



**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:

- *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

### 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

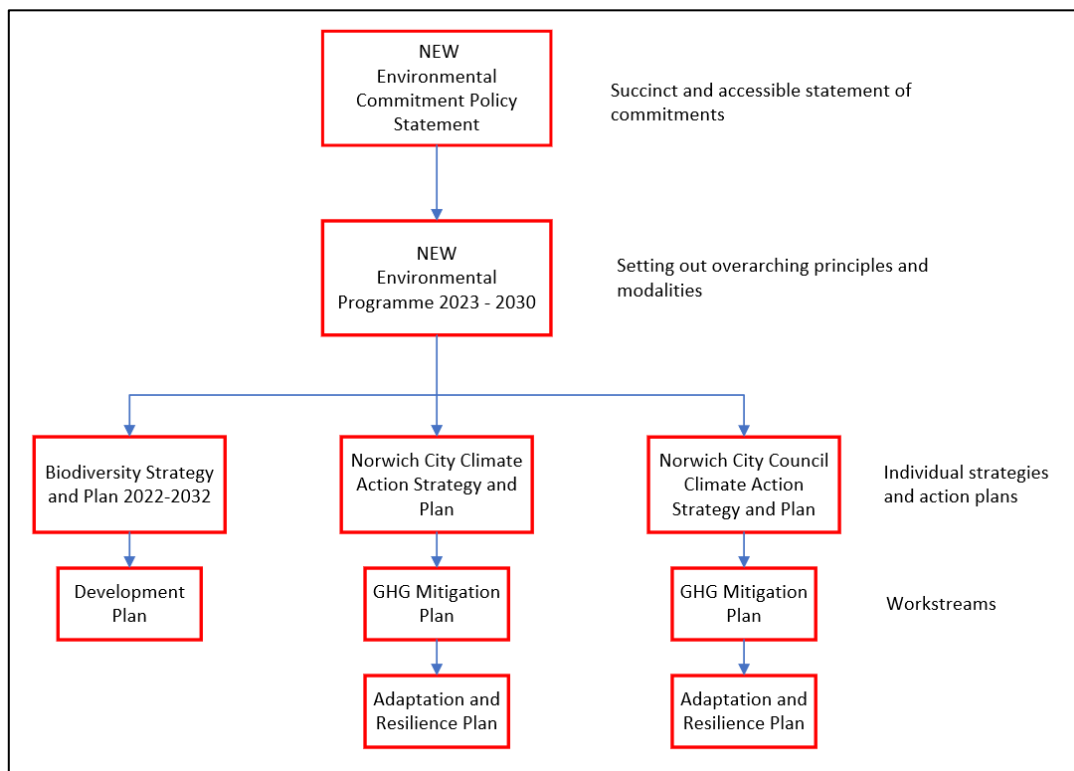
6. The Programme is founded upon the climate and biodiversity emergency declarations made by the council in 2019. The council declared and passed a Climate Emergency motion at full council on 29 January 2019. The original motion was strengthened to acknowledge that the Climate emergency we face is inextricably 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 housing<sup>1</sup>
- 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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 Protocol<sup>2</sup> 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 adaptation 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

---

<sup>2</sup> 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**

**Contact Officer:** Environmental Strategy Manager

**Name:** Phil Hunt

Email address: [philhunt@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:philhunt@norwich.gov.uk)

---

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

<sup>ii</sup> 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