

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK****ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 9th November, 2021 at 4.30 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Sampson (Chair), C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley, I Devereux, C Joyce (substitute for M Wilkinson), J Lowe, S Patel (substitute for J Kirk) and S Squire.

**PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34:** Councillor A Kemp

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor P Kunes – Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

**BY INVITATION:** Members of the Homelessness and Housing Delivery Task Group: Councillors L Bambridge, J Rust and C Morley

**OFFICERS:**

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

Vicki Hopps – Environmental Health Manager

Dave Robson – Environmental Health Manager

Henry Saunders – Climate Change Officer

Nikki Patton – Housing Strategy Officer

Duncan Hall – Assistant Director

Barry Brandford – Waste and Recycling Manager

Mark Whitmore – Principal Environmental Health Officer

John Greenhalgh – Assistant Director

**EC41: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kirk and Wilkinson.

**EC42: MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**EC43: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Kunes declared an interest in EC47: Gambling Act Statement of Principles as he was a shareholder in a company that ran casinos and bingo halls.

**EC44: URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

EC45: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Kemp.

EC46: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair informed the Panel of a change of order to the Agenda.

EC47: **CABINET REPORT - GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Environmental Health Manager presented the Cabinet report and explained that the Gambling Act 2005 required every local authority to publish a statement of principles each three year period. The current policy was approved by Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018. This report updated the Statement of Principles in line with the consultation process and amendments to the statutory provisions and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

The Chair thanked the Environmental Health Manager for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel.

Councillor Joyce referred to fixed term betting odds terminals and highlighted that the reduction in stake had helped. He was disappointed that no response to the consultation had been received from the Chief of Police.

The Environmental Health Manager explained that the lack of consultation response could be because consultees had no comments to add and were satisfied with the Statement of Principles as amended.

**RESOLVED:** That the Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

That the Council be invited to adopt the Statement of Principles in accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

EC48: **OPPOSITION MEMBERS ITEM - COUNCILLOR RYVES - DOG RELATED BUSINESSES**

Councillor Ryves was not present at the meeting so the item would be considered at a future meeting.

EC49: **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Environmental Health Manager and Climate Change Officer provided the Panel with an update on the Carbon Audit and Climate Change Work as attached.

The Chair thanked the officers for the update and invited questions and comments, as set out below.

Councillor Devereux informed the Panel that at COP26 there had been mention of the Future of the Fens Project and he asked if there had been any feedback on this. The Environmental Health Manager agreed to find out and let Members know if required.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She made reference to heat networks and community energy incentives. She asked for information on timescales for accessing funding for heat networks. The Environmental Health Manager explained that this work was currently in the early stages and more details would be available in due course.

Councillor Kemp also asked if King's Lynn would be prioritised for community energy initiatives because of fuel poverty in the area. It was explained that work would be prioritised by looking at concentration of housing, other public sector and commercial/industrial requirements.

Councillor Bullen asked if Electric Vehicle Charging points would be considered for Downham Market. It was explained that the Borough Council did not own any car parks in Downham Market, however the Town Council were looking at potential grant applications for this.

Councillor de Whalley referred to the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and asked when the action plan would be published. The Environmental Health Manager explained that it was in the process of being agreed by Members of the Partnership and would then be published on the website.

In response to a question from Councillor Bubb it was explained that there were websites and apps available that told users where Electric Vehicle Charging points were situated and if they were available such as [www.zap-map.com](http://www.zap-map.com)

Councillor Squire asked if tree planting would be considered outside of King's Lynn. It was explained that Lynnsport had initially been chosen as it was a large piece of land and other areas would be looked at as part of the strategy. The strategy would also include the planting of hedges.

**RESOLVED:** The update was noted.

EC50: **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Members of the Homelessness and Housing Delivery Task Group had been invited to the meeting for this item.

The Assistant Director and Housing Strategy Officer provided Members with an update on Homelessness and the Action Plan, as attached.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report and invited questions and comments. He also thanked all those involved in the service for a fantastic job.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She made reference to barriers to housing, mental health issues and justice leavers. She also hoped that the computers in Kings Court would be reinstated to assist people in making an application for housing. The Assistant Director explained that work was being carried out with Norfolk County Council on a long term strategy for key groups including those with mental health issues.

Councillor Rust, Member of the Homelessness Task Group commended the support provided, congratulated officers and felt that there was now much less disconnect between organisations. She explained that there were still homeless people in the town centre and she asked how long it took from people presenting as homeless to them being accommodated. The Housing Strategy Officer explained that the Council worked with Purfleet Trust and the aim was to arrange accommodation within three days, however it was done quicker where possible and emergency accommodation was used at the weekend.

Councillor Rust referred to the waiting list for the night shelter and it was explained that people were prioritised based on risk. There were only nine beds available at the night shelter as each unit was separate due to Covid. Previously 23 beds had been available. It was noted that the waiting list was the night shelter waiting list and not the Council waiting list.

Councillor Bambridge, Member of the Homelessness Task Group commended the work being carried out and noted that it was good to see Housing Associations involved. She asked what happened to people who were non UK residents and did not have settled status and justice leavers. The Assistant Director explained that Housing Associations had been a key part of the response and solution and had been very supportive. He noted that non UK residents was an emerging issue and public funding could not be used to support this, however charitable and voluntary organisations could assist. The Housing Strategy Officer informed the Panel that funding had been

received for a support worker to support Justice leavers to help access accommodation and the post for support worker had been commissioned to Shelter.

Councillor Bullen thanked officers for their work and made reference to cross authority border issues and people presenting as homeless from other areas. The Housing Strategy Officer explained that mainly people who presented as homeless were from the Borough, but there had been a small increase of people from outside the Borough.

In response to a question from Councillor Bullen it was explained that if Councillors were aware of people presenting at homeless they should contact the Council using the details available on the website at [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20229/homeless\\_or\\_at\\_risk\\_of\\_being\\_homeless/790/homeless\\_and\\_nowhere\\_to\\_stay](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20229/homeless_or_at_risk_of_being_homeless/790/homeless_and_nowhere_to_stay)

Councillor Morley, Member of the Homelessness Task Group, praised the work of officers. He referred to the action plan and noted that it did not include the emerging challenges and he did not want to lose sight of them. He also made reference to Delta. The Housing Strategy Officer explained that the action plan would be updated and incorporate emerging issues as well as links to the Norfolk County Council strategies relating to Domestic Abuse and Homelessness.

Regarding data collection, it was explained that information was fed into Delta, but it was also important that the Council kept their own local data.

Councillor Morley made reference to the revisions to the Corporate Plan and encouraged officers to feed into this process to highlight and concerns and barriers.

**RESOLVED:** That the Environment and Community Panel support that work continues to implement the strategy and action plan, as updated, because it has worked – and focus on solutions for those remaining and emerging challenges highlighted in the report. To continue the role of the Homelessness and Housing Supply Group to receive more detailed information and updates and monitor progress of the strategy.

EC51: **CABINET REPORT - CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS, FLY TIPPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Officers presented the report which looked to prioritise and improve the response to dumped waste along with improving the education of residents and visitors, supporting community litter-picks and other

initiatives, whilst dealing firmly with those who were intent on illegally discarding their waste through enforcement.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and invited questions and comments as summarised below.

Councillor Bubb asked if there would be a small charge for removal of items larger than black sacks. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that the ability to remove larger items for a charge would be considered during the future development of the scheme.

Councillor Bambridge asked what the situation was for end of tenancy clearances and the Waste and Recycling Manager explained that this was considered to be commercial waste.

Councillor Devereux welcomed the proposals and referred to the removal of dead seals which had previously caused problems due to land ownership. He also asked if work would be carried out with farmers to make waste disposal easier. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that the ability to offer chargeable services to farmers and land owners would be considered as part of the future development of the proposals. The Principal Environmental Health Officer explained that the Council also participated in the Rural Crime Network which involved meetings with land owners.

Councillor Bullen referred to education and asked what work would be carried out. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that additional resources would be provided by the Communications Teams and the new posts for this service would also include the need to engage the public formally and informally.

Councillor Kemp addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She welcomed the proposals and hoped that they would tackle problematic areas such as an area in Poppyfields, West Lynn near the bus stop.

Councillor Joyce cautioned the use of charging and noted that not all could afford the bulky waste collection service. It was explained by officers that this charge would need to be considered during the budget and fees and charges setting process, but cautioned that if there was not a charge for the service more people would use it instead of taking items to the Household Recycling Centre and then additional resources would be required. The Waste and Recycling Manager reminded those present of the red tag scheme which cost £2 and would allow an extra black bag to be collected.

Councillor Squire referred to the financial implications as set out in the report and the percentage allocated to community engagement. The Assistant Director explained that some of the work would be shouldered by the Communications Team and the budget allocated in the report was for more specific items.

Councillor Squire also asked about other enforcement issues such as burying of waste and building sites. The Assistant Director encouraged Councillors to report any specific issues to the Enforcement Team.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

1. To commit additional resourcing to address the clean neighbourhood issues and reinforce the council's commitment to dealing with litter, fly-tipping and clean neighbourhood issues to improve the appearance and environment of the Borough.
2. Approve the resourcing and expenditure as set out in the report.
3. To approve the vehicle procurement in line with our climate change policy as set out in the report.

EC52: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

**RESOLVED:** The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC53: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 4.30pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

**The meeting closed at 6.50 pm**

# Climate Change Update

## E&C Panel: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



# Carbon Audit

- The BCKLWN continues to produce an annual Carbon Audit, in order to monitor its annual emissions and inform future carbon reduction measures.
- For 2020/2021, we have also redefined and subsequently recalculated our base year. Nationally, 1990 is used as the base year, however we don't have data from 1990.
- Previously our base year was 2018/2019, but this has been changed to the earliest data set available: 2009/2010.



# Carbon Audit - Headline Figures

- 2,997.0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e was emitted in 2020 / 2021.
- 33% overall reduction since 2019 / 2020.
- 59% overall reduction since 2009 / 2010 base year.
- 7,366.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e was emitted in our 2009/2010 base year.

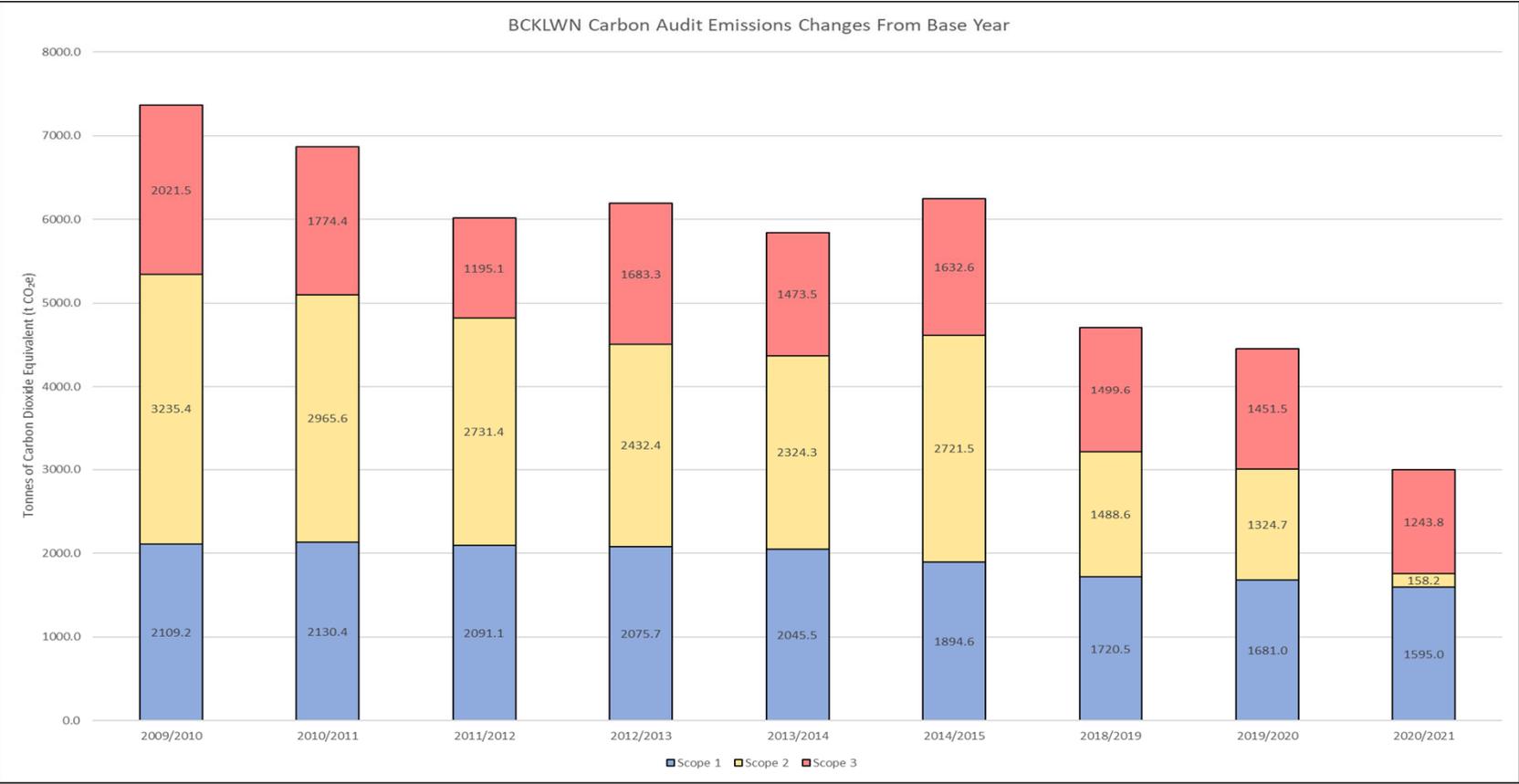


# Carbon Audit - Headline Figures

- Scope 1 emissions reduced by 5%.
- Scope 2 emissions reduced by 88%.
  - Due to renewable energy tariff.
  - Also, reduced consumption and a lower UK emissions factor for electricity.
- Scope 3 emissions reduced by 14%.
- 62,721.9 kWh of electricity generated by solar pv.

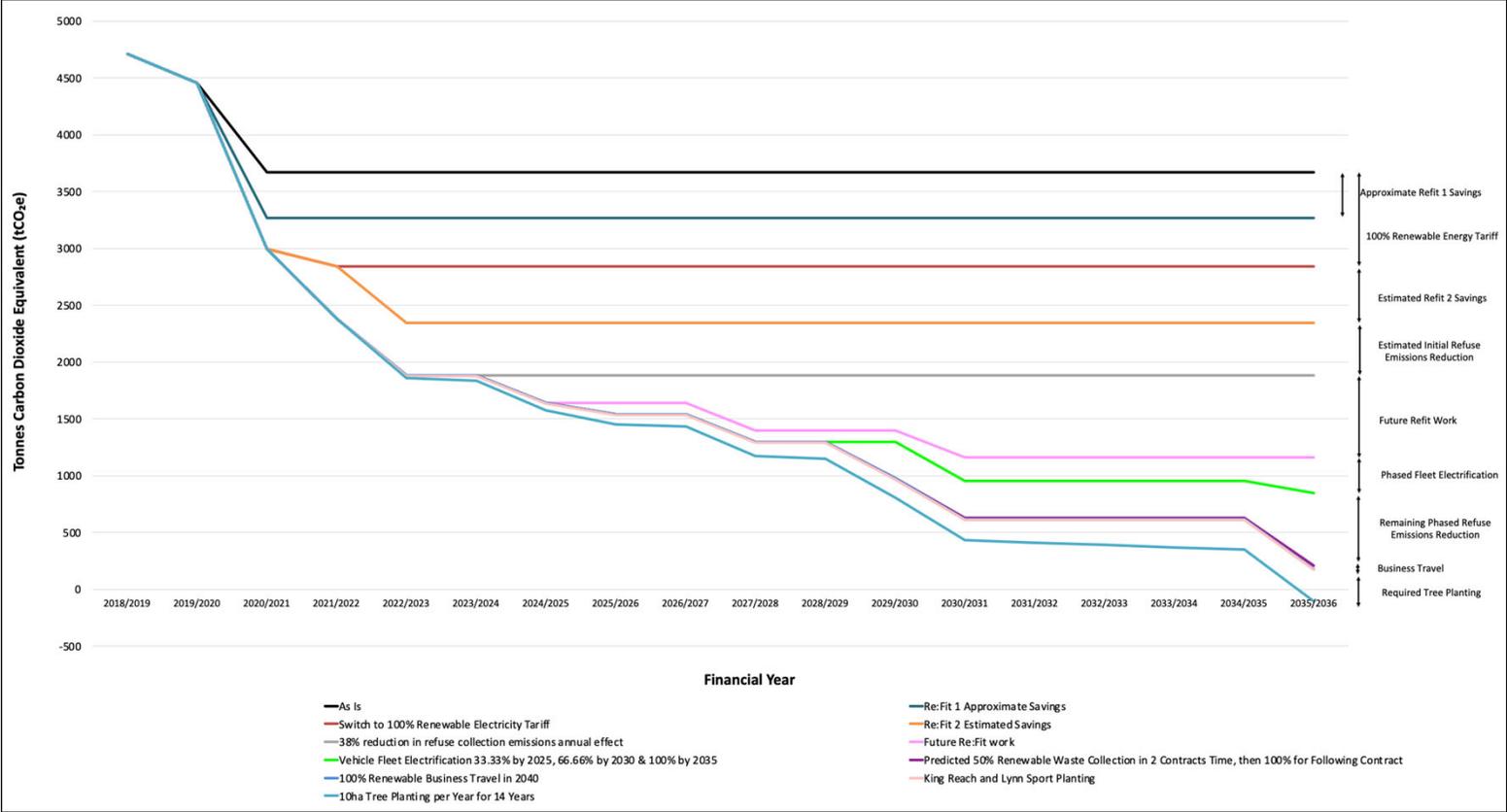
# Carbon Audit - Emissions Trend

377



# Carbon Audit - Net Zero Pathway

378



# Carbon Audit - COVID-19

- The reductions seen in scope 3 can be largely attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent national lockdowns.
- Business travel saw a yearly reduction of 41.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from 66.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019/2020 to 24.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020/2021 (a 63% reduction).
- Water supply and water treatment saw 29% and 30% reductions, respectively.
- Refuse collection emissions also saw a 9% reduction.



# General Update

- Website page refresh
- New starter – UEA graduate intern – 12 months
- Water efficiency grant – Going to MT soon.
- Heat networks – Looking to access grant funding.
- BEIS 2019 update report ready for November.
- EXPO initial meeting has taken place, with further meetings planned.
- A £1million climate change budget for the next 4 years has been discussed at MT, with options being considered and will be reported back in due course



# COP 26 work

- We will be promoting COP26 through our social media channels from 25/10/21 – 12/11/21.
- COP26 will also be promoted on our website, following a update to our climate change web pages.
- Our Re:fit 2 work, following the £3.8million grant from the public sector decarbonisation scheme has been included in COP26 promotion (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLILGqA6b94>).



# Re:fit 1 & 2 update

- Re:fit 1: £600k has been agreed to for the delayed streetlighting LED and column replacement project.
- Re:fit 2: Following on from the £3.8million grant, decarbonisation installation measures are ongoing. We are on track to complete the required works by the end of the 2021/2022 financial year.



# Re:fit 3: High Level Assessment

- We have asked Ameresco to develop a high-level assessment (HLA) of our building portfolio to understand the decarbonisation options for the rest of our portfolio.
- Ameresco will also investigate renewable generation opportunities for the council.
- This HLA is likely to be completed in early spring 2022.



# Strategy & Action Plan

- Our strategy and action plan was agreed and adopted by cabinet in September 2021. You can view it on our new [climate change webpages](#).
- We have restarted the following task and finish groups to take forward the specific actions from our plan:
  - Housing
  - Tree and Green Habitat
  - Vehicle Fleet
  - Procurement
  - IT
  - EV Charging



# NCCP work

- Created a new website: <https://norfolkclimatechange.co.uk/>
- Developed an NCCP workplan.
- Our CRF fund bid for two feasibility studies was successful:
  - Sustainable Hydrogen Infrastructure for Transport in Norfolk
  - Community Energy Opportunities in Norfolk
- Organised an EV charging task and finish group to look at joint Norfolk work and options for EV charging, following the County's EV strategy.
- Proposed a new Norfolk Climate Change Portfolio Group to feed into the NCCP.



# EV Charging Points Scheme

- Working with BP Pulse, we are looking to improve EV charging provision for residents with no-off street parking, with an application to the on-street residential chargepoint scheme.
- We will be applying to install over 20 fast (7kW) chargepoints on car parks within close proximity to residential areas with limited access to off-street parking. Parking will be free from 6pm – 8am to ensure accessibility to residents that need to charge overnight.
- This scheme provides 75% grant funding towards the cost and installation with, BP Pulse also providing the remaining 25% of the cost and maintenance for 7 years. Therefore, this project is zero cost to the council.
- We have advertised this scheme to Town and Parish councils, encouraging them to contact BP Pulse if they have any suitable sites.
- Additionally, BP Pulse will replace our current chargepoints in Hunstanton and King's Lynn with newer rapid chargepoints.



# EV Charging Point Sites

- Valentine Road, Hunstanton – 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
  - Sea Gate East, Hunstanton – 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
  - Burnham Market – 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
  - Austin Fields, King's Lynn – 8 units, 16 bays (2 disabled).
  - Boal Quay, King' s Lynn – 6 units, 12 bays (2 disabled).
  - Chapel Street, King's Lynn – 3 units, 6 bays (1 or 2 disabled).
  - Gaywood Library, King's Lynn - 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
  - Lynnsport North, King's Lynn - 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
  - Fairstead Centre Point, King's Lynn - 3 units, 6 bays (1 disabled).
- All the above sites are currently being individually reviewed. Therefore, sites, charger locations and number of chargers are subject to change.

6 bays = 1 disabled bay

1 EV charger = 2 bays



# Tree Planting

- We submitted an application to the England Woodland Creation Offer in September for grant money towards the planting of roughly 6,400 trees at Lynnsport meadow.
- We will be going out to tender for the planting and 2 year maintenance of these trees in the coming month, with a goal of planting early in 2022.
- The replanting of 500 trees in King's Reach will also be included in this tender.
- Further work will be starting soon on developing the Tree and Green Habitat Strategy, as highlighted in our strategy and action plan.



# Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy -update

Duncan Hall & Nikki Patton  
9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



# Context

## Prior to Covid 19

- Homelessness and rough sleeping in King's Lynn had changed since 2016
- Significant increase in rough sleeping in 2016
- Numbers rough sleeping increased from 5 to 42
- Many people presenting in crisis



# Everyone In

- 34 people sleeping in emergency night time accommodation, tents, cars and doors ways at beginning of pandemic- 118 in total helped under Everyone In
- Hostel and hotel accommodation not for everyone
- Initially secured 4 welfare cabins later increased to 14 during winter- Currently have 8 cabins
- Support provided by Purfleet Trust



# Welfare cabins

392





# Initial concerns –prior to Covid 19

- Perception – race to the bottom
- Seen as accommodation rather than shelter
- Planning
- Suitable locations

## What changed

- Emergency status
- Quick decision making at Executive level
- Strong collaboration with partners
- Whatever it takes approach
- Emergency legislation



# Experience

- Safe, secure and warm shelter
- Breathing space
- Basic but exactly what was needed at that point
- Accessible –no pathways
- Doesn't come with list of responsibilities
- High levels of engaging in support
- Saved lives



## What people have said

'Being given another chance living in the POD has been good. It is good to know I can go to sleep at night knowing I am not in a tent as many times my tent got trashed while I was in it leaving me terrified. I suffer with anxiety and I now don't feel the need to use drugs to help me and I think this is because I feel safe in my POD.'

'I know some people might think they are not the best but I love mine. I can get a shower, it is warm and clean and has everything I need'.

'There is nothing missing really. I just feel I have had enough time here and I am ready to flee the nest and live in my own place'



'I feel like people who help and support me know where I am and check on me but I don't have to sign in like you do in a hostel'.

'These PODS are a lifesaver really. I have only positive things to say about my POD. I have been given a chance to start again in a safe place that has everything I need'.

'There is one thing I do know is that if it wasn't for this help with my housing I would be in one of two places; prison or dead.'

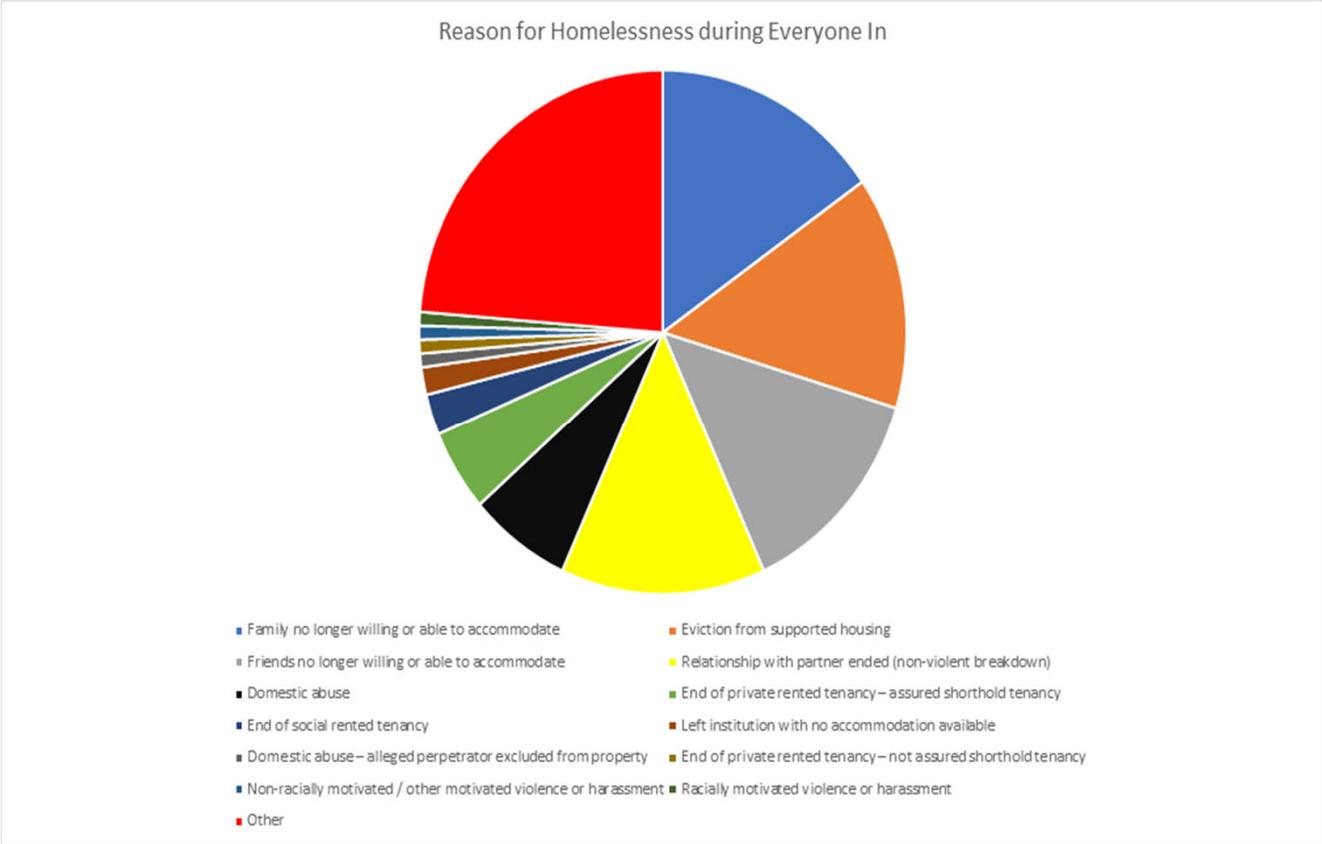


# New units of accommodation

- 23 new units of self-contained one bed accommodation delivered with Broadland Housing Association in last 15 months
- All come with different levels of support to meet support needs

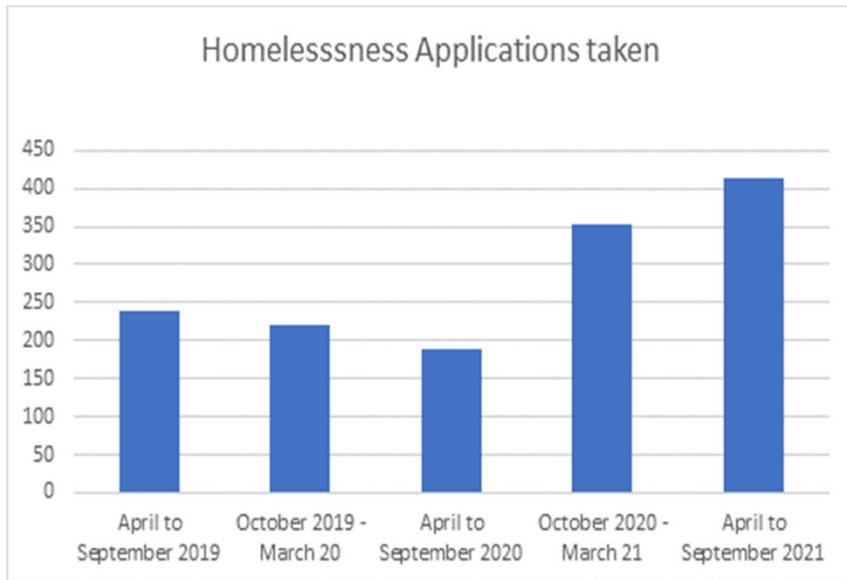


# Data

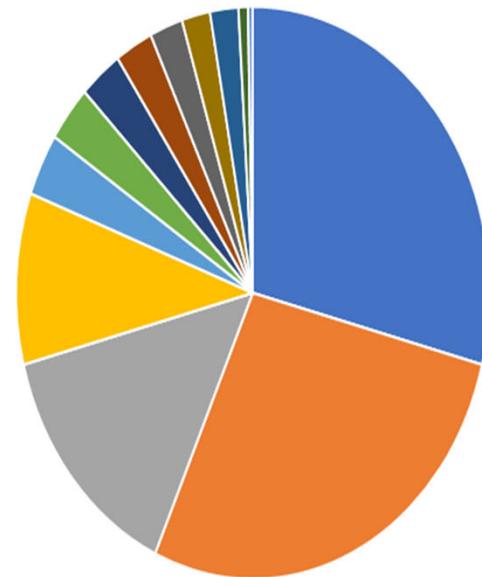


# Continued...

400



Reason for Homelessness - April - September 2021



- Family or Friends no longer willing to accommodate
- End of private rented tenancy
- Relationship with partner ended (non-violent breakdown)
- Domestic abuse (Victim)
- Non-racially motivated / other motivated violence or harassment
- End of social rented tenancy
- Home no longer suitable due to disability / ill health
- Eviction from supported housing
- Domestic abuse - alleged perpetrator excluded from property
- Departure from institution: Custody or Hospital
- Property disrepair
- Racially motivated violence or harassment
- Mortgage repossession
- Fire or flood / other emergency

# DATA

- **Prior to Covid 19** – main reasons for homelessness (family & single) was eviction from private rent accommodation, being asked by family to leave and evictions from social housing
- **During Everyone In-** mainly single homelessness presentations – high numbers either rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping
- Moratorium on evictions- significant reduction in people coming from PRS and families presenting
- Main reasons was loss of accommodation with family or evictions from supported accommodation
- **Currently** – main reason is **loss of PRS accommodation** and being asked to leave by family and friends
- Also seeing significant increase in persons fleeing Domestic Abuse



# Where next

- Refocus efforts on Private Rented sector leasing scheme & rent guarantee scheme to improve accessibility to PRS sector
- Increasing supply of Affordable Housing – via RP partners and funding opportunities
- Increasing supply of specialist accommodation – NCC housing strategy
- Continue to seek new options for accommodating those with complex needs- including increasing number of Housing First units
- Increasing supply of safe accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse

