

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

13 JULY 2023

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL de WHALLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

For the period 19 May to 4 July 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

2023 Air Quality (AQ) Annual Status Report

The 2023 AQ report has been completed and sent to DEFRA for their review and approval. It is about to be published (at time of writing) on the Council's website under "Air quality information" and will be subsequently updated with any changes DEFRA request.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Work is ongoing regarding the installation of the electrical infrastructure and 16 charging sockets at the Austin Street East car park in King's Lynn. Legal matters are being finalised with UK Power Networks for a new sub-station. Work is ongoing to update 3 charging sockets at St James' car park in King's Lynn and 1 socket at Hunstanton. I hope these will be operational by mid-July 2023.

Following the successful £6.4m bid by Norfolk County Council for funding from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme, potential sites in the borough are being assessed ahead of a November 2023 deadline.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)

The Partnership has appointed a new Partnership Manager who commenced on 3 July 2023. This role will help drive delivery of the partnership's priorities and support the portfolio holder's group that is due to meet in late July 2023. A second post, fully funded by the Government's UK Innovate Fund, will commence later in July 2023 and will lead a two year "Norfolk Net Zero Communities" project. The £300,000 project will further develop the partnership's net zero delivery plans, support learning by experience and tackle "non-technical barriers" (such as finance, capacity, skills, engagement and behaviour change).

The NCCP Annual Update 2022/23 is about to be published (at time of writing) on the NCCP website.

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

As part of its 1 million trees objective, Norfolk County Council has prepared a countywide submission for Urban Tree Challenge Funding. The borough council has included its first application to develop a community orchard. Subject to approvals, we are aiming for the coming planting season (mid-November 2023 to March 2024).

BCKLWN Corporate Climate Change Fund as at 3 July 2023

Actual spend and commitments to date	
UEA Internships	£22,031
June 2022 Business Expo	£15,500
Contribution to Future Fens Project	£2,500
Local Partnerships costs for advice and support re: bid writing for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	£15,600
Local Partnerships costs for advice and support re: Heat Networks	£5,000
Solar Together 2022 marketing costs	£16,233
Mayor's Business Awards 2023 – environmental award	£1,850
8billionideas school engagement project	£8,000
BP pulse EV charger installation contribution to total costs	£167,541
Contribution to Enterprise Works decarbonisation scheme costs	£188,806
Contribution to Factory 1 Heat pumps and Solar PV costs	£25,563
Contribution towards housing related schemes undertaken by Housing Standards e.g. Norfolk Warm Homes, comms to properties with low EPC ratings, fuel poverty comms	£4,790
Tree planting and watering at Lynnsport and King's Reach	£83,418
Heat Network feasibility study	£15,000
South Lynn Community Orchard	£15,000
Norfolk Climate Change Partnership contribution to core costs 2023/24	£2,500
Sub-total	£589,332
Allocations for future work TBC	£368,350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor's Business Awards 2024 • Further tree and habitat schemes • EV charge points costs and contingencies for LEVI scheme • Solar Together 2023 marketing costs • EV vehicle replacements • Vehicle fleet review 2023/24 	
Unallocated Funds	£292,318
Reserve Total	£1,250,000

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Schools Project

Preparations are ongoing for the "Living For the Future" ideas competition for west Norfolk based primary schools. The project encourages the creativity in every child and to educate students on the issue of sustainability, with a focus on designing ideas for greener towns and villages. The competition will take

place during Term 1 of the 2023/4 academic year for Year 5 students and is being delivered by 8billionideas.

Council Carbon Footprint

Officers are finalising the analysis of the council's carbon footprint. This will set out the tonnes of carbon generated from our operations including aspects such as our buildings, vehicle fleet and business travel. The analysis will be shared with councillors in due course and will inform the review of our climate change strategy.

Beat the Bills Roadshows

The Roadshows offer help on all aspects of cost of living, including information about how to access benefits, grants, discounts and saving money. Roadshows have so far taken place in Downham Market, King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Castle Acre, Terrington St Clement, Snettisham and Feltwell.

Forthcoming Roadshows:

Shouldham (Village Green King's Arms) – Friday 21st July 2023

South Creake (Village Hall Carpark) – Friday 11th August 2023

Grimston (Village Green) – Friday 25th August 2023

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Community Environmental Groups (Teams)

West Lynn Ferry Improvement Study

Biodiversity/Wash Stakeholders

Environment and Community Panel

Corporate Performance Panel

Regeneration and Development Panel

Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Fund Meeting (Teams)

RSPB – Biodiversity

Ashwicken School – Coronation Coins

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:

Biodiversity Net Gain

Property and Projects (Re:Fit & LED lighting upgrades)

Local Plan

Active and Clean Connectivity

Climate Change (weekly updates)