

Climate and environment emergency executive panel

Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2023

Time: 16:00

Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:

Councillors:

Hampton (chair)
Stutely (vice chair)
Carlo
Champion
Lubbock
Oliver
Padda

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Agenda

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1 **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence

2 **Declarations of interest**

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)

3 **Minutes**

5 - 8

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022

4 **Norwich Climate Commission: One Year Progress Report and Future Plans**

A presentation from Asher Minns, Co-Chair of the Norwich Climate Commission, to update CEEEP on the Climate Commission's progress and work over the past year, and to inform members of future plans.

Asher Minns is the Executive Director, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia.

5 **Environmental Strategy General Update**

9 - 20

Purpose - The purpose of this report is to update CEEEP on currently approved activity relating to:
Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan
The council's corporate climate action plan
The council's proposed citywide climate action plan

This report focuses on current and near future tactical and strategic workstreams including how they fit into the wider programme, their intended outcomes and progress to date.

Included in this report is a summary of the newly proposed scope and structure of the council's overarching and newly

proposed Environmental Programme, and this report is structured according to strategic themes of the new programme.

This report is presented alongside a separate consultation report which seeks CEEEP's comment on the scope of the council's proposed overarching environmental programme, which replaces a workstream previously known as the Environmental Action Plan.

6 **Environmental Programme 2023 – 2030 Consultation** 21 - 32

Purpose - The purpose of this report is to consult with CEEEP regarding the scope of the newly proposed Environmental Programme discussed herein.

7 **Question referred from Council 29 November 2022** 33 - 38

Purpose - To consider a member's question to a cabinet member which was referred from Council on 29 November 2022 to the next available meeting of the panel.

Date of publication: **Monday, 06 February 2023**



Climate and environment emergency executive panel

16:00 to 17:10

8 November 2022

Present: Councillors Hampton (chair), Stutely (vice chair), Carlo, Champion, Lubbock, Padda (from item 3 below)

Also present: Councillor Giles, cabinet member for community wellbeing
Councillor Maguire, Lord Mayor

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022.

3. Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2032 (Post Consultation) and Biodiversity Development Plan

Councillor Giles, cabinet member for community wellbeing, gave a presentation on the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan, which would be considered at by cabinet at its meeting on 16 November 2022. (A copy [presentation](#) is available on the council's website with the papers for this meeting.) He introduced the following officers: the head of strategy, engagement and culture; environmental strategy manager; the planning policy team leader (on behalf of the head of planning and regulatory services); and the head of environmental services, and the graduate management trainee, and thanked them and their colleagues for their contribution to the strategy and plan. As highlighted by COP27, this work was critical. Following the consultation, additional objectives had been included (educational opportunities and food production) and an ancillary objective of biodiversity improvement (such as the planting fruit trees).

Members welcomed the strategy and expressed their gratitude for the work on the development plan and the establishment of the biodiversity working group.

A member commented on the need to ensure that trees planted, as an important adaptation to climate change, could survive extremes of temperature and drought. The environmental strategy manager said that nature's approach for resilience and survival was diversity. A diverse planting strategy was one of the principles of ecological management during climate change. Later in the meeting, the environmental strategy manager said that whilst indigenous species would be

considered, soundings would also be sought to the use of species that were not native to the UK and were resilient to the changing climate, particularly the extreme heat. The UK was currently a maritime climate but could become more continental. Species from nearby countries within a 1000-mile radius would be considered. The working group would oversee the strategy. It was noted that street trees had died in Heathgate, and a member asked that plastic ties were no longer used because the young trees had been “garrotted” by them. The environmental strategy manager noted this request and confirmed that Norwich City Services Ltd (NCSL) was involved in the development plan and would work together with the council to deliver the strategy. Later in the discussion a member said that it was important that areas were left for rewilding and that the council needed to improve liaison with its contractors to conserve these areas.

Members of the panel asked for clarification on a number of points relating to the consultation. The environmental strategy manager confirmed that the University of East Anglia had received a copy of the draft strategy as part of the consultation. Members were also advised that the list of interested parties was not exhaustive. The Friends groups listed had actively engaged in the consultation and development of the strategy. Members were assured that as workstreams came forward, the council would reach out to the Friends groups associated with individual parks as appropriate. The environmental strategy manager confirmed that housing officers had advised that changes to tenancy agreements could be made to permit them to reduce interventions to tenants’ gardens that were overgrown, thus enhancing biodiversity and making savings.

A member pointed out that whilst 10 per cent biodiversity net gain was mandatory in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, other authorities, such as Cambridge City Council, Litchfield District Council, Swindon Borough Council and Guildford Borough Council were being more ambitious and encouraging 20 per cent biodiversity net gain from developers. The population of the city had increased, and common place habitats had been lost to development. The council should consider requiring a higher percentage as best practice. The planning policy team leader said that as part of the work on the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) a baseline survey was being carried out to support the requirement for at least 10 per cent biodiversity net gain. The council wanted to be ambitious but was aware of other obligations on developers. The determination of planning applications had to take into account the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and weight given to biodiversity net gain was assessed on a case-by-case basis. However, the direction of travel was changing, with the introduction of at least 10 per cent biodiversity net gain and was likely to be strengthened. Members were advised that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had produced the methodology for working out the baseline and measuring biodiversity net gain. The environmental strategy manager assured members that the methodology was straight forward and easy to apply; it should not be a barrier to achieving biodiversity net gain.

As part of the discussion members touched on the important leadership role of the council to enhance biodiversity, not just in its parks and green spaces. This included influencing large landowners, including Anglian Water and the prison, and residents to maximise biodiversity. The pandemic had highlighted the importance of outdoor space. Members commented on their regret about the use of paving, decking and Astro turf in parks, open spaces and private gardens, noting that this was chosen as

being easy to maintain. The environmental strategy manager said that the communications and engagement strategy attached to the Biodiversity Strategy and that no entity would be excluded. It was considered that there would be a wider cultural change in society in general.

Councillor Maguire, Lord Mayor, spoke in support of the strategy and development plan, which was being launched in the week of COP27 but had been a lengthy process to produce a sustainable policy in terms of environment, economy and social that would benefit the city, increase carbon capture and contribute to carbon reduction.

Members noted that marshes and wetlands made a large contribution to the city's carbon capture. The council would work with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norwich Fringe Project to address invasive species at these sites. It was theoretically possible to measure carbon capture where data was available from academics.

In reply to a comment from a member, the cabinet member for wellbeing confirmed that there would be plenty of opportunities for ward councillors to engage as the workstream, set out in the development plan, was implemented. A member suggested that all members of the council would benefit from a briefing to help them in this leadership role, so that they could act as a "rallying cry" for residents in the wards that they represented. The environmental strategy manager explained that funding would be sought to deliver the strategy. This included £7,000 art project funded by the Greenhouse Trust that would facilitate members of the public to plant trees.

The chair welcomed this sustainable strategy and said that it would provide environmental, financial and social benefits. She took the opportunity to thank Councillor Giles and the officers for the strategy.

RESOLVED, having considered the Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2023 and the Biodiversity Development Plan 2022/2025 and recommend them to cabinet for approval.

CHAIR



Committee Name: Climate and Environment Emergency Executive Panel

Committee Date: 14/02/2023

Report Title: Environmental Strategy General Update

Portfolios:

Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion

Councillor Giles, cabinet member for community wellbeing

Report from:

Head of Strategy, Engagement and Culture

Wards:

All Wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update CEEEP on currently approved activity relating to:

- Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan

- The council's corporate climate action plan

- The council's proposed citywide climate action plan

This report focuses on current and near future tactical and strategic workstreams including how they fit into the wider programme, their intended outcomes and progress to date.

Included in this report is a summary of the newly proposed scope and structure of the council's overarching and newly proposed Environmental Programme, and this report is structured according to strategic themes of the new programme.

This report is presented alongside a separate consultation report which seeks CEEEP's comment on the scope of the council's proposed overarching environmental programme, which replaces a workstream previously known as the Environmental Action Plan.

Recommendation:

To provide comment on the update in order to constructively influence ongoing workstreams.

Policy Framework

The Council's 2022-2026 Corporate Plan outlines 5 cross-cutting aims. Aim 2 specifies that:

Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.

Within Aim 2, the Corporate Plan establishes the following priorities:

- *Reduce carbon emissions, protect the environment and adapt to climate change, both in the council's own operations and more widely.*
- *Protect and invest in our parks, green spaces and biodiversity.*
- *Make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle more and dispose of their waste; and keep the city's streets clean.*
- *Work with partners to increase sustainable transport and improve air quality.*

Aim 3 specifies that:

Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.

Within Aim 3, the Corporate Plan establishes the following priorities:

- *Develop and regenerate areas such as East Norwich and Anglia Square.*
- *Provide and encourage others to provide new homes, open spaces and infrastructure for residents.*
- *Actively manage and invest in our Housing Revenue Account Homes so that they are safe, well maintained, provide modern facilities, and provide energy efficiency.*

Report Details

The Council's Proposed Overarching Environmental Programme

1. During the course of 2022, the Environmental Strategy Team reviewed existing commitments relating to the council's environmental activity and recommended increasing the scope of activity. This was deemed necessary to address the climate and environmental emergencies in a proactive and holistic manner.
2. Following a comprehensive scoping exercise, a full scope environmental programme has been proposed.
3. This Environmental Programme, which is outlined in a separate report to this same CEEEP committee meeting, provides a framework for delivering significant change programmes over the short and medium term (up to 30 years ahead), and redefines the corporate plan task previously known as the *Environmental Action Plan*.
4. The sections below describe workstreams *already* underway and are structured according to the themes of the newly proposed overarching programme.

Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan Update

5. Following the adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan on 16 November 2022, forward movement has been achieved as reported in the following paragraphs:
 - a) The Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) has met twice to co-develop the Biodiversity Development Plan and ensure join up with the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, with the Environmental Strategy team acting as secretary to the group.
 - b) With regard to the evolving Environmental Management System, registers have been established (relating to biodiversity), for funding, opportunities, risks, compliance requirements and aspects (the ways in which biodiversity can be impacted). These registers will be maintained to ensure the Biodiversity Development Plan is supported by good administrative practices.
 - c) The biodiversity baseline study has been awarded to Norfolk County Council with work being undertaken by a project team comprising of officers from the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) and the Natural Norfolk Team. The study has commenced with input from, and

progress reported to, all members of the BWG. The study is being managed by an officer from the Planning and Regulatory Team with input from the interim Biodiversity Officer. The study will provide a map of existing nature assets and potential opportunities, and will be used as the basis for developing and identifying new assets (cores and corridors) for Norwich's Nature Recovery Network.

- d) A job description for a permanent Biodiversity Strategy Officer has been produced and agreed and is currently being graded.
- e) An active collaboration with Norfolk Wildlife Trust is underway around a 'Wilder Norwich' project, which amongst other things, aims to encourage '1 in 4' people to manage their gardens for biodiversity improvement.
- f) An arts-based project with the working title of 7000+ is being co-developed between the council and the Greenhouse Trust. The aim of the project is to plant 7000+ trees in Norwich by 2030 paid for by residents, business and institutions. The contributors will be encouraged to 'map' the planting of their trees using the Get Talking Norwich platform and to upload pictures and commentary around their trees, on a voluntary basis. Council budgets have been identified which could contribute to the project in its social housing estate.
- g) With regards to biodiversity improvements in the council's social housing estate generally, labour resources have been identified in the form of the Community Payback scheme which has already delivered improvements such as the work completed at the Northfields Estate and Regina Road. This scheme will be used to deliver further improvements in the council estate and the council wishes to thank all members of this scheme for their contributions.
- h) Active engagements with key stakeholders such as Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Norfolk Nature Recovery Forum, and the Growing Together network are underway to discuss the potential for co-delivering the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy within Norwich.
- i) A new tree strategy, aligned to the Biodiversity Strategy has been drafted. A key objective of the strategy is to increase tree canopy cover in the city by identifying planting opportunities and funding. The target for increasing canopy cover is being discussed and is related to the baseline canopy cover currently being estimated.
- j) A pesticide reduction scheme has been developed and will be trialled and implemented during the growing season of 2023.

6. The Biodiversity Development Plan is on-track and the risk of not delivering the Biodiversity Policy¹ is low.

Council Climate Action Plan – Update

Introduction

7. Active workstreams are currently in progress to enable the drafting, consultation and ultimate adoption of the council's climate action plan in 2023. The newly proposed Council Climate Action Plan replaces the workstream previously known as the Environmental Action Plan.
8. As discussed in paragraph 1 above, a review of the scope of the council's environmental workstreams took place in 2022 and following this review it was agreed to increase the scope of activity.
9. The paragraphs below describe the components of the new climate action plan and the principles which inform them, under two main headings which are (1) GHG Mitigation and (2) Adaption and Resilience.

Update on the Proposed GHG Mitigation Strategic Approach

10. The Council shall continue to measure, reduce and report on emissions sources using the methodology used by the council since 2007, known as National Indicator 185 (NI 185). The continued use of NI 185 enables progress towards the target of net zero by 2030, to be simply determined and understood.
11. In addition to the emissions reported using NI 185, the council has committed to measuring and including all the emission sources it may be able influence through its current scope of operations in the new Climate Action Plan. These newly included emission sources include:
 - Council owned social housing stock
 - Investments including buildings owned and leased by the council
 - All procured goods, services and works
 - Staff commuting and working from home

¹ *Create a city where biodiversity can sustainably recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species diversity and abundance by 2030 or sooner*

12. The newly included sources are described by the categories of Scope 3 emissions defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The council shall measure or estimate these Scope 3 emissions, as far as practically possibly.
13. Following this assessment of the council's emissions, GHG mitigation plans shall be produced for each strategic source of emissions, prioritising reduction strategies with offsetting used where reductions cannot be achieved. Net zero dates for each strategic area of activity will be set, with net zero by 2030 remaining the target date for emissions reported under NI185.

Update on Progress Towards the New GHG Mitigation Plan

14. The full scope of the Councils carbon emissions is currently being audited by Small World Consulting Ltd under the management of the Environmental Strategy Team.
15. This work is mainly complete with the last few pieces of data being collected during January. A carbon footprint report using the same format and emissions scope as previous reports will be published in due course. A report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 will be published during the summer of 2023.
16. With regard to a comprehensive audit for Scope 3 emissions not previously measured or reported by the council, the entire purchase ledger from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 has been provided to the consultants for an audit of procurement related emissions. This work will be used to inform the proposed GHG mitigation plan for council operations.
17. An estimation of GHG emissions resulting from the council's social housing stock was completed in 2022 along with a high-level carbon reduction plan. This report, produced by the consultant's Delta Simons, will be used to inform the proposed GHG mitigation plan for the council's social housing stock.
18. At the December 2022 cabinet meeting, a paper entitled *Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and HRA Budget 2023/24*, reported that: *'the Council has currently estimated that investment of approximately £290m is required to meet EPC level C by 2030 and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This sum is included in the HRA Business Plan'*.
19. The same cabinet paper also reported *'£53m to improve energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures is included within the 5-year investment programme (2023/28). This work is crucial in making homes warmer and more affordable for our tenants. The focus will be on a 'fabric first'*

approach, installing cavity, loft and wall insulation, draught proofing and improvements to heating systems. Solar PV systems will also be installed where most effective.'

20. All members of the Environmental Strategy Team are currently training to be retrofit coordinators, a role defined by the UK's code of practice for retrofit, known as PAS 2035. This training provides essential insight and knowledge regarding the establishment of a medium term (up to 25 years) whole building approach to retrofit and is a mandatory standard in all government funded projects.
21. A job description for a permanent Environmental Strategy Officer has been written and is currently being graded. This post will support the development of the Council's Climate Action Plan and implement it following adoption.

Other Updates Regarding Council GHG Mitigation Activity

22. £1.2m of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1 funding was agreed in spring 2022 (75% BEIS, 25% NCC HRA) and this project is currently underway delivering external wall insulation to c60 council dwellings with a 'no fines' concrete construction which has poor energy efficiency characteristics.
23. A Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 bid was submitted in autumn 2022 for £2m of BEIS funding matched with £2m NCC HRA funds. The bid focuses funding on 'light' insulation measures such as loft and wall insulation and solar PV, on a 50/50 basis. If successful NCC will be awarded the funds in Feb/March 2023 with 24 months to complete projects.
24. A procurement route for up to £5m of ECO 4 funding to improve energy efficiency in the council's social housing stock is being developed. This funding is expected to be announced by government in the spring by which time a service provider is expected to be in place.
25. The £620k air source heat pump (ASHP) installation on City Hall, funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, is completed but yet to be commissioned whilst power supply infrastructure for City Hall is modernised. This modernisation work is underway with final commissioning of the ASHP expected March/April 2023.
26. A £92k project is underway, funded by CIL, to improve EV charging facilities in a council owned carpark. The project has included a market review of available charge point technology and service providers with EV infrastructure upgrades taking place in Rose Lane. The new charging infrastructure will create a cashflow to the council for the electricity used

- during charging, provide residents with access to charging overnight and provides a solution to EV users overstaying in charge bays beyond their charge period.
27. A project to install a 30kWp with 60 kWh battery storage has been completed at Hurricane way using £65k of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funds. The project also included a £35k upgrade to LED lighting at the depot.
 28. £80k of Salix recycling fund projects are being delivered this FY to improve lighting efficiency in the market, City Hall foyer and corridors and common area lighting at Barnards Yard.
 29. A review of 1500 council operated streetlamps has been completed and a plan to upgrade these to LED technology is being developed which will save the council £100k pa and deliver significant carbon savings.
 30. A bid for £603k of Public Sector Decarbonisation Funds has been submitted for a water source heat pump to augment the Town's Fund project at the Halls.
 31. A scheme to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions at Riverside Leisure using c£80k of Salix funds in the 23/24 FY is being considered. The scheme is exploring options for solar PV and improved controls.
 32. The Environmental Strategy Team is supporting Norwich Regeneration Ltd in development of social and private housing at Mile Cross and Threescore with ideation around low impact housing and infrastructure design.

Update on City Wide GHG Mitigation Activity

33. Norwich's Climate Commission has been successfully established during 2022 as an independent expert organisation and climate action delivery partner to the council. The Commission has established independent workstreams including a community energy workgroup known as 'Our Power'. NCC's Environmental Strategy Manager is an invited attendee of Commission meetings and the Environmental Strategy Team will continue to provide secretariat services to the commission for a further 12 months from 1st April 2023. An award of £25k has been made by the council to the Commission to support its ongoing activities. The Commission is supporting the development of the council's environmental programme in the role of expert advisor.

34. A bid for £3.7m of Sustainable Warmth Grant funding was received by the council in 2022 from BEIS to deliver energy efficiency improvements to c300 private owned dwellings in the city. The project is underway with 'sign-up' being supported by the Our Power group.
35. The council partnered with BEIS in 2022 to undertake a Heat Network Development Study to determine the feasibility of large-scale low carbon heat networks in the city. Several areas of the city have been identified as viable in terms of the concentration of heat consumption.
36. The County Council announced in December 2022 the installation of 40+ kerbside EV charge points in high population density areas of the city. This project is the result of the Charge Collective project of which NCC is an active party.
37. The County Council has received £0.5m of funding from DfT to develop a proposal for a Zero Emissions Transport City (ZETC). Government has been slow to announce guidance for the implementation funding stage and so the County Council are using the £0.5m to collect transport data. The council has contributed to this exercise.
38. The Environmental Strategy Team supported two funding bids made by the Business Improvement District for projects to improve the environmental performance of the BID.
39. During 2022 proposals for a new agenda for the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) were made, culminating a series of facilitated workshops aiming to find consensus amongst member local authorities around climate action; attended by the council's Environmental Strategy Manager. The process has been successful with an agreed strategy for forward movement focusing on domestic retrofit, community energy and transport solutions.
40. The Environmental Strategy Team commissioned a report from the consultancy firm Synfo Ltd in 2022 to research and propose a new post-gas era high level development model for the East Norwich Strategic Regeneration Area. The study has developed an energy consumption model for the area including the electrification of heat and transport to understand risks that exist in terms of existing infrastructure capacity to meet the development's future demand.

The study includes solutions to decarbonizing the development in the form of low and zero carbon smart energy infrastructure and dwellings. Interviews with solution providers are part of the study with the aim of bringing together strategic partnerships able to facilitate an exemplar low

carbon community at East Norwich. Knowledge sharing from this study will accelerate the council's plans to decarbonise its social housing stock.

41. Discussions are taking place with the Green Finance Institute, a third sector organisation proposing large scale finance solutions at the citywide scale. As discussed at Budget Scrutiny on 2 February 2023, it is recognised that the council will need to consider a range of finance mechanisms to enable our environmental objectives to be met, including both the city-wide climate action plan, and the council's corporate climate action plan. The Green Finance Institute's proposed finance solutions form part of the arrangements being considered for the citywide response to climate change, which will be led and coordinated by the council. Alongside this, other viable financing mechanisms will be investigated and reviewed, including examples of best practice from other local authorities.

Property and Economic Development Implications

42.NA

Financial and Resources

43.NA

Legal

44.NA

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	NA
Health, Social and Economic Impact	NA
Crime and Disorder	NA
Children and Adults Safeguarding	NA
Environmental Impact	NA

Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
NA	NA	NA

Other Options Considered

45.NA

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

46.NA

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Contact Officer: Environmental Strategy Manager

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Committee Name: Climate and Environment Emergency Executive Panel

Committee Date: 14/02/2023

Report Title: Environmental Programme 2023 – 2030 Consultation

Portfolio: Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion

Report from: Head of Strategy, Engagement and Culture

Wards: All Wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consult with CEEEP regarding the scope of the newly proposed Environmental Programme discussed herein.

Recommendation

To provide feedback on the scope of the proposed Environmental Programme to positively influence its development.

Policy Framework

The Council's 2022-2026 Corporate Plan outlines 5 cross-cutting aims. Aim 2 specifies that:

Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.

Within Aim 2, the Corporate Plan establishes the following priorities:

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- *Make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle more and dispose of their waste; and keep the city's streets clean.*
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Aim 3 specifies that:

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Within Aim 3, the Corporate Plan establishes the following priorities:

- *Develop and regenerate areas such as East Norwich and Anglia Square.*
- *Provide and encourage others to provide new homes, open spaces and infrastructure for residents.*
- *Actively manage and invest in our Housing Revenue Account Homes so that they are safe, well maintained, provide modern facilities, and provide energy efficiency.*

Report Details

Introduction to the Proposed Overarching Environmental Programme

1. During the course of 2022, the Environmental Strategy Team reviewed the council's existing commitments relating to environmental protection and recommended increasing the scope of activity.
2. It is proposed that the Programme replaces the existing and adopted Environmental Strategy 2020 – 2025.
3. The newly proposed Programme, which is outlined in the paragraphs below, provides a framework for delivering diverse and significant change programmes over the short and medium term (up to 30 years ahead).
4. The proposed Programme was previously referred to as the *Action Plan for the Council's Environmental Strategy* in the corporate plan. The Programme described below *is* the Environmental Action Plan, albeit with a comprehensive framework including policy, strategy and action plans for numerous areas of activity.
5. The Programme includes strategies, plans and activity already underway as well as those newly proposed herein. Strategies and plans already adopted and underway are mentioned below for the sake of completeness but not discussed at length.

The Founding Principles of the Programme

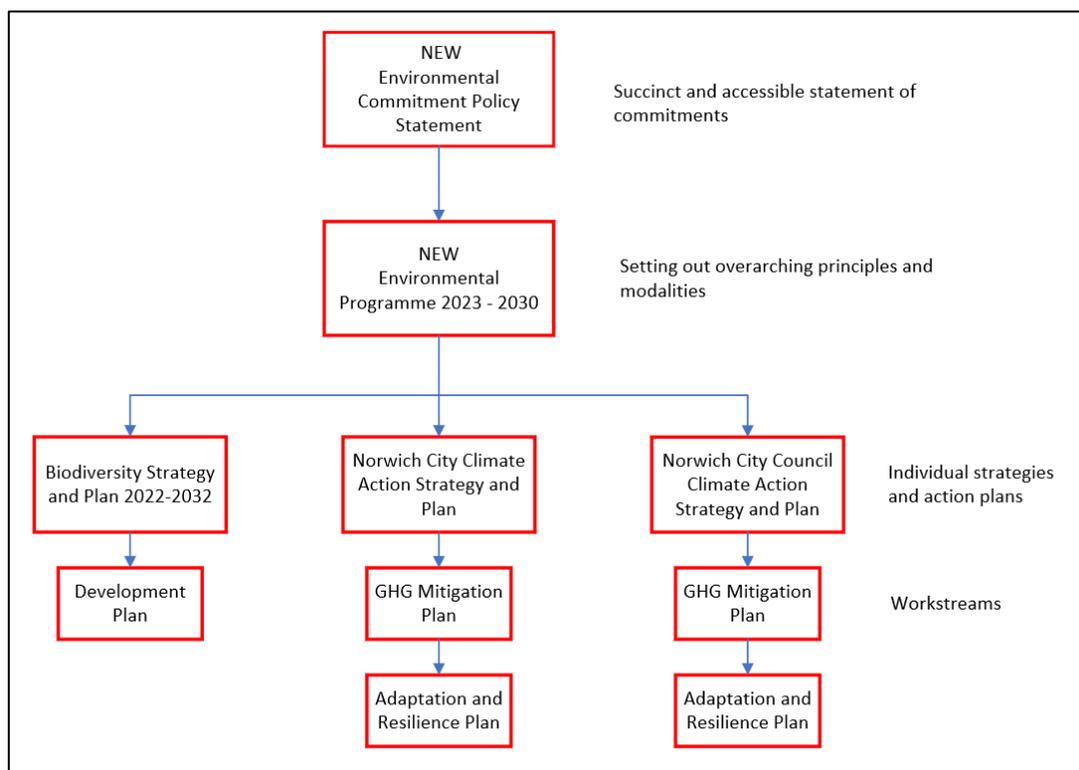
6. The Programme is founded upon the climate and biodiversity emergency declarations made by the council in 2019. The council declared and passed a Climate Emergency motion at full council on 29 January 2019. The original motion was strengthened to acknowledge that the Climate emergency we face is inextricably linked with social and economic emergencies. A similar Biodiversity emergency motion passed in September 2019.
7. It is therefore proposed that the Programme specifically incorporates or integrates with the council's wider socio-economic policies, strategies and activity. The Programme recognises the potential to realise numerous environmental and social valuei generating co-benefits.
8. The Programme recognises the need to understand and address the root causes of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and to bring about modal shift in order to transition to a sustainable steady state. This shall be achieved through an evaluation of net-extractive pathways for both environmental and socio-economic strategic outcomes.

9. The Programme will take a place-based local approach to an equitable transition, across the necessary and relevant technical and social systemsii and will include mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies and activity.
10. Whilst it is recognised that most environmental protection and enhancement workstreams strongly relate to the climate and biodiversity emergencies, some may not. Activities falling outside of these definitions shall be defined separately, although managed within the Programme.
11. The Programme shall be designed to be agile and responsive to evolving climate science and solutions.
12. In summary of the paragraphs above, the founding principles of the Programme are to:
 - a) Integrate environmental and socio-economic activity to maximise social value co-benefits and community resilience;
 - b) Research and address the root causes of the emergencies by integrating activity across all necessary technical and social systems;
 - c) Employ an approach which brings about modal shift in order to mitigate impacts, then apply adaptation strategies to ensure resilience;
 - d) Maintain an agile approach and respond to evolving evidence and solutions, and
 - e) Employ a proactive collaborative working approach to maximise effectiveness.

Proposed Structure of the Suite of Policy, Strategy and Plans

13. It is proposed that a multitiered suite of documents is developed, consulted upon and adopted to administer and deliver the Programme. The proposed documents are:
 - a) An Environmental Commitment Policy Statement which is a succinct and accessible statement of all the council's commitments; existing and new
 - b) An Environmental Programme document setting out the overarching scope, principles and modalities and a workplan
 - c) Individual strategies and action plans, including:
 - i. The Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan - existing
 - ii. A Climate Action Strategy and Plan for Norwich - proposed
 - iii. A Climate Action Strategy and Plan for Norwich City Council (for the council's corporate affairs) - proposed
 - d) Numerous workstreams for each action plan

14. The diagram below illustrates the proposed suite of documents which are discussed in detail in the subsequent sections of this report.



Environmental Commitment Policy Statement - Proposed

15. A new succinct and accessible policy statement shall be produced, consulted upon and adopted which sets out, in one place, all of the council’s environmental commitments and policies. Currently, numerous commitments and policies exist, some of which are hard to find.

16. The new policy statement will replace the statement made in Appendix A of the Environmental Strategy 2020-25 and include a review of existing policies and new policies where necessary.

17. The new policy statement will provide an accessible means to orchestrate environmental activity across collaborating parties, both internal and external to the council.

18. All existing targets shall be maintained and targets for new areas of activity proposed.

19. A draft of the proposed Environmental Commitment Policy Statement will be published for consultation in July 2022.

Proposed Environmental Programme 2023 – 2030

20. This document will set out the overarching scope, principles and modalities of the Environmental Programme and its governance arrangements. It will include estimates of GHG emissions, using currently available data, for emissions sources in the city. In essence, the three main strategies which this programme document references, i.e. biodiversity, citywide climate action and the council's corporate climate action, become appendices to this document.
21. The Environmental Programme will be structured in such a way that it can continuously evolve in light of new findings from climate scientists, approaches, technology, organisations and funding sources, etc.
22. The Programme document will propose a workplan in the form of a set of discreet deliverable documents and workstreams and a timeline for their delivery. The workplan will evolve over time and be managed by a newly formed cross directorate working group.
23. A draft of the proposed Environmental Programme will be published for consultation in July 2022.

Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan - Existing

24. The Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2030 and Biodiversity Development Plan 2022 – 2025 were formally adopted by Cabinet on 16 November 2022. The strategy positions the council as a leader and coordinator of citywide action. An update on this workstream is given in the report entitled *CEEEP Update 14/2/23*. Further discussion of this existing workstream is unnecessary in this report.

Norwich City Climate Action Strategy and Plan - Proposed

25. It is proposed that the council acts as the leader and coordinator of city-wide climate action to mitigate GHG emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and foster community resilience.
26. The council will proactively coordinate the establishment of the necessary strategic structures and partnerships, including the valued input of the Climate Commission, to deliver the required step change in climate action, and engage with interested parties including business, institutions, community organisations and residents.
27. The proposed scope of activity falls into the following strategic thematic workstreams:

a) *Enabling* activities, including:

- i. Establishing management and assurance arrangements including measurement and reporting protocols
- ii. Establishing a data repository
- iii. Facilitating the establishment of new funding and delivery models and structures
- iv. Developing effective strategic relationships
- v. Developing an engagement and communications plan for interested parties
- vi. Fostering community energy action
- vii. Planning policy and guidance

b) *Energy Infrastructure*, including:

- i. Smart local energy systems
- ii. Electrical distribution infrastructure and embedded generation
- iii. Low and zero-carbon heat networks

c) *Built Environment* activities, including:

- i. Retrofitting of existing private dwellings and non-dwellings
- ii. Retrofitting of social housing¹
- iii. New private housing development
- iv. New social housing development

d) *Transport activities*, including:

- i. Active transport
- ii. Collaborating with Norfolk County Council regarding Zero Emissions Transport City proposals
- iii. Collaborating with Norfolk County Council regarding electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- iv. Aviation

e) *Consumption and waste activities*, including:

- i. Resource circularity

¹ This relates to non-council owned social housing, which is addressed in later sections

- ii. Reducing unnecessary consumption through the sharing economy and increased repair, reuse and recycling
- iii. Reducing unnecessary waste

f) *Adaptation and resilience activities, including:*

- i. A climate risk and adaptation study
- ii. Extreme event response plan
- iii. A community resilience plan

g) *Social value co-generating activities, including plans for:*

- viii. Local green skills and jobs
- ix. Improved living cost and conditions
- x. Improved community cohesion
- xi. Improved community wealth
- xii. Education and culture

28. The proposed Environmental Programme document will set out an action plan which aggregates and schedules the workstreams above into a set of discreet deliverables.

Norwich Council Climate Action Plan – Proposed

29. The council proposes to increase the scope of the workstream currently referred to as the *Net Zero 2030 Carbon Management Plan* in the corporate plan, to include all emissions in scope of the internationally recognised Green House Gas Protocol² over which the council may directly influence.

30. This workstream will be known as the Norwich City Council Climate Action Plan and will include in its scope, a GHG mitigation plan (including a carbon reduction and offsetting plan) and an adaption and resilience plan.

31. The council will continue to measure and reduce its GHG emissions reductions according to the previously used National Indicator 185 (NI185), which includes Scope 1, 2 and a subset of Scope 3 emissions, but excludes significant emission sources such as the council's social housing stock and investment portfolio.

32. A new set of emissions will be brought into scope of the council's climate action plan. The measurement and reduction of these emissions shall be

² The Green House Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, Revised Addition

reported separately to those reported using the NI 185 methodology. This approach allows progress against existing commitments to be measured as well as progress against new commitments.

33. The council shall develop an approach to reducing Scope 3 emissions from its procured goods and services, social housing stock and leased investment buildings, which are beyond its ultimate control but which it can influence to varying degrees.

34. The council shall develop and apply a multidimensional and evidenced approach to maximising investment outcomes for climate mitigations and adaptations. The approach will include factors relating to carbon saving cost effectiveness and social value generation, e.g., factors relating to improving living conditions, reducing the cost of living and growing and retaining community wealth.

35. The council commits to considering the climate related impacts of all of its operations.

36. The proposed scope of activity of the council's climate action plan is broken down into the following proposed thematic workstreams:

a) Enabling activities, including:

- i. Establishing management and assurance arrangements including a cross directorate working group
- ii. Establishing a data repository
- iii. Facilitating the establishment of new funding and delivery models and structures
- iv. Developing effective strategic relationships

b) Built Environment activities, including:

- v. Heat and smart local energy systems in the council estate
- vi. Retrofitting of council operational buildings
- vii. Retrofitting of council owned social housing
- viii. Retrofitting of leased buildings
- ix. New social housing development
- x. Home working

c) Transport activities, including:

- xi. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the council estate

- xii. Council transport and fleet review
- xiii. Staff commuting

d) Consumption and waste activities, including:

- xiv. Reducing emissions from procured goods, services and works
- xv. Reducing unnecessary consumption and waste
- xvi. Resource circularity

e) Adaptation and resilience activities, including:

- xvii. A climate risk and adaptation study
- xviii. Services climate risk and resilience
- xix. Extreme event response plan

f) Procurement related activities, including:

- xx. Promoting local green skills and jobs
- xxi. GHG mitigation as an award criterion
- xxii. Strategic social value generation

37. The proposed Environmental Programme document will set out an action plan which aggregates and schedules these workstreams into a set of discreet deliverables which will fall under workstreams including climate action plan for the council's:

- a) Administrative operations*
- b) Housing operations*
- c) Investment property portfolio*

38. A climate action plan for the council's administrative operations, which was previously referred to as Net zero 2030 carbon management plan for council operations, will be published for consultation in July 2023.

Property and Economic Development Implications

39. There are numerous implications for property and economic development which will be considered and communicated as the programme develops.

Financial and Resources

40. There are numerous financial and resource implications which will be considered and communicated as the programme develops. The delivery of the programmes described herein, requires significant new and external

funding, much of which is ultimately beyond the control of the council. As discussed at Budget Scrutiny on 2 February 2023, it is recognised that the council will need to consider a range of finance mechanisms to enable our environmental objectives to be met, including both the city-wide climate action plan, and the council's corporate climate action plan. The proposed solutions from the Green Finance Institute will form part of the arrangements being considered for the city-wide response to climate change, but the council will investigate and review all other viable financing mechanisms. The council will make financial decisions associated with proposed Programme in line with its Corporate Plan priorities and internal planning processes.

Legal

41.NA

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	The proposed Programme aims to improve equality and has no impact on diversity
Health, Social and Economic Impact	The proposed Programme will improve health, social and economic outcomes
Crime and Disorder	NA
Children and Adults Safeguarding	NA
Environmental Impact	The proposed Programme will greatly reduce environmental impact.

Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
NA	NA	NA

Other Options Considered

42.NA

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

43.NA

Background papers: NA

Appendices: NA

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ⁱ According to BS 8950:2020 *Social value is created through the generation of personal and collective wellbeing over the short and long term*

ⁱⁱ Technical and commercial systems include:

Technical Systems

Energy Supply and Infrastructure
Architecture and land management
Transportation, roads and mobility
Industry and manufacturing
Water supply and infrastructure
Waste Management and recycling
Built environment, buildings and homes
Natural environment & public spaces
Health, death and social care

Social Systems

Communities and people
Social equality and inclusion
Capability and skills
Finance
Regulation and policy
Standards
Market design
Governance
Digitalisation and data
Permitting and planning



Committee name: Climate environment emergency executive panel

Committee date: 14/02/2023

Report title: Question referred from Council 29 November 2022

Portfolio: Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion

Report from: Head of legal and procurement

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To consider a member's question to a cabinet member which was referred from Council on 29 November 2022 to the next available meeting of the panel.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the panel discusses the question referred to the panel.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

Report details

Background

1. At Council on 29 November, Councillor Davis asked Councillor Hampton, the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion a question under item 5, Questions for Cabinet Members. An extract from the minutes of the Council meeting comprising this question and answer, including the supplementary question and response, is appended to this agenda item.
2. Councillor Galvin moved and Councillor Bogelein seconded a motion to refer the matters raised in question no 8 together with the supplementary question and the responses from the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion, to the climate and environment emergency executive panel (CEEEP). Council resolved that the question, together with the supplementary question and answers should be referred to the next available meeting of the panel.

Proposal

3. That the panel discusses the questions and response.

Implications

Financial and resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.

4. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

Legal

5. There are no legal consequences arising from this report.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	N/a
Health, social and economic impact	N/a
Crime and disorder	N/a
Children and adults safeguarding	N/a
Environmental impact	N/a

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
N/a	N/a	N/a

Other options considered

6. No alternatives have been considered.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

7. Council agreed that this question should be discussed at the next available meeting of this panel.

Background papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Council 29 November, Item 5, Questions to Cabinet members, question 8

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Question to Council, 29 November 2022 (Extract from the minutes of the meeting)

Question 8

Councillor Davis to ask the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion the following question:

“The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022, or ‘COP27’, concluded last week. This council has previously declared a climate emergency and recognised that local, national, and global co-operation will be key tackling this in a truly just manner. Could the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion reflect on the outcomes of this conference with the most salient points relating to Norwich?”

Councillor Hampton, the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion’s response:

“The key messages set out by the António Guterres, the Secretary General of the UN was that “our world is facing the most pivotal, precarious moment in generations” and that “the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is slipping away”.

The council recognises that the goal of limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as set out in the Paris Agreement of 2015, is unlikely to be met and that urgent action is required, by all parties, to prevent a climate, biodiversity and humanitarian catastrophe. A great deal of work has been achieved to date.

Norwich’s territorial greenhouse gas emissions (those for the whole city) have more than halved since 2005, despite a 12% increase in population. The council’s own emissions, according to a methodology defined by central government, have reduced by over 70% in a similar period.

Work is underway to understand the full scope of the council’s emissions, including Scope 3 emissions - those emissions outside of our direct control. In collaboration with our partners, we are also working to update our understanding of the city’s emissions.

As well as generating good quality data, comprehensive plans are in development, based on evidence and prioritised according to risk, to reduce emissions to net zero as quickly as possible. The Council also recognises the need for adaption and resilience strategies to manage the social, environmental and economic impacts of the changing climate.”

(Councillor Davis asked as a supplementary question said that COP27 had hosted a food and agriculture pavilion for the first time which demonstrated that food and agriculture were at its agenda and asked what significance this had for the city. Councillor Hampton said that food systems accounted for a third of global emissions yet hundreds of millions around the world were going hungry. Climate breakdown would result in widespread famine with devastating international effect. Norwich would not be exempt. Food systems were not working and there was a need for national and international integrated food policies. The council had signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, a commitment to tackle climate emergency through a food systems approach. This was formally presented during COP 26 but the campaign

has continued ever since. As a city, food was not one of the largest emissions, but the council could still promote and campaign on this issue and do what it could, through its communications, supporting community groups who use excess food to tackle food poverty, strengthening the Biodiversity Strategy to include food production as a positive outcome, playing a role in food resilience as demonstrated with the Covid 19 – Norwich Community Hub, providing food parcels to support residents most in need.)