	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers low carbon goods and services.	Lead	Leicester City LLEP	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
E4	1, 2, 3	Develop the Freeport around East Midlands Airport integrating low carbon solutions and pilots.	Lead	Freeport partners	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The East Midlands Airport Green Futures initiative has been launched, featuring projects to decarbonise the airport and surrounding area. Notably, the airport now has two net-zero buildings.
E5	2, 4	Develop a pipeline of projects to enable raising of capital and innovative investment models, linking to development of the Net Zero Funding Strategy and specific opportunities such as the Levelling Up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Lead	Districts LLEP	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery		LCC's Economic Growth Team collaborates with districts to influence the use of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Some districts incorporate green initiatives with Rural Prosperity Fund grants. Hinkley and Bosworth DC has allocated funding for green initiatives and plans are underway.
E6	4	Provide consistent policy which stimulates growth in the low carbon goods and services sector.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is committed to responding to government consultations when they arise.
<b>Business Support</b>											
E7	1	Provide support to businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and develop low carbon goods and services through the Growth Hub provision.	Ask	LLEP Growth Hub Leicester City Chamber Business	S/M	H	H	7.5	Design		The Growth Hub is under review amid the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership transition. Although grants are unavailable, the Growth Hub is promoting the UKSPF funded Leicestershire Business Advice Service (LBAS). Ongoing webinars and programmes like 'Made Smarter' support innovation, and some Leicestershire companies have been successful at this.  The successful Pathfinder Places bid will also provide support to businesses through a new advisory service.
E8	1	Explore opportunities for business training, education and events.	Ask	Chamber Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Design		East Midlands Chamber hosts various green events, while a green skills document and action plan produced by Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and Leicestershire County Council are awaiting approval.
E9	1	Evaluate the Zellar platform pilot and determine next steps.	Ask	LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		A successful pilot project assists businesses in calculating their Carbon Footprint, with upcoming steps focused on encouraging businesses to utilise platforms like Zellar for digital assistance .
E10	1, 2, 3, 4	Support businesses to reduce costs and mitigate against energy price rises and ensure continued growth and job creation within the renewable energy sector, through generation of on site renewable energy and development of joint ventures for large scale local energy projects.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	M	H	H	6	Design		Partners are progressing this work and elements will be supported by the Advisory Service which will be developed as part of the Pathfinder Places project.
E11	1	Support landowners and land managers to access economic support including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities.	Lead	LPA's LRF NFI LLEP	M	M	M	8	Design		Leicestershire County Council has been raising awareness awareness of potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites for credits when enquiries come in, and supporting queries on specific planning applications. This work will be progressed further at a later date.
E12	1, 5	Promote green tourism and green business opportunities in the county and review the tourism growth plan to support net zero ambitions and opportunities.	Lead		S/M	M	M	10	Design		The Council has been collaborating with the National Forest to explore a countywide scheme for businesses. Funding is secured to deliver a low-carbon toolkit for businesses in 2023-24.
E13	1, 4	Promote best practice through case studies and communications.	Lead	LLEP	M	L	L	8	Delivery		Continuous efforts are made by LCC and the LLEP through weekly e-bulletins, the Growth Hub and social media channels.
E14	1, 2	Consider options for low carbon business to business mentoring, peer support and knowledge share.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Districts Chamber	M	M	L	2	Design		The LLEP is progressing work in this area including webinars and events for businesses to collaborate.
E15	2	Enable innovation through innovation pilots and dissemination of knowledge.	Influence	BEIS Innovate UK KTN	S	M	L	6	Delivery		The Leicestershire Innovation Festival 2023, the largest to date, showcased 20 events. The upcoming Feb 2024 edition will focus on supporting business to reduce carbon emissions.

E16	1	Work with others to gather evidence on the large greenhouse gas emitters in Leicestershire.	Ask	LLEP Universities Leicester City	S	M	M	12	Delivery	The LLEP has supported a feasibility study examining carbon emissions around the airport and worked with the East Midlands Freeport to identify opportunities to reduce carbon - a baseline report will be shared in December 2023. Further studies, in collaboration with A study with Charnwood Enterprise Zone aims identify carbon emissions in this area and secure funding for emissions mitigation and energy-efficient building improvements.
E17	2	Seek opportunities to increase SME incubation, business development provision and consider how to optimise links between R&D funding and investment in industry, to attract venture capital, start-up entrepreneurs and investors to grow a larger and dynamic start-up community.	Ask	Districts LLEP	L	M	L	2	Delivery	LLEP invested £54m under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in high-profile projects, forging links between research and development funding and industry investment. Projects included collaborations with Universities in the county.
<b>Supply Chain</b>										
E18	1	Work with supply chains to reduce carbon and increase the offering of low carbon goods and services.	Ask	Districts Universities Business	S/M	M	H	15	Discovery	Work to be progressed at a later point, but early discussions being help by District partners.
E19	All	Consider how council investments can support the net zero transition, including development of a Pension Climate Strategy.	Lead	Leicestershire LGPS Committee/Board	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Leicestershire County Council has completed the Pension Climate Strategy, next steps are being considered.
E20	2	Promote circular economy principles to industry to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources.	Ask	LLEP Universities	M/L	M	M	6	Delivery	LLEP Growth Hub have begun to hold and partner in sustainability for business events. In addition the LLEP has been working with partners such as LCC and Oxford University to explore in more detail the circular economy through such projects as 'Bean Meal'.
E21	3, 4	Support the delivery of zero carbon new builds and energy efficiency retrofit by building the supply chain for local skilled labour, low carbon products and retrofit skills, including securing funding for delivery programmes and considering social value requirements in procurement exercises.	Lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP Developers Business	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery	The Economic Growth Team collaborates with LLEP, Districts, and City on retrofit initiatives. Initiatives begin with upskilling council staff and involve partnerships with colleges and training providers to identify courses and stimulate employer demand.
E22	2	Support industrial innovation in renewable energy technology through research and pilots.	Ask	CREST Universities	L	H	M	2	Design	Freeport investment at Loughborough University enhances programmes linked to hydrogen and renewables.
E23	4, 5	Consider approaches to maximising natural capital in the county, with economic benefits, including growth in visitor economy, creation of forestry and land management jobs, and sale of carbon credits.	Lead	National Forest, Woodland Trust LRWT Land owners and managers LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8	Discovery	The Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) may identify potential opportunities to maximise natural capital within the county. 'Visit Leicestershire's' sustainable tourism initiatives will boost the green growth of the visitor economy. The National Forest is also developing plans to support sustainable tourism.
E24	1, 2, 4	Support the delivery of low carbon transport by promoting and expanding existing advanced manufacturing facilities and research organisations.	Ask	Industry Business Universities	L	M	M	4	Delivery	Leicestershire County Council collaborates with MIRA Enterprise Zone to develop low-carbon transport options.
E25	2, 3	Build the hydrogen value chain in the county including hydrogen skills, production, distribution and demand, particularly within the logistics sector, including participation in the Hydex project, launch of the Freeport hydrogen skills hub pilot and building on the success of existing projects such as	Ask	ERA Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub Midlands Connect	S/M	M	M	10	Discovery	East Midlands Hydrogen group, recently formed, will spearhead regional activities.
E26	9	Work with partners to investigate and support the delivery of scalable carbon capture and storage technologies	Ask	Universities Districts Business Energy Companies	M	H	M	4	Discovery	Current activities align with the mitigation hierarchy. Leicestershire County Council is not currently involved in carbon capture and storage development but actively monitors national progress in this field.
E27	1, 2, 4	Use of Enterprise Zones to support low carbon sector industry and business clusters and increase R&D capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects.	Ask	LLEP Universities	L	H	L	1	Design	Leicestershire County Council collaborates with Charnwood Campus Enterprise Zone and Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park to boost research and development capacity. Projects currently in progress.
E28	1, 2	Incentivise the low carbon economy through financial mechanisms such as VAT and other tax relief, enhanced capital allowances etc.	Influence	Government	S	L	M	18	Delivery	LLEP, through the broader Local Enterprise Partnership network, uses its influence to advocate for this matter with the Government.
<b>Skills</b>										
E29	3	Develop a Skills Strategy, addressing the skills shortages and weaknesses in training provision identified in the Midlands Energy Hub Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market Insight Study, and promoting acceleration and diversity in upskilling and reskilling.	Ask	LLEP Universities FE Colleges	S	M	M	12	Design	LLEP and Leicestershire County Council collaboratively produced a Green Skills Document with a proposed action plan. Projects are in the design stage.
E30	3	Work with partners to raise awareness of green jobs with school age children.	Ask	LLEP Careers Hub Business	M	L	L	6	Delivery	LLEP develops materials for the Careers and Enterprise Company. Leicestershire County Council supports the promotion within the County Council and across the county
E31	3	Work with partners to promote green courses and increase availability of different courses.	Ask	FE colleges	M	L	L	6	Design	Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the development of Department of Education funded Green Skills Bootcamps for the area. This also links with the Green Skills Document (Action E29).
E32	3, 4	Continue to provide funding for skills and product development and long-term programmes of delivery.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council actively prepares for potential external funding opportunities to support these activities.

## Resources and Waste

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<b>Waste</b>											
R1	1, 2	Complete the review and adoption of Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	H	H	6	Complete		Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy was adopted in April 2023
R2	1, 2	Develop an action plan to deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4	Delivery		A comprehensive Action Plan to guide our initiatives has been developed.
R3	ADDED IN	Introduce food waste collections <del>subject to confirmation of mandated by 31 March 2026 as per Government policy 'Simpler Recycling', legislation and provision of funding and procure</del> including procurement of anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat collected food waste therefore contributing to carbon emissions reduction.	Ask	Leicestershire Waste Partnership Districts	L	H	M	2	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is currently waiting for the Government to confirm funding and timelines.
R3	1, 2	Continue to support residents to reduce food waste through national campaigns such as "Love Food Hate Waste"	Lead	Districts Government VCSE	S	M	L	6	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council supported Food Waste Action Week, and offered residents the opportunity to take part in a food waste prevention recipe competition. We continue to promote Love Food Hate Waste via social media and deliver training to volunteers to upskill them to deliver food waste prevention messages to residents.
R4	1, 2	Continue to support residents to implement home composting through provision of advice and guidance	Lead	Districts VCSE	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Over 500 subsidised home compost bins have been sold during 2022/23, reducing green waste to landfill. The Council has been supporting Compost Awareness Week and providing ongoing assistance via Master Composter Volunteers.
R5	1, 2	Continue to deliver a programme of initiatives to increase reuse and prevent waste from arising	Ask	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council continues to promote reuse initiatives, subsidizing classes on repair, and setting up collection points for reusable medical equipment at recycling sites.
R6	1, 2	Continue to encourage residents to recycle right and reduce contamination in kerbside recycling	Lead	Districts	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Our contamination campaign continues, guiding residents on how and what to recycle through diverse advertising channels. The Council actively supports and promotes the national Recycle Week campaign.
R7	1, 2	Continue to deliver a volunteer scheme to support and encourage residents to make positive behavioural changes	Lead		S	L	L	9	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council welcomed and trained new Master Composters, celebrated achievements with Environmental Action Volunteers, and initiated research on volunteering barriers.
<b>Materials</b>											
R8	1	Explore the opportunities for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to support the move to a circular economy.	Lead	Districts Business	S	L	L	9	Delivery		The recent review of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP) has shown that the plan remains flexible in its approach to recycling and re-use and that the policies and strategic objectives still support circular economy principles including waste management and carbon reduction. The LMWLP continues to deliver sustainable minerals and waste development in line with policy.
R9	1	Implement policy which seeks to eliminate single use materials.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Delivery		LCC responds to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
R10	1	Support national resource reduction campaigns such as "Refill" and "long live the lunchbox".	Ask	Districts Businesses	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council actively supports relevant national campaigns.
<b>Food</b>											
R11	1	Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the carbon impact of food production, distribution and food waste	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership	S	H	H	9	Discovery		Leicestershire County Councils has been leveraging insights from Oxford's 'Bean Meals' project (completed Oct 24) to inform and enhance Leicestershire initiatives.
R12	1	Explore options for local procurement of sustainable food for Local Authority and Schools catering to increase demand and stimulate supply chains.	Lead	Businesses	M	L	M	12	Design		A sustainable procurement report has been completed for a project reliant on the Leicestershire Traded Services school meal service continued delivery.
R13	1	Support residents to grow their own food and buy local seasonal produce through the provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership Districts	S	L	L	6	Design		Leicestershire County Council (LCC) supported efforts in Districts and Boroughs, with messaging through 'Good Food Leicestershire'. School programmes delivered by 'Food For Life' focus on local, seasonal and homegrown produce.
<b>Water</b>											
R14	3	Ensure a sustainable and resilient supply of water through leak reduction, customer education, provision of water efficiency measures, smart metering.	Ask	Water Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery		Work to be progressed at a later date.
R15	3	Introduce more stringent water efficiency targets in national policy and regulations.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise

R16	3	Consider water consumption in local plans including provision for water efficiency metrics in new developments	Ask	Districts	<del>S/M</del> L	L	L	7.5	Discovery		The Leicestershire Planning Officer Forum initiates efforts to integrate net zero and environment into local plans. Adjusted to long term status pending changes in Local Planning guidance by the Government.
R17	3	Support residents and businesses to reduce water consumption through provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Districts VCSE Water companies i.e. STW/AW	<del>M</del> L	L	L	6	Discovery		This action has been updated to a long term approach due to current resource limitations. Engagement with water companies pending.
R18	3	Introduce water efficiency product labelling.	Influence	Government	L	L	L	3	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise

## Communities

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<b>Engagement</b>											
C1	All	Develop a Leicestershire Climate Pact for organisations, businesses and residents to join and pledge action.	Lead	All partners Business Residents	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Launched in February 2023, the Pact has been supported by 27 organisations to date.
C2	All	Develop an engagement plan to facilitate an ongoing two-way conversation on climate change action to understand and respond to community experience.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	M	18	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure comms activity is aligned.
C3	3, 4	Deliver public and stakeholder engagement that is representative and inclusive to develop and deliver a just transition to net zero with widespread public participation.	Lead	Districts Universities	S	L	L	9	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure comms activity is aligned.
C4	3, 4	Explore options for innovative community governance, including a Citizens Panel, Youth Co-creation and Challenge Group.	Lead	Residents VCSE	S	M	L	6	Discovery		This initiative is now part of the Pathfinder Places project. A strand of this project aims to provide opportunities for community governance.
C5	All	Develop a coordinated and integrated information campaign to help residents make environmentally sustainable choices for their homes, travel and consumption.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	L	9	Discovery		Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependant on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C6	1	Explore opportunities to increase training, education and events, including carbon literacy.	Ask	Districts VCSE Education Universities	M	L	L	4	Discovery		Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependant on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C7	All	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environmental Action Volunteers to support net zero.	Lead	EAVs	S	L	L	9	Discovery		While progress is underway, providing appropriate and necessary training to volunteers has faced some challenges, with staff actively working to overcome these hurdles.
C8	4	Integrate net zero into linked consultation and engagement activity to test public attitudes and experience.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council has secured funding through the Net Zero Innovation Fund to engage disengaged members of the public on Net Zero matters. Ongoing activities use creative techniques like artwork and games.
C9	1, 2, 5	Develop targeted campaigns and opportunities to involve young people in shaping climate action, including working closely with schools.	Lead	Voice Network LLEP Careers Hub Youth Council Children in Care Council Education Youth groups	S	L	L	9	Discovery		LCC's Carbon Reduction team is currently researching engagement activities, with a particular focus on children and young people. It is planned that work can be delivered in the next financial year but the scale of delivery will be dependant on staff resources available.
C10	All	Work with Public Health services e.g. Local Area Coordinators, community recovery, green social prescribing, Warm Homes, Good Food Leicestershire to maximise the opportunities to promote climate action with co-benefits for health.	Lead	Health partners	S	L	L	9	Discovery		Efforts are underway to align with public health campaigns, with officers in discussion to collaborate on events and literature.
C11	2, 5	Develop tools and guidance to support communities to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Districts	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration worked together to develop the Parish, Town Councils and Local Groups Net Zero toolkit which was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. LCC Communities team are supporting local groups such as the Melton Environmental Network to develop and deliver environmental schemes and projects in their community.
C12	2, 5	Production of national campaigns and toolkits to support consistent messages and promote personal action.	Influence	Government VCSE	S	L	L	9	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
<b>Enabling Action</b>											
C13	5	Support community action to reduce carbon through the SHIRE Environment Grants programme.	Lead		S	M	M	12	Delivery		The SHIRE environment grants scheme will conclude at the end of 2023/24, following a decision by the Council.
C14	5	Explore opportunities for community sector organisations to support on net zero activities.	Lead	VCSE	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		Progress on this matter will be continued by via the communities team/ funding manager in 2024/25.  The Pathfinder Places project will support community energy groups.
C15	5	Investigate funding opportunities to increase the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector for net zero in Leicestershire, for example, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.	Lead	National Lottery	M	L	L	4	Discovery		The Pathfinder Places project will support community energy groups.
C16	1, 2, 5	Enable local Parish and Town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training.	Ask	Local Councils	S	I	L	9	Delivery		The Parish and Town Councils and Communities Net Zero toolkit was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. The toolkit supports Parish Council's to develop action plans for their Parish.

C17	1, 2, 5	Share best practice case studies of community action and disseminate useful information.	Lead	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The 'Net Zero Toolkit for Parish, Town Councils and Community Groups' is now published, featuring various case studies of community actions. The Communities Network hosted a net zero series during 2023-24 to share best practice, knowledge and information.
C18	2	Improved product labelling to help consumers identify green / climate friendly options.	Influence	Government	M	L	M	12	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
C19	2	Share information on local businesses to encourage residents to "shop local".	Ask	Districts Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		Ongoing work includes a mapping exercise with the rural partnership of local shops and facilities. The Market Towns Subgroup champions 'shop local' by organising events to boost footfall.
C20	2	Harness the purchasing power of individuals, business and communities to stimulate and grow green supply chains.	Influence	All partners	M	L	M	12	Delivery		Solar Together 2022 has concluded, contributing 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment. The 2023-24 scheme is currently underway.
C21	2	Explore incentive schemes to facilitate behaviour change.	Ask	Districts	M/L	L	L	4.5	Discovery		To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes

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[illegible]

N16	4	Provide information and support to landowners and tenants wishing to maximise the benefit of land assets for public goods such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and climate resilience.	Ask	NFU Natural England LLEP Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council provides a newsletter to farm tenants which covers support and advice on land assets. LNRS work may spark further activity in this space, dependant on staff capacity.
N17	1	Explore opportunities to gain a better understanding of the carbon and nature benefits of local food procurement and improved land management and how to measure and monitor improvements, particularly on the council's own farms.	Lead	Tenants	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		The Council's report on sustainable procurement for Leicester Traded Services has been delivered, with ongoing work to implement the findings in the discovery phase.
N18	1	Invest in additional research to improve understanding of carbon impact of different land management.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
N19	2, 3	Develop a single council policy to reflect the multiple objectives for land use and the need to ensure 'additionality' is gained for nature, particularly where several benefits are to be claimed e.g. biodiversity net gain, climate resilience, carbon storage.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is set to develop a policy to fulfil our biodiversity duty in 2024.
N20	All	Consider nature and land use in local plans and requirements for developers e.g. Street trees, preservation and creation of green spaces, prioritisation of brownfield sites for development and land for energy generation assets.	Ask	Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively engages with districts on appropriate nature and land use in Local Plans. The National Planning Policy Framework is currently under review.



## Cross Cutting Actions

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Leadership	Project status	RAG	Update
1. Achieve net zero carbon emissions for the council's operations by 2030 by delivering the Council's 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme.	Delivery		The LCC Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022/23 now being finalised to reflect emissions. Results show LCC is not on projected track to meet target for this year - 45% behind.
2. Assess the emissions from the council's supply chain and investments and develop a prioritised action plan for carbon reduction, including working with our supply chain to reduce carbon emissions and developing tools and guidance to integrate carbon impact into procurement decisions.	Design		LCC is currently working to redevelop our procurement strategy to include and strengthen environmental controls, once this is in place we can progress this action.
3. Strive to provide easy to understand climate information to educate and inform stakeholders, businesses and individuals about the need to act with urgency.	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned. Recent engagement work includes delivery of a Net Zero Parish Toolkit and discovery work to engage with schools and young people.
<b>Collaboration</b>			
1. Develop and promote a Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact to inspire other organisations and individuals to join the council in setting targets and delivering climate action.	Delivery		Pact launched in February 2023, 26 organisations signed up to date. Further promotion of the Pact planned for the coming months.
2. Develop a partnership and engagement plan which considers the role of stakeholders and individuals and how they can be encouraged and supported to take action.	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned.
3. Work with others to engage with national government to call for urgent action to deliver net zero carbon, including a clear framework and the resources required to define and support the role of local authorities in tackling the climate emergency.	Delivery		LCC respond to Government consultations or similar, as and when they arise
<b>Research and Innovation</b>			
1. Work with partners, particularly knowledge-based institutions to support research, development and demonstration of low and zero carbon technologies.	Delivery		LCC is part of the Universities Civic Agreement, who we have worked with to successfully bid for money from Innovate UK to deliver the Pathfinder Places project. LCC is also a collaborative partner for Green Living Leicestershire, where the County and District/Borough Councils have collaboratively delivered various low carbon projects. This includes Solar Together which in 2022 contributed 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment.
2. Take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the net zero transition.	Design		Internal governance at Leicestershire County Council is being developed to support the 2045 Net Zero target. In terms of Leicestershire stakeholders the successful Pathfinder Places bids for both phase 1 and 2 will provide funds to research and develop an effective governance structure for Leicestershire's Net Zero commitments.
3. Support the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage approaches.	Discovery		Current activity follows the mitigation hierarchy prioritising carbon reduction over carbon capture, therefore LCC is not currently engaged with CCS development.
<b>Funding</b>			
1. Produce a funding plan for net zero, considering and taking maximum advantage of the diverse range of grant, finance, investment and other innovative models to deliver action.	Design		Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan is in development to explore a range of funding and finance options to deliver net zero. Next steps will be to produce a deliverable plan, linking funding mechanisms to priority actions of the Leicestershire Net Zero Action Plan.
2. Prioritise projects with multiple benefits, that save money and/or provide income.	Discovery		To be developed at a later stage
3. Consider the impact of delivering action on residents and ensure that solutions are affordable and fair for all.	Discovery		To be developed at a later stage - Equalities impact process will be used

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## **Appendix F – Environmental Performance Infographic**

The latest version of the 2022-23 Environmental Performance Summary Infographic can be found on the following link:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Environmental-Performance-2022-2023-summary.pdf>

and is also attached for information.

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# Environmental Performance 2022-23 - Summary



## Leicestershire County Council's Performance

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Since **2008-09** the County Council has reduced its operational greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)<sup>1</sup> by almost **74%**. In **2022-23** the Council reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by **7.2%** compared to **2021-22**.

08-09	<b>35,778t</b>
21-22	<b>10,127t</b>
22-23	<b>9,395t</b>



**Net Zero**  
BY 2030

## Main Sources of County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### BUILDINGS

35%



### TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

2022 - 23 FROM COUNCIL OPERATIONS

### BUSINESS TRAVEL

29%



### FLEET VEHICLES

13%

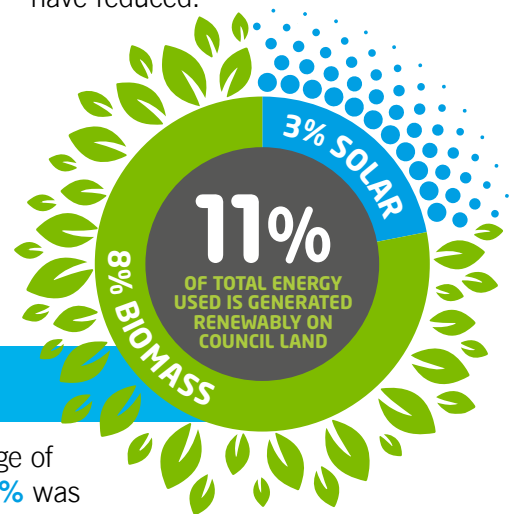
### STREET LIGHTING & TRAFFIC SIGNALS

22%



WATER & WASTE <1%

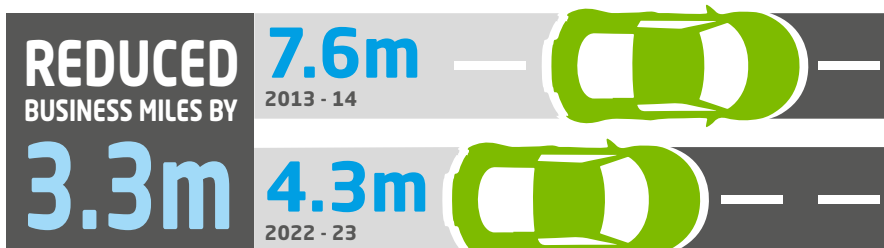
The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions for the County Council in **2022-23** were our buildings, fleet, streetlighting & traffic signals and staff business travel. All the **main sources** saw a **reduction compared to 2021-22**, except **business travel** which saw a **rise** of over **5%**. Overall, emissions from vehicles (fleet and business travel) have increased as a proportion of total emissions, while building emissions have reduced.



## Renewable Energy

The amount of renewable energy generated on council land, as a percentage of total energy consumed, rose slightly to almost **11%** in **2022-23**. Of that, **3%** was generated from **solar** power and **8%** from a **biomass** (woodchip) boiler. The generation of on-site renewable energy avoided **355 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** of emissions – equivalent to **3.8%** of the council's emissions. With the repair of faults and upgrades of the solar PV system as well as improvements to the biomass boiler, renewable energy generation is expected to increase in the coming years.

## Business Mileage



The Council has reduced its business miles by **3.3 million miles** since **2013-14** saving over **1,180 tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions. Business mileage increased by **240,000 miles (6%)** compared to **2021-22** largely due to the continued Covid bounce-back.

## Office Recycling

The County Council recycled **51%** of its total office waste<sup>2</sup> in **2022-23**. Recycling performance fell by about **8%** compared to **2021-22** with the total amount of waste generated falling by **8%** to **250 tonnes**. There was a particular decline in waste paper, metal and ICT equipment and an increase in glass and food waste.



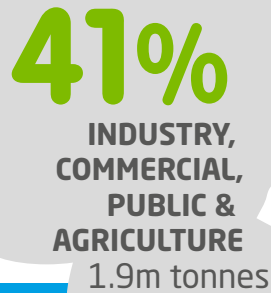
### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The GHG emissions consist of a mix of gases in addition to carbon dioxide, including methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. These make up our overall greenhouse gas figure, which is expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e. GHG reporting follows HM Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes waste from operational activities e.g. highways maintenance and forestry waste.

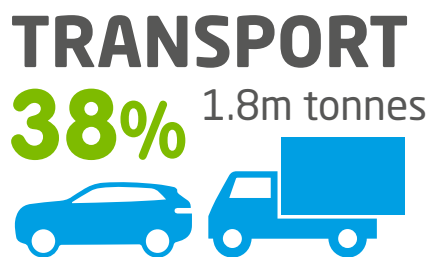
# Leicestershire Environmental Performance

## Leicestershire's Carbon Emissions



Based on figures provided by the Government<sup>3</sup>, the carbon emissions for Leicestershire were **4.85 million tonnes** in **2021**. Emissions are split between industrial, commercial, public sector & agriculture, transport, and domestic sources. Emissions have reduced by **28%** between **2005** and **2021**.

**TOTAL CO<sub>2</sub>e  
EMISSIONS 4.85m  
FOR LEICESTERSHIRE**



**CO<sub>2</sub>e  
EMISSIONS  
PER PERSON IN  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**2005 10.8  
TONNES**

**6.8  
TONNES  
2021**

**2035  
TARGET 1.6  
TONNES**

## Carbon Emissions Per Person

The Government figures show that in **2005** each person in Leicestershire emitted the equivalent of **10.8 tonnes** of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This reduced to **6.8 tonnes** in **2021** with a current target of reducing this to **1.6 tonnes** by **2035**.

## Household Waste & Recycling

There has been a steady decline in the total household waste generated per household since **2011-12**, with total household waste per household falling from **1,014 kg** in **2021-22** to **939 kg** in **2022-23**, a reduction of over **7%**.

The amount of household waste recycled in Leicestershire in **2022-23** was **41.8%**.



### Footnote:

<sup>3</sup> Data is provided by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero for all UK regions and is two years in arrears. This includes emissions from industrial, commercial, public sector, agriculture, transport and from domestic sources (i.e. homes). More information on the figures can be found here [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2021)

## Working Together with Solar Together

Solar Together sees Leicestershire Councils working together as part of 'Green Living Leicestershire', to facilitate group buying initiatives which have contributed an **additional 1.6MW of renewable energy** in Leicestershire. Householders across Leicestershire have **saved thousands of pounds** on **solar panels** thanks to the latest round of the group buying initiative. The Solar Together 2022 Scheme saw a total of **460 installations** across the county resulting in an estimated **7,385 tonnes of carbon reduction over the next 25 years**.



Residents sign up for free on their Council websites and are entered into an auction. The scheme is run through group buying experts iChoosr, removing the burden of research for householders looking to install solar panels and battery systems. Over the two years of the scheme some **£4.3 million** has been invested in renewable energy across Leicestershire.



## Parish and Community Net Zero Toolkit

Town and Parish Councils and local groups have an important role to support **Net Zero delivery** and help achieve this goal due to their **close proximity to local communities** and their understanding of local needs and priorities.

## Environment Matters

Want to keep informed of what is happening within Leicestershire County Council and beyond on **environmental and waste matters**? Why not sign up to get an electronic copy of our Environment Matters newsletter – Click on this link for more details: [Environment Matters sign up](#).

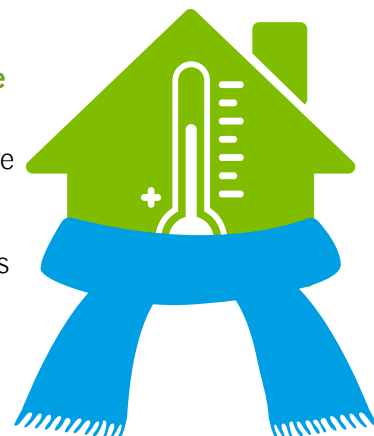
## Warming Homes and Saving Households Money

The **Home Upgrade Grant** is a government backed scheme delivered by local authorities to improve home energy efficiency. The aim of the scheme is to **improve the warmth and comfort** of homes that **do not have mains-gas heating**, whilst **also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty** across the county.

The council's **Warm Homes Service** has delivered a number of projects over the last 3 years, including **£2.5m of Sustainable Warmth funding to 250 households** across the county. The service is currently delivering **£6m of Home Upgrade Grant funding** to off-gas households through to **March 2025**.

Consistent delivery has had demonstrable impact on the number of homes now meeting an above average **EPC rating of band C or higher** in the county, having accelerated over the period from a rolling average of **29% in June 2019** to **53% in June 2023**.

The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration has recently **successfully secured £6.6m** of funding to retrofit non mains gas heated homes via the **Home Upgrade Grant phase 2**. Check for eligibility and apply [here](#).



Leicestershire County Council is committed to working with Leicestershire residents and organisations to become a **Net Zero county by 2045** and has developed the **Parish and Community Net Zero toolkit** to help kick-start community action, including helpful tips, advice and guidance on how to **identify sources of carbon emissions** in their local area, setting **clear reduction targets**, getting the community involved in supporting initiatives, and signing up to the **Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact**. More information on the toolkit can be found [here](#).

## Climate Change Reading Lists

Interested in learning more about Climate Change? Why not use our climate change booklists. Enjoy learning about climate change from either the children's or adult booklists. For more information click [here](#).

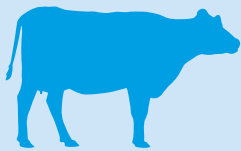


# Action For Nature Performance

## Hectares of Council Land in Better Management for Nature

Total Land in Better Management  
for Nature 2022-23

**3,854**  
hectares



County Farms  
**2,164**  
hectares

Highway  
Verges

**1,068**  
hectares



Country Parks  
**585** hectares

Playing Fields **37** hectares



Wildlife Verges



2022 - 23

**69**  
verges



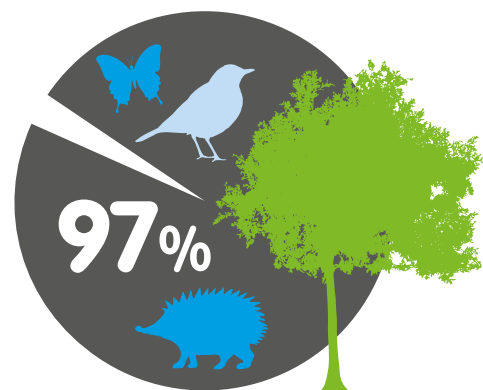
**51** parishes participating

These metrics are **currently under development** and are seeking to show how much of council land is in **better management for nature**, in area terms and as a percentage of the total council land that could be in better management for nature.

Only land where there is a **conscious decision made to manage the land in a way that protects or enhances nature** is included. The figures do not say anything about the quality of that land from a nature perspective. The figures presented are based on the **current available data** so are not the final figures but are **indicative of the position**. Further refinement of the data will be carried out on an ongoing basis.

The available data shows that **3,854 hectares** of council land are in better management for nature and include county farms and highway verges. This is equivalent to **97%** of the land that could possibly be suitable.

### % of Suitable Council Land in Better Management for Nature



The County Council started the **Urban Wildlife Verge scheme** pilot in **2020**. Since then, the scheme has grown in the number of verges included and the number of parish councils participating. At the end of **2022-23** there were **69 verges** in the scheme managed by **51 parishes**. These verges are managed by reducing grass cutting, which is also done at the best time of the year for wildlife. The grass clippings are removed to provide good soil conditions for wildflowers to thrive. For more information on the scheme go to the [Leicestershire County Council website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk).

## Number of Trees Planted in Leicestershire



The County Council has set a target to help plant **700,000 trees** in Leicestershire by **2030** as part of its net zero and nature recovery commitments. At the end of **2022-23** some **248,000 trees** were planted across the county by the county council and other organisations and individuals. For more information on this and to keep track of how many trees are being planted visit the [Leicestershire County Council website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/council).

## Grassland Restoration Project

A project to restore grassland has restored **0.7 hectares** of grassland alongside the **Broughton Astley** Leisure Centre and delivered **4.5 hectares** of grassland restoration at **Watermead Country Park**. The project has also produced a **conservation grazing plan** for land in and around Poole Farm, Quorn. This work was funded by Trent Rivers Trust, WWF, Botanica, and Leicestershire County Council and had a total value of **£46,700**.



## Projects on the ground

### Celebrating 40 Years of Tree Wardens



In March 2023 Leicestershire celebrated **40 years** of running the Tree Warden network in the county, in partnership with the Tree Council. There are currently **124 Tree Wardens** in the network. The volunteer Tree Wardens are managed by **79 parishes/independent organisations**.

The role of a Tree Warden is diverse and involves:

- maintaining trees (watering, weeding, minor tree work like coppicing);
- checking for pests and disease;
- looking for places to plant trees;
- encouraging schools to educate pupils about trees;
- interpretation of trees through guided walks;
- checking planning applications to see impacts on designated and non-designated trees.

Leicestershire is well regarded by the Tree Council who refer new networks to us for advice and best practice.

Tree Wardens have supported access to Treescape grants by providing evidence of the demand for trees in Leicestershire. They have also helped with data collection for Local Wildlife Site, Ancient Trees and assessing trees for Tree Preservation Orders, as well as helping in the delivery of the council's planting target of 700,000 trees by 2030.

### Supporting Orchard Development in Leicestershire

The County Council has taken steps to recognise the value of trees, the biodiversity benefits and the sustainable food production within orchards, by widening the variety of tree species in its [free tree scheme](#) to include fruit trees. During **2022-23** the council supported the creation of **5 new orchards**, including two in schools and three in the community. During **2023-24** we have supported an additional **38 new orchards** including 23 in schools and 15 in the community.

To support the development of orchards the council also delivered three rounds of a **'Designing an Orchard'** course, with **58** members of the public taking part. The course was part funded by the [Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme](#).

