



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 3 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE PERFORMANCE  
REPORT TO JUNE 2021**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest performance update on the key performance indicators that the Council is responsible for delivering against the Council's Strategic Plan. Most performance Indicators included in this report are reported by the Environment and Waste branch of the Environment and Transport Department.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The updates in this report reflect progress against the Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework within the Strategic Plan to 2022, and the Environment performance framework and related high-level plans and strategies. Revised and updated versions of the Strategic Plan and Environment Strategy were agreed at the County Council meeting in July 2020 and place greater emphasis on delivery of environmental priorities. The refreshed documents informed the current performance framework and indicators in this report.

**Background**

3. Following the decision to separate the Environment and Transport scrutiny committees by full Council in July 2021 this is the first report to the committee covering the performance of the Council's Environment and Waste Management Services as well as Climate Change and delivery of the Council's Green Agenda. Overlap can be expected with other committees, noting the Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee oversight of transport, with expected consideration of carbon impact, however the ECCOSC will oversee performance through its quarterly performance reports, and where appropriate, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokespersons will be consulted on the issue and be invited to submit comments or attend the meeting.

4. This report highlights how a variety of indicators are performing against the Council's key outcomes: Strong Economy, Wellbeing, Keeping People Safe, Great Communities, Affordable and Quality Homes and supporting corporate enablers.
5. The performance dashboards include several indicators where the Council does not have direct or a lot of control of delivery, such as for air and river quality and biodiversity. They have been included to provide greater oversight of the environment and help understand what life is like in Leicestershire and include a mixture of national and locally developed performance indicators. Measuring these may highlight areas for scrutiny of delivery by other agencies or the need for lobbying to influence government policy and funding. It is expected that action by a range of agencies will improve a number of these metrics over time. Internal indicators, where the Council has the most control, are identified with an 'L' within the performance dashboards in Appendix B.
6. The Council monitors and assesses its performance by considering its RAG rating, direction of travel (DOT) and quartile position when compared to other English Counties.
7. For each indicator reported, the dashboard shows information on the latest data against the previous update and target (if available), the RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green) if applicable (see definitions of RAG ratings in Appendix A), the DOT, the trend, and the comparison quartile position, where available.
8. Improvement or deterioration in performance is indicated by the DOT on the performance dashboard. For example, if tonnes of carbon emissions from LCC buildings declines in number the DOT will show a green arrow pointing upwards representing an improvement in performance. If the indicator does not have a DOT arrow, this is because no update is available. This may be due to the time taken to obtain data from third parties and calculate the results or because some indicators are updated less frequently, for example, annually.
9. The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English authorities which cover large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, the performance dashboards within Appendix B indicate which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The Council's quartile position provides insight into how this indicator compares to other county councils in England. The 1st quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of county councils (the best). The 4th quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of county councils (the worst). The comparison quartiles are updated annually.
10. The frequency in which the indicators are reported varies; some are quarterly, others are annual, and some even less frequent. Quarterly updates tend to have a data lag of two quarters or more. For clarity, the time-periods that the data cover are contained in the performance dashboards (Appendix B).

### **Performance Update – latest data to June 2021**

11. The quarterly performance dashboard shows Environment and Climate Change performance up to June 2021. Overall, there are 29 performance indicators included in this report which are aligned with the Council's Strategic Plan Outcomes. They are presented in the Environment and Waste performance dashboards (Appendix B). This report focuses on the indicators that have been updated, which is 17 this quarter. Where DOT is available: eight show performance improvements, two had declined and seven remained similar to the previous update.
12. The latest position shows that Environment and Waste had 10 key performance indicators (KPIs) that have met target or are on track (green), one amber (performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a narrow margin) and four KPIs that are rated red (where performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target (details in the Keeping People Safe and Corporate Enabler sections of this report)).
13. Across all the KPIs the Council has notably good performance for: the 'percentage of domestic properties with energy performance certificate rating C plus (for new houses)', 'Carbon emissions from LCC buildings (tonnes)', 'Carbon emissions from LCC street lighting and traffic signs (tonnes)', 'Total carbon emissions from LCC sites (non-operational)', 'Total LCC GHG emissions', 'Tonnes of waste produced from LCC sites', the 'Percentage of staff who say LCC is doing enough to reduce its environmental impact', 'Total business miles claimed ('000 of miles), 'Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population', and that 'Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) are in good chemical status (%)'.
14. Where comparative performance is available the Council is in the top quartile for two indicators (listed in Appendix B with green 1<sup>st</sup> quartile positions). The Council is in the bottom quartile for two indicators: 'The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill' and 'the percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (existing)'.
15. The updates that follow focus on indicators that either have not met their target, have seen a decline in performance or notable good performance.

### **Strong Economy – Green Economy**

16. This outcome includes indicators that support a greener economy. Within this outcome two indicators were updated in quarter 1 (details in the following paragraphs). Of the two indicators updated both had seen an improvement in performance within this outcome, represented by green DOT up arrows in the dashboards. Targets haven't been set for these indicators since the authority has limited influence over them.
17. 'Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population' improved in performance by 11% since the previous quarter from 21 locations per 100,000 in quarter 4 (2020/21) to 23 in quarter 1 (2021/22) and a 29% increase since the same period last year. Despite this improvement in performance Leicestershire remains in the third quartile (below average) when compared to other counties for 2020. The Council's

Carbon Reduction Team are overseeing initiatives that aim to increase the number of charging locations. The Council has been receiving free support from the Energy Saving Trust Local Authority Support Programme including EV heat mapping to predict likely demand for on-street charging. Local transport policy is being developed regarding on-street charging to cover footway obstruction and regulatory issues. Opportunities are being explored to use existing budgets for charging infrastructure at Council sites to access national government funding under the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS).

18. 'Electric vehicle ownership – Ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population' also improved in performance by 36% as ownership increased from 45/10,000 in quarter 4 (2020/21) to 61/10,000 in quarter 1 (2021/2022) (data a quarter in arrears) which has almost doubled since the same period last year. This demonstrates a significant momentum of people moving from fossil fuelled vehicles to more sustainable electric alternatives. However, Leicestershire remains in the third quartile (below average) when compared to other counties for 2020.

### **Wellbeing – Air Quality**

19. There are no updates to report against within this outcome this quarter. An update on the quartile position for 'PM 2.5 air pollution fine particulate matter' is expected in October.

### **Keeping People Safe – Environmental risks**

20. The department continues to support the Keeping People Safe outcome primarily through its environmental risks monitoring.
21. 'Environmental risks managed' remained the same as the previous year at five. The remaining risks have plans in place or work taking place to address or reduce the risks. A number of them are expected to no longer be regarded as high risks at the end of this financial year. Over the past decade, the number of risks has been reduced from 100 to the current position demonstrating excellent performance over time. This was reported in more detail to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Environmental Performance Report 2019-20 in January 2021.

### **Great Communities – Waste and Energy**

22. The Department supports the Great Communities outcome through its waste management and energy initiatives and evaluates performance through public opinion and wider county indicators. Of the five indicators updated in quarter 1, one indicator has declined in performance and four indicators remained similar. Indicators rated green include 'Annual Percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill', 'Total household waste per household' (target was to see an improvement in performance) and 'Carbon emissions per capita (in local authority influence)'.

23. Of the eight comparable indicators, all except for 'Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population' which was in the top quartile (best performing quartile), performed below average when compared to other English county councils. Many of these comparisons cover 2019/20 data, more up-to-date comparison positions are expected in October.
24. The 'percentage of household waste sent by local authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling or composting' remained the same as the previous quarter at 43% (data is two quarters in arrears) and missed its 50% target, resulting in an amber rating. It lies within the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile position (2019/20). The indicator has not met target due to national issues, seasonal fluctuations in garden waste, economic factors, as well as issues specific to Leicestershire such as the closure of the Cotesbach Mechanical Biological Treatment plant (MBT) and service changes across the county. Most of the factors identified are beyond the sole control of the Council, limiting the opportunity to mitigate the impacts.
25. The 'Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill' met its target of 30% (rated green) during 2019/20. Its performance has remained steady at 28% since the previous quarter. In recent years this indicator had experienced a loss of alternative (non-landfill) disposal points. The authority has negotiated an increase in the amount of waste delivered to alternative disposal points which has begun to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Performance against this indicator remained in the 4<sup>th</sup> quartile in 2019/20.
26. The 'Total household waste per household (kg) is rated green despite a slight decline in performance since the previous quarter due to a 1% increase in waste. However, this remains in the third quartile for 2019/ 20 when compared to other English county councils.
27. Two new performance indicators have been identified within the Council's Strategic Plan performance framework to include which are drawn from the Community Insight Survey. This survey aims to understand public perceptions across areas of importance to the Council. It is a telephone survey of 1,600 respondents annually. The quarterly reporting uses rolling 12-month results. The latest survey results tell us that 97% of respondents agree that 'protecting the environment is important' in the 12 months to quarter 1 (2021/22) and 67% of respondents think that 'the Council should do more to help protect the environment (including carbon reduction and helping tackle climate change) in the same period.

### **Affordable and Quality Homes**

28. As part of supporting the Council's Affordable and Quality Homes outcome the Council monitors both the energy efficiency of new and existing homes within the County. The latest data shows that 97% of new homes are relatively energy efficient compared to older homes of which 39% were rated as energy efficient in quarter 4 (2020/21). New homes have seen a two percentage points improvement in performance since the previous quarter and older homes improved by three percentage points in performance since the previous quarter. Comparisons (2020)

with other English county council's show that the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (new homes)' falls within the 1<sup>st</sup> (top) quartile and the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (existing homes)' falls within the 4<sup>th</sup> (bottom) quartile, indicating that existing homes in the County would benefit from more energy efficient incentives. The Authority does not have direct control over this, and further improvement may be contingent on national programmes such as grant schemes to improve insulation and energy efficiency.

### **Corporate Enabler: County Council Environmental Impact**

29. The Department supports the Corporate Enabler outcome largely through its environmental initiatives. Seven indicators were updated in quarter 1. Overall, seven indicators had met their departmental targets and three had not. Four indicators had improved in performance, one had declined in performance and two remained the same. The Council continues to show good overall performance for most indicators within this outcome.
30. The '% of waste recycled from LCC sites (non-operational)' declined in performance by five percentage points since the previous update to 48% in Q4 2020/21 and missed its target of 62.3%. Many buildings and council services operated at a reduced staff capacity in quarter 4 due to the third lockdown, which meant that less dry recycling was captured in council buildings. An important outcome here is that there has been a significant reduction in waste overall and consequently there is less recyclable waste being produced / captured which is resulting in a lower recycling performance figure. There is less paper due to reduced printing and no composting waste, both of which would have previously contributed to bolstering the recycling figure.
31. The 'amount of renewable energy generated as a % of consumption' improved in performance by 4 percentage points since the previous quarter, from 13% in quarter 2 (2020/21) to 17% in quarter 3 (2020/21). Despite this improvement it hasn't met its target of 22% yet. This is a 'stretch' target which is aligned with the target to reach 50% by 2030, as set out in the Council's Strategic Property Energy Strategy 2020-30.
32. The Authority continues to perform well on reducing its 'Tonnes of waste produced from LCC sites' as waste fell by 29% since the previous update and 'Total business miles claimed' also fell by 16% since the previous update. As these results covered quarter 4 and quarter 3 respectively, these reductions are likely to have been influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic alongside the Council's improvement initiatives, as there were significantly fewer staff than normal which generated much less waste in Council offices and sites and there were fewer staff travelling for work.

### **Background papers**

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and Strategic Plan 2018-22.  
Environment Strategy 2018-30

**Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

**Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

There are no specific equalities and human rights implications to note as part of this performance report.

**Appendices**

Appendix A. Definitions of RAG ratings.

Appendix B. Strategic Plan Performance Dashboards by Outcomes (Environment and Waste Performance) to June 2021.

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