

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### CABINET

## A GREEN FUTURE: OUR PLAN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

### 1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 The council has developed 'A Green Future', which is a plan to deliver the positive change we need to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable North Lincolnshire.

1.2 It is centred on a vision that:

**North Lincolnshire is a 'net zero' area. The environment is integral to all our decision making and everyone has a positive relationship with the environment. We all play our part in making our area a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit.**

1.3 To achieve this vision will need area wide ownership and action. With this in mind, area wide engagement is planned.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Internationally, we know:

- The accelerating impact of climate change in this country and around the world is of profound concern.
- The consequence of climate change is damaging to nature with species loss, habitat erosion and the disappearance of cherished wildlife.
- The concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG's) in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on earth.

- The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution.
- The most abundant GHG, accounting for about two-thirds of GHGs, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), is largely the product of burning fossil fuels.

## 2.2 Nationally, we know:

- By using our land more sustainably and creating new habitats for wildlife, including by planting more trees, we can arrest the decline in native species and improve our biodiversity.
- By tackling the scourge of waste plastic we can make our oceans cleaner and healthier.
- Connecting more people with the environment will promote greater well-being.
- By making the most of emerging technologies, we can build a cleaner, greener country and reap the economic rewards of the clean growth revolution.

## 2.3 And in North Lincolnshire, we know we face a number of challenges:

- Areas of poor air quality and high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, primarily associated with industrial activity
- Increasing flood risks arising from changing weather patterns and rising sea levels and storm surges
- High levels of waste collected per head of population
- Declines in priority habitats and species

2.4 Nationally, the Environment Bill, A Green Future: A 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution sets out an approach to deliver the government's environment vision. Government asserts that local government has an essential role to play responding to challenges at a local level, leading specific and locally appropriate responses and driving innovation. This all comes together as we set out a plan to build back better, support green jobs and accelerate our path to net zero as we recover from the impact of coronavirus on our lives. 'A Green Future' is our plan to deliver the positive change we need.

## 2.5 Our plan has 8 key aims:

**Aim 1:** By 2030, North Lincolnshire Council will achieve 'net zero' and we will end the council's contribution to global warming.

**Aim 2:** Clean Growth - net zero industry and commerce and good air quality.

**Aim 3:** The shift to net zero embeds decarbonisation in our economic growth. We use decarbonisation as the foundation of our future prosperity.

**Aim 4:** Net zero living is easy and accessible. It benefits the environment and improves peoples lives.

**Aim 5:** Resources are used more efficiently. The amount of waste North Lincolnshire produces is minimised.

**Aim 6:** Everyone is connected with our environment. We enhance and protect it.

**Aim 7:** Everyone has a stake in our environment and everyone can feel the benefit.

**Aim 8:** A Network to achieve our vision for 'A Green Future'

2.8 To achieve these aims requires significant change. Everyone in North Lincolnshire will need to play their part – residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 It is proposed that the council now engages with residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations across North Lincolnshire about the aims of 'A Green Future'. This should include seeking feedback on a range of actions that should help us achieve these aims.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 By engaging with residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations as set out in paragraph 3.1 we will develop a greater understanding of how we best support everyone to play their part in achieving the best environmental outcomes for North Lincolnshire. This is critical if we are all to work to the same environmental outcomes, take responsibility for achieving those outcomes and are enabled to take positive action on the environment.

### 5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 Following the engagement noted in paragraph 3.1 we expect to bring forward for consideration and approval a new Environment Policy and Programme. This will set out the specific actions we will all need to take across North Lincolnshire - residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations – to achieve the vision and aims of 'A Green Future'. This will take account of all the resources North Lincolnshire will need to prioritise use of across North Lincolnshire in support of 'A Green Future'. We expect this process to be iterative and dynamic. This will enable North Lincolnshire to achieve the best outcomes and that we are always able to maximise benefit realisation – this is important in a rapidly developing environmental and 'green tech' landscape.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 'A Green Future' is by its very nature inclusive – everybody must play their part if we are to achieve our vision for 'A Green Future'. The proposed engagement will ensure everyone is able to have a voice in this. All individuals will be considered. Their differing needs will be taken into account in the Policy and Programme noted above and the proposed engagement is a key part of ensuring this happens.

6.2 'A Green Future' is driven by the Council Plan. It takes an outcome focused approach to making our area a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit. Key in this is:

- We will end our contribution to global warming  
**This help will keep North Lincolnshire safe**
- We are protecting our places and spaces and helping people to make the most of them  
**This will help keep North Lincolnshire well**
- We are making sure we grow in a sustainable way  
**This will help keep North Lincolnshire prosperous**
- We are bringing people together to make North Lincolnshire the best it can be  
**This will help keep North Lincolnshire connected**

6.3 'A Green Future' is also built around our for goals of sustainable, commercial, enabling and progressive. Examples of this are set out below.

- **Sustainable** – We increase, enhance and protect a range of habitats across North Lincolnshire to support carbon capture and biodiversity. Every day, we leave the environment in a better state than we find it. Our environment is safe, self-sustaining and provides opportunities for everyone.
- **Commercial** – We will make the most of the opportunities that tackling climate change presents to further strengthen and grow our local economy. Clean growth is at the heart of our area wide boost in productivity. Improved skills and good job creation increase earning power. Economic growth is decoupled from carbon emissions.
- **Enabling** – We achieve our shared vision as a Network. Residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations take responsibility and are enabled to take positive action on the environment.

- **Progressive** – positive environmental change happens, now and for future generations.

6.4 'A Green Future' will ensure we take positive action to address the climate and environment related challenges we face – locally, nationally and internationally. The vision included at paragraph 2.2 sets out how significant a change we will achieve for North Lincolnshire.

6.5 There are no Crime and Disorder Act 1998 implications.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable.

## 8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 The council's Leadership and Senior Management have been consulted during the development of 'A Green Future', together with the Local Government Association. The council's 'Enhancing our Environment' Group (a stakeholder group of key officer and elected members) have also been consulted. All have indicated strong support for the approach set out in this paper. Officers in Legal and Democratic Services have advised the approach provides the most robust foundation for swift Policy approval following the proposed engagement.

8.2 The proposed engagement will enable everyone to have a voice about plans for 'A Green Future'. It will enable us to develop a greater understanding of how we best support everyone to play their part in achieving the best environmental outcomes for North Lincolnshire.

8.3 There are no declared conflicts of interest.

## 9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 It is recommended that:

1. the vision, outcomes, goals and aims of 'A Green Future' are noted and endorsed, and
2. engagement with residents, businesses, the public sector and non-profit organisations is progressed with the intent of developing a greater understanding of how we best support and enable everyone to play their part in owning and taking action to achieve 'A Green Future' for North Lincolnshire.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:COMMERCIAL

Church Square House  
30-40 High Street,  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 6NL  
Author: Nolan Bennett  
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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

None