



**Meeting:** Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date/Time:** Monday, 26 January 2026 at 2.00 pm  
**Location:** Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield  
**Contact:** Mr. A. Sarang (0116 3056844)  
**Email:** aqil.sarang@leics.gov.uk

### Membership

Mr. K. Robinson CC (Chairman)  
Dr. J. Bloxham CC Mr. J. McDonald CC  
Mrs. N. Bottomley CC Mr. J. Melen CC  
Mr. N. Chapman CC Mr. P. Morris CC  
Mr. G. Cooke CC Ms. A. Pendlebury CC  
Ms. B. Gray CC Mr. C. A. Smith CC  
Dr. S. Hill CC Mr. A. Thorp CC

**Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk>**

### AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025.	(Pages 3 - 6)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked by Members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise on 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.	Presentations of Petitions under Standing Order 36.		
8.	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 - 2029/30.	Director of Environment and Transport and Director of Corporate Resources	(Pages 7 - 20)
9.	Environmental Performance Report 2024-25.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 21 - 76)
10.	Climate Resilience Delivery Plan.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 77 - 136)
11.	Date of Next Meeting.		
		The next meeting of the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on 9 March 2026 at 2.00pm.	
12.	Any other item that the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.		



Minutes of a meeting of the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 11 November 2025.

PRESENT

Mr. K. Robinson CC (in the Chair)	
Mrs. N. Bottomley CC	Dr. S. Hill CC
Mr. N. Chapman CC	Mr. J. McDonald CC
Mr. G. Cooke CC	Mr. P. Morris CC
Mr. M. R. England CC	Mr. C. A. Smith CC
Ms. B. Gray CC	Mrs D. Taylor CC

In attendance.

Mr. A. Tilbury CC – Lead Member for Environment and Flooding.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

2. Question Time.

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

3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

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

4. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

5. 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.

No declarations were made.

6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

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

7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

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

8. Action for Nature - A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment (Document and Action Plan).

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport, the purpose of which was to seek the views of the Committee on the refreshed draft Action for Nature – A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment, and on the supporting draft Action Plan. A copy of the report marked ‘Agenda Item 8’ is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were made:

- i) It was acknowledged that measuring biodiversity was challenging and costly and although figures were not included in the report, data was available and progress monitored. Members were assured that the Committee would receive the annual Environment Performance Report in 2026 which would cover these additional Key Performance Indicators. It was highlighted that 97% of suitable Council-owned land was managed for nature and 540,000 trees had been planted under the Tree for Every Person scheme. It was noted that the County Council worked with local groups who were a beneficial resource to gather data and encouraged public participation.
- ii) A Member queried the use of chemicals by the Authority on land it owned and managed. It was noted that public data on chemical usage was not published, but the information could be accessed through contractors. The Director reported that the Council used Glyphosate for weed control on its land, spraying twice a year in June and September. This was necessary to prevent infrastructure damage and higher repair costs. It was highlighted that the use of Glyphosate was within European Union regulations. Trials by other authorities had shown there was currently no effective alternative on the market.
- iii) It was noted that the Council actively worked with parish council biodiversity groups through a Nature Network, that met regularly to share best practices and resources. It was highlighted that the Council had a wild verge scheme, supported by parish councils, which allowed for reduced cutting to support biodiversity where it was safe and feasible. It was suggested that although there was a set cutting regime in place, opinions differed, and some communities preferred less cutting for biodiversity, while others preferred tidier areas.

The Lead Member for Environment and Flooding commented that there were encouraging signs of biodiversity recovery across many parts of Leicestershire, supported by initiatives like the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and efforts made by district councils. The initiatives demonstrated promising progress toward biodiversity restoration with several areas now showing signs of improvement through local initiatives. Actions such as delaying lawn cutting during the spring months to help pollinators and implementing natural flood defences that benefited insects and amphibians were highlighted as positive steps.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

9. Tree Management Strategy.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources, the purpose of which was to present the refreshed draft Tree Management Strategy which set the approach for the management of the County Council's trees and woodlands. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were made:

- i) It was noted that the County Council continued to develop its tree nursery, and the first batch of trees from the nursery would be ready for planting later this year. These would be used for replanting areas affected by Ash Dieback and for highway schemes.
- ii) In response to a member query on tree values, it was noted that the Council used a tree inventory system to track the ecological and amenity value of individual trees. It was highlighted that figures were updated regularly and full Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees assessments had been done for trial or development cases.
- iii) It was highlighted that a previous project funded by DEFRA supported orchards in schools, but a lack of funding had slowed the progress made. It was suggested that plans were in place to restart the scheme using nursery tree stock for schools and new developments were being made to encourage the link for children with food production.
- iv) A Member raised concerns about the inspection of trees on disused railway paths like Bampton Valley Way suggesting some areas needed additional attention. It was noted that this fell under the Country Park portfolio and would be inspected in due course.

The Lead Member for Environment and Flooding commented that as the tree planting season approached the County Council would be giving away free trees and encouraged everyone to take up this opportunity to plant a tree as this supported biodiversity and helped with flood prevention.

RESOLVED:

That the update report be noted.

10. Dates of Future Meetings.

RESOLVED:

That meetings of the Committee in 2026 would take place at 14:00 on the following days:

Monday 26 January 2026  
 Monday 9 March 2026  
 Monday 8 June 2026  
 Wednesday 2 September 2026  
 Monday 9 November 2026

2.00pm – 2.28pm  
 11 November 2025

CHAIRMAN

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## **ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26 JANUARY 2026**

### **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2026/27 – 2029/30**

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

##### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - a) Provide information on the proposed 2026/27 to 2029/30 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it relates to the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services of the 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.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The County Council agreed the current MTFS in February 2025. This has been the subject of a comprehensive review and revision considering the current economic circumstances. The draft MTFS for 2026/27 – 2029/30 was considered by the Cabinet on 16 December 2025.

##### **Background**

3. The draft MTFS was set out in the report to the Cabinet on 16 December 2025, a copy of which has been circulated to all members of the County Council. The report highlights a projected gap of £23m in the first year that (subject to changes from later information such as the Local Government Finance Settlement) will need to be balanced by the use of earmarked reserves. There is then a gap of £49m in year two rising to £106m in year four.
4. This report highlights the implications for the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services within the Council's Environment and Transport Department.
5. Reports such as this are being presented to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The views of this Committee will be reported to the Scrutiny

Commission on 26 January 2026. The Cabinet will consider the results of the scrutiny process on 3 February 2026 before recommending the MTFS, including a budget and the Capital Programme for 2026/27, to the County Council on 18 February 2026.

### Proposed Revenue Budget

6. Table 1 below summarises the proposed 2026/27 revenue budget and provisional budgets for the next three years thereafter for the Council's Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services. The proposed 2026/27 revenue budget is shown in detail in Appendix A.

Table 1 – Revenue Budget 2026/27 to 2029/30

	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000
Original prior year budget	1,290	1,620	1,635	1,644
Budget transfers and adjustments	330	15	8	-114
Add proposed growth ( <b>Error!</b> <b>Reference source not found.</b> )	0	0	0	0
Less proposed savings (Appendix B)	0	0	0	0
<b>Proposed/Provisional budget</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>1,530</b>

7. Detailed service budgets have been compiled based on no pay or price inflation. A central contingency will be held which will be allocated to services as necessary.

8. The total proposed expenditure budget for the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services in 2026/27 is £1.76m with contributions from grants, service user income totalling £0.14m. The proposed net budget for 2026/27 of £1.62m is distributed as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Net Budget 2026/27

	£000
<b>Highways &amp; Transport</b>	
Flood Alleviation	904
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Resilience</b>	
Staffing and administration required to develop and deliver environmental policy and strategy; and climate resilience.	657
Initiatives including funding for Ashby Canal general maintenance, Tree Warden events, Charnwood Forest contributions, and wildlife verge scheme.	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,620</b>

## **Budget Transfers and Adjustments**

9. A number of budget transfers (totalling a net increase of £0.31m) were made during the 2025/26 financial year. These transfers include:
  - a) £0.10m for ongoing contribution to flood alleviation works.
  - b) £0.21m transfer of the Local Transport Grant (LTG) revenue funding from highways to flood alleviation works.
10. Budget transfers to cover the additional costs associated with the 2025/26 pay award and reduction in the employers' pension contribution rate from 2026/27 (from 29.4% to 23.4%) have been reflected in this MTFS report.
11. 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 £0.03m for the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services.
12. No savings opportunities or growth requirements have been proposed for Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services over the 2026-30 MTFS period.

## **Savings Under Development**

13. Current Savings Under Development (SUDs) for Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services are at a very early stage and therefore cannot yet be quantified or detailed. Work is focused on agreeing mandates and exploring potential opportunities rather than progressing to business case development.
14. Once business cases have been completed and appropriate consultation and assessment processes undertaken, savings will be confirmed and included in a future MTFS. It is expected that any developments will be shaped significantly as the Efficiency Review progresses.

## **Future Financial Sustainability**

15. Despite delivery of extensive savings already, a significant gap remains for the Council, emphasising the need to accelerate and expand the Council's ambitions and explore new, innovative options. A step-change in approach is required.
16. The Efficiency Review was initiated by the Council's new Administration in response to a then-projected £90m budget gap by 2028/29, alongside mounting pressures on capital funding and special educational needs budgets. To address these financial challenges, the Council commissioned a comprehensive, evidence-led review of all services and spending, aiming to identify ways to accelerate existing initiatives and identify new opportunities. The review will identify opportunities to redesign services, optimise resources, and embed a performance-driven culture across the organisation.

17. Key elements of the review include:
  - a) Reviewing all Council activities for cost reduction, service redesign, and income generation (excluding commercial ventures).
  - b) Assessing existing MTFS projects and savings ideas to prioritise or redesign them, to identify where savings targets could be stretched or accelerated.
  - c) Strengthening governance, data management and resource mobilisation within the current Council's Transformation Strategy.
  - d) Reviewing the Council's approach to delivering change to ensure it is well placed to support implementation and future Council change initiatives.
18. The review is being undertaken by Newton Impact and commenced in early November 2025, with detailed recommendations due early 2026 to inform future financial planning and Cabinet decisions.
19. The first stage of work was focused on any immediate opportunity to accelerate existing MTFS savings. The first of these, included in the draft MTFS position, is reablement in Adult Social Care. The initial saving included in the MTFS is £1m, building on an existing saving in this area of £1.9m.
20. The further initiatives that will be developed over the next few months are expected to be a combination of i) ideas that had not progressed due to resource availability, ii) existing initiatives that can be expanded due to greater insight, iii) new initiatives to the Council.
21. The review is still in its early stages and is progressing as expected. If further initiatives can be developed to a satisfactory level of confidence they will be included in the MTFS report to the Cabinet in February 2026.
22. For Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services, the opportunities being developed include place-based service efficiency reviews. Place-based services are those delivered on the ground by multiple Council teams such as highways, transport, waste, libraries, trading standards and other regulatory services within various departments. There is an opportunity to deliver place-based services differently, taking a local approach to service delivery, improving efficiency and taking advantage of digital and technology investment. Better integration and service reviews have the potential to release financial benefits.
23. The County Council is taking decisive action to close the budget gap and build a financially resilient organisation. The Efficiency Review will result in a revised Transformation Programme underpinned by strong governance and innovation to accelerate delivery and embed new ways of working. With significant uncertainty and change linked to the Local Government Reorganisation, the coming year will be critical in driving high-impact change, engaging stakeholders, and preparing the organisation for future challenges.

24. There will need to be a renewed focus on these programmes during the next few months to ensure that savings are identified and delivered to support the 2026/27 budget gap. Given the scale of the financial challenge, focus will be needed to prioritise resources on the change initiatives that will have the greatest impact, and work is already underway to do this.

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

25. The Government's recent announcement of multi-year settlements for the MTFS period provides a welcome degree of certainty, enabling more effective strategic planning and reliable service delivery. The LTG together with increased Highways Maintenance Block funding provides an uplift in capital invest over the next four years, which will help support the cost of planned flood mitigation. Unfortunately, this boost in capital investment is not matched by a corresponding increase in revenue funding required to carry out the works, resulting in a greater reliance on the use of capital substitution (the replacement of capital funds that has restrictions on the type of spend it can be used on with revenue funds that has no restrictions on usage) to enable delivery of activities that cannot be capitalised because such works do not lengthen substantially the life of an asset or increase its market value.
26. Capital substitution is becoming increasingly problematic, with fewer capital schemes being funded from revenue across the County Council. Furthermore, the Department for Transport's proposals to merge the various transport and bus grants into a single local transport consolidated grant, with spend assessed against an approved Local Transport Delivery Plan and Section 151 [senior finance] officer confirmation that spend is aligned to specific revenue/capital grant allocations will constrain the ability to manage any capital substitution. Ultimately, this could result in the scaling back on highways works including flood alleviation, to comply with the funding conditions and ensure affordability within respective capital/revenue funding allocations. Following the recent DfT rating of highway maintenance by authority and the data required on maintenance capital spend, further consideration is now being given to the option of removing the requirement for a capital substitution. Such amendment will be reflected in the Cabinet report to be presented in February 2026.
27. The impacts of a changing climate further compound the need for greater investment in Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services. Warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers and more frequent and intense weather extremes all cause damage to assets and worsen the existing network condition. This brings a greater need to invest in measures to deal with increased levels of highway flooding and address drainage systems as well as heat damage. Flooding also places pressures on the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority to carry out investigations into the causes of such flooding and proactively work with communities to help them recover from flooding and build resilience for any future flood events.
28. In acknowledgement of the devastating effects flooding has had across the County, and the high priority placed on flood alleviation, the Cabinet took the decision to reprioritise £2m from the earmarked reserve for carbon reduction

work to flooding mitigation initiatives and to adapting services towards mitigating the impacts of severe weather events. This one-off temporary funding has been included in the revenue budget for the period 2026/27 to 2028/29. Future financial implication will need to be reassessed following completion of such related works.

29. The financial environment continues to mandate increased bureaucracy in the form of stronger financial controls and enhanced governance arrangements, which in turn adds to work pressures.

### **Other Funding Sources**

30. For 2026/27, 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) Capital fee income - £0.16m for staff time charged in delivering the Capital Programme. Should elements of the Capital Programme not be delivered as planned, this could have an impact on the amount of staff time recovered. However, the use of agency and temporary staff resource does give some scope for varying staff levels in order to minimise the risk of this resulting in overspending in staffing cost centres.
- b) Other specific grants - £0.14m estimated for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

### **Capital Programme**

31. The draft Capital Programme is outlined in Table 3 below and is funded by a combination of the LTG, Highways Maintenance Block funding, Environment Agency grant and reserves.

Table 3 – Summary Draft Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	Total £000
Property Flood Risk Alleviation	1,176	352	0	0	1,528
Flood Alleviation	600	925	925	870	3,320
Ashby Canal	37	37	37	37	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>4,996</b>

32. An Environment Agency grant totalling £1.45m will fund most of the Property Flood Risk Alleviation capital works with the balance being funded by the Council.
33. The Flood Alleviation Capital Programme forms part of the Highways and Transport Asset Management Programme and equates to £3.93m or 1.8% of the combined Highways Maintenance Block and LTG allocation for the four-

year period. An element of this (£0.61m) has been top sliced as a capital substitution to fund the revenue cost associated with service delivery.

- a) The Highways Maintenance Block funding has been confirmed for the next four years and amounts to £144.72m in total, of which £3.40m relates to Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Services. A proportion of this total funding (£39.34m or 27.2%), has been designated as incentive funding and will be subject to the Council as the Local Highways Authority (LHA) demonstrating that it has complied with best practice in highways maintenance. At least 25% of the incentive funding will be dependent on the LHA publishing transparency reports.
- b) For 2026/27, 50% of the incentive funding will be subject to the LHA's performance. Further details on the performance-based measures are expected to be confirmed in due course. Further performance-based metrics are likely to be considered as part of future incentive fund allocations.
- c) It should be noted that compared to the current financial year, the incentive fund element has increased as a proportion of the total funding allocation by 20.2% (from 6.6% to 26.8%). For the purpose of the 2026-30 MTFS Capital Programme, 100% incentive funding has been assumed.

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

34. Capital projects that are not yet fully developed, or plans agreed, have been treated as '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. While these schemes come under the direct remit of the Highways, Transport and Waste functions, they will contribute towards the Council's environmental outcomes. These include:

- a) New Melton RHWS,
- b) Compaction equipment,
- c) Green vehicle fleet,
- d) Windrow Composting facility.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet 16 December 2025 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7882&Ver=4>  
(item 5)

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

None.

## **Equality Implications**

35. 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.
36. Given the nature of services provided, many aspects of the County Council's MTFS may 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 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.
37. 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.
38. If, as a result of undertaking an assessment, potential negative impacts are identified, these will be subject to further assessment.
39. Any savings arising out of a reduction in posts will be subject to the County Council Organisational Change Policy which requires an Equality Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the action plan.

## **Human Rights Implications**

40. 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.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Revenue Budget 2026/27  
 Appendix B – Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2029/30

## **Officers to Contact**

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**APPENDIX A**

**ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27**

Net Budget 2025/26 £	*	Employees £	Running Expenses £	Internal Income £	Gross Budget £	External Income £	Net Total £
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
674,864 Staffing and Admin	S/D	719,595	37,761	-100,000	657,356	0	657,356
79,680 Initiatives	S/D	71,746	149,960	-26,750	194,956	-135,500	59,456
<b>754,544 TOTAL</b>		<b>791,341</b>	<b>187,721</b>	<b>-126,750</b>	<b>852,312</b>	<b>-135,500</b>	<b>716,812</b>
<b>FLOODING</b>							
682,612 Flood Alleviation	S/D	1,044,151	161,454	-295,000	910,605	-7,000	903,605
<b>1,437,156 TOTAL</b>		<b>1,835,491</b>	<b>349,175</b>	<b>-421,750</b>	<b>1,762,916</b>	<b>-142,500</b>	<b>1,620,416</b>

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ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026-30

Estimated Completion Date	Gross Cost of Project £000		2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	Total £000
Mar-29	3,321	Highways Flood Alleviation	600	925	925	870	3,320
Mar-28	2,928	Property Flood Risk Alleviation - funded externally + LCC	1,176	352	0	0	1,528
Mar-29	148	Ashby Canal	37	37	37	37	148
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>4,996</b>

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## **ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2026**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024-25**

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

##### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides details of the Council's environmental performance and progress in delivering its Environment Strategy 2018-2030, and subsidiary strategies and plans, and an assessment of the context within which the Council's Environmental Management System (EMS) was operating for 2024-25.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The Cabinet approved the 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 Climate Emergency 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 work towards 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 the Council 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.

7. Since these commitments were made, the Council has been subjected to an increasingly constrained financial position with a significant deficit forecast. In February 2023, in light of this and the estimated increased resources that are required to reach net zero, the Council resolved to extend the net zero targets to 2035 for the Council's operations and to 2050 for the Countywide emissions, in line with the national target.
8. On 15 July 2025, the Cabinet resolved to change the focus of the activities that were to be delivered under the Net Zero Action Plan from carbon reduction to climate adaptation and responding to severe weather events, and projects that deliver financial savings, or social, economic or environmental benefits, in support of the Council's strategic outcomes.

### **Background**

9. The full Performance Report has been appended to this report. It is divided into two sections: Section 1 provides details of the environmental performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council as an organisation, while Section 2 provides details of the performance and the progress for Leicestershire as a County, accepting that there are some areas of overlap.
10. The environmental performance of the Council, and of Leicestershire, is presented across a range of themes and Key Performance Indicators. The report also provides a summary of the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2024-25.
11. The report is produced to comply with commitments made in the various environmental strategies of the Council, such as the Environment Strategy, to monitor and report on performance. It also meets the Government's requirements to produce and publish an annual Greenhouse Gas Report.
12. The report provides an assessment of the context within which the Council's EMS was operating in during 2024-25. The EMS is a set of policies, processes and procedures that manage the environmental aspects of the Council, such as waste, pollution and resource use, helping the Council reduce environmental harm and improve efficiency. It also seeks to reduce the impact of the environment on the Council by managing climate risks.
13. The report also provides a headline update on the progress in delivering the actions within the 2035 and 2050 Net Zero Action Plans.
14. Where circumstances have changed since the end of 2024-25 in relation to environmental risks, the current position is provided where appropriate. Reference is also made to more contemporary changes that may affect the EMS where this is appropriate. Progress highlights in delivering the 2035 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan are provided, as of November 2025.

## **Report Headlines**

15. The main headlines from the 2024-25 Environmental Performance and Progress report are:

- a) Leicestershire County Council:
  - i. There has been a 9.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the Council's operations compared to 2023-24, with emissions at 8,404 tCO<sub>2</sub>e [tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent];
  - ii. The Council's emissions have reduced by 76.5% since 2008-09;
  - iii. Electricity use for street lighting was down 14.3%;
  - iv. Business mileage claims were down 2.5%;
  - v. Water consumption was down 11%;
  - vi. On-site renewable energy generation reached a record 20.7% of total consumption, though still below the 30.9% target.
  - vii. The total office waste rose by 97 tonnes and the recycling rate fell to 58.6%, below the in-year target of 65.7%;
  - viii. The amount of office paper purchased fell by 3.4% to 2.7m A4 sheets. This is 68% less than the pre-Covid-19 pandemic figure of 8.2m A4 sheets;
  - ix. The percentage of Council land in better management for nature remains at 97%;
  - x. There was a continuation of the gradual declining staff confidence in the Council's environmental efforts, though still relatively high at 88.6%;
  - xi. There were two environmental complaints upheld. They related to asbestos not being dealt with properly at a waste site, and disturbance from noise and vibrations from roadworks that were taking place outside of a property;
  - xii. There were no environmental incidents, enforcement notices or prosecutions;
  - xiii. There was one minor non-conformity found during the external audit of the Council's EMS, relating to the objectives in the EMS manual not being up to date. This has since been corrected;
  - xiv. During the internal audit process, there was one major non-conformity and two minor non-conformities found. They related to the lack of procedures for assessing the impacts of construction projects on protected species, at the 1620's House, the lack of a protocol for Invasive and Non-native Species Management at the 1620s House, and an incomplete procedure for waste transfer notes for waste ICT equipment, respectively;
  - xv. There were two (now one) environmental high risks (biodiversity and highways mowing regimes);
  - xvi. There are six climate change high risks (Highways assets x3, supplier resilience, property policies and building specifications);
  - xvii. In July 2024, a new Government was elected, and a number of their manifesto 'missions' are expected to be relevant to the Council's EMS;

- xviii. Two relevant bills were introduced by the Government: the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and the Climate and Nature Bill;
- xix. The election of a new administration in May 2025 at Leicestershire County Council has resulted in new and evolving priorities which may be relevant to the EMS and the delivery of the Council's current environmental policies and commitments.
- xx. The introduction and implementation of regulations in relation to statutory duties for local government introduced as part of the Environment Act 2021 continued. This included, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, the strengthened biodiversity duty and the new biodiversity reporting requirements, as well as new duties from the Simpler Recycling reforms;

b) Leicestershire:

- i. Greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire in 2023 were 4.33 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, down 5.2% compared to 2022;
- ii. Per capita emissions are down 45% since 2005, to 5.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e;
- iii. The number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging locations per 100,000 population increased by 24% to 73.5;
- iv. EV ownership has increased by 26% to 272.7 per 10,000 population;
- v. Renewable energy generation rose 12% to 398,399 MWh;
- vi. Renewable energy capacity increased by 27% to 433.3 MW;
- vii. 54.1% of existing domestic properties and 98.8% of new properties have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater;
- viii. There has been continued good progress in planting a tree for every person (current target is 700,000 trees) in Leicestershire by 2030, with 494,240 trees planted;
- ix. The amount of household waste per household in Leicestershire fell by 0.8% to 952.1kg;
- x. The amount of household waste reused, recycled and composted increased by 1.2% to 44.8%;
- xi. The amount of municipal waste sent to landfill fell by 2.3% to 10.3%;
- xii. Based on the latest available figures for 2023-24, the number of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population increased slightly from 4.8 to 5.4 incidents;
- xiii. The latest available figures from 2023 show that the amount of fine particulate matter, PM2.5 was 7.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, down from 8.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2022 and that there was one NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) exceedance in Leicestershire;
- xiv. The Council, working with its partners (the National Grid, Energy Systems Catapult, De Montfort University, the University of Leicester, Community Energy South and Green Fox Community Energy), continued to deliver the £2.56m Innovate UK Leicestershire Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero (LCAN) project;
- xv. The Council and its partners commenced delivery of the £220,000 LEVI (Local EV Infrastructure) funded project to deliver approximately 45 public EV chargepoints across Leicestershire;
- xvi. The Solar Together group of local authorities buying initiative, which supports residents to purchase solar panel systems for their homes

and cut their energy bills, saw 433 installations completed across the County;

xvii. The Public Health Warm Homes service continued to deliver the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme, installing energy efficiency upgrades to low-income private sector homes. It also began administering the Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to the Energy Company Obligation and the Great British Insulation Scheme funding to private sector housing via wider health and income measures.

## **Conclusions**

16. The following key conclusions have been drawn from the report:

a) Leicestershire County Council:

- i. The Council is currently ahead of the target in year, in terms of its own operational emissions. However, the expected trajectory of emission reductions suggests that net zero will not be achieved by 2035, due to the increasing difficulty and cost of reducing emissions, and therefore some form of carbon offsetting will be needed to reduce net emissions to zero.
- ii. The introduction of the Environment Act 2021 continues to place additional statutory duties on the Council, such as food waste collections, Biodiversity Net Gain, the Biodiversity Duty and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Council will need to consider how it delivers these new duties in light of the amount of new burdens funding that is provided by the Government and the financial position of the Council.
- iii. Continued limited action on the identified climate change risks due to capacity is a concern, though the recent decision to redirect resources towards addressing flooding and these risks will help to mitigate the risks.
- iv. The financial pressures of the Council, combined with resource issues, are making it more difficult to progress environmental improvements.

b) Leicestershire:

- i. While emissions are gradually decreasing in Leicestershire, the County is currently not on track to meet the 2050 net zero target, assuming a continuation of the current rate of reduction.
- ii. The LCAN project has been a successful example of how bringing key partners together can drive forward sustainability work within the County.

- iii. Very good progress has been made in planting a tree for every person in Leicestershire.
- 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.

### **Resource Implications**

- 17. The report has identified concerns regarding the current financial position of the Council and how it may affect the resourcing of action on the environment.
- 18. The Environment Act 2021 and subsequent legislation have placed new or additional duties on local government, such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Simpler Recycling Reforms. As these are better understood, it will be necessary to assess whether there are any further resource implications for the Council.
- 19. Business cases will be developed for specific projects as required, which may identify future resource implications.
- 20. The Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

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

- 21. None.

### **Equality Implications**

- 22. There are no equality implications arising from the content of this report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

- 23. There are no human rights implications arising from the content of this report.

### **Environmental Implications**

- 24. This 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 that is currently available and used. The report however highlights concerns that insufficient staff capacity and financial resources are likely to make it more difficult for the Council to meet its environmental targets and commitments, which may result in environmental implications.

### **Background Papers**

Environment Strategy 2018-2030 –

<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>

2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy & Action Plan –

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/environmental-policies-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>

Biodiversity Duty Plan -

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-01/LCC-Biodiversity-Duty-Plan.pdf>

## **Appendix**

2024-25 Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report

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Leicestershire  
County Council

2024-25

## Environmental Performance and Progress Update Report



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## Introduction

1. The report is divided into two sections and six parts. Section 1 (Parts 1-4) provides details of the environmental performance and progress for Leicestershire County Council as an organisation, while Section 2 (Parts 5-6) provides details of the performance and progress for Leicestershire as a county, accepting that there are some areas of overlap.
2. Part 1 provides details of the environmental performance of the Council across a range of themes and key performance indicators.
3. Part 2 provides a summary of the Council's Greenhouse Gas Report for 2024-25, setting out the overall figure and the key sources of emissions.
4. Part 3 of the report provides a headline update of the progress in delivering the actions within the 2035 Net Zero Council Action Plan.
5. Part 4 provides an assessment of the context within which the Council's Environmental Management System was operating in during 2024-25.
6. Part 5 provides details of the environmental performance within Leicestershire against a range of themes and key performance indicators. It also provides the results of the Council's submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project during 2024-25.
7. Part 6 provides a headline update of the progress in delivering the actions within the 2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan.
8. The report finally provides a set of conclusions, on the performance and progress, firstly for Leicestershire County Council, and secondly for Leicestershire as a county.

## Executive Summary

9. Overall environmental performance for 2024-25 was generally positive, with most indicators showing improvement. Of particular note was the fall of **9.5%** in net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to **8,404 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, for the council as an organisation compared to the previous year. This was particularly helped by a 16% reduction in emissions from fleet vehicles, mainly due to the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel, a 11.6% reduction in direct emissions from buildings, mainly due to better performance from the biomass boiler at County Hall, and a 11.3% reduction in emissions from streetlighting and traffic signals, mainly due to the trimming and dimming project.
10. There was an unexpected rise in non-operational waste from council buildings, increasing by 97 tonnes to **372 tonnes**, and an unusual corresponding slight reduction of 3.4% in recycling performance to **58.6%**.
11. Council emissions have now reduced by **76.5%** since the **2008-09** baseline year.
12. The amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of consumption on County Council land and properties rose to its highest level at **20.7%**. This is still somewhat off the in-year target of 30.9%. The single largest contributor to renewable energy generation is the biomass boiler at County Hall, providing 82% of total corporate renewable energy, with the solar panels providing the balance.
13. Total reported water consumption fell by **11%** to **38,847m<sup>3</sup>** compared to 2023-24. The amount of paper purchased also fell, by **3.4%** compared to the previous year, to **2.6m A4 sheet** equivalents. This is **68%** less than the pre-pandemic figure of **8.2m A4 sheets**.
14. There was a small reduction of **2.5%** in business mileage claims to **4.7m miles**. This is almost **16%** (874,000 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.
15. The amount of electricity used for streetlighting fell by **12.5%** to **7,045 MWh**. Traffic signals' usage also dropped by **5.2%** to **1,454 MWh**. This was achieved despite the number of lighting assets increasing by 326 to **86,413 items** and the fact that sunshine hours were lower in 2024-25 compared to the previous year.
16. The hectares of Council land in better management for nature largely remains unchanged at **3,729 hectares**, equivalent to **97%** of the suitable land that could be in better management for nature.
17. There was a continued gradual reduction in the proportion of staff indicating that the Council was doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment –

**88.6%** and indicating that staff understood how to contribute to green issues at work – **92%**. While these figures remain relatively high, there has been a fall of **4.4%** and **8%** in these figures respectively since 2017-18.

18. In terms of environmental compliance, the Council is performing relatively well. There were **two environmental complaints upheld, no environmental incidents reported, no enforcements or prosecutions, one minor non-conformity** found during the external ISO14001 audit, and **one major and two minor non-conformities** found during the internal environmental audit process in 2024-25.
19. At the end of 2024-25, there were **two (now one) environmental high risks** and **six climate change high risks**. Due to the 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. In October 2025, it was agreed to use a £2m fund towards addressing some of the flood risk in the County and to addressing the climate change risks that were identified.
20. The main highlights from the Council's Net Zero Action Plan were the securing of **£115,000** from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund** to make energy efficiency improvements to four Council owned Family Hub buildings and good progress is being made on the **Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet Transition pilot study**, with a trial to start soon on the use of a pool of EV vans at the Croft Highways depot and the Whetstone and Loughborough Waste depots.
21. In relation to the Council's **Environmental Management System (EMS)**, there was a **change of Government** in July 2024, with the new Government setting out priorities, some of which may affect the EMS, such as the kickstarting of economic growth, making Britain a clean energy superpower, building 1.5 million new homes and forging ahead with nationally significant infrastructure. Action to clean up water, support farmers and lead on climate and improve climate resilience was also promised.
22. Two relevant bills were introduced during 2024-25, namely the **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** and the **Climate and Nature Bill**. A number of consultations by the Government also took place which may be relevant to the EMS, including on the National Planning Policy Framework Reforms, the Land Use Framework and Simpler Recycling in England.
23. In February 2025, the Government launched its updated **National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan**, which included targets to protect at least 30% of land and sea areas for nature, to reduce pollution to levels that were not harmful to biodiversity, and to promote sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry. While outside the period covered by this report, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland was launched in July 2025, which will support the delivery of some of these targets.
24. A number of changes to statutory duties introduced in the **Environment Act 2021** continued to come into effect or were delivered during 2024-25. The Act

introduced the requirement that local authorities within England should produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. In June 2023, the County Council was appointed as the 'Responsible Authority' for developing a strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Work started on developing the strategy in September 2023 with a draft strategy going out to public consultation between January and February 2025.

25. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 introduced a requirement that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exceptions) will have to deliver **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** from February 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. The introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain is now fully operational.
26. 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. Work commenced at the end of 2023-24 on meeting the requirements of this duty, with the Biodiversity Duty Plan approved by the Cabinet in December 2024. The first Biodiversity Report for the County Council is due to be produced in March 2026.
27. The Environment Act 2021 also introduced several new statutory duties relating to waste, which are due to come into effect over the coming years. These concern the **Simpler Recycling** reforms, including the **mandatory separation of waste including food waste collections**, which came into force in 2025 for businesses and non-household municipal premises, including the Council, and is due to come into force for households in 2026; the **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging**, which is due to come into force in 2025; and a **Deposit Return Scheme** for drink containers, which is due to come into force from October 2027. Local authorities, including Leicestershire County Council, are working to prepare for these changes.
28. Increasing cost pressures over recent years on the Council's budgets continue to make it more difficult to take action on the environment and progress identified projects. This inevitably means that tough decisions will be needed on how the Council best spends its resources to deliver its statutory duties and priorities.
29. The election of a new administration in May 2025 at Leicestershire County Council has resulted in new and evolving priorities which may be relevant to the EMS and the delivery of the Council's current environmental policies and commitments
30. Moving to how **Leicestershire** as a county is performing environmentally, the latest available figures from the Government for 2023 show that greenhouse gas emissions were **4.33 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**. This was a fall of **-5.2%** (238,000 tonnes) from 2022, with emissions now 11.7% (381,000 tonnes) lower than the County's 2019 baseline year.

31. In terms of the sectoral sources of the emissions, transport contributes the greatest proportion of Leicestershire's emissions at 42%, followed by domestic 20%, agriculture 13%, industry 12%, waste management 6%, commercial 6%, public sector 2%. Land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) helped remove 1% of emissions, by carbon sequestration.
32. All sectors saw some level of reduction compared to the previous year with the industrial and commercial sectors seeing the biggest reduction with both falling by over -13%, while transport fell by only -0.4%.
33. Per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Leicestershire have fallen by **45%** since 2005 to **5.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, which is **15.7%** lower than the figure for the 2019 baseline year.
34. The Council has continued to deliver several key initiatives which will contribute to the broader Leicestershire target of net zero by 2050. The **Warm Homes scheme** focuses on improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty by supporting vulnerable households with insulation, heating upgrades and other energy saving measures. The **Local Transport Plan** (LTP4) has been progressed to embed more sustainable travel options which are cleaner and produce lower emissions. This coupled with the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, funded by the **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure** (LEVI) initiative, will help residents to reduce emissions from private cars and positively impact local air quality.
35. The **Leicestershire Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero (LCAN)** demonstrator project has developed a Local Area Energy Plan, is boosting renewable energy production in communities and has established a central hub for carbon reduction information and resources. Through these initiatives, the Council is starting to lay a foundation for long-term collaborative local energy security and emission reductions.
36. More broadly, other contextual data in relation to activities that can contribute to reducing emissions in the County showed that there was a **24%** increase in the number of EV charging locations per 100,000 population, from 59.1 in 2023-24 to **73.5** in 2024-25, placing Leicestershire in the third quartile relative to comparative English authorities. The rate of EV ownership increased by **26%** to **272.7 per 10,000 population**, which moved Leicestershire from the third to the second quartile relative to comparative English authorities.
37. The latest available figures from 2023 showed a **27%** increase in renewable energy capacity in Leicestershire, rising to **433.3 MW**, while the amount of renewable energy generated increased by **12%** to **398,399 MWh**, placing Leicestershire in the third quartile relative to comparative English authorities for both indicators.
38. The percentage of new domestic properties with an Energy Performance Certificate of C or greater rose by 1.2% to **98.8%**, while the number of existing domestic properties with an Energy Performance Certificate of C or greater rose slightly to **54.1%**. This placed Leicestershire in the first quartile and the

third quartile relative to comparative English authorities, respectively for these indicators.

39. In terms of waste, the amount of household waste per household in Leicestershire was **961.3kg**. The amount of household waste reused, recycled and composted rose by 1.1% to **44.7%**. The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill fell by 1% to **11.5%**, while the number of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population increased from 4.8 in 2022-23 to **5.4 in 2023-24**, placing Leicestershire in the **second quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.
40. Moving to the wider environment, the latest figures from 2019 show that **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. While **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.
41. The latest available figures (2023) show that the amount of fine particulate matter, PM2.5 was **7.7 µg/m³**. This was a decrease from 8.9 µg/m³ in 2022. Leicestershire sits in the **fourth quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. There was **one NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) exceedance** in Leicestershire. This was a decrease from 2022 when there were three exceedances.
42. The main highlight from the Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan was the continued delivery of the **LCAN project**, which was awarded **£2.56m** in 2023 to deliver four key work packages over the last two years. These work packages are focussed on delivering low cost, clean energy solutions across Leicestershire.
43. The project will be completed by March 2026 with the main outputs being a Local Area Energy Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire, an advisory service for businesses, community organisations and individuals to support and guide them on how to be more sustainable (see [www.greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk](http://www.greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk)), a community energy hub for Leicestershire that will support groups to maintain their operations, develop community share offers to enable them to fund low carbon technology in their local community and provide energy saving advice and measures, which support residents to gain access to low cost clean energy, and an overarching governance structure that brings partners together to support projects and attract investment into the County through the provision of an organised framework.
44. A successful bid for **LEVI funding**, received **£220,000** to deliver approximately **45 public EV chargepoints** across Leicestershire as part of the 'LEVI pilot' project. In collaboration with its partners at Midlands Connect and a consortium of other local authorities, the Council will receive a further **£3.151 million** from

the ‘**LEVI Full**’ Project to take this work further and install up to **558** additional chargepoints across the County.

45. The Council’s support for the **Solar Together project**, which is a group buying initiative that supports residents to purchase solar panel systems for their homes and cut their energy bills, saw **433 installations** completed across during 2024-25.
46. The **Public Health Warm Homes service** secured around **£5m in Warm Homes Local Grant funding** to deliver a three-year project (to March 2028) installing energy efficiency upgrades to low-income private sector homes. In August 2024, the Warm Homes service began administering the Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to the Energy Company Obligation and Great British Insulation Scheme funding to private sector housing via wider health and income measures.
47. The key conclusions of the report are as follows:
  - i) The Council is currently **ahead of target in year**, in terms of its own operational emissions. However, the expected trajectory of emission reduction suggests that net zero will not be achieved by 2035, due to the increasing difficulty and cost of reducing emissions. Therefore, some form of carbon offsetting will be needed to reduce net emissions to zero.
  - ii) The introduction of the **Environment Act 2021** continues to place **additional statutory duties** on the Council, such as food waste collections, Biodiversity Net Gain, the Biodiversity Duty and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Council will need to consider how it delivers these new duties in light of the amount of new burdens funding provided by the government and the financial position of the Council.
  - iii) Continued limited action on the identified **climate change risks** due to capacity is a concern, though the recent decision to redirect resources towards addressing flooding and these risks will help mitigate the risks.
  - iv) The **financial pressures** of the Council, combined with resource issues are making it more difficult to progress environmental improvements.
  - v) While emissions are gradually decreasing in Leicestershire, the County is currently **not on track to meet the 2050 net zero target**, assuming a continuation of the current rate of reduction.
  - vi) The **LCAN** project has been a successful example of how bringing key partners together can drive forward sustainability work within the County.
  - vii) Very good progress has been made in planting a **tree for every person** in Leicestershire.

- viii) 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.

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

### **Part 1: Environmental Performance**

48. This section of the report provides details of the Council's performance and progress regarding a range of environmental key performance indicators (KPIs) across a number of themes and operational areas and covers the following:

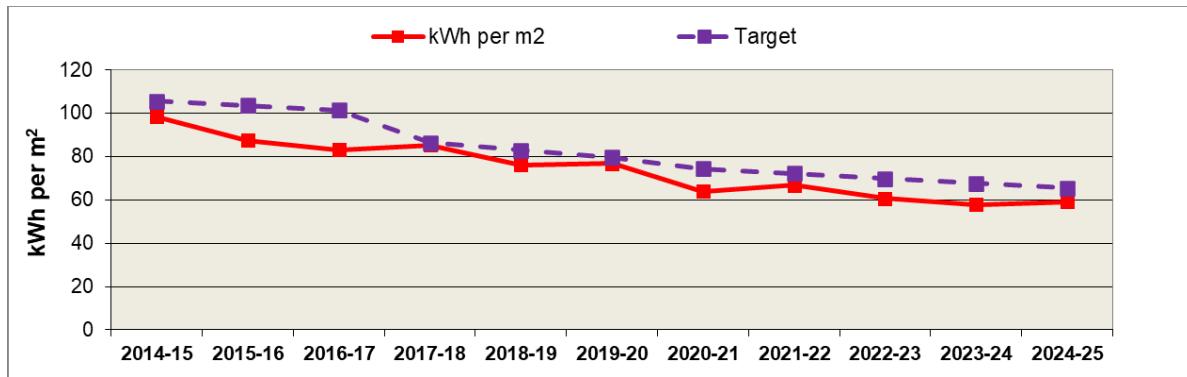
- Electricity consumption;
- Gas / biomass consumption;
- Renewable energy generated;
- Waste produced and recycled;
- Water consumption;
- Paper purchased;
- Use of recycled aggregate;
- Fuel use;
- Business mileage;
- Land managed for nature;
- Staff perceptions;
- Compliance and
- Environmental and climate change risks.

#### **a. Building operation**

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

49. This KPI looks at the efficiency of grid electricity use in selected Council buildings. Only those buildings that have been in the Council's baseline set since 2013-14 (currently 70 sites for electricity) are included, so that any annual reductions seen in energy consumption represent genuine efficiency improvements. This KPI does not include renewable electricity generated and used on-site.

50. The grid electricity consumption per square metre for 2024-25 was **59.1 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>** compared to the target of 65.3 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, therefore it is ahead of target (lower figures are better for this KPI). The figure is approximately **2.2% higher** than the 2023-24 figure of 57.9 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. Despite this slight rise, it is 9.5% below target (low is good).

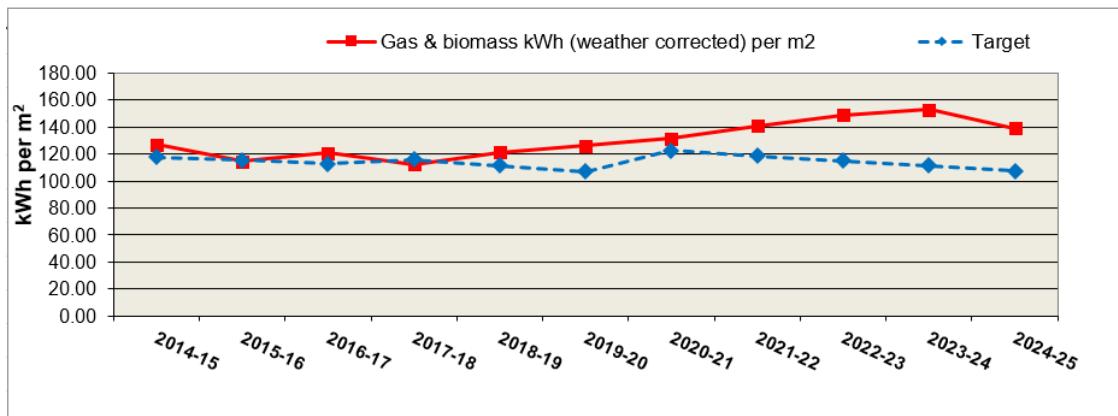


**Figure 1: Electricity consumption per m<sup>2</sup> 2013-14 to 2024-25**

51. In absolute terms, grid electricity usage for this set of buildings increased slightly by 100 MWh (1.8%) from last year, to 5,620 MWh. This is believed to reflect a growth in the average occupancy of offices. At County Hall, occupancy has grown every year since the pandemic and by 25% between 2024 and 2025, although still not back to pre-pandemic levels. There was also a comparatively negligible drop in solar PV production (about 35 MWh or -5.4%).
52. Despite the slight recent increase, grid electricity usage in the baseline buildings is now 1,702 MWh per year less than before the Covid-19 pandemic. This reflects a combination of generally lower building occupancy, successful energy efficiency measures and increased solar photovoltaic (PV) output.

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

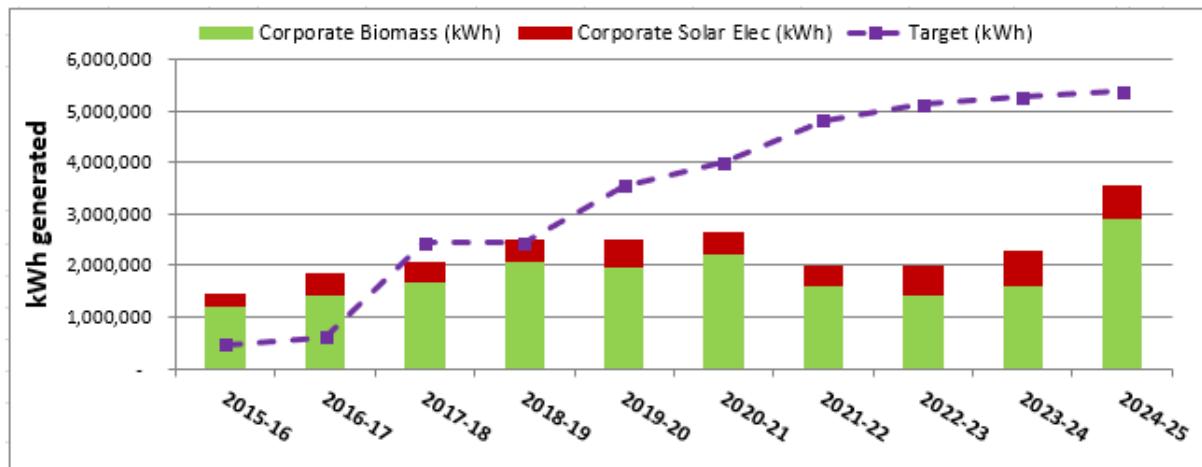
53. This KPI looks at heating efficiency in Council buildings. Only those buildings that have been in the Council's baseline set since 2013-14 (currently 38 sites) are included, so that any annual reductions seen in energy consumption represent genuine efficiency improvements.
54. Gas/biomass consumption per square metre for 2024-25 has **fallen by 9.3% to 139.2 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>** compared to the figure for 2023-24 of 152.8 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>. This is still noticeably above the target of 107.5 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.
55. This implies that heating demand has responded better to milder weather than in previous years, which can be attributed to tighter energy management at various buildings, including Beaumanor Hall, and progress in exploiting the energy efficiency measures installed in recent years at County Hall (such as the thermal store, and the new building management system).



**Figure 2: Gas and biomass consumption per m<sup>2</sup> 2013-14 to 2024-25**

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

56. The amount of renewable energy generated on-site as a percentage of total energy consumed was **20.7%** at the end of 2024-25. This record out-turn is a significant improvement on last year (when 13.3% of usage was generated on-site).
57. The figure is still well below the target (of 30.9% for 2024-25), although the variance has reduced to 39% (from 57% last year). However, the targets for this indicator derive from the Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-30. The strategy and targets are currently under review by the Property Energy Team.
58. The single largest contributor to renewable energy generation is the biomass boiler at County Hall. During 2024-25, efforts by Property to resolve technical problems and improve operating arrangements resulted in much improved boiler availability.
59. Total annual biomass generation rose to a record **2,922 MWh** (non-weather corrected) in 2024-25, up from 1,613 MWh in the previous year. This amounted to **82%** of total corporate renewable energy and **28%** of County Hall's total heating energy requirement in 2024-25 (compared to 16% the previous year).
60. Solar energy generation at corporate sites (red bars in the chart below) had a solid year, with the second highest annual output ever recorded - albeit slightly (-5.4%) down on last year at 621 MWh. Reasons for the slight drop in production include some age-related equipment failures and lower sunshine hours during 2024-25 (10% less than average across the UK).

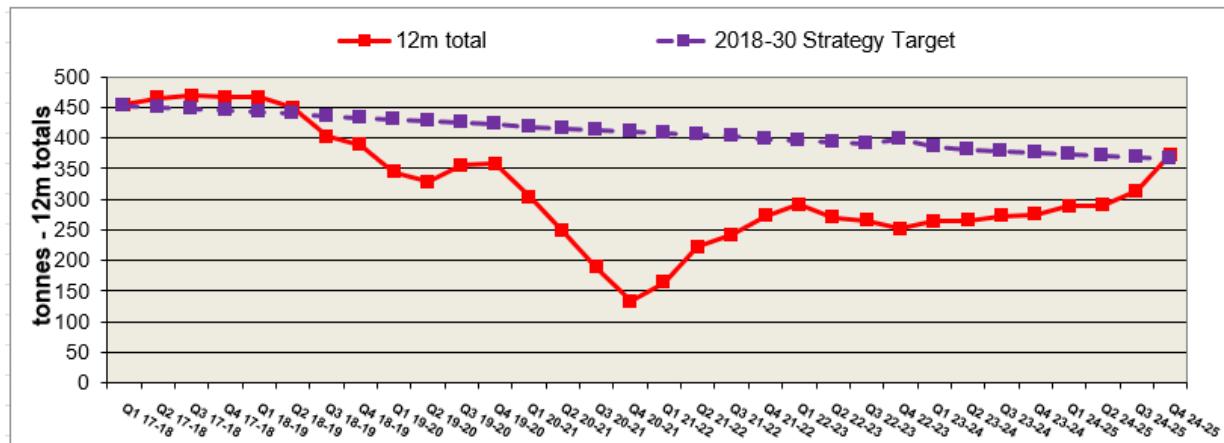


**Figure 3: Corporate renewable energy generation compared to the target 2015-16 to 2024-25**

## b. Waste & resources

### LW1 – Total waste from LCC sites

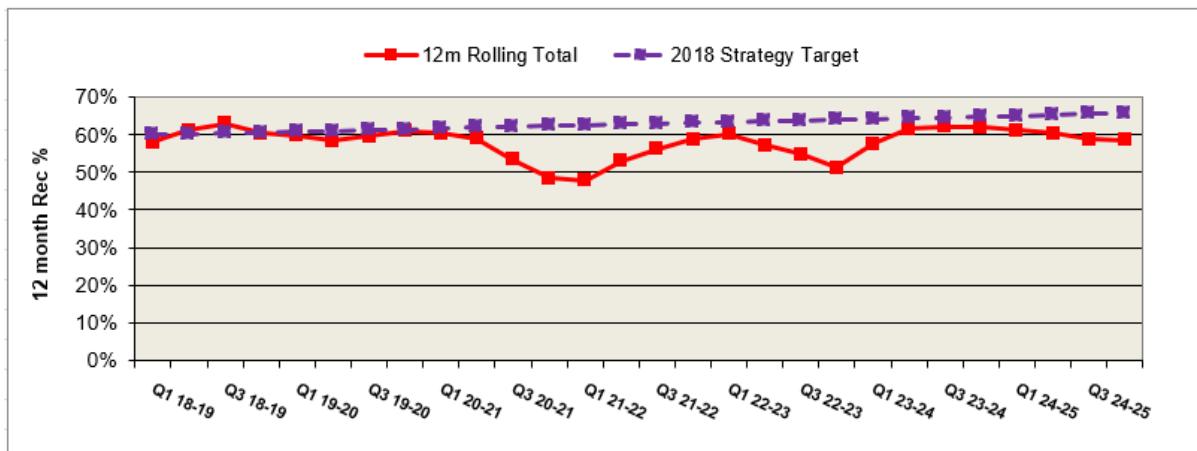
61. The rolling annual total waste figure increased by **35%** (97 tonnes) in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24. The figure of **372 tonnes** is significantly higher than expected and is not in line with the level of waste being generated since the Covid-19 pandemic. The figure is 4% (15 tonnes) higher than the pre-pandemic level in 2019-20.
62. This increase reflects rises in both residual waste (up 47.5% to 154 tonnes) and recycling (up 28% to 218 tonnes). Similar changes took place at the majority of sites, especially in quarter four, although about seven large sites were responsible for two-thirds of the increase.
63. The increases in recycled waste are seen mainly in dry mixed recycling and ICT waste.
64. A few extra sites appeared in the data, which accounted for some of the increase. Certain one-off events, including a large consignment of ICT waste in quarter four, also played a role (possibly along with office moves and clear-outs).
65. The very general increases in both dry mixed recycling and residual waste (especially in quarters three and four) may have multiple causes, but increasing occupancy in offices is thought to be a key factor.



**Figure 4: 12-month rolling total waste, 2017-18 to 2024-25**

#### LW2 - % Recycled from LCC sites

66. The recycling figure for 2024-25 was **58.6%**, a decrease from the 2023-24 figure of 62%. This is below the target of 65.7% for 2024-25. The current target is to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030.
67. The rolling 12-monthly recycling figures rose to over 63% in the second half of 2021-22, fell back to around 52% in 2022-23. After bouncing back to about 62% for the second half of 2023-24, the rate has steadily declined again.
68. The lower recycling rate may reflect ongoing reductions in the weight and the amount of recyclable materials (such as less paper in the offices), as well as changes in staff behaviour.
69. The Greener Together initiative has worked to raise awareness of correct disposal through awareness days in the Food Court, articles in the Environment Bulletin, online information and new posters and labels on bins. More work is planned in 2025-26.
70. A major change occurred in April 2025, when mandatory food waste recycling was introduced across all County Council sites. This is expected to have a noticeable effect on recycling and waste figures from 2025-26 onwards.



**Figure 5: % waste recycled 2018-19 to 2024-25**

WA1 - Total water consumption per FTE

71. The data for 2024-25 shows reported consumption of water decreasing by 11% to **38,847m<sup>3</sup>** compared to 2023-24 although the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff rose slightly.
72. Water consumption per FTE member of staff **fell by 13%** from 9.08m<sup>3</sup> in 2023-24 to **7.92m<sup>3</sup>** in 2024-25. This meant that the performance once again was ahead of the target of 10.9 m<sup>3</sup> (low is good).
73. Occupancy of the Council's main office buildings has varied significantly over the last few years, meaning that "per FTE" is a less useful measure than previously. There is a lack of precise and comprehensive occupancy data. However, occupancy levels appear to be rising slowly.
74. In addition, approximately 25% of County Hall is currently let out to partner organisations, some of which require 24/7 full-time attendance on site because of the nature of their work. These numbers are unknown to the Council and are not part of the FTE figures, which partially counteracts the statistical impact of staff working from home.

P1a - Total office paper purchased

75. The data is received directly from the Council's primary paper supplier.
76. The amount of paper purchased at the end of 2024-25 was **2.6m A4 sheets**. This was a **decrease of 3.7%** (100,000 A4 sheets) on 2023-24, and significantly less (**68%**) than the pre-pandemic figure of **8.2m A4 sheets**.
77. The significant decline since 2019-20 reflects the persistence of changes arising during the pandemic, including the move to more digital service delivery, and the ability to work from home. 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

78. The proportion of recycled aggregates used over 2024-25 was **76%**, an increase on the previous year figure of 60%. The amount of recycled aggregate used varies from quarter to quarter, with almost 88% recycled aggregate used in quarter two of 2024-25.
79. The use of recycled aggregates is affected by availability and feasibility (such as not being suitable for base layers) and it is not always the best environmental option when processing, logistics and energy use are factored in. However, the use of recycled aggregates in certain schemes can significantly reduce transportation and waste costs, and therefore, it is encouraged where it is suitable and locally available.

### **c. Fleet operation**

80. The total volume of fuel used by the Council's vehicles in 2024-25 was almost unchanged from the previous year at **1,104,000 litres** (a fall of 0.04%). However, there were significant reductions in the use of diesel (down 16% to 881,000 litres) and gas oil (-91%) and a corresponding increase in Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel (up nearly six times to 173,000 litres).
81. The total CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from fleet fuel **fell by 16%** to **2,263 tonnes** (from 2,694 tonnes in 2023-24), mainly due to the displacement of a proportion of diesel fuel used by HVO.

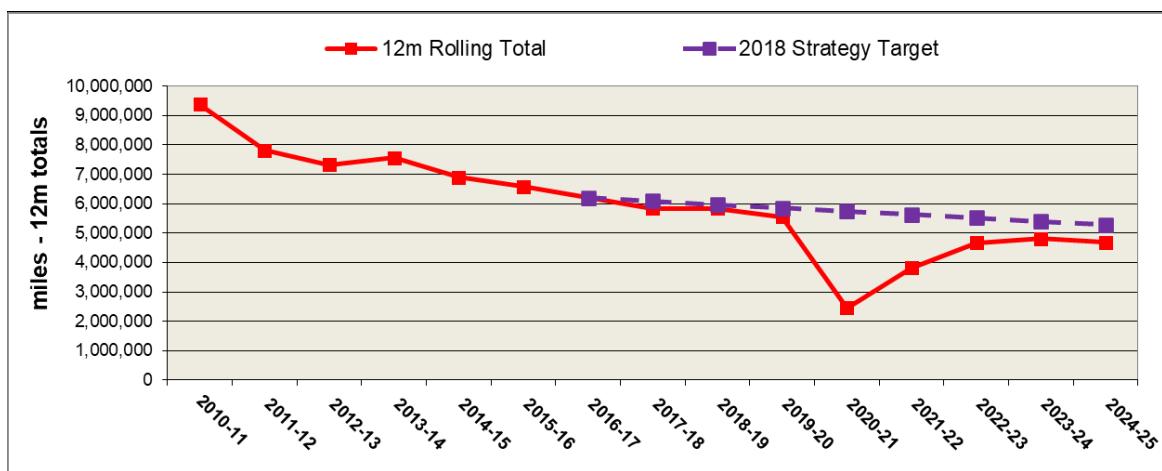
### **d. Streetlighting**

82. The amount of electricity used for streetlighting **fell by 12.5%** to **7,045 MWh**. Traffic signals' usage also dropped by **5.2%** to **1,454 MWh**.
83. The reduction in energy usage reflects ongoing work to "trim and dim" by reducing hours of use and/or lighting levels, where safe and practicable. The "8pm dimming" project had a particularly large impact on consumption.
84. This was achieved despite the number of lighting assets increasing by 326 to 86,413 items and the fact that sunshine hours were lower in 2024-25 compared to the previous year.
85. Further savings were made by moving more assets onto the Central Management System (CMS) and rolling out LED replacements for recently adopted assets that were not on the CMS.
86. The CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from streetlighting and traffic signals combined **fell by 11.3%** to **1,760 tonnes**.
87. The drop in carbon emissions is almost entirely due to the lower energy usage, as the carbon factor for electricity remained almost unchanged from 2023-24 (0.01% lower).

## e. Business travel

### C18 – Total business mileage

88. Annual business mileage claims fell by **2.5%** in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 with total business mileage of about **4.7m miles**. This is the first year that there has been a fall in business mileage since the continuous rebound following the Covid-19 pandemic. Business mileage for 2024-25 is still 13% below the in-year target of 5.3m miles. Note that business mileage claims do not include commuting to and from work and only include mileage claimed by staff in carrying out Council business.
89. Business mileage claims are still almost **16%** (874,000 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.
90. The largest contributors to mileage claims in 2024-25 were staff from Children and Families (45%), Adults and Communities (32%) and Environment and Transport (14%). The proportion of total business mileage claimed for EVs in 2024-25 was 2.3%, up on the previous year (1.7%), with an increasing trend in each quarter.



**Figure 6: Rolling 12-month business mileage 2010-11 to 2024-25**

## f. Nature & biodiversity

### a. Nature

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

91. At the end of 2024-25, there were **3,729 hectares** of Council land in better management for nature. This is a decrease of 7 hectares compared to 2023-24. This change reflects the disposal of land since then.

92. This figure includes a combination of Council land, including Country Parks, rural and urban highway verges, county farms and playing fields.
93. Only land where there is a conscious decision made to manage the land in a way that protects or enhances nature is included in this indicator.

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

94. At the end of 2024-25, **97%** of suitable Council land was in better management for nature, similar to 2023-24.

#### Wildlife verges

95. At the end of 2024-25, there were a total of **81 wildlife verges** and **54 parish councils** included in the Wildlife Verge scheme. The total area of wildlife verges was **41,588m<sup>2</sup>**.
96. Up to the end of 2024-25, a total of **4,258 volunteer hours** were spent undertaking verge baseline surveys and **3,966 wildlife records** were generated, since the scheme started in 2021-22.

#### Tree Wardens

97. At the end of 2024-25, there were **113 Tree Wardens** and **71 parishes** participating in the local Tree Warden Scheme.

### **g. 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”

98. 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 these KPIs.
99. Of the staff that completed the survey in 2024-25, **88.6%** agreed that the Council was doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment, below the target of 90%. While **92%** agreed that they understood how they can contribute to green issues at work, below the target of 95%.
100. While these results are generally positive, a slight downward trend has been observed over recent years, across both KPIs. The percentage of staff believing the Council is doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment has fallen from a high of 93% in 2017-18 to the current figure of 88.6%, a drop of **4.4%**. The percentage of staff agreeing that they understand how they can contribute to green issues at work has fallen from a high of 100% in 2017-18 to the current figure of 92%, a drop of **8%**.

101. This drop may reflect the current ways of working and the fact that many staff are working from home, for all or some of the time, so they feel less able to contribute to green issues in the workplace. In addition, with many 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.
102. A revamped staff behavioural change scheme called 'Greener Together' was launched in June 2023. As part of the new scheme, initiatives are and 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. The recent mandatory provision of food waste collection bins within Council buildings will enable staff to take very visible and tangible action to improve the Council's environmental performance, and this may also help to address the decline.
103. As part of the new scheme, the mandatory Environmental Awareness training course for staff has been updated, with a more comprehensive revision of the course to take place over the coming year.

## **h. Compliance**

### M1 - Environmental complaints

104. There were **two environmental complaints** upheld during 2024-25 compared to none in 2023-24.
105. The complaints related to the correct process not being followed when asbestos was taken to a waste site, and disturbance arising from noise and vibrations from roadworks that were taking place outside of a property.

### M2 - Environmental incidents

106. There were **no environmental incidents** reported in 2024-25 compared to one in 2023-24.

### M5 - Environmental enforcements/prosecutions

107. There were **no enforcement notices or prosecutions** logged in 2024-25.

### External and Internal Audit results

108. External audits are carried out annually by BM Trada to ISO14001 EMS Standard, with a full re-certification audit every three years.
109. An external ISO14001 EMS surveillance audit was carried out in February 2025. **One minor non-conformity** was found, relating to the objectives in the

EMS Manual not being up to date. Corrective action has since been taken, by updating the Manual, and a report sent to the external auditor.

110. A further eight observations were made, identifying opportunities for improvement.
111. Only those Council services that are externally certified to ISO14001 are subject to external audits. Namely, the Strategic and Operational Property Services – County Hall operations and Beaumanor Hall operations; the Central Print Services; the Countryside Services, and the Environment Policy and Strategy team. Internal audits may be carried out on any service, but they are focussed on those previously identified as potentially having high environmental risks.
112. As a decision has been made to cease the ISO14001 accreditation, 2024-25 will be the last year of external audit. The Council's ISO14001 accreditation ceases in January 2026. Changes will be made to the internal audit processes to partially compensate for the lack of external audit.
113. A set of six internal audits was carried out during 2024-25 as part of a rolling three-year programme. These covered the 1620s House (Heritage & Arts), Woodland Management (Highways), ICT - Data Centre, disposal of ICT equipment, management of waste from MFDs (Corporate Resources), Programme Management office (Strategic Property), Bardon Waste Transfer Station (Environment & Waste), and a site visit to the Council's biomass supplier (Operational Property).
114. **One major non-conformity** was found, relating to a lack of procedures for assessing impacts of construction projects on protected species, at the 1620s House. This has been followed up with the Council's Property Services and Heritage & Arts.
115. **Two minor non-conformities** were recorded, namely lack of a protocol for Invasive and Non-native Species (INNS) Management at the 1620s House, and an incomplete procedure for waste transfer notes for waste ICT equipment.
116. A total of **14 observations** (potential opportunities for improvement), such as grey squirrel damage to trees at the 1620s House) and **seven other recommended actions** (such as updating risk registers) were recorded following the internal audits.

## i. Risks

- i) Environment Risk Register

### M3 - Environmental risks scoring >15

117. At the end of 2024-25, there were a total of **two** (now one) environmental risks scoring 15 or more. These environmental risks relate to areas where the

Council is not meeting the legal requirements or the Council's policy is significantly failing to address Environment Strategy objectives.

118. The remaining risks sat within the Environment and Transport and Corporate Resources Departments 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 (score of 16) will continue to be reviewed to determine if a sufficient progress has been made to reduce this risk.

- b) Leaching from skips used to store dog waste at Country Parks (**one risk**).

The skips provided to Country Parks by the waste contractor in place during 2024-25 were identified as often not being suitable for the storage of dog waste, resulting in leaching from the skips (risk score of 16).

119. The previous high risk in relation to inadequate access to waste disposal outlets has been reduced by a new long-term contract for residual waste treatment and disposal coming online. The risk in relation to the storage of dog waste at the Country Parks has been resolved with the introduction of the new waste contract from April 2025.

## ii) Climate Change Risk Register

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

120. There are **six high risks** on the climate change register at the end of 2024-25. This is a reduction of two since the completion during 2021-22 of a review and assessment of the risks to the Council from climate change. The identified risks related primarily to highways and property assets, business continuity and flood risk.

121. The two risks that are no longer classified as high risks were in relation to:

- a) A flood risk to building services at one specific property. This is now resolved, as the Council has vacated the property.
- b) The lack of an updated Flood Risk Management Strategy and flood risk map for the County. This is now resolved, as an updated strategy and flood risk map were published on the Council's website in February 2024.

122. Due to capacity issues within the Environment Policy and Strategy team, to date, it has not been possible to undertake significant work to address the other climate change risks. However, the Council's Cabinet agreed in October 2025

to use the £2m Carbon Fund to support work on climate adaptation, including the provision of resources to support addressing the risks that were identified.

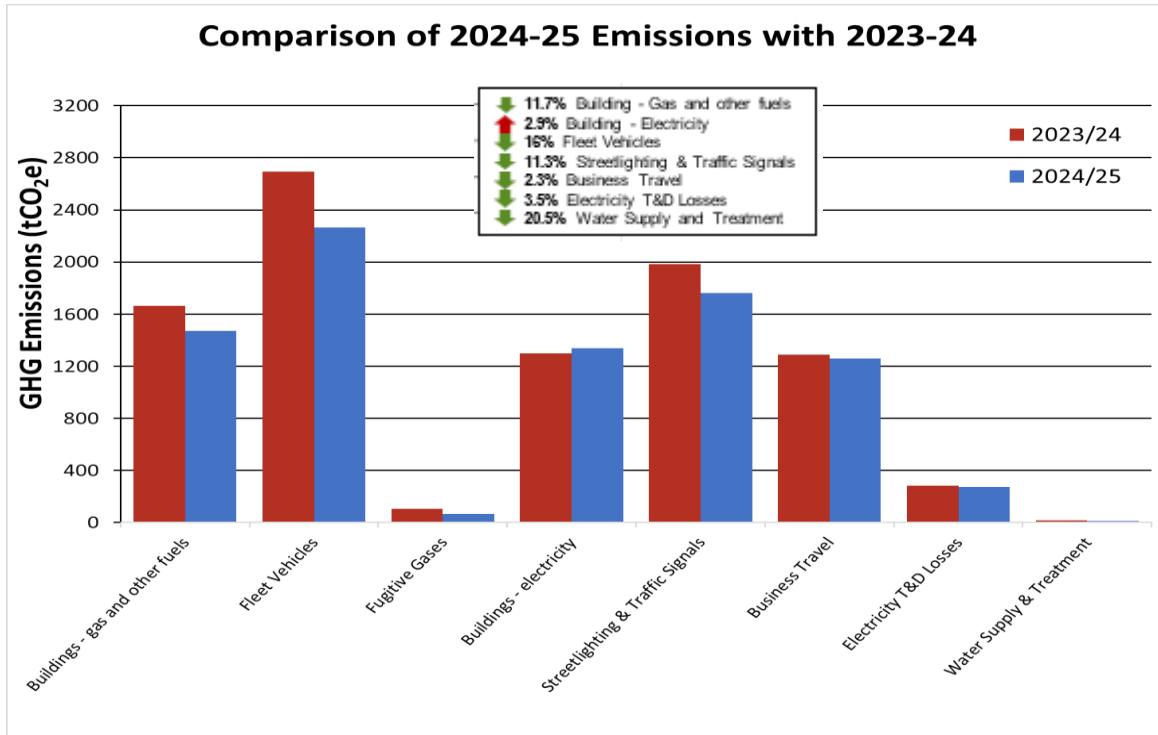
## Part 2: Greenhouse Gas Report Summary

123. Part 2 provides a summary of what some of the performance figures set out in Part 1, as well as the other sources of emissions, have meant for the Council's overall greenhouse gas emissions as an organisation.
124. In 2024-25, Leicestershire County Council's net greenhouse gas emissions **decreased by 9.5%** (878 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 2023-24, to **8,404 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. This is equivalent of **1.71 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per full-time equivalent employee** (0.21 tCO<sub>2</sub>e decrease compared to 2023-24).
125. Emission reductions can be found across all sources, except Scope 2 emissions from electricity in buildings, which grew by 2.8% after generally declining in recent years. This slight increase is believed to reflect the gradual increasing occupancy of buildings. In addition, the lower number of sunshine hours in 2024-25, which will have tended to increase lighting usage and reduce solar energy output (as discussed under C17a, para 41) is likely to have contributed to the rise.
126. Overall, Scope 1 sources saw a 15% reduction while Scope 2 (all electricity including street lighting) fell by 5.7%.
127. Of all the major emissions sources, fleet vehicles had the largest reduction at -16%. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to significant reductions in the use of diesel fuel and gasoil; with a corresponding increase in the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel.
128. Buildings' direct emissions (gas and other fuels) and street lighting & traffic emissions dropped by more than 11%. After an 8.1% rise in 2023-24, business mileage fell by 2.4%. Emissions reductions across all other sources were below 4%.
129. Overall, Council emissions have now **reduced by 76.5%** since the 2008-09 baseline year. Table 1 provides more details of the figures behind the Council's greenhouse gas emissions for 2024-25.
130. On-site renewable energy generation, including solar power and biomass heating reached an all-time high, rising to **20.9%** of energy consumption. This avoided **595 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** of greenhouse gas emissions in 2024-25 (equivalent to **6.6%** of net emissions), compared to if gas and grid electricity were consumed.
131. Based on a 2016-17 baseline year and assuming a linear reduction in emissions to 2035, the target level of net emissions for 2024-25 was **11,810 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. With an actual net emissions figure of **8,404 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024-25**, the County Council is **ahead of target in year**.

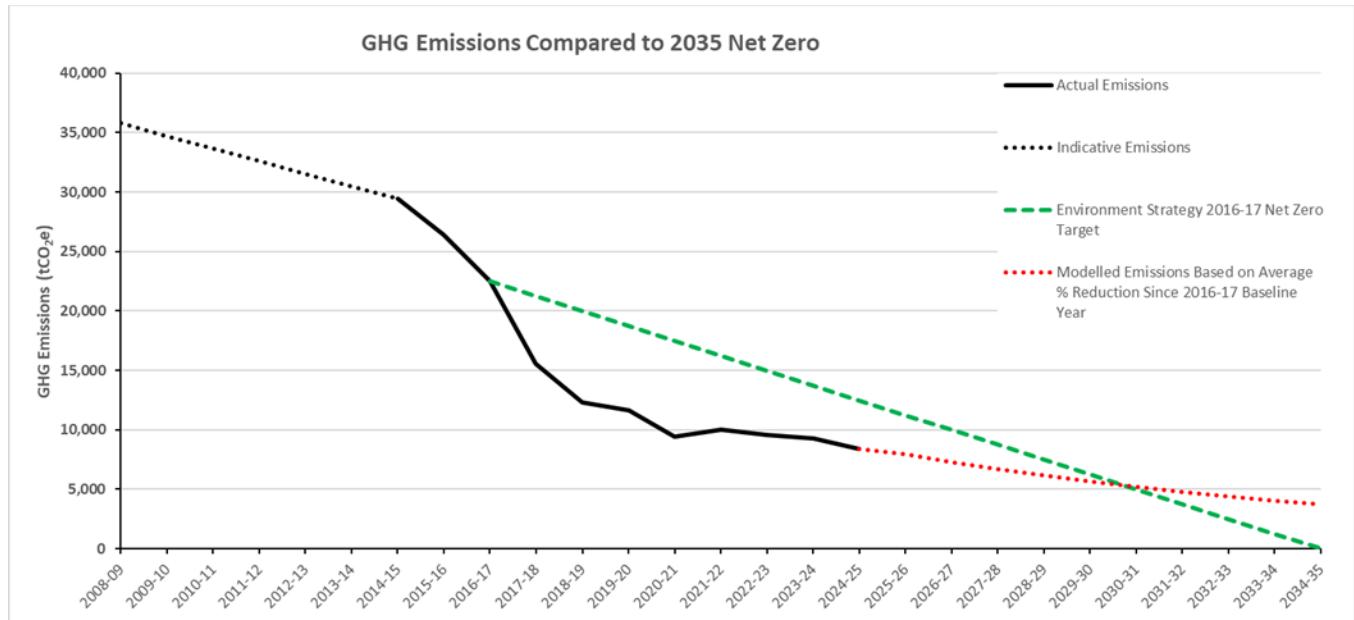
132. However, most of the past reduction in emissions has occurred in the earlier years (see figure 8), with the level of annual reduction decreasing in recent years. The expected future trajectory of emission reduction suggests that the Council will not achieve net zero by 2035, due to the increasing difficulty and cost of reducing emissions, and therefore some form of carbon offsetting will be needed to reduce net emissions to zero.
133. The Council's full 2024-25 Greenhouse Gas Report can be found on the following link: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/LCC-Greenhouse-Gas-Report-2024-2025.pdf>

GHG emissions data for period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (tonnes of CO2e)						
	Sector	2024-25	2023-24	% change	Base Year 2008-09	% change
Scope 1 – Direct emissions e.g. boilers, owned transport, air conditioning gases	Buildings	1,469	1,663	-11.6%	4,317	-66.0%
	Fleet vehicles	2,263	2,694	-16.0%	4,358	-48.1%
	Fugitive gases	68	108	-37.1%	n/a	n/a
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>4,471</b>	<b>-15.0%</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>-56.2%</b>
Scope 2 – Energy Indirect e.g. purchased electricity	Buildings	1,336	1,299	2.8%	6,562	-79.6%
	Streetlighting & traffic signals	1,760	1,985	-11.3%	15,581	-88.7%
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>	<b>22,143</b>	<b>-86.0%</b>
Scope 3 – Other Indirect e.g. business travel	Business Travel	1,259	1,289	-2.3%	3,237	-61.1%
	Electricity Transmission & Distribution losses	274	284	-3.5%	1,722	-84.1%
	Water supply & treatment	12.8	16.1	-20.5%		
	Waste	2.4	5.7	-57.9%		
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>-68.8%</b>
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>		<b>8,444</b>	<b>9,351</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>35,778</b>	<b>-76.4%</b>
Carbon offsets		0	0	0%	0	
Renewable energy exports		<b>-40</b>	<b>-69</b>	<b>-42.3%</b>	0	
<b>Total Location-Based Net Emissions</b>		<b>8,404</b>	<b>9,282</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>	<b>35,778</b>	<b>-76.5%</b>
Intensity measure: Tonnes of CO2e per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employee (location-based)*	FTE	4,903	4,830	1.5%	6,880	
	tCO2e/FTE	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>-10.9%</b>	<b>5.20</b>	
Renewable grid electricity tariff		<b>1,158</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>-64.7%</b>	-	
<b>Total Market-Based Net Emissions</b>		<b>7,286</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>-20.2%</b>	(n/a)	(n/a)
Petrol and diesel (Out of Scope)		634.95	219.44	189.3%	(n/a)	(n/a)
Woodchip (Out of Scope)		1,639	717	128.5%	(n/a)	(n/a)

Table 1: Council 2024-25 greenhouse gas emissions, with a comparison to 2023-24 and the 2008-09 baseline year



**Figure 7: 2024-25 Council greenhouse gas emissions by source, compared to 2023-24**



**Figure 8: Council net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2035 net zero target**

## Part 3: 2035 Net Zero Council Action Plan headlines update

134. This section of the report provides a progress update on the highlights of the Net Zero Council Action Plan. A separate review of this action plan is being undertaken to reflect the County Council's more recent change in priorities to include more work on climate adaptation and resilience.

135. The following actions are currently in delivery or completed:

- a) The Council's Energy Team developed a successful bid to the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund** which secured £115,000 to carry out improvements to four Family Hub buildings to make them more energy efficient. The money will be used at these buildings over a two-year period to replace the end-of-life boilers with air source heat pumps and to add rooftop solar PV panels.
- b) The **Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition** pilot study has been progressed to provide an insight into fleet vehicle use, and the Council will trial a small pool of EV vans at the Croft Highways Depot and the Whetstone and Loughborough Waste Depots. This pilot is due to conclude in Autumn 2026, and it will provide an understanding of the practical application of such vehicles and the potential savings that could be made on fuel costs if the Council switches from diesel to electric to inform a wider business case into the use of EV's in the Council's fleet. There are also pressures from Government policy to transition to EVs, with a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, and a ban on hybrid sales by 2035. As a result there is a need to understand what investment is needed to provide electric charging infrastructure at the depots, which will be a next step in this project.
- c) An 18-month trial to dim and trim **streetlighting** in the County commenced in early 2024 and has now been completed. This has resulted in a reduction in emissions of 14.3%, and has saved the Council an estimated £540,000 on energy bills in the financial year (2024-25), based on the current energy tariff. The project was awarded the 'Most Sustainable Project of the Year' at the Highway Electrical Association awards. The Council's Cabinet agreed to the permanent implementation of the trial in September 2025. Additional work has now commenced to consider converting all illuminated signs to LED with CMS capabilities.
- d) A project to reduce the Council's **business mileage** has commenced. Sessions with individual high mileage teams across the Environment & Transport Department have been delivered to understand how staff travel to undertake their work and to consider what they could do differently to reduce business miles. The results of this study will be considered alongside the options to support staff to reduce their business mileage where it is possible.

## Part 4: Environmental Management System

136. Part 4 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:

- External and internal issues relevant to the EMS;
- Changes to statutory duties;
- Changes to environment legislation;
- Environmental risks and opportunities;

137. The Council agreed in 2024-25 to no longer continue with certification to the ISO14001 standard. The existing certification will last until January 2026.

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

138. In July 2024, a new Government was elected on a manifesto that set out five "Missions", which included kickstarting economic growth and making Britain a clean energy superpower. It committed to build 1.5 million new homes and "forge ahead" with nationally significant infrastructure, without weakening environmental protections. Action to clean up water, support farmers, strengthen animal welfare, lead on climate and improve climate resilience was also promised.

139. Some key initiatives that were started under the previous Government, and highly relevant to local authorities, have been maintained, including regulations and guidance under the Environment Act 2021, such as the Simpler Recycling and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (both of which are discussed elsewhere in this report).

140. The Government has set up Great British Energy (GBE) (a Government-owned company) to deliver its objectives of promoting clean energy, energy security, billpayer protection and new jobs. GBE's Strategic Priorities were published in September 2025 and so far, announcements have been made of support for local renewable energy projects and offshore wind supply chains.

141. Two relevant bills were introduced during 2024-25:

- **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** – this bill aims are to speed up the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure. The key features included new consenting regimes for Nationally Significant Infrastructure and electricity infrastructure, introduction of the Nature Restoration Fund and Environmental Delivery Plans, reforms to town and country planning processes including local fee setting, and promotion of sub-regional strategic planning. Part 3, covering development and nature recovery, has been subject to extensive amendment during the parliamentary process.

As of late October 2025, the Bill was in the House of Lords, which was considering the latest set of Government amendments.

- **Climate and Nature Bill** – the key features included setting legally binding targets, the development of a joined-up Climate and Nature Strategy, and the need for a Just Transition. This was a Private Members Bill. It was adjourned after the second reading. The Government has committed to pursue its “spirit and substance” through future legislation.

142. Consultations by the Government on environmental policy, which may be relevant to the EMS and/or Council services, included:

- National Planning Policy Framework Reforms;
- Land Use Framework;
- Extending the ECO4 Scheme;
- UK Emissions Trading Scheme; and
- Simpler Recycling in England.

143. In February 2025, the Government launched its updated National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, titled the “Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss”, which includes targets to protect at least 30% of land and sea areas for nature, to reduce pollution to levels not harmful to biodiversity, and to promote sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry.

144. While outside the period that is covered by this report, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland was launched in July 2025.

145. Increasing cost pressures over recent years on the Council’s budgets continue to make it more difficult to take action on the environment and to progress the identified projects. This will mean that tough decisions must be made about how the Council spends its resources to deliver its statutory duties and priorities.

146. The election of a new administration in May 2025 at Leicestershire County Council has resulted in new and evolving priorities which may be relevant to the EMS and the delivery of the Council’s current environmental policies and commitments. In July 2025, the Cabinet have resolved to change the focus of the activities to be delivered under the Net Zero Action Plan from carbon reduction to climate adaptation and responding to severe weather events, and projects that deliver financial savings, or social, economic or environmental benefits, in support for the Council’s strategic outcomes.

147. During 2024-25, the Council responded to the data and information requests from Climate Emergency UK as part of their scoring of all councils on the action they are taking on climate change. The Council was scored on 93 questions across seven different sections, each covering important actions that local authorities can take on climate change. The final score was created by adding up the overall section scores and applying section weighting based on the council’s impact and control.

148. Leicestershire County Council scored 50%, a 4% increase from 2023. This placed the Council in the top five for all of the County Councils that were scored. The highlights included a score of 88% in buildings and heating (up from 75% in 2023), 76% in collaboration and engagement (up from 75% in 2023) and 75% in waste reduction and food (up from 50% in 2023).

## **b. Changes to statutory duties**

149. 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 (LNRS).

150. In June 2023, the County Council was appointed as the 'Responsible Authority' for developing a strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland. In September 2023, work started on developing the LNRS with a draft strategy going out to public consultation between January and February 2025. The LNRS was subsequently launched in July 2025. This sets out at a landscape scale the strategic priorities and measures for supporting nature recovery across the area and will contribute to meeting the Government's National Biodiversity Strategy. For more information on what a LNRS is, and the latest position, please follow this link: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/local-nature-recovery-strategy/leicestershire-leicester-and-rutland-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

151. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 introduced a requirement that all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exceptions) have to deliver **10% Biodiversity Net Gain** from February 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. The introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain is now fully operational, although the Government is currently considering some possible changes.

152. 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. Work commenced at the end of 2023-24 on meeting the requirements of this duty, with the Biodiversity Duty Plan approved by the Cabinet in December 2024. The first Biodiversity Report for the County Council is due to be produced in March 2026.

153. As noted in the last year's report, the Environment Act 2021 introduced several new statutory duties relating to waste, which are due to come into effect over the coming years. These concern the **Simpler Recycling** reforms, including the **mandatory separation of waste including food waste collections**, which came into force in 2025 for businesses and non-household municipal premises and is due to come into force for households in 2026; the **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging**, which is due to come into force in 2025; and a **Deposit Return Scheme** for drink containers, which is due to

come into force from October 2027. Local authorities, including Leicestershire County Council, are working to prepare for these changes.

### **c. Changes to environment legislation**

154. There were a range of new or updated general environmental Acts, legislation, regulations, consultations, and guidance released during 2024-25.
155. The main areas of relevance to the County Council were in relation to **waste, the natural environment, and climate change**, most of which have already been covered within this section.
156. From 31 March 2025, as part of the Simpler Recycling legislation, all businesses in England with 10+ employees must separate dry recyclables, collect food waste separately and comply with the new bin and collection standards. The County Council has and is putting in place measures to meet these requirements. All of the Council's sites now have food waste collections.
157. The Environment Policy and Strategy Team has 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 an update of the Council's legislation register three times a year, including the notification of new potentially relevant legislation.

### **d. Environmental risks and opportunities**

158. 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 the Council's 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. The number of high risks has reduced to six – see paragraphs 120-121 for details.
159. Due to the limited staff capacity and the need to progress other priorities, it has not been possible to make significant progress on the other recommendations. The insufficient action on the climate change risks will expose the Council to the risk of harm from future extreme weather events. This risk will be somewhat mitigated by the Cabinet decision to utilise some of a £2m fund to provide a resource to support addressing the report recommendations and the risks identified.
160. The Government has released guidance to local authorities on climate adaptation reporting, including how to undertake a climate change risk assessment and to develop an action plan. This was as part of rolling out the voluntary reporting on climate adaptation to local authorities under the fourth round of the adaption reporting power (ARP4). The Council has not taken part in the reporting, due to the insufficient staff capacity and the lack of additional funding to local authorities to undertake the reporting.

161. 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 2035 and 2050 net zero targets as well as the target to achieve 70% recycling of the Council's office waste by 2030.
162. On the other hand, the current ways of working arrangements are helping some of the Council's other environmental targets, in particular those in relation to electricity consumption, business mileage, paper use, and the total office waste produced.
163. The latest public attitudes data (2025)<sup>1</sup> shows that between 77%-80% of UK adults remain concerned about climate change. However, only 53% rank it among the most important national issues, down from 69% in 2023. This drop is largely attributed to the cost-of-living crisis and concerns about the NHS. 80% of people support the use of renewable energy, though this is down from 87% in 2021. 76% of adults report making lifestyle changes to help tackle climate change.
164. While these figures remain high, there are signs of a gradual reduction. It will be important to understand these trends as the Council continues to take action on meeting its statutory duties and seeks to minimise its environmental impacts. The Council will need to consider any reputational risks arising from its environmental performance record.

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<sup>1</sup> Various sources: [1] [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)  
[2] [www.climatescorecard.org](http://www.climatescorecard.org)  
[3] [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

## **Section 2: Leicestershire**

### **Part 5: Environmental performance**

165. Part 5 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 2050 for the County area. Data is presented based on the figures provided by the Government for 2023, 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. Leicestershire greenhouse gas emissions**

##### C20 Greenhouse Gas Emission from Leicestershire

166. Using the latest available datasets<sup>2</sup> from the Government, Leicestershire's emissions during **2023** were **4.33 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**. This did not meet the in-year target of **4.27 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e**, missing the target by 58,000 tonnes. However, the gap between the actual emissions and the target figure was about half that of the previous year, which is a slight improvement.

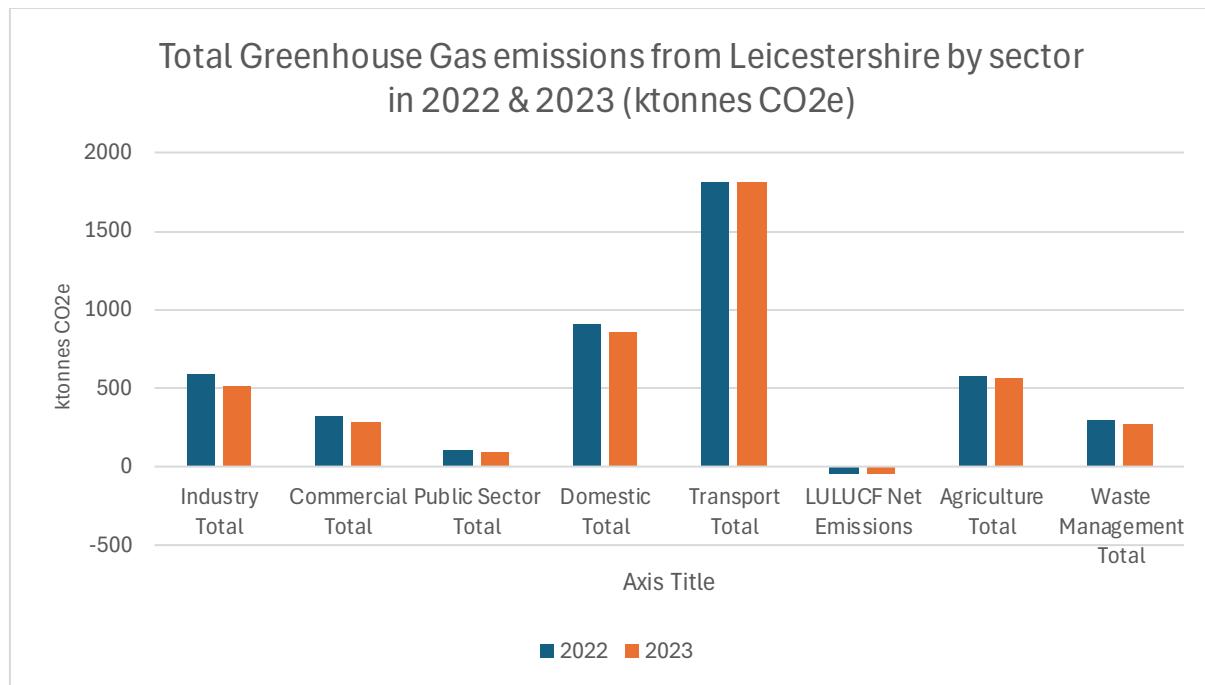
167. Between 2022 and 2023, the total emissions decreased by **238,000 tonnes (-5.2%)**. Leicestershire's emissions are now 11.7% lower (381,000 tonnes) than the County's 2019 baseline year. For Leicestershire to meet its net zero target by 2050, emissions need to fall by an average of 163,000 tonnes (3.2%) per year. Figures show that the average fall per annum since the 2019 baseline year has been 144,000 tonnes (2.9%). Therefore, Leicestershire is not currently on track to reach net zero by 2050.

##### C20a Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Leicestershire by sector

168. Figure 9 provides a breakdown of these emissions into eight key sources. The breakdown by sector shows that transport contributes the greatest proportion of Leicestershire's emissions at 42%, followed by domestic 20%, agriculture 13%, industry 12%, waste management 6%, commercial 6%, public sector 2%. Land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) helped to remove 1% of emissions, by carbon sequestration.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023>



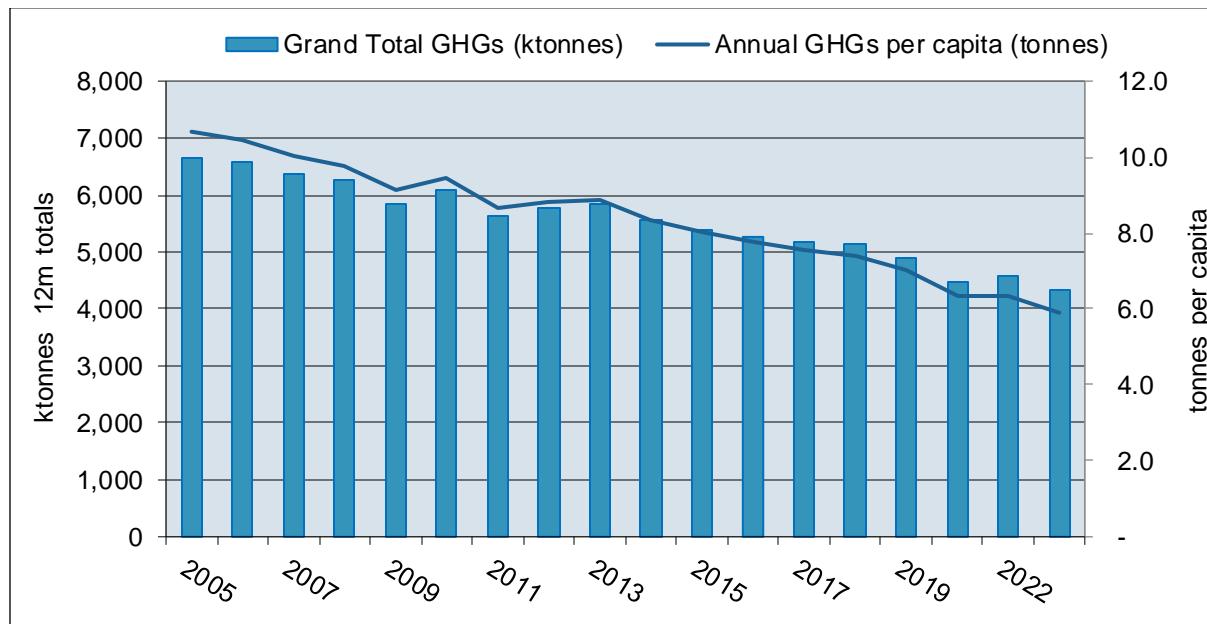
**Figure 9: Leicestershire's 2022 & 2023 greenhouse gas emissions by source**

169. Although emissions have fallen between 2022 and 2023, a closer look at the individual sectors shows varied progress. The greatest reductions were in the Industry and Commercial sectors (both falling over 13%). Emissions from the waste management, domestic and public sectors fell by 7.8%, 6.3% and 4.5% respectively. Agriculture fell by a more modest 3.1%, while transport was almost unchanged at 0.4%. Carbon removals by LULUCF increased by 14.1%.
170. Transport remains the largest contributor to Leicestershire's emissions, which reflects the national trend of transport being the highest emitting sector in 58% of UK local authorities. This is largely due to continued reliance on road traffic, which includes both personal and commercial transport.
171. The domestic sector continues a long-term decline in emissions from 1.6m tonnes in 2005 to 0.85m tonnes in 2023. This can be attributed to reduced gas use for heating, lower electricity demand, and an increased share of renewables in the energy mix. Ongoing high energy costs following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 also contributed to reduced consumption alongside improved building insulation and efficiency standards. Warmer temperatures have further supported the downward trend.
172. Emissions from agriculture have declined by 3.1% due to lower fuel use in agricultural machinery. In addition, there have been lower nitrous oxide and methane emissions thanks to improved fertiliser management and a slight decrease in livestock numbers. However, the agricultural sector continues to show a slower rate of decline compared to other sectors due to the complexity of biological emissions and higher uncertainty in measurement.

173. Industrial emissions in Leicestershire fell 13.5% compared to the previous year, with reductions driven by lower electricity and gas usage, particularly in large industrial installations. These emissions have nearly halved since 2005.
174. The commercial sector also saw a significant decrease in emissions of just over 13% which can be attributed to a combination of factors including milder temperatures and rising energy costs pushing industry to seek efficiencies, both of which reduced energy consumption. Along with lower carbon intensity in the national grid, this contributed to reduced carbon emissions.
175. Waste emissions have fluctuated since 2008, with a period of stability followed by a sharp rise peaking in 2018, and a gradual decline afterwards. Though emissions had a slight increase between 2021 and 2022, there has been a decline of 7.8% between 2022 and 2023. Landfill methane remains a significant source of waste emissions. However, improvements to waste processing and methane capture technologies are anticipated to reduce these emissions in the future.
176. Public sector activities have reduced their emissions by 4.5%, which is likely to reflect reductions in energy use for similar reasons to those discussed above, as well as a lower national carbon emissions factor for electricity.
177. The LULUCF sector continued to act as a carbon sink in Leicestershire, contributing to a net removal of emissions by carbon sequestration in woodlands, grasslands and soil of just 1% of net emissions. This is, however, 14.1% more than in 2022.
178. While Leicestershire has made significant progress reducing emissions in industrial, commercial, and domestic sectors, further effort is needed in the transport and waste sectors to meet the 2050 national net zero target.
179. The Council has continued to deliver several key initiatives which will contribute to the broader Leicestershire target of net zero by 2050. The Warm Homes scheme focuses on improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty by supporting vulnerable households with insulation, heating upgrades and other energy saving measures. The Local Transport Plan (LTP4) has been progressed to embed more sustainable travel options which are cleaner and produce lower emissions. This coupled with the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, funded by the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) initiative, will help residents to reduce emissions from private cars and positively impact local air quality.
180. Finally, the LCAN demonstrator project has developed a Local Area Energy Plan, is boosting renewable energy production in communities and has established a central hub for carbon reduction information and resources. Through these initiatives, the Council is starting to lay a foundation for long-term collaborative local energy security and emission reductions.

## C21 Greenhouse Gas emissions from Leicestershire per capita

181. Since 2005, per capita greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by **45%** to **5.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, which is **15.7%** lower than the figure for the 2019 baseline year.



**Figure 10: Leicestershire's total and per capita greenhouse gas emissions 2005 to 2023**

182. 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

183. At the end of 2024-2025, there were **73.5 EV charging locations per 100,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was an increase of **24%** compared to the 2023-2024 figure of 59.1. Leicestershire remains in the third quartile relative to comparative English authorities.

184. Following a successful bid to the Government in 2024, alongside Midlands Connect and four other local authorities (Lincolnshire County Council, Herefordshire County Council, Rutland Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council), the County Council has received approximately £220,000 of the first portion of LEVI funding to deliver approximately 45 public EV chargepoints across Leicestershire as part of the 'LEVI Pilot' Project.

185. This work is now being implemented with Wenea, the appointed ChargePoint Operator. There is a focus on locating the chargepoints within the most populated settlements across the seven district councils. The County Council and its partners (Midlands Connect, Worcestershire County Council, Warwickshire County Council and Rutland County Council) have received a

further £3.151 million from the LEVI fund to install up to 558 chargepoints across the county under the 'LEVI Full' project. The consortium is currently concluding an ongoing procurement process with the consortium members.

186. In September 2024, the Council's EV Charging Strategy was approved by the Cabinet. This strategy sets out the Council's approach to public electric charging provision and the delivery of public on-street chargepoints in residential areas which will be available for all Leicestershire residents. The strategy will also support the delivery of the LTP4 and the Council's vision for transport in Leicestershire.

Electric vehicle ownership rate per 10,000 population

187. At the end of Q3 2024-25, the EV ownership rate was **272.7 per 10,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was an increase of about **26%** compared to the figure of 216.5 for 2023-24. This also saw Leicestershire move from the third to the second quartile relative to comparative English authorities.

Renewable electricity generated in the area (MWh)

188. The latest available figures (2023) show that **398,399 MWh** of renewable electricity was generated in Leicestershire. This was more than the figure for 2022 of 355,263 MWh. Leicestershire sits in the **third quartile** relative to comparative English authorities for 2023.

Renewable electricity capacity in the area (MW)

189. The latest available figures (2023) show that the renewable electricity capacity for Leicestershire was **433.3 MW**. This was a significant increase from 2022 when the figure was 340.2 MW. Leicestershire sits in the third quartile relative to comparative English authorities. The Council has limited influence over the County-wide renewable energy capacity, which tends to change in response to the Government's incentive schemes and the wider energy market.

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

190. At the end of 2024-25, **98.8% of new properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was a slight increase of 1.2% compared with the previous year's figure. Leicestershire sits in the **first quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.

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

191. At the end of 2024-25, **54.1% of existing properties** in Leicestershire had an Energy Performance Certificate rating of C or greater. This was a slight increase on the figure for 2023-24 of 51.2%. Leicestershire has fallen to the **third quartile** relative to comparative English authorities.

192. The Council is part of the “Green Living Leicestershire” (GLL) group, working with the district councils to support 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 GLL group also works with Solar Together to provide residents with the opportunity to reduce their energy costs by investing in solar panels.

## b. Nature and biodiversity

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

193. The latest available figures (2019) show that **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. This data is produced by the Environment Agency, with the next results due to be available in 2025. The latest data was not available at the time of writing.

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

194. The latest available figures (2019) show that **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. This data is produced by the Environment Agency, with the next results due to be available in 2025. The latest data has not yet been made available.

195. 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 (ubiquitous, persistent, bio-accumulative, toxic substances) as well as new standards, improved techniques and methods. 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

196. At the end of 2024-25, there were a total of **494,240 trees planted** in Leicestershire, since July 2021, under the Tree for Every Person initiative, which aims to plant 700,000 trees by 2030. A total of **57,020 trees** were recorded as planted during 2024-25.

## c. Waste

### HW1 – Kg of household waste per household

197. During 2024-25, the amount of household waste per household in Leicestershire fell to 952.1 kg; a fall of 8.1kg (0.8%) compared to 2023-24.

198. This fall can largely be explained by less green waste being collected during the year, largely influenced by the weather. The lightweighting of packaging may also have contributed to the reduction. The overall reduction was offset in part by an increase in the total waste that went through the Recycling Household Waste Sites. As more houses are built in the County each year, there has been a decrease in the kilograms of household waste per household.

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

199. The annual household waste recycling figure was **44.8%** for 2024-25. The recycling performance has increased by 1.2% compared to the previous year.

200. This increase in performance was mainly due to more wood being sent for recycling rather than energy recovery. However, market conditions are volatile, and this may change in the future.

201. The **Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-50** includes a range of initiatives to reduce the waste that is sent to landfill and to promote waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. It includes a commitment to reduce the waste that is sent 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'.

202. Legislation in the Environment Act 2021 will enable waste reforms, such as a consistent set of recyclables through Simpler Recycling, a Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers and Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging which makes producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging, including the recycling and disposal. Collectively, these three waste reforms are known as the CPRs and introduce major changes to how waste is paid for and collected.

#### Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill

203. At the end of 2024-25, **10.3%** of Leicestershire's municipal waste was sent to landfill. This was 2.3% less than the 2023-24 figure of 12.6%. The Council has committed to reduce waste to landfill to 5% or less by 2025, while this has not yet been achieved good progress is being made.

204. The reduction is in large part due to the diversion from landfill of black bag and bulky waste to energy recovery.

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

205. The latest available figures are for 2023-24 and they show that there were **5.4 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population** in Leicestershire. This was up from 4.8 incidents in 2022-23. Leicestershire sits in the **second quartile** relative to comparative English authorities. Overall, the trend has been relatively static since 2017-18, except for a peak of 8.6 incidents in 2020-21.

## d. Air Quality

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

206. The latest available figures (2023) show that the amount of PM2.5 was **7.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**. This was a decrease from 8.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2022. Leicestershire sits in the **fourth 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, levels have been fluctuating between 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> since then, indicating that levels are largely flatlining at this general level.

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

207. The latest available figures (2023) show that there was **one NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) exceedance** in Leicestershire. This was a decrease from 2022 when there were three exceedances. Overall, the trend is downwards since 2017 when the figure was 11 exceedances, though the figure for 2022 was the first rise since then.

## e. Carbon Disclosure Project Reporting

209. During 2023-24, the Council commenced work on submitting a report to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), with the submission being made in October 2024. Leicestershire County Council received a score of B. This score showed that the Council understood the main local risks and impacts of climate change and that the Council had plans and actions in place to adapt to and / or reduce these effects.

210. As the world's leading environmental reporting platform, the 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 the CDP to help identify any gaps, to benchmark its performance against peers and to find any areas of opportunity to help deliver its environmental commitments.

211. The Council's 2024 disclosure is available through the CDP Open Data Portal on the following link: <https://data.cdp.net/>.

## Part 6: Net Zero 2050 Action Plan headlines update

- 212. The Council has a 2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action plan which was adopted in December 2022.
- 213. This section of the report provides a progress update on the highlights of this County-wide action plan. A separate review of this action plan is being undertaken to reflect the Council's more recent change in priorities to include more work on climate adaptation and resilience.
- 214. The County Council and a consortium of partners (the National Grid, Energy Systems Catapult, De Montfort University, the University of Leicester, Community Energy Pathways and Green Fox Community Energy) were awarded £2.56m of funding from Innovate UK in November 2023 (of which the Council received £0.6m) to deliver the LCAN project. The project has been working to deliver four key work packages over the last two years. These work packages are focussed on delivering low cost, clean energy solutions across Leicestershire.
- 215. Leicestershire County Council was the only County Council to be successful with its bid, and the Council is delivering one of seven nationally important demonstrator projects. The Council's work and findings are intended to be replicable across other local authority areas.
- 216. Work package one has been led by De Montfort University, and it was to research and develop a governance model for Leicestershire, which will provide a framework to support future delivery of local clean energy opportunities, along with assurance and investment potential to possible funders.
- 217. Work package two has been led by Energy Systems Catapult, who are national experts in clean energy planning. This work package has developed and delivered a Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire, which provides a place-based plan for the County Council and City Council areas. This plan has been co-developed with local stakeholders to focus on the current energy provision and make recommendations on what interventions will be needed to support the county to transition to a locally produced, reliable, clean energy system.
- 218. These interventions, which include renewable technologies such as heat networks and EV charging infrastructure, are shown on an [online interactive map](#), enabling organisations and individuals to 'zoom in' to their local area and find out the recommendations for low carbon and energy saving technology.
- 219. Work package three has provided support, tools and guidance to community groups to train and upskill them to set up community energy projects. This work package has been led by the County Council in collaboration with national experts Community Energy South and local community energy organisation Green Fox Community Energy. It has provided grants to seven community groups which has assisted them to set up community energy organisations within Leicestershire.

- 220. It has also assisted local groups to come together by forming a community energy hub for Leicestershire. This hub will continue to support groups in the future to maintain their operations, develop community share offers to enable them to fund community energy projects and provide energy saving advice and measures, which support residents to gain access to low-cost clean energy.
- 221. Work package four has been led by the University of Leicester and it provided an advisory service for businesses, community organisations and individuals to support and guide them on how to be more sustainable. This advisory service has provided direct support to 179 businesses and supported over 1,000 businesses at various engagement events to embed more sustainable practices in their operations through a series of training courses, information and web-based tools. A website has been developed – [www.greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk](http://www.greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk) – which will continue to provide information guidance and signposting to business, residents and community organisations on sustainable work and life practices.
- 222. All four work packages have been designed to support each other and to link together, with the Business Advisory Service hosting information on its website, including the Local Area Energy Plan, community energy information and signposting to support, with the overarching governance structure bringing partners together to support projects and attract investment into the County through the provision of an organised framework.
- 223. The LCAN project is funded for 24 months, and its outputs will be completed by February 2026.
- 224. The Council and its partners were successful in their bid for funding to deliver 45 EV chargepoints across Leicestershire as part of the 'LEVI pilot' project, and a further 500 chargepoints across the County as part of the 'LEVI full' project.
- 225. Solar Together is a group buying initiative which support residents to purchase solar panel systems for their homes and cut their energy bills. This project was supported by the Green Living Leicestershire group in 2024-25 and it saw 433 installations completed. Of these, 374 were solar panels equalling 1.67MW of capacity; and 59 were battery storage systems. To-date the Solar Together Leicestershire schemes have delivered 1,122 installations in the county, resulting in 4.4 MW of installed capacity, and over £9.9 million in private resident investment into energy saving technology.
- 226. The Public Health Warm Homes service has secured approximately £5m in Warm Homes Local Grant funding to deliver a three-year project (to March 2028) installing energy efficiency upgrades to low-income and below average energy efficiency private sector homes. This has been funded via the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and it is being delivered on behalf of six Leicestershire district councils (excluding Oadby and Wigston Borough Council) as part of the Green Living Leicestershire Group, and a

consortium of projects via the Midlands Net Zero Hub. It is estimated that the scheme will support in the region of 384 homes by March 2028.

227. In addition, in August 2024, the Warm Homes service began administering the Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to Energy Company Obligation and Great British Insulation Scheme funding to private sector housing via wider health and income measures. In 2025 1,741 household applications were received via this mechanism of which 1,448 were approved as eligible.
228. The Warm Homes service completed delivery of the Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 project in March 2025 having delivered circa £1.1m capital measures across 108 private sector properties receiving 145 energy efficiency measures, uplifting the average home by 21 SAP points.
229. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland contains measures which will support the capture and storage of carbon emissions through the improvement and increase of different habitats.

## **Conclusions**

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

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

- i) The Council is currently ahead of target compared to the linear trajectory to achieve net zero from the 2016-17 baseline year to 2035. However, the rate of reduction in emissions is starting to plateau, as the quick win opportunities to reduce emissions diminish. The expected trajectory of emission reduction suggests that net zero will not be achieved by 2035, due to the increasing difficulty and cost of reducing emissions, and therefore some form of carbon offsetting will be needed to reduce net emissions to zero.
- ii) The Introduction of the Environment Act 2021 continues to place additional statutory duties on the Council, such as food waste collections, Biodiversity Net Gain, the Biodiversity Duty and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Council will need to consider how it delivers these new duties considering the amount of new burdens funding provided by the government and the financial position of the Council.
- iii) Continued limited action on the identified climate change risks due to capacity is a concern, though the recent decision to redirect resources towards addressing flooding and these risks will help mitigate the risks.
- iv) The financial pressures of the Council, combined with resource issues are making it more difficult to progress environmental improvements.

### **b. Leicestershire**

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

- i) While emissions are gradually decreasing in Leicestershire, the County is currently not on track to meet the 2050 net zero target, assuming a continuation of the current rate of reduction.
- ii) The LCAN project has been a successful example of how bringing key partners together can drive forward sustainability work within the County.
- iii) Very good progress has been made in planting a tree for every person in Leicestershire.
- 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.

## Appendix A: Environmental Performance Summary Dashboard

Performance Summary			
Report for 2024-25 Year End			
KPI		Your Rating	Trend
<b>Carbon / Energy</b>			
C1a	Total CO2e from LCC operations (tonnes)	GREEN	improving
C2a	Elec consumption per M2 in LCC buildings	GREEN	worsening
C2b	Gas consumption per m2 in LCC buildings	RED	improving
C17a	Renewable energy generated as % energy consumed (annual)	RED	worsening
C18	Total business miles claimed (annual)	GREEN	improving
C20	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (total)	GREEN	improving
C20a	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources by sector)	AMBER	improving
C21	Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources) per capita	GREEN	improving
R1	Outstanding actions on climate change risk register	RED	no change
<b>Waste</b>			
LW1	Total waste from LCC sites (tonnes)	AMBER	worsening
LW2	% recycled from LCC sites	RED	worsening
HW1	Total household waste per household	no target	improving
HW2	% household waste reused, recycled & composted	RED	improving
LW10	% recycled aggregates used in highways	No target	improving
<b>Resources</b>			
P1a	Total office paper purchased (A4 sheets)	GREEN	worsening
WA1	Portable water consumed per FTE	GREEN	improving
<b>Staff engagement</b>			
E1	Staff agreeing - council doing enough for environment	AMBER	improving
E2	Staff understanding how to contribute to green issues	AMBER	worsening
<b>Quality and compliance</b>			
M1	Environmental complaints upheld	no rating	worsening
M2	Environmental incidents	no rating	no change
M3	Environmental risks scoring >15	RED	no change
M5	Environmental enforcement/prosecutions	GREEN	no change

## Appendix B: Environmental Performance Infographic

The 2024-25 Environmental Performance Infographic can be found on the following link: [https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Environmental-Performance-2024-2025-summary\\_0.pdf](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Environmental-Performance-2024-2025-summary_0.pdf)



## **ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2026**

### **CLIMATE RESILIENCE DELIVERY PLAN**

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

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present and seek Committee's views on the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan (Delivery Plan) which is attached as Appendix A to this report. The views of the Committee will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 3 February 2026.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the Environment Strategy 2018-2030 which was approved by the Cabinet on 6 July 2018.
3. A revised Environment 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. The vision of the revised Environment Strategy is 'Leicestershire County Council will minimise the environmental impact of its activities and will improve the wider environment through local action. We will play our full part to protect the environment of Leicestershire. We will tackle climate change and embed environmental sustainability into what we do.'
4. The Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the County Council's Strategic Plan which was adopted in March 2022. Clean and Green is one of its five Strategic Outcomes, a priority of which is to tackle a changing climate.
5. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan.
6. Since these commitments were made, the Council has been subjected to an increasingly constrained financial position with a significant deficit forecast. In February 2024, in light of this and the estimated increased resources required to reach net zero, the Cabinet resolved to extend the net zero targets to 2035 for Council operations and to 2050 for Countywide emissions, in line with the national target.
7. In February 2025, the Cabinet approved revised versions of the Net Zero Action Plans which were updated as a result of the change to the associated targets.

8. On 15 July 2025, the Cabinet reallocated £2m from its reserves which had previously been earmarked for carbon reduction work, to flooding mitigation initiatives and adapting Council services to the impacts of severe weather events. The Cabinet also approved a change to the focus of the activities delivered under the Net Zero Action Plans, as requested by the Leader of the Council. At the same time, it was decided that the existing targets surrounding net zero carbon be retained but with a shift in focus outlined within the July Cabinet report.
9. Subsequently, in October 2025, the Cabinet reviewed and approved the proposed £2m programme of flood mitigation and climate adaptation and resilience measures.

### **Reframed Action Plans**

10. As agreed by the Cabinet in July 2025, there has been a change of focus in the activities included in the Delivery Plan (previously the Net Zero Action Plan) from carbon reduction to:
  - i. climate adaptation and responding to severe weather events;
  - ii. projects that deliver financial savings; and
  - iii. projects that deliver additional social, economic or environmental benefits, in support of the Council's Strategic Outcomes.
11. Actions reflecting the programme of flood mitigation and climate adaptation and resilience actions, as agreed by the Cabinet in October 2025, have been added to the Delivery Plan.
12. Following this change, a number of actions now refer directly to the financial and health benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation. To support this change in approach, a new column and associated key have been added in which the co-benefits of each action are identified in abbreviated form (e.g. FE for financial efficiency, NB for nature and biodiversity and HW for health and wellbeing).
13. The timeframe has also been updated. Previously, action implementation was identified over a 5-year period, but this has been changed to a 3-year period. This is to align with the programme and funding of flood mitigation, climate resilience and adaptation measures agreed by the Cabinet in October 2025.
14. The appended version of the Delivery Plan is a final working draft and may be subject to minor final alterations.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

15. The previous Net Zero Action Plans were reported to this Committee on an annual basis with the Environmental Performance and Progress Report. It is, therefore, proposed that annual reporting regarding progress on the Delivery Plan will also be included within the Environmental Performance and Progress Report (which is the subject of a separate paper to this meeting), presented to

this Committee on an annual basis, which will report by exception and summarise the highlights from that year's delivery period.

### **Resource Implications**

16. The Delivery Plan has been produced assuming that existing levels of revenue resource are available.
17. This additionally includes £0.3m of the £2m reallocated funding approved by the Cabinet in October 2025 and proposed for inclusion in the 2026-30 Medium Term Financial Strategy process. This will be spent mainly on employing a staff resource to update the climate risk register and identify measures that can form a realistic action plan and to work with high-risk service areas (highways and property) to identify and implement mitigation measures to protect assets, save reactive spend and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.
18. The remainder of the reallocated £2m funding will be spent on working with communities (£0.4m) and effective management and investment in highways drainage assets (£1.3m).
19. The Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

20. The views of the Committee will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 3 February 2026, where the Cabinet will be asked to approve the proposed Delivery Plan. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the final Delivery Plan will then be published on the Council's website.

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

21. None.

### **Equality Implications**

22. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were undertaken in full when the original Net Zero Action Plans were developed and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. As the Delivery Plan has not been substantively altered in scope, it has been agreed with departmental equality officers that additional EIAs will not be required subject to minor changes being made to the existing EIA to reflect the changes made to the Delivery Plan.
23. It should be noted that the statutorily established Climate Change Committee (the Government's advisory body on climate change science, targets and impacts) recognises that climate change can have a disproportionate impact on groups with different protected characteristics.

24. Decision makers should therefore take account of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Although not climate specific, this duty requires authorities to consider how their policies affect different groups which can intersect with climate justice concerns.
25. Compliance with the PSED places the County Council (or a third-party exercising function on its behalf) under a duty to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

### **Human Rights Implications**

26. No human right implications were found when the original Net Zero Action Plans were developed and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. There are no changes in the Delivery Plan that would have human rights implications.

### **Environmental Implications**

27. There are likely to be both positive and negative environmental implications linked to the shift in focus of the Delivery Plan. The move away from emissions reduction work may increase risk for the Council in the future.

### **Health Implications**

28. A full Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken in 2024 when the Net Zero Action Plans were revised and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. It was therefore agreed with Public Health officers that an additional HIA will not be required subject to minor changes being made to the existing HIA to reflect the changes made to the Delivery Plan (Appendix C).
29. The HIA describes how many actions of the Delivery Plan could make a positive contribution to health in relation to the priority thematic areas identified within the tool. The broadening of the Delivery Plan to include actions relating to climate change adaptation has additional health benefits by alleviating the impacts of severe weather on Council services and assets that Leicestershire residents and businesses rely upon.

### **Background Papers**

Environment Strategy 2018-2030

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

2035 Net Zero Council Action Plan (2025)

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/net-zero-council-action-plan-2035.pdf>

2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan (2025)

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/2050-Net-Zero-Leicestershire-Action-Plan.pdf>

Cabinet report - 15 July 2025 – Proposal to Reprioritise Net Zero Action Plans  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s190761/FINAL%20Net%20Zero%20Reprioritised%20Cabinet%20150725%20v2.pdf>

Cabinet report – 28 October 2025 – Leicestershire County Council’s Approach to Flooding – Spending Proposals For £2 Million Redistributed from Reserves  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s192485/FINAL%20Flooding%20and%20Climate%20Adaptation%20Cabinet%20281025.pdf>

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix C – Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

## **Officers to Contact**

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# Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Key	
AQ	Air Quality
BR	Business Resilience
CAF	Climate Adaptation and Flooding
CR	Carbon Reduction
FE	Financial Efficiency
HW	Health and Wellbeing
NB	Nature and Biodiversity
RW	Resources and Waste

Action ID	Action	Context	Co Benefits	Partners	Delivery Period		
					2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1	Investigate how improvements to the fabric of LCC buildings, heating upgrades and other energy efficiency measures could save the council money, provide thermally improved working environments and build resilience to global energy markets. Continue to secure external funding when it is available to carry out these works.	Council	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
2	To achieve financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.	Council	BR, CR, FE, NB	N/A			
3	Subject to the results of a trial, work with high mileage teams to reduce grey fleet business mileage to realise financial savings for LCC and health benefits for employees.	Council	AQ, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
4	Identify opportunities on the Council's estate for implementation of practices and enhancements that benefit nature, increase the land use sector's climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.	Council	CAF, CR, FE, NB	N/A			
5	Strengthen environmental controls within the Procurement Strategy, and develop tools and guidance to integrate environmental impact into procurement decisions and integrate council sustainability specifications and requirements into supplier contracts and the procurement process.	Council	BR, CR, NB, RW	N/A			
6	Support the shift of Council investments towards those that promote increased sustainability.	Council	BR, CAF, CR, FE	N/A			
7	Deliver a pilot study to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of transitioning LCC's fleet from ICE (Internal Combustion Engines) to EVs (Electric Vehicles). Integrate a small number of EVs into the fleet to allow a data driven appraisal of EV performance within LCC operations, with a view to building preparedness for upcoming national legislation around ICE vehicle phase out.	Council	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
8	Revisit and refresh the existing County Council Climate Change Risk Register and from that develop a list of service specific climate action plans.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
9	Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
10	Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
11	Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
12	Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40 month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
13	Undertake mapping of underground drainage assets to improve the Council's ability to investigate issues and plan maintenance activities to assist in preventing any future surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
14	Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, HW, NB	Transport Partners Business Residents			

15	Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, FE, HW,	Active Travel England (ATE) District councils Leicester City Council Health partners Residents Businesses Schools Active travel partnerships Community groups			
16	Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, FE, HW	Public transport providers Community groups Residents Department for Transport (DfT) District councils Neighbouring authorities Business and Skills Partnership Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands			
17	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, HW	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities District councils Residents Business Chargepoint Operators National Grid DfT and OZEV			
18	Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, HW	Midlands Net Zero Hub District councils Business and Skills Partnership			
19	Consider opportunities for working with partners on joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	District councils Health partners Energy Saving Trust			
20	Collaborate with partners to secure funding that gives residents opportunities to save on utility bills and for better health and wellbeing by supporting energy efficiency improvements that keep homes warm in the winter.	Leicestershire	CR, FE, HW	District councils Midlands Net Zero Hub			
21	Support district councils to develop local planning policies which champion climate resilience and adaptation using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes.	Leicestershire	CAF, CR, FE, NB	District councils Leicester City Council Business and Skills Partnership			
22	Work collaboratively with partners to seek opportunities to deliver local energy transition opportunities, including community energy projects, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, FE	Universities Partnership Community Energy Groups			
23	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering financial savings and climate resilience, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Leicestershire	BR, CR, FE	Business and Skills Partnership			
24	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers goods and services with a low environmental impact.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CR, FE, NB, RW	Leicester City Council Leicestershire County Council			
25	Develop the Leicester & Leicestershire Destination Management Plan with a strategic priority of Regenerative Tourism to align with Visit England's strategy.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB, RW	Leicester City Council Tourism Advisory Board Visit England District councils Local Tourism Partnerships National Forest Canal & River Trust			

26	Deliver the Whole Systems Approach to Food, Healthy Weight and Nutrition (WSA) to maximise the health benefits of a sustainable food system, increase food security and reduce the environmental impacts of food production.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB, RW	Food growers Education sector Health sector			
27	Deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy to work towards a circular economy whilst supporting innovation, jobs and efficient use of resources.	Leicestershire	BR, CR, FE, RW	District councils			
28	Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	Leicester City Council Rutland Council District councils Natural England Environment Agency Forestry Commission National Forest Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Neighbouring authorities Farmers, land owners and managers Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise groups Residents and other stakeholders			
29	Work with local planning authorities when opportunities arise to explore how the LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity Duty can deliver multiple benefits such as nature recovery, climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	District councils LNRS Steering Group			
30	Deliver the County Council's Tree Management Strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	District councils Woodland Trust National Forest Business Residents			
31	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB, RW	EAVs			
32	Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Universities District councils			
33	Work with partners when possible, particularly universities, to support research and implementation of best practice in climate change adaptation.	Leicestershire	CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub			
34	Provide flood resilience equipment to at risk communities through working with Flood Wardens, town and parish councils.	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, HW	Town and parish councils Flood wardens			
35	Provide community grants to support the development of local resilience to flooding through the purchasing of equipment or delivery of small scale project work	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, HW	Town and parish councils Flood wardens			
36	Investigate the condition and performance of private assets such as ditches and culverts linked to flood risk where there are complex ownerships or disputed responsibilities.	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, CR, FE	Private asset owners Environment Agency			
37	Consider opportunities to work with partners to implement nature based solutions that mitigate the impacts of climate change such as flooding and the heat island effect.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Farmers, land owners and managers Voluntary community and social enterprise Universities National governmental bodies District councils Community groups			

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## **Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)**

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will enable you to assess the **new, proposed or significantly changed** policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service\*\* for equality and human rights implications.

Undertaking this assessment will help you to identify whether or not this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service\*\* may have an adverse impact on a particular community or group of people. It will ultimately ensure that, as an Authority, we do not discriminate and we are able to promote equality, diversity and human rights.

Please refer to the EHRIA [guidance](#) before completing this form. If you need any further information about undertaking and completing the assessment, contact your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) <mailto:> or [equality@leics.gov.uk](mailto:equality@leics.gov.uk)

*\*\*Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

<b>Key Details</b>	
<b>Name of policy being assessed:</b>	Climate Resilience Delivery Plan
<b>Department and section:</b>	Environment and Transport, Environment and Waste Commissioning
<b>Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:</b>	Vicky Cormie, Head of Service Environment and Waste Commissioning
<b>Contact telephone numbers:</b>	0116 3057291
<b>Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:</b>	Joanna Guyll
<b>Date EHRIA assessment started:</b>	21 March 2022
<b>Date EHRIA assessment completed:</b>	12 December 2025

## Section 1: Defining the policy

### Section 1: Defining the policy

You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of the policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's [Equality Strategy](#).

1	<p>What is new or changed in the policy? <i>What has changed and why?</i></p> <p>The previous Net Zero Action Plans have been renamed and updated in response to the Council's changed priorities as well as a renewed focus on climate change adaptation, they are now called the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan (the Delivery Plan).</p> <p>The wording of the actions has been updated to reflect the broadened economic, social and environmental priorities of the new political administration. To support this change in narrative, a new column and associated key have been added in which the co-benefits of each action are identified in abbreviated form (e.g. FE for financial efficiency, NB for nature and biodiversity and HW for health and wellbeing).</p> <p>The timeframe has also been updated. Previously, action implementation was identified over a 5-year period but this has been changed to a 3-year period. This is to align with the agreed spend period of the £2 million climate change adaptation fund.</p>
2	<p>Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? If yes, please reference the relevant policy or EHRIA. If unknown, further investigation may be required.</p> <p>These actions are from the Net Zero Strategy and road map. The Net Zero Strategy sets out the approach to delivering the Council's policy to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2050, in line with the national target.</p> <p>Yes, the Delivery Plan is a theme included in the Environment Strategy 2018 – 2030. The Clean and Green Outcome of the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 also includes tackling climate change as a sub outcome.</p>
3	<p>Who are the people/ groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them?</p> <p>The ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2050 will affect people across Leicestershire. The intended outcome is to halt Leicestershire's contribution to climate change and to maximise the co-benefits for people, nature and the economy from a just transition.</p>
4	<p>Will the policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects? <b>(Please tick and explain how)</b></p>

			<b>How?</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	✓		Projects and policies to implement the Delivery Plan will be subject to EHRIA. Many actions within Delivery Plan improve universal access to cleaner air, safer streets, better flood resilience and lower energy bills (e.g., Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel/public transport; energy efficiency in homes; culvert/SuDS management). These reduce disproportionate environmental burdens that can correlate with protected characteristics. Risks arise if implementation overlooks accessibility, affordability, or culturally appropriate engagement.
Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	✓		Delivery of the Delivery Plan offers co-benefits for health equality, economic prosperity and improved environment that can advance equality of opportunity. Specific programmes of work will be subject to an EHRIA and consideration given to advancing equality of opportunity. The Council will support this, for example through grant applications such as "Green Living Leicestershire" which offers fully funded energy efficiency measures to low income households. Improving bus/community transport, demand-responsive transport, and active travel (Actions 14–16) can reduce barriers for those without private cars, often lower-income residents, young people, older adults, and disabled people. Programmes to support home energy efficiency and keep homes warm (Action 20) advance opportunity by reducing fuel poverty and health inequalities. Inward Investment and Enterprise Zone support (Actions 24, 26) can spread opportunities for training and employment in low-carbon sectors, provided outreach targets under-represented groups.

	Foster good relations between different groups	✓		Place-based nature recovery, tree planting, volunteers and public engagement (Actions 29–33) can create shared local benefits, volunteering opportunities and community-led projects that bring diverse groups together. Behaviour change campaigns (Action 15; “Choose How You Move”) and Sustainable Food Plan (Action 27) can build common purpose around climate resilience, provided messaging is inclusive and avoids stigmatising any group
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## Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EORIA) Screening

### Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Screening

The purpose of this section of the assessment is to help you decide if a full EORIA is required.

If you have already identified that a full EORIA is needed for a policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service, either via service planning processes or other means, then please go straight to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document.

#### Section 2

##### A: Research and Consultation

		Yes	No*
5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following?		
	a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;	✓	
	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);	✓	
	c) potential barriers they may face	✓	
6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?	✓	
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g. carers of service users) been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?	✓	

8.	<p>*If you answered 'no' to the questions above, please use the space below to outline either what consultation you are planning to undertake or why you do not consider it to be necessary.</p>
	<p>Consultation has taken place for the original Net Zero Action Plan and Strategy. The amendments to the actions: The wording of the actions has been updated to reflect the broadened economic, social and environmental priorities of the new political administration. Additionally, the timeframe has also been updated and new actions regarding adaptation to climate change added. The actions are no longer framed in terms of carbon emissions reduction but in terms of their co-benefits. No further consultation has taken place as only the way the Delivery Plan is communicated has changed.</p>

## Section 2

### B: Monitoring Impact

9.	<p>Are there systems set up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups;</li> <li>b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Community Insight Survey</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Environment webpage and email</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Note: If no to Question 9, you will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics.**

## Section 2

### C: Potential Impact

10.	<p>Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the '<a href="#">protected characteristics</a>' may <b>potentially</b> be affected by the policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.</p>		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>Age</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The national Climate Change Committee recently stated that global temperature increases of between 1.5°C and 2°C would affect vulnerable people most of all.<sup>1</sup> Vulnerable people are also likely to benefit disproportionately from co-benefits associated with a transition to net zero carbon emissions, such as reduced air pollution.<sup>2</sup> Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>3</sup> found that the extent to</p>

<sup>1</sup> Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p31

<sup>2</sup> Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p218

				which individuals are able to cope with climate change impacts is influenced by the interaction between personal factors (e.g. health, age), social factors (e.g. income, neighbourhood cohesion, isolation), and environmental factors (e.g. building quality, green space). <sup>3</sup> Intergenerational fairness is a key issue when considering action on climate change and climate justice. The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change <sup>4</sup> . This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions. Safer, cleaner streets and better bus/community transport improve independent mobility for young and older people (Actions 14–16). Warmer homes from energy efficiency programmes reduce cold-related illness among older adults and children (Action 20). Free/low-cost nature volunteering and greening activities support intergenerational cohesion (Actions 31–33). Complex digital tools for travel or energy may exclude older adults (Action 23). Active travel schemes must address safety for children and older pedestrians/cyclists (Actions 14–15).
	<b>Disability</b>	✓		See also comments in Age section regarding vulnerable people and health impacts from climate change and ability to afford low carbon solutions. Demand responsive/community transport and accessible bus stops improve mobility (Action 16). Reduced air pollution via transport and nature actions benefits people with respiratory/cardiac conditions (Actions 14–16, 29–31). Flood resilience protects accessible routes to services (Actions 10–13). Active travel infrastructure must meet inclusive design standards (drop kerbs, tactile paving, rest areas) to avoid exclusion (Actions 14–15). Communications should be available in Easy Read, BSL, audio, large print;

<sup>3</sup>Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014, Climate Change and Social Justice: an Evidence Review

<sup>4</sup> Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p31

			procure accessible apps/websites (Actions 6, 23, 33).
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	✓		Inclusive community programmes (volunteering, engagement) can provide safe, welcoming spaces (Actions 31–33).
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>		✓	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	✓		Pregnant women may be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as overheating. It is not anticipated that climate action will affect this group in any specific ways, but assessments should be made on individual programmes or actions to ensure that this is the case. Cleaner air and safer walking routes support maternal and infant health (Actions 14–15) Warmer homes reduce risks associated with cold homes for newborns (Action 20).
<b>Race</b>	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions. Global fairness and differential impacts in different nations is a key issue when considering action on climate change and climate justice.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	✓		The Delivery Plan will support those who's beliefs include environmental protection and stewardship of the Earth.
<b>Sex</b>	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		✓	

	<b>Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities</b>	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This message has been reinforced through consultation which found that the public have concerns about the potential cost implications for residents, with fears that this will be disproportionate for those on lower incomes. Specific examples raised included the cost of purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle, retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient and the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group referenced housing development, cuts to bus services and fear of low income residents being priced out of taking action. A key aim of the Strategy is that the transition to net zero will be just and maximise co-benefits. In this way, specific programmes of work will be subject to an EHRIA and consideration given to advancing equality of opportunity. The Council will support this, for example through grant applications such as "Green Living Leicestershire" which offers fully funded energy efficiency measures to low income households. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects and may have a positive impact if grant funding can continue to be secured for low income households. The solutions for carbon reduction will need to be developed to address the specific needs and assets of rural communities e.g. public transport, EV infrastructure, off-gas properties etc.
	<b>Community Cohesion</b>	✓		Community action on climate change has the potential to increase community cohesion when projects are inclusive by design.
1.	<p>Are the human rights of individuals <b>potentially</b> affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics? <b>(Please tick)</b></p> <p>Explain why you consider that any particular <a href="#">article in the Human Rights Act</a> may apply to the policy/ practice/ function or procedure and how the human rights of individuals are likely to be affected below: [NB: include positive and negative impacts as well as barriers in benefiting from the above proposal]</p>			
		Yes	No	<b>Comments</b>

<b>Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms</b>				
<b>Article 2: Right to life</b>	✓		The Delivery Plan supports improvements to environmental health.	
<b>Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way</b>		✓		
<b>Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour</b>		✓		
<b>Article 5: Right to liberty and security</b>		✓		
<b>Article 6: Right to a fair trial</b>		✓		
<b>Article 7: No punishment without law</b>		✓		
<b>Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life</b>		✓		
<b>Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion</b>		✓		
<b>Article 10: Right to freedom of expression</b>		✓		
<b>Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association</b>		✓		
<b>Article 12: Right to marry</b>		✓		
<b>Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against</b>		✓		
<b>Part 2: The First Protocol</b>				
<b>Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment</b>		✓		
<b>Article 2: Right to education</b>		✓		
<b>Article 3: Right to free elections</b>		✓		
<b>Section 2</b>				
<b>D: Decision</b>				
1	Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that:		Yes	No
3.			✓	
	a) the policy could have a different affect or adverse impact on any section of the community;			

	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal		✓	
1 3.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of the policy			
	No Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negative Impact or <input type="checkbox"/> Impact Unknown
<b>Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known', an EHRIA Report is required.</b>				
1 4.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## Section 2: Completion of EHRIA Screening

Upon completion of the screening section of this assessment, you should have identified whether an EHRIA Report is required for further investigation of the impacts of this policy.

**Option 1:** If you identified that an EHRIA Report **is required**, continue to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document.

**Option 2:** If there are no equality, diversity or human rights impacts identified and an EHRIA report **is not required**, continue to Section 4 on Page 14 of this document.

**Section 3:**  
**F: Equality and human rights improvement plan**

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

<b>Equality Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>By when</b>

## Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EORIA) is scrutinised by your Departmental Equalities Group and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EORIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to the Digital Services Team via [web@leics.gov.uk](mailto:web@leics.gov.uk) for publishing.

### Section 4

#### A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EORIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

**Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening**

**Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report**

1<sup>st</sup> Authorised Signature (EORIA Lead Officer): ...K Greenhalgh

Date: ...14 September 2022.....

2<sup>nd</sup> Authorised Signature (DEG Chair): .....A. Carruthers

Date: .....20 September 2022... 30/12/2025.....

Proposal Name: Environment Strategy & Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Department: E&T

Name of contact: Vicky Cormie

How to use this tool

This is your tool to enable you to carry out a 'desktop' HIA. It will help you look at the potential impacts of your proposal on the health and wellbeing on our communities in Leicestershire, and consider the impact on health inequality.

Below are some tips on how to fill out the columns:

- **Impact** – To complete this section, have a think about what impact your proposal may have on each themes listed in the rows below, and importantly, if this impact will be positive or negative. Tick the '+' column for positive impacts and '-' for negative impacts.
- **Likelihood** – What is the likelihood of each impact? Try to support these decisions using available evidence. Tick the '?' column if you are uncertain an impact will occur and '!' if you are certain / have evidence an impact will occur.
- **Description of Impact** – How will the proposal impact on the population? If it will impact specific group or populations differently, identify this - you could add in multiple rows to show this. How severe is the impact likely to be? Will it be instant or in the future?
- **Recommendation** – This is the space to write recommendations around how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include further research and links to information you have found.

Further guidance completing this form can be found in the HIA Support and Guidance notes.

What impact if any will the proposal have with regard to the themes listed below?

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
<b>Social Cohesion and Community</b>  Does the proposal encourage social interactions in the community, help to install a sense of neighbourliness and local pride in the area? Does the proposal encourage community participation and increase social inclusion?					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Environment Strategy does encourage residents, communities, businesses and others to come together to work together on tackling the various environmental crises and protecting and enhancing the environment.</p> <p>Most actions are seeking to make positive environmental change. Most of which should also result in positive health outcomes from the improvements in the local environment, the social interaction of taking action with others and in some cases from the physical activity involved in making the environmental improvements.</p> <p>Not all members of the community will necessarily be able to participate in some of the activities such as older people, disabled people etc so there is likely to be variability in the level of health benefit achieved, though all should benefit from an environmental improvement in their locality.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>Consider the health benefits of when designing and delivering activities that encourage residents, communities and businesses to get involved in protecting and improving the environment and net zero.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>Several actions within the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan will support social cohesion and community which can be seen below.</p> <p>Improving local transport links supports community inclusion and social participation. This particularly includes rural and vulnerable populations. Social cohesion will be improved through improved nature in local areas.</p> <p>Additionally, there is the indirect benefit from the climate adaptation actions that lead to the continuity of essential services which reduces stress and disruption during climate events.</p> <p>Social inclusion may be negatively affected through the trial of dimming streetlights impacting feelings of safety particularly in winter months.</p> <p>The timing of these actions covers the short, medium and long term as actions plan to be delivered from 2025 to 2030.</p> <p>The severity of the impact of the action plans on social cohesion and community is expected to be moderate as social cohesion and community are</p>	<p>Continuing to secure funding where available to deliver cycling, walking and chargepoint infrastructure and passenger transport services.</p> <p>Ensure all infrastructure is accessible to all users and accounts for the latest government guidance and best practice.</p> <p>Street lighting: Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.</p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>primarily co-benefits of many of the actions.</p> <p><b>Action References:</b> 15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p> <p>29: Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change</p> <p>3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.</p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.	
<b>Employment and the Economy</b>  Does the proposal create new employment in the area or boost local economy/use of services Does the proposal reduce unemployment and economic activity, improve workplace conditions, offer access to gaining new skills?  Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- including the economic and environmental conditions in which people age and work					<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Some of the actions within the Environment Strategy are likely to encourage new business activity and provide additional or alternative employment opportunities such as new green jobs (e.g. Installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, planting trees or maintaining woodlands).  As a result, new employment opportunities are possible as are opportunities to re-skill in green skills.  Some of the environmental improvements may result in improved working conditions e.g. – switch to electric vehicles and machinery – reduced pollution from internal	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work with the Business and Skills Partnership, universities, FE colleges, businesses and others to maximise the opportunities to create employment and new business opportunities.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> Through working collaboratively to deliver local energy transition opportunities and working with partners to support low carbon sector industry boosts the local economy. Providing information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAVs) to help support the wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county alongside delivering public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>combustion engines, provision of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>Several actions within the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan will support employment and the economy which can be seen below. These actions will lead to a positive impact across the local economy, particularly providing opportunities in green industry and upskilling. These actions particularly benefit those in carbon intensive sectors transitioning to more sustainable roles. The below actions could reduce health inequalities by providing upskilling opportunities and training, preparing for future opportunities. This also reduces financial stress and improve access to stable income, supporting mental and physical health. Additionally improved working conditions (healthier environment, remote working options) reduce occupational health risks. There is also the indirect impact of protecting infrastructure which avoid economic losses</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p><b>Action References</b></p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire</p> <p>23: 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.</p> <p>24: Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers goods and services with a low environmental impact.</p> <p>26: Work with partners to use Enterprise Zones to support low carbon</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>sector industry and business clusters and increase research and development capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects as staff resource allows.</p> <p>25: Develop the Leicester &amp; Leicestershire Destination Management Plan with a strategic priority of Regenerative Tourism to align with Visit England's strategy.</p> <p>27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.</p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's EAVs to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	
<b>Transport</b>  Does the proposal impact on road safety, active travel, cycling and walking facilities and infrastructure  Does the proposal cause community severance? Or impact on accessing public transport?					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy encourages the switch to active travel and the use of mass transport solutions such as buses. This should reduce the level of car use and increase levels of exercise of residents resulting in health benefits.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> There are several climate resilience actions focused on delivering low emission transport policy and design, improving the transportation system, building key infrastructure for walking and cycling and promoting active travel. The implementation of these actions would have positive health impact for Leicestershire's residents and communities. These actions would have moderate health impact in medium to long term timescale. For list of relevant actions, please see below.</p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work closely with Transport team and others to maximise the take up of active travel and the switch to multi-modal and low/zero emissions transport.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b>  <u>Access to public transport:</u> Consider the planning for HGV routes within the county to reduce the noise and air pollution, which would minimise stress caused by HGV to residents. Prioritise and ensure sufficient public transportation services in rural areas to access employment, education and medical services. Continue to secure funding and support for the bus improvement plan to lower the transportation cost for elderly and the low-income populations. This could maximise the health equality.</p> <p><u>Road safety:</u> Monitor the development in the walking and cycling facilities and carry out regular maintenance to ensure the safety standards are attained. Ensure EV charge points are installed in line with the</p>

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>Access to public transport:</p> <p>The actions would improve access to public transportation, which could reduce health inequality for people who don't have access to cars. By improving passenger transportation services and the transportation network, more transportation services would be available for the rural areas. This enables easier access to employment, education, community events and health services.</p> <p>In addition, building more walking and cycling facilities would provide greater travel opportunity for low-income populations. This would enhance social cohesion and rural connectivity, reduce inequality, and improve the physical and mental health of residents.</p> <p>Moreover, the actions promote aims to decarbonise transport via developing a vision and strategy as part of the Local Transport Plan 4.</p> <p>This would further enhance the health benefits for residents and communities through improvements to air quality,</p>	<p>government's latest guidance and maintained to a suitable standard.</p> <p>Carry out regular maintenance on streetlights, review and consider the view of the local community, and restore light intensity if necessary.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Continue to support the use of HVO fuels in HGV and promote the use of electric vehicles to enhance good air quality.</p> <p><u>Active Travel</u></p> <p>Account for latest design and safety standards when installing active travel infrastructure on the highway.</p> <p>Ensure, and promote where appropriate, that employees follow best practice when working from home for example, taking regular breaks.</p>

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>opportunities for exercise and improved connectivity.</p> <p>Climate adaptation would also mean that transport remains operational during floods and extreme weather. This also improves safety from drivers, cyclists and pedestrians and aim to maintain transport continuity during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.</p> <p>12: Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40-month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar</p>	11

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups?</li> <li>• Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe?</li> <li>• Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term</li> </ul>	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p> <p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p> <p>1: Deliver a pilot study to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of transitioning LCC's fleet from ICE (Internal Combustion Engines) to EVs (Electric Vehicles).</p> <p>Integrate a small number of EVs into the fleet to allow a data driven appraisal of EV performance within LCC operations, with a view to building preparedness for upcoming national legislation around ICE vehicle phase out.</p> <p>4: Work with high mileage teams to reduce grey fleet business mileage to realise financial savings for LCC and health benefits for employees.</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>In terms of road safety, building more walking and cycling facilities, such as separate cycle lanes and footpath, would increase the road safety for vulnerable road users increasing the attractiveness of these transport modes for residents.</p> <p>The introduction of EV chargepoint infrastructure may pose a road safety hazard through the introduction of electrical equipment and extra street furniture to the highway. Users of chargepoints may be more at risk to traffic collisions when using the chargepoints. There is also the potential of a trip hazard if cables are incorrectly used.</p> <p>In addition, streetlight dimming could have a negative impact on the road safety for residents due to the decreased visibility. Elderly or disabled people may be at higher risk of increased chances of slips and falls due to lack of visibility.</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>For the community (residents and businesses), the climate resilience delivery plan has the potential to promote active travel across the county. Actions will reduce the reliance on cars while promoting more walking and cycling to increase the amount of exercise and physical activity, which would result in physical and mental health benefits. However, street light dimming could reduce the willingness for people to walk or cycle after sunset, this may reduce the frequency of active travel.</p> <p>Within the council actions promote employees to adopt more sustainable working practices including reducing business mileage. The delivery plan also encourages more sustainable working practices through strengthen environmental controls during procurements and engagement with key suppliers.</p> <p>However, a promotion of sustainable working practices such as home working and online meeting may cause employees to remain more sedentary</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					while increasing screen time increasing the risk of negative health impacts.	
<b>Physical Activity</b>  Think about how the proposal may impact on people being physically active, participate in active play or active travel.  Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy encourages people to be more active in order to reduce pollution and carbon emissions from vehicles and to encourage more people to enjoy nature and the outdoors. This should result in positive health benefits.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> The plan focuses on nature recovery. This would promote physical activity amongst residents and the local community. For relevant actions, see below. These actions would improve the natural environment as well as enhancing the biodiversity across the Leicestershire, which in turn provide more places for people to visit, exercise, gather and relax, improving physical and mental health. Climate adaptation actions would aim to keep walking and cycling routes useable during heavy rain. Additionally, if SuDS</p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work with partners and stakeholders to maximise opportunities to encourage physical activity through the actions within the Environment Strategy.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> Prioritise and identify natural areas that are seriously damaged and require immediate action would be able to maximise the health benefits throughout the Leicestershire as a whole. This would maximise health equality so that all businesses and residents around Leicestershire would be able to enjoy the same health benefits.</p> <p>Ensure the community, including elderly and disabled people, able to receive the information on environmental community activities. Invite and encourage the community to volunteer and participate.</p> <p>For recommendations on active travel, please refer to the active travel session in the Transport theme.</p>

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					<p>include accessible green infrastructure this could encourage outdoor activity.</p> <p>In addition, there is actions on raising public awareness and engagement. These would create more community activities and volunteering events.</p> <p>There are also several actions to encourage more active travel across the community and the council, please refer to the active travel session above in the Transport theme.</p> <p>These actions are expected to have a moderate health impact and come into effect on a medium to long-term scale.</p> <p><b>Action References:</b></p> <p>10: Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.</p> <p>11: Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more</p>	

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					<p>commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>29: Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.</p> <p>30: Work with local planning authorities when opportunities arise to explore how the LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity Duty can deliver multiple benefits such as nature recovery, climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.</p> <p>31: Deliver the County Council's Tree Management Strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.</p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p>	

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<b>Housing</b>  Think about any effects the proposal may have on the affordability of housing, Affordability of heating home, neighbourhood design, access to green/blue space. Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- the economic and environmental conditions in which people live, age and play					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Environment Strategy encourages the retrofit of existing houses and the construction of more environmentally friendly new houses. Both of these should result in an improvement in the quality of housing and in reducing the cost of heating/lighting houses.</p> <p>This should result in long term health benefits for those living in such houses.</p> <p>However, there may be some people that do not qualify for free/discounted retrofitting of their houses and who cannot afford to pay for such improvements. So, there may be some disparity in who can benefit from such improvements.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>There are various actions in the plan which provide benefits regarding heating homes, neighbourhood design and access to green space, this enhances mental health and promotes physical activity. These are listed below.</p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>Work with the Warm Homes Team and other partners to maximise the uptake of housing retrofit and the building of more sustainable new houses.</p> <p>Lobby the Government to ensure fair funding for those wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their housing.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>Work with partners to secure future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.</p> <p>Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and innovative business models such as group buying projects to support householders to install low carbon technology such as air source heat pumps.</p> <p>Promote community awareness campaigns about the benefits of active travel and low carbon home technologies (e.g. solar together, warm homes)</p>

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					<p>These actions will lead to a large-scale positive impact on housing efficiency and heating which in turn will lead to positive health impacts. This will be through reducing exposure to damp, cold and poor air quality. This also leads to direct benefits to low-income households by reducing energy costs, improving insulation through retrofits, additionally these actions could work towards reducing health disparities caused by energy poverty. This is a significant impact as housing quality impacts health incomes. This area is medium to long term.</p> <p>Additionally, there are various actions in place which would reduce flood risk and damp/mould prevalence</p> <p><b>Action References:</b></p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of</p>	

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					<p>citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose 16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>20: Collaborate with partners to secure funding that gives residents opportunities to save on utility bills and for better health and wellbeing by supporting energy efficiency improvements that keep homes warm in the winter.</p> <p>21: Support district councils to develop local planning policies which champion climate resilience and adaptation using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities,</p>	

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					<p>identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.</p> <p>23: 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.</p> <p>10: Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.</p> <p>11: Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>12: Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40-month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.</p>	121

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<b>Diet and Nutrition</b>  Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from accessing healthy food choices, affordability of healthy choices, ability to grow own food.  Does the proposal impact on sustainable food production?  Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.					<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy through the Food Plan and Resources & Waste Strategy encourages improvements in diet and nutrition, reductions in food waste, the growing of own food etc.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> <b>Action Reference:</b> 27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work with Public Health and other partners to maximise improvements to diet and nutrition through the relevant actions within the Environment Strategy.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> Continue to work with partners to support the Sustainable Food Plan and support residents to make healthy food choices while shopping seasonally and also with growing their own food, including the co-benefits of gardening and outdoor activity linked to physical and mental health.
<b>Education and skills</b>  Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from improving their educational attainment? Impact on opportunities to develop new skills?  Providing opportunities for volunteering/apprentices.					<b>Environment Strategy and Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy does encourage people to learn new skills, be it in the form of green skills to avail of new green job opportunities, or to learn about environmental issues to better enable people to take action in	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work with the Business and Skills Partnership, universities, FE colleges, businesses and others to maximise the opportunities to people to learn new skills and improve their educational attainment to take up the new green job opportunities.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b>

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Educational attainment is linked to health behaviours and health outcomes.					<p>their own lives of in their communities or businesses.</p> <p>We are working with the local universities and further education colleges to encourage people to undertake new environmental and related courses and further learning.</p> <p>We also provide training to residents through our EAVs scheme, provision of training courses, workshops and information sheets as well as attendance at events.</p> <p>Some people may lose out on the transition to the green economy because they feel too old or don't want to retrain. This is why we talk about needed a just transition.</p> <p>In the main this should have a positive health impact on people.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p>	<p>Collaborate with local schools, colleges and universities to raise awareness of climate adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Continue to develop volunteering opportunities with a focus on increasing young people access to volunteering opportunities within climate resilience, active travel and nature recovery.</p> <p>Ensure engagement activities reach minority and hard to reach groups.</p>

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					<p>There are actions that have a high potential to improve skills and attainment across sectors particularly in climate adaptation and mitigation. The advice and training will provide opportunities to gain new skills. This area is moderate given the link to educational attainment and health outcomes. This area is progressing in the short to medium term.</p> <p><b>Action References:</b></p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>34: Work with partners when possible, particularly universities, to support research and implementation of best practice in climate change adaptation.</p>	

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					27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.	

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<b>Air Quality &amp; Noise</b> Think about how air pollution and noise could be impacted reducing car use, traffic congestion, reducing noise disturbances					<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy encourages the move away from internal combustion engines and the switch to EVs and electric heating systems. This	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Work with the Transport team and other partners to encourage the take up of EVs and low carbon heating systems.

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					<p>will reduce the level of pollutants from these sources and improve air quality, The Environment Strategy also encourages the provision of more green and blue infrastructure and the improvement of the natural environment this should also support a reduction in pollution by increasing the ability of trees/hedges to absorb pollutants.</p> <p>Some of the green infrastructure may result in an increase in biological pollutants which may cause difficulties for some people with breathing conditions. However, the intention is to take this into consideration in the design of the green infrastructure.</p> <p>Overall, this should have a positive health impact.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>The primary health benefit of implementing the plan are the expected improvements in air quality from the</p>	<p>Work with partners to encourage an increase in the amount of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>Maximise positive impacts through full rollout of low emission transport alternatives.</p> <p>Effective enforcement of freight routes away from residential streets except for, when necessary, will reduce air pollution and noise.</p> <p>Continue to work with transport colleagues and other partners to improve air quality and noise pollution.</p> <p>Consistent local planning: minimise negative impacts through encouraging adherence to Leicestershire Highway Design Guidance and planning in a coordinated way ensure consistency between active travel routes and passenger transport services.</p>

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					<p>countywide reduction in emissions and lower levels of pollutants in the air. This particularly improves health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Air quality is expected to improve through the support of low/zero emission transport options such as active travel, passenger transport, electric vehicles inc. freight. Improved air quality will also be supported via consistent local planning and improved carbon sequestration through delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the tree strategy plating commitment and biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Excessive noise disturbances are expected to reduce through the action plans aims to achieve modal shift away from car use towards more sustainable modes of transport. Noise produced by HGVs can be expected to improve through support of the provision of low emission freight alternatives.</p> <p>The air quality benefits are expected to be severe and take place over the</p>	

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					<p>medium to long term as larger scale projects are delivered.</p> <p><b>Action References:</b></p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p>	

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					18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement. 19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.	
<b>Crime Reduction and Community Safety</b> Does the proposal discourage crime and antisocial behaviour, reduce fear of crime, promote safe environment.					<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> The Environment Strategy does not have any direct impact on crime or community safety. However, there are some potential indirect impacts. For example, the increase in trimming and dimming of streetlights might result in an increase in the fear of crime. (LCC.4 Carry out the 18 month dimming streetlights to 30% intensity trial - complete the trial and subject to cabinet agreement, consider opportunities for permanent implementation.) Evidence so far has indicated to increase in actual crime levels. Where issues are reported and evidenced amendments are made to the dimming project.	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> 129 Work with partners to consider the potential crime and community safety consequences of the actions within the Environment Strategy with a view to minimising the impact of these.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.

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					<p>Sometimes the increased use of green and blue infrastructure can result in an increase in the fear of crime or actual levels of crime as there are more places for criminals to hide, areas are more sheltered so less visible – but crime is normally taken into account in the design process.</p> <p>So, there is a risk of minimal negative health benefits from people being worried about or being victims of crime.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> As described above the dimming of Street lights to reduce emissions could encourage antisocial behaviour and crime in some communities.</p> <p><b>Action Reference:</b> 3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.</p>	

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<b>Alcohol, Tobacco, Illegal drug use</b> Does the proposal impact on the supply/use of alcohol and tobacco. Will it create an environment that discourages illegal drug use?  Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health.					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Environment Strategy encourages a reduction in littering and fly tipping. Many of the sources of litter come from alcohol (empty bottles and cans), tobacco (cigarette butts and vapes) and drug use (deal bags, nitros bottles, balloons, cotton buds).</p> <p>Encouraging a reduction in littering may result in some people reducing their consumption of these products or at least been more careful about how they dispose of them.</p> <p>Low likelihood of small health improvements.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>The dimming of Street lights to reduce emissions could encourage antisocial behaviour and crime in some communities.</p> <p><b>Action Reference:</b></p> <p>3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial</p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b></p> <p>This link is very tangential so there is likely to be limited opportunities to maximise impact here. Though steps could be taken to promote the health benefits of taking action on litter etc.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.</p>

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					and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.	
<b>Energy Use, Waste Minimisation and Climate Change</b> Does the proposal impact on energy use, energy efficiency and waste. Can carbon emissions and waste be minimised?  Does the proposal impact on refuge services? Encourage recycling. Contribute to net zero? Impact climate change					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b>  A core component of the Environment Strategy is the encouragement of reduced energy use, an increase in energy efficiency, a reduction in waste and resource use, and both reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>There are a wide range of actions across these areas.</p> <p>This should result in significant positive health benefits for wider society as these actions are implemented.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b>  The scale of this area is broad as actions impact energy efficiency, waste management and emissions reduction across the county. These actions contribute directly to mitigating climate</p>	<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b>  Work with key partners and stakeholders to maximise the impact of action on energy use, waste minimisation and climate change.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b>  The primary purpose of the Delivery Plans is to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This is picked up in many of the actions above.</p> <p>In addition, work will be done to identify how we can undertake work to adapt to climate change, where resources allow.</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with Public Health to ensure we have a joined-up approach.</p>

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					change impacts. This will work on the medium to long term. For further detail please see above entries regarding specific actions.	
<b>Access to Public Services</b> Does the proposal impact demand for local services. Does the proposal impact on accessing health or social care services.  Health inequalities can be driven where there are differences in distribution of resources, services					<p><b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b>  The Environment Strategy encourages shopping and living locally – reducing travel journeys, food miles, encouraging local growing, supporting local sustainable businesses, environmental groups and charities.</p> <p>There may be issues in that not all people will be able to avail of such local services due to age, disability, economic position etc.</p> <p>But in the main the encouragement of local should have benefits to local people and for their health.</p> <p><b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b>  Access to public services including health and social care services is expected to improve through delivery of the plan. The support of alternative</p>	<b>Environment Strategy &amp; Action Plan</b> Consider the impact on public services of the relevant actions within the Environment Strategy.  <b>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</b> As many low/zero emission transport modes can be easiest to implement in urban areas it is important to ensure an equitable provision of transport modes in rural areas.

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					<p>low/zero emission transport options will support connectivity and access to public services by reducing reliance on car usage. These principles can be supported through consistent local planning.</p> <p>An increase in demand of the transport network is expected. This may cause a restriction to accessing services for residents. This can be mitigated through improved provision of alternative transport modes.</p> <p><b>Action Reference</b></p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering</p>	

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					<p>behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p> <p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p>	

#### Useful Contacts

Advice and support to fill out this form can be obtained through the Public Health team please email [HIA@leics.gov.uk](mailto:HIA@leics.gov.uk)

