



**ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2026**

**ENVIRONMENT, FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE
PERFORMANCE REPORT TO DECEMBER 2025**

**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, Flooding & Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest performance update on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that the County Council is solely or partly responsible for within its Strategic Plan to December 2025 (Quarter Three).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The updates in this report reflect the progress against the Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework within the Strategic Plan up to 2026, as well as the Environment 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, Flooding and Climate Change (EFCC) key performance indicators (KPIs) are performing up to December 2025. It includes a new performance summary chart of all the EFCC KPIs that supports the Council's corporate and departmental aims in Appendix A. These are covered in more detail in the performance dashboards provided in Appendix B, which is the main focus of this report. Appendix C covers the long-term charts of the KPIs for background information.
4. The performance dashboards include several indicators where the Council has limited influence or control over delivery, such as electric vehicle ownership and air quality. The latter examples are within the scope of the Environment Strategy, but they 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 in Appendix B.

5. In order to review the performance for each indicator reported, the performance dashboards in Appendix B shows the latest data (if it is available), the Direction of Travel (DOT, the performance since the previous update), the target, the Red / Amber / Green rating (RAG) (if it is applicable) and the comparative quartile position. These refreshed dashboards also show more detailed trends over time than previous reports.
6. Coloured DOT arrows (red, amber, green) in the dashboards show whether there has been an improvement or a deterioration in performance when compared to the previous result, for recently updated data, within the performance dashboards. The up arrows show an improvement in performance, whereas the 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 that is 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 it is relevant) which generates a RAG rating, if it is 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 the performance is currently not meeting the target or it 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 it is on track to meet the target.
8. The Council assesses its comparative performance through a benchmarking process, where it benchmarks its performance against up to 31 English authorities made up of 21 County Council's and ten unitary 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 first quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of comparator councils (highest performing). The fourth quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of comparator councils (lowest performing). The comparison quartiles are updated annually.
9. The frequency with which the indicators are updated varies as some are quarterly, many are annual, and some data is reported even less frequently. Most of the quarterly data is at least one quarter in arrears. For clarity, the time-periods that the data covers are contained in the performance dashboards in Appendix B.

10. To fully assess progress, EFCC KPIs are reviewed by performance against comparative performance, the previous update and performance against target as previously described. In summary, compared to other English Comparator authorities there is one indicator in the top quartile, three in the second quartile, four in the third quartile and one in the fourth quartile. Since the previous performance update, nine showed performance improvement, one had declined in performance and ten remained the same as the previous update. Of the indicators assigned a target (ten), six KPIs are green (they have met the target or are on track), three are amber (where the performance is currently not meeting the target or where it is set to miss the target by a narrow margin) and one is rated red (where the performance is currently not meeting the target or where it is set to miss the target). These results are displayed in Appendix A (which also details those KPIs that have either fallen into in the fourth quartile (bottom), those that have seen a decline in performance since the previous update or those that have missed its target).

EFCC KPIs updated – latest data to December 2025

11. The following performance updates cover EFCC KPIs that have been updated up to December (Quarter Three), which are displayed in Appendix B.
12. As part of the Government's UK Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (published in March 2022), the Government predicts that a minimum of 300,000 public charging points will be needed nationally by 2030 to meet expected demand. In order to help decarbonise transport and contribute to the Council's own commitments for the County, the Council continues to support residents in switching to electric vehicles. The 'Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population' improved slightly in performance by one percent, from 80 in Quarter One 2025/26 to 81 in Quarter Two 2025/26. This represents a 16% increase since the same period last year, when the figure was 70 locations per 100,000 population, demonstrating notable improvement over the year. In terms of comparison with other comparator councils, Leicestershire remains in the third quartile for 2024.
13. More than three million pounds in funding from the Government has been provisionally allocated to install Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargepoints across Leicestershire. Working with a number of other councils and Midlands Connect, the Council has received approximately £220,000 of the first portion of the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme (LEVI) funding to deliver approximately 45 public EV Chargepoints across Leicestershire as part of the 'LEVI Pilot' Project. The Leicestershire Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (EVCS) is required by the Government in order to obtain LEVI funding. This sets out the Authority's approach to public EV Chargepoint delivery and its ongoing operation and management, which was approved by the Cabinet on 13 September 2024. The EVCS actions will focus on the delivery of public on-street Chargepoints in residential areas, which will be available to all, particularly those households with no or limited off-street parking. In addition to this, the Council's 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. It will help the Council understand what investment is needed to provide electric charging infrastructure at the depots, which will be a next step in this project.

14. The 'Electric vehicle ownership – Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population' improved in performance by ten percent as ownership increased from 297/10,000 in Quarter Four 2024/25 to 325/10,000 in Quarter One 2025/26. This has increased by 41% since the same period last year, which was 230/10,000. It continues to demonstrate a notable shift of people moving from fossil-fuelled vehicles to electric alternatives. In terms of the comparative performance, Leicestershire is in the second quartile (above average) when compared to other counties for 2024 (previously third quartile in 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 the uptake of EV ownership to some degree. ULEVs make up approximately 4.6% of all licensed vehicles in the County in Quarter One 2025/26, which is slightly above the East Midlands rate of 4.4% for the same period.
15. 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. These 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, compared to older homes which are only 58% energy efficient in Quarter Two 2025/26 (most recent). Both new and existing homes had remained static since the previous update, with new homes performing well. 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. They should be viewed as part of a wider package of the Government's provision of information on the energy efficiency of buildings. The data is updated quarterly and sourced from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
16. Comparisons with other English comparator councils for 2024/25 show that the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+' for 'new homes' falls within the first (top) quartile in 2024/25. Energy efficiency of 'existing homes' are second quartile in 2024/25. Both new and existing homes had above average comparative performance in 2024/25. The Authority does not have direct control over these indicators, but it does have some influence in terms of the local initiatives. For example, the Council's Warm Home Service is delivered by the Council's Public Health, Law and

Governance Department and the Green Living Leicestershire (GLL) partnership signposts residents on low incomes to access advice on keeping warm and cutting energy bills as well as local offers available via District and Borough Councils, the Lightbulb Housing Service or other third-party charitable organisations. The Warm Homes Service previously ran a Home Energy Retrofit Offer project between 2024 and 2025, which aimed to offer personalised energy and retrofit advice to homeowners in hard-to-reach communities. An estimated maximum of 173 homes were supported by March 2025. The GLL group also works with Solar Together to provide residents with the opportunity to reduce their energy costs by investing in solar panels.

17. Air quality performance improved slightly as PM2.5 (Population weighted annual mean PM2.5 data) declined from 7.7 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2023 to 7.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2024 for Leicestershire (excluding Leicester). Compared to other English comparator Councils, Leicestershire remained in the fourth quartile in 2024 (low comparative performance) however there has been an improvement from the bottom of this band in 2023 to the top of the band in 2024. Leicestershire remains below the UK target of ten $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, these latest results exceed the World Health Organisations (WHO) recommendations of five $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Inhalation of particulate pollution can have adverse health impacts. This data describes the annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter at an area level, adjusted to account for population exposure, and it is measured in micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
18. According to data from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the major sources of primary PM2.5 are combustion in the energy industries, road transport (both exhaust and non-exhaust emissions), rail and air transport, residential sources, and small-scale burning (waste and wood burning stoves). The Council's Public Health, Law and Governance Department and the Council's Environment and Transport Department jointly lead on Air Quality work for the County Council, working in partnership with district councils and other health bodies. The Leicestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership formed in 2020, was created following recommendations from a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken in 2019 on air quality and health. The Partnership is jointly chaired by Public Health, Law and Governance and Environment and Transport leads and it consists of officers from the County Council and all of the district councils (which have a statutory duty to monitor air quality), the Integrated Care Board, and representatives from the University of Leicester. The group created and launched new subgroups to work against actions within the Air Quality and Health Action Plan for 2024-28 in 2025, following approval for the action plan from County Council's Cabinet in December 2024. These are chaired by district council air quality leads to further strengthen the partnership work in this area. This new structure will enable, facilitate and monitor collective action on air quality and health across the County Council, the district councils and the NHS partners. Its progress is monitored by the partnership which meets bi-yearly and receives updates from the subgroups. A report on the progress from year one of the plan will be presented to this Committee in June 2026. The Director of Public Health, Law and Governance signs off the district councils Annual Status Reports prior to

the submission to the DEFRA, to ensure that health and active travel considerations are reflected in the reports.

19. The Council is working to provide better data on biodiversity in the County. Currently, the Council is monitoring the ecological status of Leicestershire's rivers (excluding Leicester) which provides an assessment of the quality of the structure and functioning of a river's ecosystems. The Environment Agency (EA) provides data on 'Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) in good ecological status', which was one percent in 2022. This is sourced from the Environment Agency who recently informed us (in December 2025) they have corrected the historical Leicestershire data they previously provided, which shows there has been no change in river quality since 2019. The EA is continuing to collect Water Framework Directive (WFD) data. The next full WFD classification is expected to be available in 2026.
20. The Environment Agency reported that there was no 'Leicestershire Rivers (excluding Leicester) in good chemical status' in 2022. This is sourced from the Environment Agency who recently informed there has been no change in river quality since 2019. This is similar to the national picture which also had no rivers in good chemical status (England, 2019). The next update is due by the end of 2026.
21. Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the Country, currently with only around 6% woodland coverage, which is well below the national average of 10% for England (2024). 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 and to work in partnership to encourage greater tree planting generally across the County. The Council has announced (during February 2026) an increased target from 700,000 to 1,000,000 trees planted in the County by 2032, building on the previous pledge of planting a tree for every person in the County. The Council will work with its partners and stakeholders, such as the National Forest, Woodland Trust, district councils and community groups to reach this ambitious goal. The latest tree planting provisional update shows that 494,240 trees have been planted by the Council and its partners up to December 2025, since July 2021, and that has greatly exceeded its cumulative target of 280,000 for 2025/26, showing excellent performance (the data is derived from the Council and its partners). A detailed Tree Management Strategy Annual Update was provided to the Committee on 11 November 2025.
22. The number of 'Council Environmental Risks managed' remained the same since the previous update of two environmental risks for December 2025, demonstrating a good overall performance. The environmental risks that were reported relate to areas where the Council is not meeting legal requirements, or where the Council's policy is failing to address the Environment Strategy's objectives. These included the following:
 - a) A biodiversity consideration was not sufficiently considered in the highways mowing regime. This risk will be reviewed to determine if sufficient progress has been made to reduce it.

- b) The matter of leaching from skips used to store dog waste at country parks has been raised with the relevant team to address.
23. The 'NO₂ exceedances for Leicestershire' indicator shows the number of times nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) has exceeded the annual mean air quality objective of 40µg/m³. NO₂ is a gas that is mainly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels. In 2024, there was no nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) exceedances reported in Leicestershire showing an improvement in performance since the previous year when one exceedance was reported (since 2019, this indicator has ranged from 0-3). The data is sourced from the district Councils Air Quality Annual Status Reports.
24. The Long Term EFCC KPI performance dashboards are also available for reference in Appendix C.

Background Papers

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and Strategic Plan 2024-2026

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

Environment, Flooding & Climate Change KPI definitions

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s191471/Appendix%20B%20-%20ECC%20KPI%20Definitions%202025%20-%20E%20Scrutiny%20100925.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>

Environmental Performance Progress Annual Report 2024-25

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s194153/Appendix%20-%20Environmental%20Performance%20and%20Progress%20Report%202024-25%20-EFCC%20Scrutiny%20260126.pdf> (published January 2025).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2024-25

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/LCC-Greenhouse-Gas-Report-2024-2025.pdf> (published December 2025).

Tree Management Strategy 2025-2030

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s192783/Draft%20Tree%20Management%20Strategy%202025%20appendix.pdf>

Tree Management Strategy Annual Update was - 11th November 2025.

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s192774/ECCSCTree%20Management%20Strategy%20-%20Nov%202025.pdf>

Leicestershire Air Quality and Health partnership report & Action Plan 2024-2028 – 17 December 2024

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s187233/Air%20Quality%20FINAL.pdf>

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s187241/Appendix%20-%20AQ%20and%20Health%20Partnership%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL%20DRAFT%202024-28.pdf>

Leicestershire's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s185084/Appendix%20A%20-%20Electric%20Vehicle%20EV%20Charging%20Strategy.pdf>

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

25. None.

Equality Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Appendix

Appendix A – EFCC KPI Performance Summary Charts to December 2025.

Appendix B – EFCC KPI Performance Dashboards to December 2025.

Appendix C – Long-term EFCC KPI Performance Dashboards up to 2025.

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