

Report to Sustainable development panel
13 December 2017
Report of Director of regeneration and development
Subject Environmental Statement 2015-17

Item

4

Purpose

This report is for information.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report are noted.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priorities for a safe, clean and low carbon city, prosperous and vibrant city, and healthy city with good housing.

Financial implications

None.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Kevin Maguire – Safe city environment

Contact officers

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Background documents

None

Report

1. The environmental statement provides an update of progress made against the actions in the council's environmental strategy. Generally the council has continued to perform well with regard to delivering the objectives and to the published timescales. The draft environmental statement is appended to this report.
2. Since the launch of the new strategy the council has done more work within the wider community to raise awareness of sustainable living choices and the part we can all play.
3. Three successive One Planet Norwich festivals have been held with nearly 25,000 visitors in all. The council held a ReFashion event highlighting the environmental costs of clothing and fast fashion as well as a Slow Food weekend and two successful Pumpkin rescue events. Both raising awareness of food waste as the sourcing of locally produced foods.
4. The One Planet Norwich brand has continued to grow: we now has an active Facebook page with over 800 followers.
5. As landlords, the council continues to upgrade its housing stock, implementing a range of energy saving measures across thousands of city homes. Using the government's own Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for energy consumption, we have achieved a SAP rating of 66.6 which is well above the national average of 62.
6. In 2017, the council achieved a 54.1 per cent reduction in carbon emissions against its target of 40 per cent by 2019. We now intend to re-set the council's carbon emissions reduction target to 70 per cent (against a 2007 baseline).
7. As we continue to reduce our carbon emissions and thereby improve our environmental performance, we can become a more resilient city that it better prepared for the challenges of decreased budgets, the effects of climate change, and increasing fuel costs. Each section of the document gives a flavour of our future plans to achieve these aims.
8. The following sections give an update on the progress made by the various services that have a key role in continuing to deliver environmental improvements in the city.

Draft Environmental Statement 2015-17

Introduction – 2015-2017

Welcome to our sixth environmental statement which covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017. The purpose of the statement is to provide an insight into what Norwich City Council is doing to reduce the environmental impacts of our city and the services we provide. This statement provides an update of the council's progress against the objectives laid out in the 2015 Environmental Strategy.

Since the last environmental statement we have continued to do the things we said we would both in the second phase of our carbon management plan and the 2015 Environmental Strategy. Since the launch of the new strategy we have done even more work with the wider community to raise awareness of sustainable living choices and the part we can all play. Three successive One Planet Norwich festivals have been held with nearly 25,000 visitors in all; we held a ReFashion event highlighting the environmental costs of clothing; and we held a successful Pumpkin rescue event raising awareness of the food waste with another planned for Autumn 2017. We are also holding a Slow Food event promoting locally-produced food. In addition to all of this, the One Planet Norwich brand has continued to grow: we now have a Facebook page with 750 followers to date.

2017 has also seen the council achieve a 54.1% reduction in carbon emissions against its target of 40% by 2019. We now intend to re-set the council's carbon emissions reduction target to 70% (against a 2007 baseline).

As landlords we continue to upgrade our housing stock, implementing a range of energy saving measures across thousands of city homes. Using the government's own Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for energy consumption, we have achieved a SAP rating of 66.6 which is well above the national average of 62¹.

Across the city we continue to work hard to manage new developments, maintain a free flow of traffic, and deliver services such as waste collection and recycling in a way that balances the needs of those living, working and shopping in the city, with the need to preserve its historic character.

Both national and local government continue to face even more challenging financial constraints. However by using fewer natural resources, emitting less CO₂, and recycling where we can, we can maximise the opportunities to make financial savings as well as protect our environment. It is increasingly important that we exploit these efficiencies to their maximum potential.

As we continue to reduce our carbon emissions and thereby improve our environmental performance, we can become a more resilient city that is better prepared for the challenges of decreased budgets, the effects of climate change, and increasing fuel costs. Each section of the document gives a flavour of our future plans to achieve these aims.

Councillor Maguire: Cabinet Member for Safe City Environment

¹ DCLG English Housing Survey 2015-16 Headline report (March 2017)

Context:

In 2015 the council's third environmental strategy was published. The strategy runs to the end of 2018 and identifies the following areas as fundamental to the council in reducing their both own carbon footprint and that of Norwich residents, businesses and visitors.

Council environmental priorities:

Priority 1: to reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions

Priority 2: to reduce the council's carbon dioxide emissions

Priority 3: to increase reuse and recycling in the city and reduce the amount of residual waste

Priority 4: To increase the energy efficiency of the housing stock in the city.

Priority 5: to ensure that new development is carried out in a sustainable way.

Priority 6: to support and encourage more sustainable transport solutions.

Priority 7: to support a low carbon economy in Norwich

Priority 8: to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Priority 9: to work with local communities to ensure our local environment is protected and enhanced where possible.

The council has a number of areas of responsibility, through which we deliver the actions set out in the environmental strategy.

Areas of responsibility:

As community leaders: through providing leadership to the city including championing and advocating, listening, engaging and communicating and building and maintaining strong partnerships.

As service providers: through providing a range of services including planning, housing, transport, waste collection and recycling and environmental management and protection.

As purchasers of goods and services: through purchasing a range of goods and services including ensuring procurement processes support sustainability.

As estate managers: through better management of transport and buildings the council can cut emissions and save money and manage the estate so it can be better adapted to the changing climate.

The following sections give an update on the progress made by the various services who have a key role in continuing to deliver environmental improvements in the city. These are broken down into the following areas:

- Energy consumption – council owned buildings
- Energy consumption – housing and other buildings in the city
- Transport
- Sustainable procurement
- Reduce and recycle
- Built environment and planning
- Natural environment
- Reducing pollution
- Leadership

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1) Energy consumption – council owned buildings:

Why is this so important?

Reducing environmental and financial cost to the authority is important to provide a resource efficient and effective service. The authority has, therefore, taken significant steps to reduce emissions from its facilities and services. In order to achieve this, the authority enlisted the support of the Carbon Trust, SALIX and the Energy Saving Trust. Work is well underway to review services, buildings and our actions to ensure that energy and resources are being used efficiently.

Action

Take practical steps to improve the energy efficiency of the administrative buildings and other large buildings owned and leased by the council.

Output

Annual measurable decrease in carbon emissions from council's buildings.

Results

- Annual reporting on CO₂ emissions
- 54.1% reduction of energy consumption (from a 2007 baseline) against a 40% target.
- DEC rating of C for City and B for St Andrew's Hall
- LED lighting upgrade at Riverside Leisure centre
- Staff Green Travel plan introduced
- One Small Step staff behaviour campaign events

What are we going to do next?

- Upgrade City Hall event lighting to LED.
- Upgrading boiler house plant at various Sheltered Housing schemes to more efficient technology
- Upgrading pipework insulation at Sheltered Housing at various schemes
- Upgrade to selected Landlord Lighting project to LED.
- Upgrade Poolside lighting at Riverside Leisure Centre
- Phase 3 of the server room upgrade
- City Hall pump replacement with Variable Speed Drives (VSD)
- Roof insulation works at City Hall.

2) Energy consumption – housing and other buildings in the city:

Why is this important?

Norwich City Council recognises that it should show leadership in regard to our own estate and enable others to follow our actions.

Action

Devise and implement a programme to deliver energy efficiency measures in housing and commercial assets.

Results

- Installed twenty eight thermodynamic hot water systems in the first contract of its kind through the joint venture with NPS Norwich Ltd.
- Increased budget allocations to the loft and cavity wall insulation streams of work, recognising that these material whilst being identified as the 'low hanging fruit' of the insulation arena, play probably the single most important role in the package of insulation to the housing stock.
- Developing a programme of internal wall insulation delivery at Suffolk Square.
- Completed target of ensuring the housing stock has uPVC windows by 2014/2015.
- Contributed to the production of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report.
- Successfully delivered the Cosy City project which, supported by DECC funding, has seen the installation of Solid Wall Insulation in 66 city homes, cavity wall insulation in 43 homes, loft insulation in 59 homes and new boilers in 32 homes.

What are we going to do next?

- Maintain and improve delivery of ECO – retrofit programmes of works across the housing stock.
- Continue to be involved in promoting home energy awareness and other campaigns for residents of Norwich.
- Promote Government energy-saving subsidies when available for Norwich as a whole, a working group has been set-up with representatives from across the council.
- Liaising with the 'big-six' to utilise ECO funding opportunities.
- Working alongside Anglia Water identifying and promoting the use of water meters within the housing stock where appropriate.
- Maintain and improve delivery of ECO – retrofit programmes of works across the commercial stock.
- Adapted the external wall insulation specification to completely remove cold-spots during the application of this material.

- We are continuing to monitor flue gas recovery units fitted to combination and are preparing a report for a detailed cost/benefit analysis.
- We have now included weather compensation devices as part of our specification when installing new combination boilers to domestic stock.
- Continue to investigate new and innovative technologies suitable for both housing and commercial stock including;
 - Thermodynamic Hot Water Systems
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Biomass boilers
 - Photo-voltaic systems
 - UPS backup generators in disaster recovery situation(s)

3) Transport:

Why is this important?

Motor vehicles are a very significant contributor to the national carbon footprint. Our transport policies and plans aim to manage growth in motor vehicle traffic to help reduce congestion and reduce energy consumption. Within the urban area this means an emphasis on providing high quality alternatives to the private car.

Actions

- Maximise the performance of the city's highway network to support the city's economy and further growth and the delivery of additional homes and jobs.
- Provide high quality routes for cyclists and improved facilities for pedestrians
- Improve the performance of bus services in the city through delivery of the bus rapid transport network.
- Maintain traffic flow on the highway network.
- Manage air quality and reduce carbon emissions associated with transport.

Results

- Review of junction performance on Inner Ring Road commenced
- Pink Pedalway completed and blue and yellow pedalways now under construction
- Improvements at Guardian Road/Dereham Road roundabout to benefit public transport (and other road users) under construction
- Completion of All Saints Green, Westlegate, Farmers Avenue scheme
- Retrofit of 24 of the worst polluting buses with devices to clean up their emissions. Over five years this will lead to a reduction in nitrogen emissions of around 100 tonnes and a reduction in carbon of around 200 tonnes

What are we going to do next?

The Inner Ring Road junction review is expected to lead to improvement measures for implementation in the coming period. In addition further refinement of the city centre transport network is anticipated to improve conditions for all road users and helping to reduce transport related emissions.

The imminent opening of the NDR will allow further BRT to be considered to assist public transport. Such investment along with further pedalways will require funding and the council will work with Norfolk County Council to maximise funding opportunities from Government and the LEP etc.

In the coming year the introduction of engine switch-off enforcement on certain key streets will be considered.

Reporting progress on the council's activities in the environmental statement:

The council works in a great variety of ways to reduce its own carbon footprint as well as that of the overall city and its citizens. Services work together to deliver the council's environmental priorities and objectives. The action plan at the back of this document shows how the council is progressing in these key areas, against the actions set in the current environmental strategy in 2015.

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4) Making procurement greener:

Why is this important?

Procurement is central to delivering the Norwich City Council's priorities of 'Value for Money Services' and 'Prosperous City'.

Procurement is a critical function to identify the right Goods, Services, Contractors and Partnerships to support the delivery of the Environmental Action Plan, which in turn supports the Environmental Strategy.

Efficient and effective procurement results in:

- ethical and sustainable purchasing;
- optimises our use of resources;
- provides value for money; and
- contributes to the provision of good quality services for the citizens of Norwich.

Action

- To ensure the goods, works and services we procure balance quality, value for money and environmental considerations.

Results

- Developing the use of our e-procurement portal to reduce paper during tendering submissions by using on line questions.
- The events team considered wildlife disruption and noise pollution in their fireworks contract re let.
- The Halls encourage their hirers to consider not using SUPs (single use plastics including straws) and to use products purchased from ethical sources.
- Redundant ICT disposed of with an organisation called Stone Group, who met all the hazardous disposal criteria, at no cost the council.
- The procurement team have been making use of eBay and auctions to dispose of redundant equipment, both reducing landfill and raising income for the council. For example the Halls vintage stage lights brought in an income of £2,000.
- Water for council committee rooms continues to be sourced locally.
- The CMIS application project enables members to access committee papers electronically.
- Energy efficient homes:
 - Installation of loft and cavity wall insulation to social housing (between 250 and 300 props p.a.)

- Installation of thermodynamic hot water systems to social housing properties – technology to provide hot water at greatly reduced prices (helps to reduce fuel poverty and reduce our carbon footprint)
- New UPVC windows and door programmes to insulate properties, reduce carbon footprint and reduce fuel poverty
- PV4Free to 100 homes – converts sunlight to electricity, reduce carbon footprint and reduce fuel poverty
- Programme of external wall cladding
- The pool fleet car review reduce the numbers down from 59 to 45 (for 2016)
- Solar and LED work on Rose Lane carpark. In addition to procuring a brand new car park which contains as much LED lighting as possible to reduce the electricity consumption on site, in addition a number of solar panels were installed on the roof that will provide either an income from electricity resale to the market or a reduction in our energy costs.
- LED lighting – new LED lighting was installed in St Andrews car park to reduce the electricity costs for that site.
- Passivhaus Housing – A framework for building works tendering was set up (for new build properties). When tendering for new builds via the framework it will allow for the construction of a number properties built to passivhaus house standards. These are energy efficient that require little or no additional heating.
- Electricity – our new electricity contract was awarded. All electricity provided under this agreement will be via green energy types.

What are we going to do next?

- Continue to implement the new Procurement Strategy 2016-2020 which has a key objective of 'Working ethically and incorporating sustainability priorities including, local economic development, environmental, equality and diversity and other social value objectives throughout procurement activities.'
- Investigate use of imbedding a CD of supporting documents in the hardcopy contract documents, reducing paper usage
- The Halls bar will be changing their SUP glasses to ones that are recyclable, also supporting the global 'the last plastic straw campaign' by not using plastic straws.
- The trade waste contract re-let is to introduce wider recycling include food waste across City hall, The Halls and the Norman Centre.
 - As part of this contract vehicles used for collections must be compliant with EU specifications relating to emissions
- Video conferencing being considered and investigating 'skype for business' to eliminate need for face to face meetings

- 2017/18 Boiler upgrades includes “A” rated boilers which are more energy efficient and include thermodynamic technologies which will provide hot water at greatly reduced prices.
- Boiler upgrades to bring housing stock up to date and conform to the appropriate current standards. Includes Rowland Court which will incorporate new concepts and technology in an attempt to save energy and ultimately reduce fuel poverty at our sheltered scheme.
- 2017/18 up to £500k to be spent on further installations of thermodynamic hot water systems to social housing props.
- 2017/18 up to £350k to be spent on further installations of loft and cavity wall insulation to social housing props
- First instance of installing a thermodynamic hot water system to a first flat in Norwich, as the unit has been developed to be small enough to be installed in a flat.
- Arrange for ethical and environmental disposal of redundant mobile phones.
- To reduce stock of fleet cars by a further 12 and renew those retaining
 - Within this new fleet the number of eco-friendly vehicles will change from 4 electric cars to 2 electric cars and 10 hybrid cars (1/2 electric and 1/2 petrol)
- Maintenance works to City Hall roof with increased insulation, will ensure the roof is weather tight with a guarantee of 20 years. It will remove the need to re-apply solar reflective paint every two to five years. Installing a modern insulation system will help to reduce heat loss through the roof, thus supporting the council's commitment to energy saving measures.

5) Reduce and recycle

Why is this important?

Everyone produces waste, and while it cannot be eliminated, we can reduce its environmental impact by following the mantra - reduce, reuse and recycle.

The council has a duty to collect waste from its citizens and ensure that every property has the opportunity to access appropriate recycling services.

Action

- To deliver a recyclables and residual waste collection service for Norwich that is high performing and recognised by the residents of and visitors to the city as being both efficient and effective
- To tackle the amount of household waste produced, breaking the link between economic growth and increased waste.

Results

- Completed intensive audits of recycling material entering the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to better inform targeted actions to reduce contamination of recycling bins
- Introduced the replacement container policy, including a charge for residents seeking to replace 'lost' wheeled bins, with the result that the demand and supply of replacement bins has reduced by 75%
- Participated in a total-systems review of all waste and recycling collection services in Norfolk as part of a project sponsored by WRAP, resulting in a comprehensive analysis of future collection service options which highlights the potential for significant reductions in waste alongside significant whole-system savings
- Implemented a new on-line form service (JADU) for reporting waste and recycling issues, reducing customer contact whilst significantly improving response times
- In partnership with Biffa, implemented a new collection vehicle fleet and made routing changes to improve efficiency. New fleet includes dedicated food waste collection vehicles and has the capacity to adapt to alternative collection routines in future
- Introduced new kerbside recycling collection services for textiles, batteries and WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment)
- Instigated projects in conjunctions with the county council and the UEA to examine the barriers to recycling in social housing
- Worked with colleagues in the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) to progress county-wide projects including an Anti-contamination campaign, a Bulky Item

recycling project and further work to rationalise resources as part of One Public Estate

- As part of the transformation programme, comprehensively restructured the service are to form new area management teams allowing for greater flexibility and efficiency in dealing with the managed services – including inspections of waste/recycling and street cleansing services, resolution of service delivery issues and proactive project work to improve services wherever possible

What are we going to do next?

- Review and refresh the Waste Strategy Action Plan to better reflect the new services and to 'future-proof' the objectives
- To promote waste prevention and recycling through public engagement campaigns
- To develop and improve the quality and range of recycling services available to Norwich residents
- To seek to achieve a recycling rate of 60% by 2020
- Investigate alternative service delivery methods in order to reduce waste, increase recycling and achieve transformation savings
- To work with WRAP on proposals for interventions in recycling services aimed at reducing contamination, increasing recycling and increasing participation in kerbside recycling services
- Continue to support NWP projects

Norwich continues to play an active part in the NWP which will continue to design and deliver waste and recycling projects over the coming years. These include –

- Ongoing projects
- Assessment and development of waste reduction and re-use initiatives
- Food waste recycling initiatives
- Maximising profits from the joint venture
- Understanding the composition of the waste stream
- Complying with statutory obligations

6) Built environment and planning:

Why is this important?

The way in which developments are regulated, planned and built, and the way in which resources are used will have a significant impact on their sustainability. By planning how we build things we can save emissions, reduce waste and use resources more efficiently and effectively. By planning where we build things we can ensure that housing, employment and services are located to minimise the need to travel and to promote public transport use. Planning also ensures that we build for the future while preserving the heritage of our beautiful city.

Actions:

To deliver sustainable communities and shape the places that are used by Norwich's current and future residents, workers and visitors.

Results:

The Norwich Local Plan provides the strategy, sites and policies to ensure that new development in the city is sustainable. It is now complete and consists of:

- The Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (JCS) which was adopted in March 2011, with amendments adopted January 2014. It is the strategic planning framework within which the area will develop to 2026.
- The Development management policies plan which was adopted in December 2014. It provides the detailed policies to against which planning applications will be considered. It covers social, economic and environmental issues. Key environmental issues covered include flood risk, environmental hazards such as pollution, the natural environment, the historic environment and ensuring development is designed to be sustainable.
- The Site allocations and site specific policies plan, which was also adopted in December 2014, identifies sites for different uses such as housing, employment and open space. It plans for higher density, usually mixed use, development in locations accessible by public transport, such as the city centre, to promote modal shift and reduce the need to travel.

In addition, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) have been adopted since 2014, which provide additional guidance to help deliver the local plan policies and all of which help promote sustainable communities. These include:

- Main town centre uses and retail frontages SPD (December 2014) which supports the positive management of uses in Norwich City Centre to secure its continued vitality;
- Affordable housing SPD (March 2015) which seeks to deliver affordable housing as part of mixed and sustainable communities;

- Open Space and play SPD (October 2015) which helps ensure that new development makes necessary provision for open space and playspace;
- Heritage Interpretation SPD (December 2015) which helps deliver heritage interpretation measures for new development and promotes recognition of the importance of the historic environment; and
- Landscape and Trees SPD (June 2016) which encourages greater awareness of the importance of trees and landscape in development.

Norwich has played a key role in ensuring that the Norfolk local authorities co-operate on cross border strategic planning issues in plan making such as housing, economic development, transport and green infrastructure whilst taking full account of environmental constraints and enhancement opportunities. Work to produce a Norfolk Strategic Framework (NSF) to cover these issues commenced in 2015 and a draft Framework was consulted upon in mid-2017 with adoption anticipated in early 2018. The NSF sets high level planning policies to inform more detailed local plans and future local plan reviews for each of the districts within Norfolk, including Norwich.

Work commenced on the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan in 2016 by Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council. Progress to date includes the Call for Sites and preparation of the evidence base. Consultation on the Regulation 18 draft plan is due in Autumn 2017.

There has been continued promotion of brownfield sites for development. The council has worked actively with developers to bring forward sites such as St. Anne's Wharf on which development had stalled due to the recession. The council has also produced a Policy Guidance Note for Anglia Square (March 2017) to guide the sustainable redevelopment of this major regeneration site.

There has also been continued improvement of procedures for managing funding from development and winning grant funding for infrastructure improvements. This includes significant investment in measures to promote walking and cycling throughout the city and to promote public transport use, particularly in St Stephen's area of the city centre. It also includes varied neighbourhood projects and strategic green infrastructure projects such as enhancements to sustainable access and biodiversity in the Yare and Wensum valleys and Mousehold Heath.

The council is leading on the development (with external partners) of a River Wensum Strategy which, although not a planning document, sets out proposals for enhanced green infrastructure, sustainable transport, public realm, heritage and natural environment in the river corridor for the benefit of residents and visitors. The strategy was consulted upon in mid- 2017 and it is expected that it will be adopted by partners in early 2018.

What are we going to do next?

- We will participate fully in the Greater Norwich Growth Board to ensure the sustainable delivery of the agreed growth strategy set out in the JCS to 2026.
- Participate fully in joint working with our partner authorities in the county and other bodies to ensure that our plans meet the objectively identified needs of the area to 2036.
- Adopt the Norfolk Strategic Framework in 2018.
- Continue preparation of the Greater Norwich Local Plan including the Regulation 18 consultation in Autumn 2017.
- Continue to work with the county council to deliver the Transport for Norwich funded work programme to see further improvements to cycling infrastructure over the coming years and implement additional measures to promote the bus rapid transit and walking networks.
- Work with the County Council as lead flood authority to ensure the successful implementation of flood risk policy, including the promotion of sustainable urban drainage.

7) Natural environment

Why is this important?

The city of Norwich has a high proportion of green space, much of which is important for wildlife as well as offering places where people can relax and unwind. High quality green spaces are also good for the local economy, especially as they help to attract new inward investment. The city council either directly manages, or influences policy for these areas. Good management of the natural environment enables Norwich to remain rich in biodiversity, while providing our citizens with quality spaces for recreational enjoyment.

Action:

- To maintain and enhance the environment of Norwich, promoting its community, recreational, health and wellbeing and ecological benefits
- Maintain and enhance green spaces for people and wildlife

Results:

Volunteers

- Volunteers contributed a recorded 9168 hours to environmental projects and conservation work in the city's natural areas, parks, open spaces and allotments during 2016.

Friends Groups

- The Old Library Wood Collective came together in 2016 to support and work with Norwich City Council and the Norwich Fringe Project in the management of Old Library Wood off Rosary Road. The community engagement team played and continue to play an important role in developing and supporting the group.
- The friends of Kett's Heights continue to organise events and work parties at Kett's Heights, which has helped to resolve anti-social behaviour issues. The groups have transformed the paths and metal fences, improving access by removing leaf litter and painting the fences as well and improving the view across the City.
- The Friends of Danby Wood won the East Anglian Britain in Bloom Award for best woodland at Danby Wood. Working with the Norwich Fringe Project, they are actively involved in the management of Danby Wood, repairing step, opening up woodland glades and replanting up parts of the woodland with native woodland tree species.
- The Friends of West Earlham Wood continue to actively manage West Earlham Woods, supported by the community engagement team and Norwich Fringe Project. Activities include litter picking path clearing and coppicing parts of the woodland.

Biodiversity

The following is a selection of initiatives and projects we have been involved with over the period:

County Wildlife Sites

Most of the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) owned by Norwich City Council are in positive conservation management (pcm). Most privately-owned CWS in Norwich are also now in positive conservation management.

Local Nature Reserves - LNR

A number of Norwich City Council sites have LNR status with West Earlham Woods being designated an LNR in 2017. This both raises the profile and status of the site, giving additional planning protection to the sites as well

Higher Level Stewardship scheme and funding

- In 2013, ten natural areas were entered into Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). This is a government-funded scheme that provides capital grants and annual payments for land managed in ways that benefits biodiversity. The funding, which lasts for ten years, will pay for work to maintain and improve the value of the sites for wildlife. In 2016/17, HLS funded conservation works have been undertaken at: Marston Marshes, Eaton Common, Bowthorpe Marsh, Bowthorpe Southern Park, the Heronry and Violet Grove, Cringleford Meadow, Marriott's Way, Marlpit Paddocks, Whitlingham Marsh and Earlham Park. Works which continue to be undertaken under the HLS programme have included: woodland coppicing, willow pollarding, pond management work, dyke restoration and maintenance, scrub removal and grassland management.
- Livestock grazing is an important tool for managing many conservation sites. Grazing sites with cattle and horses improves and maintains the conditions of the sites for biodiversity. Over the seven sites grazed by farmers and horse owners, which include Dexter cattle on Whitlingham Marsh, continental steers and heifers on Marlpit Paddocks, native and continental breed cattle on Marston Marshes, Eaton Common and Earlham Marshes and Heronry and Violet Grove. We have worked with a local traveller to get him into a grazing licence to graze Bowthorpe Southern Park and Earlham Marshes with horses. Bowthorpe Marshes is grazed by a local West Earlham resident with horses.
- As a result of the grazing with have seen an increase in snipe and wildflowers on Whitlingham Marshes. Summer and autumn wildflowers on Bowthorpe Marshes, increase in wildflowers and orchids on Marston Marshes and Eaton Common and an overall improvement in the sites habitats and fauna and flora.
- Wildflower and Bats number have increased on Bowthorpe Southern Park as a result of reducing horse grazing numbers.

Invasive Weeds Control

- All known invasive weed areas within Norwich continue to be recorded on the council's GIS database, and two operatives have been specifically trained in

Japanese knotweed control techniques. Japanese knotweed is a particularly destructive invasive weed, as it out-competes native plants and it can cause damage to properties and reduce land values. Most known Japanese knotweed colonies on city council land continue to be treated with herbicide by our trained operatives. It can take several years to completely eliminate Japanese knotweed colonies, so treatment will be continued annually until eradication is achieved

- **Mousehold Heath** - The two Mousehold Heath under the HLS agreement for Mousehold Heath continue to improve and manage the heathland areas. This has brought about increase in insects that depend on this habitat, such as the Green Hairstreak Butterfly and the Green Tiger Beetle. There has also been an increase in the number of public events and volunteer work parties at the site.
- Volunteers from the local community play an important role under the guidance of the two wardens, in the management of the site.

Norwich Urban Fringe Countryside Management Project, NFP

The Norwich Fringe Project has successfully managed conservation sites for people and wildlife in and around Norwich since 1990. The Fringe Project is managed by Norwich City Council, in partnership with Broadland and South Norfolk district councils.

Following the city councils' natural area officers retirement in December 2016, the NFP has taken on the role of managing Norwich City Council Naturals Areas, support by a new full time project assistant who will be starting in October 2017. The Project runs a Thursday and Friday volunteer group with up to 15 volunteers coming out to support the work of the project. The volunteers play an important role in managing a number of the city councils natural areas.

Regular long term volunteers receive uniforms and personal protective equipment as well as training in brush cutters, pedestrian mowers and emergency first aid.

The volunteers undertake woodland and grassland management work; activities include coppicing and thinning woodlands, pond management, constructing and repairing fences, kissing gates, field gates, benches, hard surface paths and board walks.

The volunteers write a weekly bog about what they get up to which can be found on the Projects website:

<https://norwichfringeproject.wordpress.com/blog/>

Trees

In 2016 Forest Research in collaboration with i-Tree Canopy published data on tree canopy cover over 265 towns and cities in England (www.urbantreecover.org) they have calculated canopy cover in Norwich at 18.6% (± 1.74) we are placed at 83rd most tree'd place. This calculation gives us a base line canopy cover percentage to work towards improving and increasing.

We will continue to replace lost trees in council managed land through our tree planting budget. In 2016/17 210 trees were planted. In 2017/18 we plan to plant 348 trees. By continuing to fund replacement planting the council has slowed the decrease in canopy cover loss.

With continued pressure of council budgets we are looking at innovative ways to achieve additional tree planting.

During the next few years we will look into targeted promotion of urban trees to highlight the benefits and encourage residents to plant trees in their own properties; this will enable the canopy cover to be increased without adding additional cost or liability on the City council.

Replacement planting has also been carried as part of the planning process, changes in the team structure has enabled us to give more detailed and informed strategic direction on planting as part of the planning processes.

When trees are lost through development, replacement planting is sought by calculating bio-mas loss rather than on a 1 for 1 basis.

The tree sponsorship scheme, Trees for Norwich, continues to deliver some tree planting opportunities and officers have promoted the scheme whenever appropriate through Norwich in Bloom and through enquiries to the authority, it continues to be met with a low-key response so far, primarily dealing with requests for memorial trees.

Invasive pest and disease continue to threaten our trees, Ash die back has been recorded in a number of our woodlands and we continue to monitor the spread of the disease, we are working closely with the County Council who are monitoring the effect on Ash trees across the county.

What are we going to do next?

- Continue to manage our sites funded by the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value.
- Continue to work with and develop the Friends Groups.
- Identify opportunities for developing new friend groups.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Tree Team, Community Enabling, Landscape and Events teams, as well as other departments within the council in the management of the City's Natural Areas.
- NFP to continue to produce management plans and work plans for the Natural Area sites which don't have them.
- Working with the friend's groups and local community adopt and implement the management plans for Kett's Heights and Old Library Wood.
- Explore potential management measures to encourage more bees and other pollinators in Norwich.
- Update biodiversity related information on Norwich City Council website.
- Continue the programme to control or eradicate harmful invasive weeds, especially Japanese Knotweed, in Norwich.

- Continue to develop the Norwich Fringe Project.
- Increase volunteering opportunities on the City's Natural Areas.
- Provide opportunities to learn new skills through volunteering.
- Develop a countryside led volunteer programme focused on health wealth being.
- Continue to look at ways of increasing biodiversity in parks by changing maintenance regimes.
- Complete Open Spaces Strategy.
- Ensure all city council owned CWS are in positive conservation management.

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8) Reduce Pollution:

Why is this important?

- Poor air quality has a direct impact on human health.
- All pollution lowers environmental quality and affects our health and quality of life.

Action

- To improve air quality within the 'City Centre Air Quality Management Area' to meet limit values or better for nitrogen dioxide.
- To maintain the street scene and all public spaces so that danger, pollution and noise are minimised.

Results

- Reductions in pollution levels in parts of the air quality management area such as St Stephens, Castle Meadow, Cattlemarket St, King St, & Chapelfield North.
- Infrastructure changes to address traffic congestion areas.
- Removal of extraneous city centre traffic as part of Transport for Norwich
- Continued the successful remediation of many contaminated sites through the planning regime.
- Achieving compliance with PPC permit conditions.

What are we going to do next?

An air quality action plan was issued in November 2015 which sets out measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels in the central air quality management area. The aim is to work towards achieving the air quality objectives by managing traffic flows as well as promoting cycling, walking and bus use. The aim is also to reduce the number of more polluting buses and replace with Euro 5 or better. Many of the proposed actions are to be addressed through infrastructure changes as part of the Planning regime and the Local Transport Plan as well as working closely with key stakeholders such as bus and taxi companies, County Council, Public Health and other Local Authorities. A key element is reducing nitrogen dioxide levels is the improvement of vehicle emissions.

We also aim to ensure risks to land, controlled waters, property and ecological systems from any form of contamination are minimised. In doing so we aim to ensure that development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors.

We aim to work with local businesses to drive down emissions to atmosphere under the Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC) regime and ensure compliance with permit conditions through an educational and hand holding approach as well as a polluter

pays policy. We will ensure that all newly identified businesses are permitted in accordance with regulations where required.

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9) Leadership:

Why is this important?

The council can make a real difference through working on service promotion to business and the public or by the provision of information.

Action:

- To both lead by example, and work in partnership, to lessen our carbon footprint and deliver services in a more sustainable way.
- To raise the profile of environmental issues and opportunities across the city and encourage residents and businesses to reduce their environmental impact.

Results:

- Completion of the council's third Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report to central government
- Delivered three One Planet Norwich sustainable living festivals, attracting 25,000 visitors in total
- One Planet Norwich brand created
- One Planet Norwich social media presence established with over 800 Facebook followers
- Delivered two Pumpkin-rescue food-waste reduction events at the Forum
- Delivered a ReFashion event and fashion show focussing on the cost of fast fashion
- Eco awards expanded to work in partnership with Norfolk County council to increase the reach of the awards countywide. Increase in sponsors. Additional categories of Eco Home and Eco Food Producer created. Increase in the number and diversity of entries achieved.
- Smart Meter GB funding received to promote smart meters to residents
- Continue to run the Norwich Big Switch and Save with over 3,000 switches to cheaper energy tariffs, with an average saving of £200 per annum per household.
- Utilising the DECC Greener Communities funding the following results were achieved:

GDAR and EPC assessments completed	347
SWI	67
Boiler replacements	72
Cavity wall and Loft	112
Heating Upgrades	9
Boiler repairs	8
Small insulation measures	73
Total	688

What are we going to do next?

- Continue to deliver the objectives of the 2015-19 Environmental Strategy
- 2018/19 will see the production of the next phase of the council's Carbon Management Plan
- 2018/19 will see the production of the council's next Environmental Strategy
- Increase the council's carbon emissions reduction target of 40% following a 54.1% reduction in the year 2016/17 (on a 2007 baseline).
- Continue to build the One Planet Norwich brand and increase its reach. The next festival will go ahead on 9 and 10 June 2018 at the Forum.
- Continue to investigate funding opportunities to help residents to subsidise the cost of energy saving measures in their properties.
- Investigate opportunities for increasing the take up of renewable technologies in the city.
- Launch the council's own White Label energy company.

Action Plan update:

The following section outlines the actions in the environmental strategy and provides an update on the progress made in delivering the actions to date.

Excel tables to follow here...

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