



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment Committee

Date: Wednesday, 09 June 2021

Time: 18:30

Venue: Assembly Room

Address: Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

You have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be discussed if it relates to something on your Register of Interests form. You must declare the interest and leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

You have a Personal Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects

- your well being or financial position
- that of your family or close friends
- that of a club or society in which you have a management role
- that of another public body of which you are a member to a greater extent than others in your ward.

You must declare a personal interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

Whenever you declare an interest you must say why the interest arises, so that it can be included in the minutes.

- 3 MINUTES 4 - 8**
- To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 January 2021.
- 4 FORWARD PLAN 9 - 10**
- Report attached.
- 5 CARBON REDUCTION – THE PATHWAY TO NET ZERO 11 - 22**
- Report attached.
- 6 BEREAVEMENT SERVICES PRESENTATION**
- A presentation will be given at the meeting.
- 7 STREET CLEANSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 23 - 29**
- Report attached.
- 8 RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS 30 - 38**
- Report attached.
- 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- To consider any other business as may be determined by the Chairman of the meeting as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
- 10 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**
- In the event of the Committee wishing to exclude the public from the meeting, the following resolution will be moved:-
- "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act."

11 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Details



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 27 January 2021 at 17:30

PRESENT:

Councillor P Carpenter (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Bird, Borg, Cameron, Fairhead, D Hammond, Hacon, Robinson-Payne, Talbot, Waters-Bunn & B Wright.

Ms K Watts (Strategic Director), Mrs P Boyce (Strategic Director), Mr J Wilson (Head of Environmental Services), Mr C Silverwood (Director of Operational Services), Mr S Hubbard (Strategic Planning Manager), Mrs J Beck (Head of Property & Asset Management), Mr D Wiles (Communications & Media Manager) & Mrs S Wintle (Corporate Services Manager).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020 were confirmed by assent.

The following matters arising were noted from the above minutes:-

Councillor Waters-Bunn reported that the access to Northgate Primary School was still not Covid safe and she was reluctant to take her child to school as she did not feel safe in doing so. She asked that the Council give further support and deploy the Covid Marshall's to monitor the situation on a regular basis. The Head of Environmental Services reported that he would ask the Covid Marshall's to re-visit the school and monitor the premises for Covid compliance.

Councillor Talbot reiterated the concerns of Councillor Waters-Bunn and asked if consideration for funding for the provision of a ramp for the school to allow a separate ingress and egress from the school had been undertaken by the County or Borough Council. The Head of Environmental Services reported that he was aware of the ramp request and that he would chase this via the County Schools Team.

4 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received and considered the Forward Plan.

Members asked that the following items be considered for inclusion on the Forward Plan:-

(i) Councillor Fairhead asked if areas of green spaces could be left uncut to allow local wildlife habitats to be established for insects, butterflies and bees. The Strategic Director reported that grass verges would not be cut so regularly at the present time due to resource issues arising as a result of Covid and the grass cutting timetable would be reviewed. She advised that this item could be put on the Forward Plan as it could be implemented around this time in 2022.

(ii) Councillor Robinson-Payne reiterated her request from the last meeting that an update on Selective Housing was given to this Committee and why it was given to Housing & Neighbourhoods (H & N) Committee in the first

instance. The Strategic Director reported that a report was going to Housing & Neighbourhood Committee on 4 February 2021 and that she would circulate a copy to the Committee after this date. The Strategic Director would discuss with the Monitoring Officer the rationale as to why this report went to H & N Committee and not this Committee and report back.

(iii) Councillor Waters-Bunn raised the issue of illegal parking by residents on grass verges/hedging/over-hanging trees & shrubs and the damage which resulted which had to be put right by the Council, let alone it resulted in an eyesore/danger to residents right across the Borough. She suggested that a social media campaign be launched to tackle this issue to remind residents of their obligations via community engagement. The Strategic Director reported that she was aware of a Council who had implemented the use of a PSPO to tackle this and would discuss options/legislation with Planning and report back. Councillor Cameron reported that all Parish Council's would await this update with bated breath as it was difficult to pinpoint who was responsible for these issues. Councillor Talbot asked if the Council could undertake this work if residents were not physically able to do so. The Strategic Director reported that the Council could assist but the cost would be passed onto the resident.

5 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF WATER RESOURCES EAST (WRE) LIMITED

The Committee received and considered the report from the Senior Strategic Planner.

The Strategic Planning Manager reported that Water Resources East (WRE) was a collaborative membership organisation in the East of England, which brought together companies with a stake in water to safeguard a sustainable supply of water for all users. Membership of the Strategic Advisory Group offered the ability for members to vote on key matters including shaping the emergent resource management plan.

The Strategic Planning Manager reported that membership of WRE might result in efficiency savings for the Council through collaborative planning of water resources across Norfolk, as part of discharging its "Duty to Co-operate".

The Chairman asked if the Monitoring Officer had approved the report as it mentioned funding requirements. The Strategic Planning Manager reported that the report had been to ELT for consideration of which the Monitoring Officer was part of.

Councillor Fairhead reported that she supported this request as it would assist the Council in assessing planning applications in the future.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Committee endorse the report; and
- (ii) That the Committee recommend to Full Council the appointment of Great Yarmouth Borough to membership of the Water Resources East (WRE) Strategic Advisory Group.

6 OUTDOOR SPACES PAPER

The Committee received and considered the report from the Strategic Director.

The Strategic Director gave an update regarding outdoor spaces across the Borough which covered management of our outdoor spaces, outdoor play inspections, Section 106 agreements and playing pitch strategy.

The Strategic Director reported that a proposal for a Play Officer was presented to this Committee in September 2019 and funding was allocated of £15,790, however, this was not progressed and this funding was therefore still available. She asked the Committee to use this funding to appoint a Technical Assistant, on a part-time basis, to survey and log all of the Council's outdoor assets, to enable a detailed, strategic review of assets could then be undertaken and a report presented to this Committee.

The Chairman requested that suppliers of play equipment be vetted to ensure that they could supply parts in a timely manner as she had personal experience of parts taking four months to arrive which was unacceptable.

Councillor Waters-Bunn reported that she was pleased that this funding had come across to this Committee as in general, the state of play equipment across the Borough was very poor. There was also a lack of green gym equipment across the borough which was much needed during these difficult times.

Councillor Bensly also welcomed this report as the outcome of the s106 review by Strategic Planning would have an impact of the parishes. He suggested that the Council introduce safe, running spaces for runners, for example, by utilising the edges of playing fields.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee note the content of the report and approve to use the previous committed funding allocation of £15,790, to appoint a Technical Assistant, on a part-time basis, to survey and log all of the Council's outdoor assets, to enable a detailed, strategic review of these could then be undertaken and presented to this Committee.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that she would allow three items under any other business:-

(i) The Head of Environmental Services gave an update regarding Covid19 work being undertaken across the Borough. Councillor Robinson-Payne asked that her thanks, and those of the Committee, be passed onto the Marshall's for all their hard work across the Borough. Councillor Waters-Bunn asked that the Marshall's be reminded to observe social distancing when they were out on patrol.

(ii) The Head of Property & Asset Management gave an update regarding Coastal Partnership East. Councillor Bensly thanked all the officers concerned for their continued support of these works which greatly benefited many residents in his ward.

(iii) Councillor Fairhead gave a brief overview of the important work undertaken by the Broads Internal Drainage Board (IDB), such as restoring the pumps to help to mitigate overtopping & flooding in rural areas, such as Martham & Repps. Councillor Fairhead hoped that County would ensure that the surrounding dykes were clear, for example, those at Burgh Road, Gorleston prior to starting construction on the Third River Crossing. She requested that Members get a regular update from the IDB via this Committee and the Head of Environmental Services agreed to pursue this request.

8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:-

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act.

Forward Plan for Environment Committee

URN	Matter for Decision	Report by	Pre Agenda Meeting (PAM)	Environment
20-050	Bereavement Services Presentation	Head of Customer Services	02/06/21	09/06/21
19-095	Sustainability Strategy - Pathway to Net Zero	Strategic Director (KW)	02/06/21	09/06/21
19-097	Street Cleansing Improvement Plan Update	Director of Operational Services	02/06/21	09/06/21
21-112	Resources and Waste Strategy consultations	Head of Environmental Services	02/06/21	09/06/21
21-021	Flytipping/recycling update	Waste and Cleaning Manager	19/07/21	28/07/21
	Annual Performance Report	Head of Environmental Services	19/07/21	28/07/21
	Hotspot Project Update (Presentation)	Head of Environmental Services	19/07/21	28/07/21
21-019	Air Quality Report	Senior Housing Licensing Officer	20/09/21	29/09/21
	Project FACET	Head of Environmental Services	20/09/21	29/09/21
21-033	GYB Services Review	Director of Operational Services	20/09/21	29/09/21
19-095	Environment Strategy	Strategic Director (KW)	TBC	TBC

Policy & Resources	Council

URN: 19-095

Subject: Carbon Reduction – the Pathway to Net Zero

Report to: Executive Leadership Team – Wednesday 19th May 2021
Environment Committee – Wednesday 9th June 2021

Report by: Kate Watts, Strategic Director

At an Environment Committee meeting on the 10th September 2019 Members received a report in response to a Council motion on lowering the Council's organisational carbon footprint and agreed to commission specialist external support to map and measure the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan.

This report provides Members with a progress update in relation to the Borough Council's activities, making recommendations for Members to agree our approach on Environmental Sustainability matters, with an overall ambition of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

Members are therefore asked to consider the recommended next steps:

- To confirm ongoing support for the finalisation of the carbon footprint mapping work for the Council, to be completed by September 2021, alongside the development of an action plan to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- To recommend to Full Council the appointment of a Great Yarmouth Borough Council elected Member to sit on the Norfolk Elected Members Climate Change Partnership Board
- To allocate £30,000 from the special projects reserve to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy and action plans to detail our pathway to Net Zero.

1. INTRODUCTION

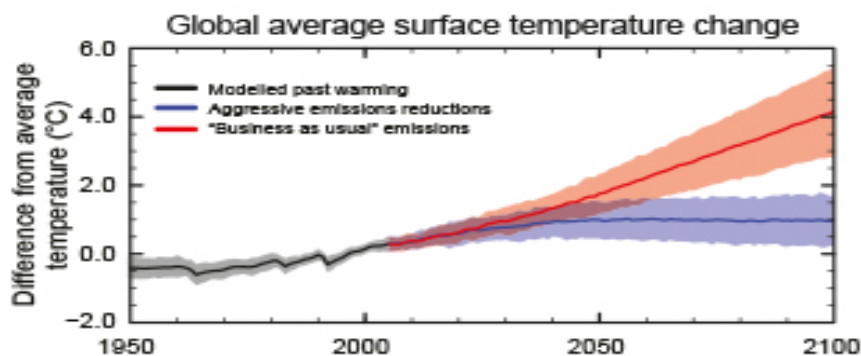
1.1 At an Environment Committee meeting on the 10th September 2019 Members received a report in response to a Council motion on lowering the Council's organisational carbon footprint and agreed to commission specialist external support to map and measure the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan.

1.2 This report provides Members with a progress update in relation to the Borough Council's activities, making recommendations for Members to agree our approach on Environmental Sustainability matters, with an overall ambition of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

2. CARBON REDUCTION CONTEXT

- 2.1 There is scientific evidence that the earth's climate is changing as a direct result of human activity. Average global temperatures reached 1 degree above pre-industrial (1850) levels for the first time in 2015. Temperatures have most rapidly risen since 2000, with the UN's World Meteorological Office (WMO) identifying 20 of the hottest years on record over the last 22 years¹.
- 2.2 Simply put, greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, including water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, absorb heat energy and emit it in all directions (including downwards); keeping the earth's surface and lower atmosphere warm. Adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere enhances the effect, making the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere even warmer².
- 2.3 Much modelling has been developed to try and predict the changing climate going forwards. Whilst each model shows variations in these predictions, the common consensus is that without human intervention global warming will continue at pace.

Figure 1: Shows such a model produced by the Royal Society of Science Fellowships



- 2.4 In 2015, at the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, national governments committed to limit global increases to well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit increase to 1.5 degrees. To achieve this, parties to the agreement agreed to reach Net Zero global emissions of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century.
- 2.5 In June 2019, the UK Parliament legislated for 'Net Zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the Government has indicated it plans to launch a Net Zero Strategy before the UK hosts the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) conference in November 2021.

¹ <https://phys.org/news/2019-02-years-hottest.html>

² <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change/>

- 2.6 Government introduced the 'Net Zero' target through an amendment to the Climate Change Act (2008), which originally set a target of at least an 80% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions in the UK relative to 1990 levels. In December 2020, the Prime Minister announced a new target to reduce the UK's emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels to put the UK on a pathway to Net Zero³.
- 2.7 Whilst not as yet legislated for, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), which advises the UK and devolved administrations on meeting their emissions reductions targets and preparing for climate change, has recommended that the UK sets a Sixth Carbon Budget (i.e. the legal limit for UK emissions of greenhouse gases over the years 2033-37) with the aim of requiring a reduction in UK emissions of 78% by 2035 relative to 1990, a 63% reduction from 2019, in line with Net Zero. In doing so this will be a world-leading commitment, placing the UK decisively on the path to Net Zero by 2050 at the latest, with a trajectory that is consistent with the Paris Agreement⁴.
- 2.8 To support this Net Zero ambition the CCC suggests that significant policy strengthening will be required and that plans must translate into action. Its advice and policy reports outline how Government must organise for the major delivery challenge of Net Zero. This delivery challenge extends to Local Authorities which have a key role in supporting people, communities and businesses.
- 2.9 A recent House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (March 2021) reviewed the evidence for 'Achieving Net Zero'. It also noted that Local Authorities have significant scope to influence emissions in their area, both by leading decarbonisation of sectors (such as housing and transport) and by influencing local businesses and residents to take climate action themselves.
- 2.10 As a result, Councils are expected to be at the forefront of the national response to climate change and have been putting plans into action to help achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner. From waste collection and transport, to electric vehicles and parks, councils are taking huge steps to cut carbon emissions and protect our environment⁵.

3. REGIONAL & NORFOLK PRESPECTIVE

- 3.1 New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) has been the Government's Green Economy Pathfinder Local Enterprise Partnership since 2011. This role means the NALEP is leading the way in demonstrating how 'clean growth' can be achieved through the development and promotion of environmental sustainability within day to day business practice. As such its priorities are focussed on⁶:

- Maximising funding and investment that benefits the green economy.

³ UNFCCC, 2015, Paris Agreement, Article 2, p2

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁵ <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-spearheading-national-climate-change-effort>

⁶ <https://newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/New-Anglia-Strategic-Economic-Plan.pdf>

- Championing action that links valuing, investing and growing natural capital with economic growth. Driving down costs by highlighting and enabling action on Business Resource Efficiency.
 - Enabling innovative, entrepreneurial and radical solutions to business opportunities utilising the knowledge at our world class education and research centres.
 - Developing the skills and supply chain to support the green economy.
 - Creating 1,000 hectare of Wild Spaces.
- 3.2 NALEP is delivering against these priorities through its Growth Deal by allocating £10m to broadband infrastructure enabling businesses and individuals to work effectively from home and in rural locations; reducing travel time and associated emissions. £8.85m has been provided in Great Yarmouth for sustainable transport measures to support walking, cycling and public transport use and reduce car use. NALEP has also contributed significantly to projects which mitigate the damage from climate change to our local economy for example:
- Bacton to Walcott Coastal Management Project.
 - Over £26m to flood defences projects of which £8.2m has been spent on Great Yarmouth flood defences, protecting homes and businesses.
- 3.3 Looking ahead, New Anglia LEP's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan focuses economic recovery with Net Zero in mind; incorporating investment in low-carbon technologies that offer significant economic benefits from job opportunities to spending, while at the same time building a clean and resilient Net Zero economy.
- 3.4 Co-operation within the county is also strong in this field of work; the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, established in January 2020, comprises of Norfolk's public sector including Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, NALEP and the Environment Agency. The Partnership has a common shared interest in supporting Norfolk's communities, public, voluntary & community organisations, businesses and residents to reduce carbon emissions, realise the economic benefits of reducing utilities consumption and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. Its aim is for Norfolk to become '*an exemplar in tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing its natural environment.*'
- 3.5 Within the Partnership, the Borough Council is not alone in addressing climate change through carbon reduction measures both within the community and as an organisation. Examples include Norfolk County Council that has a programme to replace and upgrade 13,500 residential streetlights to LED; Norwich City Council which has recently partnered with the global energy company ENGIE to launch 'Roar Power', a renewable energy provider offering a fully renewable tariff with 100% renewable energy or gas⁷; and the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk that has completed its own carbon footprint assessment and developed an action plan to reduce their carbon footprint⁸.

⁷http://www.norwich.gov.uk/news/article/313/city_council_tops_norfolk_chart_for_performance_on_climate_change

⁸ https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20095/energy_and_climate_chnage/806/climate_change_work_plan

- 3.6 To further support this Partnership, it has been agreed that a Member board will be established to provide political leadership for this group. Members from the Environment Committee are therefore asked to nominate a representative to sit on the Norfolk Elected Members Climate Change Partnership Board.

4 GREAT YARMOUTH - CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Within the Council's Corporate Plan one of our four main priorities focuses on '**A Quality and Sustainable Environment**', defining the vision as:

'... communities in which local people live will be clean and attractive. The Council recognises the value of our physical and built environment and the importance of our coastline, our relationship to the Broads National Park and particular; challenges associated with future climate change. We recognise the world is changing and we must meet the challenge of global climate change by playing a positive local role leading by example. Great Yarmouth will be a place where sustainability is at the heart of our work and where people take pride in the clean and attractive environments found here. We will lead by example with local

- 4.2 In the past decade the UK has emerged as a world leader in offshore wind energy and Great Yarmouth is at the centre of this renewables growth in East of England with Enterprise Zones, £12 million pounds worth of investment going into its Port infrastructure and the creation of an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Campus for the energy sector. There is therefore a clear opportunity to further capitalise on this as part of the climate change agenda.
- 4.3 In contrast, being a coastal borough, Great Yarmouth is at a heightened risk in terms of the impacts of climate change; specifically, from increasing sea levels, which in turn are predicted to have a severe impact on UK coasts by 2080. The total rise in sea levels off the coast of the UK may exceed one metre. The frequency of storm events is expected to increase and, in combination with the rise in sea level, is expected to lead to an increase in flooding. Erosion is also expected to increase, partly due to the rise in sea levels with the East of England coastline predicted to be most severely impacted on⁹. This is one of many reasons why the Borough Council is prioritising this agenda.
- 4.4 Around 41,200 Norfolk households were estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2013 - that's 11% of the county's households. In some locations in Great Yarmouth figures reach a quarter of households. Around 9,000 Norfolk homes have no central heating (2.4% of households), with Great Yarmouth (3.7%), worse than average. Fuel poverty is an important consideration in terms of climate change, new technologies to address the climate change can cost more money, impacting further on those households already experiencing fuel poverty.
- 4.5 Often the homes these residents live in are not energy efficient, for example lack of insulation causes those residents to burn more fuel and or use more energy to try and keep

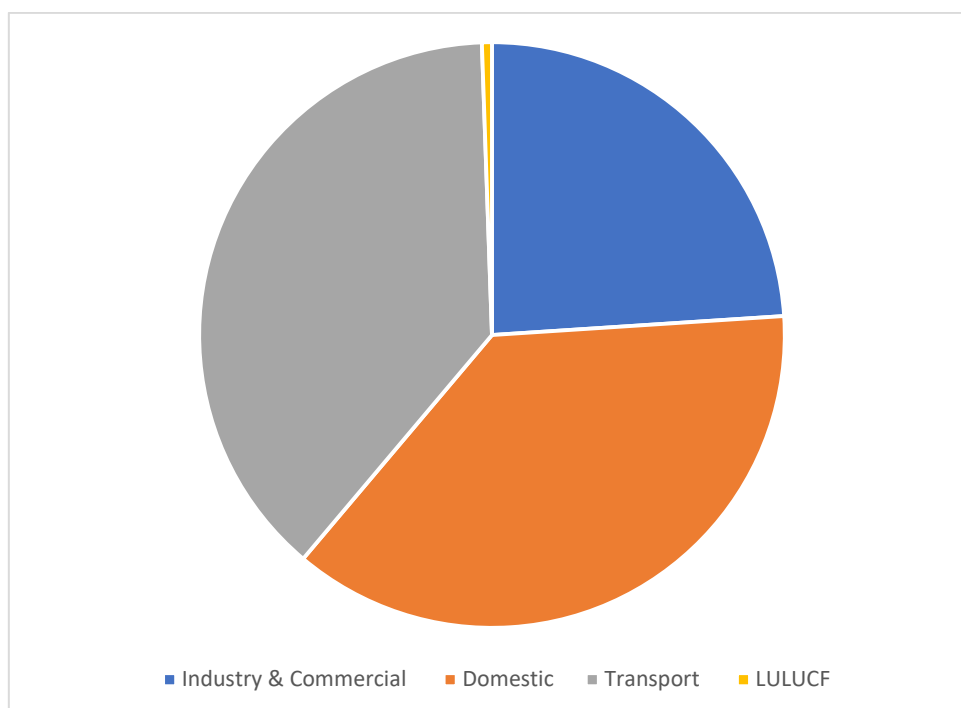
⁹ Impacts of Climate Change of Disadvantaged UK Coastal Communities

their homes warm. This has both a cost and carbon implication¹⁰. Looking forwards there is a requirement that all homes have an ECP rating of C or higher and that all social housing is zero carbon by 2050, so as a result no gas boilers will be fitted after 2025.

5. GREAT YARMOUTH - CARBON DATA

- 5.1 The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes Local Authority carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions data each year. As of August 2020, the 2018 data set is the most recent. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this data has yet to be updated.
- 5.2 CO₂ emissions are categorised into 4 main categories: Industry and Commercial, Domestic, Transport and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). The pie chart below shows the percentage make-up of Great Yarmouth's CO₂ emissions for the borough. This indicates that transport is the greatest source of CO₂ emissions, closely followed by domestic emissions.

Figure 2: A pie chart showing Great Yarmouth's percentage of CO₂ emissions for 2018 in relation to BEIS categories¹¹



¹⁰ <https://www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk/sites/content/tackling-fuel-poverty-and-what-available-help-you>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018>

5.3 This data can be further broken down: in the Table below.

Figure 3: Great Yarmouth Borough's CO₂ Output (2018 data)¹²

Sector Name	CO ₂ (kt)
Industry & Commercial Electricity	44
Industry & Commercial Gas	25
Large Industrial Installations	0
Industrial & Commercial Other Fuels	16
Agricultural Combustion	4
Domestic Electricity	41
Domestic Gas	70
Domestic Other Fuels	23
Road Transport (A roads)	65
Road Transport (Motorways)	0
Road Transport (Minor roads)	52
Diesel Railways	0
Transport Other	22
LULUCF Net Emissions	2
Total for all sectors	365

5.4 Great Yarmouth Borough currently produces less CO₂ emissions than the other council's across Norfolk, with a mainly downward trend since 2005. However, it should be noted that direct comparisons with the other Norfolk local authorities is difficult as each authority has different populations, area and industry mixes. The table below shows overall CO₂ emissions for Norfolk's local authorities over the last 5 years:

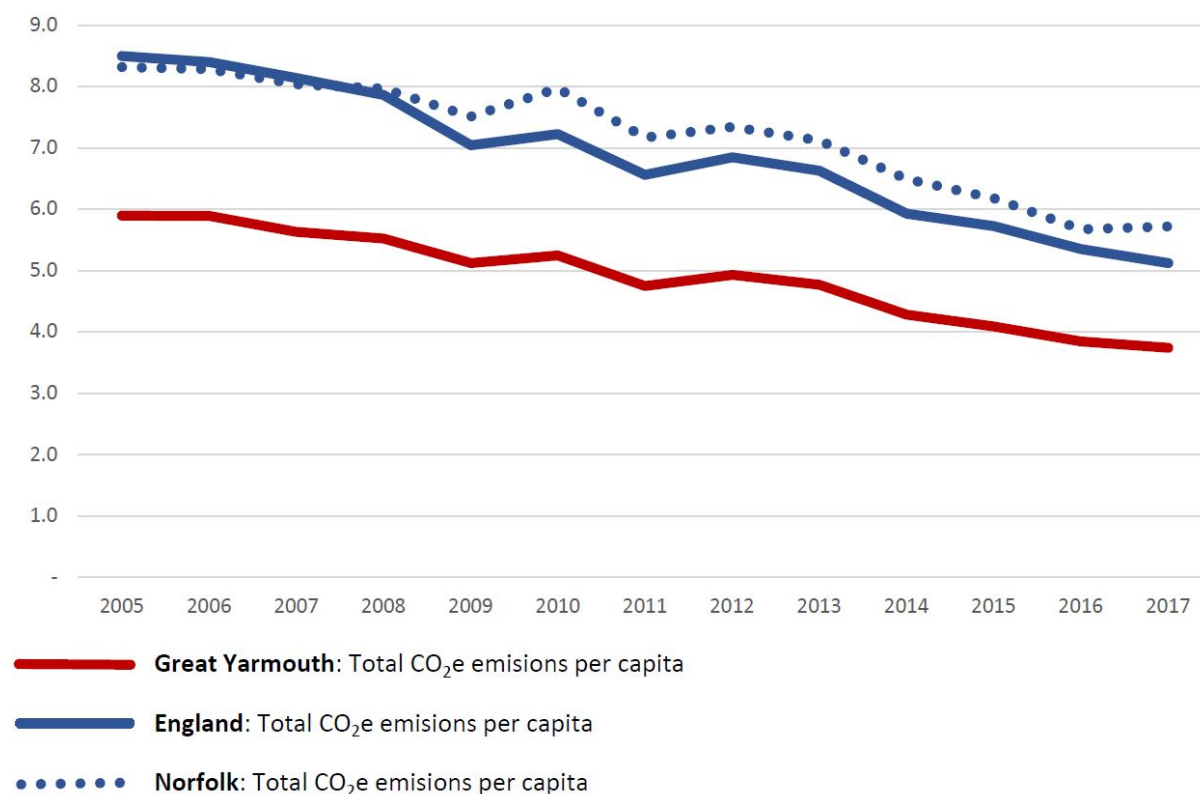
Figure 4: Table showing comparison CO₂ emissions across Norfolk Local Authorities

Local Authority	CO ₂ (kt) 2014	CO ₂ (kt) 2015	CO ₂ (kt) 2016	CO ₂ (kt) 2017	CO ₂ (kt) 2018
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	1,432	1,475	1,210	1,405	1,360
South Norfolk	867	869	843	838	836
Broadland	812	783	758	708	748
Breckland	782	734	706	700	695
North Norfolk	671	646	617	589	587
Norwich	537	594	612	527	497
Great Yarmouth BC	435	406	379	372	365
Total	5,536	5,507	5,125	5,139	5,088

¹² <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/laco2app/>

5.5 In addition to the table above showing local area comparisons, the graph below shows per capita carbon emissions between 2005-2017 for Great Yarmouth in comparison with Norfolk and England.

Figure 5: Graph showing per capita carbon emissions between 2005-2017 for Great Yarmouth, Norfolk and England¹³



5.6 Whilst the Borough is the lowest contributor to CO₂ emissions across Norfolk, there is still much scope to undertake carbon reduction activities, be it internally as an organisation, or working externally with our residents and businesses.

5.7 The borough has an automatic air quality monitoring station in South Denes. Data from 2018 showed that air quality standards for the borough are being met. The key pollutants of concern locally continue to be nitrogen oxides and particulates primarily from traffic and industrial emissions. Air quality levels are considerably better than more urban areas in other parts of the UK, and work in areas such as the third river crossing to reduce congestion, will only help to reduce these levels further¹⁴.

¹³ BEIS (June 2019) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2017

¹⁴ <https://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=988&p=0>

6. GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PROGRESS TO DATE

- 6.1 The Carbon Trust was commissioned in March 2020 to measure the Council's own carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan. The timing was such however that the commencement of the work coincided with the onset of the COVID-19; meaning data collection and therefore assessment was not possible. Whilst much of the activity detailed within the 2019 report consequently was put on hold, several preparatory measures have been possible in the interim and are detailed below:

Organisationally	Community & Business
WASTE	
<p>Office recycling systems are in place to deal with: paper, card, glass, metal cans, plastic, toner cartridges, crisp packets.</p> <p>Food waste caddies were introduced in 2019 with the unwanted organic material being composted using vermiculture on-site (worm bins). The substrate is used as plant feed.</p> <p>Single use disposable cups were replaced in February 2020 with reusable cups for all staff and members and crockery made available for visitor meetings around the Town Hall building.</p>	<p>Working with Norfolk CC and partners in The Netherlands, Belgium and France, the Borough Council is part of Project FACET which stands for 'Facilitating the Adoption of Circular Entrepreneurship in the Tourism and Leisure Sector'.</p> <p>FACET looks to support and encourage food-related hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses in the borough to adopt a 'circular economy' business model. This is based on the principle of designing-out waste, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.</p> <p>FACET includes the adoption of methods to motivate positive visitor behaviour change through making recycling on-the-go bins more appealing and accessible. Specifically incorporating gamification, reverse vending and sensor-driven 'Smart' bins.</p> <p>The FACET project aims to achieve a 15% reduction in the amount of single use packaging used by the participating businesses, a 15% reduction of business waste generated and a 50% reduction in the number of on-street waste collections in two years.</p>
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	
<p>The Council is working with Active Norfolk and Liftshare to understand and assess of how staff travel to work; identifying ways to increase more sustainable travel options. This assessment is currently on hold given the</p>	<p>An E-Scooter pilot was launched as a sustainable mode of public transport in March 2021.</p> <p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) are currently being</p>

<p>majority of staff that have been working from home. In saying that, this in itself has resulted in a positive impact across the UK in terms of a reduction of transport-generated CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>The Council has bicycle storage and shower facilities available to encourage staff to cycle to work.</p> <p>The Council also provides access to a shared pool car for work journey's and in non-pandemic times, car-sharing is actively encouraged to reduce road miles.</p>	<p>developed which will better guide future funding to increase sustainable travel options for our residents.</p> <p>The Council introduced rapid charging electric vehicle points in 2019. In the first year the electric vehicle points saved the equivalent of two tonnes of CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>In 2019 Abellio Greater Anglia invested new rolling stock which include energy saving and environmental features such as aerodynamic design, regenerative braking which puts energy back into the supply network rather than wasting it through heat, and lower particulate pollution.</p>
OPEN SPACES	
<p>Work is underway to map Council owned open spaces to then strategically consider these. As such opportunities to increase walkways etc will be explored as well as tree planting and nature gardens.</p> <p>The Council undertakes a rolling LED lighting replacement programme in relation to its footway lighting. LED's are energy efficient and have helped to reduce the Council's energy consumption in this area.</p>	<p>Through several funding streams including The Town Deal, green recovery fund and DEFRA's Urban Tree Challenge Fund, the Council is aiming to populate the urban areas of Great Yarmouth with up to 500 trees planted over two years during winter 21/22 and winter 22/23.</p> <p>The planting will take place aligning with some existing schemes such as the town centre landscaping and to replant South Quay where the trees were removed.</p>
HOUSING/CAPITAL PROJECTS	
<p>The Council's property development company, Equinox Enterprises Limited, plans to incorporate renewable and low carbon home energy solutions in its future development schemes.</p> <p>As part of the Middlegate Estate Masterplanning, work is now underway to look at ways to deliver zero carbon as part of the regeneration scheme.</p> <p>The Winter Gardens will be a focus for exploring and learning about low carbon technologies, through the integration into the designs of a range of innovative sustainable, low-carbon measures developed in partnership with the Institute for Sustainability Leadership,</p>	<p>The Council is part of the Norfolk Warm Homes programme which delivers heating and home insulation grants to the County's residents including home owners, landlords and tenants in Great Yarmouth. Residents on a low income or in receipt of income support benefits are eligible under this scheme. The scheme's particular focus is homes with a low energy rating of Bands E, F or G.</p> <p>The Council's local plan aims to address and where possible mitigate the effects of climate change. It does this by ensuring new developments are located in accessible locations. The plan also enables adaptation to coastal erosion, minimises flood risk to new developments, supports the green infrastructure network and</p>

University of Cambridge, the project will minimise whole-life costs – and will achieve NET ZERO CARBON for the building in use – and in sympathy with its heritage and conservation.	encourages renewable energy, water efficiency and provision of electric car charging points.
--	--

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Climate change and environmental sustainability is at the forefront of international, national, regional and local agendas. As a borough Council we have already committed to this, and as demonstrated within this paper that despite the Covid -19 pandemic, work in this area has continued.
- 7.2 However we are now at the stage where it would be useful to draw all the activity that is happening together under one Environmental Sustainability Strategy, so that we can articulate the Council's vision and develop action plans to accelerate our progress and guide future investment. Such a strategy likely includes several subject areas such as:
- Pathways to net zero
 - Waste minimisation
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Open spaces & tree strategy
 - Sustainable communities
 - Air/land quality
 - Sustainable procurement
- 7.3 To develop such a strategy additional resource will be required. Members of this committee are therefore asked to allocate £25,000 from the special projects reserve to be used in the development of this strategy and associated actions plans.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Members are asked to approve funding of £30,000 from the Council's special projects reserve to support the development of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy and associated action plans.
- 8.2 As the Council finalises its Carbon Reduction Plan and develops its Environmental Sustainability Strategy there will be financial matters which will need to be considered, outline financial costings for proposed activities as part of the Carbon Reduction Plan and the action plan for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will then be presented to Members.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In June 2019 the Government legislated the 2050 Net Zero target, following a recommendation from the Committee on Climate Change by amending the Climate Change Act 2008.

- 9.2 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, and in many cases are already delivering emissions reductions, or taking actions which affect how Net Zero might be achieved by other public bodies and businesses¹⁵.
- 9.3 It is also likely that as central government refocuses on this agenda post pandemic there will be future legislative matters which will need to be considered.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 This report provides Members a progress update in relation to the Borough Council's activities, making recommendations for Members to agree our approach on Environmental Sustainability matters, with an overall ambition of achieving Net Zero by 2050.
- 10.2 Members are therefore asked to consider the recommended next steps:
- To confirm ongoing support for the finalisation of the carbon footprint mapping work for the Council, to be completed by September 2021, alongside the development of an action plan to reduce the Council's carbon footprint
 - To recommend to Full Council the appointment of a Great Yarmouth Borough Council elected Member to sit on the Norfolk Elected Members Climate Change Partnership Board
 - To allocate £30,000 from the special projects reserve to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy and action plans to detail our pathway to Net Zero

¹⁵ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>

Subject: Street Cleansing Improvement Plan update

Report to: Environment Committee - Wednesday 9TH June 2021

Report by: James Wilson Head of Environmental Services

Chris Silverwood Director of Operational Services



SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview:

This report provides an update on the Street Cleansing Improvement Plan actions discussed at the Environment Committee on the 4th November 2020.

Recommendations:

- 1. The Committee notes the findings and updates on Street Cleansing Improvement Plan.**

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Environment Committee 4th November 2020, Street Cleansing Improvement Plan actions were discussed due to previous concerns raised over the cleanliness of the streets across Yarmouth town and the wider Borough. Its aim addressed some of the key issues to improve cleanliness of the town.
- 1.2 Following on from the meeting in November, the following activities have been undertaken:
 - New records of lists of assets and bin locations;
 - Temporary Increased bin capacity from Easter 2021 at key locations;
 - Progressing procurement of New Bins housings for 1100 bins and portable lockable frames holding 240ltr bins for Yarmouth seafront;
 - Working with Highways England (HE) and NCC Highways to litter pick trunk roads;
 - Plastic Bodied Utility Vehicles (PBUV) to be delivered in June 2021;
 - GYBS management restructure;
 - Funding secured for the Hit squad, toilet cleaner and cleaning of Market Gates;

- Street Scene Operations Plan 2021/22 approval;
- 1.5 An audit has been completed across the range of GYBS services which has led to a number of recommendations associated with reviewing and strengthening the evidence base for a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This work continues as part of the fortnightly operational meetings held with GYBS.

2. THE CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Street cleansing is undertaken on a zonal basis with the borough split into five zones; each with a different cleansing regime. The zones together with the significant differences in seasonal cleansing both influence the frequency, method and regularity of the current cleansing operation in a street by street, area by area approach.
- 2.2 An overview of the cleansing is as below:
- Market place and surrounding streets – early morning mechanical sweep starting at 4am, followed up by daily coverage via an operative with a hand barrow litter picking starting at 5am. Bin emptying using Bradshaw throughout the day. Main coverage for litter picking and manual sweeping is between 6am- 2pm however there is presence until 5pm.
 - High footfall sites such as Gorleston High Street, Magdalen Shops - daily cleanse.
 - Yarmouth residential outside of Zone A - weekly litter pick and annual mechanical sweep.
 - Parishes and other residential parts of the Borough – High footfall sites weekly litter pick. Residential areas receive a monthly litter pick and annual mechanical sweep.
 - Main Roads – 12 weekly mechanical sweeping cycle.
- 2.3 Litter bin emptying schedules have been revised in the urban and rural towns due to high volume of waste generated after COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were relaxed, changes are:
- Rural Areas – from 1-3 times per week to daily with seasonal fluctuations.
 - Urban Yarmouth – from once Daily to and up to 5 times daily.
 - High footfall sites such as Market and Yarmouth seafront - Multiple times daily dependent on season, footfall and weather forecast.
- 2.6 Since this relaxation of lockdown on 17th may we have had a number of local community groups wanting to restart litter picks, we are supportive of these and will arrange to collect waste as before, we are juts working through a process of if we can hand out litter picking equipment safely.

3. STREET CLEANSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Litter Bin – actions

- 3.1 **LB1. Undertake review of litter bins and their locations across borough.**

- As previously reported the Council didn't have a list of assets and bin locations, this is work now in progress starting on Great Yarmouth seafront.
- Great Yarmouth seafront bin locations have been reviewed as part of the FACET project which will involve the removal of the current 45 x 40ltr bins to be replaced by 30 x 240ltr bins held in portable lockable frames increasing the capacity to meet the new demand. This will also include the future facility to start recycling on the go related litter.
- Bins housings holding 100 bins are to be sited a key pinch points on the GY seafront.

3.2 LB2. Cost new bin housing options for litter bins across the borough in high-profile locations.

- As previously discussed, the summer season of 2020 was very different which led to different pressures on the bin capacity and locations within the Borough. The increase in takeaway litter across both Yarmouth, Gorleston and other seafront locations has been unprecedented. We have identified some areas where we have increased capacity from Easter 2021.
- The FACET project is leading on the procurement of the litter bin frames and housing for the larger waste bins on the seafront. This is in chain and should be in place later in the summer.
- Until the new bin frames have been put into place, as we have done over the past few summers seasons extra bins have been deployed in all the high volume areas keeping this capacity.

3.3 LB3. Investigate use of smart technology on existing litter bins.

- As part of the FACET project, we are looking to undertake a pilot project of smart bin technology at Hemsby.
- A consultant has recently been appointed to the project to deliver a number of these pilot schemes including the Hemsby scheme, which will be delivered in time of summer season 2022.
- The FACET project will also look at wider issues around the use of technology and innovation in the tourist trade and will look to trial a number of interventions to promote the circular economy in this sector.
- We look at reducing the amount waste produces from this sector as well as we can handle this in the most efficient way possible and give people the choice to reduce and then recycle before disposing of as waste.

3.4 LB4. Review of planning policy and section 106 agreement in relation to bin provision and design on new developments.

- Discussions have started with colleagues within the planning service to establish what we can put within both the local plan and also within specific 106 agreements to ensure we have new bins costs covered which already takes place on most of the larger developments.

4. Street Cleansing - actions

4.1 SC1. Review the cleaning schedule to ensure co-ordination with other functions (i.e. grass cutting, refuse collection).

- Review of litter bin schedules is underway providing extra capacity to meet the new demand;
- Clearance of hotspot refuse communal bin collection points continue to be cleared and are being monitored;
- Weekend Cleansing shift patterns started in April to ensure adequate cleansing provision in the afternoons;
- GYBS continue to work with Highways England (HE) and NCC Highways utilising road closures to litterpick the main arterial roads into the Towns. Staff have completed the statutory training required to work on the trunk roads;
- Street Scene & Open Spaces are now more coordinated and joined up in their approach with regard to Cleansing, Grounds, HE & NCC Highways to eliminate grass cutting before litter picking;
- The Hit Squad are now funded until March 2022 through the Norfolk Strategic Fund;
- Crews have WHATSAPP groups taking before after photos, available for communications, social media etc.

4.2 SC2. Ensure that staff and equipment are highly visible when working.

- Cleansing team in full Orange PPE as per HE guidelines, Risk Assessment and Method Statement;
- Hit Squad, all in Orange PPE with a new branded vehicle;
- Meetings have commenced with NCC Highways officer to discuss and plan maintaining the current cleansing standards, weed treatment etc.

4.3 SC3. Review of cleansing equipment (including mechanical) and methodology.

- A new Mechanical Sweeper, delivery is imminent;
- Plastic Bodied Utility Vehicles (PBUV) increased payload with side bin lifter which lifts and empties 240L bins completely eliminating manual handling issues and increasing bin capacity to be delivered in June 2021;
- Electric sweeping machines are now being used in the Street Cleansing service.
- Bin housings for 240L bins with restricted apertures preventing misuse by traders.
- New 1100L bins with a newly designed lockable bins with apertures for use, again preventing misuse.

4.4 SC4. Review best practice from other similar Councils (to include parking restrictions for cleansing, litterbins, methods of working, timings etc).

- Continue to be more proactive instead of reactive;
- Litter bin review, one size doesn't fit all;
- More benchmarking with other seaside towns and Local Authorities;

4.5 SC5. Review Ops Plans to ensure fit for purpose for 21/22 onwards.

- GYBS management restructure, new structure started 3 May 2021;
- Fortnightly GYBS managers meetings;
- Fortnightly GYBS/GYBC operations meetings;
- Updated and reviewed cleansing schedules;
- More communication with supervisors and frontline staff;
- Forward planning to prevent reoccurring issues:
 - Weed treatment commencing late spring 2021
 - Adding areas onto schedules
 - Vehicle / Plant renewal programme under constant review
- Street Scene Operations Plan 2021/22 approved and now operational.

5. Communication Plan – actions

5.1 CP1. Hotspot campaign, using education, information and enforcement.

- Monitoring of specific alleyways in and around Churchill Road has been undertaken and 2 alleyways have been identified for a pilot hotspots project in relation to residents taking ownership of their bins and reducing fly tipping in these areas. The initial work will start on 1st June and we will update members verbally on the progress to date at the meeting.

5.2 CP2. Targeted media campaign based on specific issues in identified areas.

- As above

5.3 CP3. Key borough wide messages disseminated as part of sustained campaign.

- As above, although we continue to send out messaging in line with Norfolk Waste partnership communications plan around responsible waste disposal and recycling. Recently relaunched SCRAP campaign and also new Recycle Right campaigns.

6. IMPROVEMENTS DELIVERED

6.1 Street Cleansing standards across the Borough have vastly improved with very few complaints, some of the improvements delivered so far are:

- More litter bin capacity now built into the system;
- Borough was ready for the opening of the season and lockdown;
- Hit Squad having a high profile, targeting and cleaning areas across the Borough;

- Gapton Hall verge clearance;
- Market Gates deep clean in November and cleaned again April in preparation for the season;
- Ferry Hill clearance, very well received by residents;
- Sand clearance at Caister;
- Road sweeping on Newport & Hemsby Roads;
- Clearance at Manor Gardens , Seafields Drive and Misburgh Way Hopton;
- Working with Highways England (HE) and NCC Highways litter picking the main arterial roads.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 We have utilised external funding provided by the Norfolk Strategic fund to support our work around opening the high street and tourism sector safely and have. This has paid for increased Street Cleansing staff by four until March 2022.
- 7.2 Funding for the extra toilet cleaner extended until October 2021.
- 7.3 NCC agreed to fund the cleaning of market gates 4 times per year.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Adverse publicity and risk of failure – members are fully aware of the anecdotal evidence and compounded perceptions that an unclean town can attract. There is always a risk of adverse publicity whether the council agrees to take a stand or not in terms of cleanliness.
- 8.2 In respect to littering and maintaining clean streets, Great Yarmouth shares similar social issues with many towns and cities in the UK. The key is to boldly demonstrate that unclean streets are not tolerated in the borough and work with local media and other stakeholders who want to improve the quality of the local environment.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Committee notes the findings and updates of the Street Cleansing Improvement Plan.**

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	None
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	None
Existing Council Policies:	
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	None
Legal Implications (including human rights):	None
Risk Implications:	None
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	None
Crime & Disorder:	None
Every Child Matters:	None

Subject: Resources and Waste Strategy consultations

Report to: Environment Committee - Wednesday 9th June 2021

Report by: James Wilson - Head of Environmental Services



SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview:

This report provides an overview and highlights the impacts of the Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations that have been recently released by Government covering the following themes:

- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging
- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme
- Consistency in Household and Business Recycling

Recommendations:

- 1. The Committee notes the details of the consultations and officer comments.**
- 2. Members are asked to note that an officer working group to look at the implications and prepare the Council for these proposed changes is being setup and will feedback to the committee.**

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2018 the government released its Resource and Waste Strategy setting out how it will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. As well as minimising damage caused to the natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully, and by tackling waste crime.
- 1.2 The strategy included a number of principles that will fundamentally change the way that waste and recycling are collected, recycled and who has responsibility for the end to end life of packaging material.
- 1.3 There were some initial consultations released in 2019 which detailed some of the proposal in more detail. The government has used these to inform and firm up their ideas they are looking to include the Environment Bill which is currently going through parliament. The 3 consultations outline in more details their thinking on the way we handle waste and recycling

in England for the future.

- 1.4 The consultation set out some significant and fundamental changes to who pays for handling waste, how we can improve recycling quality and quantity and what Councils are expected to collect and how often.
- 1.5 Whilst the Council agrees with the fundamental principles behind the need to reduce waste at source, create a circular economy and increase recycling the proposals laid out by government in these consultations have both huge logistical and financial impacts on the Council. Although statements are made in relation to the use of new burdens funding for this, the Council has significant concerns this would only be short-term funding and there would be a cost to the Council in future years.
- 1.6 The Council is working with colleagues across the Norfolk Waste Partnership to complete a joint Norfolk response as well as completing its own response. It is important we work in partnership over the coming months with the both the Joint Venture contract for GYBS and the Norfolk wide material recycling facility contracts coming to their end in 2023 and 2024.

2. EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 This second consultation focuses on specific policy proposals for its introduction, including the scope of full net costs, producer obligations, scheme governance, regulation of the scheme, and packaging waste recycling targets.
- 2.2 The system of producer responsibility for packaging has been in place in the UK since 1997 and has helped to increase recycling of packaging waste from 25%, 20 years ago to 63.9% in 2017 but with any system that is over 20 years it needs reform and this consultation details the proposed changes.
- 2.3 The consultation firms up the governments aims around producers paying for the full net costs of managing packaging they place on the market to end of life, using the polluter pay principle. The cost paid will vary based on a number of factors including the type of packaging and the ease by which it can be recycled.
- 2.4 These costs paid by the producers will be used to fund local authorities for the collection and management of household packaging waste with some proposals around these being based on the good practice collections schemes being in place. This would with the other consistency consultation ensure local authorities are collecting the core materials the government is proposing.
- 2.5 The control of litter is also now within scope and the consultation proposes that producers will be liable for litter payments through the EPR process. They will be required to cover the costs of all littered packaging, including packaging in litter bins and ground litter, with the aims to:
 - Reduce the amount of packaging littered
 - Increase the amount of the 'on-the-go' packaging that is recycled or reused.
 - Ensure the polluter pays principle is embedded into waste disposed of via the litter stream.
- 2.6 The Table below, shows the ambitious recycling targets this consultation proposes with the implementation of the EPR, DRS and consistency frameworks proposed within the 3 consultations:

Table 2 - Modelled UK packaging waste recycling rates in 2025 and 2030

	2025			2030			
	No change	DRS Consistency +EPR	+ Percentage point increase	No change	DRS Consistency + EPR	+ Percentage Point increase	2030 PPWD Targets ¹³
Plastic	42%	51%	+9%	42%	62%	+20%	55%
Wood	38%	39%	+1%	38%	39%	+1%	30%
Aluminium	57%	69%	+12%	57%	69%	+12%	60%
Steel	83%	88%	+5%	83%	92%	+9%	80%
Paper/card	70%	81%	+11%	70%	86%	+15%	85%
Glass	69%	92%	+23%	69%	93%	+25%	75%
Total	61%	73%	+11%	61%	78%	+16%	70%

Note: this analysis assumes the introduction of an England, Wales and Northern Ireland deposit return scheme, Extended Producer Responsibility and Consistency (in England). The analysis does not include the contribution from Scottish deposit return scheme material.

- 2.7 There is also a proposal to ensure all packaging should be using approved labelling stating if the product is 'recyclable' or 'not recyclable' to make it for the consumer to do the right thing.
- 2.8 The consultation also proposes a mandatory takeback scheme for sellers of filled disposable paper cups, this would replace a lot of the existing voluntary schemes and the hope is to promote the use of refillable cups.
- 2.9 The Government whilst recognising they have an ambitious timeline; we remain committed to the implementation of packaging Extended Producer Responsibility as soon as possible and propose implementing Extended Producer Responsibility through a phased approach commencing from 2023.
- 2.10 Whilst the proposal will see Councils receive funding from the producers to tackle both the recycling of this waste and litter, there will be implications as it is likely packaging level will reduce as producers will aim to minimise the waste they are paying for. This will likely mean that there is less recycling material to collect, but this will be a slow reduction over time.
- 2.11 **Overview of Council comments:**
- **Generally supportive of the scheme and its principles.**
 - **We would want to see more detail on the level of payment Councils would receive in relation to handling this packaging and making sure the formula for calculations was adequate to cover our needs.**
 - **Very supportive of the proposed mandatory takeback scheme for disposable paper cups, a common source of litter in the Borough.**

3. DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

- 3.1 It is estimated that in the UK that consumer go through 14 billion plastic bottles, 9 million drinks cans and 5 billion glass bottles, this consultation sets out one of the main ways the government wasn't to move towards to a circular economy where resources are kept in use for as long as possible and waste is minimised.

- 3.2 The consultation sets out the plans in terms of scope of the scheme whether it should be an 'all in' (including drinks containers up to 3litres) or an 'on-the-go' (including drinks containers under 750ml and excluding those sold in multipacks).
- 3.3 It also proposes the establishment of a Deposit Management Organisation (a not for profit body) to manage and operate the scheme ensuring it meets the high collection targets which will be set out in legislation.
- 3.4 The scheme will mean that the consumer will pay up front deposit at the point of purchase, which can be redeemed to the return of the item to a designated return point. There will be an obligation on producers of in scope packaging to ensure packing is labelled correctly, cover the costs of the scheme, as well as retailers who will be obligated to accept all in scope containers.
- 3.5 The scheme has 3 primary objectives:
- Increase recycling rates of in scope containers
 - Increase the quality of recycled material to encourage close loop recycling and circularity.
 - Reduce littering of in-scope containers.
- 3.6 The scope of the scheme is to be determined on the material as opposed to the product as such it proposed the following are included:
- Polyethylene terephthalate bottles
 - Steel and aluminium cans
 - Glass bottles
- 3.7 The modeling of the scheme and impact assessment assumes that a deposit level of 20p will result in a return rate of 75% in year one increasing up to 85% after 3 years. This would result in a large amount of recyclable material normally collected by the Council to be taken out of this waste stream.
- 3.8 There is a lot of detail in the consultation around the governance of the scheme and how it would be monitored to prevent fraudulent activity. There are also several questions about the use of digital technology in the delivery of the scheme which would make it more efficient as the scheme bedded in.
- 3.9 Return points are also discussed in detail with questions around where they can be placed and if the planning legislation around permitted development could be adapted for this. Also, what requirements there would be for retailers in close proximity to be exempt from providing return points.
- 3.10 **Overview of Council comments:**
- **Generally supportive of the scheme and its principles, the Council would want to see the 'all in' scheme as opposed to the 'on the go' proposal, this would ensure greater consistency across the Country and its devolved administrations.**
 - **There are some concerns over how this scheme would dovetail with those containers finding their way into the Council collections streams and how this would also impact on the recycling tonnages we currently collect.**
 - **There would have to be a different measure for showing recycling success as the current recycling targets and credits are all based on tonnage. There is the possibility this scheme would significantly reduce the quality and quantity of the recycling the Councils collect.**

4. CONSISTENCY IN HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS RECYCLING

- 4.1 This consultation set out the government's plans to ensure a great consistency of the recycling materials collected from households and businesses, creating a standard set of material that all councils must collect within the following dry recyclable waste streams:
- Glass – (bottle and containers)
 - Metal (Cans -steel and aluminium, Foil food trays, jar lids and aluminium tubes, aerosols)
 - Plastic (bottles, pots, trays and tubs, plastic film, food and drinks cartons (tetra Pak type))
 - Paper and card (not disposable cups, covered under EPR)
- 4.2 There is an expectation from government that each of these recycling waste streams will be collected separately unless councils can justify under, economic, technological or no environmental benefit reasons. This is to increase the quality of the recyclable material making it more marketable. There is a proposal that some of these waste streams could be combined such as metal and plastic or glass and plastic.
- 4.3 We in Norfolk are in a relatively good position as we have the ability to collect all the above items and already collect most of them as part of the existing co-mingled position. The challenge will be collecting them via separate waste streams and the issues that come with numerous containers, additional rounds etc.
- 4.4 The collection of food waste was discussed in the previous consultation in 2019, but the government have clarified their position that they will legislate in the Environment Bill to require all waste collection authorities to arrange for a separate weekly food waste collection. This will have significant implications as we currently do not collect food waste within the Borough, although the government has stated within the consultation that:
- 'as part of the new duties imposed on local authorities in the Environment Bill, central Government will fund net additional capital costs (for example containers, vehicles), and transitional costs such as communications and re-routing vehicles, to implement the new consistent collection measures.'*
- 4.5 The Environment Bill will also require all waste collection authorities to arrange for the separate collection of garden waste for recycling or composting, this is a service we already provide as a paid for service. The consultation proposes to make this a limited free service with the expectation that the provision of one 240litre bin and fortnightly collection (as we have now) could no longer be charged for. The proposal is that Councils could only charge for additional bins or an increased collection frequency.
- 4.6 This change will have a significant impact as the income for this service is just under £500,000 currently. It is not clear in the consultation if this would be covered by the new burdens scheme. We will be feeding back comments on this proposal to ensure that any costs to the Council would be covered if this proposal was agreed.
- 4.7 Recycling credits (currently based on weight) will be reviewed as part of this consultation, this is due to the new funding streams via the EPR and DRS, and the potential for weight not to be the right indicator anymore. The review will assess if the current scheme is fit for purpose or needs amending based on the new waste streams.

- 4.8 The consultation also covers recycling in businesses and is looking to impose legal requirement all businesses to recycle the same dry recycling waste streams as planned for domestic households, as well as food waste. This will have implications on a business and how they handle and store waste and recycling in often small spaces with little room for bins.
- 4.9 Overall this consultation proposal will have some positive impacts on what is recycled and also making it easier for people, however as detailed above there are significant hurdles to come with such a fundamental change and will involve a lot of work to deliver this.
- 4.10 There a number of unique challenges for us in the Borough with our seasonal businesses, increase in population over the summer months as well as some areas with highly transient population and non-English speaking communities.

4.11 **Overview of Council comments:**

- **As stated above the Council agrees with the principles of the proposal to ensure greater consistency with the material collected across the country to make recycling easier for the consumer.**
- **There are significant issues raised in this consultation that should they go ahead would have cause both large financial and logistical issue for the Council.**
- **The delivery of a free garden waste scheme as proposed would not be feasible without the full and ongoing costs being covered both for lost revenue and delivery of new bins and likely additional crews and vehicles. The Councils questions the environmental benefits of this proposal.**
- **The collection of waste a multi stream approach as opposed to the current co-mingled method would again cause several significant barriers to overcome including:**
 - **the additional cost of crews and different vehicles**
 - **the extra bins/boxes required to deliver this and how would these be managed on the ground in our urban areas.**
 - **Communication and delivery of this system in our urban areas with highly transient and migrant communities.**

As such the Council does think this is achievable without a fully funded approach from government, this would include all the on the ground delivery around ongoing communication and management of the system to be included.

- **The proposal of the addition of a weekly food waste collection, as above has similar major impacts on the Council. The setting up of a new system including the roll out of new vehicles and food caddies would cost in the region of £1000000 per year. Whilst the Council agrees with the aim, if there is an expectation to deliver this then a fully funded ongoing option is the only method, otherwise the Council would not be able to realistic deliver such as scheme.**

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As discussed above these consultations cannot be look at alone and have cross cutting

themes that will have both a negative and positive impact on the financial position of the Council.

- 5.2 With the proposal to offer a free garden waste collection and the proposed changes to the recycling credit scheme, this could lead to a reduction of income in the region of £500,000.
- 5.3 The addition of the requirement to undertake a weekly food waste collection across the Borough is expected to cost the Council in the region of an additional £1,000,000.
- 5.4 These large costs to the Council where there are new requirement will be covered by the government through new burdens funding, however it is unclear if the scheme exists already like the garden waste collection, whether this loss of income would be covered by the new burdens funding.
- 5.5 The review of the recycling credits is also likely to have an impact on the Council as these are currently collected for all recycling (including garden waste) sent for processing, as such these are used to offset the gate fees we pay for the processing. This is still unknown until we can see what the new alternative scheme will look like.
- 5.6 As mentioned, the Council would also now receive funding through the EPR scheme from producers to ensure we can collect packaging material and also 'on-the-go' litter. The amount of funding is unknown, but the consultation proposes full cost would be met.
- 5.7 There is the potential for these proposal to have a significant impact on the Council budget and without ensuring the new funding schemes cover full cost will lead to the Council paying to meet the government's requirements, but there are still a lot of unknowns until the proposals are finalised.
- 5.8 The timeline for this scheme, linked to other consultation is below:



6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be several new legal requirements to meet within the Environment Bill which will have time limits for delivery and compliance.
- 6.2 There will also be significant changes need to existing contracts for both waste collection and processing, that will need to be in place and meet the new requirements within the above short timeline

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Significant risk of failure to meet the deadlines set out as this will be a very resource intensive piece of work to deliver within the planned timeline. Linked to the other waste related contracts expiring in 2023 and 2024 in relation to GYBS and the Norfolk wide MRF.
- 7.2 The issue of educating the public and making these changes on the ground to ensure they are rolled out effectively has significant reputational risks associated with it. There is likely to be the need for additional boxes or bins to deliver these proposals and this could lead to more street waste related issues.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 **The Committee notes the details of the consultations and officer comments.**
- 8.2 **Members are asked to note that an officer working group to look at the implications and prepare the Council for these proposed changes is being setup and will feedback to the committee. (note for ELT first meeting planned for early June)**

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	
Existing Council Policies:	
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	
Legal Implications (including human rights):	
Risk Implications:	
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	
Crime & Disorder:	
Every Child Matters:	

