

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' 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 the council needs to adopt a policy position to guide decision making and action.

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 (CO₂), 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 CO₂ 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 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.

2.5 To drive good decision making and action in the context of organisation and place, the council needs to adopt appropriate policy positions. Following on from the decision taken in March 2021 to consult on our proposals for 'A Green Future', extensive engagement has taken place and we are now in a position to adopt a new environment related policy. Further detail is set out in the following.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the council adopts 'A Green Future', as set out in appendix 1, as a non statutory statement of policy intent relating to all matters concerning environmental wellbeing.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 By adopting 'A Green Future' as a non statutory statement of policy we will ensure that we use our decision making, influence and direct actions to 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.
- 4.2 'A Green Future' takes an outcome based approach to achieving net zero, decarbonisation, economic prosperity, environmental protection and enhancement and personal wellbeing. 'A Green Future' is our plan to deliver the positive change we need, centred around 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'

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

- 5.1 As noted in 4.1, 'A Green Future' is proposed as our 'A Green Future' non statutory statement of policy. As such it will guide our decision making, influence and direct actions to ensure maximum environmental benefits and wellbeing. It will contribute significantly to ensuring legal/statutory compliance.

5.2 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 in support of achieving ‘A Green Future’.

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’. Aim 8 - **A Network to achieve our vision for ‘A Green Future’** will ensure everyone is able to have a voice in this. Differing and sometimes competing needs will be considered.

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 1.2 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 No adverse impact have been identified.

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 indicate positive support. In addition to this, area wide engagement open to all residents, businesses and other stakeholders went live in July 2021, with over 99% of participants indicating support for the aims set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report. Finally, on 13 December 2021 the Places Scrutiny Panel reviewed the 'A Green Future' proposals and confirmed support.

8.2 Significantly, we expect 'A Green Future' to be iterative and dynamic. This will enable North Lincolnshire to achieve the best outcomes that are always able to maximise benefit realisation – this is important in a rapidly developing environmental and 'green tech' landscape. It will also 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 'A Green Future', as set out in appendix 1, be adopted as the council's non statutory statement of policy intent relating to all matters concerning environmental wellbeing.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

None

North Lincolnshire

A Green Future: Our Plan For Positive Change 2021



**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

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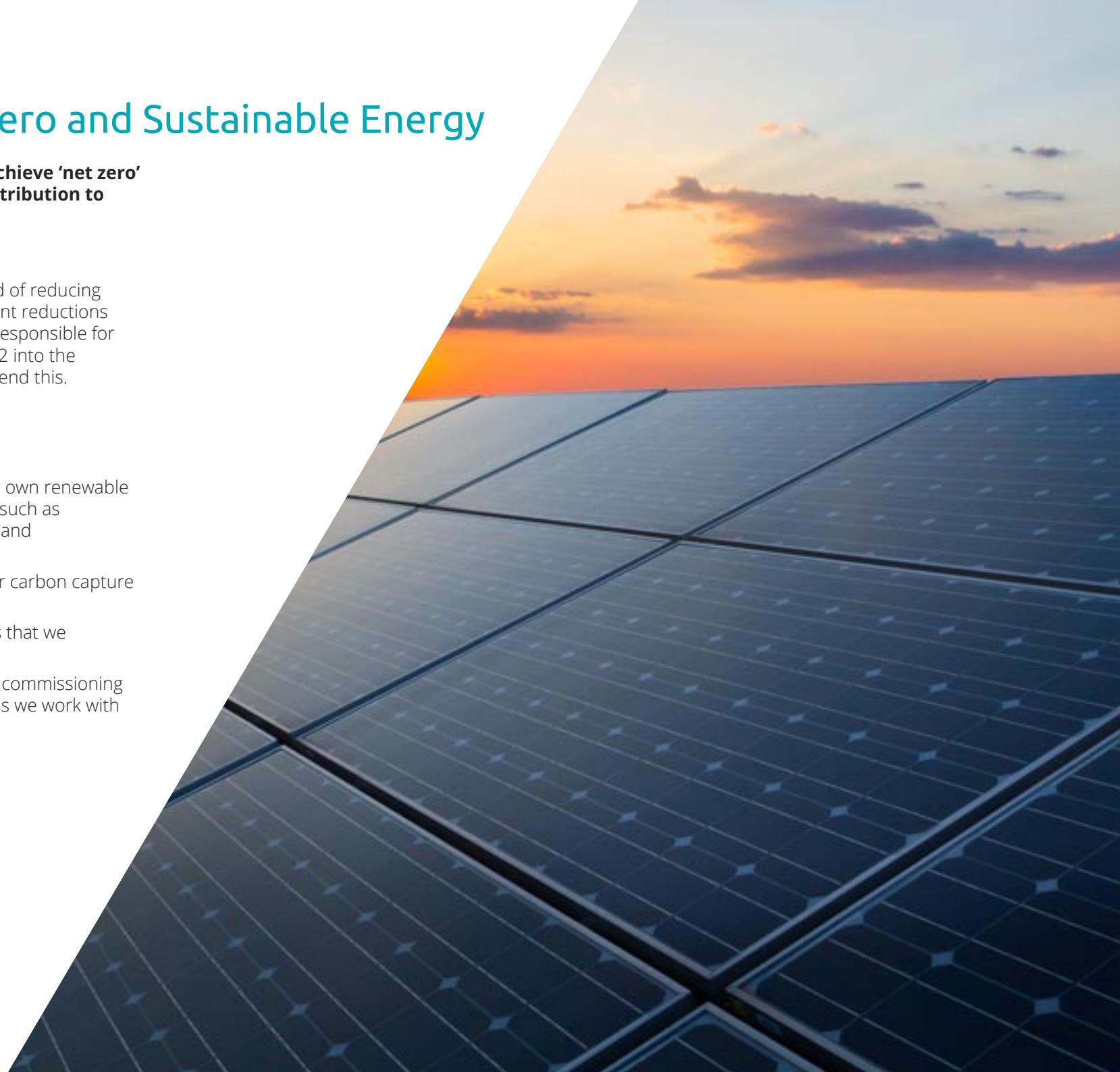
Theme 1 - Net Zero and Sustainable Energy

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

We are taking action.

The council has a strong track record of reducing carbon emissions, achieving significant reductions since 2009. But we are still directly responsible for putting around 12,200 tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere every year. By 2030 we end this.

- ▶ We will transition to a green fleet.
- ▶ We will source all our energy from renewable sources.
- ▶ Wherever possible we will use our own renewable energy sources wherever we can, such as photovoltaics, biomass, hydrogen and ground/air source.
- ▶ We will maximise opportunities for carbon capture and sequestration.
- ▶ We will offset any direct emissions that we cannot avoid.
- ▶ Through all our procurement and commissioning activity, we ensure all organisations we work with share and deliver our vision.



Theme 1 - Net Zero and Sustainable Energy

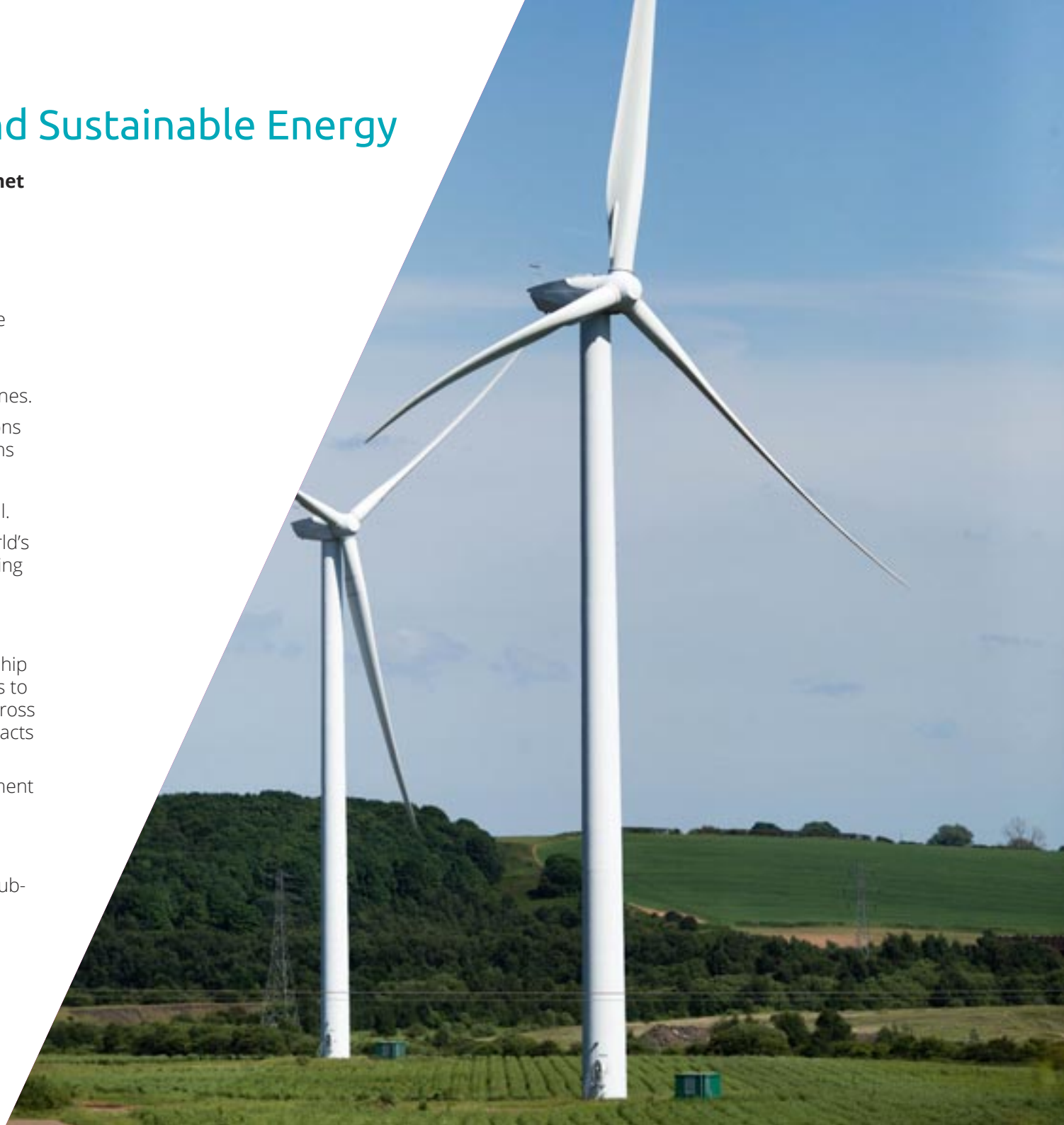
Aim 2: Clean Growth – working together for net zero industry and commerce and good air quality.

Tackling Climate Change is more than just the council.

- ▶ Carbon emissions from industry and commerce across North Lincolnshire are around 6.6 million tonnes.
- ▶ Total carbon emissions are over 7.4 million tonnes.
- ▶ North Lincolnshire Council's own direct emissions are only a small part of the total carbon emissions for the area.

We need to do more than being a net zero council.

- ▶ We will support regional work to create the world's first net-zero industrial cluster by 2040, improving the long-term competitiveness of the energy-intensive and continuous process industries across the Humber.
- ▶ We will work hard to strengthen cluster leadership and co-ordination to encourage joint responses to environmental opportunities and challenges across the industrial sector, including dealing with impacts on air quality.
- ▶ We will continue local support for the development of public/private partnerships to develop and achieve best environmental practice across the region.
- ▶ The council will seek and lead on establishing sub-regional and regional support for the decarbonisation agenda.



Theme 1 - Net Zero and Sustainable Energy

Aim 3: The shift to net zero embeds decarbonisation in our economic growth. Decarbonisation is one of the foundations of our future prosperity.

Transformational Opportunities – The Economy of our Environment

The transition to net zero in our area creates new jobs whilst at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing competitiveness. The council will support and take forward work to:

- ▶ Accelerate deployment of renewable and clean sources of energy to increase supply diversification and affordability.
- ▶ Maximise investment opportunities in the area through Green Tech and Green Finance.
- ▶ Increase energy efficiency and conservation in all sectors.
- ▶ Increase investment in production, transformation and distribution of viable renewable energy resources.
- ▶ Strengthen and enhance the human and institutional capacity in the energy sector.
- ▶ Ensure greater use of renewable energy across all sectors.

- ▶ Support all businesses to access funding to reduce CO2 emissions and become more sustainable.
- ▶ Increase knowledge, technology transfer and information sharing across Northern Lincolnshire.

And we will all need to do more as North Lincolnshire moves to net zero.



Theme 1 - Net Zero and Sustainable Energy

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

Sustainable energy and sustainable living

To deliver sustainable living we will:

- ▶ Ensure our Local Plan drives up the number of homes that are net zero and seek to ensure we end development that is carbon positive.
- ▶ Deliver new developments that are flood resilient and have robust travel arrangements.
- ▶ Target work to upgrade the energy performance of as many homes as possible by 2035.

North Lincolnshire Council will adopt a Integrated Transport Vision and Strategy with a key aim of delivering a net zero transport system across the county that:

- ▶ Meets need and is available for everyone to use.
- ▶ Prioritises net zero transport, such as walking, cycling and electric vehicles.

As people are enabled to shift to walking, cycling and public transport for all shorter journeys and net zero means of transport for other journeys, they improve their health and wellbeing. Getting about becomes more affordable. Air quality is improved.



Theme 2 - Resources, Waste and Water Management

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

Tread Lightly

- ▶ Ensure that less than 1% of waste produced in North Lincolnshire goes to landfill.
- ▶ We will minimise per capita waste collection rates.
- ▶ The council's reliance on single use plastics will be eliminated by 2023.
- ▶ All of the council's waste from activity will be re-used or recycled.
- ▶ Waste management arrangements will always meet need in the most effective way.
- ▶ North Lincolnshire's waste that cannot be recycled will be used positively, by using it to produce clean energy.
- ▶ The area will make the best use of waste water, contributing to growing the economy and minimising our ecological footprint.
- ▶ Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be supported to become more resource efficient.
- ▶ Business and residents will minimise their waste, dealing with it at a community-based level where they can.



Theme 3 - Our Natural Environment: People and Place

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

Putting Energy into Natural Capital

North Lincolnshire has a strong track record of protecting our environment and connecting people with it. We will:

- ▶ Work with Natural England to bring an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty into North Lincolnshire.
- ▶ Work to achieve a litter free North Lincolnshire.
- ▶ Deal with fly tipping and eradicate large scale waste and enviro crime in North Lincolnshire.
- ▶ Adopt a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that will give collective focus all natural environment activity and resources.
- ▶ Reverse past declines in habitats and species provide habitat networks provide for protected and priority species.
- ▶ Encourage and develop investment decision making to ensure decisions demonstrate net zero whole life-cycle impact on climate change and biodiversity.
- ▶ Ensure all developments minimise harm to wildlife and deliver a measureable increase in biodiversity.
- ▶ Enable a vibrant market for habitat compensation, biodiversity offsets etc, targeting action towards areas that would provide bigger, better and joined habitat networks. Ensure that biodiversity is both conserved and enhanced.
- ▶ Implement a Flood Risk Strategy to ensure mitigation and protection is in place so that communities most vulnerable to flooding are kept safe.



Theme 4 - A Shared Responsibility and A Shared Vision

Aim 7: People feel the benefit of our environment and everyone has a stake in it.

Reaping the Rewards - Good for Nature, Good for You

People will be connected with nature and benefit from improved health and well-being.

- ▶ Enabling new “Friends of Groups” and supporting existing ones – delivering ‘ownership’ and a real stake in their environment for local residents.
- ▶ Enabling Town and Parish Councils and other community groups to do more to enhance their local environment, both through transfer of responsibilities and enabling community-led environmental improvements.
- ▶ Promoting, providing and using opportunities for cycling and walking.
- ▶ Enhancing biodiversity and integrating recreation into management planning for community spaces such as parks, gardens, cemeteries and other public spaces.
- ▶ Planting more trees and hedgerows, ensuring ancient woodland is protected, native trees encouraged and increasing woodland cover overall. Our Northern Forest project is a key part of this.
- ▶ Conserving and enhancing our local nature reserves and green spaces, including consulting on any significant tree street related tree felling.
- ▶ Managing key sites to be carbon negative (removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere), contributing to net zero.



Theme 4 - A Shared Responsibility and A Shared Vision

Aim 8: A Network to Achieve Our Vision for 'A Green Future'

The Whole is Other Than the Sum of its Parts

We will deliver 'A Green Future' for North Lincolnshire by:

- ▶ Supporting and raising the environmental aspirations and performance of everyone who lives and works in North Lincolnshire.
- ▶ Taking area wide ownership and action.
- ▶ Ensuring North Lincolnshire works to the same environmental outcomes – council, business and residents - we have all got our part to play and everyone is clear what that part is.
- ▶ Seeking and using the best professional insight and use data and analytics, to ensure we achieve the best outcomes.

