

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 NOVEMBER 2023

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

For the period 24 August to 14 November 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Climate Change

The global mean temperature of 16.38°C in September 2023 was 1.82°C above the estimated 'pre-industrial' 1850 to 1900 average for the month. This is the highest anomaly ever measured for any month, and 0.50°C above the prior September record.

The 'highly unlikely' nature of this abrupt record suggests that models may not be fully representing recent climate changes.

October 2023 was the warmest October on record globally, with an average surface air temperature of 15.30°C, 1.7°C warmer than the estimated October average for the 1850-1900 reference period and 0.40°C above the previous warmest October, in 2019.

Given the warmth of recent months, and the current El Niño, 2023 is now virtually certain (>99% likelihood) to become the warmest year ever directly measured. In addition, 2023 is now very likely to finish at least 1.5°C above the Paris Agreement 1850-1900 baseline.

Solar Together 2022 promotion

An initial mailshot was sent to 30,640 addresses and 269 households accepted an offer, although with some households changing their minds, this resulted in:

- 106 solar PV installations with 2 further planned
- 12 batteries installed with 1 further planned

Solar Together estimated those installations generated total investment of £1.3 million and 438kWh of solar generation saving 86,251kg/CO₂ over the life of the panels (25 years).

There was lower than anticipated take up often due to:

- Higher than expected costs
- Financing challenges

When the auction occurred, the price achieved through Solar Together for an average 14 solar PV panel system was a 27% discount on the typical market price for an equivalent system.

Participation for 2023 campaign was paused as interest rates and household incomes remain a challenge but we will reconsider for the summer 2024 campaign.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

The provision of carbon training for officer, elected members and the community is being explored.

Partnership has refreshed its structure and now includes:

- Portfolio Holders Group
- Strategic Officer Group
- Officer Delivery Group
- Advisory Body

Ameresco Re-Fit Contract

The Property Services team have been working with Ameresco to iron out some initial problems with the Re-Fit scheme.

We have received the following weekly update from Ameresco on 12 November 2023 with 7 out of 9 units now demonstrating a good Coefficient of Performance*

The Kings Court Air Source Heat Pumps operate in conjunction with intermittent boiler back up as intended, but the metering is incorrect, which is skewing the figures. However, the team have not received any complaints about the lack of heating in the building.

Oasis is offline with a replacement part (3PV actuator) on order, awaiting delivery. It is hoped that once these works have been undertaken, this will go some considerable way to resolving the outstanding issues.

** Heat pumps are more efficient than other heating systems because the amount of heat they produce is more than the amount of electricity they use. The amount of heat produced for every unit of electricity used is known as the Coefficient of Performance (CoP). So, if a heat pump has a CoP of 3.0, then it will give out three units of heat for every unit of electricity consumed.*

	Heat Meter	Electricity	COP
South Lynn Community Centre	2,400	1,068	2.25
Arts Centre and Guildhall	780	353	2.21
Factory 1	1,230	429	2.87
Kings Court	140	1,516	0.09
Downham Market Leisure Centre	3,000	1,105	2.71
Dutton Pavilion, Kings Lynn	680	313	2.17
Oasis	-	612	0.00
Lynnsport	9,830	5,009	1.96
St James Pool	7,090	3,636	1.95

Streetlighting Column Replacement

A contract was signed in the December 2022 with Westcott to undertake a survey of all the Council's streetlighting portfolio (approximately 995 streetlights throughout the Borough) and replace some 115 columns that was determined as "red". The replacement of the columns is a three-step process with the physical column being replaced, connection of the streetlight to the electricity supply (undertaken by ETL) and then earth testing of the streetlight. This programme of replacement has continued in 2023/24 with 79 columns being replaced and certificated. The programme continues and there are 3 columns that will require tree surgery before replacement of the column. There 12 of the remaining 39 columns on the top of Sainsbury's car park that not only require replacement columns, but plinth protection works. It has been

decided to undertake these works in January 2024 to avoid closing the car park at its busiest time of the year. Wherever possible, rise and fall columns have been put in “difficult to reach” places to reduce future maintenance costs.

LED Lighting Project

Following on from the column replacement works, Property Services intend to replace the existing streetlights to LED. The LED replacement programme is part of an £300,000 improvement scheme which will ensure we have modern, cost-efficient street lighting that will last well into the future and bring our lighting up to date.

The new, more efficient LED equipment will cost about 60 per cent less to power and can play an important part in reducing carbon emissions. They will also help to mitigate any future rises in electricity prices.

Both the Street lighting column replacement and Led lighting project have been funded from a budget of £594,766 granted in a Cabinet Report 6 September 2017 – under the Re-Fit Proposals for Council Building Assets. The decision to replace the street lighting was made under Officer Delegated Decision 19 July 2019 – Re-Fit Energy Performance Contract.

There are a total of 882 lights (see table below), of which only 98 are currently LED. The lights under the “Not LED” column, highlighted in red have been replaced as part of the streetlighting column replacement project. This leaves a total of approximately 682 lights that require replacement, which is programmed to be tendered early in the new year with the project to be concluded in 2023/24.

lamp Group	ETL Structural Status2	Count of ID1	Count of ID1_2
LED	Amber	2	0.23%
	Green	95	10.77%
	Unknown	1	0.11%
LED Total		98	11.11%
Not LED	Amber	166	18.82%
	Green	500	56.69%
	Red	102	11.56%
	Unknown	16	1.81%
Not LED Total		784	88.89%
Grand Total		882	100.00%

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Net Zero Communities

An update report and presentation by project manager to Environment and Community Panel was made on 14 November 2023. We have been working through the 22 responses to the information request and analysing data on carbon emissions for those areas. The selected community is to be announced alongside the other areas selected across Norfolk.

Schools Project

A total of 20 local schools signed up for this project with 8 schools currently working towards the virtual final, which will take place on 24 November. There is a press release going out in the Lynn News about the project.

EV charging

Legal matters for the installation at Austin Street car park, King's Lynn are being finalised. Charger usage information will be included within new performance indicator suite.

Biodiversity Task Group

The Group is scheduled to first meet 2pm, Monday 18th December 2023

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Community Environmental Groups (Teams)
Corporate Performance Panel
Regeneration and Development Panel
Environment and Community Panel
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Briefing
Town Deal Projects Briefing
Conservancy Board
King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board
West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Steering Group
West Norfolk Prosperity Funding Partnership Group
ICT Development Group
Equality Training
Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates:
Cabinet Briefings
LGA Leadership Development Session
Peer Review – Focus Group & Feedback
Fast Followers
Norfolk Net Zero Communities
Active & Clean Connectivity Update
Community Orchard/Hardings Pits
Norfolk Climate Change Partnership - Portfolio Holder's Group
Climate Change (weekly updates)