



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 OCTOBER 2022**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE PERFORMANCE  
REPORT TO JUNE 2022**

**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 (2022-26).

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. The updates in this report reflect progress against the Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework within the Strategic Plan up to 2026, as well as the Environment and Waste performance framework and related high-level plans and strategies which inform the current performance framework and indicators in this report.

**Background**

3. This report highlights how a variety of Environment and Climate Change performance indicators are performing against the Council's new key outcomes: 'Clean & Green' and 'Strong Economy, Transport & Infrastructure'.
4. The performance dashboards, appended to this report, include several indicators where the Council does not have direct control of delivery, such as air quality and river quality. The latter examples are pillars within the Environment Strategy but are not directly delivered by the Council. They have been included to provide a greater oversight of the environment and inform policy making and help understand what life is like in Leicestershire. They include a mix of national and locally developed performance indicators. Measuring these may highlight areas for scrutiny of delivery by other Council departments, 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.

5. The Council monitors and assesses its performance by mainly considering its direction of travel (DOT), the RAG rating, and quartile position when compared to other English Counties (where applicable).
6. The direction of travel (DOT) arrows indicate an improvement or deterioration in performance compared to the previous result in the performance dashboards in the Appendix. Up arrows show an improvement in performance, down arrows show a decline in performance and horizontal arrows show no change. Grey empty circles mean there is no update. Where there is no 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 e.g., annually.
7. The performance dashboards include information on the latest data against target (where relevant) which generates a RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green) if applicable. Red indicates that close monitoring or significant action is required as the target isn't or may not be achieved. Amber indicates that light touch monitoring is required as performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a narrow margin. Green indicates no additional action is required as the indicator is currently meeting the target or on track to meet the target.
8. The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English county authorities which cover large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, the performance dashboards within the Appendix indicate which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The first quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of county councils. The fourth quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of county councils. The comparison quartiles are updated annually.
9. The frequency in which the indicators are reported varies; some are quarterly, others are annual, and some less frequent. Quarterly updates tend to have a data lag of one quarter or more. For clarity, the time-periods the data covers are contained in the performance dashboards.

### **Performance Update – latest data to June 2022**

10. The quarterly performance dashboard shows Environment and Climate Change performance up to June 2022. Overall, there are 25 performance indicators included in this report which are aligned to the Council's Strategic Plan Outcomes. They are presented in the Environment and Climate Change performance dashboards within the Appendix. This report focuses on the 16 indicators that have been updated this quarter. Where a DOT is available: seven show performance improvements, two had declined in performance and seven remained the same as the previous update.
11. The latest position shows that six Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are green (they have met the target or are on track), three are amber (performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a narrow margin)

and one is rated red (where performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target).

12. When compared to other English county councils, the Council has one indicator in the top quartile (listed in the Appendix with a green first quartile position). The Council performs below average for nine indicators listed within the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quartiles in the Appendix.
13. The following updates focus on indicators that have been updated in quarter 1.

## **Clean & Green**

### **People act now to tackle climate change**

14. The Council monitors the energy efficiency of new and existing homes within the County in the 'percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+' indicators. The latest data shows that 99% of new homes are energy efficient (energy performance certificate rating C+) compared to older homes of which only 41% are rated as energy efficient in quarter 4 (2021/22). The energy efficiency performance of both new and existing homes has remained static since the previous quarter. Comparisons (2020/21) with other English county councils show that the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (new homes)' falls within the first (top) quartile and the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (existing homes)' falls within the fourth (bottom) quartile, indicating that existing homes in the County would still benefit from more energy efficient incentives. The Authority does not have direct control over this, and further improvements will be contingent on national programmes such as grant schemes to improve insulation and energy efficiency. The Authority has recently partnered with YES Energy Solutions and the district councils to deliver the Green Living Leicestershire scheme, which is supporting Leicestershire residents with low incomes to go green, reduce costs and tackle climate change through fully funded home improvements including loft and wall insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and new efficient windows and doors. This scheme has proved extremely popular and is now fully subscribed. It follows on from previous successful funding bids, including the Green Homes Grant and Warm Homes Fund.
15. The latest results for the 'percentage of staff who say the Council is doing enough to reduce its environmental impact (post-training survey)', remained the same as the previous update at 91% and has met it's 80% target showing good performance.
16. The Council's Community Insight 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 results, show that 98% of respondents agreed that 'protecting the environment is important' in the 12 months to quarter 4 (rolling average) 2021/22, which is a slight increase in results since the previous

update. In the same period, 60% of respondents think that ‘the Council should do more to help protect the environment’ (including carbon reduction and helping tackle climate change). This is slightly less than the previous update of 62%, which may suggest that respondents believe the Council is doing more.

### **Nature and local environment are valued, protected, and enhanced**

17. Future performance updates within this sub outcome are expected to cover Council land in better management for nature once the data becomes available.
18. Within this sub outcome, tree planting has been introduced for monitoring as part of the new performance indicator set. The latest tree planting provisional update shows that 104,264 trees have been planted by the Authority and its partners up to June 2022 and has exceeded this year's 70,000-planting cumulative target (2022/23), showing excellent performance. A detailed Tree Management Strategy update was provided to this Committee in November 2021.

### **Resources are used in an environmentally sustainable way**

19. The ‘percentage of household waste sent by local authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling or composting’ remained the same as the previous quarter at 44% in quarter 3 (data is two quarters in arrears) and missed its 50% target, resulting in an amber rating. It lies within the third quartile position (2020/21). This indicator has remained static over the past year. Over recent years it has been particularly impacted by national issues, the Covid-19 pandemic, 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. The Council is working with the Leicestershire Waste Partnership to develop the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy which includes a draft pledge to put in place collection systems to contribute towards the future national target of 65% recycling by 2035.
20. The ‘Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill (former NI 193)’ met its target of 30% (rated green). Its performance has remained steady at 27% in quarter 3 since the previous quarter. In recent years, performance against this indicator has been affected by 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 was in the fourth quartile in 2020/21.
21. The ‘Total household waste per household (kg)’ slightly improved in performance as waste decreased from 1036kg in quarter 2 2021/22 to 1024kg in quarter 3 2021/22 (data is two quarters in arrears) with waste levels

remaining static over the year to date. This indicator was in the third quartile for 2020/21 when compared to other English county councils. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted waste patterns and more home working and lockdowns were likely to have led to more household waste during those periods. The recent improvement in performance could be due to people returning to their pre-pandemic routines.

22. The 'tonnes of waste produced from LCC sites' saw a 14% decline in performance as waste increased slightly from 232 tonnes in quarter 3 2021/22 to 263 tonnes in quarter 4 for 2021/ 22 but has met its 399 tonnes target. This change was expected as more staff return to the office and generate more waste as a result. It is also anticipated that this will continue to rise over the coming months for the same reason.
23. The 'percentage of waste recycled from LCC sites (non-operational)' also slightly improved in performance as recycling increased from 57% in quarter 3 2021/22 to 60% in quarter 4 2021/22. Despite not meeting its target of 63%, this is a notable improvement in performance since the same time last year (48% recycled) when the Council's recycling had been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Since quarter 1 2021/22, the recycling rate has increased every quarter as more staff returned to their offices. This, however, also coincides with greater levels of total waste in offices compared to the same time last year.
24. The number of 'LCC environmental risks managed' fell from five in 2020/21 to three in 2021/22, showing an improvement in performance and very low number of risks. Two risks were resolved in 2020/21, these included appropriate drainage infrastructure installed at Recycling and Household Waste sites. Outstanding risks relate to provision of waste disposal facilities, vehicle procurement and biodiversity in verge mowing.

### **The economy and infrastructure are low carbon and environmentally friendly**

25. 'Electric vehicle (EV) charging locations per 100,000 population' remained the same as the previous update at 34 in quarter 4 2021/22. However, this represents a 47% increase since the same period last year, when the figure was 23 per 100,000 population, demonstrating a significant development within the sectors infrastructure supporting greater fossil fuel alternatives over the year. In terms of comparison with other counties, Leicestershire is third quartile (below average) for 2021. Whilst the Government currently expects the transition to EVs to be led by industry and consumers, the Authority is taking the following steps to support this transition by:
  - a) working with Midlands Connect together with four other local authorities (Stoke, Rutland, Herefordshire and Lincolnshire) to secure almost £1m of Government's first tranche of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. It is expected that this support from the Government will attract additional private sector investment, with cumulative funds being used to deliver around 100 public charging points across the county over the next 12-18 months;

- b) installing charging points at Council Park and Ride sites at Birstall, Enderby, and Meynell's Gorse, so EV owners travelling into Leicester can leave their car on charge whilst taking the bus;
  - c) actively seeking further opportunities to secure electric vehicle funding from the Government, which would allow us to install public charging points across the county;
  - d) working with district councils, businesses and other parties to help develop a countywide EV Infrastructure Strategy. This will define the role of the County Council and evaluate options for a public charging point network, in on and off-street locations - in residential areas, supermarkets, shopping centres and public car parks etc;
  - e) supporting emerging district and borough council planning policies, which encourage developers to consider EV infrastructure as part of new housing or employment developments;
  - f) taking opportunities to press the government to set out a national approach and standards for EV charging infrastructure, which is appropriately funded;
  - g) reviewing what trial schemes other authorities have introduced, or are currently piloting, to learn from their experiences; and
  - h) exploring with partners, options for encouraging the take up of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEVs) in the County, including consideration of third party funded charging points on the highway, where appropriate.
26. The 'Electric vehicle ownership – Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population' improved in performance by a further 12% as ownership increased from 77/10,000 in quarter 2 2021/22 to 86/10,000 in quarter 3 2021/22. This has almost doubled since the same period last year, which was 45/10,000. This continues to demonstrate 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 2021 (EV car ownership is approximately 1% of total car ownership in the County).
27. The 'Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence)' has improved in performance by 11% from 4.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita in 2019 to 4.2 in 2020 and achieved its 4.8 target. Data is provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and is two years in arrears. Emissions have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and there are concerns that as the County returns to pre-pandemic behaviours, emissions may not stay as low. However, this indicator has seen a year-on-year improvement in performance since 2016 and performs above average when compared to other English Counties for 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> quartile). This indicator excludes: emissions from motorways, diesel railways and net

emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry on the grounds that these are outside of local authority control.

28. The data for the Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is expected as part of the refreshed indicator set for 2022/23 and will be provided in the next quarters update.
29. The 'Total business miles claimed ('000s of miles)' declined in performance due to a 10% increase in claims since the previous quarter as business miles increased from 2,125,000 miles in quarter 3 2021/22 to 2,338,000 miles to quarter 4 2021/22, reflecting increased work travel following a period where there was much reduced mileage claimed during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is currently much better than its target and has improved in performance since the same time last year (2,568,000 miles).

### **Strong Economy, Transport & Infrastructure**

30. The 'NO<sub>2</sub> exceedances for Leicestershire' indicator includes the number of times NO<sub>2</sub> has exceeded 40 micrograms. NO<sub>2</sub> is a gas that is mainly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels. It is published by district councils in their Air Quality Annual Status Reports. There are no new updates to this indicator for quarter 4 as these are only updated annually. The previously reported two exceedances referred to North West Leicestershire District (34 Bond Gate, Castle Donington and M1 Bridge Copt Oak).

### **Background papers**

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and Strategic Plan 2022-2026

<http://cexmodgov1/documents/s168909/Appendix%20A%20-%20LCC%20Strategic%20Plan%202022-26.pdf>

Environment Strategy 2018-30

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

Tree Management Strategy 2020-2025

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2021/2/16/Tree-Management-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf>

Improving Air Quality and Health across Leicestershire 2020- 2024: a multiagency partnership for joint action

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s157169/Appendix%20A%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Health%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

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

None.

### **Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

31. There are no equality or human rights implications.

### **Appendix**

Appendix - Strategic Plan Performance Dashboards by Outcomes (Environment and Climate Change Performance) to June 2022

### **Officers to Contact**

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