

Norwich City Council
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ITEM 6

Environmental Strategy 2015-18 – progress update

Summary:	This report provides an update on progress against the Environmental strategy 2015-18 and the current Environmental Action plan ahead of publication of the next Environmental Statement in September 2017
Purpose:	To determine any recommendations to cabinet on the delivery of the council's Environmental Strategy 2015-18.
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Summary

The scrutiny committee considered the Environmental Strategy at its meeting on 28 January 2016. Norwich City Council has made excellent progress in delivering the objectives contained within the Environmental Strategy. This was summarised in the councils Environmental Statement and Climate Local update.

The council continues to deliver activities which provide leadership to the communities we serve as well as maintaining high quality environments and services which aid to maintain quality places to live in and to work.

These improvements have been delivered during a time where government funding has diminished for such areas as renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects and programmes. Regretfully 2017 will be a potentially barren year for domestic energy efficiency if action is not taken to replace the energy efficiency programmes removed in 2015 by central government. The consequence of this policy switch will result in less funding for low carbon investments such as insulation or renewables programmes going forward. To date there is little information of what, if anything, will replace it in April 2017.

Amid this changing funding landscape for local authorities, Norwich City Council has continued to perform to the targets set in section 5 of the Environmental Strategy. More information is provided in the following report however, some highlights include:

- 39.5 % reduction in carbon emissions since 2008
- 8.7% fall in per capita emissions 2015/16
- 151,227 total One Planet social media event reach in 2016/17
- New Passivhaus building programme
- Improved private sector energy efficiency
- 1% reduction in fuel poverty

The progress of the Environmental Strategy will be better reflected in the bi-annual Environmental Statement due to the time taken to deliver projects and to receive meaningful statistical information. The next statement is due September 2017.

Background

In 2008 the council's environmental strategy team was established.

The council's first environmental strategy was produced for 2008-11. The second strategy was produced for 2011-14 and current edition runs from 2015- 2018.

The current edition of the environmental strategy was developed through the following methods:

- Analysis and assessment of targets 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 UEA.
- 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.
- Members workshop and good practice from other areas.
- Assessment of the likely resources the council will have in the future to carry out environmental work.

Once the strategy was drafted the authority asked for additional comments from other stakeholders such as the Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Norfolk County Council and other third sector groups.

The Environmental Strategy should not be looked at in isolation. The measurable outcomes are closely aligned to a number of other policy documents. Such as;
Carbon Management Programme
Home Energy Conservation Act Report (HECA)
Integrated Waste Management Strategy
Procurement Strategy
Affordable Warmth Strategy
Housing Strategy and planning policy

Reporting on progress

The progress of the Environmental Strategy is monitored via the bi-annual Environmental Statement and via regular reports to the Sustainable Development Panel. The next statement is due September 2017. Norwich City is also a Climate Local member and reports progress bi-annually via the Environmental Statement.

www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/1041/environmental_statement

Norwich City Council also reports and publishes its Carbon emissions annually

www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/1979/carbon_footprint

Finally a wide range of reports are taken to members via the Sustainable Development Panel. These often report progress of specific projects and or progress against strategic delivery.

Examples include:

13/01/2016

Cosy City Update

To consider the progress made against addressing energy efficiency within the private sector housing stock. This report sets out the energy conservation measures and grants which have been delivered via the Cosy City programme.

13/01/2016

Integrated waste management strategic objectives: Progress report

Update for members on progress against the service Action Plan for waste prevention and recycling and the integrated waste management strategic objectives.

24/02/2016

One Planet Norwich Festival 2016

This report informs members of the arrangements for the second One Planet Norwich Festival in 2016.

Progress to date:

The most up to date report against progress is contained within the Environmental Statement (attached at appendix A)

www.norwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/1041/environmental_statement

In addition section 8 of the Environmental Strategy outlines the council's aspirations to engage and communicate pro-environmental behaviour. Since January 2016 the council has held five public events including One Planet Norwich, Refashion and the Pumpkin Rescue. With a total social media event reach of 151,227 people and total visitor numbers of 10,600 people. To deliver this the council has worked with over 100 organisations – either collaborating, exhibiting or promoting their eco work.

Event statistics:

One Planet Norwich Festival 2016: Social media – total reach 58,900. 8,300 visitors 40 organisations attended. **Eco Awards:** Applications: 59. 50 visitors to ceremony. Now County wide. **Slow Food Festival:** 350 visitors. 20 organisations involved. 20,000 social media reach. **Pumpkin Rescue (also presence at Spooky City):** 1,500 visitors. 9 organisations involved. 24,765 social media reach. National coverage – Hubbub. 75 pumpkins and 1 crate of bread saved from landfill. 978 portions of soup handed out. **ReFashion Norwich:** 400 visitors. 30 organisations involved. 47,562 social media reach.

Priority 1: To reduce the Cities CO₂ emissions

A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ Priority 1: A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ CO₂ emissions for the local area

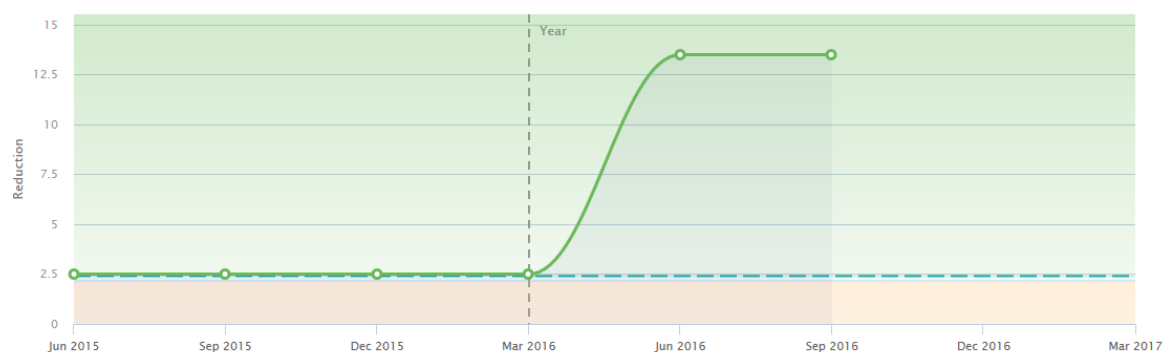
CO₂ emissions for the local area

The indicator measures the percentage reduction in per capita CO₂ emissions for the Norwich City Council area. Emissions from industry, domestic and transport are all included. Data is available annually



Bigger values are best

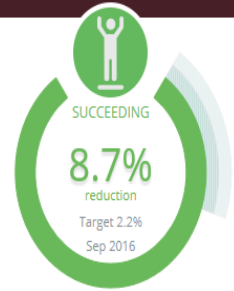
Our goal is
2.4% Reduction by Mar 2017



Priority 2: To reduce the councils CO₂ emissions

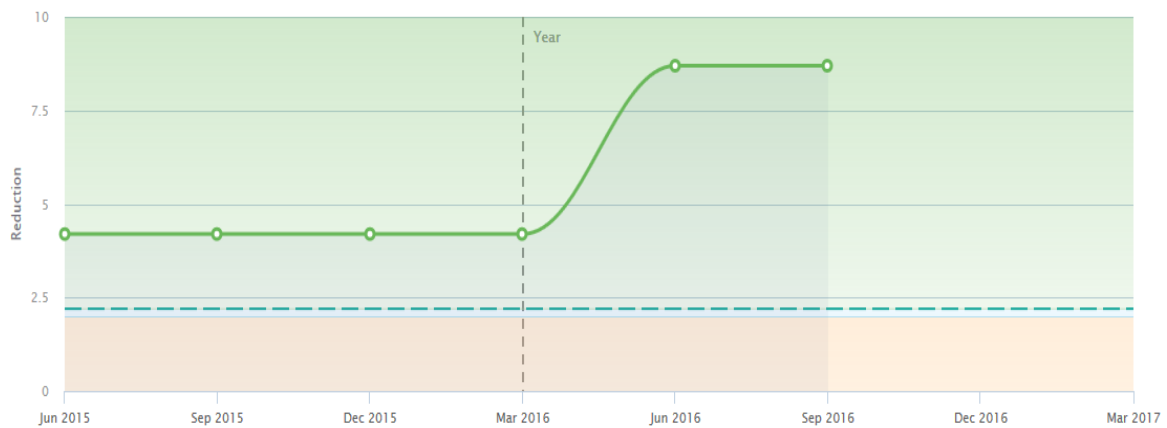
CO2 emissions from local authority operations

A year on year measured reduction of CO2 emissions from local authority activity. Data is available annually, and involves both direct and indirect emissions.



Our goal is
2.2% Reduction by Mar 2017

Bigger values are best



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

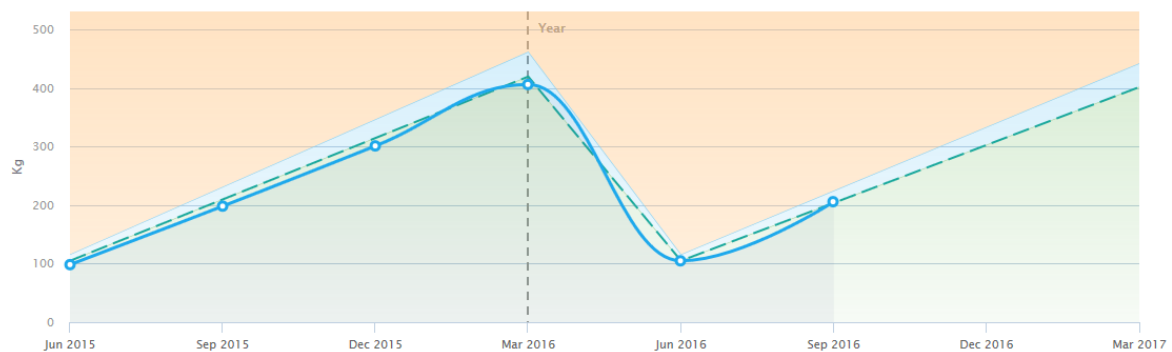
Residual household waste per household

Measured quarterly, the total tonnage of waste minus the amount recycled is divided by the amount of households within the city.



Our goal is
402.0 Kg by Mar 2017

Smaller values are best



Priority 4: To increase the energy efficiency of housing

Number of private sector homes where council activity improved energy efficiency

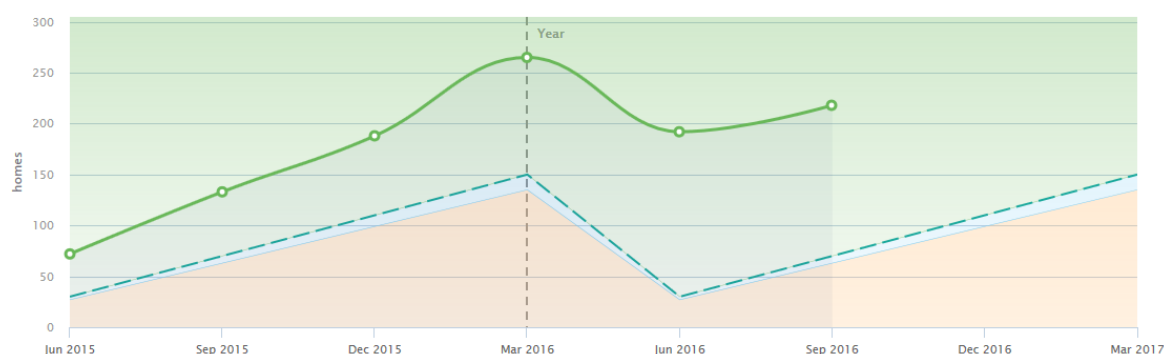


This is a count of the number of private sector homes where activity by the Council has helped to improve energy efficiency. Included in the count are small measures such as blankets, medium measures such as boiler replacement grants and large measures such as central heating grants.



Our goal is
150 homes by Mar 2017

Bigger values are best



No. 70.9 (-0.6 off target.) The RD SAP's methodology has been changed. This has altered the figures which update our asset database scores. This change has lowered the SAP scores nationally. Average score was based on an older SAP methodology which may need to be updated. NPS anticipate the database update at end of February to accommodate the new methodology. Following this, NPS may need to review the target and interventions previously agreed to again fall in-line with both national average and local objectives. NPS continues to work on "whole house improvements"

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

Ten flats constructed to Passivhaus standard on the site of the authority's former area housing office in Hansard Close.

The Hansard Close development comprises eight one-bedroom flats and two two-bedroom flats. And while relatively modest in scale, it is likely to become the city's first residential Passivhaus development, with tenants. This was one of the first projects to use the council's new 'Fabric First Framework'. The framework is being managed by Barron and Smith and can also be used by other local authorities and housing associations wishing to carry out similar projects.

RG Carter has been appointed to build 172 homes for the city council at the Three Score development, of which 112 will be built to Passivhaus standards. This makes it one of the largest Passivhaus schemes in the UK and the scheme is being developed by a newly-formed Regeneration Company, which is wholly owned by the council. A further 105 Passivhaus properties are already planned at Goldsmith Street, off Dereham Road and are currently being procured through the framework.

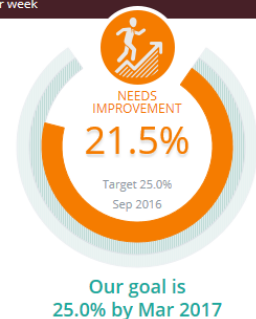
The three council schemes alone are comparable with the total number of certified Passivhaus dwellings built in the UK to date. Combined with other planned schemes at various stages of development across the city, Norwich more than doubles the UK total, and the new framework has the potential to push that figure even higher.

Priority 6: To support and encourage more sustainable transport solutions

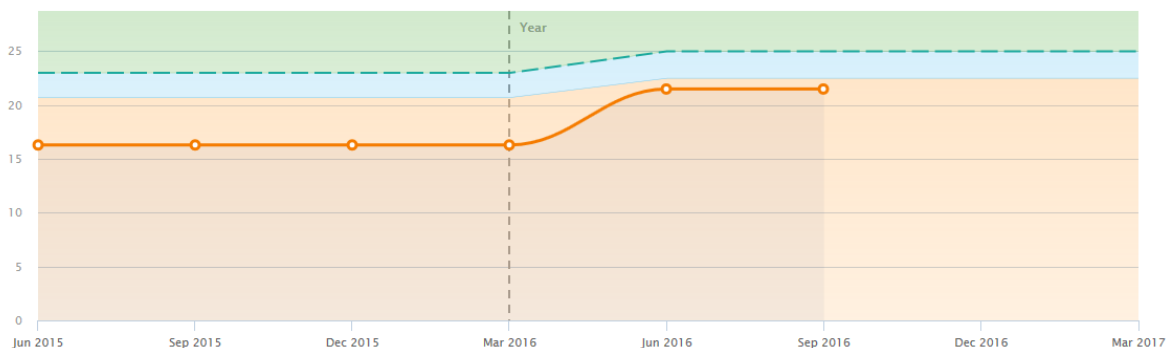
A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ Priority 1: A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ % of adults living the City Council's area who cycle at least once per week

% of adults living the City Council's area who cycle at least once per week

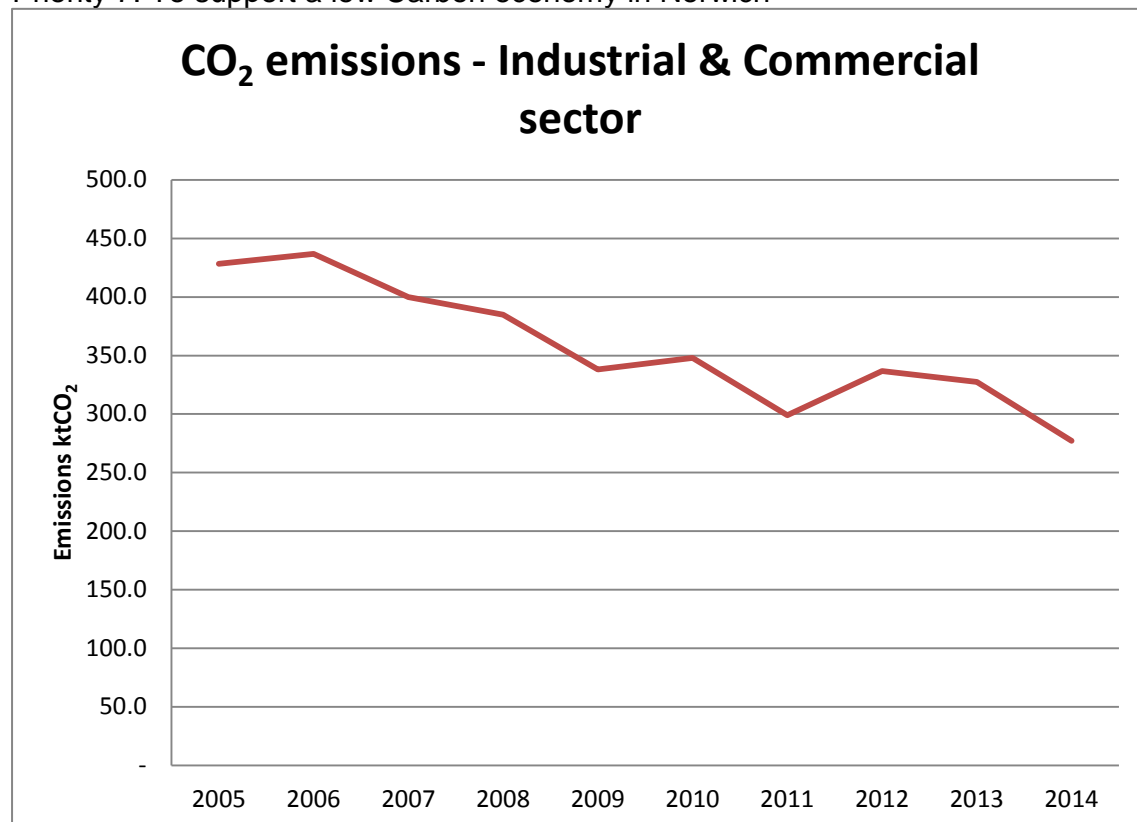
Data gathered from the Department for Transport's 'Local area walking and cycling statistics' released annually.



Bigger values are best



Priority 7: To support a low Carbon economy in Norwich



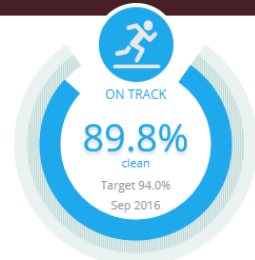
Priority 8 – Ongoing (Via Emergency plans and LCLIP Monitoring)

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

A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ Priority 1: A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ % of streets found clean on inspection

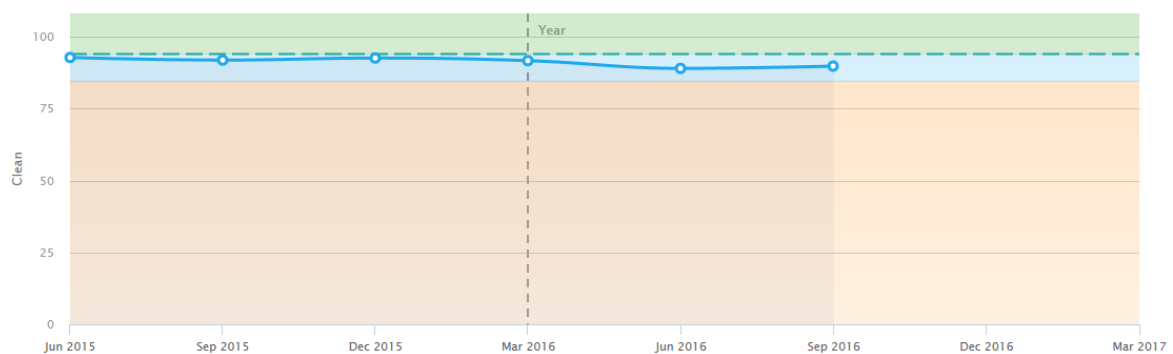
% of streets found clean on inspection

Measured every 4 months, the council monitors how many streets are found with neither litter nor detritus. The % reported is the average of these.



Our goal is
94.0% Clean by Mar 2017

Bigger values are best



A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ Priority 1: A Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City ▶ % of people satisfied with parks and open spaces

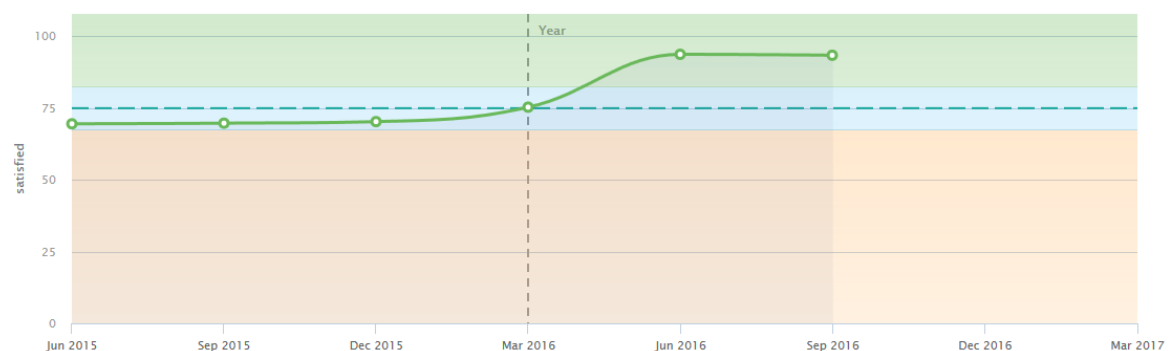
% of people satisfied with parks and open spaces

Currently gathered via a survey that the council conducts once per quarter.



Our goal is
75.0% satisfied by Mar 2017

Bigger values are best



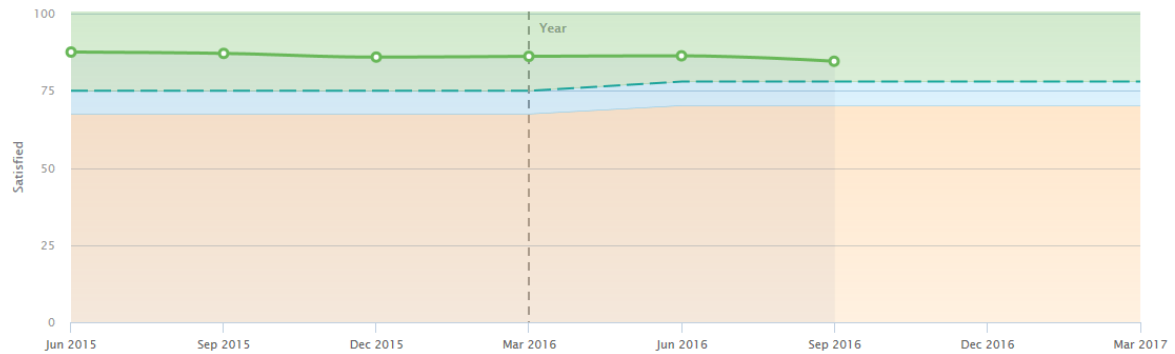
% of people satisfied with their local environment

Measured quarterly via a customer survey, the question posed is 'Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local neighbourhood as a place to live?'



Our goal is
78.0% Satisfied by Mar 2017

Bigger values are best





Norwich City Council **Environmental strategy**



2015-2018



Norwich City Council

Environmental Strategy 2015-19

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- 9. Action programme**

Annex A: Norwich City Council's published Environmental Policy

Foreword

- 1.1 This document forms Norwich City Council's third environmental strategy and details the council's environmental vision and priorities for the city over the next four 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 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 per cent, which is the largest fall in the east of England. (Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change). And the council's own carbon dioxide emissions have dropped by nearly 27 per cent.
- 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 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 per cent 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 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 (UEA) and a range of other organisations.

Cllr Bert Bremner
Cabinet member for environment and sustainable development

2. Context and purpose

Context

- 2.1 In 2008 the council's environmental strategy team was established. The council's first environmental strategy was produced for 2008-11, and the second strategy was produced for 2011-14. This document forms the third environmental strategy and it will run for the next four 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 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. It will report on the progress made against the targets in the 2013 report and will outline actions for the future. These two documents will be closely aligned.

Purpose

- 2.3 The Corporate Plan 2015-20, which is the council's overarching strategy and guides its work, includes the overall vision to **'To make Norwich a fine city for all'**. Its key priorities are:

to make Norwich a:

- **safe, clean and low carbon city**
- **prosperous city**
- **fair city**
- **healthy city with good housing**

With a council which 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 for 2015-20. 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*

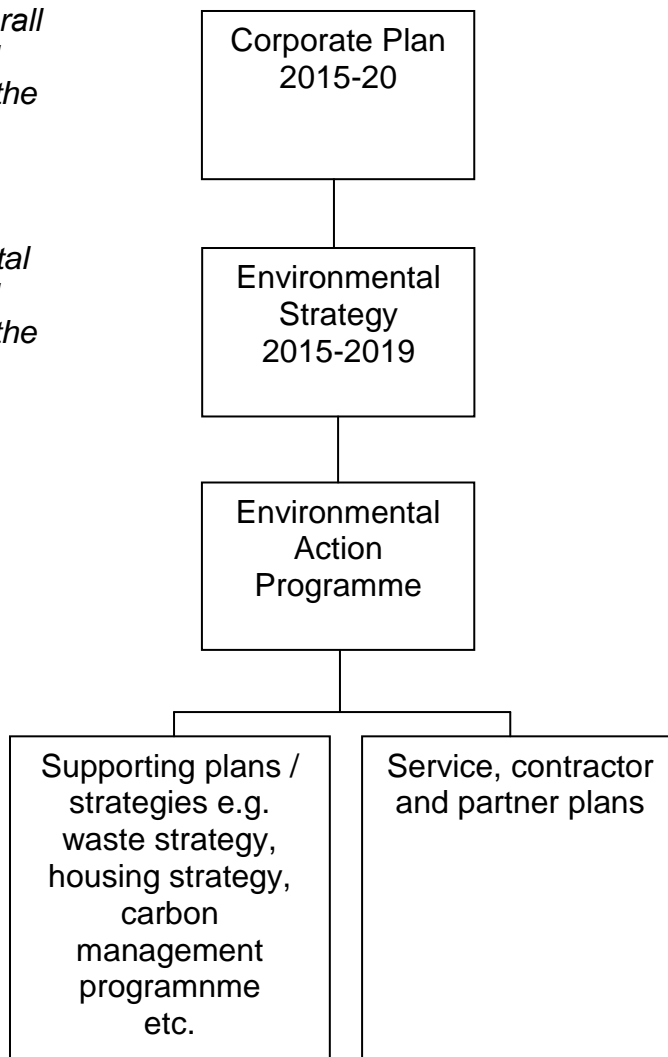
Environmental
Strategy
2015-2019

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 targets 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 UEA.
- 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 strategy.

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 per cent, 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. In comparison, the council's own carbon dioxide emissions have dropped by nearly 27 per cent 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. We were awarded the gold standard for the management of the city's environment.
- In 2014 the council also won an international Green Apple Award for best in category for its Raspberry Pi project which saw old ICT equipment in schools recycled to help children develop ICT skills. We also won a silver award in the transformation in waste and 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	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
	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 communicating with people based on their environmental values).
 - Habit discontinuity (taking advantage of existing lifestyle opportunities to encourage behaviour change e.g. promoting energy efficiency when people move homes).
 - Using 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).
 - Using 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 lessons are learned 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, Norfolk and Norwich University 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 panels so that private households and landlords can purchase and install them 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 waste 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 builds	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 council's 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 solar panel scheme for council housing across the city in consultation with tenants and review other opportunities for micro- generation, which is the small-scale generation of heat and electric power by individuals, small businesses and communities	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 panel schemes on a minimum of two 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 lighting 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

The council's environmental policy will play a key role in working towards sustainable development because the health and well-being of our environment is crucial for providing us all with a good quality of life, both today and for years to come.

The policy

It is our policy to meet our national and international legislative obligations, to develop local sustainable communities, enhance the local environment, deliver environmentally-friendly services and enforce environmental legislation to help stem the depletion of finite natural resources.

We are committed to preventing pollution of the environment through compliance with legislation and the continual improvement of environmental performance. We will also monitor our resource use, by:

- increasing energy efficiency in council-owned property
- promotion of domestic energy efficiency
- reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill
- increasing recycling opportunities
- reducing consumption of paper in council activities
- reducing consumption in fuel in council operations
- reducing CO2 emissions from council operations by 2.2 per cent per year to achieve a 40% reduction in emissions by 2020
- reducing per capita carbon emissions by 2.2% per year till 2019
- preventing groundwater pollution and contamination of land
- protecting and enhancing of habitat and biodiversity
- enhancing of the quality of the built environment
- environmental considerations laid out within the procurement strategy.

**If you require this document in another language
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www.norwich.gov.uk**





2013-2015

Environmental statement



NORWICH
City Council

Introduction

- a) Welcome to our fifth environmental statement which covers the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2015. The purpose of the statement is to provide an insight into what Norwich City Council is doing to reduce the environmental impacts of our city and the services we provide.
- b) Since the last environmental statement we have embarked on the second phase of our carbon management plan and begun delivery of the actions within our ambitious new environmental strategy. The production of these two key documents has given us a chance to take stock and consider where we can use our resources to best effect.
- c) There is a greater focus, in the new environmental strategy, on working with the wider community towards raising awareness of sustainable living choices and the part we can all play. To this end, in March 2015 we delivered the first One Planet Norwich Sustainable Living Festival, which attracted over 6,500 visitors. The second festival will go ahead on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 March 2016 at The Forum.
- d) The new strategy also sees an increase in the target to reduce the council's carbon emissions to a 40 per cent reduction by 2019 (on a 2007 baseline). To date we have made a 30.6 per cent reduction in carbon emissions, with new energy reduction projects coming online and assisting to reduce our carbon footprint and meet our target.
- e) As landlords we continue to upgrade our housing stock, implementing a range of energy saving measures across thousands of city homes. The result has been an impressive average SAP rating of over 70, well above the national average of 59.
- f) Across the city we continue to work hard to manage new developments, maintain a free flow of traffic, and deliver services such as recycling and waste collection in a way that balances the needs of those living, working and shopping in the city, with the need to preserve its historic character.
- g) Both national and local government continue to face significant financial challenges. But by using less natural resources, emitting less CO² and recycling where we can, we can maximise the opportunities to make financial savings as well as protect our environment, and it is more important than ever that we exploit these efficiencies to their full potential.
- h) As we continue to improve our environmental performance we can become a more resilient city that is better prepared for the challenges of decreased budgets, changing demographics, the effects of climate change, and increasing fuel costs. Each section of the document gives a flavour of our future plans to achieve these aims.

Bert Bremner



**Councillor
Bert Bremner**
Cabinet member
for environment
and sustainable
development.

Priority 1a) Energy consumption – council-owned buildings

Why is this important?

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

Action

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

Output

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

Results

- Continued annual reporting on CO² emissions
- 30.6 per cent reduction of energy consumption (from a 2007 baseline)

against at 40 per cent target. (This follows adjustments to the DEFRA conversion factor in 2014 which negatively impacted previous calculations)

- City Hall achieved a C display energy certificate for the first time
- Successful 'One small step' staff behaviour change campaign
- Community asset, Miller Hall, at the Norman Centre upgraded
- Introduction of 'travel to work' plans for staff.

What are we going to do next?

- Upgrade lighting at Riverside Leisure Centre to energy efficient LED lighting
- Investigate lighting upgrade in city churchyards to more energy efficient lighting
- Investigate energy efficient lighting in city surface car parks
- Upgrade lighting at City Hall to LED lighting
- Improve heating pipework insulation at various sheltered housing schemes
- Fleet review and refresh for council pool vehicles
- LED lighting on the historic market.



Priority 1b) Energy consumption – housing and other buildings in the city

Why is this important?

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

Action

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

Results

- Installed 28 thermodynamic hot water systems in the first contract of its kind through the joint venture with NPS Norwich Ltd
- Increased budget allocations to the loft and cavity wall insulation streams of work, recognising that these materials whilst being identified as the 'low hanging fruit' of the insulation arena, play probably the single most important role in the package of insulation to the housing stock
- Developed a programme of internal wall insulation delivery in Suffolk Square
- Completed target of ensuring the housing stock has uPVC windows by 2014/2015
- Contributed to the production of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report
- Successfully delivered the Cosy City project which, supported by Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) funding, has seen the installation of solid wall insulation in 66 city homes, cavity wall insulation in 43 homes, loft insulation in 59 homes and new boilers in 32 homes.

What are we going to do next?

- Maintain and improve delivery of ECO – retrofit programmes of works across the housing stock
- Continue to be involved in promoting home energy awareness and other campaigns for residents of Norwich
- Promote Government energy-saving subsidies when available for Norwich as a whole. A working group has been set-up with representatives from across the council
- Liaise with the 'big-six' to utilise ECO funding opportunities
- Work alongside Anglian Water identifying and promoting the use of water meters within the housing stock where appropriate
- Maintain and improve delivery of ECO – retrofit programmes of works across the commercial stock
- Adapt the external wall insulation specification to completely remove cold-spots during the application of this material
- Continue to monitor flue gas recovery units fitted to combination boilers and prepare a report for a detailed cost/benefit analysis
- Include weather compensation devices as part of our specification when installing new combination boilers to domestic stock
- Continue to investigate new and innovative technologies suitable for both housing and commercial stock including;
 - thermodynamic hot water systems
 - rainwater harvesting
 - biomass boilers
 - photo-voltaic systems (solar panels)
 - UPS backup generators in disaster recovery situation(s).

Priority 1c) Energy consumption – transport

Why is this important?

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

Actions

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

Results

- On-going implementation of the pink pedalway
- Successfully bid for government funding to enable construction of the yellow and pink pedalways
- Completion of a major bus corridor linking the Dereham Road, Earlham Road and Unthank Road routes with the city centre including a new bus lane on Grapes Hill and bus priority on Chapelfield North and Theatre Street
- Improved provision for buses in St Stephens Street through the removal of private motor vehicle traffic
- Successful roll-out of the Walk Norwich programme and successful bid for additional government funding.

What are we going to do next?

Transport for Norwich has been successful so far in managing traffic flows crossing the city. However, congestion is an increasing problem, creating longer journey times, leading to 'rat running' through residential areas, and causing delays to buses. Improving transport systems in a historic city like Norwich is not easy and we need to look at a comprehensive range of measures, both within the city and on the important link roads, to enable people to access work, shops, and leisure activities; and in a way that successfully delivers low carbon sustainable economic growth.

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



Priority 2) Making procurement greener

Why is this important?

Procurement is central to delivering Norwich City Council's corporate plan key priorities of Value for money services and Prosperous city.

Procurement is a critical function to identify the right goods, services, contractors and partnerships to support the delivery of the Environmental Action Plan, which in turn supports the Environmental Strategy.

Efficient and effective procurement results in:

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

Action

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

Results

- 100 per cent of the authority's electricity continues to be sourced from a green supply
- International Green Apple Award for the Raspberry Pi project which saw old unused IT equipment recycled to help children develop ICT skills
- Silver award in the transformation in waste and environment category of the iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise) Awards
- Water for council committee rooms continues to be sourced locally
- Greener and more fuel efficient vehicles including four electric-only pool cars have been part of the vehicle leasing contract refresh.

What are we going to do next?

- Continue to implement the business relationship and contract management strategy and toolkit to high value/low criticality and core contracts to ensure that all contractors' environmental management systems (EMS) and carbon emissions are monitored appropriately.
- Arrange for ethical and environmental disposal of redundant ICT equipment, including over 500 mobile phones. This will ensure that the majority of the equipment is refurbished, sold, and re-used to perform an ICT function with any remaining items being recycled.

Priority 3) Reduce and recycle

Why is this important?

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

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

Actions

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

Results

- Delivered a joint venture project with all the other Norfolk district and borough councils, the county council and Norse Environmental Waste Services to provide a new recycling service
- Expanded the range of materials collected via the kerbside service to include – plastic food pots, tubs and trays; food and drinks cartons (Tetra Pak); shredded paper; aluminium foil and aluminium food trays
- Delivered materials to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that underwent an £8million refurbishment during 2013/14
- Increased recovery rates and higher quality of recovered materials from the MRF
- Optical sorting technology for glass – even small fragments of glass can be colour segregated and all glass can be recycled to make more glass
- In the first three months of the new service, Norwich residents recycled 170 tonnes more than in the last three months of the old service and over 180 tonnes more than the corresponding period in 2013
- Continued to promote waste prevention, achieving a good dry recycling performance for an entirely urban local authority
- Improved and extended recycling facilities to social housing and hard-to-reach areas
- Improved and extended recycling facilities, particularly food waste recycling, to all of the council's own housing stock (by summer 2015)



- Introduced bring bank sites for used cooking oil recycling
- Hosted regular WEEE recycling events – the 2014 events recycled 4.5 tonnes of electrical goods and raised over £7,000 for the British Heart Foundation
- Introduced dual-purpose street litter bins allowing for recycling 'on-the-go' in parts of the city centre.

What are we going to do next?

Norwich has an overarching framework of strategic objectives for waste and recycling supported by a clear action plan to cover the years from 2014 to 2020. The long-term objectives include:

- To reduce the level of residual household waste per household to 80 per cent of the 2013 level by 2020
- To promote waste prevention and recycling through public engagement campaigns
- To develop and improve the quality and range of recycling services available to Norwich residents
- To seek to achieve a recycling rate of 60 per cent by 2020
- To improve participation, set-out rates, and collected tonnages for the recycling services
- To seek to increase landfill diversion rates and reduce landfill tonnage to 80 per cent of the 2013 level by 2020.

Norwich is a member of the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) which will continue to design and deliver waste and recycling projects over the coming years. These include:

- Assessment and development of waste reduction and re-use initiatives
- Food waste recycling initiatives
- Maximising profits from the joint venture
- Understanding the composition of the waste stream
- Complying with local, national and European statutory obligations.

Priority 4) Built environment and planning

Why is this important?

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

Action

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

Results

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

- The Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (JCS) which was adopted in March 2011, with amendments adopted January 2014. It is the strategic planning framework within this strategy which the area will develop to 2026
- The development management policies plan, which was adopted in December 2014. This provides the detailed policies against which planning applications will be considered. It covers social, economic and environmental issues. Key environmental issues covered include flood risk, environmental hazards such as pollution, the natural environment, the historic environment and ensuring development is designed to be sustainable
- The site allocations and site specific policies plan, which was also adopted in December 2014. This plan identifies sites for different uses such as housing,

employment and open space. It plans for higher density, usually mixed use, development in locations accessible by public transport, such as the city centre, to promote modal shift and reduce the need to travel

- Norwich has played a key role in ensuring Norfolk's local authorities co-operate on cross border strategic planning issues in plan making such as housing, economic development, transport and green infrastructure whilst taking full account of environmental constraints and enhancement opportunities. Work on producing a Norfolk Strategic Framework to cover these issues has recently commenced and is expected to be complete within 18 months
- There has been continued promotion of brownfield sites for development. The council has worked actively with developers to bring forward sites such as St Anne's Wharf on which development had stalled due to the recession.
- There has also been continued improvement of procedures for managing funding from development and winning grant funding for infrastructure improvements. This includes significant investment in measures to promote walking and cycling throughout the city and to promote public transport use, particularly in the St Stephens area of the city centre. It also includes varied neighbourhood projects and strategic green infrastructure projects, such as enhancements to sustainable access and biodiversity in the Yare and Wensum valleys and Mousehold Heath.

What are we going to do next?

- Participate fully in the Greater Norwich Growth Board to ensure the sustainable delivery of the agreed growth strategy set out in the JCS to 2026
- Participate fully in joint working with our partner authorities in the county and other bodies to ensure our plans meet the objectively identified needs of the area to 2036

- Continue to work with the county council to deliver the Transport for Norwich funded work programme to see further improvements to cycling infrastructure over the coming years and implement additional measures to promote the bus rapid transit and walking networks
- Work with Norfolk County Council as lead flood authority to ensure the successful implementation of flood risk policy, including the promotion of sustainable urban drainage.

Priority 5) Natural environment

Why is this important?

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

Actions

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

Results

Volunteers

Volunteers contributed a recorded 10,386 hours to environmental projects and conservation work in the city's natural areas, parks, open spaces and allotments during 2014. New friends groups were set up for West Earlham Woods and Kett's Heights.

Biodiversity – general

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

● County Wildlife Sites

All the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) owned by Norwich City Council are projected to be in positive conservation management (pcm) by 2016. Most privately-owned CWS in Norwich are also now in pcm.



● Higher Level Stewardship

In 2013, 10 natural areas were entered into Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). This is a government-funded scheme which provides capital grants and annual payments for land managed in ways which benefit biodiversity. The funding, which lasts for 10 years, will pay for work to maintain and improve the value of the sites for wildlife. In 2014/15, HLS-funded conservation works have been undertaken at: Marston Marshes, Eaton Common, Bowthorpe Marsh, Bowthorpe Southern Park, the Heronry and Violet Grove, Cringleford Meadow, Marriott's Way, Marlpit Paddocks, Whitlingham Marsh and Earlham Park. Works undertaken under the HLS programme have included: woodland coppicing, willow pollarding, pond creation, dyke restoration and maintenance, scrub removal and grassland management. Livestock grazing is an important tool for managing many conservation sites. In 2014/15, conservation grazing (using cattle) was introduced to Whitlingham Marsh and Marlpit Paddocks in addition to our currently grazed sites at Marston Marshes, Eaton Common and Earlham Marsh.

● Invasive weeds control

Arrangements for the monitoring and control of non-native invasive weeds in Norwich were greatly improved during 2014/15. All known invasive weed areas within Norwich are now recorded on the council's GIS database, and two operatives have been specifically trained in Japanese knotweed control techniques. Japanese knotweed is a particularly destructive invasive weed, as it out-competes native plants and it can cause damage to properties and reduce land values. During summer 2015, most known Japanese knotweed colonies on city council land were treated with herbicide by our trained operatives. It can take several years to completely eliminate Japanese knotweed colonies, so treatment will be continued annually until eradication is achieved.

● Marston Marshes and Eaton Common

A new practical volunteer group, consisting of local residents, was established and now carries out regular work at this site managed by the Norwich Fringe Project. Access and further conservation improvements were funded under the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) programme.

● Mousehold Heath

Further former heathland areas were brought back into positive management under the HLS agreement. This has brought about an increase in insects which depend on this habitat, such as the Green Hairstreak butterfly and the Green Tiger beetle. There has also been an increase in the number of public events and volunteer work parties at the site.

● Danby Wood and Earlham Millennium Green

The main path through the woodland was re-constructed and woodland management undertaken. The first phase of a refurbishment programme for Earlham Millennium Green was completed. Both projects were funded by the CIL programme.

● Earlham Cemetery

A conservation management plan for this site was completed.

● Norwich Urban Fringe Countryside Management Project

The Norwich Fringe Project has successfully managed conservation sites for people and wildlife in and around Norwich since 1990. The Fringe Project is managed by Norwich City Council, in partnership with Broadland and South Norfolk district councils. During 2014/15, the Fringe Project was re-launched with a new strategy, business plan, and branding.

● Planning

The natural areas officer provided advice to planning colleagues on biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures throughout 2014/15.

● Trees

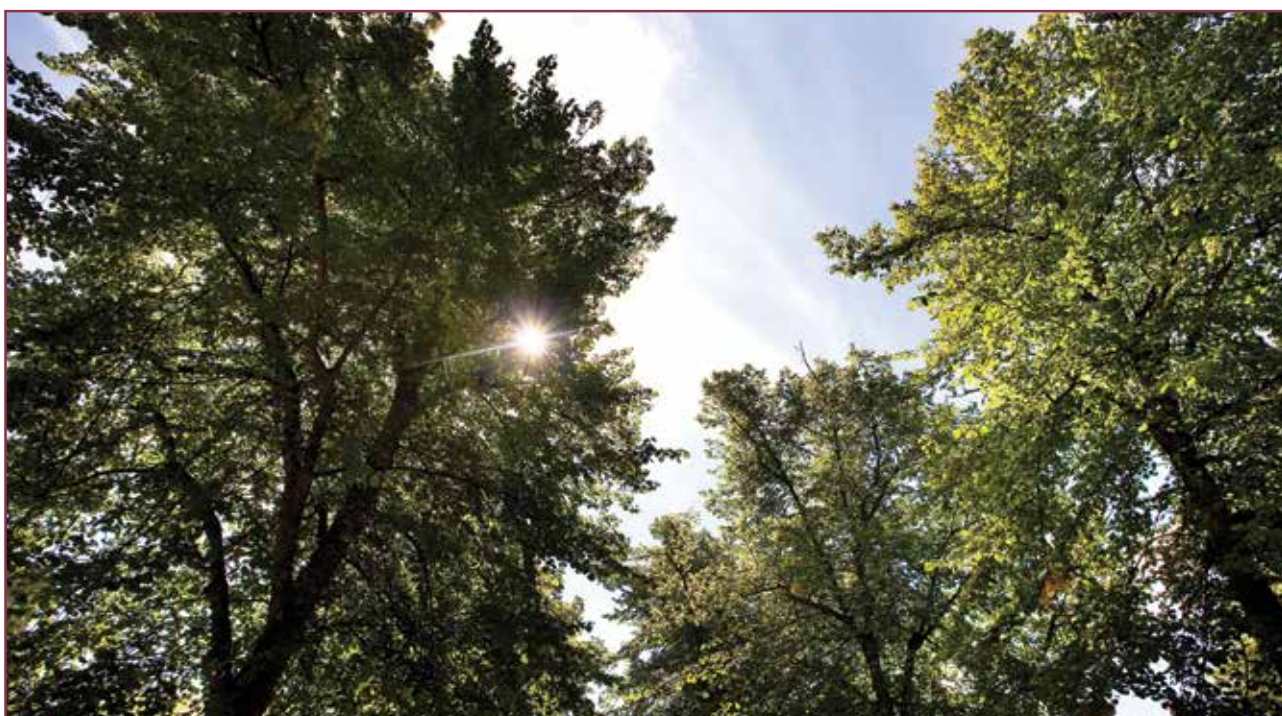
The overall net loss of canopy cover through the loss of street trees, park trees and other amenity space trees continues, with the demand for replacement planting greater than funds allow. However, we are now able, through the introduction of our Tree Prioritisation programme, to replace lost trees in locations other than just Conservation Areas. This resident-led initiative, which augments, and is separate to, our own tree planting budget, will see approximately 100 replacement street trees planted throughout the city during the 2015/16 planting season.

The recent launch of the tree sponsorship scheme, Trees for Norwich, has been met with a low-key response so far, primarily dealing with requests for memorial trees. Invasive pests and disease continue to threaten our trees. Ash die back has been recorded in a number of our woodlands and we continue to monitor the spread of the Oak Processionary moth from the London boroughs where it was first recorded.

The capture of the trees on our data base and mapping system has recorded 354 different species of trees growing in Norwich making our tree stock one of the most diverse in the UK.

What are we going to do next?

- Continue to manage our sites funded by the HLS scheme to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value
- Complete a refurbishment project at Earlham Millennium Green
- Working with a new friends' group, prepare proposals for the refurbishment of Kett's Heights natural area and seek new funding opportunities
- Explore potential management measures to encourage more bees and other pollinators in Norwich
- Update biodiversity-related information on Norwich City Council website
- Continue our programme to control or eradicate harmful invasive weeds, especially Japanese Knotweed, in Norwich
- Investigate potential for a project to improve the management of Norwich City Council-owned woodlands
- Continue to develop the Norwich Fringe Project
- Support existing friends groups and encourage the formation of new ones
- Complete Open Spaces Strategy
- Complete the Tree Strategy review.



Priority 6) Reduce pollution

Why is this important?

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

Action

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

Results

- Reductions in pollution levels in parts of the air quality management area such as Grapes Hill and St Augustine's Street
- Infrastructure changes to address traffic congestion areas
- Removed extraneous city centre traffic as part of Transport for Norwich
- Continued the successful remediation of many contaminated sites through the planning regime
- Achieved compliance with Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit conditions.

What are we going to do next?

- An air quality action plan is currently being drafted to set out measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO²) levels in the central air quality management area. The aim is to work towards achieving the air quality objectives by managing traffic flows as well as promoting cycling, walking, and bus use. Many of the proposed actions are to be addressed through infrastructure changes as part of the planning regime and the Local Transport Plan. A key element is the improvement of vehicle emission levels.

- Ensure that risks to the users of land from land contamination are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property, and ecological systems, and to ensure that development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours, and other offsite receptors.
- Work with local businesses to drive down emissions to atmosphere under the PPC regime and ensure compliance with permit conditions. We will ensure that all newly-identified businesses are permitted in accordance with regulations where required.



Priority 7) Leadership

Why is this important?

The council can make a real difference by working on service promotion and providing information to businesses and the public.

Action

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

Results

- Carbon Management Plan phase 2 published
- Environmental Strategy 2015-2019 published
- Completion of the council's second Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report to central government. At a regional level Norwich City Council's HECA document has been recognised as a 'best practice' document
- Delivered the first One Planet Norwich Sustainable Living Festival, attracting over 6,000 visitors over one weekend

- Leading authority in the UK's first collective purchase solar auction – Solar Together – with switching partner iChoosr
- Attracted over £400,000 of DECC funding for the Cosy City scheme and completed energy savings installations in over 130 city homes including: solid wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, and boiler upgrades
- Eco awards for business, schools and communities.

What are we going to do next?

- Begin to deliver the priorities outlined in the 2015-19 Environmental Strategy
- Continue to deliver phase 2 of the carbon management plan
- Continue to investigate funding opportunities to help residents to subsidise the cost of energy saving measures on their properties
- Develop partnerships with other councils and environmental groups
- Look to make the next One Planet Norwich event larger and more far-reaching
- Expand the Eco Awards to accept countywide applications and increase the number of categories
- Investigate opportunities for increasing the take up of renewable technologies.





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