



**URN:** 22-195

**Subject:** Sustainability Strategy - Annual action plan update

**Report to:** ELT 04/01/2022  
Environment Committee 10/01/2023

**Report by:** James Wilson – Head of Environment and Sustainability

## **SUBJECT**

This report presents to Members an update on Sustainability Strategy action plan objectives set for year one and progress made.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members of the Environment Committee are asked to:**

- 1) Note the actions taken so far to progress this action plan and endorse the planned future actions.**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The sustainability Strategy and action plan were agreed by members earlier in the year. The strategy laid out 3 key challenges for us to tackle these were:

- The Climate Challenge: Globally the world faces increasing climate insecurity driven by an unprecedented rise in temperature and the release of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere.
- The Nature Challenge: In the last 50 years the UK has witnessed a dramatic loss in the diversity of species present in our natural areas. 'Biodiversity' is a measure of a natural systems resilience and the loss of biodiversity limits nature's capacity to respond to change.
- The Waste Challenge: The health and quality of ecosystems is negatively affected by increasing levels of pollution; both from the release of chemicals and the mismanagement of physical waste.

1.2 The Council has recently recruited into the climate change officer post to take forward this work on a more coordinated approach, however this update shows the significant amount of work that is already being done across the Council to achieve the objectives laid out in the action plan.

- 1.3 This update has focussed on the objective set for year one of the action plan and is the first of regular updates to be provided to the Environment committee on the progress of this work.

## 2. PROGRESS and SUCCESS

- 2.1 **LAD (local authority decarbonisation) and HUG (housing upgrade grant)** – The Council has had great success working with EON in pulling in significant funding into the Borough to improve both our existing housing stock and those in the private rented sector. The LAD scheme is focussed on, whilst the HUG scheme is for improving energy efficiency and clean heating upgrades for owner occupiers and the private rented sector fuel poor homes off the existing gas grid.

We have also applied for additional HUG2 funding of approximately £6.5million over the next 2 years, we are waiting to hear if this has been successful.

- 2.2 **Electric Vehicle Charging** – The Council has been successful in funding 17 twin charging points across Council car parks, we are working with partners and seeking additional funding for further charging points network of charging point.
- 2.3 **Fleet Strategy** – We have recently had a sustainable fleet strategy developed and agreed at Council, taking forward our aspirations and objective3 to deliver a more sustainable and greener fleet across the Council. This includes the first electric RCV in 23/24.
- 2.4 **FACET project** – The Council has worked with Norfolk County Council to deliver the FAECT project with the aim of making the tourist sector more sustainable and promoting the concept of a circular economy. This has meant rolling out increased bin capacity and recycling on the go in Great Yarmouth and Hemsby seafront locations. Also 3 recycling bottleship sculptures promoting the recycling of bottles on the seafront in Hemsby, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston. Other projects have been around reducing single use cups in Hemsby with the reusable cup, smart litter bin and composting/wormeries in local businesses.
- 2.5 **Trees for Cities** – As part of the Council's commitment to sustainability we have already planted over 50 trees and are in the process of planting 200 more trees during this planting season as part of the trees for cities scheme.

## 3. FUTURE WORK

- 3.1 Once the climate change officer has started, we will have the resource in place to move forward with more of the planned objectives and coordinate the work we are doing across the Council already to deliver the aims of the sustainability strategy.
- 3.2 **Sustainability forum** - One of the first tasks for the newly appointed climate change officer will be to setup the sustainability forum, pulling together key individuals and

organisations across the Borough to working together on making the Borough sustainable through partnership working and funding opportunities.

- 3.2 **Data gathering and monitoring** – During the initial work on the carbon footprint assessment, we did struggle to obtain data that allowed us to understand our carbon footprint, therefore one of the key roles for the climate change officer will be to work with officers to understand what data we need, how we can obtain this and then setup a reporting and monitoring regime.
- 3.3 **Housing Stock** – During the initial work on the Council carbon footprint, it was decided not to include the housing stock in these figures. There will now need to be piece of work to understand the carbon footprint of the Councils housing stock and its impact on the overall Carbon footprint of the Council.
- 3.4 **On street charging** – As mentioned above the Council has had great success in delivering a network of electric charging points across its car parks and it currently working with partners to seek funding to deliver on street charging points in the Borough.
- 3.5 **Website** – Making sure both our website and internal loop pages are updated and providing the latest information to public businesses and staff around current initiatives and tips on how to improve their sustainability. Also ensuring we are keeping everyone up to date with the Councils progress on this work.
- 3.5 We will continue to provide 6 monthly updates to the environment committee on progress and updates on any specific projects as necessary.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note that whilst there are no direct funding implications as part of this work currently, there might be the need for future funding to develop and bring some of these objectives forward. We would look for external funding opportunities or via an individual business case.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In June 2019, the UK Government legislated the 2050 Net Zero target, following a recommendation from the Committee on Climate Change by amending the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 5.2 Whilst local authorities find themselves in an ambiguous position as to their role in tackling climate change and where they fit into a coherent national picture, as they do not have a specific duty to deliver Net Zero, nor to report emissions reductions, they clearly have a leading role under this agenda. In many cases councils are already delivering emission reductions or taking actions which affect how Net Zero might be achieved by other public bodies and businesses.




<b>Area for consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	As part of ELT review.
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	As part of ELT review.
Existing Council Policies:	Corporate Plan, Annual Action Plan, Economic Growth Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy.
Financial Implications:	As set out in Section 6
Legal Implications (including human rights):	No, though context summarised in Section 7
Risk Implications:	None
Equality Issues/EQIA:	N/a
Crime & Disorder:	N/a
Every Child Matters:	N/a





## GREAT YARMOUTH'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY – YR 1 December Update


**Table 1: Icons used in Action Plan**

Icon	Area of Influence	Description
	<b>Built Environment</b>	Council owned buildings, residents' homes, business premises etc.
	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Green spaces, beaches, waterways, agricultural land etc. Horticulture & arboriculture management.
	<b>Waste and Recycling</b>	Waste related operations and recycling services.
	<b>Transport and Travel Infrastructure</b>	Transport infrastructure, support for alternative forms of travel etc. fuel use, mileage.
	<b>Council Operations</b>	Processes internal to the Council's ways of working.
	<b>Engagement and Collaboration</b>	Communication and collaboration both within the council, reaching the community and local businesses, and more widely in the region.




## Priority 1: The Climate Challenge

ACTION	AREA OF INFLUENCE	LEAD	YEAR	OUTCOME	PROGRESS
<b>1. Lead by example and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on our own estates and operations to achieve net zero by 2035.</b>					
1.1 Improve data collection systems to ensure that data can be easily collected and used to identify Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction opportunities and monitor progress against the net zero target (e.g. data management systems for Council buildings, business travel data, front line services).		Climate Change Officer	Yr1 22/23	Date available and in use to measure impact	Awaiting CC Officer to start in post
1.3 Prepare Fleet Strategy and review the council's vehicle usage and as the opportunity arises, replace fleet vehicles with more fuel-efficient or alternative fuel/power options whilst ensuring household waste & recycling collection routes are optimised.		Head of Environmental Services & Sustainability Director of Operational Services	Yr1 22/23	Lower carbon fleet	Fleet Strategy developed and approved at December Council
1.6 Promote behaviour change to net zero that staff & members can adopt in offices: switching off screens, lights, heaters and other electrical equipment. Lights on timers etc.		Climate Change Officer	Yr1 22/23	Lower impact on environment	Staff engagement through workshops at staff conference.
<b>2. Influence businesses from whom we buy goods and services to reduce their emissions, thereby impacting upon the Borough's overall footprint.</b>					



<p>2.1 To contribute to the Local Plan review to continue to deliver sustainable development by encouraging low carbon development which enhances biodiversity and the natural environment, whilst still meeting housing needs and delivering economic growth.</p>		<p>Strategic Planning Manager  Climate Change Officer</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Low carbon &amp; sustainability considered</p>	<p>Consultation on the Local Plan in January which will be asking questions about how we plan for climate change.  Once this consultation is closed look to develop appropriate policies taking into account comments raised.</p>
<p>2.2 Evaluate sustainability outcomes delivered through our procurement activities.</p>		<p>Climate Change Officer</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Lower carbon purchases. Positive environmental influence on supply chains</p>	<p>Awaiting CC Officer to be in post</p>
<p>2.3 Play an active part in the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership to explore reducing GHG emissions on a regional level, share lessons learned, encourage joint procurement opportunities.</p>		<p>Strategic Director (PB)</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Low carbon &amp; sustainability considered</p>	<p>Ongoing, regular attendance at meetings and GY is one of pilot areas for hydrogen feasibility project.</p>
<p><b>4. Work to improve the sustainability of the borough's housing stock whilst supporting residents to make sustainable living choices and reduce their emissions.</b></p>					
<p>4.1 Improve the energy efficiency of homes within the council's housing stock. E.g. Eco-homes where we build/develop, future new developments to include solar panels, retrofit insulation.</p>		<p>Director of Housing Assets</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Lower carbon, more energy</p>	<p>Continue to implement the 'Warm Homes' Scheme working with EON</p>

				efficient buildings	<p>Energy Solutions delivery partner contractor, currently we have achieved the following “measure” delivery for LAD and HUG funding streams for private stock within the Borough :-</p> <p>LAD Approved Works – 38% Completed Installs – 18%</p> <p>HUG Approved Works – 30% Completed Installs – 16%</p> <p>The pipeline for work awaiting approval is excess of 90% for both streams. EON continue with lead generation with the Borough too.</p>
4.2 Encourage and support private home owners to seek financial support towards making their homes energy efficient – see 6.2 <i>Warm Homes Scheme</i> .		Head of Environmental Services & Sustainability	Yr1 22/23 onwards	Lower carbon, more energy efficient buildings, saving	As detailed in 4.1





				homeowners fuel bills.	
<b>5. Increase opportunities for the community to make sustainable travel choices.</b>					
5.3 Proactively work with the private sector to increase the supply of EV (Electric Vehicle) charging points and other investments in infrastructure that facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles.		Head of Customer Services Strategic Director (KB)	Yr1 22/23 onwards	An increase in green travel options available locally.	17 twin charging points in car parks across the Borough. Funding applied for further charging points in other car parks across the Borough and working with partners to deliver on street charging points.
<b>6. Increase opportunities for the community to improve sustainability in their homes, make sustainable living choices and achieve emissions reductions.</b>					
6.2 Continue to implement the 'Warm Homes' Scheme working with other Norfolk councils.		Director of Housing Assets	Yr1 22/23 onwards	Lower carbon, more energy efficient buildings, saving homeowners fuel bills.	Update covered in 4.1
6.3 Develop a communication & engagement plan to raise understanding of the climate challenge and encourage behaviour change to include working directly with our own tenants		Head of Communications & Marketing Climate Change Officer	Yr 1/ Yr2/ Y3 22/23 23/24 24/25	Increased awareness & practical behaviour change taking place	To be actioned when CCO in post

**7. Work with local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint & encourage the growth of low carbon businesses in the Borough.**

<p>7.1 Support local businesses seeking to improve their sustainability through signposting to sources of expertise and funding working in partnership with New Anglia LEP, the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and Norfolk CC.</p>		<p>Head of Inward Investment</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Increased awareness &amp; practical behaviour change taking place Businesses adopting more Circular Economy solutions</p>	<p>Information shared with local businesses on existing schemes from local partners.</p>
<p>7.2 Encourage the sharing of low carbon/net zero good practice amongst businesses and local organisations through partnership structures.</p>		<p>Head of Inward Investment</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Businesses adopting more Circular Economy solutions</p>	<p>To be actioned with new Head of inward Investment</p>




## Priority 2: The Nature Challenge

ACTION	AREA OF INFLUENCE	LEAD	YEAR	OUTCOME	PROGRESS
<b>8. Preserve and manage the natural assets under the council's ownership and work with other landowners with the aim of enhancing biodiversity where possible.</b>					
8.3 Assist in fulfilling regional targets of a 'Million Trees in Norfolk' by supporting tree planting initiatives in the Borough area.		Strategic Director (KB)	Yr 1 22/23 onwards	Increase in the number of trees in the borough	Trees for Cities project planting over Winter 22/23
8.4 Maximise biodiversity where possible through planting schemes and changing open spaces, tree and park management where appropriate (e.g. trial no-mow areas on council open spaces).  Consider maturity of biodiversity and enhance e.g. verges, gardens of remembrances with wildflowers, bee friendly roundabouts, install bee bricks, install vibrant signage to explain/promote : <i>'Excuse the weeds we're feeding the bees</i>		Head of Property & Asset Management  Director of Operational Services	Yr 1 22/23 onwards	Increased awareness and practical biodiversity interventions made possible	Initial pilot of not cutting Gorleston cliffs taken place over past 2 summers.  Initial discussion taking place on potential site for nature reserve on unused council land.

**9. Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using outdoor natural spaces.**

<p>9.1 Work together with partners such as Active Norfolk, Green Gym and Park Run to encourage people to use natural spaces.</p>		<p>Strategic Director (KB) Head of Environmental Services &amp; Sustainability</p>	<p>Yr 1 22/23</p>	<p>Increase in community pride, health &amp; wellbeing and activities that take care of local surroundings</p>	<p>Working alongside Active Norfolk to support the return of Park Run to both North Denes &amp; Gorleston Cliffs looking set up a Junior Park Run in early 2023.</p> <p>Working with strategic planning team on the Open Space Needs Assessment &amp; planning to run a summer parks event through 2023 where we will encourage physical activity at various green spaces through the Borough.</p> <p>Active GY framework for 23/24 in the planned for New Year which will heavily feature the use of green spaces.</p>
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**10. Build a sense of ownership among communities for their local natural areas.**

<p>10.1 Establish and support a Great Yarmouth Sustainability Forum to involve and engage with community and interest groups.</p>		<p>Strategic Director (PB)</p>	<p>Yr 1 22/23</p>	<p>Improved awareness and ownership of sustainability in practice</p>	<p>To be actioned when CC officer starts in post.</p>
<p>10.3 Continue to promote and support volunteer-led beach clean-ups, and town/village litter picks.</p>		<p>Head of Environmental Services &amp; Sustainability</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Reduction on litter. Increase in community pride and involvement</p>	<p>Actively support volunteer schemes, although not actively promoting them at this time.</p>
<p>10.4 Lead community awareness campaigns on the impact of inaction &amp; action. i.e. – frisbees, sky lanterns, balloon releases etc.</p>		<p>Climate Change Officer Head of Marketing &amp; Communications</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23 onwards</p>	<p>Reduction on litter. Increase in community pride and involvement</p>	<p>Letters sent to seafront outlets in relation to the sale of flying ring frisbees. Worked with friends of Horsey Seal on campaign to ban these frisbees. Council brought in ban on sky lanterns and mass balloon releases on</p>

					Council land and Council events in 2015.
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**11. Reduce risks from climate impacts where possible, including flooding and coastal erosion.**





11.1 Continue to provide support to communities at risk from coastal erosion & flooding, linking up with regional action on this issue.		Head of Property & Asset Management	Yr1 22/23 onwards	Communities engaged in agenda	Ongoing work through internal working group and CPE
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## Priority 3: The Waste Challenge

ACTION	AREA OF INFLUENCE	LEAD	YEAR	OUTCOME	PROGRESS
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**12. Further reduce the amount of waste generated through the council's own activities such as upcycling, reuse and recycling.**

12.1 Work towards zero single use plastic in council operations by 2023/24.		Head of Environmental Services & Sustainability Climate Change Officer	Yr1 22/23 onwards	Reduction of single Use Plastics year on year	Some progress made around single use plastic use (cups etc), further work to be progressed with CCO starts in post.
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<p>12.2 Support and grow SEG Green Group and the running of staff awareness campaigns to reduce the amount of waste from council operations and to promote best practice waste management.</p>		<p>Head of Organisational Development Climate Change Officer</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23</p>	<p>Increase in awareness of sustainability issues and direct action</p>	<p>SEG continue with their work promoting recycling and waste reduction across the Council with food waste composting and recycling.</p>
<p>12.3 Promote waste prevention and minimisation. Lead by example by supporting exemplary reuse and recycling schemes.</p>		<p>Head of Environmental Services &amp; Sustainability Climate Change Officer</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23</p>	<p>Reduction in overall council (as an organisation) and household waste</p>	<p>Recycling and food waste composting/wormeries in place across main Council offices.</p>
<p><b>13. Promote the efficient use of resources and waste minimisation in the residential and business communities, in particular by encouraging reuse.</b></p>					
<p>13.1 Support the ongoing Circular Economy Project FACET by exploring ways to build on successes, provide continued support, and advice for businesses minimising their waste.</p>		<p>Strategic Director (PB)</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23</p>	<p>Increase in the number of businesses adopting Circular Economy solutions</p>	<p>GYBC team continue to support the project, delivered bottle ships, new bins in GY and Hemsby.</p>
<p><b>14. Improve waste collection services to maximise recycling and raise awareness of the benefits of good recycling practices.</b></p>					
<p>14.2 Continue to raise awareness through marketing campaigns focused on waste reduction, reuse and recycling appropriately.</p>		<p>Head of Communications &amp; Marketing</p>	<p>Yr1 22/23</p>	<p>Increased recycling and quality of materials</p>	<p>Specific project work around waste</p>

					reduction and recycling. Norfolk Waste Partnership campaigns Contamination project due to start in January 2023
<b>15. Reduce fly-tipping, littering and plastic pollution to waterways and the sea.</b>					
15.1 Tackle littering by encouraging the use of reusable or recyclable cups across the fast food and hospitality sector (building on FACET pilot studies).		Head of Environmental Services & Sustainability Climate Change Officer	Yr1 22/23	Reduction in litter, and increase in use of disposable packaging (cups etc)	Cups rolled out in Hemsby summer 22. Review required before rolling out in other areas.