



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE  
REPORT TO JUNE 2024**

**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 (KPIs) that the Council is responsible for delivering against the Council's Strategic Plan (2024-26). The Committee is asked to note this update.

**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 across the Council 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 Strategic Plan's Clean and Green outcome.
4. The performance dashboards, appended to this report, include several indicators where the Council does not have direct control of delivery, such as Electric Vehicle (EV) ownership and air quality. The latter examples are within the scope of the Environment Strategy but are not directly delivered by the Council. They have been included to provide a greater oversight of the environment, to inform policy making and to help to 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 policy and funding from the Government. 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 Red / Amber / Green (RAG) rating, and quartile position when compared to other English county councils (where applicable).
6. Coloured DOT arrows (red, amber, green) show whether there has been an improvement or deterioration in performance compared to the previous result, for recently updated data, within the performance dashboards. Up arrows show an improvement in performance, whereas down arrows show a decline in performance, and horizontal arrows show no change. Grey DOTs mean that there is no recent update available. This may be due to the time taken to obtain data from third parties and calculate the results, or because many indicators are updated less frequently, such as annually.
7. The performance dashboards include information on the latest data against the target (where relevant) which generates a RAG rating if applicable. Red indicates that close monitoring or significant action is required as the target is not or may not be achieved. Amber indicates that light touch monitoring is required as performance is currently not meeting the target or is set to miss the target by a narrow margin. Green indicates that no additional action is required as the indicator is currently meeting the target or is on track to meet the target.
8. The Council's performance is benchmarked against 32 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 as some are quarterly, others are annual, and some are less frequent. Quarterly updates tend to have a data lag of one quarter or more. For clarity, the time-periods that the latest data covers are contained in the performance dashboards in the Appendix.

### **Performance Update – latest data to June 2024**

10. The quarterly performance dashboard shows Environment and Climate Change performance up to June 2024. Overall, there are 28 performance indicators included in this report which are aligned with 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 15 indicators that have recently been updated. Where a DOT is available for the updated indicators: eight show performance improvement, two had declined in performance and five remained the same as the previous update.

11. The latest position shows that of the indicators updated which have targets, three KPIs are green (they have met the target or are on track), six are amber (performance is currently not meeting the target or is set to miss the target by a narrow margin) and one is rated red (where performance is currently not meeting the target or is set to miss the target).
12. When compared to other English county councils, out of all the Council's Clean and Green KPIs there are two indicators which are in the top quartile, which include the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance rating C+ (new homes)' and the 'Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population' (listed in the Appendix with a green first quartile position). There are 10 Clean and Green KPIs that perform below average, within the third and fourth quartiles, listed in the Appendix.
13. The following updates focus on the 15 indicators that have been updated by the end of June 2024 (Quarter One).

### **Clean & Green Outcome**

14. The 'Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population' improved in performance by 13%, from 52 in Quarter Three 2023/24 to 59 in Quarter Four 2023/24. This represents a 44% increase since the same period last year, when the figure was 41.1 per 100,000 population, demonstrating significant improvement over the year. In terms of comparison with other counties, Leicestershire is in the third quartile for 2023 (an improvement on 2022). More than £3m in funding from the Government has been provisionally allocated to install EV charge points across Leicestershire. Working with a number of other councils and Midlands Connect on the bid, the Council has been provisionally allocated funding through the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme (LEVI). The earmarked funding will be used from 2024/25 to expand the number of chargepoints across Leicestershire by the end of 2030 to meet the needs of the growing EV market. It also enables the Council to continue its green agenda and significant contribution to securing EV infrastructure across Leicestershire. This builds on the previous funding when the Council secured almost £1m of the first portion of LEVI funding from the Government along with four other local authorities and Midlands Connect in 2022, to install chargepoints in the most populated settlements across the County. There is an ongoing work programme designed to increase EV charging locations in the County and a new Leicestershire Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy is going to be presented to the Cabinet in autumn 2024. The Strategy will set out the Authority's approach to public EV chargepoint delivery and its ongoing operation and management.
15. The 'Electric vehicle ownership – Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population' improved in performance by 7% as ownership increased from 191/10,000 in Quarter Two 2023/24 to 203/10,000 in Quarter Three 2023/24. This has increased by 46% since the same period last year, which was 140/10,000. It continues to demonstrate a notable shift 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 2023. EV ownership is heavily influenced by the EV market in terms of vehicle costs and vehicle range which have been cited as barriers to adoption. The Council has no influence on the market, however, the Council has some influence over EV charging locations that are installed on the public highway, which can encourage uptake of EV ownership to some degree.

16. The Council monitors the energy efficiency of new and existing homes within the County in the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating C+' indicators. There are separate indicators for new build properties and existing properties. The latest data shows that 99% of new homes are relatively energy efficient with a C+ EPC rating, however, only 51% of existing homes met this standard in Quarter Four 2023/24 (most recent). New homes had fairly static performance whilst existing homes declined very slightly in performance (2.2 percentage points) since the previous quarter. The EPC register does not hold data for every domestic and non-domestic building, or every building occupied by public authorities. Buildings only require an EPC when they are sold, let or constructed. These statistics should, therefore, not be interpreted as a true representation of the whole of the building stock but viewed as part of a wider package of the Government's provision of information on the energy efficiency of buildings. Data is updated quarterly and sourced from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
17. Comparisons with other English county councils for 2022/23 show that the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+' for 'new homes' falls within the first (top) quartile in 2023/24. Energy efficiency of 'existing homes' had a change in its quartile position from first quartile in 2022/23 to second quartile in 2023/24, though this is still above average. The Authority does not have direct control over these indicators but it does have some influence in terms of local initiatives: for example, the Home Energy Retrofit Offer supports residents with advice on what can be done to homes to keep them warm and cut energy bills, which is provided by the Warm Home team in Public Health and the Green Living Leicestershire group, which helps fund home improvements to improve energy ratings for eligible applicants.
18. The 'Amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of consumption' remained static at 14% in Quarter Three 2023/24. This internal KPI has not yet met its target of 30.9% which has resulted in a red RAG rating. This is expected to improve over the coming year following improvements to the biomass boiler and the solar panels and their management.
19. The 'Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence, tonnes)' improved in performance slightly as emissions decreased by 7% from 4.6 in 2021 to 4.3 in 2022. Despite meeting its 4.5 target, this indicator is in the third quartile for 2022 (same as previous year), although the recent result is lower than its long-term average of 5.9 carbon emissions since 2007, which shows a better long-term performance. This data is updated annually and sourced from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and it is two years in arrears.

20. The 'Carbon emissions (estimates) from transport within LA influence (Kt)' indicator declined in performance slightly by 4% as emissions increased from 1,131 Kt in 2021 to 1,179 Kt in 2022. The latest results remain below the average pre-Covid-19 pandemic level of 1,226 Kt (based on annual data between 2015-2019) which is better performance. Recent data shows a return to the long-term average of 1,172 Kt (since 2013). This indicator is updated annually and sourced from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and it is 18 months in arrears. This indicator performs above average (second quartile) for 2022 compared to other English county councils.
21. The 'Greenhouse gas emissions from all sources in Leicestershire (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e)' improved in performance from the previous year, as results showed a 4% decline in emissions to 4,645 kt in 2022 from 4,811 kt in 2021. The latest result missed its target of 4,453 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e), resulting in an amber rating. In terms of comparison with other English county councils, Leicestershire is in the second quartile for 2022 (above average). Over the longer-term, the latest data is only slightly lower than the longer-term average of 4,696 kt since 2017, showing better performance. This data is published annually by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, and it is two years in arrears. It includes estimated territorial greenhouse gas emissions arising within the area of Leicestershire, excluding Leicester City, 2005-2022 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e). These cover emissions from the industrial, commercial, public sector, domestic transport, land use and forestry, agriculture, and waste management sectors. As territorial estimates, they include emissions linked to energy consumed within the County but exclude the impact of imported goods. These estimates cover the Kyoto "basket" of seven gases: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>).
22. The 'Greenhouse gas emissions from Leicestershire (all sources) per capita (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)' improved in performance from the previous year as emissions decreased by 6%. The latest result of 6.4 in 2022 slightly missed its 6.32 target. Compared to other English county councils, Leicestershire is in the third quartile for 2022 (below average). Over the longer-term, the latest data is slightly lower than the longer-term average of 7.1 (per capita) tonnes since 2017. This data is published annually by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, and it is two years in arrears. It includes greenhouse gas emissions estimates in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub>e) per head of population for all sectors in Leicestershire, excluding Leicester City. These cover emissions from the industrial, commercial, public sector, domestic transport, land use and forestry, agriculture, and waste management sectors. As territorial estimates, they include emissions linked to energy consumed within the County but exclude the impact of imported goods. They also cover the Kyoto "basket" of greenhouse gases (explained in the paragraph above).
23. Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the country, currently with only around 6% woodland, which is well below the national average of 10% for England. As a major landowner in Leicestershire, the Council has identified areas of its own landholdings where trees, woodlands and hedgerows can be planted to increase overall tree coverage. The Council made a pledge for an

'ambitious project to plant 700,000 trees' by 2032, which is the equivalent of one for every resident of Leicestershire. This equates to 70,000 trees planted each year. To help achieve this pledge, the Tree Management Strategy and Planting Action Plan were updated in 2021 to ensure the delivery of the pledge over a 10-year period. The latest tree planting provisional update shows that 437,220 trees have been planted by the Council and its partners up to June 2024, since July 2021, and this has greatly exceeded its cumulative target of 210,000 for 2024/25. The latest result is over half of its 2032 target, showing excellent performance. A detailed Tree Management Strategy Annual update was provided to this Committee on 2 November 2023.

24. The 'Percentage of household waste sent by local authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling or composting (former NI 192)' remained similar to the previous quarter at 43% over a 12-month rolling period up to and including Quarter Three 2023/24 (data is two quarters in arrears) and missed its 45% target. It lies within the third quartile position (2022/23) compared to other English county councils (below average). This indicator has had relatively static performance over the past year ranging between 42.0% and 43.7%. It performs worse than the long-term average of 48% since 2011. The Council adopted the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy in April 2023, which includes a pledge to put in place collection systems to contribute towards the future national target of 65% recycling by 2035.
25. The 'Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill (former NI 193)' met its target of 30%. There was a slight decrease (3 percentage points) in waste landfilled from 18% over the 12-month rolling period up to and including Quarter Two 2023/24 to 15% in Quarter Three 2023/24 showing an improvement in performance and has met its target. It compares better than the long-term average of 29% since 2011. When compared to other English county councils, this indicator remained in the fourth (bottom) quartile in 2022/23. In order to achieve an average position when compared to other English county councils, performance would have to meet a more challenging 5% landfill rate. Through the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy, the Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill to less than 5% by 2025, well in advance of the national target of 10% by 2035. The energy from waste contract started in April 2023 and it is expected that this will further reduce the amount of municipal waste being sent to landfill this year.
26. The 'Total household waste per household (kg)' remained relatively static in performance at 966 kg over the 12-month rolling period up to and including Quarter Three 2023/24 (data is two quarters in arrears). The recent update performs better than the long-term average of 1,051 kg since 2012. In comparison to other English county councils, Leicestershire's performance was slightly below average as it is in the third quartile for 2022/23 (same as last year's quartile).
27. The 'Percentage of waste recycled from LCC sites (non-operational)' improved in performance slightly (2 percentage points) from 62% in Quarter Two 2023/24 to 64% in Quarter Three 2023/24 and just missed its target of 65%. However,

this is the highest rate (best) over the past year and is above its long-term average of 57% since 2012.

28. The results on the 'Percentage of staff who say LCC is doing enough to reduce its environmental impact (post training survey)' remained relatively static at 89% for Quarter Four 2023/24. This is from internal data taken from the post training survey and reported quarterly.

### **Background Papers**

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and Strategic Plan 2024-26

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/7/13/LCC-Strategic-Plan-2022-26.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>

Annual Environmental Performance Progress Report 2022-23

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s180751/Annual%20Environmental%20Performance%20Progress%20Update%20Report%202022-23.pdf>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-23

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s180731/Appendix%20B%20-%20LCC%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Report.pdf>

Tree Management Strategy 2020-25

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

Tree Management Strategy Annual Update 2023

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s179317/Tree%20Management%20Strategy%20Annual%20Update.pdf>

Improving Air Quality and Health across Leicestershire 2020-24: a multiagency partnership for joint action

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

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

None.

### **Equality Implications**

29. There are no specific equality implications to note as part of this performance report.

### **Human Rights Implications**

30. There are no human rights implications arising from this performance report.

### **Appendix**

Strategic Plan Performance Dashboards by Outcomes covering Environment and Climate Change Performance to June 2024

### **Officers to Contact**

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