



**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4th MARCH 2021**

STRATEGIC PROPERTY ENERGY STRATEGY

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the 2020-2030 Strategic Property Energy Strategy (Appendix A) and seek support for the accompanying action plan.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The previous Property Energy Strategy went to Scrutiny Commission and was approved by Cabinet 15 July 2014.
3. In 2018 the Council signed up to the UK100 pledge; a commitment to switch to 100% Clean Energy¹ by 2050.
4. In May 2019 the Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and set a 'Net Zero Carbon' target for Council operations to achieve by 2030.
5. The Strategic Property Energy Strategy is a sub strategy of the Council's Environment Strategy which was updated and approved by Full Council in July 2020.

Background

6. The Council has a strong history of reducing carbon emissions across its all of its operations. The 2019-20 Environmental Performance Report states that;
 - a. The Council's total net carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions in 2019-20 were 11,633 tonnes. This was 67.4% below the baseline year of 2008-09 and 5.7% less than 2018-19.
 - b. Since 2008-2009 there has been a 64.5% reduction in emissions (GHG) from Council buildings.

¹ Energy purchased from renewable, zero-emission sources.

7. The amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of total energy consumed was 15.6% at the end of 2019-20, above the 14% target.
8. The Council would have spent an additional £402k during the financial year 2019/20 if energy consumption had not reduced.
9. Key projects which have been helped deliver these targets include;
 - i. 153kW of Solar PV installed at Beaumanor Hall, The Trees Respite Centre, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, Enderby Adult Learning Centre, Melton Short Breaks Centre, Loughborough Family and Wellbeing Centre
 - ii. LED lighting upgrades delivered at Beaumanor Hall, Enderby Adult Learning Centre, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and more
 - iii. 25 Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers installed at County Hall, Croft Highways Depot, Mountsorrel Highways Depot, Coalville Business Centre and Loughborough Technology Centre

2020-2030 Strategic Property Energy Strategy

10. The overall aim of the Strategic Property Energy Strategy is to work towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Council's 2019 CO₂^e declaration for direct greenhouse gas emissions identified that 36% (4,596 tCo₂e) originate from Council premises.
11. The Strategic Property Energy Strategy supports a green Covid recovery. Through collaboration with the Ways of Working programme to prioritise buildings for retention or to vacate and tailoring energy upgrades with new digital ways of working in mind.
12. The Strategic Property Energy Strategy also supports the key principles of Invest to Save and Carbon Reduction outlined in the MTFS.
13. The three main aims of the strategy are;
 - i. Saving energy and generating renewable energy to work towards the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon target.
 - ii. Ensure energy conservation is embedded into property processes and construction projects to further support the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon target.
 - iii. To foster a carbon conscious culture at the Council and support projects saving carbon across the County.
14. The key targets in the strategy are;
 - i. 30%-50% Reduction in annual energy consumption from Council buildings compared to 2019/2020 usage. The higher target of 50% is

dependent upon increased investment by the Council or external funding.

- ii. 50% increase in on-site renewable or zero-carbon energy generation on Corporate Council Buildings as percentage of annual consumption by Corporate Council buildings
15. Some of the key projects identified in the supporting action plan include;
- Increase solar PV and LED lighting at County Hall
 - Solar PV and Electric vehicle chargers at Snibston Country Park
 - Investigate low carbon heating solutions at Council Properties including heat pumps and district heating
 - Increase electric vehicle charging provision across the Corporate Estate
 - Deliver large scale energy generation schemes such as Solar Farms on Council-owned land.

Resource Implications

16. The County Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2021/22 – 2024/25) was approved by Full Council on 17 February 2021 and identifies savings requirements, relating to improvements in the energy and water performance of the County Council's property estate of £350,000 by 2024/25.
17. In the current Strategic Property Services service structure, there is a vacant grade 10 Energy Officer post. Approval has recently been granted to recruit to this post to support the delivery of the Energy Strategy.
18. It is anticipated that in the future there will be the potential to draw in private investment and/or external grant funding to support the implementation of some of the actions in the Energy Strategy Action Plan and these will be explored as opportunities arise.

Timetable for Decisions

19. The Strategic Property Energy Strategy and supporting Action Plan are to be considered by Cabinet alongside any views of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 23 March 2021.

Background Papers

[Property Energy Strategy - 15 July 2014 - Cabinet](#)

[Revised Environment Strategy and Action Plan – 8 July 2020 – County Council](#)

[Environment Performance and Greenhouse Gas Report – 14 January 2021
Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

17. None.

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Appendix

Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-2030.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

18. A EHRIA scoping has been completed. There are no negative impacts or consequences arising from the recommended Property Energy Strategy and therefore a full EHRIA is not required.