



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2022**

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-21

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides details of the Council's environmental performance for 2020-21. The report provides an update on progress in delivering the targets in the Council's Environment Strategy 2018–2030 and on the performance of the Council's Environmental Management System.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Cabinet approved a new Environment Strategy 2018-2030 on 6 July 2018. The vision of the Strategy is that "Leicestershire County Council will minimise the environmental impacts of its own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action. We will continue to play a significant role in protecting and enhancing the environment of Leicestershire, meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change, and seeking to embed environmental sustainability into both social and economic development in the county."
3. A revised Strategy was subsequently adopted by the County Council on 8 July 2020, to account for the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in May 2019.
4. The declaration committed the Authority to achieving net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 for its own operations. Furthermore, the declaration committed the Council to working with partners and lobbying government to make the wider 2050 net zero target possible for Leicestershire and to limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C in line with Paris Agreement.
5. Subsequently, the County Council signed up to the UK100 Race to Zero Pledge and committed to achieving net zero emissions for Leicestershire by 2045.

Background

6. Environment and Climate Change Risk Registers identify actions to reduce GHG emissions from service activities, especially high-risk areas such as Property and Highways.

7. Where circumstances have changed since the end of 2020-21 in relation to environmental risks, the current position is provided where appropriate.
8. An external ISO14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) recertification audit was carried out in January 2021. No non-conformities were found and the single outstanding non-conformity was closed.
9. The environmental performance summary dashboard for 2020-21 is available at Appendix A.
10. The layout of the report follows the structure of the ISO14001 standard.
11. The 2020-21 reporting period took place during the global Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting UK lockdowns, and therefore should be seen as an exceptional year. It is not possible to determine any ongoing trends or to make any assumptions about future performance. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the Council's environmental performance which is explained in the relevant sections of the report.

Measures currently behind target

C2b – Gas/biomass consumption (weather corrected) per m² in LCC buildings

12. This key performance indicator (KPI) looks at energy efficiency in Council buildings. Only buildings that have been in the Council's portfolio for six years are included so that any annual reductions seen in both electricity and gas consumption represent genuine efficiency improvements.
13. Gas/biomass consumption per square metre has increased slightly this year, remaining just above target. The actual figure for 2020-21 was 125.4 kWh/m² compared to a target of 112.5 kWh/m².
14. This has been due to the need to continue to heat many of the Council buildings while at the same time needing to increase ventilation to meet Covid-19 safety requirements. This has meant that more energy than usual has been used to heat the buildings.

C14 - Total CO₂ emissions from Leicestershire (under local authority influence)

15. Data is provided by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for all UK regions and is two years in arrears. The data provided relates to 2019. Emissions fell again in 2019 and there has been a 32% reduction against the 2005 baseline. The figure for 2019 still showed that some 3.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide were released in Leicestershire. The KPI is just behind the target of 3.3 million tonnes but is continuing an improving trend (see Figure 1).
16. The main driver of reduced emissions nationally is a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and gas and an

increase in the use of renewables. The same pattern is reflected in the data for emissions in Leicestershire considered to be under the local authority's influence. Since 2005, four of the five emissions sectors have reduced considerably. The biggest falls were in the commercial and public sector sources with these falling by 53% and 51% respectively. Emissions from industrial and domestic sources fell by 44% and 36% respectively. While emissions from transport (excluding motorways) only fell by 1.7% in the same period.

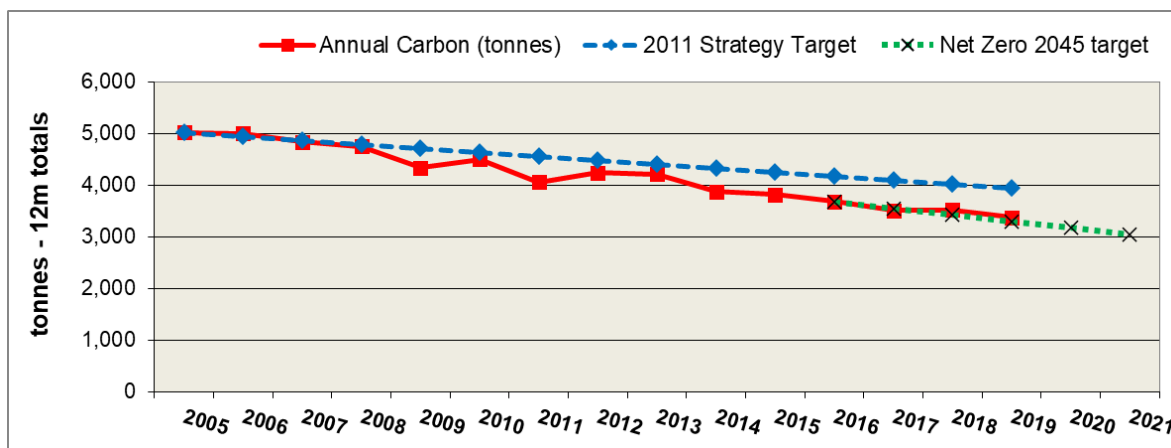


Figure 1: Total CO₂ emissions for Leicestershire (under local authority influence) 2005 – 2019

C15 - Total CO₂ emissions from Leicestershire road transport

17. This indicator is based on data provided by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy for all UK regions and is two years in arrears. The data provided relates to 2019. The data reflects all traffic emissions from roads and includes emissions from A roads, motorways and minor roads and excludes emissions from diesel railways and other forms of transport.
18. Based on this 2019 data, there has been a slight decrease in CO₂ emissions in the Leicestershire local authority area originating from road transport, falling by 0.3% to 1.838 million tonnes. However, the indicator remains 8.7% above the net zero target of 1.691 million tonnes and presents a significant challenge to meeting the national and County Council net zero carbon commitments (see Figure 2).
19. The Council's influence in this area is through Local Transport Plan (LTP) sustainable travel initiatives, which include working with businesses to encourage cycling, walking, and car sharing; personalised travel planning; providing walking and cycling infrastructure; contributing to the move to electric vehicles; improved Choose How You Move branding / website; and advocating for sustainable development in the planning arena. The production of LTP4 will present an opportunity to better identify what action should be taken to reduce emissions taking onboard the direction set by DfT's Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

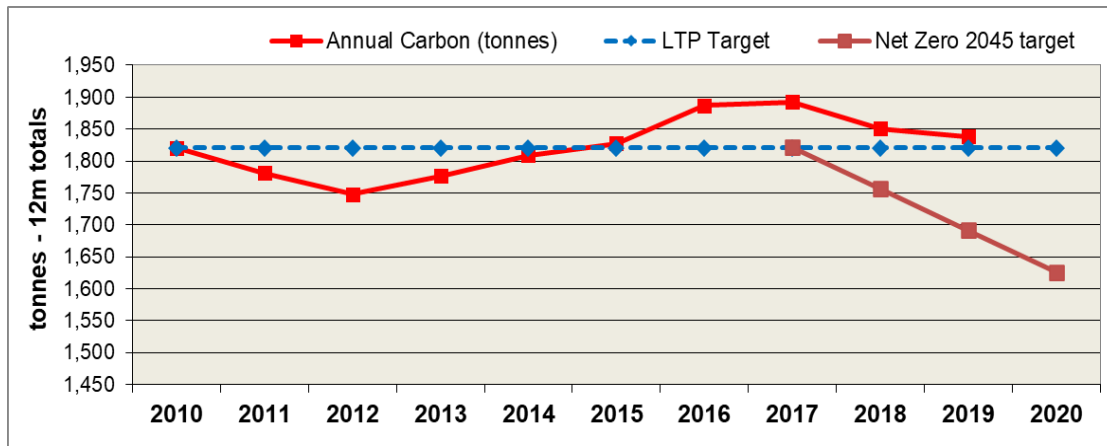


Figure 2: Total CO₂ emissions from roads (A roads, motorways and minor roads) in Leicestershire 2005-2019

C17a - Renewable energy generated as a percentage of consumption on County Council land and properties

20. The amount of renewable energy generated as a percentage of total energy consumed was 14.3% at the end of 2020-21, under the 21.6% target. The targets for this indicator have been updated to reflect the revised Energy Strategy 2020-30, which has a target of 50% renewable or zero carbon energy generation on corporate Council buildings as a percentage of annual consumption by corporate Council buildings.
21. The largest contributor to renewable energy generation is the biomass boiler at County Hall. This provides approximately three-quarters of the total renewable energy generated.
22. This indicator has been re-defined to ensure that only sites where both generation and consumption data is available are included. This figure is more accurate but slightly reduces the amount of renewable energy included.

LW2 - % Recycled from LCC sites

23. The 12-month rolling recycling figure fell throughout 2020-21 from 60.5% to 48.4% by the end of the year. This is well below the target of 62.3% for 2020-21. The target is to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030.
24. Separate targets have been set for County Hall (80%) and non-County Hall sites (60%). County Hall achieved an average recycling rate of 64.3% over 2020-21. Non-County Hall sites averaged 37.4% recycling over 2020-21.
25. While it is disappointing to see recycling performance decline, there has been a significant drop in the total amount of waste produced, reducing from 358 tonnes in 2019-20 to 133 tonnes in 2020-21. This has predominately been due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to close or reduce the use of Council buildings. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a change in the mix of waste, with

an increase in residual waste and a decrease in the amount of recyclable or compostable waste created resulting in a drop in recycling performance.

HW2 - % Household waste reused, recycled and composted

26. The annual household waste recycling figure has remained just above 43% for most of 2020-21. This is below the 50% recycling target for 2020 which is in line with the Waste Framework Directive. Recycling performance has dropped by 2% compared to the previous year.
27. Work has started on reviewing the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy which will incorporate new targets such as those as set out in the Circular Economy Package (i.e. 65% recycling of municipal waste by 2035).
28. There are several reasons for the continued low performance, including national issues such as seasonal fluctuations in garden waste, light-weighting of packaging and economic factors, as well as issues specific to Leicestershire such as the closure of the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant (MBT). It is believed that the Covid-19 pandemic has also contributed to this year's reduction in performance.

M3 - Environmental risks scoring >15

29. At the end of 2020-21, there were a total of five environmental risks scoring 15 or more. These environmental risks relate to areas where the Council is not meeting legal requirements or Council policy or is significantly failing to address Environment Strategy objectives.
30. All the remaining risks sit with the Environment and Transport Department and are summarised as follows:

Environment and Transport Department – previously 5 risks, now 5:

- i) Ensure Cleaner Road Vehicle Regulations 2011 are being considered in the procurement of vehicles (**1 risk**). A new process for vehicle procurement has been developed which takes environmental factors into account. This risk will be reviewed once the new process has been fully trialled.
- ii) Biodiversity considerations not sufficiently taken into account in Highways mowing regimes (**1 risk**). Urban verge trials are continuing and expanding. These are being used to inform possible changes to mowing regimes. There is increasing public interest in having wildflower verges, but further systematic change is needed. This risk will be reviewed in the coming year to determine if sufficient progress has been made.
- iii) Various operational risks at RHWS sites (**3 risks**). Two of the risks relate to the need to install appropriate drainage infrastructure at two RHWS. Work has, or will start, on improving the drainage at the two sites during 2021-22 and these risks will be removed once the works have been completed. The third risk relates to inadequate access to waste disposal

outlets due to infrastructure closures. This risk will remain until the completion of future waste disposal procurement exercises.

Measures which are ahead of target

C2a – Electricity consumption per m² in LCC buildings

31. This KPI looks at energy efficiency in Council buildings. The actual figure for 2020-21 was 67.2 kWh/m² compared to the target of 79.8 kWh/m², so slightly ahead of target (low is good).

R1 - Outstanding actions on climate change risk register

32. There are currently no 'live' risks on the register, but this will change when a review of the climate change risk register is completed during 2021-22 and new risks are identified. A separate report on this will be presented to the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the March 2022 meeting.

LW1 - Total waste from LCC sites

33. The rolling annual waste figure reduced by almost 63% in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The figure of 132.8 tonnes is significantly ahead of the target of 410.1 tonnes. The figure is expected to rise as offices and other buildings continue to open, but efforts will be made to minimise the rise where possible.

P1a - Total office paper purchased

34. The data shows that the amount of paper purchased in 2020-21 reduced by 85% compared to the annual total for 2019-20, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the move to digital delivery of services and working from home. The figure of 1.2m A4 sheets is significantly less than the target of 16.6m A4 sheets.
35. Work is and will take place to maintain the reduction in paper usage where possible. The reduction in paper use in part contributed to the fall in recycling performance, as there was less paper to recycle.

P2 - Commissioned print

36. The rolling 12-month total commissioned printing volume (tonnes) has decreased significantly compared to last year. It has dropped by 50% to 8.97 tonnes of paper used. The Authority remains well below target (where lower is better). This decline has largely been due to the Covid-19 pandemic as events were cancelled and clients closed their businesses or reduced operations.
37. Steps are being taken to streamline the data acquisition process for commissioned print going forward, in conjunction with the new Rio environmental performance reporting software project.

WA1 - Water consumption per full time equivalent member of staff

38. Estimated usage in corporate buildings fell significantly in 2020-21 to 40,743 m³, down from 61,271 m³ in the previous year. This is broadly in line with the lower average occupancy in many buildings across the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has meant that the level of water consumption per full time equivalent member of staff has fallen from 11.95 m³ in 2019-20 to 8.51 m³ in 2020-21.
39. A new water supplier was procured in October 2020. This led initially to some excessively high usage estimates, which have now been corrected. Water data is still subject to some volatility, but it is believed that the current data provides a reasonable picture of consumption.

E1/E2 - Staff engagement

40. A survey is included in the mandatory Environmental Awareness E-Learning module to gather data for this KPI. Of the staff that completed the survey in 2020-21, 93% agreed that the Council was doing enough to reduce its impact on the environment and 96% agreed they understood how they can contribute to green issues at work.
41. This positive result represents effective and consistent engagement with staff through the Go Green scheme and the Council's internal communication channels.

M5 - Environmental enforcements/prosecutions

42. There were no enforcement notices or prosecutions logged in 2020-21.

Measures which are not performance ratedHW 1 - Total household waste per household

43. The quantity of household waste per household fell by 7% at the end of 2020-21 to 1,020kg, compared to the previous year. This was despite an increase in the number of people working and/or staying at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, while there was an overall drop in waste, some waste streams increased putting additional cost on the service.

LW10 - % of recycled aggregates used in highways

44. The proportion of recycled aggregates used in 2020-21 was 51%, a slight increase on the previous year. The amount of recycled aggregate used varied throughout the year with almost 24% used in quarter 1 and 93% used in quarter 3.
45. The use of recycled aggregates may not always be the best environmental option when processing, logistics and energy use is factored in. However, recycled aggregates are used wherever possible and in certain schemes reduce transportation and waste costs as well as carbon emissions.

M1 - Environmental complaints

46. There have been two environmental complaints upheld during 2020-21 compared to five in 2019-20. Consequently the 12-month rolling figure has improved.
47. The two complaints in question were in relation to a poor-quality job by a contractor doing rights of way works and the RHWS Covid-19 rules causing an unnecessary trip for a resident.
48. Whilst there is no static target for this KPI, continuous improvement is expected. Levels of environmental complaints remain satisfactorily low.

M2 - Environmental incidents

49. There was one environmental incident reported in 2020-21 pertaining to a breach on the Ashby Canal resulting in the loss of water from the canal into an adjoining drainage ditch and local brook. There was concern that the breach may have allowed non-native species to enter the local river catchment, but two fish surveys did not find any non-native species in the local catchment.
50. Whilst numbers of incidents should ideally be zero, reporting and investigation of incidents should be encouraged.

Measures for which complete data is not availableC18 - Total business mileage

51. Annual business mileage claims continued to fall during 2020-21, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, due to the switch to the new Oracle Fusion system there has been a delay in getting accurate business mileage data for quarter 4. This data will be added into the system once it is received.
52. It is expected that the amount of business mileage will have reduced significantly compared to the previous year, with total business mileage being estimated at about 3 million miles for 2020-21. This would mean a reduction of 46% compared to 2019-20 and be almost half of the current target of 5.7 million business miles.
53. However, both the target and future plans to reduce business mileage will need to be reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the proposed new ways of working at the Council.
54. Work is also taking place on developing an additional / replacement KPI that sets a target for reducing emissions from business mileage in line with the net zero carbon commitment. This should encourage both a reduction in mileage, as well as an increase in the use of lower emission vehicles.

Changes affecting the Environmental Management SystemExternal and internal issues that are relevant to the EMS

55. Uncertainties remain about the regulatory regime post Brexit and the creation of the Office of Environmental Protection.
56. The Environment Strategy Action Plan has been updated to indicate main areas of activity and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions and delivering the wider aims of the Environment Strategy. This is a live document and it is updated as new activity is identified.
57. Actions which are primarily focussed on reducing carbon emissions are included in a Net Zero Carbon Roadmap which is being developed in two tranches based on areas of control and influence. The Tranche 1 Roadmap which covers the Council's measured emissions has been developed and approved. The Tranche 2 Roadmap that covers the Council's unmeasured emissions and the wider Leicestershire emissions, is currently being developed.
58. Work is taking place on quantifying the new biodiversity KPIs. This work is due to be completed by March 2022, at which time the new KPIs will be included in the Environmental Performance Report.

The needs and expectations of interested parties, including compliance obligations and changes in political priorities/direction

59. There has been a growing political commitment to environmental issues across all political parties, both locally and nationally. This has increased with the COP 26 conference which took place in the UK in 2021. There are increasingly more new rules, duties, targets and funding opportunities being announced that support action on the environment.

Changes to statutory duties

60. There was one change in the Council's statutory environmental duties during 2020-21 with the Trading Standards section of Regulatory Services within Chief Executive's Department being required to enforce breaches of the sale of certain solid fuels under the Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations.

Relevant changes to environmental legislation

61. There were significant relevant changes to general environmental legislation during 2020-21 mostly due the UK's withdrawal from the EU. There were too many to list here and are instead covered under the general reference to the European Withdrawal Act and Agreement below. Other relevant changes in environment legislation are also listed.

Act / Regulation/ Guidance/ Other	Summary of change / new requirements	Area affected
Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2020/904	Amended legislation in the UK to fully implement the 2020 Circular Economy Package in England and Wales and partially implement that Package in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The UK is committed to moving towards a circular	Waste Environment Economic Growth

Act / Regulation/ Guidance/ Other	Summary of change / new requirements	Area affected
	economy. This will ensure that resources are used and reused for as long as possible, and their maximum value is realised. The aim is that resources will be produced and used in a way that avoids them being disposed of quickly, ensuring they can be brought easily back into the value chain and used several times again.	
Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations SI 2020/971	<p>Restricts the supply of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single-use plastic straws, • single-use plastic-stemmed cotton buds, • plastic drinks stirrers. <p>There are some exceptions to the ban on these products. These measures were introduced to help improve the environment and to prevent needless plastic waste.</p>	Waste Property Leicestershire Traded Services
Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) (England) Regulations SI 2020/1336	Amend the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations SI 2007/871 by varying the packaging waste targets for all materials as well as varying the targets set for specific materials.	Waste
Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations SI 2020/1095	<p>Include provisions relating to the appointment of an approved wood certification and manufactured solid fuel certification body.</p> <p>Restrict the sale of certain solid fuels and provide for the enforcement of breaches of these Regulations by a local authority.</p>	Public Health Trading Standards
Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future	Sets out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050.	Environment Economic Growth
Consultation on the Future Buildings Standard	Seeking views on the proposed changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations SI 2010/2214 for non-domestic buildings and dwellings, as well as address overheating in new residential buildings.	Property Environment
Waste Management Plan for England	The WMPE does not introduce any new policies or plans for England, its aim is to bring all current waste management policies together under one national plan. It sets out a vision and several policies to move to a more circular economy, many of which fall under the WMPE umbrella.	Waste
European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 (Commencement, Transitional and Savings Provisions) Regulations SI 2020/1622	<p>Brought into force provisions of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 as well as the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 on 31 December 2020.</p> <p>In addition, various EU Decisions/Regulations were retained, amended, or revoked in / from UK law.</p>	Various

Act / Regulation/ Guidance/ Other	Summary of change / new requirements	Area affected
International Waste Shipments (Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006) Regulations SI 2020/1455	The amendments made to the Convention aim to improve controls on transboundary shipments of plastic waste.	Waste
Consultation on the introduction of a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland	Seeking views on the plans to introduce a deposit return scheme for drinks containers.	Waste
Consultation on packaging and packaging waste: introducing Extended Producer Responsibility	Seeking views on plans to introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging waste.	Waste
Countryside Stewardship (England) (Amendment) Regulations SI 2021/42	Implementing changes to the Countryside Stewardship grant scheme, including introducing new activities that are eligible for funding.	Property Country Parks

62. The Environment Policy and Strategy Team now have access to an Environmental Legislation Information and Register Service (contract commenced 1 May 2020). This will strengthen the team's ability to advise on compliance obligations. The Legislation Register will be updated by the end of 2022, in particular to take account of the new Environment Act.

Environmental risks and opportunities

Any significant new / changed environmental risks or opportunities (such as new technologies or innovative solutions) relevant to this level of reporting.

63. Risk of climate change affecting the delivery of Council services e.g. flooding and heatwaves. The Environment Policy & Strategy Team is working to update Climate Change Risk Registers to help departments plan their responses. Services have been classed as "high risk" if they (a) are a key community support service that is vulnerable to severe weather events, (b) are part of the County's system of resilience to such events or (c) manage infrastructure assets (Highways and Property). These services have been assessed during 2019-2021, ahead of producing a Climate Change Resilience Update report in early 2022.
64. The report will cover climate change projections, the direct risks to services, and knock-on and compound risks. Based on results so far, and the recent third national Climate Change Risk Assessment for the UK, the risks of climate change for the Council are expected to have increased since the last assessment.
65. There is a risk that some of the KPIs may continue to be negatively affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. These include a reduction in recycling performance due in part to increased use of single-use plastics such as disposable plastic

items in the canteen and PPE, an increase in some types of household waste and carbon emissions due to more people working from home.

66. Central Print requested that an exception be allowed to the Timber Products policy regarding purchases of paper for commissioned print jobs, in view of the difficulty and cost implications of obtaining silk papers that are at least 75% recycled paper. This exception was approved during 2020-21.
67. There is an opportunity to co-align environmental and health objectives through the Air Quality & Health Action Plan developed as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Discussions are taking place between the Environment team and Public Health on how to do this.
68. Opportunities arising from Covid-19 restrictions to support a green recovery and maintain the positive benefits for the environment e.g. reduced business mileage, paper use, energy and water consumption.

Adequacy of resources

Any shortcomings in staff / revenue / capital resources that are affecting the efficacy of the EMS or environmental performance.

69. One new member of staff joined the Environment Policy & Strategy Team in 2020-21. The Environmental Partnerships Officer post was filled in January 2021 after being vacant for eight months. This post supports the work on delivering the Council's Action for Nature priorities.
70. A new team was established to lead on the Council's carbon commitments – the Carbon Reduction Team. A Team Manager was appointed in March 2020 and a Senior Carbon Reduction Officer was appointed in June 2021. In November 2021 a new post in the Growth Unit of Environment and Net Zero Carbon Programme Lead was appointed to.

Relevant communications from interested parties

71. Levels of formal environmental complaints remain relatively low (two upheld during 2020-21).
72. There were no prosecutions or other relevant communications with regulators or stakeholders.
73. As public concern for environmental issues is increasing, it is anticipated that the Authority will receive more enquiries from the public regarding environmental performance and the impacts of the Council's own operations. The Authority is already seeing an increase in the number of Freedom of Information requests for environmental related information.

Internal and External Audit results

External Audits

74. External Audits are carried out by BM Trada annually to ISO14001 Environmental Management System Standard, with a full re-certification audit every three years.
75. An external ISO14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) recertification audit was carried out in January 2021. No non-conformities were found, and the single outstanding non-conformity was closed.
76. Only those services externally certified to ISO14001 are subject to internal and external audits, namely Property, Central Print and the Environment Policy & Strategy team.

Internal Audits

77. An internal audit programme was carried out during August – September 2020 as part of a three-year schedule. No major or minor non-conformities were recorded.
78. Two major non-conformities were raised in the previous internal audit carried out in February-March 2019. The issues related to a failure to provide the information required to confirm (i) compliance with the air conditioning energy assessment requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2012, and (ii) follow-up action from previous air conditioning assessment report recommendations.
79. Since March 2021, an inventory of air conditioning systems has been provided and 10 additional buildings identified, which require air conditioning energy assessments. Assessment reports have now been provided for 7 of these 10 buildings. The Environment Team will continue to work with Property on obtaining the outstanding reports and ensuring that their recommendations are fully considered, through the regular Property environmental management meetings.
80. These non-conformities have been closed and the position will be re-evaluated as part of the next internal audit of the Hard Facilities Management function.

Opportunities for continual improvement (Environmental Management System, including opportunities for improved integration with other business processes or environmental performance)

81. The development of the Net Zero Carbon Roadmaps following the climate emergency declaration will present further opportunities for improving the environmental performance of the Council and producing possible financial savings in some cases.
82. Access to the legislation update service that was procured during the year will improve the robustness and effectiveness of the Environmental Management System.
83. A procurement exercise was carried out during 2020-21 for a new environmental sustainability performance reporting software, to replace the

current complex and vulnerable system based on interlinked spreadsheets and manual calculations. The new Rio system will be up and running from April 2022 and should provide a more effective and stable system for monitoring the Council's environmental performance.

84. Work is on-going with colleagues to better understand the impact of severe weather events on the Council and County by improving the use of existing Council data from sources such as Flooding, Property and Highways. This work is feeding into updates to the Climate Change Risk Registers.

Resource implications

85. While there are no immediate resource implications from this report, the Environment Act and subsequent legislation is expected to place new or additional duties on local government. Once these are known it will be necessary to assess whether there are any resource implications for the Council.
86. The Director of Law and Governance and Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

Conclusions

87. The following conclusions can be drawn from the environmental performance for 2020-21 based on the targets in the Environment Strategy 2018-2030:
- i) The number of comparable indicators rated green has decreased from 11 to 9 compared to 2019-20. Though an indicator for which there is currently insufficient data is expected to be rated as green once the full data is received, so it is expected there will be a total of 10 green indicators for the year.
 - ii) The number of comparable indicators rated red has increased from 3 to 6 compared to 2019-20. The number of indicators rated amber has decreased from 3 to 1.
 - iii) The main reasons for these changes are that targets have been changed (made tougher) in line with recent net zero carbon commitments, and some of the improving and worsening performance has been as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and how the Council and society has needed to respond to it.
 - iv) Environmental risks exceeding a score of 15 have remained at 5, though this is expected to reduce to at least 3 within 12-months.
 - v) Most amber and red indicators relate to areas where there is limited control or resources to address, or which have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - vi) The review of the Climate Change Risk Registers which is currently being completed will help the Council better prepare for the impacts of climate change that are likely to take place in the coming years and

decades, helping to highlight areas for action and increase the resilience of the Council's services going forward.

- vii) A new sustainability software solution called Rio, which is currently being implemented and expected to be fully up and running for the start of the 2022-23 financial year, will also improve the Council's environmental performance by replacing the current system with a more robust and modern one which will ensure error reduction, easier and more effective reporting, labour savings and improved reliability and confidence in the figures that are reported.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Implications

- 88. This paper provides a report on the County Council's environmental performance and therefore in itself has no equal opportunities or human rights implications.

Recommendations

- 89. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

[Link to Environment Strategy 2018-30](#)
[Link to Action for Nature document](#)

Appendices

2020-21 Environmental Performance Summary Dashboard

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