

Report to Scrutiny
29 January 2015
Report of Executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods
Subject Draft environmental strategy 2015-2019

Item

8

Purpose

To consider the draft environmental strategy 2015-2019.

Recommendation

To determine any recommendations to cabinet.

Corporate and service priorities

This report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

Financial implications

The direct financial implications are an additional £36,000 per annum to the general fund and this has been included within the council's draft budget for 2015/16.

Funding for specific project proposals e.g. a PV scheme would be subject to a separate approval process at the appropriate time.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard

Contact officers

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Report

1. Within the framework of the council's corporate plan, the environmental strategy sets out in more detail the council's environmental vision and priorities for the City and how they will be achieved. It, therefore, guides all the environmental work carried out by council during the period.
2. The council's existing environmental strategy ended in December 2014. As such, a range of work has been carried out to develop a new environmental strategy for the next four years. This includes:
 - Analysis and assessment of baseline information on the current environmental position in Norwich.
 - Review of the wider policy and legal context.
 - Workshops and input from expert stakeholders including the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia.
 - Review of existing activities and future opportunities across services and contractors.
 - Discussions and input from elected members including the cabinet and an all member workshop.
 - Looking at good practice from other areas.
 - Assessment of the likely resources the council will have in the future to carry out environmental work.
3. A consultation process was carried out on the draft strategy from the 5 December to 12 January. This included:
 - The draft strategy being published on the council's website for comment supported by a short questionnaire.
 - The draft strategy being sent to relevant organisations and local councillors asking for their feedback.
 - A workshop with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia to allow them to jointly feedback their views.
4. At Annex A is a summary of the consultation responses and the changes that have been made to the draft strategy based on these.
5. At Annex B is a copy of the updated draft strategy following consultation for consideration by the committee.

Annex A – Consultation responses on the draft environmental strategy

A. Questionnaire on the council's website

In total there were 23 questionnaires completed. The vast majority were from individuals. The answers to each of the questions are set out below, followed by a response in relation to the draft strategy.

Question 1 - Do you have any comments or suggestions to make about our draft environmental vision as outlined above?

The majority of the comments set out support for the draft vision. Other comments were about the strategy itself:

“We need to preserve what we have, and use and develop resources sustainably and responsibly. The natural beauty of the green environment is as important for an individual's well-being as the quality of the built environment.”

‘It would be good to see more on cycling, reducing city centre traffic and safe bike storage (as in Cambridge). What about bees? More roof top bee keeping as in London”

“Improve control of pollution from bonfires - consider total ban on garden/other waste fires”

“Parents are not teaching any good values to their children to create a better environment for the future”

“Free Park and Ride use prior to 8am in the morning Monday to Saturday”

“First Group, using Castle stop as a change over causing other busses to stop away from their stop with engines running much longer, also leaving busses their on a Sunday”.

Response

The draft strategy already includes a range of work on sustainable transport and behaviour change initiatives to encourage sustainable living which will include opportunities provided by bees. The action programme has been adjusted

to show the work carried out by the council to manage issues that can sometimes be caused by bonfires. Although, there are no powers or plans to ban them. Comments on specific issues will be looked at by relevant services.

Question 2 - What do you think should be the city council's main environmental priority or priorities for Norwich?

15 comments were received. They were as follows:

"Reducing carbon emissions themselves and helping residents to reduce their own emissions. Ensuring that air quality is good throughout the city"

"Reducing cars in the whole county. Reducing food waste"

"Improving cycle ways. Helping existing buildings become more energy efficient"

"To ensure that development, including transport infrastructure puts into practice the sentiments expressed in the strategy"

"To reduce use and wastage of resources, to increase recycling (by individuals AND businesses), to preserve and increase the green environment (for humans and wildlife), to be a flagship Council – an example for others to follow".

"Maintaining and improving existing green spaces and preserving the city's trees. Also funding local volunteer groups to plant up/maintain green spaces."

"Reduction of environmental impact in all spheres, both by itself and encouraging others"

"To reduce carbon emissions by insulating all buildings (not just council homes), ensuring that only renewable energy is used and that the city becomes a car free zone (except for those with mobility difficulties)"

"Reduce carbon emissions. Recycle. Green the city."

"Avoiding waste and pollution of air and water. Reduce, recycle, re-use!"

“Reduce carbon emissions and air pollution”

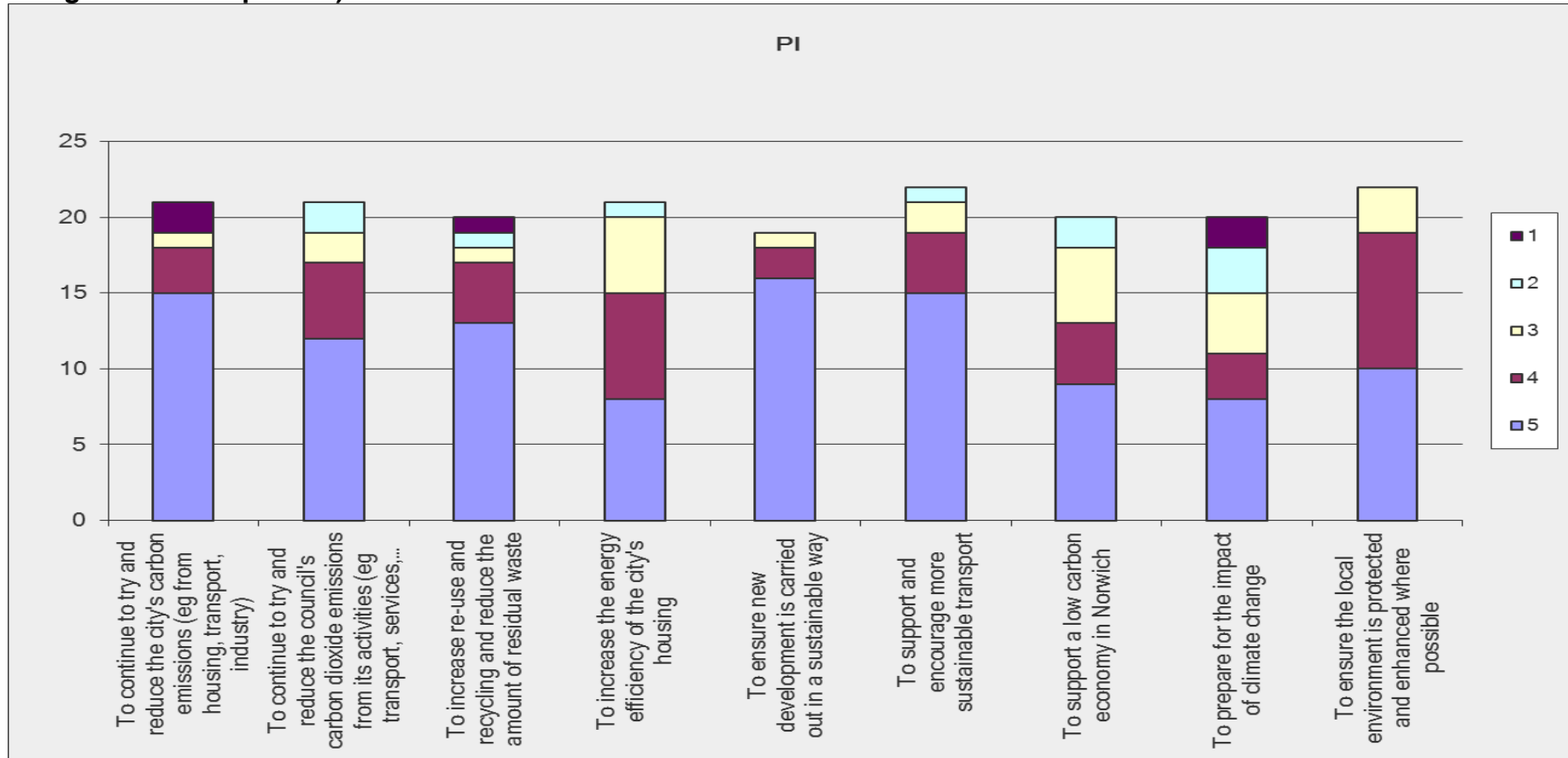
“Litter. Respect their neighbourhood and people living in it. No drinking on the streets”

“No cars in Red Lion street, and pedestrian way for Westlegate, close the car park in Theatre St by the crossing, I use it often on foot, seen many near misses. Put a fountain in this area.”

“Reduction of car use/pollution and encouragement of pedestrians/cyclists/buses”

“Walking/pedestrian routes defined and maintained. Sensible times on bus routes used instead of blanket 24 hours. Traffic lights on roundabouts only used in rush hours (vehicles more fuel efficient when moving). ECO6 engine vehicles allowed within city”

Question 3 - Please indicate how important you feel each of the following proposed priorities is by ranking them 1-5. (5 being the most important)



Question 4 - Do you have any further comments or suggestions to make about the draft priorities?

The following comments were received:

“Allow bikes on trains into the city for those living in the wider county”

“I am not convinced of how much influence can be exerted for the actions listed under Theme 1. For example, while allotments are an important community resource worth preserving, it is unrealistic to suggest it is a hub activity for local food production. Also, given the parlous state of public sector funding, what grants are likely to be available to support community energy schemes?”

“To keep the public informed, and understanding, and therefore willing to agree or participate, is very important – and the practice of sticking informative flyers on individual bins (as you have done) is a very direct and effective communication method. Keep aiming high, and Good Luck!”

“These should all be without saying. Norwich is an ideal town to experiment with these types of things. Especially development and transport”

“I feel that there are too many. The main priorities for me are centered around maintaining a clean city (bins etc), maintaining existing green spaces and providing affordable housing. The idealistic values associated with climate change and carbon dioxide reduction may have to be ignored simply in order to maintain existing services. The available budget not being so great.”

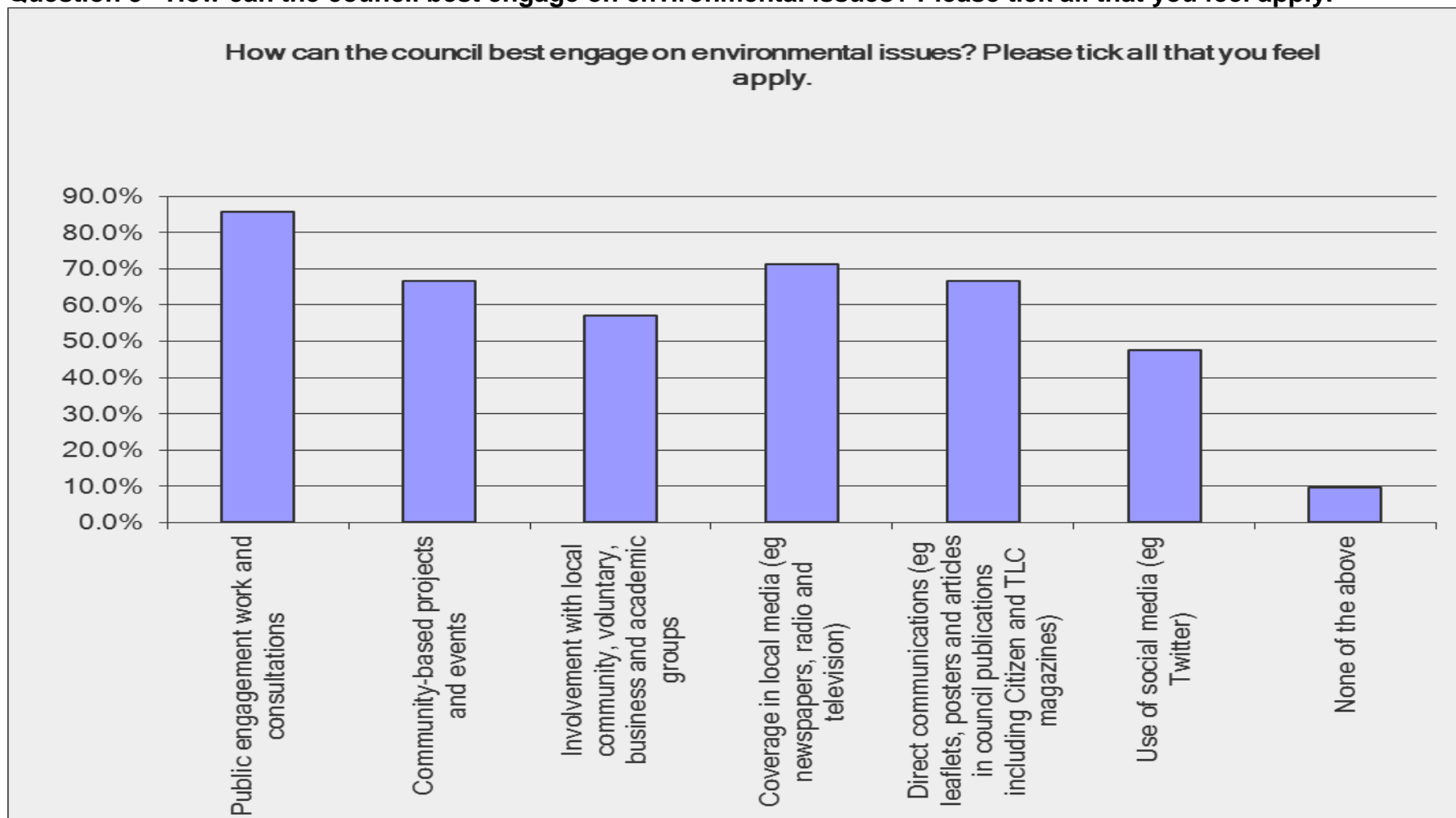
“Agree with draft priorities. Pleased that priorities include 2.21 & 2.22. Street trees are very important and wildlife sites such as Earlham Cemetery need to be managed more sympathetically for wildlife.”

“The junction at Prince of Wales/Railway Station, not enough room for pedestrians, busses now turning right cause blocking for buses going straight on or turning left, not enough time for pedestrians to from station to Compleat Angler side. Causing more blockage on a narrow footpath.”

Response to questions 2, 3 and 4

Based on the responses received no changes are planned to the overall draft priorities included within the strategy. A large number of the comments support the priorities and activities already encompassed within the draft strategy. Comments on specific issues will be looked at by relevant services,

Question 5 - How can the council best engage on environmental issues? Please tick all that you feel apply.



Question 6 - What would be most likely to make you engage with environmental issues? Please type any ideas you have in the box provided.

“Community involvement”

“Use social media. Leaflets are counter productive!”

“Need to be able to see local/personal impacts and benefits”

“I am already engaged.”

“More people engaging, leads to more - the snowball effect. I am very pro-environment (member of groups, join online petitions etc) - but almost none of my friends or family are! Initiatives need to be promoted boldly and widely, to make them mainstream.”

“Community & public based projects - preferably ones which occur outside of normal working hours so that those who are affected can be included. Normally these things happen between 9 and 5, Monday to Friday restricting them to the retired or unemployed.”

“Create a way to participate in the implementation of the Action Programme. E.g. I have tried to start a community renewable energy companies (point 1.6 in section 9 of the draft strategy (the first point 1.6, because the numbering is off and there are two)), but couldn't get enough of a critical mass behind it, and the City Council could help by bringing citizens together to implement parts of the strategy. Please contact me if you appreciate help on implementing a renewable energy co-op. Also, Norwich Farmshare is actively engaged in point 1.13, the Garden Organic Master Gardener program is actively engaged in 2.2 and 2.3. It would be good as part of 1.24, 1.10 to make clear where links exist and what actions are jointly undertaken, so that it's clear where the Council is aware of existing initiatives or where engagement can be strengthened. If the Council implements point 1.4 I'd like to be told, and it would be good as part of the above strategy to be able to subscribe to news on particular action points.”

“Traffic reduction and improved public transport in the central area”

“Already do”

"I'd like to feel confident that the council is taking the environment and climate change seriously. It would help if the council stopped wasting money on new roads and consultations for new roads."

"Magazine newspaper article. Local events."

"I already do engage with environmental issues through Friends of Eaton Park, Grow-Our-Own scheme, and campaigning for cycling."

"Belief that it would be worth my while"

"Financial cost in not doing so. Seeing council initiatives that are NOT being hyped or trumpeted"

"If the council members and our local councillors walked around to see for themselves, I walk down Yarmouth Rd, there are bushes overgrown where only one person can get by on the pavement."

"Cheaper more available public transport inc 'oyster' card"

"Not being dictated to, Norwich is different to Cambridge, York"

Response to question 5 and 6

The information will be used to inform the development of the council's engagement and communication plan for the new environmental strategy. Specific issues and opportunities will be followed up by the relevant services.

Question 7 - Do you have any further comments or suggestions to make about the draft strategy? If so, please type them in the box provided.

The following comments were received:

“Transport issues are important in controlling air quality and the council should try to minimise these in prime areas of the city where there are the most people.”

“Really think about trees Green spaces and above all bees.”

“There is a need to make sure this strategy has the profile it deserves. There is a danger that residents and visitors will not see the evidence of things happening on the ground to match the rhetoric. I am thinking of some of the city centre transport routing initiatives. We still haven't learnt from our European cousins when it comes to sorting out vehicle access around city centres. You are not helped by boxing yourselves in by having too many inner city car parking sites. Any revisions seem more about servicing access to them than doing anything meaningful on the ground. You only need to look at Theatre Street to see that.”

“Environmental initiatives tend to be put to the bottom of the pile, especially when budgets are tight. But actually, they are essential to a healthy economy, lifestyle and planet. So please, keep up the good work.”

“There should be an ongoing programme to replace street trees. Unfortunately Norwich City Council's actions will be undone if NDR is built, along with further development and growth of traffic to north of Norwich. Norwich City Council need to oppose this uncontrolled expansion and road building.”

“NDR”

“Not at the moment.”

“Having most council activities apparently centred round diesel-powered transport (often large inappropriately parked transit vans) is demoralising. Let's see imaginative and appropriate use of pedal power, including Norse equipping themselves with a fleet of

cargo bikes for carrying out small repair/maintenance jobs. That would set a great example and inspire many local people to think positively about reducing carbon emissions and air pollution.”

“There was car accident in Exchange St, as blue badges were aloud to park, the fire engine could not get to it.”

“More covered cycle parks, so that cyclist can leave there bikes and walk instead of bullying there way around pedestrian zones”

Response

A number of these comments fit well with the priorities and activities already included within the draft strategy and so no further changes are planned. Specific issues will be followed up by the relevant services.

B. Written responses to the consultation

Response from the Environment Agency

“We have considered the Draft Strategy and overall we support the aims and actions of the documents. However, we have concerns regarding Action 1.3 which states that:

‘To explore with partner organisations the potential for a district heating scheme for the City powered by the natural heat from Norwich's rivers and other options for the development of renewable energy for the future.’

Whilst we have no objection to a district heating scheme itself, we are concerned that it is proposed to use Norwich's rivers to power the scheme. A district heating scheme would be of a significant scale and as such there is potential for a significant detrimental impact on the rivers in terms of water quality and biodiversity. This could result in significant harm to the water environment which would be unacceptable and contrary to the aims of this document.

As such we consider that the reference to Norwich's rivers in this action should be deleted and the action made more generic as follows:

‘To explore with partner organisations the potential for a district heating scheme for the City and other options for the development of renewable energy for the future.’

Work should be carried out to consider all the options and the suitability of each option; before any specific option for powering the scheme is detailed. We would be happy to discuss this further if it would be helpful.”

Response

We are keen to discuss the potential for a feasibility study of a district heating scheme powered by heat from rivers with the Environment Agency. However, we recognise that there are a number of potential powers sources that could be explored and so the action has been made more generic.

Response from a scientist

We also received a response from a scientist:

“The current draft seems to be disconnected with the plans/aspirations in various public planning documents which show a continuity of thinking going back to 2004 for the Utilities Site – for energy generation from biomass, low carbon mixed-use activities, etc. For example, I refer to:

- the City of Norwich Local Plan 2004
- the report commissioned from Buro Happold by EEDA in conjunction with the city council in 2007 (which involved public consultations)
- the Revised East Norwich Guidance Note of August 2010 (presented by Norwich City Council, The Broads Authority, SNDC and Norfolk CC). This report included as an appendix a summary of reports on the location funded by DCLG, and indicated that development proposals for this site “should minimize contributions to climate change”, make “good use of opportunities for decentralized and renewable or low carbon energy”, and be an “exemplar sustainable development scheme”.
- the Norwich Local Plan 2013 (appendix 17) refers to power generation and the future power station

Such developments would clearly be an important element of an environmental strategy.

As I have commented in other fora, the site would also be a very good location for extraction of heat from the river.”

Response:

The draft environmental strategy would not specify planning designations for particular sites as this is set out in planning framework documents.

Collective response from the Green Group to the consultation on the draft environmental strategy

1. General response and suggestions:

We welcome the draft environmental strategy as an ambitious strategy and would like to congratulate the officers for their great work on it. We are very happy to see that so many of our contributions over the years and during the process of drafting the strategy have (finally) found their way into the document. We feel a big part of this strategy as we had essential input into forming this first draft: the cross Party workshop on the environmental strategy saw a large majority presence of Green Party councillors and the only additional recommendations after this workshop were sent in or suggested to officers by Green Party councillors. We are also pleased to find the report on communicating environmental behaviour and climate change (written by Green Party councillor Sandra Bogelein and based on best practices identified in environmental psychology) as part of the draft strategy (under section How will we engage and communicate?).

This report includes a simple and cost effective recommendation that we would like to see adopted as an action in the environmental strategy: a work shop organised by a representative of COIN (Climate Outreach and Information Network) for all members, officers involved in the environmental performance and especially the comms team. COIN offers a highly cost-effective and scientifically based workshop to review past communication and adopt a best practice, value based approach to any communication in the fields of pro-environmental behaviour and climate change.

Response

If the council chooses to bring in external specialist advice to take this work forward then it would go through a commissioning process to test the market and ensure it was getting good value for money.

We are especially delighted that the city council agreed on the offer to collaborate with the Tyndall Centre, a climate change research group. We sincerely hope that this collaboration, started by Green Party councillor Sandra Bogelein, will continue in the future. Several researchers have offered outside scrutiny of our environmental performances and we trust that the council will take up on this offer. Unfortunately, counter to the researchers' advice, this draft environmental strategy again lacks the ambition to assess the status quo of Norwich emissions in a comprehensive way as a starting point for an informed strategy. The scientists have provided us with numerous examples of cities where such an approach was highly successful.

Response

A base-lining exercise was carried out to inform the strategy looking at current environmental performance. The data that is used on emissions is provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Further the request to focus more on absolute cutting edge technologies and be a city of bravery, innovation and true leadership in these technologies has not found its way fully into this strategy.

Response

This seems quite a subjective statement, without examples of what is perceived to be missing and so it is difficult to actually respond to. However, the action programme has a range of innovative approaches when compared against that of similar cities.

We are further very happy that with the 3S group scientists with an expertise on citizen engagement have been consulted. Unfortunately a lot of the recommendations from this group have not been taken up: The social scientists recommended involving environmental groups such as Transition Norwich in drafting this strategy to make it a document owned by the people of Norwich. This has not happened.

Response

Environmental groups such as Transition Norwich were specifically contacted and asked to provide feedback to inform the development of the strategy.

A range of further engagement will be carried out as part of taking all the different elements of the strategy forward, both with citizens and organisations. For example, work to take forward a bid to be the UK green capital would include significant work with citizens and organisations to build ownership of the environment including the concept of environmental citizenship.

Another request was to include public engagement with the environmental strategy and Norwich City Council's actions based on this strategy as a measure in the strategy itself. The scientists emphasised that making this document a shared and publically owned document is just as important as an ambitious strategy. Again, this recommendation has not been taken up in the draft strategy.

Response

In this context the engagement is one of a number of very important mechanisms that will help to deliver the overall priority outcomes of the strategy e.g. reduced carbon emissions. As such, engagement has not been put into the strategy document itself as an overall performance measure. However, the performance of the engagement activities that are delivered will, of course, be measured and reviewed and the learning used to inform future engagement activities. It will also be published as part of the annual review of strategy through the environmental statement.

Further it was recommended to establish a comprehensive communication and engagement strategy for the coming years. This strategy would clearly identify where communicating our common pro-environmental aims can be integrated in other council activities (e.g. activities with schools or businesses) and communication. It is important that the environmental strategy does not separate, but is integrated in all council decisions and activities. We hope that the next draft will include these essential recommendations.

Response

The draft strategy makes it clear that a comprehensive engagement and communications plan will be developed to support its delivery.

Another point to make is that an in-depth discussion about changing diets as an important mitigation measure evolved in the cross party workshop (e.g. reducing red meat, swapping butter for margarine, buying local, unprocessed food etc). This theme appears nowhere in the environmental strategy. We share concerns around the sensitivity of the subject, but it bears a huge potential for emission reductions (please request papers on this topic from the Green Group if required) and will have to enter the public and political arena. The council could commit to raising awareness of the environmental (and health) benefits of certain diets or support campaigns such as meat free Monday

Response

The sustainable living initiatives included within the action programme will include work on a number of these items. We believe they are better taken forward in a holistic way alongside other potential lifestyle changes rather than as specific campaign. As such, there are no plans to run a specific 'meat free Monday' type campaign.

Apart from the recommendations above there are several other additions that we feel would be important to make this environmental strategy truly ambitious and a first step for Norwich as a fine city for generations to come.

- We recommend incorporating considerations of potential measures for mitigation and adaptation as an integrated part of the planning process. That could mean to include them in planning requirements or to view them as a positive aspect of a planning application. We should take every future opportunity to strengthen planning policy on energy efficiency/micro generation and ensure it is given sufficient priority by planners.

Response

A range of mitigation and adaptation measures are already included within the planning framework. However, the action programme has been updated to make specific reference that this will be further explored in the future.

Risks associated with Climate Change should receive a specific section on the risk register. Risks associated with Climate Change can have negative effects in a number of areas prioritised in the Corporate Plan. We need to acknowledge these risks and take them into account in our decisions. Taking risks associated with climate change into the risk register is the way to ensure we make

sensible long term decisions in the light of the growing threat of a changing climate: “As well as acting to mitigate climate change, a truly green Council would also include carbon risk on its risk register. Few do and it’s part of the reason for inaction at a strategic level” (Jacob Wallace, from Sustainability Consultants, Best Foot Forward from Guardian website, 12.11.11).

Response

The council’s risk register directly relates to the delivery of the council’s corporate plan. Once the new corporate plan has been approved by Council in February the risk register will be updated accordingly.

- A related recommendation is to ensure that the environment appears as a separate audit category for Norwich and the greater Norwich area. This will again ensure that we take environmental issues and concerns into account when we make long reaching and big decisions that can potentially be (and some certainly are) detrimental to our environment and our aim to mitigate climate change.

Response

Further information is needed to understand this suggestion.

The planned 2% annual reductions may be roughly in line with the EU target of 40% reductions, but we have to question whether this is sufficient. An 80% reduction by 2050, which will likely be more difficult to achieve than the 2030 target, will still result in a dangerously high 2 degree rise in temperature. There is a 20% chance that this will result in unstoppable “runaway” warming. In this context we would like to invite members and officers to rethink and consider that the council should show leadership and commit to a more ambitious target.

Response

The targets have now been adjusted following the workshop with UEA set out in section C of this annex.

2. Comments on 4. The journey so far

We think there are considerable issues with how this part is presented and the conclusions drawn from the presented data. We keep the comments on this part separate from the priorities and actions in the draft strategy to ensure our comments on the descriptive in 4. don't compromise our overall appreciation of the environmental strategy. This is a public document though and we should accurately present the current situation and make sure we convey a meaningful message with this document.

- When presented to social scientists specialising on public engagement, they questioned the meaning and usefulness of this section. To the public, this may be a longwinded introduction and a distraction from the essential core, the priorities and action program of the environmental strategy. Further the meaningfulness of the presented data was questioned.
- Graphs at 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 & 4.7 come to a concerning conclusion. As the emissions bottom out in 2011 and show a rise in 2012, it would be interesting to know how much of the reduction up to 2011 is attributable to the economic downturn rather than carbon reduction initiatives. This is partly acknowledged in 4.9, but only after the strategy has prominently included the reduction among its achievements. Particularly until we have the 2013 figures, we would be cautious about adopting the optimistic tone of 4.1 (1st bullet).
- The fact that (see 4.2) Norwich has one of the lowest rates of carbon emissions across Norfolk's authorities is not surprising as it is an urban area. It would be a mistake to over-emphasise this as vindication for the level of action at City Council level. The factor of an urban area should be acknowledged in the text.
- The comparator groups shown in 4.4-4.7 are far more relevant and Norwich is shown to be about average. The fact that there is considerable room for improvement should be acknowledged more in the text.
- It is worth noting that, although Norwich's emissions from transport have apparently fallen (4.6) it is still the 2nd highest in the comparator group. This situation will of course not be helped with the construction of the NDR and the additional shoppers' car park planned for Rose Lane, and the encouragement of car usage that this will represent. It needs to be acknowledged in the strategy that City Council action would have to be particularly strong to effectively counter this.
- It would be preferable to test the conclusions made from the descriptive data against chance. For example is the difference between Norwich and Cambridge in the comparison family group significant? Without such a test, we cannot make strong claims or draw robust conclusions.
- It is confusing to have data points in some of the graphs (e.g. 4.2) that do not appear in the legend.
- In some of the graphs the line for Norwich cannot be seen.

Response

The majority of this section has been removed from the draft strategy as it does seem to potentially hinder the flow of the document, which is ultimately meant to be forward looking. This information will continue to be updated and held separately. The remaining part of this section has been adjusted to recognise the economic downturn.

3. Questions and clarifications

- Priority 9: Number of natural and semi natural green spaces and woodlands in positive management: How can the target (100%) be achievable when there is little or no budget for replanting trees? How does this measure reflect the loss of trees, which cannot be viewed as positive management?

Response

The trees budget does not directly relate to the positive management assessment. However, there are proposals within the budget for 2015/16 to increase the tree planting budget.

- Could you please comment on whether there will be considerable difficulties implementing the action program in the context of cuts. E.g. How will increase in the use of buses (Priority 6) be achieved in the context of significant cuts at County level, e.g. to Park & Ride, and pressure on CIL funding being diverted to the NDR. If there are any concerns how can we ensure we stick to this action program?

Response

If other organisations were to make cuts in the future, that we are currently unaware of, then clearly it could affect the delivery of the strategy. Similarly, other changes in the socio-economic environment in the future could affect delivery of different elements of the strategy. This is why the strategy will be subject to regular review and changes made as necessary.

- Re: 5.3, Priority 4. Is it definitely right as a strategy just to propose helping a few (150) houses per year? Would this still mean that more ambitious initiatives, such as an Energy Services Company mentioned in 1.6 which could help far more, would get serious consideration?

Response

This target relates to energy efficiency improvements to private homes e.g. cavity wall insulation. Based on the work carried out this is considered to be an appropriate target. This will not affect other actions within the action programme.

- Do we know how Exeter achieved a 28% drop in industry emissions in one year (4.4)?

Response

We have contacted Exeter to find out more about this reduction.

- Table 4.11: Where are the figures for Council Housing stock? Also, could there be an explanation for the “EHS” acronym? And the white line on the Owner Occupier row needs to move down to underneath the percentages.

Response

The majority of this section has been removed from the draft strategy as it does seem to potentially hinder the flow of the document, which is ultimately meant to be forward looking.

C. Workshop with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia during the consultation process

Generally the draft strategy was very well received (“impressive and really encouraging”) and the fact it was considered a vast improvement to the last environmental strategy was emphasised.

There were a number of questions asked about how the strategy would be resourced and how its delivery would be managed that were responded to as part of the workshop.

A number of specific suggestions for additions / changes were also made:

- To include the UEA, the research park and possibly the hospital more in the draft strategy. The institutions employ and are in contact with a large part of the Norwich population. Further they are big energy consumers.

Response

Work with the UEA was already included within the action programme but adjustments have been made to emphasise engagement with other key organisations.

- To look at a radical rethink with regards to transport. Another more visionary approach would have been to introduce electric charging points for cars to support a new generation of cars.

Response

The strategy does already include a range of work in regards to sustainable transport options. However, the action programme has now been updated to specifically include work to explore a model for electric charging points in the City.

- To review the 2 per cent annual target to see if it should be 2.4 per cent in line with a recent report on national carbon budgets.

Response

The targets have been reviewed and while the City would more than achieve the overall 33% national target (based on the 1990 baseline) by 2020 with the 2% target, the target has been adjusted to 2.4% to fit with national carbon budgets and reflect the ambitious approach that is being taken. However, it should be recognised that there will be very significant elements relating to achievement of this target that will be outside of the council's control.

-To develop a more long term vision (beyond the 4 years strategy) with central future projects that could be included there (a road map) including exploring options like trams etc. A long term visionary tool could be used to do so.

Response

The development of a long term vision and roadmap has now been added into the strategy as part of the development of a bid for UK green capital as this would be a good mechanism to engage the City in the process.

-To carry out awareness raising and training for the construction industry e.g. on the green deal, fitting energy saving measures and environmental motivation etc.

Response

This is already part of the council's Cosy City green deal service work and other activities but the action programme has been updated to show this.

- To look at ways to encourage the energy market to incentivise reduced consumption through tariffs etc.

Response

This has now been included within the action programme alongside exploring other opportunities to positively influence the energy supply market

-To look at whether improvement targets can be set for air pollution

Response

The current targets are based on a realistic assessment using the current government methodology. However, the methodology will soon be reviewed at which point the targets will be re-assessed.

-Ensuring future collaboration between the council and the university and how this could be strengthened. It was agreed as part of discussion that the Tyndall Centre and 3S would be invited to be part of the annual review process of the environmental strategy. Further it was suggested that the council could highlight to the Tyndall Centre and 3S if suitable contracts are going out for tender so researchers could potentially bid.

Response

This will be undertaken as part of taking the strategy forward.

There were also a number of minor suggestions to changes in wording and use of updated information that have been included in the strategy. It was also agreed that a technical annex including a glossary will be added to the strategy before the final designed version is published.