



## Environment and Sustainability Action Plan 2025



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We will continue to deliver against our target to be a net zero District by 2050. The Council will deliver this through strong leadership and enabling and will:

Take action to reduce carbon emissions across all aspects of the Council's operations to achieve a net zero Council by 2050.



Enable and support residents, businesses and local communities to reduce carbon emissions across the West Lindsey district.



Deliver positive communications and sign posting, including our 'small steps, big impact' campaign.



As part of the commitment to becoming a net zero Council by 2050, we will meet the following milestones within the next 10 years:

Have a fully decarbonised fleet by 2035.



By 2028 the Guildhall will be heated using a renewable energy source.



By 2030 all other buildings occupied and owned by the Council will have carbon management plans which will include proposals to deliver a fully costed carbon net zero estate.



## Theme one: Building and Assets

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	<p>Implement energy audit of WL operational estate to deliver energy efficient design principles for maintaining and retrofitting existing buildings, in summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fabric first</li> <li>2. Optimisation of services</li> <li>3. Utilisation of renewable technology</li> <li>4. Off-setting</li> </ol> <p>Initial focus on operation building surveys will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting &amp; controls</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Glazing</li> <li>• Solar shading</li> <li>• Energy use monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive understanding of opportunities to retrofit buildings operated &amp; occupied by WLDC.</li> <li>• Priority areas and timeline for interventions developed</li> <li>• Packages of work including specifications for improvements and changes</li> <li>• Understanding of energy use patterns across the operational estate &amp; options to change usage &amp; habits.</li> </ul>	Narrative	2023-2030
Our Place	<p>Implement new monitoring framework for the CLLP, including measures for impact of climate change polices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurable impact of the Climate change Policies on development across Central Lincolnshire and West Lindsey.</li> </ul>	Narrative, possible target development as plan embeds	<p>Monitoring Framework 2024/25</p> <p>Impacts of Policy Mar 25 onwards</p>

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	Delivery of recently announced 3 – 5yr Warm Homes Local Grant scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the energy efficiency of homes across Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium.</li> </ul>		2023-2030
Our Council	Bid for PSDF to replace the Guildhall gas heating system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the energy efficiency &amp; reduce the carbon footprint of the Guildhall.</li> </ul>	Narrative & target reduction in CO2 emissions.	2024-2026
Our People	Redevelopment of the West Lindsey Leisure Centre to improve energy efficiency of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve energy efficiency credentials of the building</li> </ul>	Narrative including baseline & projected efficiencies & carbon savings	2025-2026

## Theme Two: Campaigning and Lobbying

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Climate Change Member &amp; Officer working groups continue to engage in active campaigning and lobbying in relation to key priorities for West Lindsey Residents</li> <li>Considered as a monthly standing agenda item</li> <li>Implement a targeted lobbying and campaigning strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is actively engaged in emerging issues and opportunities relating to Climate Change</li> <li>The Council proactively influences policy and funding decisions at local, regional, and national levels</li> <li>Key stakeholders are engaged and supportive of West Lindsey's climate and sustainability goals</li> <li>West Lindsey's unique rural perspective is represented in wider policy discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of policy consultations responded to annually (target: at least 5)</li> <li>Number of meetings with regional/national policymakers – including representation at webinars and conferences (target: at least 4 per year)</li> <li>Successful inclusion of West Lindsey's priorities in regional strategies or funding allocations</li> </ul>	2024 onwards
Our Place	Engage proactively with the new Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) on environmental and sustainability issues" for 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Lindsey's environmental priorities are reflected in MCCA strategies and initiatives</li> <li>Increased funding and support for local sustainability projects</li> <li>Improved coordination of county-wide environmental efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative relating to MCCA meetings/consultations participated in</li> <li>Inclusion of West Lindsey's priorities in MCCA environmental strategies</li> </ul>	2024 onwards



Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our People	Expand collaborative work with the Lincolnshire Sustainability Officers Group (LSOG) and other key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge sharing and collaborative working on lobbying and campaigns</li> <li>Joint funding bids developed and submitted</li> <li>Unified Lincolnshire voice on key sustainability issues</li> </ul>	<p>Number of joint initiatives or campaigns launched (target: at least 2 per year)</p> <p>Number of successful joint funding bids (target: at least 1 per year)</p> <p>Narrative report on outcomes of collaboration to Member group</p>	2024 onwards

## Theme Three: Decision Making

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Continued roll out of staff training & broader awareness raising across the Council	Climate change outcomes form core part of decision making across the Council	Narrative	On going
Our Council	All new and reviewed strategies to include an appropriate approach to mitigating the impacts of Climate Change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New strategy delivery action plans will include deliverables against Climate Change priorities</li> <li>• Growth strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new &amp; reviewed strategies with Climate Change priorities &amp; associated actions</li> </ul>	2024 onwards
Our Council	Continue to monitor the impact of the CESIA tool across all decisions and Governance structures in the Council	Demonstrable outcomes of the use of the CESIA tool in decision making for all Council business	Number of decision outcomes impacted as a result of CESIA assessment	2024

## Theme Four: Influencing Others

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Increased communications output in line with strategy and campaign 'small steps, big impact' and publishing a summary achievements document (appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General promotion of activities led by West Lindsey, including grants that are available and how we as a Council can support community agendas</li> </ul>	Narrative	2024 onwards
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased coverage relating to communications &amp; messaging</li> </ul>	Number of Climate Change related articles published  Audience number achieved	2024 onwards  2024 onward
Our People	Continued improvement of the Climate change & sustainability web pages to raise awareness support our Parish Councils and Community Groups to access information	Community awareness of the opportunities in reducing their carbon footprint and increasing sustainability including the tools to implement change within their area	Narrative & number of webpage hits annually	2024 onwards
Our People	Actively encourage all new Neighbourhood Plan Groups to include specific policies to deliver the strategic aims of the Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment strategy	All new Neighbourhood Plans include policies aimed at supporting the delivery of carbon net zero in 2050 and respond to wider sustainability and climate change issues relevant to their area	Number of Neighbourhood Plans which include specific policies relating to at least 1 of the 10 Climate Change Strategy Themes	On-going
Our Place	Working with community groups to support raising awareness of environment and sustainability actions & opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising of grant applications opportunities.</li> </ul>	Narrative, including number of communities supported & sign posted	2024 Onwards



Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our People	Support particularly small, medium-sized enterprises (SME) to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon pollution – promote resilience support grants.	A reduction in the carbon footprint of businesses across West Lindsey	Number of Businesses receiving support annually, including cases studies & narrative  (NB - Continued delivery of UKSPF funded business support programmes (and grants) until March 2025 (programme may be extended))	On going
Our Place	Mapping exercise to understand pipeline of businesses investment opportunities which deliver objectives relating to Environment & Sustainability objectives. Examples include STEP, Scampton, Agri-Zone, Waterways Strategy, Gainsborough Masterplan refresh, Agri-Tech Twinning, Eco Settlement, and the circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved understanding of environmental business operating in West Lindsey</li> <li>• Improved engagement to deliver synergies &amp; circular economy</li> <li>• Improved inwards investment</li> <li>• Create a hub for innovation focused on the environment and sustainability across multi-sectors</li> </ul>	Narrative	2025 onwards
	Develop and implement targeted campaigns on key local environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased public awareness and engagement on local environmental priorities</li> <li>• Behavioural changes supporting sustainability goals</li> <li>• Enhanced support for Council's environmental initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>Number of local campaigns launched (target: at least 3 per year – Waste minimisation, energy efficiency, community energy, flood preparedness already identified)</p> <p>Reach and engagement metrics for campaigns (e.g., social media interactions, event attendance)</p> <p>Survey results showing increased public awareness of environmental issues</p>	On-going

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Funding	Continued support of Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service	Narrative	2024 Onwards

## Theme Five: Land Use

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	Continued implementation of bio-diversity net gain as part of development management process, including continued training & monitoring	Measurable 10% net gain in biodiversity across West Lindsey	Narrative with the potential to develop measures in relation to net gain in the future, including links to other nature-based projects in West Lindsey.	2024/25 onwards
Our Place	Green Space Management  Implement UKSPF: 1.6 Green Space Management and Community Project Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve management and operation of WLDC owned green spaces (linked to UKSPF Green Space Officer).</li> </ul>	Narrative	2024 onwards
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of woodland management plans to improve accessibility biodiversity, and overall management.</li> </ul>	Adoption of woodland management plan. Option to measure actions following this.	2024/25

## Theme Six: Power

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	<p>Use new mapping exercise with DNO to increase understanding &amp; influence over the energy market, including supply &amp; demand to better support communities deliver community energy solutions</p> <p>Work with other Lincolnshire districts to develop a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to guide the transition to a low-carbon energy system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers and members are better informed and able to provide support to communities exploring community energy solutions</li> <li>• Comprehensive understanding of local energy needs, resources, and opportunities</li> <li>• Clear roadmap for decarbonisation of the local energy system</li> <li>• Increased resilience and energy security for the community</li> <li>• Identification of potential community energy projects and investment opportunities</li> </ul>	<p>Narrative, case studies</p> <p>Progress in completion of the LAEP.</p> <p>Projected carbon emissions reduction from LAEP measures</p> <p>Number of identified renewable energy and energy efficiency projects</p> <p>Amount of external funding secured for energy projects</p>	On-going
Our Place	Switch parish street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish streetlights owned by West Lindsey District Council upgraded resulting in a reduction in power &amp; CO2e.</li> </ul>	Narrative including % of total lighting upgraded to LED	On-going

## Theme Seven: Protecting the Vulnerable

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Place	Develop and adopt a Communities Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Communities Strategy will establish the strategic approach to delivering community support, services and intervention to achieve corporate plan priorities.</li> <li>Identify communities at risk, which will include those at risk of impacts due to Climate Change. Strategy will be supported by an Action Plan to oversee delivery of community services and projects.</li> </ul>	Adoption of Communities Strategy & associated action plan	2024-2026
Our People	Develop resources to support communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better informed communities</li> <li>Communities develop own local resilience plans</li> </ul>	Narrative & numbers	2025 Onwards
Our People	Engage with the new LRF Resilient Communities project designed to provide tailored support to communities at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help communities develop a robust resilience plan</li> <li>Provide training for town/parish councillors</li> <li>Coordinate forum for parish, district and LRF representative</li> <li>Develop evidence base and information mapping to support future emergency response</li> <li>Arrange best practice events &amp; information between parish councils</li> </ul>	Narrative & numbers	2025 Onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our People	Implement and delivery LEAD project on behalf of Central and South Lincolnshire consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and support to hard-to-reach cohorts.</li> <li>• Increase utilisation of energy improvement measures to hard-to-treat properties.</li> </ul>	<p>Target number of 500 hard-to-reach cohorts across consortium</p> <p>Installation of energy efficient measures across over 162 homes</p>	<p>2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available</p> <p>2023 onwards, as grant regimes become available</p>



## Theme Eight: Resources and Finance

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Preparedness for future funding bids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional monies secured to deliver initiatives in line with the CESS strategy</li> </ul>	Number of bids submitted & outcomes	On-going
Our Council	<p>Continue to refresh Treasury Management Strategy to ensure the Council invests a proportion of funding into ethical &amp; sustainable investments.</p> <p>It is anticipated that as ethical and environmental investment becomes more mainstream that a greater choice of investment opportunities will be available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the Council best uses its cash resources to ensure security, liquidity, and yield whilst also taking into account ethical, sustainable and governance factors.</li> <li>The Council continue to evaluate the market &amp; products available to maximise ethical and environmental investment whilst promoting financial sustainability.</li> </ul>	Narrative which includes a new Treasury Management Strategy which delivers opportunities for green and ethical financing	2025 Onwards
Our Council	Develop an employee benefit scheme which includes promotion of active travel, sustainable travel options & opportunities to deliver positive environmental outcomes to the broader district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to active travel and sustainable travel options.</li> <li>Improved environmental outcomes and wellbeing for staff across the district.</li> </ul>	Narrative, & take up numbers	2025 Onwards

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	To reduce our carbon footprint through use of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More sustainable business practices which includes a reduction in the use of resources and in some circumstances a reduction in the organisations carbon footprint</li> </ul>	<p>Narrative on specific projects identified for 2024, including but not exhaustively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved hybrid options for meetings</li> <li>• Digital technology to allow Benefits customers to self-serve</li> </ul>	2024-2026

## Theme Nine: Transport and Connectivity

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Implement the new de-carbonisation vehicle replacement strategy	Provision of a pathway to deliver reliable, cost effective and carbon reduced vehicles, plant and associated equipment, at the right time and at the right cost to support the strategic objectives of the Council	Reduction in CO2e emissions from the fleet. Metrics for reduction to be established as part of the recommendations in the strategy.	2024 Onwards
Our Place	Improve connectivity & access to Broadband across the District	Improved digital access to support a reduction in travel where services can be accessed digitally	Narrative which includes the number of communities that have received improved broadband speed	2022-2028
Our Place	Undertake review community 'Wi-Fi' hotspots	Improved community access to digital services	Narrative and number of communities receiving WiFi hot spots and or reviews to support technological improvements.	2022-2028

## Theme Ten: Waste

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Prepare for and implement separate weekly food waste collections	Compliance with Environment Act 2021 requirements; reduction in residual waste	Percentage of households with food waste collections; tonnage of food waste collected	Planning 2024-2025, Full Implementation by March 2026 following pilot
Our Council	Improve Recycling Quality and Quantity by Continuing to promote and expand the “Right Thing, Right Bin” campaign	Reduced contamination in recycling streams; increased recycling rates	Recycling contamination rates; overall recycling percentage	Ongoing through 2025 and beyond
Our Council	Adapt to Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Changes: [Action] Develop strategies to minimize residual waste sent to Energy from Waste facilities	Reduced carbon emissions and potential future costs associated with ETS	Tonnage of residual waste; estimated carbon emissions from waste	Planning 2024-2025, Implementation from 2026 onwards
Our Council	Enhance Waste Prevention and Reuse Initiatives: [Action] Develop and implement a comprehensive waste prevention and reuse program	Reduced overall waste generation; increased reuse of materials	Total waste per household; participation in reuse schemes	2025- 2026
Our Council	Prepare for Extended Producer Responsibility: Develop systems to accurately measure packaging waste for EPR payments	Maximized financial benefits from EPR scheme; improved data on waste streams	Accuracy of waste data reporting; EPR payments received	2025-2026

Corporate Plan Theme	Action	Outcome	Measure	Timeframe
Our Council	Prepare for Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Impact: [Action] Assess and plan for the impact of DRS on waste collections and recycling rates	Smooth transition to DRS implementation; maintained recycling performance	Changes in recycling composition; overall recycling rates	Planning 2025-2026, Adaptation 2026 onwards