



14 March 2024

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NET-ZERO FRAMEWORK

Purpose of the Report

1. This report aims to introduce the Net-Zero Framework project and allow Members to consider and comment on its intention, structure, and content.
2. The report will be accompanied by a brief presentation.

Information

3. **The Nottinghamshire Plan** details the Council's nine ambitions to achieve the vision of a 'Healthy, Prosperous and Green' Nottinghamshire. These ambitions include:
 - 'Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives'.
 - 'Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit'.
 - 'Attracting investment in infrastructure, the economy and green growth'.
 - 'Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint'.
4. Reinforcing The Nottinghamshire Plan is the Economic Transition Plan, which focuses on transforming our local economy through placing the interests of Nottinghamshire communities and businesses at its heart, whilst also driving investment and improvements across the county. The Economic Transition Plan assists with the Council's aims of attracting green growth and aligns strongly with our Net Zero ambitions.
5. Since announcing a climate emergency in May 2021, the Council has been committed to reducing carbon emissions across its assets and business activities. These reductions are needed to help achieve NCC's 2030 carbon neutral target in all its own activities, as well as achieving Net-Zero by 2050, in line with the national target. The Carbon Reduction Plan provides evidence of this commitment and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report demonstrates a downward trend in our carbon footprint. The commitment and activities to reduce these emissions have largely been internally focused as so far.
6. Although there has been great achievement in the reduction of our emissions, our responsibility and commitment as a council means there is a need to look beyond internal assets and activities, to take a county-wide perspective on reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change across Nottinghamshire. The Net-Zero Framework is the beginning of NCC's wider perspective.

7. The framework (**APPENDIX 1**) is a high-level, strategic document which outlines the councils' ambitions for achieving net zero across Nottinghamshire. The framework focus is on 'what' the council wishes to achieve, with recognition of the progress, commitments, and priorities across the councils' departments and groups, contributing to achieving our ambition for net zero. It will lay the foundation for us to build upon the 'how' we intend to achieve our ambition. Alongside the Economic Transition Plan, the framework will support the delivery of the ambitions within The Nottinghamshire Plan, underpinned by our statutory obligations and responsibilities as a council.
8. The County Council cannot accomplish our ambition in isolation. Tackling the effects and impacts of climate change requires collaboration with our key partners within and surrounding Nottinghamshire. The framework intends to unite and progress our key stakeholders and partners towards our shared common goal and maximise the co-benefits of climate action.
9. The Place department established a project team of Climate Change and Growth, Infrastructure & Development officers to develop the framework. The project team completed a plan of activities to develop the draft, which included delivering a series of stakeholder engagement sessions, which provided NCC's key stakeholders with an opportunity to give initial feedback on the proposed structure and content. We have also engaged with officers across the council's departments to understand those commitments and priorities currently contributing to the ambition for Net-Zero; the contributions of our key stakeholders were essential to the development of the framework.
10. The framework will proceed through a further stakeholder engagement stage for feedback. This stage will run for two weeks, from 18th March to 2nd April 2024. All input and comments will be evaluated and assessed as part of developing the framework's final iteration.
11. The framework development pathway includes progression through the council's democratic processes. We have kept key Cabinet Members (Transport & Environment, Economic Development & Asset Management and Communities & Public Health) abreast of the framework's development, and our progression through the Overview Committee process ensures Members across the political parties can review and feedback on the framework. Finally, the final iteration of the framework will progress through the Cabinet Member process for Transport & Environment to obtain final approval before publishing.

Next Steps

12. Continue stakeholder engagement to capture feedback and comments, which will inform the final iteration of the framework.
13. The project will continue with preparations for the next iteration of the framework, which will involve ensuring the appropriate cabinet Members are given visibility of the final iteration before progressing through the approvals process.

Financial Implications

14. As the project's focus is to establish a high-level strategic ambition for Nottinghamshire, developing the framework has no direct financial implications.

Implications for Residents

15. As the project focuses on establishing a high-level strategic ambition for Nottinghamshire, developing the framework has no implications for residents. Once the framework is established, action plans to deliver the ambition will likely affect residents. These will proceed through democratic processes as and when necessary.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

16. The framework will lay the foundations to achieve our net-zero ambition for Nottinghamshire. Any actions plan built upon the details of the framework will serve to reduce emissions within the county and adapt to the existing effects of a change in climate.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Members to endorse the intentions and ambitions of the framework.
- 2) Members to consider and comment on the initial framework draft.

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Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

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Constitutional Comments (SR 01/03/2024)

17. These recommendations fall within the terms of reference for Overview Committee.

Finance Comments (PA 19/02/2024)

18. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 14 of the report. Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report, any requests for approval to proceed with projects to achieve net zero ambitions that are not already in the Council's budget will include estimated revenue and capital costs and the proposed funding for these.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.