Sustainable city update to CEEEP

31 August 2021

#norwich2040

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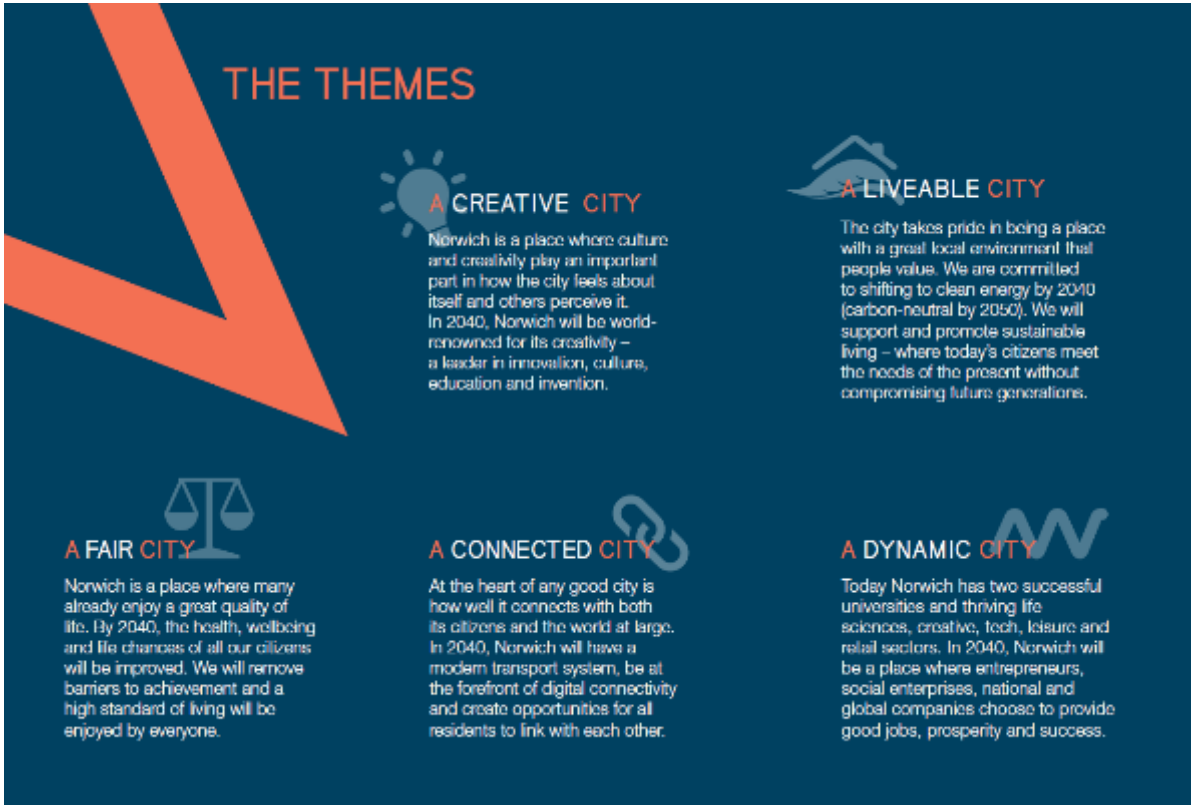
Background

- **2018**: Norwich 2040 City Vision launched
- **2019**: Norwich Business Leaders Climate Group formed
- **2020**: Norwich 2040 City Vision and C-19 Recovery Group formed
- **2021**: Sustainability group formed



Norwich Business Leaders Climate Group

- Led by Norfolk Chambers of Commerce
- Two meetings held then hiatus due to covid
- Secured additional resource
- Due to reconvene in autumn 2021 with:
  - A clear and achievable objective with relevance to the main task of helping businesses on their journey towards Net Zero by focusing on the task of reducing, replacing and campaigning to reduce Co2
  - Access to the support that will enable the resource required to get into businesses and help them with the task(s) ahead
  - To broadcast and engage those hard-to-reach businesses
  - To build the digital Knowledge Bank of free to access ‘how to’ advice
  - To seek out and to only promote ‘fit for process’ schemes that already exist and businesses can sign up to, if appropriate to them
  - How best to apply the chambers’ resources and resources of others, ergo the aggregator platform

Vision and C19 Recovery Group

CITY VISION C-19 RECOVERY GROUP

Working together to achieve the long-term ambitions for the city by:

- understanding the impact COVID-19 has had /is having on the city
- identifying long term trends through the analysis of data and intelligence
- monitoring progress and take action to ensure we are on track to deliver the vision
- supporting other partnerships in the delivery of the vision
- acting as champions for the city and its role as an urban area
- being an extra voice for the city, promoting its uniqueness of character
- putting our vision front and centre of strategic planning and communications

GOOD ECONOMY COMMISSION	NORFOLK CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE	NORWICH BID
TOWN DEALS BOARD	NORWICH OPPORTUNITY AREA	NEW ANGLIA LEP
NORWICH CULTURAL COMPACT	LOCAL CULTURAL EDUCATION PART'P	NCH BUSINESS LEADERS CLIMATE GRP
NORFOLK HOUSING ALLIANCE	NFK EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS GRP	NORWICH YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
HEALTHY NORWICH	VCSE LEADERSHIP GROUP	TRANSPORT FOR NORWICH

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL
Chair and secretariat

CITY VISION NETWORK

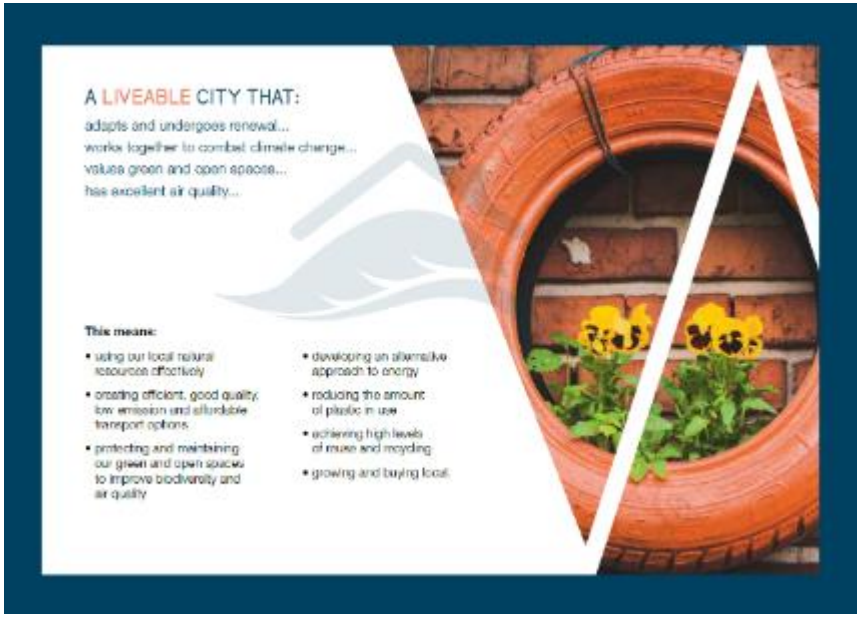
KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND GROUPS ARE REPRESENTED ACROSS THE CITY VISION C-19 RECOVERY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

THESE GROUPS HAVE STRONG LINKS WITH THE WIDER CITY VISION NETWORK

norwich 2040 city vision

Sustainability working group

Informal group whose main objective is to achieve short to medium term sustainability ambitions for the city, as set out under the themes of the City Vision, and in particular the Liveable city theme.



It will work together to:

- understand the environmental and wider sustainability agenda at a local level
- reduce the city's impacts on the environment, including ecological, social and economic impacts
- support the city to adapt to environmental change and build its resilience to future changes, including economic and social adaptation as well as environmental
- help to deliver these changes in a fair and inclusive way, by ensuring there are opportunities for all to access the benefits of change, and that the costs are shared fairly
- compliment the work of existing groups and partnerships.

Framework for delivery

- Lots of ambition, passion and commitment but no funding
- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research is well-placed to help and is well-connected to the Place Based Climate Action Network (PCAN)
- PCAN is a framework for translating climate policy into action ‘on the ground’ in our communities. It’s about engagement, impact, and the co-creation and sharing of knowledge
- PCAN comprises of place-based climate commissions and thematic platforms. It focuses on stakeholder groups that are particularly important for place-based climate action and are co-created with representatives from respective communities
- Working group has considered how best to move forward to develop a framework for delivery and have support from the wider vision group to explore the option of setting up a Norwich Climate Commission that affiliates itself to PCAN and learns from its framework

Role of a Climate Commission

To connect and mobilise local actors, promote partnership working and the co-production of climate action, and to extend the reach and capacity of local government	To promote inclusive processes that involve and empower local actors, support meaningful representation of different groups and work towards fair/legitimate outcomes
To build a sense of common ownership and shared responsibility, helping to turn an over-whelming challenge into practicable, deliverable activities	To serve as an independent and trusted voice in the area, building climate/carbon literacy, acting as a critical friend and a focal point/clearing house for information
To be a positive voice, emphasising how climate action can be an opportunity to deliver on other social, economic and environmental objectives	To strengthen the evidence base and commission, prepare, support and/or promote the adoption and delivery of local climate action plans
To inform, guide, support and track progress towards appropriate local climate targets and promote transparency	To review current activities, celebrate successes and promote the replication/scaling up of different forms of best practice
To provide neutral spaces for the review of different issues, and publish position papers on contentious issues to support informed, balanced debate	To provide on-going, longer-term support for climate action that spans electoral cycles and variations in public awareness and business support

What Climate Commissions Do Not Do

As important as describing the roles of a climate commissions is stressing what climate commissions do not do. This is vital to underpin their independence, integrity and neutrality.

Climate commissions are **not**:

- A place for marketing or lobbying
- An attempt to take over council responsibilities
- An extension of local authority powers
- A substitute for direct public representation
- A body that directly designs or delivers programmes or projects
- Policy makers (but they can guide/advise on policy)
- A talking shop – they are there to make a tangible difference in the delivery of climate action!

Existing climate commissions

- In 2017, the first climate commission was established in Leeds by a team at the University of Leeds working with Leeds City Council
- Inspired by the Leeds model, new climate commissions have been established as part of the PCAN, which commenced in January 2019
- Central to PCAN, new climate commissions were launched in Belfast in January 2020 and Edinburgh in February 2020
- PCAN aims to produce a replicable model for other places to establish their own climate commissions, and more are now coming onstream independent from but supported by PCAN
- The most recent additions are Doncaster Climate and Biodiversity Commission, Surrey Climate Commission, Croydon Climate Crisis Commission, Lincoln Climate Commission and Kirklees Climate Commission with more planned for 2021
- Climate Emergency declarations by many places around the UK have increased their salience as a way of bringing communities together to tackle even more challenging carbon neutral targets. Sadly, the momentum catalysed by these has been interrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic and with local authority budgets now staggering from the financial impacts, the need for place-based climate commissions has never been greater.

A Norwich Climate Commission

- A Norwich Climate Commission is an important step in the city's ambition to reach 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050
- It will bring together major organisations and key groups across Norwich to collaborate on taking action to address climate change
- It will be independent of but aligned to Norwich City Council and will report into the City Vision and C-19 Recovery Group who will review performance
- It will promote leadership on climate change and sustainability as well as providing independent advice, best practice, draw in expertise and act as a forum where partners can exchange ideas
- Have secured the help and support of Andy Gouldson, Professor of Environmental Policy at University of Leeds, Co-Chair of the Leeds Climate Commission and Chair of the PCAN+ network, to develop and establish a Norwich Climate Commission

Next steps

- Seek support for the proposal from City Vision and C-19 Recovery Group on 6 September
- Establish interim advisory panel based on Sustainability working group members plus others eg Broads Authority
- Appoint two interim co-chairs: invites to go to Tyndall Centre and Norwich City Council
- Draft terms of reference to include:
  - purpose of commission and role of commissioners
  - Period of existence (suggest commission runs for of 3 years initially)
  - rotation of chairs
  - light governance structure
  - flexibility for further rounds of recruitment & broadening of geographic area Gtr Nch
- Agree application and recruitment process for appointment of commissioners; will be a light touch selection panel with simple selection criteria (focus will be on quality not quantity of commissioners)
- Secure resource to support the ongoing activities of the climate commission
- Initiate the recruitment process
- Assess applications for commission members
- Appoint commission members
- Launch commission with first meeting to: appoint co-chairs, agree final terms of reference, agree initial actions and scope of work, agree launch communications plan

Provisional Timescales

31 August	**Norwich 2040 Sustainability Update to CEEEP**
6 September	Presentation of proposal to City vision & C-19 recovery group
8 September	Sustainability working group meeting to agree advisory board
9 – 17 September	Advisory board to agree draft terms of reference, application and recruitment process, selection criteria
20 Sept – 10 October	Advertise for commissioners
11 – 22 October	Assessment of applications
25 – 29 October	Appoint commissioners
31 Oct – 12 Nov	COP26 takes place in Glasgow
1 November	Report progress to City vision & C-19 recovery group
w/c 8 November	Official launch
w/c 8 November	First Norwich Climate Commission meeting

How you can help

- Communicate and engage with residents on what is happening across the city – lots to shout about
- Work with residents to develop greater knowledge and better understanding about carbon emissions, the effects of global warming, and how we must adapt to the changes that are now inevitable with residents
- Help to complete the mapping of local sustainability activities, groups and strategies – tell us what you know is happening
- Promote the opportunity to become a commissioner – we want a good cross section of people

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