

Report to Cabinet
Wednesday 13 February 2013
Report of Executive head of strategy, people and democracy
Subject Annual environmental statement 2011-12

Item

12

Purpose

The annual Environmental Statement details the progress made in the year 2011-12 against the environmental objectives detailed in the Environmental Strategy 2011-14. It forms the annual update, replacing the 2010-11 Environmental Statement. It also details what progress each service plans to make over the forthcoming year in further meeting their environmental objectives.

Recommendation

To receive the Environmental Statement 2011-12.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority Safe and clean city, Prosperous city and Value for money services.

Financial implications

None in addition to those already budgeted for.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Bremner – Environment and development

Contact officers

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Background documents

None

Report

1. The Environmental Statement is the annual update on the progress made against the objectives set in the Council's Environmental Strategy 2011-14.
2. The annual statement for 2011-12 is attached.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:

Cabinet

Committee date:

Wednesday 13 February 2013

Head of service:

Russell O'Keefe

Report subject:

Annual Environmental Statement 2013

Date assessed:

16 January 2013

Description:

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Negative

Neutral

This report is for information only. It is a factual document providing an update of the progress of services against the objectives set in the 2011-2014 Environmental Strategy.

Issues

None.

Environmental statement

2011/12

Foreword

Welcome to our third environmental statement, covering the period from 1 April 2011 to March 2012. Our environmental statement provides an insight into the breadth and depth of what we do as an organisation and charts the progress we are making in reducing the environmental impacts of our city and the services we provide.

We realise how important it is that the council leads by example and we continue to strive to make changes to our procedures and across our estate in order to reduce our own carbon footprint. We are pleased to have achieved a reduction of more than 20 per cent in our carbon dioxide emissions, proof that the energy reduction schemes we have implemented are delivering results. In addition to this, all of our energy is now sourced by a 'green' energy supplier.

As landlords we continue to upgrade our housing stock, implementing a range of energy saving measures across thousands of city homes. We are currently making preparations to implement the new Green Deal legislation which comes into force next year.

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

This year's environmental statement comes at a time when the council continues to face significant financial challenges. Making sure we use natural resources wisely, emitting less CO₂ and recycling as much as possible, all present us with fantastic opportunities to make financial savings as well as protect our environment. We have to exploit these efficiencies to their full potential.

The city does not stand still, and neither are we. This document also details some of the exciting plans we have for reducing environmental impact and increasing our environmental performance across our services in the future.

I hope this statement acts as tangible proof that in providing services in a way that lessens our impact on the environment, we don't have to compromise on quality. As we continue to improve our environmental performance we can become a more resilient city, prepared for the challenges of decreasing budgets, changing demographics, the effects of climate change and increasing fuel costs.

<Picture of Cllr Bert Bremner>

Councillor Bert Bremner

Cabinet member for environment and development

Priority 1a) 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

- Continued annual reporting on CO₂ emissions
- More than 20 per cent decrease in CO₂ emissions from our baseline year 2006/7
- Introduction of telemetry to all pool cars in order to better track fuel consumption
- LED lighting project at St Andrews car park completed to replace fluorescent tubes.
- Motorised pool covers introduced at Riverside Leisure Centre. These cover the pool when not in use to retain heat and reduce heating costs.
- Improved energy display certificate ratings.
- Successful One Small Steps staff behaviour change campaigns.
- Introduction of pool bikes for staff meetings.
- Domestic voltage reduction trial in our housing stock.

What are we going to do next?

Continued delivery of our carbon management plan

- ICT server virtualisation of City Hall server room
- More efficient modulating air conditioning to ICT server room
- Insulation of community centre space
- Improve our display energy certificate rating from D to C
- Introduction of a salary sacrifice 'cycle to work' scheme for staff, enabling them to more economically purchase bicycles for travel to and from work, via a government tax break.

Priority 1b) 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 business

Results

- Upgraded a range of housing stock with various energy saving measures including:
 - high efficiency condensing boilers
 - double glazing
 - composite doors (front and back)
 - loft insulation
 - internal and external wall insulation.
- Investigated the viability of, and fitted one home with an air source heat pump. Ongoing monitoring of this technology.
- Investigated viability of, and fitted one home with solar thermal technology. Ongoing monitoring of this technology.
- 31 homes were fitted with solar photo voltaic (PV) panels.
- We have appointed a dedicated energy and building services officer.
- Delivery of home energy and grant awareness and campaigns
- Sharing best practice with the Norfolk Climate Change Taskforce and other regional agencies
- Adoption of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership *Joint Core Strategy* and continued high construction standards in new developments
- Delivery of the eco retrofit programme, which by working with the Homes and Communities Agency, enhanced in excess of 800 homes with measures including; loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, composite front and rear doors, double glazed uPVC window, and high efficiency combination boilers
- Referrals to Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust resources

What are we going to do next?

- Continue construction of more environmentally sustainable developments via the delivery of the *Joint Core Strategy* and other emerging planning documents
- Work with the big six energy providers to make provision for the forthcoming Green Deal/ Energy Company Obligation (ECO) opportunities.
- Put systems in place for residents to access Green Deal funding streams.
- Look to meet our target of ensuring all the housing stock has uPVC windows by 2014/15.
- Continue targeted delivery of eco-retrofit measures to achieve minimum Norwich Standard within our housing stock

- Continue to investigate new and innovative technologies such as photo voltaic thermal (PVT) installations.

Priority 1c) Energy consumption – transport

Why is this important?

Vehicles are a huge contributor to the national carbon footprint. Therefore our transport plans set out to cater for all the transport needs of a vibrant and growing regional centre. They include all modes of transport, and aim to tackle existing problems and prevent new ones.

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.
- 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.
- Provide routes throughout the city for cyclists and pedestrians.

Results

- Launch of new city wide cycle 'pedalway' network with colour code wayfinding signs, new map, webpages and stakeholder event.
- Implementation of cycle facilities, funded by Sustrans, including new crossings and traffic calming at three locations in the city.
- Expansion of the city car club; www.norfolkcarclub.com
- Bus priority measures on Dereham Road (on approach to Grapes Hill).
- City centre declared air quality management area.
- Implementation by Greater Anglia of cycle hire facility at Norwich rail station (called Cycle Station).
- Council staff trained to use cycle pool bikes and electric vehicles.

What are we going to do next?

The *Norwich Area Transportation Strategy* (NATS) has been successful so far in reducing traffic flows crossing the city. However, congestion is an increasing problem, creating longer journey times, leading to 'rat running' through residential areas, and causing delays to buses.

Improving transport systems in a historic city like Norwich is not easy and we need to look at a comprehensive range of measures, both within the city and on the important link roads, to keep people moving.

Our plan aims to provide high-quality alternatives to the car including public transport, cycling and walking and to reduce carbon emissions and the impact of transport on the environment and our communities.

Working with Norfolk County Council we have been successful in obtaining funding for a major bus priority and environmental improvement scheme for the Chapel Field North and St Stephens area and Grapes Hill bus lane. For more information visit www.norwich.gov.uk/transportfor Norwich

Priority 2) Making procurement greener (2012/13)

Why is this important?

Procurement has been highlighted as central to delivering Norwich City Council's objectives. Good procurement will lead to buying goods, works and services in an ethical and sustainable way, therefore optimising our use of resources, providing value for money and contributing 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

- 100 per cent of the authorities electricity is sourced from a green supply
- The new procurement strategy was approved by cabinet on 17 October 2012.
- The sustainability pre-tender checklist has been expanded in the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and the business quality questionnaires (BQQ) to include a greater number of social, economic and environmental factors.
- The *Business relationship and contract management strategy* and toolkit has been developed and includes the requirement to monitor contractors environmental management system (EMS) and carbon emissions.
- Water for council committee rooms sourced locally.

What are we going to do next?

- Ensure that the principles of the recently published *Procurement strategy* and toolkit are embedded in procurement throughout the authority.
- Formally launch the *Business relationship and contract management strategy* and toolkit and ensure that all contract managers are appropriately trained in its application.

Priority 3) Reduce and recycle

Why is this important?

Everyone produces waste, and while it cannot be eliminated, we can reduce its environmental impact by prevention, reuse and recycling. The council has a duty to collect waste from its citizens and ensure that every property has the opportunity to access appropriate recycling services.

We also recognise the need to not only focus on our residents' waste, but also on the council as a waste producer.

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
- Develop appropriate waste management procedures for council buildings, including recycling arrangements.

Results

- Continued delivery of the Maximum Landfill Diversion scheme.
- Continued improvement in our recycling performance – the best-performing authority in Norfolk for mixed dry recycling.
- Maintaining a recycling rate in excess of 40 per cent despite large national falls in recycling material as a result of the global recession.
- Expanding the weekly food waste collection service to include collections from communal food waste facilities in many previously hard-to-reach areas.
- Launching a pilot project to collect and recycle food waste from a number of schools.
- Expansion of mixed dry recycling services to the overwhelming majority of the council's own housing stock.
- The introduction of an energy efficient fleet operating on energy efficient zonal collection rounds.
- Using Geographic Information System (GIS) and In Cab monitoring to be able to map the most efficient and economical route.
- Continued media campaigns on waste reduction and recycling.

What are we going to do next?

- It is a corporate objective of this council to reach a recycling rate of 50 per cent as a stepping-stone toward the long-term target of 55 per cent by 2014/15.
- Expand communal food waste collections to every possible location.

- Ensure every household has access to a full range of recycling facilities, either doorstep or communal.
- Continue investigations to reduce waste from our service delivery

Priority 4) 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.

The *Joint Core Strategy* for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (JCS) was adopted on 24 March 2011 and is the strategic planning framework within which the area will develop over the next 15 years. While the majority of its policies, including the environmental policies and those relating to Norwich remain adopted, a legal challenge has meant that policies relating to growth north east of Norwich are being reassessed.

Action

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

Results

- Implementation of highly sustainable *Joint Core Strategy* policies for water, energy and design.
- Developing detailed local plan environmental policies, including policies to protect and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Working on plans to identify sites for 3,000 additional homes in sustainable locations with easy access to jobs, services and facilities
- Working with Norfolk County Council and other partners on the production of the *Surface Water Management Plan* for the Norwich urban area – identifying areas at risk of flooding from heavy rainfall and potential mitigation measures.
Continued promotion of brownfield locations for building development (90 per cent brownfield development in 2011/12)
- Continued improvement of procedures for managing funding from development for infrastructure improvements.
- Consulting on *Making room – St Stephens master plan* measures to promote walking, cycling and public transport in the city centre
- Members and officers attended the East of England Climate Change Training Programme

What are we going to do next?

- Implementation of *Joint Core Strategy* and amendments to local policies and plans.
- Further work to adopt local plan policies and implement *Making room – St Stephens master plan*.

Priority 5) Natural environment

Why is this important?

The city of Norwich has a high proportion of green space and the city council directly manages or influences policy for these areas. The management of the natural environment enables Norwich to remain rich in biodiversity, while providing our citizens with quality spaces for recreational enjoyment.

Action

- To improve the built environment, promoting its community, recreational and ecological benefits including community centres, play areas and civic spaces.
- Maintain open spaces for people and wildlife.

Results

Volunteers

- Volunteers contributed 4,359 hours to environmental projects on the city's parks, open spaces and allotments between 01/04/12 – 30/09/12

Biodiversity

- Ongoing development of the Grapes Hill Community Garden, which also wins the Group Category of the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards.
- Grapes Hill Community Garden and Angel Road Infants School won their respective categories of the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards. The Friends of Marlpit Wood, Bowthorpe Community Garden and UEA nature trail are all highly commended.

Natural areas

- Bowthorpe Marsh – phase two of habitat restoration completed.
- Bowthorpe Southern Park – package of enhancement measures undertaken including new fencing, tree/shrub planting, invasive weed control.

Marston Marshes:

- Final phase of habitat restoration programme carried out.
- New volunteer group established.
- Phase 1 ecological survey undertaken (also included Eaton Common).

Mousehold Heath:

- Further heathland areas were brought back into positive management through the removal of invasive scrub, and scraping of top soil.
- The heathland areas have now been entered into a 10 year Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement, which will fund their ongoing management.
- Contributed to the planning and implementation of works for Connect2 cycleway project.
- New Mousehold Heath Earth Heritage Trail launched.

Allotments:

- New allotment guidance.

Parks:

- IT systems for the natural environment (trees).
- 85 per cent of the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) owned by Norwich City Council in positive conservation management (pcm).
- Increased volunteer involvement in managing Norwich City Council owned sites.
- Work carried out by Green Gym to manage areas, not suitable for cultivation, at Bellacre allotments to improve the habitat for insects, plants and animals.
- Launching Greenstat to capture what the public value and what they would like improving in Norwich's parks and open spaces.
- Cleaned out/deepened the pond at Heigham park.
- Use of tree radar survey at Chapelfield Gardens, incorporating demonstration for regional tree officers, in order to design new play area without disturbance to tree roots.
- Waterloo play splashpad captured over 10,000 litres of water during the drought to irrigate the bowling greens in the park.

What are we going to do next?

- Mousehold Heath extension – complete works
- Wensum River Parkway feasibility study
- Wensum River Parkway
- Open space strategy
- Up to 12 natural areas will be entered into Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) in 2013 – this will provide funding for ongoing management and special projects to enhance biodiversity.
- Form new Friends group for Woodlands Park.
- Development of Wensum View concept plan involving the local community.
- Bring another Norwich City Council owned CWS into positive conservation management during 2013.
- Provide ongoing advice to help other CWS owners to bring their sites into positive conservation management.
- Complete Bowthorpe Southern Park refurbishment.

Priority 6) Reduce pollution

Why is this important?

Pollution lowers environmental quality and affects our health and quality of life.

Action

To maintain the streetscene and all public spaces so they are free from danger, pollution and noise.

Results

- Reductions in pollution levels in parts of our air quality management areas.
- Boundaries of air quality management areas redefined into one larger area allowing a more holistic approach to action planning.
- Designing out traffic problems.
- Achieving the remediation of many contaminated sites through the planning regime.
- The natural areas officer contributed to a large scale project involving Anglian Water, Natural England, Norwich City Council and a private landowner to resolve a long-running pollution problem affecting the Sweet Briar Marshes as a site of special scientific interest.

What are we going to do next?

- Continue monitoring of air quality management areas.
- There is a service plan commitment to start work on developing a draft air quality action plan for the central air quality management area during 2012/13. The aim is to work towards achieving the air quality objectives by promoting cycling, walking and bus use; as well as through planning, and appropriate investment.
- To ensure that risks to users from land contamination are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems, and ensure that development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors.
- Continue to develop policies, plans and procedures to identify and mitigate against issues of pollution.

Priority 7) 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 our *Environmental strategy 2011-2014*
- Installation of 38kw of solar pv panels on the roof of City Hall.
- A number of environmental articles published
- Updated website for home energy information, carbon foot printing and general information on the environment and/ or sustainable living.
- Eco awards for business, schools and communities
- Internal and external awareness campaign called One Small Step.
- Continued internal publications on the ongoing improvements to our environmental management.
- Updated Norfolk Climate Change Strategy web-pages.
- Introduction of electric vehicles to our fleet.
- Working in partnership with providers to make residents aware of the opportunity for free or reduced cost loft and cavity wall insulation.

What are we going to do next?

- Develop an accredited environmental management system with contractors
- Refresh our Carbon Management Programme
- Continue to communicate our progress annually
- Develop partnerships with other councils and environmental groups
- Develop Green Deal and Green Investment Bank opportunities