



Full Council	Tuesday, 24 March 2020	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Climate Emergency: Environment Strategy & Action Plan - Update and Leicestershire Collective Vision (March 2020)**

Report Author: **Adrian Thorpe (Head of Built Environment)**

Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update relating to the Environment Strategy and Action Plan and to inform Council of the wider collective vision associated with environmental matters in Leicestershire that has been agreed by Council Leaders.
Report Summary:	<p>The Leaders of all seven District and Borough Council's in Leicestershire have issued a joint statement that sets out a collective vision associated with environmental matters in Leicestershire.</p> <p>The Environment Strategy and Action Plan sets out how Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will contribute towards reducing carbon emissions both in terms of actions that it can take as an organisation in its own right and in terms of the Council role in influencing local residents and businesses and encouraging a partnership approach involving a range of stakeholders.</p> <p>The Council has established a cross party Environment Working Group which will seek to implement this Action Plan and co-ordinate the Council's response to Climate Change.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. The Joint Statement issued by the Leaders of all seven District and Borough Councils in Leicestershire be acknowledged in relation to the global climate emergency; and</p> <p>B. The main actions achieved to date by the Borough Council in relation to its own Environment Strategy & Action Plan (as set out in paragraph 1.6 of this report) be noted.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive) (0116) 257 2601 anne.court@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of Built Environment) (0116) 257 2645 adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Corporate Objectives:	<p>Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2) Providing Excellent Services (CO3)</p>
Vision and Values:	<p>"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1) Teamwork (V3) Innovation (V4)</p>
Report Implications:-	

Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Failure to Respond to a Significant Incident (CR7) Reputation Damage (CR4).
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	Environment Working Group
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Strategy & Action Plan (Adopted November 2019)
Appendices:	None.

1. Information

Collective Vision

- 1.1 The Leaders of all seven district and Borough Council's in Leicestershire have issued a joint statement:

"We have a collective ambition of working towards being carbon neutral by 2030. The seven different authorities are at different stages of this journey, but we know that by working together and across borders, we can make much more of a difference than we could individually"

- 1.2 Working closely together on schemes and initiatives that will help to tackle climate change issues and reduce carbon use across Leicestershire, the councils believe that working together will achieve more than working within their own individual borders.
- 1.3 The councils will identify where they can work together on carbon reduction measures, which could include electric car charging hubs, transport and buildings, as well as how they work with other organisations and communities to help reduce the impact of climate change.

Leicestershire District Wide Green Agenda Group

- 1.4 A cross county group of officers and political leads will soon be set up to drive the work. Unfortunately the inaugural officer meeting scheduled for 13th March 2020 had to be cancelled but it will be rearranged and regular updates will be provided to the Council's

Environment Working Group.

Oadby and Wigston Environment Strategy and Action Plan

- 1.5 The Borough Council's Environment Strategy and Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The document was approved by Policy, Finance and Development Committee on 26th November 2019.
- 1.6 Some of the main actions achieved to date are:
 - A resolution that the Council supports the effort to reduce single-use plastic in Oadby and the work of Plastic Free Oadby with a view to it being rolled out to Wigston and South Wigston after it has been piloted in Oadby;
 - Provision made in the Council's 2020/21 budget to order electric bikes for staff to use to travel around the Borough;
 - Locality Flood Plan complete;
 - Conservation Plan of Bushloe House Complete;
 - Brocks Hill Country Park received formal designation from Natural England as a Local Natural Reserve;
 - Volunteering Strategy/Policy in place; and
 - To have provided 1000 educational opportunities to individuals by the end of March 2020 – 2,158 opportunities actually provided.