

Sustainable development panel

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2015

Time: 10:00

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

Committee members:

Councillors:

Stonard (chair)
Sands (M) (vice chair)
Ackroyd
Bogelein
Boswell
Bremner
Herries
Jackson

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Agenda

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6	Greater Norwich sports facilities strategies	39 - 48
	Purpose - The purpose of this report is firstly to inform Sustainable Development Panel members of the completion and availability of the sports facilities strategies for Greater Norwich and of plans for their implementation. Secondly, the report highlights the main findings of the strategy for Norwich.	
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Date of publication: **Tuesday, 20 January 2015**



MINUTES

Sustainable development panel

09:00 to 11:00

17 December 2014

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Sands (M) (vice chair), Ackroyd (to the middle of item 5), Bogelein (substitute for Councillor Stammers), Boswell, Bremner, Herries and Jackson

1. Membership

The panel noted that Councillor Stammers was standing down from the panel with immediate effect. The Green group would be appointing Councillor Bogelein to fill the vacancy on the panel and she would serve as a member for the remainder of the civic year.

2. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014.

4. Joint core strategy (JCS) annual monitoring report (AMR)

The planner (policy) and the policy team leader (planning) presented the report and answered members' questions.

During discussion members noted the performance of the JCS and where targets were not being met. Discussion ensued on retail vacancy and it was noted that objections to development of retail at Longwater retail park and Taverham Garden Centre had been made by the council. The panel considered the promotion of the city centre by the Norwich Business Improvement District and Visit Norwich. The Norwich Lanes were awarded the first place in the city category by The Great British High Street Awards. The panel also noted that the provision of community facilities would be monitored under the new local plan development management policies.

The panel then discussed changes in the private housing market and importance of improving private rented accommodation. The provision of purpose built student accommodation was noted.

During discussion members considered that park and ride should operate later in the evening but noted that the service was subsidised by the county council and the constraints on its budget. Park and ride was aimed at commuters. Extending the service in the evenings and weekends would benefit the city centre. A member asked why the city did not have a night time bus service like other European towns.

The chair said that bus operators were reluctant to take on such a service and that there were health and safety considerations to be taken into account. There was also the issue that the bus service would move anti-social behaviour to rural towns when people alighted the bus. The student union ran a late bus to the university.

Discussion ensued on the JCS, objective 1: to minimise the contributors to climate change and address its impact. Members considered that the 2008 figures for total CO² emissions per capita were not quantified and that it would be useful to have a sector breakdown figure. The panel was advised it was no longer possible to implement JCS policy 3 as energy efficiency was secured through building regulations. Members noted that the policy had increased aspirations. Concern was expressed about the RAG (red/amber/green) status of the percentage of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) in a favourable condition or unfavourable recovering condition. Members were advised that the indicator should be amended because, since 2008, there had been an improvement.

Members were advised that there had been a lot of engagement in the consultation on the local plan site allocation policies and development management plans. The consultation statement set out in detail the how the public were engaged in plan making. It was not possible to evidence people who did not engage with consultations.

During discussion members suggested that as the target for renewable energy standards for new homes had been reached new “visionary” targets should be set, particularly where the council was building new homes. Members were advised that Passivhaus technology was not always the best option as there had been problems with air circulation in some buildings. Members were also advised that under paragraph 3.7, Renewable energy capacity permitted by type, of the AMR, there had been no schemes coming forward in Norwich. Small scale solar panels did not require planning permission and were therefore not included in the statistics.

In relation to the JCS objective 7: to enhance transport provision, etc, members were advised that the county council had reduced the collation of data because of budget cuts. It would be possible to obtain data from other sources and data on cycling had been collated for the City Cycle Ambition Grant.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Joint core strategy annual monitoring report .

5. Integrated waste management strategic objectives: 2014 Annual report

(Councillor Ackroyd left the meeting during this item.)

The environmental services development manager presented the report and answered members’ questions.

During discussion members noted that there had been an unexpected increase in household waste levels despite the implementation of the “Recycling revolution”. This could be attributed to people having more room in their black bins for rubbish which had been stored and therefore was expected to settle down in the coming months. The panel was advised how the council measured waste collections and were advised how behavioural change would be monitored. The increase in

recycling was positive, however, the target of achieving a recycling rate of 50% would not be achieved until the household waste levels were under control.

During discussion the panel considered how recycling could be promoted to students and the reasons why as a group, students did not engage. Members noted that the council had a stand at Freshers' week and that landlords also had a responsibility. Various ways of targeting students were discussed.

Members noted that partnership working with the Norfolk Waste Partnership was integral to the delivery of the waste management service.

In reply to a question, the environmental services manager said that the council promoted the sharing of brown garden waste bins and that it was considering the provision of smaller bins, where garden space was limited.

Discussion ensued on food waste and it was noted that some food waste was found in residual household waste. Members considered that the scheme needed to be re-launched to promote it. Members were advised that a business case was being worked up for a trial provision of food waste caddy liners, either free or at low cost to residents. There would be a further report to a future meeting. Members also noted that major food retailers had a role in preventing food waste and that the county council had been running a "Love food, hate waste" campaign.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR

Report to	Sustainable development panel	Item
	28 January 2015	
Report of	Head of city development services	4
Subject	Norwich City Council new build and the Passivhaus standard	

Purpose

To explain the council's current engagement with Passivhaus technology to achieve high levels of energy efficiency in new council homes.

Recommendation

To note progress to date relating to the council's approach to Passivhaus technology.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority decent housing for all and the service plan priority to build new council homes.

Financial implications

N/A

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Bremner – Housing

Contact officers

Paul Swanborough, private sector housing manager 01603 212388

Debbie Gould, senior development officer (enabling) 01603 212851

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The council is committed to enabling and delivering high quality affordable housing through working with partners and now as a developer in its own right.
2. We have a good record of delivering houses to a high standard of sustainability. We championed the Ecohomes standard which became mandatory for affordable housing in 2003 and have worked with housing association partners to achieve 'good' and 'very good' ratings on a number of schemes, including the Corporation Yard development, which was at the time of its completion, held up as an example of best practice by the Housing Corporation (now the Homes and Communities Agency).
3. As the Ecohomes ratings were gradually phased out in favour of the new Code for Sustainable Homes (see table below), we have continued to work with local developers in both the private and public sectors to ensure standards are raised and exceed minimum requirements where possible.

Code for Sustainable Homes	Definition	Cost (approximate build cost for 3 bed house)
Level 3	Current minimum requirement for Building Regulations	£110,000
Level 4	A renewable technology must be built in, (such as a biomass boiler or photo voltaic cells), or the walls must be super-insulated, with mechanical heat recovery	£114,000
Level 5	More than one renewable technology must be built in and the walls should be super- insulated	£125,000
Level 6	A 'zero- carbon' home (heating, lighting and hot water energy generation does not emit carbon	£130,000+

Orwell 2014

4. In recent years, we have worked with our housing association partners to learn as much as we can about new technologies and sustainable building options and products, such as air and ground-source heat pumps, mechanical ventilation and heat-recovery units (MVHRs), biomass boilers, mini wind turbines and photo-voltaic cells. As well as learning about how these technologies can be incorporated into new homes, we have also researched and implemented a programme of fitting energy-saving technology to existing homes, in particular with photo-voltaic cells on existing council properties.
5. For the last three years this work has focussed on the Passivhaus standard following the decision by Broadland Housing Association and Hastoe Housing Association to develop pilot Passivhaus schemes in the Eastern Region. Last year we also commissioned specialist advice on design implications and costs to build to the

Passivhaus standard and as a result are now in a position to develop our own Passivhaus homes as summarised below.

Current legislation and requirements going forward

6. Developers in this country are currently required to build schemes which meet the Building Regulations, which is the equivalent to the Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 (CSH3). However, any social housing provider that utilises government funding via the Homes & Communities Agency must build to code level 4 (CSH4) so all affordable housing built on council owned land by registered providers in recent years has been built to that standard. The recently completed council homes at Pointers Field were built to CSH4.
7. The government has recently announced a move away from the Code for Sustainable Homes and is currently undertaking a comprehensive design standards review. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has identified over 100 different design standards that are in use by developers and local government officers and is aiming to replace them with a new draft national standard late later this year, for adoption in 2016.
8. The government has set a target of 2016 for developers to achieve “zero carbon” in development and as part of the design standards review and eventual new standard; CLG has said that a definition of the term “zero carbon” will be published.
9. In conclusion, the exact standard for housing and affordable housing from 2016 is not yet established but we do know that it will be a higher standard than CSH4.
10. CLG has stated that those developers unable to achieve the zero carbon standard will be able to make use of a scheme called ‘Allowable Solutions’, whereby any developer unable to develop a zero carbon development will be liable to pay a sum of money to off-set the carbon in their development. It has not yet been established what level the level of payment will be or to which organisation it will be payable to.
11. As a developer of new homes we therefore must investigate ways in which we can achieve improved energy efficiency beyond CSH4.

The Passivhaus standard

12. The Passivhaus standard was devised in the 1990s by professors Bo Adamson of Sweden and Wolfgang Feist of Germany with the first Passivhaus home being completed in Darmstadt, Germany in 1991. The Passivhaus approach to design and build is a relatively simple ‘fabric first’ method, with a focus on excellent thermal performance and controlled ventilation. Design principles include triple-glazing, a highly insulated ‘thermal envelope’ (the walls, roof and floors), controlled ventilation via mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) systems and no requirement for traditional central heating methods.
13. The MVHR systems are as crucial to a successful Passivhaus design as the super insulation. This is because of the increased air-tightness of the thermal envelope, which if left unventilated could result in significant issues such as mould spore growth. MVHR results in very good indoor air quality with reduced levels of indoor air pollutants and allergens which is of particular benefit to those suffering from asthma or hay fever. By comparison, recent research is beginning to indicate that modern construction methods that don’t use MVHR (e.g. built to comply with building

regulations) may create homes that are susceptible to condensation and mould growth. **(Inside Housing 23/09/14 & 27/11/14.)**

14. Summertime cooling is ensured through the use of window shading to prevent the build-up of heat from the sun and providing opening windows to allow cross-ventilation.
15. Across Europe and North America, there has been a steady increase in the volume of properties built to the Passivhaus standard, with over 30,000 certified properties now in existence. In San Francisco, projects that aim for Passivhaus certification are fast-tracked for planning approval. In Hamburg, public money will be provided only to schemes designed to the Passivhaus standard. In Oslo, Frankfurt and Brussels, no building is permitted to be built within the city unless it has been designed to meet the standard. From 2017, all residential new builds in Luxembourg are required to be built to the Passivhaus standard (see appendix 1 for full extent of Passivhaus adoption).

Costs

16. The current costs of building a Passivhaus home compared to the minimum requirement for building regulations and Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 is set out below:

Building method/ type	Building Regulations	CSH4 (additional 4%)	Passivhaus (minimum additional 10% above CSH4)
One bed flat	£100,000	£104,000	£114,000
Three bed house	£110,000	£114,000	£125,000

Oxburys 2014

17. Because the cost of building to the Passivhaus standard is an approximate 10% increase on the cost of building to CSH4, this means that for the same price, it would be possible to build 10% more properties.
18. Despite being a well-established construction method, Passivhaus is relatively unknown in the UK and this explains the higher costs of development which are anticipated to fall as the local supply chain improves and as developers gain experience. For example, Hastoe Housing Association has seen a reduction in build-costs on recent schemes by using contractors that have worked on previous schemes. They also said that when they started building to the standard there was only one UK Passivhaus window supplier whereas there are now thirty two.
19. Local experience of passivhaus is growing. Hastoe housing association for example, has completed over 100 homes to date and Broadland Housing Association is planning a significant passivhaus development in Norwich as well as completing smaller schemes elsewhere in Norfolk. There is, therefore, an opportunity for the council to work in partnership with other affordable housing providers to learn from their experience and to improve the supply chain.
20. Whilst currently more costly to build, passivhaus homes do offer considerable cost savings to their occupants as indicated in the table below.

House size/ type/	Typical property	Passivhaus	Reduction
One bed flat	£700 p/a	£70 p/a	-90%
Three bed house	£960 p/a	£120 p/a	-87%

Hastoe 2014

Management and maintenance

21. Passivhaus homes do require a different approach to maintenance compared to traditionally built homes. For example, the MVHR filters need to be cleaned regularly. However, this is not necessarily any more onerous than the need to maintain traditional central heating systems. Care also needs to be taken to ensure that any future upgrading (e.g. windows) is compatible with the passivhaus system. It is worth noting, however, that new technology is being developed to reduce the need for regular maintenance. For example, some MVHR systems no longer require filters.
22. The performance of each Passivhaus home is reliant on its thermal envelope being maintained and on a lack of thermal bridges (areas vulnerable to heat loss). However, if the thermal envelope were to be compromised in any small way, for example by the occupant drilling a hole, there would not be significantly detrimental effect on the building's overall performance. Experience has shown that minor damage can easily be repaired.

Update on current projects

23. The original design for the proposed development at Goldsmith Street offered a good opportunity to provide up to 105 Passivhaus homes. Because of its favourable orientation and the fact that it is based on terraces with blocks of flats at each end it has been straightforward to amend the designs to meet the standard. A similar approach was taken to evaluate the design of Three Score phase 2 and as a result, Cabinet has agreed to submit a planning application which will provide 112 Passivhaus homes out of a total of 172.
24. When considered alongside the Broadland Housing Association scheme which proposes 250 Passivhaus flats, this activity will place Norwich at the forefront of Passivhaus development in the UK.
25. NPS(Norwich) and its partners in the wider NPS group is also developing Passivhaus expertise with plans to build Passivhaus schemes elsewhere in the UK. NPS is working in partnership with a local builder, Beattie Ltd, to develop a Passivhaus product and has already delivered Passivhaus homes in Great Yarmouth.

Appendix 1: full extent of Passivhaus adoption (International Passive House Association, 2014)

Austria

Lower Austria

On 23 January 2008, the State Parliament of Lower Austria resolved to implement the Passivhaus standard for all public buildings. This directive applies to both new builds and retrofit projects. The State Parliament of Lower Austria budgeted 130 million euros to complete these construction measures.

Vorarlberg

In October of 2007, several municipalities in the Austrian state of Vorarlberg pledged to plan and construct all new public buildings to the Passivhaus standard. These municipalities are Altach, Bregenz, Dornbirn, Frastanz, Götzis, Hörbranz, Krumbach, Langenegg, Mäder, Rankweil, Thüringen, Wolfurt and Zwischenwasser. An excerpt of the Passive House legislation of the city of Altach may be taken as an example: "The city of Altach resolves that all public new builds are to be built to the Passive House Standard. A specific heating demand of 15 kWh/m² is to be demonstrated by means of the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP); the use of active cooling systems is to be avoided."

Wels

As per its "Passive House Declaration" of 2008, the city of Wels will ensure that all new builds and future retrofit projects will include renewable energy and energy efficiency goals. New builds are to be both conceptualized and constructed according to the Passivhaus standard. When retrofitting existing buildings, Passive House Components (insulation, windows, ventilation with heat recovery) are to be used and the standard is to be achieved. This policy applies to all developments maintained and administrated by the city of Wels and the Wels GmbH holding company.

Belgium

Brussels

With its new Energy Performance and Indoor Environment in Buildings Regulation, the Brussels Capital Region has adopted the targets of the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive that calls for all buildings to be Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings by the end of 2020, 6 years ahead of time. Brussels' new regulation is based on the Passivhaus standard, making it mandatory for all new builds as well as all retrofits as of January 2015.

Antwerp

The province of Antwerp announced on 7 June 2013 its decision to apply the Passivhaus standard in all public new builds and complete renovations. This is a concrete step towards the implementation of the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. This decision also supports the province's own climate plan, which aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2020.

Germany

Aschaffenburg

According to the Draft Resolution of 16 July 2008, the city of Aschaffenburg committed itself to the implementation of sustainable energy-saving measures in municipal buildings as per its "Aschaffenburger Energiespar-Offensive". Points 1 to 3 of this 16 point plan stipulate that all new builds are to be built to the Passivhaus standard:

- 1) All new municipal builds ought to be constructed to meet Passivhaus standard requirements. Deviations from this norm must be well-founded and carried out to an energy performance at least 25 percent better than that of the Germany national code (EnEV). Adherence to principles of economic and ecological sustainability is paramount.
- 2) Passivhaus training courses and excursions are to be attended by public servants and relevant departments of the City Council in order to illustrate the implementation, tendering, viability and quality assurance of the Passivhaus standard.
- 3) The mandatory requirements for general refurbishments are target values of 25 percent below EnEV (the current energy-saving directive) as well as increased target values for thermal standards and component retrofits.

State of Bavaria

On 19 July 2011, the council of ministers of the State of Bavaria passed legislation regarding energy standards for public buildings stipulating that all new build administrative buildings be constructed to the Passivhaus standard. In special cases, such buildings will be chosen as pilot Passivhaus projects.

Bremen

The initiative, signed on 25 August 2009, came into force on 1 January 2010. It stipulates that all new public buildings owned by the city of Bremen must be built according to the Passivhaus standard. The Senate emphasized that this measure facilitates the achievement of the city of Bremen's target of reducing the CO₂ emissions coming from public buildings by 50%.

District of Darmstadt-Dieburg

The Da Di-Werk is in charge of construction, operation and maintenance of the 81 schools in the Darmstadt Dieburg district. Maintenance activities include all real estate properties, energy management as well as janitorial and cleaning services. According to the district's guidelines for economy in building (Wirtschaftliches Bauen), published by the building management section of Da-Di Werk, all new buildings must be designed and implemented according to the Passivhaus standard, achieving a maximal annual heating demand of 15 kWh/m².

Frankfurt

As per the Resolution of 6 September 2007, the Magistrate will ensure that all new buildings belonging to the city administration including municipal facilities and enterprises together with all the buildings that will be constructed in as part of the "PPP-Modelle" programme in the city of Frankfurt, will be conceptualised to meet the Passivhaus standard requirements. In the cases where the Passivhaus standard cannot be achieved, this should be justified. In all instances, the minimum energetic efficiency that will be aimed at is a third of the national EnEV norms demand.

Freiburg

The city of Freiburg, with the resolution from 22 July 2008, determines that from 2009 onwards all new residential buildings will have to follow the KfW 40 standard. Furthermore, from 2011 onwards the Passivhaus standard will be mandatory.

Hamburg

The Senate of Hamburg resolves: from 2012 onwards, municipal funding for new housing projects will be granted exclusively to Passivhauses. The municipal housing subsidies will thus

gradually focus in the promotion of the construction of Passivhauses which do not use conventional heating.

Hanover

One of Europe's biggest and most innovative climate protection estates, consisting of about 300 terraced houses, semi-detached houses and detached single-family houses built to the Passivhaus standard, is currently being constructed as a zero-emission estate in Wettbergen, to the south-west of Hanover. The remaining CO₂ emissions for both the residual heating demand and the domestic electricity will be accounted for in a climate neutral fashion by the re-activation of an abandoned hydroelectric power plant.

Heidelberg

New municipal builds are to meet Passivhaus criteria, as verified by the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP). Passivhaus airtightness values (N50 values of less than 0.6 air changes per hour) are to be ensured through a pressure test. When selling building plots owned by the city of Heidelberg, property buyers will be obliged to construct residential and commercial buildings to the Passivhaus standard through a corresponding provision in their purchasing agreements. This provision will apply to properties sold after the "Energy Concept 2010" (Energiekonzeption 2010) comes into force. Exceptions to the Passivhaus standard are permitted in case of technical or economic unfeasibility. The Passive House Planning Package (PHPP), which is to be submitted to the Municipal Agency for Environmental Protection, Trade Supervision and Energy (Amt für Umweltschutz, Gewerbeaufsicht und Energie) during the building permit application period, shall be the basis of the calculations.

State of Hesse

As of September 2010, all public building projects must show energy performance that is, on average, 50% better than that stipulated by the national energy norms of 2009 (EnEV 2009), equal to Passivhaus levels of energy efficiency.

Cologne

On 26 April 2010 the operating committee of the municipal building industry, together with the votes of the SPD, Green and FDP parties, resolved that as of that date, all new buildings in the city of Cologne must be designed under the Passivhaus concept.

Kempten

New municipal buildings must fulfill Passivhaus standard requirements and are to be conceptualized accordingly (e. g., an annual heating demand of 75 percent). The Passivhaus standard shall be met, whenever possible. In case this standard cannot be met for technical or economic reasons, a justification must be given.

Koblenz-Asterstein

As part of its climate protection efforts, the city of Koblenz is committed to promote the implementation of the Passivhaus standard. In the development area of Asterstein, at least 120 Passivhaus buildings are to be built. A majority of these properties is aligned to the south and allows for a great variety of innovative architecture.

Leipzig

According to Resolution No. RBIV-1138/08 of 19 March 2008, the Mayor or the city of Leipzig is asked to ensure that all new buildings belonging to the city administration, municipal facilities and municipal enterprises, as well as all the new buildings of the "PPP-Modelle" programme in Leipzig, are built under the Passivhaus standard and are conceptualised accordingly.

Leverkusen

On 16 February 2009 the City Council of Leverkusen resolved that all new buildings to be constructed must reach the Passivhaus standard.

District of Lippe

The administration is commissioned to plan and construct all new buildings to the Passivhaus standard with a heating requirement of 15 kWh/m². Passivhaus components are to be applied when retrofitting existing buildings in order to achieve the Passivhaus standard.

Lohfelden – Lindenberg

The municipality of Lohfelden is currently in the final planning stage of the Passivhaus district of Lindenberg. All Passivhaus buildings here will take into account the locally stipulated climate protection targets.

Münster

Construction of the student dorm "Boeselagerstraße", one of Europe's largest Passivhaus areas, was completed in May 2014. It provides housing for 535 students in total.

Nuremberg

According with the building guidelines of the city of Nuremberg, all new building projects will implement the Passivhaus standard. In order to provide proof of this, the presentation of the current PHPP calculations is required.

Offenbach Harbour – Mainviertel

For its new city quarter known as the "Mainviertel", the City Assembly of Offenbach passed a resolution dictating that property buyers and developers sign an urban development contract with the city of Offenbach in which all parties commit to reducing the energy demand of the buildings through higher thermal standards. Passivhaus criteria are to be met for 50 percent of the gross floor area.

State of Rhineland-Palatinate

As of 2010 and as part of the goal to have a CO₂ neutral State administration, all planned municipal new builds and renovations must be analysed to see whether these buildings can be feasibly constructed as Passivhaus buildings.

State of Saarland

According to the coalition contract of the government of Saarland, all public new builds must be built to the Passivhaus standard and this standard will serve as a guideline for all renovations of public buildings owned by the State. Any deviation from this norm must be well founded.

Ulm

In 1993, the city of Ulm resolved to implement increased thermal standards for new builds within the municipal area. The new Passivhaus district "Im Sonnenfeld" is taking this trend to the next level: The city of Ulm, in co-operation with regional and supra-regional investors, architects, energy consultants as well as the building trade, built this development of up to 104 row and semi-detached houses completely to the Passivhaus standard.

Walldorf

The community council of Walldorf passed an energy programme on 20 July 2010 that requires all municipal new builds to be built to the Passivhaus standard and to make use of renewable energy, where possible. All new buildings constructed on any property for sale by the city must achieve the Passivhaus standard.

Luxembourg

As of 2017, all residential new builds are required to be built to the Passivhaus standard.

Norway

Oslo

In 2010, the city of Oslo resolved that as of 2014, all public new builds are to be built to the Passivhaus standard.

Spain

Villamediana de Iregua

In June 2013, the municipality of Villamediana de Iregua passed a master plan, mandating that all public new builds must meet the Passivhaus standard. In addition, 10% of all dwellings built within new urban development areas must be passive. This master plan makes Villamediana de Iregua the first Spanish municipality to adopt the Passivhaus standard in its urban development policies.

USA

City of San Francisco

The City of San Francisco has included Passivhaus projects that aim for Passivhaus or EnerPHit certification in their list of options for fast-track planning approval.

Report to Sustainable development panel

Item

28 January 2015

Report of Head of planning services

5

Subject Planning update

Purpose

The report briefs members on a range of issues which form part of the current workload of the Planning Policy team. These include an update on local plan adoption and on progress with supplementary planning documents; responses to recent and current government consultations on planning policy matters; and an update on the production of a strategy for the River Wensum in Norwich, being undertaken in partnership with a range of key stakeholders.

Recommendation

To:

- (1) comment on the proposals in the current government consultation 'Stepping onto the Property Ladder'; and
- (2) note the contents of the remainder of this report.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority A safe and clean city and A Prosperous City, and the service plan priorities To develop the local economy, promote inward investment and regeneration activities, and To deliver new affordable housing.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications for the council arising from this report.

Ward/s: All

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard – Environment and transport

Contact officers

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Graham Nelson, head of planning services 01603 212530

Background documents

None

Report

A. Local planning update

1. The council adopted the Development Management Policies and Site Allocations local plans on 1st December 2014. The six week legal challenge period ended on 12th January. No challenges were received in that period and there are now no further opportunities to challenge the adoption of either plan.
2. Members were previously advised about a number of supplementary planning documents (SPDs) that are required to provide further detail necessary for the implementation of policies in the newly adopted Development Management Policies local plan. The Retail Frontages SPD was adopted on 10th December.

Affordable housing SPD

3. A report was taken to September Sustainable Development Panel seeking approval to consult on a draft SPD for affordable housing. This SPD was consulted upon in October 2014 and comments were received from a total of 4 respondents.
4. Since then the government has reported back on a consultation it held in early 2014 on a proposed change to the threshold for affordable housing contributions. The proposal was that only developments of 11 dwellings or more, or a 1,000 square metre gross floorspace, would be liable for affordable housing contributions through Section 106 agreements.
5. The consultation outcome was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and a ministerial statement was issued on the 28th November 2014 introducing the new threshold for affordable housing contributions as set out above. In addition, a 'vacant building credit' can now be offered to developers to incentivise them to develop sites. This applies where existing vacant buildings are proposed to be brought back into lawful use or demolished and redeveloped. This does not apply to buildings which have been abandoned.
6. As a result of this national planning policy change some parts of adopted JCS policy 4 can no longer be applied. In particular, bullet point 1 (requiring 20% affordable housing provision on sites of 5-9 dwellings) can no longer be applied in full, and bullet point 2 (requiring 30% affordable housing provision on sites of 10-15 dwellings) now only applies to sites of 11 to 15 dwellings rather than 10-15 dwellings.
7. It is important that the Affordable housing SPD takes these changes into account and offers advice and guidance to developers on how the council will calculate the 'vacant' building credit'. The section shown in Appendix 1 is proposed to be inserted into the SPD to provide such guidance. A further period of consultation, focused on those who responded previously but also notifying all those previously consulted, is necessary as the new section will incorporate new advice from the council.
8. Members are asked to note that the new section 4 of the Affordable housing SPD has been issued for a focused consultation for a period of 2 weeks to all those

who were notified previously. The consultation period commenced on the 19th January 2015 and will end on the 30th January 2015.

9. Comments and suggestions will be assessed and incorporated as appropriate into the final version of the document following the focused consultation. All responses to both the original and this focused consultation will then be reported back to a future meeting of this panel before being reported to Cabinet for adoption later this year.
10. In addition, the following supplementary planning documents and advice notes are being prepared and will be reported to members in due course:
 - Trees and landscape SPD;
 - Open space and play SPD; and
 - Heritage interpretation advice note.

B. Government consultations

11. The government's programme of reform to the planning system continues, with several new consultations either having finished recently or currently underway.

Right to Build

12. The council submitted a response to the government consultation on proposals for the 'Right to Build' which ended on 18th December (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/366722/141023_Right_to_Build_Consultation_FINAL.pdf). The government wants to increase housing supply and help more people achieve their aspirations of owning their own home. The creation of a new Right to Build is intended to give prospective custom builders and self-builders a right to a plot of land from their local council. The government intends to legislate for the Right in the next parliament taking into account the outcome of the consultation.
13. The council's response (which is an officer response) is set out in Appendix 2. While acknowledging that the Right to Build could have a role in contributing to housing supply, the response states that this is unlikely to be a significant contribution, given the niche nature of this market. The proposals are considered likely to be difficult to implement, and to place a significant administrative burden on local authorities which is out of proportion to the contribution that custom and self-build housing will make to supply.

Stepping onto the Property Ladder

14. On 15th December 2014 the government published a consultation entitled 'Stepping onto the property ladder. Enabling high quality Starter Homes for first time buyers – a consultation':
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/stepping-onto-the-property-ladder>
15. The consultation period lasted until 9th February 2015 and 12 specific consultation questions are posed. In the document the government are proposing to:

- Introduce a new national Starter Homes exceptions site planning policy to enable starter homes to be built on under-used or unviable brownfield sites not currently identified for housing on public and private land;
 - Ensure through either planning obligations or conditions that these newly built starter homes are only available to buy or occupy for young first time buyers and are sold at a minimum 20% discount below open market value;
 - Remove the obligations on developers to fund section 106 affordable housing contributions, including any tariff-based contributions to general infrastructure pots, and exempt the Community Infrastructure Levy on Starter Homes to enable them to help deliver this discounted price;
 - Champion the good design of Starter Homes through the creation of a Design Panel;
 - Develop a register of first time buyers' interest in Starter Homes with the private sector to identify and stimulate demand; and
 - Identify a cohort of vanguards to roll out the Starter Homes model across the country on both public and private land.
16. Its stated aim is “to enable 100,000 starter homes to be built over the next five years so that more young people can buy their own home”.
17. For the purposes of consultation a policy has been prepared to give an indication of how the proposal would work. This will be refined in response to the consultation and reads as follows:
- “Local planning authorities should work in a positive and proactive way with landowners and developers to secure a supply of sites suitable for housing for first time buyers. In particular, they should look for opportunities to create Starter Homes exception sites on under-used or unviable industrial and commercial land that has not been identified for housing. Where applications for starter homes come forward on such sites, they should be approved unless the local planning authority can demonstrate that there are overriding considerations in relation to health, safety or infrastructure that cannot be mitigated.*
- Planning conditions or obligations should be attached to permissions for starter homes on Starter Homes exception sites, requiring that the homes are offered for sale at a minimum of 20% below normal market price, to people who have not previously been a home buyer, and who are below the age of 40 at the time of purchase. They should also prevent the re-sale of the properties at market value for a [five to fifteen year] period. In view of their contribution to meeting housing needs, Starter Homes exception sites should not be required to make contributions to affordable housing or be subject to the Community Infrastructure Levy. Starter Homes exception sites may include a small proportion of market homes, at the planning authority's discretion, where this is essential to secure the required level of discount for the starter homes on the site.”*
18. This latest consultation is one in a series of deregulatory changes to the planning system that have been brought forward to stimulate housing development. The impacts of the proposal are hard to predict on Norwich. Whilst measures to stimulate further residential development accessible to people who have previously not been able to afford to buy their own home are welcome, the

particular approach proposed sits very uncomfortably with the current “plan-led” planning system as set out in legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework and is not favoured for the following reasons (not in priority order):

(i) The proposals as described are potentially arbitrary and bureaucratic

19. The proposals are targeted at young (described as people in their 20s and 30s) first time buyers. It is not explained why it may be appropriate to deny those aged over 39 or below 20 the ability to purchase these homes nor why this may be legal in the light of age discrimination legislation. It is also not clear how couples would be dealt and whether one or both partners would need to meet any age requirement.
20. Furthermore any requirement for it to be limited to first time buyers appears arbitrary and hard to enforce. Why should someone who has previously owned a home (perhaps when in a previous relationship) be prevented from accessing this form of housing? If an individual chose to conceal that they had previously owned a home how would this be discovered? Local authorities currently do not hold this information about people.
21. Also it is not clear how “Starter Homes” will be allocated in the event of being over-subscribed and who will be responsible for this bearing in mind that the housebuilder presumably will not be able to increase the price of the units if they are oversubscribed. The proposals appear to have considerable prospects for creating additional bureaucracy and administrative burdens on local authorities. No mention is made in the consultation of new funding to assist.

(ii) The proposals may have an adverse impact on economic development

22. As currently described the range of land that could be considered for “Starter Homes” is relatively wide “under-used or unviable industrial and commercial land” (note the of “or” rather than “and”). No detail is given how either viability or under use may be assessed.
23. As part of the plan making process NPPF requires needs for employment land to be assessed, provision made and viability tested. Even once plans are in place paragraph 22 requires employment land allocations to be regularly reviewed and released for alternative uses “where there is no reasonable prospect” of it being used for employment purposes.
24. As it stands allocated commercial land which may be perfectly viable for commercial development could be developed for “Starter Homes”. In an area such as Norwich which has an up to date, recently adopted (and NPPF compliant) local plan which identifies sufficient employment land to meet identified needs this could, in theory, lead to the loss of viable employment land harming prospects for economic development. To some extent the proposals appear to be either an admission that this part of the NPPF is not working or a move away from the concept of the “plan-led” planning system embodied in the NPPF and legislation.
25. Furthermore, it is not clear what safeguards will be put in place to protect existing employment uses on employment land near to “Starter Homes”. The draft policy refers to starter homes being approved unless “there are overriding considerations in relation to health, safety or infrastructure that cannot be mitigated”. Limiting the

range of things that could be considered in determining applications suggests that a prior approval process (similar to that current used for office to residential change of use) may be being considered. This raises the prospect that “Starter Homes” may be able to be located in close proximity to existing industrial occupiers who through noise, dust, odour may impact on the residential amenity of nearby land. The proposals appear to lack any safeguards to prevent additional costs being placed on existing employers in these circumstances.

(iii)The proposals may lead to a poor standard of residential development

26. Section 5 of the consultation document refers to how good design of “Starter Homes” will be encouraged. It suggests that there will be a Design Advisory Panel which will work to ensure that new homes are well designed. Whatever the efficacy of this panel with regard to design there are some areas of employment land which are not ideal for residential development because of their location. In Norwich a number of areas of employment land are not well located in relation to public transport routes, local centres, schools etc. In practice there is little that can be done by design to improve development in inappropriate locations. The suitability of any location for residential development should clearly be considered as part of any approval process.

27. The proposals also run contrary to certain elements of government housing policy which seek to provide for mixed communities by providing a range of housing types in development locations. The “Starter Homes” proposals appear to seek to provide a single type of housing in a given location.

(iv)The proposals may have an impact on the general housing market

28. Currently starter homes are an important part of the general housing market. According to recent housing survey released by the Halifax¹ nationally there were 326,500 first time buyers in 2014. They amounted to 46% of all house purchasers made with a mortgage. The average age of first time buyers was 30. There appears to have been no consideration of what (if any) impact these proposals will have on the general housing market and whether it will lead to fewer homes targeted at the first time buyer being delivered on the open market. It also has to be questioned why the “Starter Home” product is proposed to be precluded from deliver on allocated housing sites.

(v)The proposals may increase pressures on infrastructure

29. “Starter Homes” are proposed to be exempt from the Community Infrastructure Levy but not section 106 requirements where applicable. This would appear to disadvantage areas (such as Norwich) which have wide ranging CIL charging schedules in place. Also it should be noted that because of the age limits on “Starter Homes” it is quite likely that with the passage of time there will be significant birth rates from those residents in the properties. Over time this could increase infrastructure pressures in the areas around “Starter Homes” most noticeably on nursery and education provision.

Proposed Response

¹ See <http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/Media/Press-Releases/2015/halifax/number-of-first-time-buyers-in-2014-at-highest-since-2007/>

30. In view of the above analysis it is suggested that no detailed response is provided to the detailed consultation questions posed. Rather it is suggested that, subject to the debate at Sustainable Development Panel, a letter is sent objecting to the principle of the proposals.
31. Furthermore it is proposed that in making this response a suggestion is made as to an alternative way in which the provision of starter homes may be promoted to encourage an increase in the supply of low cost market homes where this would meet local needs. This suggestion would involve a more modest change to the definition of affordable housing set out in the glossary to include “Starter Homes” (ie smaller properties being made available for sale to those without the means to buy homes on the open market, at least 20% below market value and with restrictions on preventing the sale on the open market for at least 10 years). This would allow local authorities to favourably consider the provision of such housing as part and parcel of general housing developments where such a product would go some way to meeting locally identified housing needs.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

32. After a number of years of discussion, the government has announced a U-turn on sustainable drainage policy which will mean that the city council, rather than the county council, will be responsible for the approval of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) for all new housing schemes of more than 10 dwellings and for commercial and industrial developments.
33. The background to this is that under Schedule 3 of the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act, which had all party support nationally, the government committed to producing national standards for SUDS. It also established the requirement for separate drainage approval in addition to planning permission for **all new housing**, commercial and industrial developments, so that a single new dwelling would have to be built with sustainable drainage.
34. As part of this, the legislation established the requirement for Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), i.e. county councils in two tier administrative areas such as Norwich, to:
- be the SUDS Approval Body (SAB) for the drainage approvals;
 - adopt approved SUDS.
35. The stated intention was that having a single body responsible for SUDS, particularly for their adoption and maintenance, would address problems previously experienced in implementing SUDS.
36. In line with this legislative commitment, draft national standards were produced in June 2014.
37. However, in December 2014 government produced a policy statement which means that the remainder of schedule 3 is highly unlikely to be implemented as drafted, despite consultation showing that 70% of respondents, including Norwich City Council, supported retention of the Flood and Water Management Act arrangements. Government announced that:

- SUDS will now be a national requirement only for all new housing schemes of **more than 10 dwellings** and for commercial and industrial developments;
 - Separate drainage permissions will not be required;
 - From April 2015 SUDS approval will be dealt with by district councils as part a planning application;
 - Responsibility for adoption and maintenance of SUDS, to be secured by planning obligations or conditions, will now lie with developers, and ultimately the owner of the property.
38. Consultation is now taking place on making LLFAs such as Norfolk County Council a statutory consultee on the SUDS element of these planning applications.
39. This long term uncertainty has already had, and will continue to have, effects on the ability to effectively implement flood risk policy and on the resources associated with it. In anticipation of its role as the SUDS approval body, and as the lead local flood authority, Norfolk County Council has developed expertise on SUDS, which is a highly technical issue.
40. Given the fluid nature of national policy, Norwich City Council's recently adopted local plan flood risk policy DM5, taking account of detailed input from Norfolk County Council, was drafted to be sufficiently flexible to be adaptable to change. It requires SUDS, and other flood risk reduction measures as appropriate such as green roofs, on **all** developments in the critical drainage catchments which are most likely to contribute to surface water flooding. These catchments have been identified through specific government funded evidence studies and cover significant areas of the city. Due to the national changes, outside these areas, SUDS will now only apply to developments of 10 houses and more from April 2015.
41. Officers are in discussions with Norfolk County Council on the best way forward. The current view is that there will be a need for a Supplementary Planning Document to provide developers with detail on SUDS requirements. It is anticipated that Norfolk County Council, as lead local flood authority with expertise on SUDS, will play the lead role both in the production of this document and in providing guidance on specific planning applications.

C. Wensum strategy

42. The city council has recently embarked on production of a joint strategy for the River Wensum in Norwich, in partnership with key stakeholders. The aim of the strategy is to effectively manage the council's land ownership and other interests in the river Wensum and adjacent land, and to identify opportunities to enhance the river corridor for the long-term benefit of residents, visitors and the local economy and environment.
43. The River Wensum within the city council boundary is a key but under-utilised asset with the potential to contribute significantly to the city's regeneration. The council has sought to maximise the benefits of the Wensum for many years. It has developed planning policies to create, improve and maintain riverside walk alongside the Wensum in the city centre, and there are now many stretches of

river with public access where there were none before. Access has also been enhanced in recent years by delivery of new bridges including the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge (2001), Lady Julian Bridge (2009), and Jarrold Bridge (2011).

44. The river presents both challenges and opportunities to be addressed by the strategy. Despite the progress referred to above, much remains to be achieved in terms of access and signage to the river, and also in terms of encouraging greater use of the river which could be achieved by improved river infrastructure such as slipways, pontoons and canoe launches and signage in appropriate locations. Opportunities include the river's potential for contribution to the green infrastructure network and to biodiversity, its links with the strategic footpath network, its heritage infrastructure, and potential to increase its attractiveness for tourists and visitors.
45. A number of organisations (including the city council, the Broads Authority, Norfolk County Council, and the Environment Agency) have statutory responsibilities for different aspects of the river and its environs, with potentially conflicting priorities. There is an opportunity for more effective joint working on a range of river issues, including enforcement, mooring, and navigation.
46. The Wensum River Parkway Partnership (WRPP) was formed in 2009 in recognition of the fact that the potential of the river to contribute to social economic and physical regeneration has not been maximised. WRPP members include the Norwich Society, Norwich HEART, Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority.
47. The city council resolved in July 2012 to promote enhancement of the river and to support the work of the WRPP. Subsequent to that the council commissioned an asset review in late 2013 to inform management of its assets and liabilities in relation to the river, with a view to this informing a wider strategy. This review has now concluded so the focus is now on developing a wider strategy for the river.
48. In summary, there is a strong case for a more integrated approach to management of the river corridor, more effective working with partner organisations, and development of an agreed approach to a range of river issues. The development of a joint vision and partnership working is considered more likely to lead to sustainable regeneration of the river and its environs over the longer term than a corporate strategy, and to more effective liaison between the authorities on river related issues. A partnership body is more likely to be an effective vehicle for prioritising and funding actions and bidding for funding opportunities where appropriate, and more capable of reconciling potentially conflicting priorities of stakeholders.
49. The strategy is led and project managed by the city council. Its partners comprise key bodies with statutory responsibilities for the river and its corridor including the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council, along with the WRPP. The Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) is also part of the partnership as the Wensum strategy will help deliver elements of the green infrastructure network set out in the Joint Core Strategy.
50. The strategy inception meeting took place in early December 2014 and focused primarily on its remit and scope. The next meeting will take place on 29th January and will focus on working up the strategy programme including consultation arrangements.

51. The strategy will cover access, planning , navigation, development opportunities , emergency planning / flooding, biodiversity, management issues, enhancement of leisure, heritage and tourism, heritage, health and safety, potential impact on local economy, and environmental issues (riverbank erosion, dredging), community related (ASB / impact of river activities on neighbouring properties).
52. Relevant members will be consulted during development of the strategy alongside other key stakeholders, and Sustainable Development Panel will be kept informed about progress at key stages. The intention is that the strategy will be adopted by each partner organisation once completed, so the adoption of the final strategy will need to be approved by Cabinet.

APPENDIX 1:

Proposed additional section 4 to be included in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document following changes to national planning policy

4. Changes in national legislation and implications for JCS policy 4

38. In 2014 the government consulted on a proposed change to the threshold for affordable housing contributions so that only developments of over 10 dwellings, or a 1,000 square metre gross floorspace, would be liable for affordable housing contributions through Section 106 agreements. The Government considers that this will aid the delivery of housing small-scale sites and brownfield land.

39. The results were published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and a ministerial statement was issued on the 28th November 2014 introducing the new threshold for affordable housing contributions as set out above. In addition, a 'vacant building credit' can now be offered to developers to incentivise them to develop sites. This applies where existing vacant buildings are proposed to be brought back into lawful use or demolished and redeveloped. This does not apply to buildings which have been abandoned.

The consultation response document can be found here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381349/Planning_Contributions_Section106_planning_obligations_.pdf

The ministerial statement can be found here:
<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/November%202014/28%20Nov%202014/2.%20DCLG-SupportForSmallScaleDevelopersCustomAndSelf-Builders.pdf>

40. As a result of this national planning policy change some parts of adopted JCS policy 4 can no longer be applied. In particular, bullet point 1 (requiring 20% affordable housing provision on sites of 5-9 dwellings) can no longer be applied at all, and bullet point 2 (requiring 30% affordable housing provision on sites of 10-15 dwellings) can now only applies to sites of 11 to 15 dwellings.

Calculating the 'vacant building credit'

41. Where the 'vacant building credit' is applicable, it will be calculated in the following way:

- a. The affordable housing requirement will be calculated based on the number of units as outlined in bullet points 2 and 3 of JCS policy 4, ie for proposals of 11-15 dwellings 30% affordable housing will be required, for developments of 16 plus dwellings 33% affordable housing will be required.
- b. The existing vacant gross internal area (GIA) of any buildings proposed to be brought back into lawful use or demolished and redeveloped, will be deducted from the proposed residential GIA leaving the total increase in floorspace. **(Note: for wholly residential schemes this will be the total GIA of all dwellings, for mixed use schemes the GIA of the proposed residential elements only will be used. Where**

flatted development is proposed the GIA will include all communal and circulation areas).

- c. The average floorspace of the residential scheme will be calculated by dividing the total residential GIA by the total number of units proposed.
 - d. The increase in total floorspace will then be divided by the average residential floorspace to calculate how many dwellings could be provided on the increase in floorspace.
 - e. The required percentage of affordable housing will then be applied to the dwellings which are to be provided *only* on the increase in floorspace.
42. Once the affordable housing requirement has been calculated, all other parts of this SPD should then be applied to the affordable housing contribution.
43. For clarity, a worked example is shown below:
- a. In a scheme where 26 dwellings are proposed there is a requirement for 33% to be affordable. Equating to 9 affordable dwellings.
 - b. In this example, the GIA schedule on page 19 has been supplied with the application. This shows an existing vacant floorspace of 865sqm and a proposed residential floorspace of 1607.1sqm. This results in a net increase of floorspace of 742.1sqm.
 - c. The average floorspace of the proposed residential units is calculated at 61.8sqm. Therefore 12 dwellings can be provided on the net increase in floorspace ($742.1\text{sqm} / 61.8\text{sqm} = 12$).
 - d. Therefore, 4 affordable dwellings need to be provided (33% of the total dwellings (12) provided on the net floorspace increase).
44. If, after such a calculation has been made, development of the site is still not viable, the following sections of this SPD will apply.

Proposed housing		
Plot	Beds	GIA Sqm
1	1	46.2
2	1	46.2
3	2	70.2
4	2	64.2
5	2	64.2
6	2	64.2
7	2	64.2
8	1	45.2
9	1	46.2
10	1	46.2
11	2	70.2
12	2	64.2
13	2	64.2
14	2	64.2
15	2	64.2
16	1	45.2
17	1	46.1
18	3	83.2
19	2	70.2
20	2	64.2
21	2	64.2
22	2	64.2
23	2	64.2
24	1	45.2
25	3	84.3
26	3	92.3
Total GIA		1607.1
Average GIA		61.8

Existing vacant retail floorspace	
Unit No	GIA Sqm
Unit 1	565
Unit 2	300
Total GIA	865

APPENDIX 2

DCLG Right to Build consultation: response of Norwich City Council

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General comments on the consultation proposals

I wish to make the following general comments which are not specifically addressed by the questions in the consultation form:

- The purpose of the Right to Build is to significantly increase housing supply, however the proposals appear unlikely to make a significant contribution for a number of years or at all. Custom and self-build is a niche market and likely to appeal to those who want to build an individual property or who want a particular location. Projects often do not add to the housing stock as they may involve demolition and re-build. There may be more potential for self-build for those who cannot afford mainstream housing, however, given the uncertain contribution self-build will make to housing supply some of the proposals in the consultation document seem onerous and greater flexibility would appear to be justified depending on local circumstances.
- The proposals involve setting up and maintaining a register which will place a great administrative burden on local authorities and add significantly to the 'red tape' which the government states that it wants to reduce. This again is potentially out of proportion to the contribution that custom and self-build housing will make to supply. Additionally other emerging proposals such as the current consultation 'Stepping onto the property ladder' will add further to the administrative burden being placed on local authorities.
- Some of the proposals in the Right to Build consultation appear to be difficult to implement. Before the details of the Right to Build are finalised it will be important to address how implementation can be assisted. Again greater flexibility seems justified.
- Overall it is acknowledged that self-build could have a role in contributing to housing supply but probably in a small way. Recent research² indicates that if self-build is to contribute in a more significant way to housing supply, models which

² University of York: 'Build it yourself? Understanding the changing landscape of UK self-build market, 2013. https://www.york.ac.uk/media/chp/documents/2013/Lloyds_A4%20report%20v2-final%20NEWno.2.pdf

encourage younger, less affluent households are required, with local authorities supporting self-build as a means of providing 'more affordable housing' for local people. This research also found that the chief barrier to self-build is availability of finance rather than access to land and planning permission.

Responses to specific questions

Q(1): If you are a prospective custom builder, would you be interested in using the new Right to Build? – no comment

Q(2): How can local planning authorities work together to enable the Right to Build to apply in London, National Parks and the Broads and areas with development corporations? – no comment

Q(3): What preferences should custom builders be able to express on the register? Are there any preferences which are essential for all local planning authorities to consider?

Custom builders should be able to express preference for size and type of dwelling (number of bedrooms). It would also be appropriate to state the size of plot required and also the type of self-build required (individual / group / developer led etc). The broad location should be specified although there needs to be discretion among local authorities about how this is expressed. In the case of a wholly urban authority with limited potential for site locations, it may not be appropriate to give an applicant a choice of locations within the area.

It would also be appropriate for the application form to seek financial information about the applicant such as whether they have money saved for a deposit, the maximum anticipated amount they could afford for purchase, whether they would have to sell another property to proceed with the project, etc.

Q(4): To what extent should a local planning authority be expected to meet these essential preferences?

There needs to be flexibility about how far local authorities can be expected to meet essential preferences, as local circumstances will vary (availability of suitable land etc). There should be no requirement for councils to meet preferences as long as this can be justified. The application form should state that, whilst councils will make efforts to meet preferences, this cannot be guaranteed.

Q(5): Are these the right eligibility criteria for the register? What are the practicalities for local planning authorities in assessing against these criteria?

The criteria for eligibility seem to be appropriate. However it is possible that the questions about local links would enable people to apply in more than one local authority area, so it may be helpful to ask applicants to state that they are applying in one local authority area only.

Q(6): Do you agree that local planning authorities should have the discretion to apply a local connection test and, if so, why?

Yes, it is appropriate that local authorities have discretion to apply a local connection test to ensure that increased supply of self-build housing meets local housing needs.

Q(7): In what ways do you think a prospective custom builder should be able to demonstrate that they have a local connection, for example through residency or a family connection?

The proposed local connection criteria are vague, would be difficult to verify and, given that employment within the area would determine a local connection, would create additional demand in cities and larger urban areas. It would be fairer, consistent and more transparent to use the existing allocations policies of individual local authorities which, since the Localism Act, are specifically designed to address local housing issues. This would also cover any issues in regard to members of the armed forces.

Q(8): How long do you think a prospective custom builder needs to be resident in an area before they satisfy the local connection test? Should temporary periods outside the area be permitted?

See response to Q7 above.

Q(9): How do you think family should be defined for the purposes of establishing a local connection?

Definition of family: Regulation 7 of the EEA regulations provides that the following persons are treated as the family members of another person (with certain exceptions for students – see below): (a) the spouse of the person (b) the civil partner of the person (c) a direct descendant of the person, or of the person's spouse or civil partner, who is under the age of 21 (d) a direct descendant of the person, or of the person's spouse or civil partner, who is over 21 and dependent on the person, or the spouse or civil partner (e) an ascendant relative of the person, or of the person's spouse or civil partner, who is dependent on the person or the spouse or civil partner (f) a person who is an extended family member and is treated as a family member by virtue of regulation 7(3) of the EEA regulations

Q(10): Do you agree that members of the armed forces should be exempt from any local connection criteria? Are there any other groups we should exempt from this requirement where it applies?

It seems appropriate to exempt members of the armed forces – see response to Q7 above.

Q(11): Are the proposed criteria for removing a person from the register appropriate? What are the practicalities facing local planning authorities?

Another potential ground for removal could be if the applicant was found to have falsified information on the application form.

Q(12): Do you agree with the proposals on transparency?

Agree these proposals seem reasonable.

Q(13): How should local planning authorities publicise the register?

Use of council website and social media are appropriate; also could registers potentially be publicised through the national Self Build Register.

Q(14): Do you agree that there is sufficiently robust planning policy and supporting guidance framework in place to promote custom build?

The NPPF and NPPG provide a robust planning framework to promote custom and self-build.

Q(15): If not, what more would you like to see?

N/A

Q(16): Should local planning authorities have discretion in which approaches they use? Are there alternative approaches which should be considered?

Yes local planning authorities should have discretion about the approaches they use to encourage self-build, potentially including making land available for self-builders (depending on availability of suitable sites) and using planning agreements to include self-build within new developments.

Q(17): What tools and support will local planning authorities need to develop these approaches?

No comment

Q(18): Do you agree that water and energy services should be provided as a minimum? Should telecommunications access be required?

This will depend upon the requirements of the self-builders registered. This would be the minimum required for a 'serviced plot' and it would make sense to do all of the services including telecommunications at the same time.

Q(19): Are there circumstances when a local planning authority should not be required to service the plot?

See response to Q18

Q(20): How could we expand or change these principles to ensure we provide a fair national framework?

There should be more flexibility to reflect the level of demand and supply of plots. Pricing of land should also reflect the level of cost required to provide a serviced plot .e.g land remediation could be a significant cost in some parts compared to others.

Q(21): Is three the right number of minimum offers a local planning authority should be asked to make before they can consider the requirement to be met?

The number of offers should be at the discretion of the local authority taking into account local demand and local supply circumstances.

Q(22): Is two and half years the right time period in which authorities should reasonably be expected to make three reasonable offers in?

No, whilst local authorities should make every effort to deliver sites within a reasonable time period from the initial registering of interest, there should be flexibility built into this process as delivery within a set timescale may not be able to be guaranteed depending on local circumstances.

Q(23): Should there be an appeals mechanism to enable custom builders to challenge the plot price?

The appeals process can be onerous and time-consuming and the process therefore needs to be as simple as possible. It would be preferable for any review of a decision to be carried out by a manager and, if the client is not satisfied, this should then be dealt with through the corporate complaints processes.

Q(24): If you wanted to access a plot through the Right what approaches do you think would be appropriate and in what circumstances?

No comment.

Q(25): If you were an authority administering the Right which approaches do you think would work for you?

No comment.

Q(26): Will these approaches (including a combination of approaches) work? What other approaches are there?

These approaches seem reasonable and should be explored by local authorities.

Q(27): What support or changes local authorities would need to enable them to purchase and prepare land?

Access to short term funding to cover the costs of purchasing and preparing the land for sale. Streamlined compulsory purchase powers may assist with bringing forward some sites.

Q(28): Do you agree that in some circumstances local planning authorities will need to look at bringing forward land in the wider housing market area? Are there other approaches we could consider?

Cross boundary working may be necessary and should be identified in SHMAs.

Q(29): Do you foresee any challenges with authorities securing the expertise needed to support them in delivering plots for self builders

The main challenges are the resources required to service the Right to Build - professional, administrative and financial. This is likely to place a significant burden on local authorities and it is important that this is proportionate to the likely increased supply coming from self-build housing.

Q(30): How should the register reflect the requirements of those who are eligible for affordable housing?

The register should allow for flexibility in the definition of self-build to include 'self finish' shared ownership dwellings where the shell of the building is provided with applicants then able to complete the build from second fix onward earning some 'sweat equity' in the process.

Q(31): What tools do local planning authorities and registered providers need to enable them to bring forward custom build affordable housing?

Funding for training for applicants to learn the skills required to take on such projects.

Q(32): How can we design the Right to enable registered providers play a greater role in bringing forward more custom build affordable housing?

Allow RPs to register their interest in such projects.

Q(33): Should individuals who want to register for a group custom build apply to register as an individual stating their preference to group custom build, or should the group be able to register as one entity?

No preference, but see Q34.

Q(34): If a single entity is capable of making an expression of interest for a group custom build should each individual within that group satisfy the eligibility criteria or would a proportion of the membership (say 75%) be sufficient?

All individuals within a group application should meet the eligibility criteria.

Q(35): Do you support the principle of allowing Community Land Trusts to register individuals and state their preference for group custom build?

There is no difference between a CLT and any other group registering – see Q33 & Q34.

Q(36): Should local planning authorities have the power to charge fees on a cost contribution basis for the register?

Yes, local authorities should have the power to charge fees, but would favour this being on a cost recovery basis dependent on the financial circumstances of the applicant. If the latter is not justified then charges should be on a cost contribution basis.

Q(37): What practical support should be available to local planning authorities?

Forum for sharing information on projects, training / conferences for authorities, flexibility in implementation to reflect the differing starting positions of LAs.

Report to Sustainable development panel
28 January 2015
Report of Head of planning service
Subject Greater Norwich sports facilities strategies

Item

6

Purpose

The purpose of this report is firstly to inform Sustainable Development Panel members of the completion and availability of the sports facilities strategies for Greater Norwich and of plans for their implementation. Secondly, the report highlights the main findings of the strategy for Norwich.

Recommendation

To note that the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) Infrastructure Delivery Board has:

1. Signed off the Greater Norwich Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plans and the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plans and their supporting Needs Assessments as material considerations in making planning decisions and as part of the evidence base for local plan making;
2. Agreed to ongoing monitoring, managing, updating and implementation of the strategies, action plans and needs assessments, to be coordinated through the existing stakeholder group.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority A prosperous city and the service plan priorities to provide well maintained parks and open spaces and to develop the local economy, promote inward investment and regeneration activities.

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard – Environment and transport

Contact officers

Mike Burrell, planning team leader (policy)

01603 212525

Background documents

None

Report

The sports facilities strategies for Greater Norwich

1. The Greater Norwich Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Strategies, produced by consultants naa, have been completed. These documents will guide future provision and management of sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Greater Norwich to 2026.
2. The strategies will help to implement planning and health strategy priorities to promote healthy lifestyles.
3. Sport England, which has part funded the work on the strategy and has committed to ongoing involvement in its implementation, has praised the quality of the work.
4. Based on extensive local evidence, both strategies promote making best use of current facilities in existing areas by improving their quality and management, while ensuring new facilities are provided in new growth areas and in areas where there is currently poor provision.
5. The strategies therefore prioritise improvements to the quality of existing sports facilities, particularly at schools, tied in with increased community use. This will enable cost effective access to high quality local facilities. If this approach does not prove successful, increased spending on additional new facilities will be likely to be necessary in the long term.
6. The strategies and action plans will now be used as part of the evidence base for plan making and planning application decisions. They will also be used to inform decision making by sports development officers at the three district councils.
7. Implementation of the strategies will be coordinated by the existing stakeholder group, which will ensure that the evidence is kept up to date.
8. Costs for the improvement of existing or the provision of new facilities are included in the documents. These figures are indicative only and do not represent worked up projects or a funding commitment. While CIL money may play a part in funding implementation, an important aspect of having a completed strategy is that it will assist in making applications for funding from Sport England, for example to assist in the combined management of school facilities. It will also assist sports bodies such as the Football Association and individual clubs and parish and town councils to apply for various sources of funding where their proposals help to address evidence based strategic priorities. It is anticipated that these organisations, along with developers in the new communities, will play a key role in providing improved and new facilities.
9. Further detail on the background, overall findings for Greater Norwich, and implementation of the strategies is in appendix 1, the report to the GNGB Infrastructure Deliver Board. The final paragraph of that report includes a link to all of the assessment, strategy and action plan documents.
10. The remainder of this report covers the action plan priorities for Norwich itself.

Indoor sports facilities in Norwich

11. The strategy recommends that existing swimming pools, sports halls and indoor bowls centres need to be retained, and enhanced where necessary, and there is a need to provide an indoor tennis centre.
12. Specifically in relation to sports halls, the conclusion is that the existing supply of halls will meet current and projected demand up to 2026, but their quality will need to be improved. Community use agreements for school facilities will be important, which are recommended to be coordinated through a professional leisure management organisation.
13. The action plan highlights that, partly due to relatively low levels of car ownership in Norwich, there is a need to retain the quantity and improve the quality of facilities in the city centre. It specifically highlights the potential to provide improved facilities, with community access, at Notre Dame School. It also identifies the possibility that new facilities, also potentially with community access, will be provided by Jane Austin College. In relation to Wensum Sports Centre, it states that its facilities are important, and, if lost, should be replaced locally. Outside the city centre, the need for improved facilities with public access at the City of Norwich School (CNS) is identified.
14. Overall, the main priority identified for investment in indoor sports for Norwich is modernisation of the Hewett school swimming pool. This would enable this pool, which is very important to local swimming clubs, to continue to play an important role. Without such investment, it is highly likely that far greater expense would be required on additional facilities in the longer term to cater for anticipated growth in demand for swimming.
15. The consultants were asked to consider whether the evidence showed that there was the need or potential for development of regional/national scale sports facilities in the area. The study concluded that there was not such a need as the UEA Sportspark is of such high quality that it already provides facilities to train elite athletes and host competitions at the regional level and above for swimming and indoor hall sports, with facilities for gymnastics on a par with those at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Playing pitches in Norwich

16. The strategy identifies priorities and recommends implementation timescales for its actions. Its primary focus is on football, cricket, rugby and hockey, but it also covers tennis, bowls, American football, korfbal, skateboard / BMX tracks and multi-use games areas. There are a large number of actions recommended, and the relative importance of these could change over time as circumstances change. The strategy recommends that the vast majority of existing pitches should be retained and prioritises making better use of existing facilities, specifying a number of locations. In addition, it recommends improvements to a number of sites. The Playing Pitch Strategy Norwich Action Plan, available from the link at the end of appendix 1, sets out actions and priorities for the city.

Appendix 1- Greater Norwich Growth Board Infrastructure Delivery Board

Greater Norwich Growth Board Directors

Greater Norwich Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities strategies and action plans - Approval and ongoing implementation

Recommendation

It is recommended that Directors:

1. Sign off the *Greater Norwich Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plans* and the *Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plans* and their supporting *Needs Assessments* as material considerations in making planning decisions and as part of the evidence base for local plan making;
2. Agree to ongoing monitoring, managing, updating and implementation of the strategies, action plans and needs assessments, to be coordinated through the existing stakeholder group.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is firstly to request that Directors approve the *Greater Norwich Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Strategies and Action Plans*, along with their supporting *Needs Assessments*, for development management and local plan making purposes.

Its second purpose is to request that Directors agree to ongoing implementation being coordinated through the existing stakeholder group.

Introduction

1. The Greater Norwich Development Partnership appointed consultants (naa) to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan and an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Norwich in summer 2013.
2. This work has now been completed in line with the project brief, to budget and broadly to timetable.
3. The Indoor Sport Facilities documents consist of:
 - The Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Norwich as a whole;
 - Actions Plans for each district by facility type (sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls and indoor tennis);
 - Needs Assessments for each of the facility types. These assessments provide a robust evidence base for the strategies and action plans, covering the quality, quantity, accessibility, location and management of facilities. They cover both current needs and those required by 2026, based on identified population growth and demographic changes both at the Greater Norwich and

at the individual district level. They also take account of accessible facilities in neighbouring districts.

4. The Playing Pitch documents consist of :

- The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Norwich;
- An Action Plan for each district. These primarily focus on sites for outdoor football, cricket, rugby and hockey, but also cover tennis, bowls, American football, korfball, skateboard / BMX tracks and multi-use games areas;
- The supporting evidence in the Needs Assessment.

Policy context

5. In support of the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (JCS), and in compliance with Duty to Cooperate requirements for districts to coordinate their approach to strategic issues, the documents will guide future provision and management of sports pitches and indoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Greater Norwich.
6. Implementation will help to ensure that the spatial vision in the JCS can be achieved. The vision identifies firstly that “people will enjoy healthy, safe and fulfilling lifestyles”, secondly that “there will be excellent public open space, sport and recreational facilities” and thirdly “people will need to use their cars less as recreational facilities will be in areas accessible by public transport, cycling and pedestrian routes”.
7. In addition, the spatial planning objectives of the JCS require sports and recreational facilities to be improved in existing and new communities. Policy 8 of the plan covers culture, leisure and entertainment. It states that "Development will be expected to provide for local cultural and leisure activities, including new or improved built facilities, provide for a range of activities includingaccess to green space, including formal recreation....." .
8. The Adopted JCS also includes an Implementation Strategy, and these two documents will help identify priority projects which deliver the Strategy and assist in production of the annual GNGB Business Plan(s)
9. Over recent years Local Authorities have been given an increased role in terms of public health and these Strategies, which help guide how provision could help maximise activity in sport based recreation, will assist in fulfilling that role. Implementation will also assist in achieving the priorities of the local clinical commissioning groups by promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles, reducing the need for costly medical care, and making health and wellbeing a key consideration in urban planning.
10. As well as assisting in the implementation of the JCS through planning decisions and future plan making, the evidence and the findings of the strategy are already playing a key role in decision making for sports development professionals at the three councils.

11. The approval of the strategies as material considerations in making planning decisions, and as part of the evidence base for local plan making, is essential if Sport England is to support bids for funding towards delivery.

Main findings

12. Overall, both strategies promote firstly making best use of current facilities in existing areas by maintaining and improving their quality, and secondly ensuring new facilities are provided in new growth areas and in areas where there is currently poor provision. Improvements to the quality of existing sports facilities, particularly at schools, tied in with increased community use, will enable cost effective access to high quality local facilities. If this approach does not prove successful, increased spending on additional new facilities will be likely to be necessary in the long term.
13. The high quality of facilities at UEA mean that no demand was identified for additional regional scale sports facilities in the area.

Indoor sports facilities

14. The strategic approach proposed is to:

- **Improve the quality of facilities as well as the amount of provision** – the strategy promotes the protection of existing indoor sports facilities, but also recognises the need to improve their quality and identifies some instances where remedial work/improvements are pressing.
- **Deliver sports facilities in partnership** – the strategy concludes that for the Greater Norwich area management change is as important as increases in the physical stock. More cohesive management will enable better use to be made of existing facilities. This requires the collective engagement of all the Greater Norwich local authorities, Norfolk County Council and partners, especially secondary schools, all working together.
This will involve changing roles and responsibilities to bring together key partners in the delivery of opportunities for sport, promote and share good practice and to maximise the value of assets to the community and avoid duplication of facilities.

The proposed focus is on secondary school based sports facilities, which will involve changing the day to day management of the school based sports facilities. Collective management, possibly with external coordination, of school indoor sports outside school hours will be maximised for community use.

- **Focus investment on interventions that will have the greatest impact** – the strategy seeks to prioritise investment on sites where the highest impact will be felt and where high numbers of users will benefit. It will seek to increase participation in sport and physical activity by increasing and efficiently managing community access across school sites, particularly in Broadland and Norwich City, as well as plugging identified 'gaps' in provision at locations such as Diss and Acle..
- **Maximise sustainability** by focusing on providing accessible, local facilities which offer the best value for money and long-term financial viability.

Prioritisation

As a result of this, the following policy approaches and site specific projects are recommended in the strategy for prioritisation:

Priority	Policy approach
1	Improve coordination of facility planning, delivery and management of community based sports facilities
2	Develop joint sport and healthy/active lifestyle rationale for investment in sports facilities
3	Establish a dedicated CIL fund for the modernisation and provision of sports facilities
4	Agree policy to protect and enhance community use of sports facilities on educational sites
	Project
5	Modernisation of Hewett School swimming pool
6	Modernisation of Thorpe St Andrew School swimming pool
7	Modernisation of Hellesdon High School and Sprowston School sports halls
8	New strategic sports facilities in areas where there are gaps in provision (the priority is a new sports hall and swimming pool in Diss)
9	A new sports hall in a growth area (such as Rackheath) co-located with a new secondary school
10	A new sports hall in Acle

15. These priorities could be subject to change, particularly as projects are implemented, and will need to be revisited over time as evidence is updated. Further clarification on indicative costs included in the action plans would be a consideration.

Playing Pitch Strategy

16. The overall strategic objectives are to:

Protect - The assessment has indicated that there is currently a good supply of accessible pitches in community use to meet present demand. Where there is an apparent surplus, in principle, sites should be protected to meet future need resulting from growth or used for other forms of green infrastructure. A very limited number of single pitch sites have been identified as possibly being surplus to requirements.

Enhance - The strategy looks to make the best use of existing provision ensuring better quality, access and management. This will help to meet both current and future demand instead of and alongside some new provision. Enhancements include improvements to:

- pitch quality and capacity e.g. drainage;
- ancillary facilities such as changing rooms;
- management to enable more effective use of existing sites e.g. shared use of larger sites for both junior and senior pitches.

Provide - Alongside the enhancement of existing provision, some new natural and/or artificial grass pitches are required to meet current and/or future demand.

The strategy shows the need for new pitches and supporting facilities to be provided, on a pro rata basis, to meet the needs of the new housing growth areas:

- Football +25 pitches (5 senior, 16 youth/junior/9v9, 5 mini)
- Cricket +5 pitches (2 adult, 3 junior)
- Rugby +4 pitches (1 adult, 1 junior, 2 mini)
- Hockey +2 pitches
- Plus additional tennis, bowls and netball facilities
- Plus essential changing and ancillary facilities

Some of this provision has already been secured thorough planning permissions which are delivering the JCS growth.

17. New provision should also include working with sports clubs and providers to consider development of “multi sports hubs”. The strategy promotes economies of scale in outdoor sports provision, so that clubs can benefit from shared and jointly provided and managed facilities, and that facility provision can be coordinated with other associated services such as sports medicine. Such hubs should be at named strategic locations with space for a number of pitches, a clubhouse, a 3G pitch and other built facilities.

Implementation

18. For this evidence based strategic approach to be implemented effectively, it will be essential that it is well coordinated. There will be a need for ongoing monitoring, managing and updating of evidence to support implementation. This will enable evidence to be kept up-to-date, so that it can continue to be used as a material consideration in making decisions on planning applications, plan making and in decision making for sports development professionals.
19. The existing stakeholder group, which contains representatives of the three authorities, Active Norfolk, Public Health, sporting bodies and Sport England, can play a key role in ensuring implementation. However, given the importance the strategy proposes for schools, it is also essential that both Norfolk County Council education and individual schools are involved. This could be particularly challenging given the current deregulation of schooling. However, the potential for accessing external funding sources to improve existing sports facilities could be a powerful incentive for schools to work cooperatively and allow greater community use.
20. The role of the stakeholder group, which could be detailed through Memorandum of Understanding, would be to:
- Use the current evidence to confirm the strategic policy approaches and projects to be taken forward;
 - Ensure data is kept up-to-date. This is essential in the rapidly changing context of sports provision;
 - Input to elected members on possible CIL prioritisation;
 - Apply for funds from Sport England, possibly to assist in the combined management of school facilities, and/or assist professional sports bodies or

individual clubs where their proposals help to address evidence based strategic priorities to apply for sources of funding.

21. While different calls on available CIL funding may mean that it may not play a significant role in implementing the strategy, the existence of the strategy itself and of a stakeholder group will assist professional bodies and individual clubs/parishes in seeking funding which will assist in implementation, including identifying projects which parishes may wish to fund using their element of CIL.
22. The stakeholder group will also be in a position to assist in ensuring that appropriate facilities being provided through new development.
23. It is anticipated that the group would meet every six months. The resource input would therefore be limited, confined largely to some staff time. Continuation of the project management expertise and administrative support provided by the GNGB in formulating the strategy would greatly assist in its implementation.

Supporting Documents:

The full strategy documents and action plans for each district are available to view at:

<http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/delivery/greater-norwich-sports-facilities-strategies>

Report to	Sustainable Development Panel	Item
	28 January 2015	
Report of	Executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods	7
Subject	Draft environmental strategy 2015-2019	

Purpose

To consider the draft environmental strategy 2015-2019.

Recommendation

To determine any recommendations to cabinet.

Corporate and service priorities

This report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

Financial implications

The direct financial implications are an additional £36,000 per annum to the general fund and this has been included within the council's draft budget for 2015/16.

Funding for specific project proposals e.g a PV scheme would be subject to a separate approval process at the appropriate time.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard

Contact officers

Russell O'Keefe – Executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods 01603 212908

Richard Willson – Environmental strategy manager
01603 212312

Report

1. Within the framework of the council's corporate plan, the environmental strategy sets out in more detail the council's environmental vision and priorities for the city and how they will be achieved. It, therefore, guides all the environmental work carried out by council during the period.
2. The council's existing environmental strategy ended in December 2014. As such, a range of work has been carried out to develop a new environmental strategy for the next four years. This includes:
 - Analysis and assessment of baseline information on the current environmental position in Norwich.
 - Review of the wider policy and legal context.
 - Workshops and input from expert stakeholders including the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia.
 - Review of existing activities and future opportunities across services and contractors.
 - Discussions and input from elected members including the cabinet and an all member workshop.
 - Looking at good practice from other areas.
 - Assessment of the likely resources the council will have in the future to carry out environmental work.
3. A consultation process was carried out on the draft strategy from the 5 December to 12 January. This included:
 - The draft strategy being published on the council's website for comment supported by a short questionnaire.
 - The draft strategy being sent to relevant organisations and local councillors asking for their feedback.
 - A workshop with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia to allow them to jointly feedback their views.
4. At Annex A is a summary of the consultation responses and the changes that have been made to the draft strategy based on these.
5. At Annex B is a copy of the updated draft strategy following consultation for consideration by the panel.

Annex A – Consultation responses on the draft environmental strategy

A. Questionnaire on the council's website

In total there were 23 questionnaires completed. The vast majority were from individuals. The answers to each of the questions are set out below, followed by a response in relation to the draft strategy.

Question 1 - Do you have any comments or suggestions to make about our draft environmental vision as outlined above?

The majority of the comments set out support for the draft vision. Other comments were about the strategy itself:

“We need to preserve what we have, and use and develop resources sustainably and responsibly. The natural beauty of the green environment is as important for an individual's well-being as the quality of the built environment.”

‘It would be good to see more on cycling, reducing city centre traffic and safe bike storage (as in Cambridge). What about bees? More roof top bee keeping as in London”

“Improve control of pollution from bonfires - consider total ban on garden/other waste fires”

“Parents are not teaching any good values to their children to create a better environment for the future”

“Free Park and Ride use prior to 8am in the morning Monday to Saturday”

“First Group, using Castle stop as a change over causing other busses to stop away from their stop with engines running much longer, also leaving busses their on a Sunday”.

Response

The draft strategy already includes a range of work on sustainable transport and behaviour change initiatives to encourage sustainable living which will include opportunities provided by bees. The action programme has been adjusted

to show the work carried out by the council to manage issues that can sometimes be caused by bonfires. Although, there are no powers or plans to ban them. Comments on specific issues will be looked at by relevant services.

Question 2 - What do you think should be the city council's main environmental priority or priorities for Norwich?

15 comments were received. They were as follows:

"Reducing carbon emissions themselves and helping residents to reduce their own emissions. Ensuring that air quality is good throughout the city"

"Reducing cars in the whole county. Reducing food waste"

"Improving cycle ways. Helping existing buildings become more energy efficient"

"To ensure that development, including transport infrastructure puts into practice the sentiments expressed in the strategy"

"To reduce use and wastage of resources, to increase recycling (by individuals AND businesses), to preserve and increase the green environment (for humans and wildlife), to be a flagship Council – an example for others to follow".

"Maintaining and improving existing green spaces and preserving the city's trees. Also funding local volunteer groups to plant up/maintain green spaces."

"Reduction of environmental impact in all spheres, both by itself and encouraging others"

"To reduce carbon emissions by insulating all buildings (not just council homes), ensuring that only renewable energy is used and that the city becomes a car free zone (except for those with mobility difficulties)"

"Reduce carbon emissions. Recycle. Green the city."

"Avoiding waste and pollution of air and water. Reduce, recycle, re-use!"

“Reduce carbon emissions and air pollution”

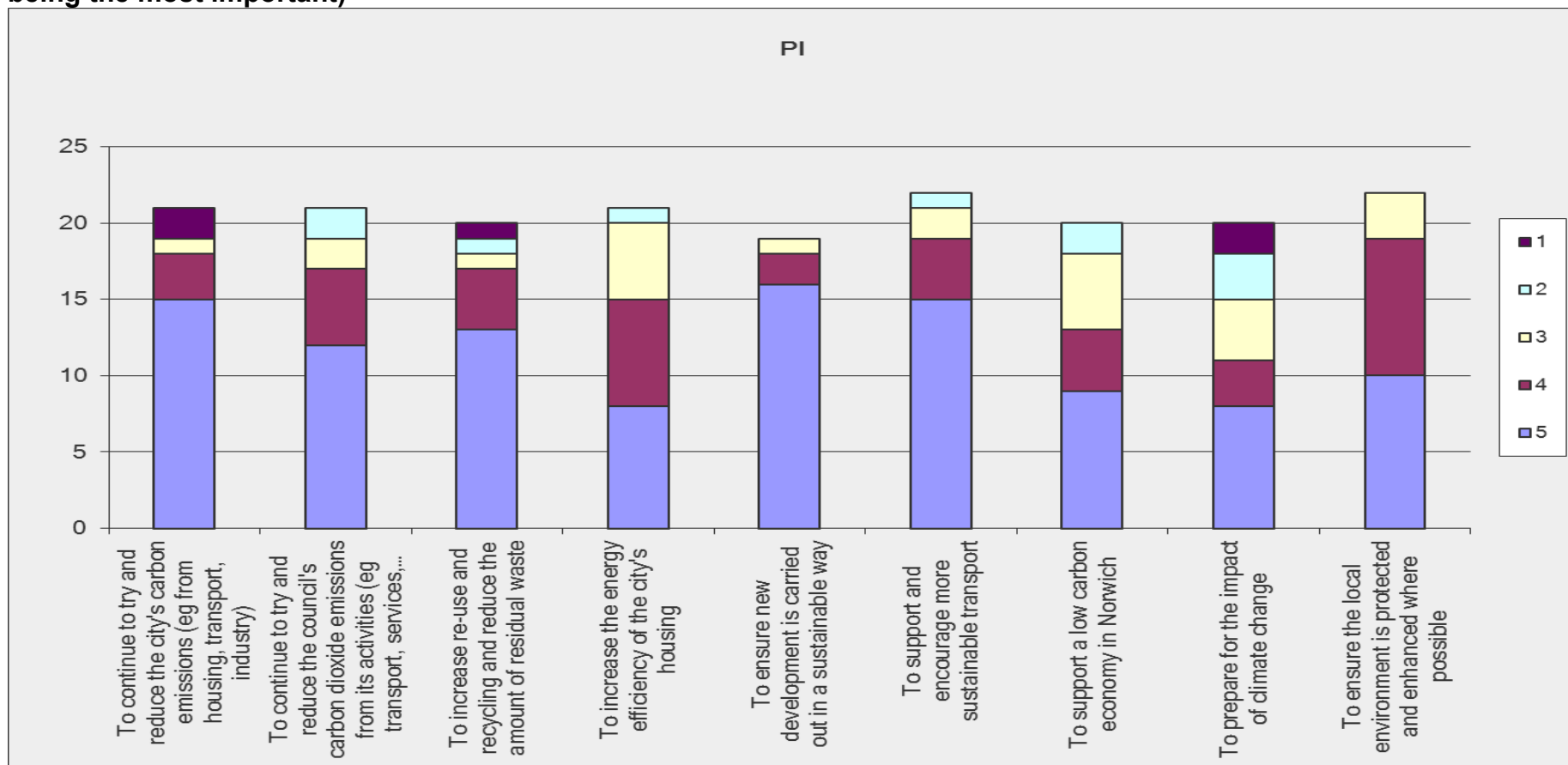
“Litter. Respect their neighbourhood and people living in it. No drinking on the streets”

“No cars in Red Lion street, and pedestrian way for Westlegate, close the car park in Theatre St by the crossing, I use it often on foot, seen many near misses. Put a fountain in this area.”

“Reduction of car use/pollution and encouragement of pedestrians/cyclists/buses”

“Walking/pedestrian routes defined and maintained. Sensible times on bus routes used instead of blanket 24 hours. Traffic lights on roundabouts only used in rush hours (vehicles more fuel efficient when moving). ECO6 engine vehicles allowed within city”

Question 3 - Please indicate how important you feel each of the following proposed priorities is by ranking them 1-5. (5 being the most important)



Question 4 - Do you have any further comments or suggestions to make about the draft priorities?

The following comments were received:

“Allow bikes on trains into the city for those living in the wider county”

“I am not convinced of how much influence can be exerted for the actions listed under Theme 1. For example, while allotments are an important community resource worth preserving, it is unrealistic to suggest it is a hub activity for local food production. Also, given the parlous state of public sector funding, what grants are likely to be available to support community energy schemes?”

“To keep the public informed, and understanding, and therefore willing to agree or participate, is very important – and the practice of sticking informative flyers on individual bins (as you have done) is a very direct and effective communication method. Keep aiming high, and Good Luck!”

“These should all be without saying. Norwich is an ideal town to experiment with these types of things. Especially development and transport”

“I feel that there are too many. The main priorities for me are centered around maintaining a clean city (bins etc), maintaining existing green spaces and providing affordable housing. The idealistic values associated with climate change and carbon dioxide reduction may have to be ignored simply in order to maintain existing services. The available budget not being so great.”

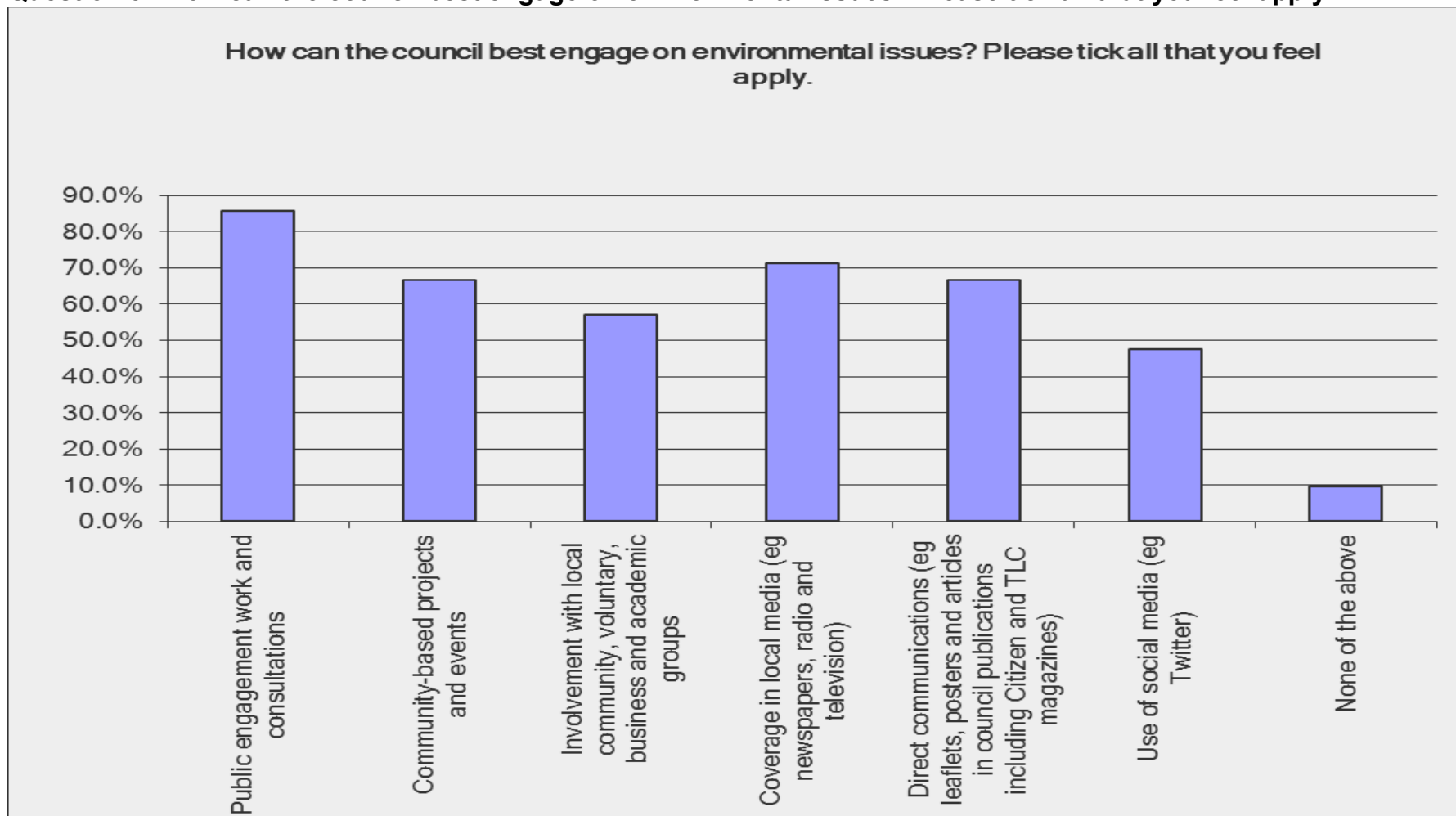
“Agree with draft priorities. Pleased that priorities include 2.21 & 2.22. Street trees are very important and wildlife sites such as Earlham Cemetery need to be managed more sympathetically for wildlife.”

“The junction at Prince of Wales/Railway Station, not enough room for pedestrians, busses now turning right cause blocking for buses going straight on or turning left, not enough time for pedestrians to from station to Compleat Angler side. Causing more blockage on a narrow footpath.”

Response to questions 2, 3 and 4

Based on the responses received no changes are planned to the overall draft priorities included within the strategy. A large number of the comments support the priorities and activities already encompassed within the draft strategy. Comments on specific issues will be looked at by relevant services,

Question 5 - How can the council best engage on environmental issues? Please tick all that you feel apply.



Question 6 - What would be most likely to make you engage with environmental issues? Please type any ideas you have in the box provided.

“Community involvement”

“Use social media. Leaflets are counter productive!”

“Need to be able to see local/personal impacts and benefits”

“I am already engaged.”

“More people engaging, leads to more - the snowball effect. I am very pro-environment (member of groups, join online petitions etc) - but almost none of my friends or family are! Initiatives need to be promoted boldly and widely, to make them mainstream.”

“Community & public based projects - preferably ones which occur outside of normal working hours so that those who are affected can be included. Normally these things happen between 9 and 5, Monday to Friday restricting them to the retired or unemployed.”

“Create a way to participate in the implementation of the Action Programme. E.g. I have tried to start a community renewable energy companies (point 1.6 in section 9 of the draft strategy (the first point 1.6, because the numbering is off and there are two)), but couldn't get enough of a critical mass behind it, and the City Council could help by bringing citizens together to implement parts of the strategy. Please contact me if you appreciate help on implementing a renewable energy co-op. Also, Norwich Farmshare is actively engaged in point 1.13, the Garden Organic Master Gardener program is actively engaged in 2.2 and 2.3. It would be good as part of 1.24, 1.10 to make clear where links exist and what actions are jointly undertaken, so that it's clear where the Council is aware of existing initiatives or where engagement can be strengthened. If the Council implements point 1.4 I'd like to be told, and it would be good as part of the above strategy to be able to subscribe to news on particular action points.”

“Traffic reduction and improved public transport in the central area”

“Already do”

"I'd like to feel confident that the council is taking the environment and climate change seriously. It would help if the council stopped wasting money on new roads and consultations for new roads."

"Magazine newspaper article. Local events."

"I already do engage with environmental issues through Friends of Eaton Park, Grow-Our-Own scheme, and campaigning for cycling."

"Belief that it would be worth my while"

"Financial cost in not doing so. Seeing council initiatives that are NOT being hyped or trumpeted"

"If the council members and our local councillors walked around to see for themselves, I walk down Yarmouth Rd, there are bushes overgrown where only one person can get by on the pavement."

"Cheaper more available public transport inc 'oyster' card"

"Not being dictated to, Norwich is different to Cambridge, York"

Response to question 5 and 6

The information will be used to inform the development of the council's engagement and communication plan for the new environmental strategy. Specific issues and opportunities will be followed up by the relevant services.

Question 7 - Do you have any further comments or suggestions to make about the draft strategy? If so, please type them in the box provided.

The following comments were received:

“Transport issues are important in controlling air quality and the council should try to minimise these in prime areas of the city where there are the most people.”

“Really think about trees Green spaces and above all bees.”

“There is a need to make sure this strategy has the profile it deserves. There is a danger that residents and visitors will not see the evidence of things happening on the ground to match the rhetoric. I am thinking of some of the city centre transport routing initiatives. We still haven't learnt from our European cousins when it comes to sorting out vehicle access around city centres. You are not helped by boxing yourselves in by having too many inner city car parking sites. Any revisions seem more about servicing access to them than doing anything meaningful on the ground. You only need to look at Theatre Street to see that.”

“Environmental initiatives tend to be put to the bottom of the pile, especially when budgets are tight. But actually, they are essential to a healthy economy, lifestyle and planet. So please, keep up the good work.”

“There should be an ongoing programme to replace street trees. Unfortunately Norwich City Council's actions will be undone if NDR is built, along with further development and growth of traffic to north of Norwich. Norwich City Council need to oppose this uncontrolled expansion and road building.”

“NDR”

“Not at the moment.”

“Having most council activities apparently centred round diesel-powered transport (often large inappropriately parked transit vans) is demoralising. Let's see imaginative and appropriate use of pedal power, including Norse equipping themselves with a fleet of

cargo bikes for carrying out small repair/maintenance jobs. That would set a great example and inspire many local people to think positively about reducing carbon emissions and air pollution.”

“There was car accident in Exchange St, as blue badges were aloud to park, the fire engine could not get to it.”

“More covered cycle parks, so that cyclist can leave there bikes and walk instead of bullying there way around pedestrian zones”

Response

A number of these comments fit well with the priorities and activities already included within the draft strategy and so no further changes are planned. Specific issues will be followed up by the relevant services.

B. Written responses to the consultation

Response from the Environment Agency

“We have considered the Draft Strategy and overall we support the aims and actions of the documents. However, we have concerns regarding Action 1.3 which states that:

‘To explore with partner organisations the potential for a district heating scheme for the City powered by the natural heat from Norwich’s rivers and other options for the development of renewable energy for the future.’

Whilst we have no objection to a district heating scheme itself, we are concerned that it is proposed to use Norwich’s rivers to power the scheme. A district heating scheme would be of a significant scale and as such there is potential for a significant detrimental impact on the rivers in terms of water quality and biodiversity. This could result in significant harm to the water environment which would be unacceptable and contrary to the aims of this document.

As such we consider that the reference to Norwich’s rivers in this action should be deleted and the action made more generic as follows:

‘To explore with partner organisations the potential for a district heating scheme for the City and other options for the development of renewable energy for the future.’

Work should be carried out to consider all the options and the suitability of each option; before any specific option for powering the scheme is detailed. We would be happy to discuss this further if it would be helpful.”

Response

We are keen to discuss the potential for a feasibility study of a district heating scheme powered by heat from rivers with the Environment Agency. However, we recognise that there are a number of potential powers sources that could be explored and so the action has been made more generic.

Response from a scientist

We also received a response from a scientist:

“The current draft seems to be disconnected with the plans/aspirations in various public planning documents which show a continuity of thinking going back to 2004 for the Utilities Site – for energy generation from biomass, low carbon mixed-use activities, etc. For example, I refer to:

- the City of Norwich Local Plan 2004
- the report commissioned from Buro Happold by EEDA in conjunction with the city council in 2007 (which involved public consultations)
- the Revised East Norwich Guidance Note of August 2010 (presented by Norwich City Council, The Broads Authority, SNDC and Norfolk CC). This report included as an appendix a summary of reports on the location funded by DCLG, and indicated that development proposals for this site “should minimize contributions to climate change”, make “good use of opportunities for decentralized and renewable or low carbon energy”, and be an “exemplar sustainable development scheme”.
- the Norwich Local Plan 2013 (appendix 17) refers to power generation and the future power station

Such developments would clearly be an important element of an environmental strategy.

As I have commented in other fora, the site would also be a very good location for extraction of heat from the river.”

Response:

The draft environmental strategy would not specify planning designations for particular sites as this is set out in planning framework documents.

Collective response from the Green Group to the consultation on the draft environmental strategy

1. General response and suggestions:

We welcome the draft environmental strategy as an ambitious strategy and would like to congratulate the officers for their great work on it. We are very happy to see that so many of our contributions over the years and during the process of drafting the strategy have (finally) found their way into the document. We feel a big part of this strategy as we had essential input into forming this first draft: the cross Party workshop on the environmental strategy saw a large majority presence of Green Party councillors and the only additional recommendations after this workshop were sent in or suggested to officers by Green Party councillors. We are also pleased to find the report on communicating environmental behaviour and climate change (written by Green Party councillor Sandra Bogelein and based on best practices identified in environmental psychology) as part of the draft strategy (under section How will we engage and communicate?).

This report includes a simple and cost effective recommendation that we would like to see adopted as an action in the environmental strategy: a work shop organised by a representative of COIN (Climate Outreach and Information Network) for all members, officers involved in the environmental performance and especially the comms team. COIN offers a highly cost-effective and scientifically based workshop to review past communication and adopt a best practice, value based approach to any communication in the fields of pro-environmental behaviour and climate change.

Response

If the council chooses to bring in external specialist advice to take this work forward then it would go through a commissioning process to test the market and ensure it was getting good value for money.

We are especially delighted that the city council agreed on the offer to collaborate with the Tyndall Centre, a climate change research group. We sincerely hope that this collaboration, started by Green Party councillor Sandra Bogelein, will continue in the future. Several researchers have offered outside scrutiny of our environmental performances and we trust that the council will take up on this offer. Unfortunately, counter to the researchers' advice, this draft environmental strategy again lacks the ambition to assess the status quo of Norwich emissions in a comprehensive way as a starting point for an informed strategy. The scientists have provided us with numerous examples of cities where such an approach was highly successful.

Response

A base-lining exercise was carried out to inform the strategy looking at current environmental performance. The data that is used on emissions is provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Further the request to focus more on absolute cutting edge technologies and be a city of bravery, innovation and true leadership in these technologies has not found its way fully into this strategy.

Response

This seems quite a subjective statement, without examples of what is perceived to be missing and so it is difficult to actually respond to. However, the action programme has a range of innovative approaches when compared against that of similar cities.

We are further very happy that with the 3S group scientists with an expertise on citizen engagement have been consulted. Unfortunately a lot of the recommendations from this group have not been taken up: The social scientists recommended involving environmental groups such as Transition Norwich in drafting this strategy to make it a document owned by the people of Norwich. This has not happened.

Response

Environmental groups such as Transition Norwich were specifically contacted and asked to provide feedback to inform the development of the strategy.

A range of further engagement will be carried out as part of taking all the different elements of the strategy forward, both with citizens and organisations. For example, work to take forward a bid to be the UK green capital would include significant work with citizens and organisations to build ownership of the environment including the concept of environmental citizenship.

Another request was to include public engagement with the environmental strategy and Norwich City Council's actions based on this strategy as a measure in the strategy itself. The scientists emphasised that making this document a shared and publically owned document is just as important as an ambitious strategy. Again, this recommendation has not been taken up in the draft strategy.

Response

In this context the engagement is one of a number of very important mechanisms that will help to deliver the overall priority outcomes of the strategy e.g. reduced carbon emissions. As such, engagement has not been put into the strategy document itself as an overall performance measure. However, the performance of the engagement activities that are delivered will, of course, be measured and reviewed and the learning used to inform future engagement activities. It will also be published as part of the annual review of strategy through the environmental statement.

Further it was recommended to establish a comprehensive communication and engagement strategy for the coming years. This strategy would clearly identify where communicating our common pro-environmental aims can be integrated in other council activities (e.g. activities with schools or businesses) and communication. It is important that the environmental strategy does not separate, but is integrated in all council decisions and activities. We hope that the next draft will include these essential recommendations.

Response

The draft strategy makes it clear that a comprehensive engagement and communications plan will be developed to support its delivery.

Another point to make is that an in-depth discussion about changing diets as an important mitigation measure evolved in the cross party workshop (e.g. reducing red meat, swapping butter for margarine, buying local, unprocessed food etc). This theme appears nowhere in the environmental strategy. We share concerns around the sensitivity of the subject, but it bears a huge potential for emission reductions (please request papers on this topic from the Green Group if required) and will have to enter the public and political arena. The council could commit to raising awareness of the environmental (and health) benefits of certain diets or support campaigns such as meat free Monday

Response

The sustainable living initiatives included within the action programme will include work on a number of these items. We believe they are better taken forward in a holistic way alongside other potential lifestyle changes rather than as specific campaign. As such, there are no plans to run a specific 'meat free Monday' type campaign.

Apart from the recommendations above there are several other additions that we feel would be important to make this environmental strategy truly ambitious and a first step for Norwich as a fine city for generations to come.

- We recommend incorporating considerations of potential measures for mitigation and adaptation as an integrated part of the planning process. That could mean to include them in planning requirements or to view them as a positive aspect of a planning application. We should take every future opportunity to strengthen planning policy on energy efficiency/micro generation and ensure it is given sufficient priority by planners.

Response

A range of mitigation and adaptation measures are already included within the planning framework. However, the action programme has been updated to make specific reference that this will be further explored in the future.

Risks associated with Climate Change should receive a specific section on the risk register. Risks associated with Climate Change can have negative effects in a number of areas prioritised in the Corporate Plan. We need to acknowledge these risks and take them into account in our decisions. Taking risks associated with climate change into the risk register is the way to ensure we make

sensible long term decisions in the light of the growing threat of a changing climate: “As well as acting to mitigate climate change, a truly green Council would also include carbon risk on its risk register. Few do and it’s part of the reason for inaction at a strategic level” (Jacob Wallace, from Sustainability Consultants, Best Foot Forward from Guardian website, 12.11.11).

Response

The council’s risk register directly relates to the delivery of the council’s corporate plan. Once the new corporate plan has been approved by Council in February the risk register will be updated accordingly.

- A related recommendation is to ensure that the environment appears as a separate audit category for Norwich and the greater Norwich area. This will again ensure that we take environmental issues and concerns into account when we make long reaching and big decisions that can potentially be (and some certainly are) detrimental to our environment and our aim to mitigate climate change.

Response

Further information is needed to understand this suggestion.

The planned 2% annual reductions may be roughly in line with the EU target of 40% reductions, but we have to question whether this is sufficient. An 80% reduction by 2050, which will likely be more difficult to achieve than the 2030 target, will still result in a dangerously high 2 degree rise in temperature. There is a 20% chance that this will result in unstoppable “runaway” warming. In this context we would like to invite members and officers to rethink and consider that the council should show leadership and commit to a more ambitious target.

Response

The targets have now been adjusted following the workshop with UEA set out in section C of this annex.

2. Comments on 4. The journey so far

We think there are considerable issues with how this part is presented and the conclusions drawn from the presented data. We keep the comments on this part separate from the priorities and actions in the draft strategy to ensure our comments on the descriptive in 4. don't compromise our overall appreciation of the environmental strategy. This is a public document though and we should accurately present the current situation and make sure we convey a meaningful message with this document.

- When presented to social scientists specialising on public engagement, they questioned the meaning and usefulness of this section. To the public, this may be a longwinded introduction and a distraction from the essential core, the priorities and action program of the environmental strategy. Further the meaningfulness of the presented data was questioned.
- Graphs at 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 & 4.7 come to a concerning conclusion. As the emissions bottom out in 2011 and show a rise in 2012, it would be interesting to know how much of the reduction up to 2011 is attributable to the economic downturn rather than carbon reduction initiatives. This is partly acknowledged in 4.9, but only after the strategy has prominently included the reduction among its achievements. Particularly until we have the 2013 figures, we would be cautious about adopting the optimistic tone of 4.1 (1st bullet).
- The fact that (see 4.2) Norwich has one of the lowest rates of carbon emissions across Norfolk's authorities is not surprising as it is an urban area. It would be a mistake to over-emphasise this as vindication for the level of action at City Council level. The factor of an urban area should be acknowledged in the text.
- The comparator groups shown in 4.4-4.7 are far more relevant and Norwich is shown to be about average. The fact that there is considerable room for improvement should be acknowledged more in the text.
- It is worth noting that, although Norwich's emissions from transport have apparently fallen (4.6) it is still the 2nd highest in the comparator group. This situation will of course not be helped with the construction of the NDR and the additional shoppers' car park planned for Rose Lane, and the encouragement of car usage that this will represent. It needs to be acknowledged in the strategy that City Council action would have to be particularly strong to effectively counter this.
- It would be preferable to test the conclusions made from the descriptive data against chance. For example is the difference between Norwich and Cambridge in the comparison family group significant? Without such a test, we cannot make strong claims or draw robust conclusions.
- It is confusing to have data points in some of the graphs (e.g. 4.2) that do not appear in the legend.
- In some of the graphs the line for Norwich cannot be seen.

Response

The majority of this section has been removed from the draft strategy as it does seem to potentially hinder the flow of the document, which is ultimately meant to be forward looking. This information will continue to be updated and held separately. The remaining part of this section has been adjusted to recognise the economic downturn.

3. Questions and clarifications

- Priority 9: Number of natural and semi natural green spaces and woodlands in positive management: How can the target (100%) be achievable when there is little or no budget for replanting trees? How does this measure reflect the loss of trees, which cannot be viewed as positive management?

Response

The trees budget does not directly relate to the positive management assessment. However, there are proposals within the budget for 2015/16 to increase the tree planting budget.

- Could you please comment on whether there will be considerable difficulties implementing the action program in the context of cuts. E.g. How will increase in the use of buses (Priority 6) be achieved in the context of significant cuts at County level, e.g. to Park & Ride, and pressure on CIL funding being diverted to the NDR. If there are any concerns how can we ensure we stick to this action program?

Response

If other organisations were to make cuts in the future, that we are currently unaware of, then clearly it could affect the delivery of the strategy. Similarly, other changes in the socio-economic environment in the future could affect delivery of different elements of the strategy. This is why the strategy will be subject to regular review and changes made as necessary.

- Re: 5.3, Priority 4. Is it definitely right as a strategy just to propose helping a few (150) houses per year? Would this still mean that more ambitious initiatives, such as an Energy Services Company mentioned in 1.6 which could help far more, would get serious consideration?

Response

This target relates to energy efficiency improvements to private homes e.g. cavity wall insulation. Based on the work carried out this is considered to be an appropriate target. This will not affect other actions within the action programme.

- Do we know how Exeter achieved a 28% drop in industry emissions in one year (4.4)?

Response

We have contacted Exeter to find out more about this reduction.

- Table 4.11: Where are the figures for Council Housing stock? Also, could there be an explanation for the “EHS” acronym? And the white line on the Owner Occupier row needs to move down to underneath the percentages.

Response

The majority of this section has been removed from the draft strategy as it does seem to potentially hinder the flow of the document, which is ultimately meant to be forward looking.

C. Workshop with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia during the consultation process

Generally the draft strategy was very well received (“impressive and really encouraging”) and the fact it was considered a vast improvement to the last environmental strategy was emphasised.

There were a number of questions asked about how the strategy would be resourced and how its delivery would be managed that were responded to as part of the workshop.

A number of specific suggestions for additions / changes were also made:

- To include the UEA, the research park and possibly the hospital more in the draft strategy. The institutions employ and are in contact with a large part of the Norwich population. Further they are big energy consumers.

Response

Work with the UEA was already included within the action programme but adjustments have been made to emphasise engagement with other key organisations.

- To look at a radical rethink with regards to transport. Another more visionary approach would have been to introduce electric charging points for cars to support a new generation of cars.

Response

The strategy does already include a range of work in regards to sustainable transport options. However, the action programme has now been updated to specifically include work to explore a model for electric charging points in the City.

- To review the 2 per cent annual target to see if it should be 2.4 per cent in line with a recent report on national carbon budgets.

Response

The targets have been reviewed and while the City would more than achieve the overall 33% national target (based on the 1990 baseline) by 2020 with the 2% target, the target has been adjusted to 2.4% to fit with national carbon budgets and reflect the ambitious approach that is being taken. However, it should be recognised that there will be very significant elements relating to achievement of this target that will be outside of the council's control.

-To develop a more long term vision (beyond the 4 years strategy) with central future projects that could be included there (a road map) including exploring options like trams etc. A long term visionary tool could be used to do so.

Response

The development of a long term vision and roadmap has now been added into the strategy as part of the development of a bid for UK green capital as this would be a good mechanism to engage the City in the process.

-To carry out awareness raising and training for the construction industry e.g. on the green deal, fitting energy saving measures and environmental motivation etc.

Response

This is already part of the council's Cosy City green deal service work and other activities but the action programme has been updated to show this.

- To look at ways to encourage the energy market to incentivise reduced consumption through tariffs etc.

Response

This has now been included within the action programme alongside exploring other opportunities to positively influence the energy supply market

-To look at whether improvement targets can be set for air pollution

Response

The current targets are based on a realistic assessment using the current government methodology. However, the methodology will soon be reviewed at which point the targets will be re-assessed.

-Ensuring future collaboration between the council and the university and how this could be strengthened. It was agreed as part of discussion that the Tyndall Centre and 3S would be invited to be part of the annual review process of the environmental strategy. Further it was suggested that the council could highlight to the Tyndall Centre and 3S if suitable contracts are going out for tender so researchers could potentially bid.

Response

This will be undertaken as part of taking the strategy forward.

There were also a number of minor suggestions to changes in wording and use of updated information that have been included in the strategy. It was also agreed that a technical annex including a glossary will be added to the strategy before the final designed version is published.

Draft Strategy 2015 - 2019

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Annex A: Norwich City Council's published Environmental Policy

Foreword by the portfolio holder

- 1.1 This document forms Norwich City Council's 3rd environmental strategy and details the council's environmental vision and priorities for the City over the next 4 years, taking us through to 2019.
- 1.2 Norwich is a city steeped in beautiful history and architecture; however, it is not our intention to make the city a museum piece. We need to ensure that Norwich continues to be a living, breathing city that continues to develop in character in order to support the needs of residents, visitors and organisations alike. However, it is vital that this is sustainable development which, "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" and, as such, it needs to be sensitively managed.
- 1.3 Our first environmental strategy was launched in 2008 and since then the council has gone from strength to strength in terms of its environmental achievements. The per capita carbon dioxide emissions for the City have fallen by 14% which is the largest fall in the East of England. (Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change). Whereas, the council's own carbon dioxide emissions have dropped by nearly 27%.
- 1.4 During this period our authority also received a number of national and international environmental awards in recognition of its environmental achievements.
- 1.5 There is clear evidence to show that climate change is happening. Global measurements show that the average temperature at the earth's surface has risen by about 0.8°C over the last century. Ten of the hottest years ever measured took place in the last 12 years and in the last 30 years each decade has been hotter than any previous one on record.
- 1.6 The average temperature in Britain is now 1°C higher than it was 100 years ago and 0.5°C higher than it was in the 1970s. Although it is clear that the climate is warming in the long-term, temperatures aren't expected to rise every single year. Natural fluctuations will still cause unusually cold years and seasons.
- 1.7 The European Union has reached a historic deal to cut greenhouse gasses by at least 40% domestically by 2030. The target is part of a package of measures to make Europe's energy system more secure, sustainable and competitive.
- 1.8 The agreement is a major win for the UK, which has been leading efforts in Europe for an ambitious but flexible deal that cuts carbon emissions whilst giving the UK and other member states the flexibility to decide how they will decarbonise.

- 1.9 As a low lying coastal county, with a growing population, Norfolk is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Higher sea levels, heat-waves, droughts and storms are more likely to take place as average global temperatures rise. Recent flooding events in Norfolk have highlighted how real this issue is.
- 1.10 Given that the climate change impacts are derived from our use of resources; likely solutions will involve a combination of:
- Better energy efficiency
 - Use of new technologies
 - Developing renewable energy sources
 - Social and political changes
 - Engaging with citizens, communities and organisations
 - Personal and behavioural changes
 - Development of a 'low carbon economy'
 - Adapting to the changing climate.
- 1.11 We aim to enable sustainable solutions working with citizens and organisations to help them to meet their needs but also to contribute to creating a low carbon economy and support thriving, vibrant communities.
- 1.12 I am pleased our council is a signatory to the Local Government Association's climate local programme. I believe that we are at a cross roads. Food, fuel, poverty, financial and climate issues have led to a "perfect storm" to which we can respond in one of two ways.
- 1.13 One is the route of "business as usual" which won't achieve the change that is needed. The other route is one that truly engages with the changes the world needs, where government, businesses and civil society all work together to make the far-reaching decisions that are required to ensure that we keep the planet safe for future generations.
- 1.14 At a local level this new environmental strategy aims to deliver a sustainable environment which improves or maintains the quality of life for all of us. By making sure we use our natural resources wisely, emitting less CO2 and reusing and recycling as much as possible, we can take advantage of the fantastic opportunities to create a more sustainable City that we, our children and grandchildren can all enjoy for the future.
- 1.15 Much good work has already taken place and this ambitious new strategy will set out how we intend to build upon these actions and enable further improvements, working collaboratively with citizens, businesses, academic institutions such as the University of East Anglia and a range of other organisations.

Cllr Stonard
Cabinet Member for Environment, Development and Transport

2. Context and purpose

Context

- 2.1 In 2008 the council's Environmental Strategy team was established. Following a base lining exercise, the council's first Environmental Strategy was produced which ran from 2008 to 2011, and the second one from 2011 to 2014. This document forms the third Environmental Strategy and it will run for the next 4 years.
- 2.2 In addition to the environmental strategy in March 2013 the council's first Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report was produced. This details the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in Norwich. In March 2015 the second HECA report will be completed and will also report on progress made against the targets in the 2013 report and detail actions for the future. As such, these two documents will be closely aligned.

Purpose

- 2.3 The current draft corporate plan 2015-20, which is the council's overarching strategy and guides all the work of the council in the City, includes the overall vision to **"To make Norwich a fine city for all"** and the following overall priorities:

To make Norwich a:

- **Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City**
- **Prosperous City**
- **Fair City**
- **Healthy City with Good Housing**

With a council who provides:

- **Value for Money Services**

- 2.4 Within this framework, the purpose of this environmental strategy is to set out in more detail the council's environmental vision and priorities for the City for the next four years and how they will be achieved.
- 2.5 It guides all the environmental work carried out by council in the period. This work is set out in more detail in service plans and other council plans and those of partners and contractors. This is summarised in the diagram below:

Diagram A: Framework for Environmental Strategy

*Council's overall
vision and
priorities for the
City*

Corporate Plan
2015-20

*Environmental
vision and
priorities for the
City*

Environmental
Strategy
2015-2019

Delivery

Environmental
Action
Programme

Supporting Plans /
Strategies e.g.
waste strategy,
housing strategy,
carbon
management
programme
etc.

Service, Contractor
and Partner Plans

3. Development of this strategy

3.1 The environmental strategy has been developed through the following methods:

- Analysis and assessment of baseline information on the current environmental position in Norwich.
- Review of the wider policy and legal context.
- Workshops and input from expert stakeholders including the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the 3S Research Group at the University of East Anglia.
- Review of existing activities and future opportunities across services and contractors.
- Discussions and input from elected members including the cabinet and an all member workshop.
- Looking at good practice from other areas.
- Assessment of the likely resources the council will have in the future to carry out environmental work.

3.2 In 2009 the council sought the views of Norwich citizens and organisations on the impact of climate change through the Norwich Independent Climate Change Commission which was established by leaders from a number of stakeholder groups. The results of this consultation helped to inform the last environmental strategy.

3.3 Building upon this work the council is once again seeking to engage with Norwich citizens and organisations on this draft strategy. The results will be used to further inform the strategy prior to its formal adoption by the council.

4. The journey so far

Summary of achievements

4.1 Norwich City Council's environmental work over the last few years has led to a number of achievements and national recognition. For example:

- The per capita carbon dioxide emissions for the City have fallen by 14% which is the largest fall in the East of England. (Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change). Whilst some of this reduction would have coincided with the wider economic downturn it is still an encouraging reduction. Whereas, the council's own carbon dioxide emissions have dropped by nearly 27% over the last five years through our successful ongoing carbon management programme.
- Residual waste levels in the City have fallen faster than in the rest of Norfolk and recycling has increased significantly.
- We have improved the energy efficiency of the council's own housing stock of over 15,000 homes through a major programme of improvement and worked hard to promote energy efficiency measures to private homes through grants and incentives.
- In 2010 the council received recognition at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) LivCom Awards as being regarded as a gold standard in the management of our environment.
- In 2014 the council also won an International Green Apple Award for best in category for its Raspberry Pi project that is recycling old ICT equipment for use in schools to help children develop ICT skills. We also won a silver award in the Transformation in Waste & Environment category of the iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise) Awards for this project.
- In 2014 the council's Environmental Strategy Manager was named 'Energy Manager of the Year' at the national Energy Services and Technology Association (ESTA) awards.

5. Where do we want to be?

5.1 The council's environmental vision is:

'A sustainable city with a good local environment that people value'

(A sustainable city is one where the needs of today's citizens can be met without compromising the ability of future citizens to meet their own needs).

5.2 The council's environmental mission is:

'To always strive for ways to achieve environmental excellence wherever possible'

5.3 The council's key environmental priorities (and the outcomes they contribute to), performance measures and targets are set out in the table below:

Outcome	Priority	Key performance measure(s)	Target 15/16	Target 16/17	Target 17/18	Target 18/19
Impact of climate change is mitigated and reduced.	Priority 1: To reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions	Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions for the local area	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Priority 2: To reduce the council's carbon dioxide emissions	Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
	Priority 3: To increase reuse and recycling in the City and reduce the amount of residual waste	Reduction in residual waste produced in the City (based on 2013/14 baseline)	3.33%	3.33%	3.33%	3.33%
	Priority 4: To increase the energy efficiency of the housing stock in the City	Number of private households where council activity helped to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.	150	150	150	150

Outcome	Priority	Key performance measure(s)	Target 15/16	Target 16/17	Target 17/18	Target 18/19
		Average SAP rating of council homes	71.5	72	72.5	73
	Priority 5: To ensure that new development is carried out in a sustainable way	% of homes built by the council to Sustainable Homes Code 4 or Passivhaus	100%	100%	100%	100%
		% of new development scoring no reds in the building for life audit	100%	(Audit every 2 years)	100%	(Audit every 2 years)
	Priority 6: To support and encourage more sustainable transport solutions	Increased use of buses	<i>Exact measure and targets to be determined through ongoing engagement with Norfolk County Council</i>			
		% of adults living in the area who cycle at least once per week	23%	25%	27%	29%
	Priority 7: To support a low carbon economy in Norwich	Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions for industry for the local area	<i>Exact measure and targets to be determined through engagement and consultation</i>			
Good local environment that people value	Priority 8: To prepare for the impacts of climate change	Planning to adapt to climate change assessment	Level 3	Level 4	Level 4	Level 4
	Priority 9: To work with local communities to ensure our local environment is protected and enhanced where possible.	Improvement in air quality – compliance with national air quality standards	86%	86%	86%	86%

Outcome	Priority	Key performance measure(s)	Target 15/16	Target 16/17	Target 17/18	Target 18/19
		Number of natural and semi natural green spaces and woodlands in positive management	100%	100%	100%	100%
		Percentage of people satisfied with parks and open spaces	75%	75%	75%	75%
		Percentage of people broadly satisfied with allotments	75%	75%	75%	75%
		Percentage of areas found to be clean	94%	94%	94%	94%

6. How will we get there?

6.1 The council will achieve its environmental priorities through delivery of a comprehensive environmental action programme. This action programme sets out the key projects, actions and activities the council will progress within the following areas of its 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 that it can be better adapted to the changing climate.

6.2 The council's environmental action programme can be found at section 9.

6.3 Responsibility for the overall delivery of the environmental action programme rests with the corporate leadership team and is co-ordinated and managed by the environmental strategy team. Specific projects, actions and activities within the programme will be the responsibility of services, contractors and partner organisations.

7. How will we know and review?

- 7.1 Delivery of the environmental strategy and action programme will be closely monitored through the council's performance management framework. This includes regular performance review and challenge by officers and formal performance reporting and review by councillors through:
- Cabinet (quarterly through the council's performance report).
 - Scrutiny (every six months through their review of performance).
 - Sustainable development panel (regularly on specific projects, services and activities).
- 7.3 We will also publish an annual environmental statement that sets out overall performance against the priorities within the strategy.
- 7.4 The environmental strategy will be subject to a review at the end of each year looking at:
- Overall performance and progress.
 - Changes in the national or local landscape.
 - Success of engagement and communication activities.
 - New opportunities identified e.g. through partnership work or engagement work.
 - Learning from pilot projects and approaches that have been tested.
 - Resourcing levels.
- 7.5 This process will determine any changes to be made to the strategy.

8. How will we engage and communicate?

- 8.1 The council will carry out a range of work to engage and communicate with residents, voluntary and community organisations, businesses, academic institutions and other statutory bodies on the progression of this environmental strategy.
- 8.2 Engagement and communication activities will draw on the latest research and approaches in community engagement and environmental psychology (a discipline concerned with effective communication and behaviour change with regards to environmental issues) and utilise concepts and principles such as:
- Making sustainability meaningful for citizens (focusing on factors such as the wider environment and community and the use of value based communications).
 - Habit discontinuity (taking advantage of existing lifestyle opportunities to encourage behaviour change e.g. promoting energy efficiency when people move homes).
 - Utilising social networks and norms (utilising what other people do and/or is the expected behaviour e.g. most people in this area now recycle).
 - Two way participatory engagement/ communications (engaging others in discussions and work on the issues and the solutions to deliver the environmental priorities for the City e.g. the development of community energy projects through the use of grants).
 - Utilising existing engagement and communication activities wherever possible (to ensure a holistic approach, maximise the use of resources and prevent engagement/ communication overload).
 - Pre-testing and evaluating different engagement and communications (to ensure that they are as well designed as possible and that learning is utilised for future activities).
- 8.3 A detailed supporting engagement and communication plan will be developed as part of the action programme.

9. Action Programme

Ref	Action	Environmental priorities they contribute to delivering	Lead Service	Delivery timescale
Theme 1 – The Council as community leaders				
1.1	To promote a low carbon economy and investment in green jobs through the council's economic development work	1, 5 & 7	City development	2015/16 and then ongoing
1.2	To work with expert partner organisations in the City e.g. University of East Anglia to provide external advice and challenge and to utilise, share and promote environmental research and learning and develop joint bids and solutions to environmental issues	All	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
1.3	To liaise with large energy users in the City e.g the Norwich Research Park, Norfolk County Council, the hospital, large businesses etc to share learning and experience and look for joint opportunities on energy efficiency and other environmental improvements.	All	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing

1.4	To explore with partner organisations the potential for a district heating scheme for the City and other options for the development of renewable energy for the future	1, 2, 4, 5, & 7	Environmental Strategy	2015/16
1.5	To explore running a major collective auction in the City for solar PV so that private households and landlords can purchase and install PV at a lower cost	1, 4 & 7	Environmental Strategy	2015/16
1.6	To provide grants and advice for local communities to develop community energy projects	1, 4 & 7	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and ongoing
1.7	To monitor, review and potentially take forward development and opportunities in the local energy supply markets including exploring community energy companies and energy services companies and ways to incentivise reduced consumption	1 & 7	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
1.8	To develop a supporting engagement and communications plan drawing on the latest research and best practice encompassing actions 1.7 to 1.25 below.	All	Environmental Strategy	Early 2015

1.9	To work with residents and organisations across the City to jointly develop a bid to be the UK Green Capital 2019 which would include developing a longer term vision (10 years plus) and roadmap and looking at options like Norwich environmental citizenship	All	Environmental Strategy	2018/19
1.10	To develop sustainable living and 'love where you live' type campaigns to promote simple measures to residents and organisations including adaptation approaches and encourage people to take part in local activities like litter picking	All	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and then ongoing
1.11	To promote energy efficiency and sustainable lifestyle changes when people move home through the use of tenancy packs etc.	All	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and then ongoing
1.12	To create a Norwich Sustainable Consumer Guide and web pages - collating information of locally designed, reused, sourced, up-cycled, sourced, rentable, recycled products and repair services	All	Environmental Strategy	2016/17 and then ongoing

1.13	To promote key existing environmental campaigns and opportunities in Norwich e.g. Earth Hour, Close the Door, Lift Share and the Norfolk Car Club.	All	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and then ongoing
1.14	To promote an online reuse portal "Give it for good" to facilitate and increase reuse options in the city	3	Environmental Strategy	2016/17 and then ongoing
1.15	To promote local food production through the council's allotments service and communication activities	9	Citywide services	Ongoing
1.16	To develop an open-homes online network to enable residents to learn from one another on how to improve their home's energy efficiency	1 & 4	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and then ongoing

1.17	To continue to promote waste prevention and recycling through public engagement	4	Citywide services	Ongoing
1.18	To run an annual eco living event for residents and organisations	All	Environmental Strategy	2015/16 and then ongoing
1.19	To run an annual eco awards scheme in the City to promote environmental excellence to residents and organisations including encouraging carbon reduction and use of renewable energy by businesses	All	Environmental Strategy	Annual
1.20	To raise awareness and encourage skills development in the local construction industry in the green deal and the installation energy savings measures through the council's Cosy City service and other activities	1,4,5 & 7	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing

1.21	To implement initiatives to raise awareness and create action at a local neighbourhood level about energy efficiency, managing energy use and the benefits of installing renewable energy by providing information, advice and education	1 & 4	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
1.22	To ensure the council's private landlord accreditation scheme promotes energy efficiency	1 & 4	City development	2015/16
1.23	To continue to lobby OFGEM for a standard for renewable energy tariffs so that this can be included within the council's switch and save scheme.	1 & 7	Environmental Strategy	2015/16
1.24	To carry out and publish an annual review of our climate local commitments	All	Environmental Strategy	Annual

1.25	To develop and publish an annual environmental statement	All	Environmental Strategy	Annual
1.26	To produce and publish the Home Energy Conservation Act report	1 & 4	Environmental Strategy	2015/16
1.26	To promote and share best practice on environmental work with other organisations	All	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
1.27	To continue to run a staff awareness campaign to reduce the amount of carbon emissions from business operations at Norwich City Council	2	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
Theme 2 – The Council as service providers				

2.1	To increase landfill diversion rates and reduce landfill tonnage	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.2	To identify ways to reduce and treat food waste	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.3	To identify ways to reduce and treat garden waste	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.4	To develop and improve the quality and range of recycling services available to Norwich residents	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing

2.5	To improve participation, set-out rates and collected tonnages for recycling services, particularly the weekly food service	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.6	To continue to work with the other local authorities in Norfolk to achieve the objectives set-out in the joint waste strategy	1 & 3	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.7	To deliver programmes and projects to improve energy efficiency measures in privately owned housing e.g the Cosy City Green deal service.	1, 4, 7, 8	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
2.8	To implement the Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy by 2026	5,6,7 & 8	Planning service	Ongoing

2.9	To explore the potential use of Passivhaus or Sustainable Homes level 4 for all new build	1, 4, 5, & 7	Planning service	2016/17
2.10	To develop new homes for the City Council that conform to Sustainable Homes Level 4 or Passivhaus	1, 4, 5, & 7	City development	Ongoing
2.11	To ensure that new developments include sustainable travel options from the start	1 & 6	Planning service	Ongoing
2.12	To support parties wishing to undertake voluntary remediation of land		Citywide services	Ongoing

2.13	To ensure the infrastructure at Threescore will provide attractive landscaped areas around the drainage lagoons for local people to use and to provide important habitats for wildlife	9	Planning service	2015/16 onwards
2.14	To ensure the Threescore phase 2 development is planned to provide 75% dwellings to Passivhaus standards	1, 4, 5, & 7	Planning service	2016
2.15	To ensure enhanced open space provision as part of the Goldsmith development	9	City development	2016
2.16	To increase the number of 20mph zones in the city to make cycling and walking safer	1 & 6	City development	Ongoing

2.17	To explore the feasibility of electric bike hire from the Tourist Information Centre	1, 6 & 7	Environmental Strategy	2015/16
2.18	To continue the implementation of bus rapid transit, city centre improvements and walking and cycling investment	1 & 6	City development	Ongoing
2.19	To explore with partner organisations the potential for establishing electric charging points in the City.	1, 6 & 7	Environmental Strategy	2017/18
2.20	To continue to monitor air quality and meet EU standards and to take action where necessary to address nuisance issues where they occur e.g from bonfires etc.	9	Citywide services	Ongoing

2.21	To work with local businesses to drive down emissions to atmosphere under the Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC) regime	9	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.22	To review the objectives of the tree strategy for Norwich which will consider carbon storage, biodiversity, air quality and climate change adaptation.	8 & 9	Citywide services	2015/16
2.23	To deliver a new open spaces strategy in Norwich including ensuring all Norwich City Council Wildlife Sites (CWS) are in positive management	9	Citywide services	2015/16
2.24	To utilise external funding sources to undertake a programme of improvements at key city council owned natural areas to improve the biodiversity, increase their resilience to extreme weather and enhance access for visitors on foot. To initially include Marston Marshes, Earlham Millennium Green, the Heronry and Danby Wood.	8 & 9	Citywide services	September 2015 for first sites
2.25	To investigate the potential for improving other natural areas using external funding	9	Citywide services	Ongoing

2.26	To investigate the potential for managing some intensively-managed grass areas under 'conservation cuts', involving fewer cuts per year	9	Citywide services	2015/16
2.27	To replace water-intensive planting with wildflowers and herbaceous shrubs, to encourage wildlife and become more resistant to drought in parks and green spaces in the city	8 & 9	Citywide services	2015/16 and then ongoing
2.28	To continue to involve local communities in the management of their local parks, natural areas and open spaces	9	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.29	To plant trees and vegetation that prevent rapid run-off and protect areas from flooding	8 & 9	Citywide services	2015/16 and then ongoing
2.30	To carry out the climate adaptation tool review of services	8	Environmental strategy	Annual
2.31	To carry out flood mitigation modelling and develop a future investment plan	8	Planning service	2015/16 and ongoing
2.32	To explore other mitigation and adaptation measures that could be included in the planning framework in the future	8	Planning service	2017/18 and ongoing
2.33	To ensure all emergency plans for major weather events are kept up to date	8	Citywide services	Ongoing

2.34	To keep accurate records of the effects of weather events on council services	8	Environmental strategy	Ongoing
2.35	To ensure effective maintenance of highway drainage systems and partnership working with Norfolk County Council and Anglian Water	8 & 9	City development	Ongoing
2.36	To ensure gullies are emptied effectively across the City	8 & 9	Citywide services	Ongoing
2.37	To continue to deliver an affordable warmth strategy and programme to reduce fuel poverty and increase wellbeing	4	Environmental strategy	Ongoing
2.38	To deliver a preventable seasonal excess deaths action plan with key partner organisations e.g health	8	Environmental strategy	Annual
Theme 3 – The Council as a purchaser of goods and services				
3.1	To implement a sustainable procurement strategy and contract management framework	1, 2 & 7	Procurement	Ongoing
3.2	To continue to ensure 100% of the councils energy is sourced from a "green" tariff	1 & 2	Procurement	Ongoing
3.3	To work with our contractors to reduce waste and ensure the delivery of high environmental standards	1 , 2 & 3	Procurement	2017/18
3.4	To adopt an ethical investment policy, with commitment to divestment from fossil fuels	1	Finance	Ongoing

Theme 4 – The council as an estate manager

4.1	To deliver an ongoing investment programme of energy efficiency improvements in council housing across the City	1, 4, 7,	Housing	Ongoing
4.2	To explore the development and delivery of a large scale PV scheme on council housing across the City in consultation with tenants and review other opportunities for micro- generation	1, 2 ,4 & 7	Housing	Ongoing
4.3	To deliver the council's carbon management programme for the next four years to realise a 40% reduction (from a 2007 baseline) from local authority operations	1, 2 & 7	Environmental Strategy	Ongoing
4.4	To carry out a review of the council's asset portfolio informed by energy performance surveys to guide opportunities for energy efficiency improvement and rationalisation	1,2 &7	City development	Ongoing
4.5	To deliver large scale solar PV schemes on a minimum of 2 commercial or operational sites in the city	1, 2 & 7	City development	2015/16 and 2016/17
4.6	To explore the development of a programme of LED and more efficient landlord lighting working closely with residents	1,2 & 7	Housing	Ongoing

4.7	To refresh and re-launch the council's employee travel plan including looking to reduce single occupancy car journeys by 20% by 2016 and the continuation of the cycle to work scheme, pool bike scheme and encouragement of walking	1,2,6 &7	Human Resources	2015/16
4.8	To rationalise and reduce the number of fleet vehicles run by the council by 2.5%	1,2 & 7	City development	2016/17
4.9	To produce and deliver a council water reduction action plan	1 & 2	Environmental Strategy	2016/17

Annex A: Norwich City Council's published Environmental Policy

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