

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Lisa Hyde – Executive Director	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A19/010	
Wards Affected	All	16 th October 2019	
Title	CLIMATE CHANGE – ACTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS		

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ian Jelley

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Appraise members of the positive actions that this Council already undertakes to make a positive impact on climate change
- b) To recommend a range of new actions that will be undertaken by this Council over the next 18 months; and
- c) To recommend a process of community engagement throughout the delivery of these commitments

2. INFORMATION

2.1 At its meeting on the 24th July 2019, Council approved a motion on the issue of climate change, recognising the need to achieve carbon reduction targets to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations, to declare a climate emergency in the Kettering Borough and to commit to a target of making the Borough area carbon neutral by 2030.

2.2 The motion also included a commitment to:

- Place Climate Change implications on all agendas – this has been done
- A half yearly report be submitted to Monitoring and Audit Committee and annually to Council, detailing the actions that have been taken towards achieving the objectives of this motion.
- A senior officer be nominated to be the Council's Climate Change Champion – two officers have been designated, Rochelle Mathieson, Head of Commercial and Economic Development and James Wilson, Interim Head of Planning.

2.3 This report seeks to inform the Executive of current work that is already seeking to achieve a positive impact on the climate agenda and more specifically (in Section 5) proposes a range of new initiatives that this Council can undertake in the next 18 months.

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2.4. Given the likely remaining life for Kettering Borough Council as an organisation, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to spend time developing an all-encompassing strategic framework, which would consume a good proportion of that 18-month timeframe. It is considered more important to identify interventions and actions which can be delivered relatively quickly. This report therefore does not attempt to offer up a strategy, yet lists current activities and future initiatives under several broad headings which were themselves referenced by the public and by members in the debates at Council; namely:

- Bio-diversity and the natural environment
- Transport
- Energy use
- Recycling and re-use
- Procurement
- Planning and renewable energy

2.5 The new unitary authorities may wish to develop a more comprehensive strategy to guide its operations and policies, but the role of KBC, as an outgoing authority, will be to put in place practical measures which can make a difference to current behaviours and practice.

3. BACKGROUND - WHAT THIS COUNCIL IS ALREADY DOING

3.1 The Council signed up to the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy along with other local authorities in the County in 2011. The Strategy committed those authorities to work towards reducing its carbon footprint. The Council also complies with all legislative requirements and guidance around sustainability. This is particularly relevant to the Planning Policy Framework that we operate within. The following paragraphs give a snapshot of what the Council is doing in relation to Biodiversity & the Natural Environment, Transport, Energy Use and our commitment to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

3.2 Since then, there has been a further resolution at Council to support the development of walking and cycling options in the Borough. There was a 2005 strategy on cycling and walking, the implementation of which suffered from budget restrictions and austerity measures at both NCC and the Borough Council.

Biodiversity & The Natural Environment

3.3 The Council plants around 250 native British Trees a year on its land across the borough. Native trees help support local wildlife. Small numbers of trees are removed each year because they have died or are dangerous. The Council looks after many thousands of trees in parks and open spaces and on pavements.

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3.4 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy includes policies and guidance around the following:-

- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Water Environment
- Resources & Flood risk management
- Place shaping principles
- Sustainable buildings
- The delivery of green infrastructure
- The Nene and Ise valleys
- Rockingham Forest – increasing the capacity for this forest to act as a Carbon Storage by planting 40ha of trees per annum
- Rural economic development & diversification
- Renewable and low carbon energy

The strategy and its key publications can be found at <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/>

The Site-Specific Part 2 Local Plan for the Borough of Kettering is currently at pre submission status but has already developed its Green Infrastructure & Open Space policies.

The Council seeks to secure the highest level of sustainable development within new developments consistent with planning law and regulations, and viability assessments. Recent examples of going beyond the standards laid down by regulations are agreements on build standards at sites within East Kettering.

3.5 The Council also approved a Pollinator Strategy in 2017 that ensures that our Grounds maintenance service encourages bee friendly planting, and reduces grass cutting and allows swathes of long grass in specific areas across the borough.

Transport

3.6 The partnership with Corby Borough Council to jointly deliver Street Scene services covering Refuse and Recycling, Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing across the two geographic areas has enabled us to redesign elements of the work to deliver/optimize use of plant and manpower in a more efficient manner, an example of this is our “route optimisation” project, which looks at tracker information and vehicle routing across both areas the outcome of which will see redesigned routes that reduce dependency on vehicles and fuel. The outcomes of this will be implemented this financial year.

3.7 The vehicle fleet for Street Scene services already includes various component parts that seek to deliver more efficient vehicle performance, examples of which are listed below:

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- Ford Eco pack & auto stop/start – this achieves lower CO₂ levels and fuel consumption
- Waste vehicles have the Dennis Eagle fuel saver pack – this technology improves engine management and hydraulics which means drivers are not able to rev engines as they have dynamic throttle control, making the vehicle more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly. Trials on this have seen large fuel savings and when trialled in Westminster City Council fleet reduced CO₂ by 73t.
- Electric bin lifts are low voltage lifts which require reduced power for operation and have a number of efficiency saving features:
 - 1) Reduces noise and operates without the engine running
 - 2) Relies on electric power alone which in turn offers significant savings in fuel consumptions and CO₂ emissions
- Fleet tracking systems/Driver behaviour system – these enable us to produce driver reports on drivers' styles and operations, through this monitoring the Council is able to tackle poor driver style practices. The outcome of this, is again, a reduction in fuel usage and CO₂ emissions. Independent trials have seen a reduction of 20%.

The Council work closely with our fleet provider and maintainer, who themselves, have robust environment management processes in place, which follow the waste hierarchy ethos – eliminate, reduce, reuse, recycle, dispose.

Energy Use

- 3.8 The 'Homes for the Future' programme, which focuses on the refurbishment of older council housing, includes a number of elements to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions. These include; triple glazing, upgraded loft insulation, improved ventilation, more efficient central heating boilers and the installation of external wall insulation. These measures result in a significant reduction in energy use per property and an appreciable reduction in fuel costs for tenants. Over forty properties in Cranford, Desborough and Kettering have now been improved to the 'Homes for the Future' standard.
- 3.9 The re-development of Montrose House on Hampden Crescent included the installation of air source heat pump technology, with a 30% reduction in energy consumption compared to traditional heating sources. This together with a range of other features were installed to improve insulation and reduce heating costs. In addition, the lighting in the communal areas is powered by solar panels on the roof of the block.
- 3.10 The Council has a history of working with housing associations to develop new affordable housing with high levels of sustainability. Housing developments at the Peaslands, Desborough, and Whiteford Drive, Kettering, contain a host of energy saving features.

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- 3.11 The Warren Hill Crematorium recycles heat throughout the building to contribute to the heating of the chapels during the winter months.
- 3.12 The Council is part of Northants Warm Homes, a grant scheme for low income households that do not have an existing central heating system. Countywide funding totals £3.97 million with an expectation that full central heating systems will be installed in 1400 homes across Northamptonshire.
- 3.13 We have sought to significantly reduce energy use at Kettering Swimming pool by:-
- Using LED replacement lighting wherever possible
 - Installed passive infrared (PIR) sensors in toilet areas so the lights are only on when in use
 - Refurbished the pool plant filter vessels in June 2019 which will result in less water being used when the system is “backwashed”
 - The pool plant has a plate heat exchanger which allows a larger heat transfer area to control water temperature.
- 3.14 A programme of LED lighting installation is underway across the Municipal Offices and the museum and art gallery.
- 3.15 The Council, via the platform Enterprise Kettering, promote a range of funding and support packages regarding ‘green’ business opportunities, such as; *Growth through Green and Energy Entrepreneurs Fund*.

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

- 3.16 Our refuse and recycling service provides a comprehensive range of recycling options, and through the participation of local people, we regularly achieve a 48.5% recycling rate, which places the Borough in the top fifth of districts nationally. We have introduced new recycling rounds to all rural locations/farms and lodges that previously had a weekly black bin collection.
- 3.17 We replace around 150 damaged bins a month. All damaged waste bins are recycled
- 3.18 A high proportion of waste from void Council properties is now routinely recycled.
- 3.19 We have a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle education campaign across the borough that goes into all schools.
- 3.20 Recycling facilities are provided in the Council’s offices and at commercial properties directly managed, such as Haylock House

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3.21 The Council grant aids KCU to provide a furniture recycling and re-use service in the Borough.

Planning and Renewable Energy

3.22 The Joint Core Strategy (Policy 9) promotes the development of sustainable buildings and Building Regulations requires a minimum standard for energy efficiency. Major development such as Desborough North are conditioned to produce an energy strategy to demonstrate agreed carbon emission reductions. Policy 26 encourages the development of sensitively located renewable energy schemes and promotes the Burton Wold Energy Park which already has 21 wind turbines constructed and 3 solar arrays consented which can generate up to 50MW of energy.

3.23 The Local Development Plan also requires development to be sustainable which means that development should:

- prioritise the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users
- reduce the need to travel through locating development in sustainable areas
- maximise passive solar gain in buildings and promote decentralised energy networks; and
- require highly energy efficient commercial buildings

4.0 COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

4.1 In order to fulfil the Councils commitment to climate change and ensure that real actions are delivered between now and March 2021 the following direct actions are proposed from the council, **as a Service Provider**.

Service Provider Direct Actions

4.2 Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

- Double the amount of tree planting from the current average of 250 per year to 500 per year.
- Undertake a programme of reduced verge grass cutting to encourage biodiversity and design an associated communications plan to accompany that.
- We are aware there are growing issues around the use of glyphosate particularly with regards to the safety of the workforce and the effect on pollinators and the wider environment. We aspire, that from next year, we will spray strategically and not everywhere, in readiness for the impending ban on the use of glyphosate.

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4.3 Transport

We will:-

- Begin the roll out programme of installation of Electric Vehicle Charging points in car parks. The programme will start this autumn in car parks in
 - i. London Road
 - ii. School Lane
 - iii. Commercial Road
 - iv. Churchill Way Burton Latimer (slightly later in the programme)

(As the highways authority Northamptonshire County Council have been invited to compete for funding for the installation of “on road” Electric Vehicle Charging points across the County. We will be working with NCC to identify sites within the Borough of Kettering).

- We will ensure that any new fleet procured will be specified as low emission where an electric vehicle is not yet cost effective or available (e.g. refuse & recycling Trucks)
- Install secure bike storage racks within Kettering town centre and in other locations to encourage more cycling.

4.4 Energy Use

We will:-

- Extend the scope of the ‘Homes for the Future’ project by completing the remaining pre-war council housing in Desborough and refurbishing further properties in Rothwell.
- Ensure that new council housing developments include high levels of insulation and energy efficient heating with low running costs.

4.5 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We will:-

- Begin the roll out of recycling litter bins across the borough starting in parks and open spaces.
- Further promote recycling services in commercial properties directly managed by the Council

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4.6 Procurement

We will:-

- Where relevant request that carbon reduction and climate change principles form part of the Council's procurement process. The supplier will be required to give consideration to climate change and how it impacts in delivering the contract;
- Ensure that energy efficiency proposals and requirements are considered in the programme of new build Council housing stock that this Council is committed to build in the next 18 months, for example, the developer will be required to demonstrate that the building, infrastructure, design and operation reflects known or anticipated carbon / climate change impacts so that such impacts are minimised as far as is practicable.

4.7 Planning Policy and renewable energy

We will:-

- Promote and support energy schemes that include Wind, Solar and other renewable technologies and include proposals for reduced energy use in new housing and commercial developments.
- Ensure that tree planting of British native species is included in new developments coming forward and fully implement Policy 21 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Rockingham Forest) which seeks to deliver 40ha a year of new tree planting.

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4.8 The Council's business activities

We will:-

- Significantly reduce our paper use and encourage more use of digital & electronic dissemination of information, including for KBC committees and fora.
- Reduce work vehicle movements and encourage different ways of working or modes of transport
- Review our options for increasing the amount of renewable energy sources within our existing energy contracts
- Empower our staff to identify ways to reduce waste and conserve natural resources, starting with a staff awareness campaign that will include key messages through newsletters, core brief, staff meetings.

4.9 The council will also seek to encourage / help facilitate the following actions as a Catalyst for Change (i.e., where the council is not a direct service provider),

We will:-

- Encourage and incentivise walking and cycling as a healthy activity. We launched "Beat the Streets" in October, a 6-week programme to encourage walking and cycling across the Borough. Over 5000 people had signed up in the first week. We will seek to ensure that a legacy programme of healthy activities continue beyond this scheme.
- Help deliver more cycle lanes – Provision exists within the S106 Agreements for East Kettering and Kettering Gateway for contributions towards cycle lanes alongside Barton Rd and Deeble Rd and these are in the early design stage with NCC. A continued dialogue with NCC to explore opportunities to include new cycle provision can be maintained through existing channels, but with more emphasis.
- Promote an increased programme of community litter picks during 2020. Programme Spring Clean will work with community groups, providing equipment and publicity to encourage litter picks, recycling and to reduce the amount of future littering across the borough.
- Set up and promote a "Plastics Pledge". This will be a Borough wide project that encourages individuals, organisations and businesses to sign up to a pledge to responsibly recycle, reuse plastic bags and containers and refrain from buying single use plastic products.

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- Develop a dedicated web presence that will:-
 - Provide an advice and support package for “green” business.
 - Gives advice and support to local residents; and
 - Promote good practice across the borough
 - Incentivise business to improve practices by sponsoring an annual award for good practice in business.

5. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 5.1 The range of actions and incentives outlined in Section 4 of this report will require significant consultation and engagement with local stakeholders.
- 5.2 The Council recognises that these initiatives cannot be undertaken alone and there are a range of stakeholders, groups and organisation that have a wealth of expertise and positive energy that can enhance and support this programme. The best means of engaging with them will need to be worked out with those local groups, many of whom have been represented at Council meetings.
- 5.3 This will be not only be appropriate for the initiatives where the Council is the catalyst for change but also with regard to service provision. For example, the action to install secure bike racks will also need to engage cyclists in their design and location.

6. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A number of the proposals contained in this report will have a direct financial impact to KBC and a number of the proposals whilst having no direct financial implications, will require existing KBC staffing resources to secure funding or delivery through a third party.
- 6.2 The initiatives and actions arising from the new activities proposed in Section 4 of this report fall into the following resource implication categories;
- KBC additional Revenue Funding
 - KBC additional Capital Funding
 - To be met through existing Resources
 - Delivered by a third party
- 6.3 A number of proposals within this report will require further costings to be undertaken, for example the installation of bike storage units – any initiatives that cannot be met from within existing revenue or capital budgets will be brought back to a future meeting of the Executive or Council dependent on the level of resources required.

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- 6.4 Where the activity is to be delivered by a third party, such as NCC for on street electric vehicle charging points in Kettering borough or via a Section 106 (Developer Contribution) for cycle ways on new housing developments, the Council will work with the third parties to seek to deliver the necessary outcomes.

7. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Kettering Borough Council being a statutory authority can only act within its legal powers in executing any action to promote climate change. Parliament has not passed any climate change legislation to mandate particular action on local authorities.
- 7.2 Public authorities have specific functions and duties which are neither shared nor replicable. Any adopted plans or policies to further climate change must be within Kettering Borough Council's powers as a borough council in Northamptonshire.
- 7.3 The Council must act within its powers and not encroach, without their consent, on the functions of other statutory authorities or government agencies including the County Council and Highways England.
- 7.4. Measures to improve the sustainability of new development, including housing, must be applied within the constraints of the planning process and the National Planning Policy Framework and standards which exceed those laid down in regulation have to be negotiated and cannot be enforced.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 By its very nature this report has significant positive implications for Climate Change within the Borough Kettering

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the programme of actions in the report be approved, for delivery or, where necessary, for more detailed plans to be developed and submitted to future meetings of this committee.
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Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officers

Lisa Hyde, Rochelle
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Wilson

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Motions at Council July and
September 2019