

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2024** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## **AGENDA**

### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) meetings held on 4th April 2024 and 22nd May 2024.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 11 - 24)

- a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**4. ANNUAL CLIMATE REVIEW** (Pages 25 - 106)

The Panel is to receive a presentation and is invited to comment on the Climate Strategy Action Plan 2023/24 and note the progress made by the Council and its partners towards achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2040.

***Executive Councillor: L Davenport-Ray***

**Contact Officer: H Robinson 01480 388513**

**5. ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Pages 107 - 118)**

To receive a presentation on Electrical Vehicle Charging in Huntingdonshire.

***Executive Councillor: L Davenport-Ray***

**Contact Officer: G McDowell 388386**

**6. HOME ENERGY UPDATE (Pages 119 - 132)**

To receive a presentation updating the Panel on Home Energy.

***Executive Councillor: L Davenport-Ray***

**Contact Officer: A Beardshall 01480 388631**

29 day of May 2024

***Michelle Sacks***

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.**

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

**Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No: 01480 388008/e-mail [Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.**

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

### **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 4 April 2024.

- PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair.
- Councillors T Alban, S Bywater, J E Harvey, N J Hunt, C Lowe and D J Shaw.
- APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M J Burke, S J Criswell, M Kadewere, S R McAdam and G J Welton.
- IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors S L Taylor and L Davenport-Ray .

### **65. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **66. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor D Shaw declared an other registerable interest in minute 23/70 as an employee of the Environment Agency.

### **67. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel received and noted the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st July 2024.

### **68. SUPPORTING RESIDENTS - DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

By means of a report by the Housing Needs and Resources Manager, (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Supporting Residents – Domestic Abuse Policy was presented to the Panel.

Following a question from Councillor Harvey, the Panel were assured that the team undertook work and liaised with multiple partners including charities as appropriate to residents needs.

In response to a question from Councillor Bywater, the Panel heard that the Council had a good relationship with local housing providers and that many social landlords were also working towards the same DAHA accreditation as the Council.

Further to a question from Councillor Hunt, the Panel heard that the

team were working hard to meeting the accreditation requirements and were working with the assessor to ensure compliance. It was also observed that training would be rolled out for both staff and Councillors later in the year.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

**69. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**70. MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACT PROCUREMENT**

The Panel gave consideration to an exempt report by the General Manager Operations, (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), on the Material Recovery Facility Contract Procurement which was presented to the Panel.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

**71. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT - AGENCY AGREEMENT**

The Panel gave consideration to an exempt report by the Assistant Director Strategic Insight and Delivery and the Operations Manager, (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), on the Civil Parking Enforcement – Agency Agreement which was presented to the Panel.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

**72. RE-ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

**73. CLIMATE EMERGENCY UK - COUNCIL CLIMATE SCORECARDS GAP ANALYSIS UPDATE**

By means of a presentation by the Operations Manager (Parks and Open Spaces), (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Climate Emergency UK – Council Climate Scorecards GAP Analysis Update was presented to the Panel.

Following a question from Councillor Shaw, it was clarified to the Panel that the score had been achieved by the Council's work over their area, and that Cambridgeshire County Council's score had been achieved by the work they had undertaken across the County. It was also clarified that aims were HDC aims and fields of influence, such as what does HDC want to do to manage emissions within the district.

Councillor Alban stated that he was reassured that the Council were in charge of their own destiny and that this could be tailored to the needs of residents. Councillor Kerr agreed with this statement and added that it was useful to be able to compare the results of the Council with other similar Council's.

**74. ONE LEISURE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2023-2024**

By means of a presentation by the Head of Leisure Services, (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the One Leisure Annual Performance Review 2023-2024 was presented to the Panel.

Councillors Kerr and Bywater praised the team for the work undertaken and recognised the hard work undertaken by the service to recover from COVID.

In response to a further question from Councillor Bywater, the Panel heard that discussions with local health partners were open and ongoing and positive outcomes were expected from integration into this complex network.

The Panel heard, in response to concerns expressed by Councillor Bywater at the lack of Council owned swimming facilities in the North of the district, that opportunities to develop this were being investigated and would be brought back to the Panel should they prove fruitful.

In response to questions from Councillors Alban and Kerr, the Panel heard that the work being done to engage with Care Home residents by the team had been partially funded by the Health and Equalities Fund.

Councillor Hunt expressed praise that the booking system had been improved, and in response to a further question from Councillor Hunt, the Panel heard that opportunities to reopen the Pure Spa at One Leisure Huntingdon were being developed.

Chair

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 22 May 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair.

Councillors T Alban, S Bywater, S J Criswell, M A Hassall, N J Hunt, M Kadewere, S R McAdam, S Mokbul, D J Shaw, C H Tevlin and G J Welton.

APOLOGIES: No apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors .

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

A proposal to elect Councillor T Alban to the Chair of the Committee was moved and seconded. On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be LOST.

A proposal to elect Councillor J Kerr to the Chair of the Committee was then moved and seconded, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor J Kerr be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**Councillor J Kerr in the Chair.**

### 2. MEMBER'S INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were received.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

A proposal to appoint Councillor S Bywater to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was moved and seconded. On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be LOST.

A proposal to appoint Councillor N Hunt to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was then moved and seconded, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor N Hunt be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Chair

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**NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

**Prepared by:** Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council  
**Date of Publication:** 22 May 2024  
**For Period:** 1 June 2024 to 30 September 2024

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD  Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor S Ferguson	Executive Councillor for Customer Services	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN  Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>

Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	<p>2 Grainger Avenue Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT</p> <p>Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor B Pitt	Executive Councillor for Community & Health	<p>17 Day Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DF</p> <p>Tel: 07703 169273 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	<p>29 Burmoor Close Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE</p> <p>Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	<p>66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE</p> <p>Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>



Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ  Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
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Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

**Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)**

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

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6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
  - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council  
Pathfinder House  
St Mary's Street  
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:-
- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated \*\*\*
  - (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
CCTV Operations - Shared Services Extension ##	Cabinet	18 Jun 2024		Neil Howard, CCTV Operations Manager Tel: (01480) 388381 Email: neil.howard@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	Councillor S. W Ferguson - Executive Councillor for Customer Services	Performance & Growth
L Governance	Cabinet	18 Jun 2024		Clara Kerr, Chief Planning Officer Tel: (01480) 388430 Email clara.kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Councillor T Sanderson - Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	Performance & Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Market Towns Programme Summer Update	Cabinet	16 Jul 2024		Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager Tel: (01480) 388486 Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Councillor S Wakeford - Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	Performance & Growth
Annual Scrutiny Update on Action Plan Delivery	Cabinet	16 Jul 2024		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services Tel: (01480) 387072 Email: karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Councillor B. Mickelburgh Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	Performance & Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Market Towns Autumn Update	Cabinet	10 Sep 2024		Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager Tel: (01480) 388486 Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Councillor S Wakeford - Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	Performance & Growth

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## Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25

<b>Performance and Growth Agenda Items</b>			
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Pre-Scrutiny</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review</b>	<b>Task and Finish Groups Working Groups</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Performance Report (2023/24) Quarter 4</li> <li>• Finance Performance Report (2023/24) Quarter 4</li> <li>• Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023/24</li> <li>• CCTV Services – Shared Services Extension</li> <li>• CIL Governance</li> <li>• Corporate Plan – 2024/25 Targets</li> </ul>		
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Towns Programme – Summer Update</li> <li>• Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place Strategy Update</li> <li>• Huntingdonshire Futures – Update on Grants</li> </ul>	
Unscheduled/Pending Further Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdonshire Priority Landscape</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdonshire Place Strategy</li> <li>• Business Development</li> </ul>

## Environment, Communities and Partnerships Agenda Items

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review	Task and Finish Groups Working Groups
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridgeshire County Council Adults and Health Committee Representative Nomination</li> <li>• Annual Climate Strategy Update</li> <li>• Rural UK Shared Prosperity Project – EV Charging Approach</li> <li>• Local Area Energy Plan</li> <li>• Home Energy Support</li> </ul>	
11 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFGs Request for Release of Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Waste Subscription Service Update</li> </ul>	
Unscheduled/ Pending Further Details		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Lettings Plan</li> <li>• SEUK Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with Parish Councils and development of relationship</li> <li>• Hydrogen Vehicles</li> <li>• Environmental impacts on planning – renewable energy, green spaces</li> </ul>



## Task and Finish Groups

### Performance and Growth

<b>Review of External Appointments to Outside Organisations</b>
<b>Membership:</b> Cllrs S Cawley, S J Corney, I D Gardener and S A Howell
<b>Progress:</b> <b>Summer 2022:</b> Terms of Reference have been established. Questionnaire has been sent to all relevant boards and organisations. Regular meetings are established from September. <b>September 2022:</b> Evidence and information gathering underway. <b>November 2022:</b> Information gathering completed. <b>February 2023:</b> Report presented to O&S Panel and Cabinet <b>March 2023:</b> Cabinet response to the report received by the Panel. <b>July 2023:</b> Communication to be sent to all Councillors who are representatives on outside organisations to advise the new reporting progress. <b>January 2024:</b> Group met to discuss progress and anticipated plan to move forward. <b>Next steps:</b> Regularly review and monitor implementation of recommendations.

## Environment, Communities and Partnerships

<b>Climate Working Group</b>
<b>Members:</b> Cllrs T D Alban, J Kerr, C Lowe and D Shaw <b>Lead Officer:</b> Neil Sloper
<b>Progress:</b> <b>November 2022:</b> Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. <b>April 2023:</b> Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed. Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development. <b>January 2024:</b> Meetings held to discuss proposed work plan for the group and to discuss HVO Fuels project <b>Next Steps:</b> Meetings to be scheduled to allow involvement in proposed works.
<b>Climate Sub Group</b> <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</b>
<b>Members:</b> Cllrs T D Alban, J Kerr, C Lowe and D Shaw <b>Lead Officer:</b> George McDowell
<b>Progress:</b> <b>February 2022:</b> Initial meeting held <b>May 2023:</b> Regular meetings established. Residents survey agreed. <b>July 2023:</b> Meeting to review the outcome of the survey. <b>September 2023:</b> Meeting to review applications for the EV pilot scheme <b>November 2023:</b> Meeting to update on progress <b>December 2023:</b> Meeting to finalise report detail <b>March 2024:</b> Final report circulated through the March cycle of meetings

<b>Disabled Facilities Grants Group</b>
<b>Members:</b> TBC
<b>Lead Officer:</b> Claudia Deeth
<b>Progress:</b> <b>February 2024:</b> Councillors invited to express their interest in being involved with the project. <b>Next Steps:</b> Initial meeting to be scheduled to establish Terms of Reference for the group.

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**Public - Yes**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Annual Climate Review
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Community and Partnerships) – 06/06/2024
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Executive Councillor Climate & Environment - Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray
<b>Report by:</b>	Neil Sloper – Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery Helen Lack – Development & Delivery Manager Harriet Robinson – Climate Co-ordinator
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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### Executive Summary:

This report presents the first Annual Review of Huntingdonshire District Council's **Climate Action Plan**, covering all climate-related activities undertaken since the declaration of a **Climate Emergency and Ecological Crisis** in February 2023. It outlines the progress made towards achieving a **net zero carbon council by 2040**, as set out in the Council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan.

The delivery of the Council's Climate Strategy, through the action plan, addresses the Council's Corporate Plan priority of **Creating a Better Huntingdonshire for Future Generations**, particularly the objective of **Lowering Carbon Emissions**.

### Key Achievements:

1. **Emission Reductions:** From 2019 to March 2023, the Council achieved a reduction of 692 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing an 18.86% decrease in overall emissions.
2. **Fleet Transition:** The Council initiated a pilot project to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 92%.
3. **Facilities Upgrades:** Projects such as retrofitting Council buildings with LED lighting and receiving grants for solar panels and triple glazing at St Ives Leisure Centre were completed.
4. **Carbon Literacy Training:** Over 60 staff members were certified as carbon literate through training programs conducted by Groundworks East.
5. **Community Engagement:** The first Climate Conversation events were held, bringing together stakeholders and residents to discuss and inspire climate action.

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Achieving net zero for Council operations by 2040.
- Ensuring Council policies support emission reductions and serve as positive examples.
- Continuously considering environmental impacts in all policymaking and asset management.
- Collaborating with partners to address environmental issues.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The Council utilises various methods to track progress, including quarterly tracking of actions, benchmarking against neighbouring local authorities, annual Climate Conversation events, and Greenhouse Gas Accounting. An online Climate Hub has been developed and launched. Developed following engagement in 2023's Climate Conversation it is designed to enable and influence communities and businesses to contribute towards lower carbon emissions. A Climate Impact Assessment Tool is in development and will be launched this year to further support the Council in Climate aware decision making.

The report emphasises the importance of continued efforts and adaptation to new technologies and approaches to maintain momentum towards achieving the net zero goal by 2040.

The Committee is

**RECOMMENDED**

1. To comment on the delivery of the Climate Strategy Action Plan in 2023/24.
2. To note the progress made by the Council and its partners towards achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2040.

## 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny (Environment, Communities & Partnerships) with an update on progress of the delivery of the Council's Climate Strategy since its adoption in February 2023, highlighting key areas of success and achievement throughout the year.
- 1.2 To present a summary of progress, highlighting the current position of Huntingdonshire District Council, demonstrating the progress that has been made in reducing emissions through the approach set out in the Climate Strategy for the Council to be:
- **a positive example** through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040.
  - **an enabler** supporting action within our communities and across our partners.
  - **an encourager** to ensure the efforts of those that live, work and visit our district help to achieve the aspiration of a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire by 2040.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In October 2022 the Council passed a **Cost of Living and Climate Change Motion**. This recognised the importance and positive impact of action benefiting the climate and environment in tackling the rising costs of living by reducing consumption of natural resources, shifting to renewables, and producing less carbon emissions.
- 2.2 This Council adopted the **Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan** in February 2023.
- 2.3 The Council hosted its first **Climate Conversation** with our communities in November 2023.
- 2.4 The Overview & Scrutiny (Environment, Communities & Partnerships) was presented with an overview of the use of the **Climate Emergency UK Council Climate Scorecards** and how the Council uses the framework to identify and learn best practice as well as benchmarking the Council against our geographic and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy comparator Council's with a similar geographic and demographic nature.

## 3 CLIMATE STRATEGY

### 3.1 Climate Vision:

We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040, and support Huntingdonshire to achieve the same goal.

### 3.2 Climate Objectives:

We are working to achieve our vision, responding to the climate crisis and ecological emergency and will continue to place focus on the following:

- Achieving net Zero for the Council's own operations by 2040
- Ensuring Council policies and projects enable reduction of emissions and provide positive examples for businesses and residents.
- Continually demonstrating that we consider environmental impact in all policymaking and our stewardship of council assets and resources.
- Influencing our updated Local Plan and working closely with the Planning Service to reflect the priorities outlined in our Climate Action Plan
- Maximising the opportunities to work with others collaboratively to address environmental issues.

## 4 PROGRESS TO DATE

### 4.1 Strategic Priorities

For the Council to demonstrate its commitment to the reduction in carbon emissions in the district, we have engaged in several key activities and projects in response to the strategic priorities agreed with the adoption of the Climate Strategy. A document giving full details of key projects and progress can be found in Appendix 4.

We will be 'Positive Example' for our direct Council emissions.

- Decarbonise Fleet
- Reduce Energy use, shift to renewables.
- Procure wisely.

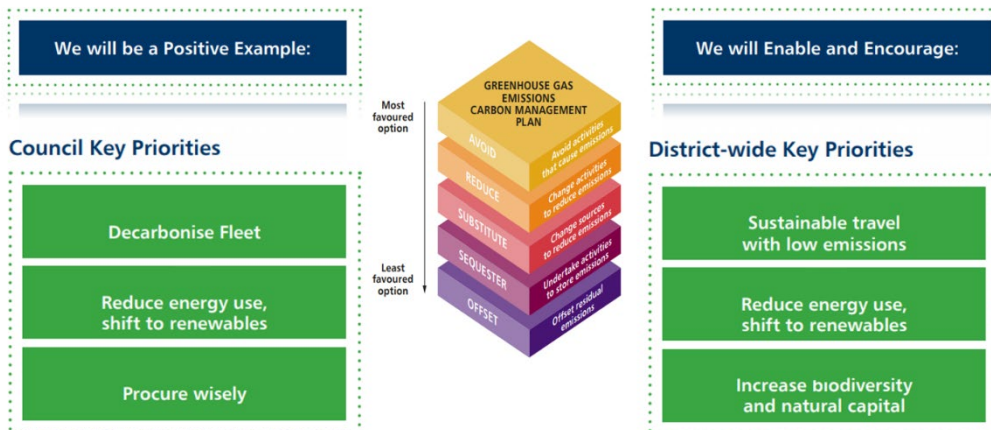
We will 'Enable & Encourage' our District.

- Sustainable Travel with Low Emissions
- Reduce energy use, shift to renewables.
- Increase Biodiversity and Natural Capital





## Climate Strategy Priorities



4.2 The Climate Strategy includes a detailed Action Plan which sets out our actions to deliver net zero carbon emissions both in terms of our own services and to support our local communities to do the same.

4.3 Appendix 5 sets out the detailed progress against the Climate Actions set for 2023/2024. The Actions are categorised by theme area.

- Buildings;
- Energy & Renewables;
- Nature;
- Travel & Transport;
- Waste, Recycling & Resource Management; and
- Community.

## 5 CORPORATE PLAN

5.1 The Corporate plan 2023-2028 places strong emphasis on the Council's commitment to delivering their reduced carbon emissions target.

Priority 1: Improving quality of life for local people

Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

Priority 3: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations

## 5.2 WE SAID, WE DID

As part of the Annual review of the Corporate Plan the following achievements in 2023/24 related to reducing Carbon Emissions were included:

- Hosting a weekend of Climate Conversation events.
- Commissioning a study on priority landscapes and undertaking biodiversity surveys to help deliver the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature.
- Developing an Electronic Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy adopted in March 2024.
- Receiving an improved score of 27% (from zero in 2021) from an independent review of our Climate Action by Climate Emergency UK, demonstrating the immediate impact of our Climate Strategy and Action Plan (adopted in February 2023) but not yet showing the impact of recent work as scores don't reflect activity since March.



5.3 The Council has already made progress in delivering the Outcomes of the 2024/25 Corporate Plan to delivery the outcome of Lowering Carbon Emissions (see below table).

DO	Action	Progress
37	Complete Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel Trial and present a business case for decision	On Target
38	Deliver a Fleet Decarbonisation Plan	On Target
39	Deliver our Energy Strategy	Started
40	Deliver the Climate Conversation in 2024, showcasing community action and listening to local people in their communities	Complete Nov 2023. Next planned Nov 2024
41	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environment impact	On Target
42	Establish climate and carbon emissions learning and development plan for Council employees	Started
43	Accelerate Solar Power Adoption on Council Buildings	On Target

Enable	Action	Progress
44	Support community projects and plans that reduce carbon emissions.	On Target
45	Deliver Biodiversity for All (2023-2025) to enable community action and support green skills development.	On Target
46	Commission Active Travel Studies (UKSPF) to influence/inform future investment priorities.	On Target
47	Deliver the Phase 1 Rural Pilot HDC Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Actions.	On Target

Influence	Action	Progress
48	Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value.	On Target
48	Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	On Target
50	Adopt the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature and influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy with our priorities.	On Target

## 6 HUNTINGDONSHIRE PLACE STRATEGY

6.1 Huntingdonshire Futures sets out a vision to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work, and visit over the next 30 years.

Over the last year, the Council has started to work with local communities to bring the strategy to life. Environmental Innovation is one of the 5 journeys agreed with the adoption of the strategy. Preparation to commence the Environmental Innovation journey has taken place.



6.2 The Climate and Huntingdonshire Futures teams are linking up to run an Environmental Innovation launch workshop on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Through initial consultations with local community groups, they stated that: “all houses should have no carbon footprint, we should be protecting what we already have and there needs to be more done to make people change.”

6.3 The workshop will build on these statements, discussing why they’re important and what is being done currently. There will be a small number of speakers and focus groups to identify priorities and areas for action within the next 5, 10 and 30 years. An external steering group will then be formed to oversee the delivery of actions through working groups targeting the priorities identified to develop practical actions and attract funding into Huntingdonshire.

## 7 MONITORING

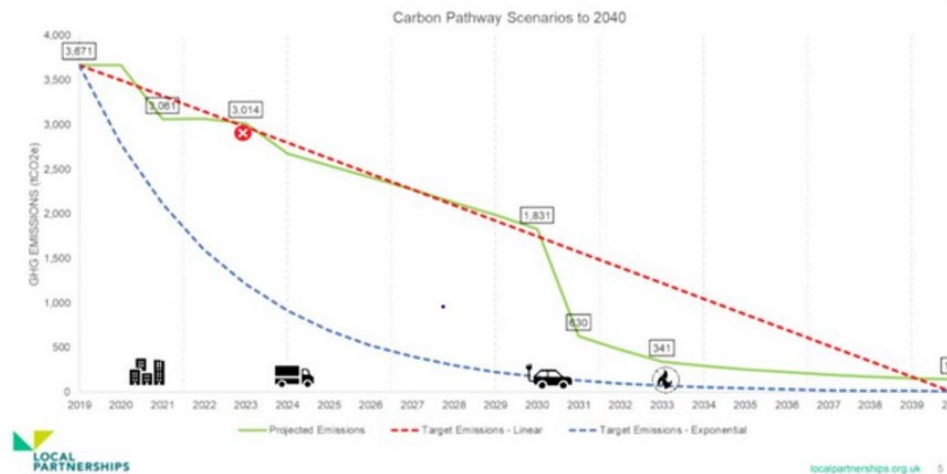
### 7.1 Carbon Accounting

7.1.1 The Climate Strategy set a carbon trajectory for the Council with Local Partnerships, an in-house public sector consultancy jointly owned by the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and Welsh Government. Local Partnerships developed the greenhouse gas emissions calculator for local government and built the carbon trajectory based on our plans to active a net zero Council by 2040, training the Council to maintain it.

7.1.2 The latest Greenhouse Gas Accounting Report ends March 2023, but enables HDC to plot our progress so far in emissions reduction. The current position shows the Council is ahead of trajectory set out in the Climate Strategy.

## Carbon Emissions Trajectory

### All implementations (excluding purchasing green electricity)

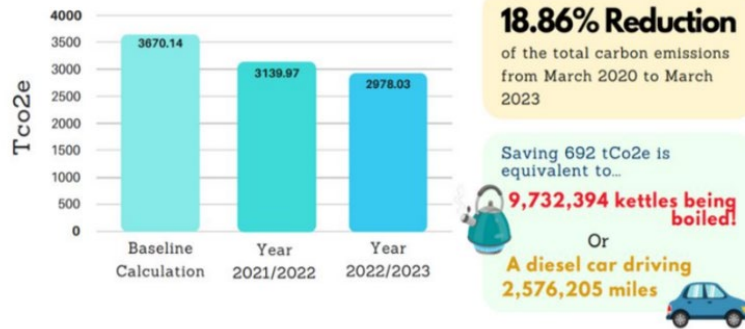


7.1.4 The green line shows the anticipated timing and impact of planned changes to reduce emissions. If opportunities arise to accelerate progress remaining within the financial considerations of the Council services will take them.

7.1.3 Carbon savings from April 2019 to March 2023 are 692 tCo2e (for full emissions breakdown by scope see Appendix 5)

## Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Scope 1, 2 and 3 Included



DRAFT – SUBJECT TO REVISED TRAJECTORY BEING RECEIVED

## 7.2 Carbon Action Plan

7.2.1 To ensure continued delivery of Climate action either directly, encouraged or enabled by the Council operational progress is reviewed quarterly with oversight from the Senior Leadership Team and the Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment.

- 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023                      Quarter 1 (Apr – June 2023)
- 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023                  Quarter 2 (July – Sept 2023)
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023                Quarter 3 (Oct – Dec 2023)
- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024                      Quarter 4 (Jan – Mar 2024)

7.2.2 A summary of the quarterly progress in 2023/24 is shown below, illustrating positive progress through short, medium, and long-term target delivery. The three remaining short-term actions, which were not completed by the end of 2023/24, are listed below with an update on progress.

Horizon	Target Date	Quarter 1 Progress	Quarter 2 Progress	Quarter 3 Progress	Quarter 4 Progress
SHORT TERM	2024				
MEDIUM TERM	2025 & 2026				
LONG TERM	2027 & onwards				

Outstanding Short-Term Action	Progress to Date
Update Procurement Rules to ensure new contracts/services minimise negative impact on the Climate.	Bespoke training sessions with ARU begun in March for Sarah & procurement team. Next steps are the creation of toolkits from ARU



Implement impact assessments for all key decisions to ensure climate implications are considered.	Climate Impact Assessment tool submitted to ideas process in development.
Develop an approach to capturing carbon emissions in reports and business case development and include climate considerations within all key strategies and governance documents.	Work underway to include more climate specific wording in report template.

### 7.3 CLIMATE UK REPORT

Earlier in the year the Council received the improved score of 27% (from zero in 2021) from an independent review of our Climate Action by Climate Emergency UK, this demonstrated the immediate impact of developing the Council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan. The scorecard used by Climate Emergency UK enables benchmarking against our neighbouring authorities and those with similar socio-economic characteristics as determined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. To ensure the Council adopts best practice, learns from the work of others and can identify areas where the Council can improve future scores, the Council has undertaken a review of the scoring mechanism that Climate Emergency UK use to ensure our Climate Action Plan addresses any opportunities for learning/improvement.

## 8 CLIMATE CONVERSATION

8.1 In November 2023 the inaugural Climate Conversation was held by the Council. During a busy weekend of activities, 77 residents, local businesses and community groups came together to share and learn from each other. Key speakers from a range of background inspired thinking and action around Climate Change within the District. Attendees were also able to take part in enabling workshops to connect with organisations and share knowledge and experiences.



- 8.2 Many positive connections were made during the event, strengthening relationships and enabling stakeholders to connect with one another. As a direct result of the success and input to the Climate Conversation, the Council developed and piloted an online Climate Hub of key sustainability and climate information, resources and knowledge. The 'pilot' version of the Climate Hub proved to be a positive way to enable local communities to connect and sign post residents to key providers for advice. This was launched fully on 17<sup>th</sup> May.



## 9 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The delivery of the Climate Action Plan is supported by a Climate Coordinator. This role leads on the Climate Conversation, collaborates with Council services to support their climate actions and develop new ones, reports progress across the Council against the Climate Action Plan, reviews benchmarking and opportunities and supports officers directly engaged in climate work such as the Biodiversity for All project and Home Energy.
- 9.2 An annual climate budget of £100,000 supports Council services to accelerate the development and delivery of priority climate actions. Services have and will continue to use this funding to develop business cases, pilots and projects that deliver progress to net carbon zero, providing access to specialist services where needed. Service can then apply for evidence-based investment in transformational projects such as accelerating solar or transitioning from fossil fuels through the transformation budgets or medium-term financial planning process.

## 10 HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Climate change is directly contributing to humanitarian emergencies from heatwaves, wildfires, and floods which are increasing in scale, frequency, and intensity. Locally our communities experience challenges from heat, drought and flooding.
- 10.2 The ability to cool our living environments are increasingly important as is water security in the driest region of the England. Higher temperatures can impact the most vulnerable of our community.
- 10.3 Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy use choices can result in very large gains for health, particularly through reduced air pollution.

10.3 The positive impacts of cleaner and greener places and improved biodiversity are well known in addressing the impacts of climate change as well as our health and well-being.

10.4 The Climate Strategy for Huntingdonshire continues to support the Council's commitment to encourage a healthy and active community, particularly as more work is progressed to support climate adaptation.

## **11.0 APPENDICES**

1. Climate Strategy
2. Climate Action Plan – individual actions per priority and theme
3. Climate Action Plan – Progress
4. CEUK Scorecards Report

## **12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*Environmental Principles – Cabinet Oct 2021*

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s117526/4.%20Environment%20Principles%20Report.pdf>

Environment Bill 2020-21 and 2021-22

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

25-year Environment Plan for England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111187654\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111187654_en.pdf)

When needed, climate strategy link:

climate-strategy-appendix-1-climate-strategy.pdf  
([huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk))

Climate action plan link:

climate-strategy-action-plan.pdf ([huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk))



## **Appendix 2**

### Buildings

- Swimming Pool Sport England £700k fund awarded for PV solar, triple glazing and insulated pool cover at ONSI.
- RIBA stage 4/final reports for the decarbonisation plans for EFH, PFH and OLH dry side completed.
- Increased meter readings for water, gas and electricity at sites to enable more accurate monitoring of consumption.
- Home energy support of HUG2 & ECO4 Flex schemes encouraging and enabling residents to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

### Energy & Renewables

- LED lighting projects completed at EFH and PFH
- Solar reporting done on all sites to establish best potential sites, cap ex outlay and payback times.
- Solar PV roof surveys on 4 potential sites arranged to be completed April 2024
- Involvement in LAEP (Local Area Energy Plan) steering group as board member

### Nature

- Green Skills Biodiversity completed across the district with Groundwork East and students.
- Biodiversity grant scheme created, and 10 sites selected across the district.
- Graduate ecologists employed to work on biodiversity projects.
- HDC site biodiversity audit reports completed.
- Community planting day at Huntingdon Riverside Park
- Community planning 400+ trees at Sapley Park

### Travel & Transport

- Internal fleet review at completion stage
- HVO fuel pilot project launched to run from November 2023 to June 2024
- Influencing and encouraging other large organisations on trialling (Fire & Police services) – leading by example
- EV charging resident survey undertaken.
- EV Charging Strategy completed.
- Promoting cycling and active travel to staff and residents via partnership with 'Love to Ride'
- Internal staff travel survey completed.

### Waste, Recycling & Resource Management

- Establish sustainable procurement training programme with ARU.
- Sustainable nappy scheme implemented.
- Implementation of cable recycling bins in select locations


- Carbon Literacy Training – members of staff now certified Carbon Literate
- Yearly greenhouse gas accounting completed of HDC's own emissions.
- Climate Impact Assessment Tool – internal pilot project

## Community

- Climate Conversation community and stakeholder events
- Climate Education pilot project with 5 local schools
- Creation of Online Climate Hub
- Home Energy schemes support and advice.
- Green Business Programme launched for local businesses as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Kids Climate Strategy created.
- Home Energy Coffee mornings in partnership with Cambridgeshire Libraries, Citizens Advice and PECT

# CLIMATE ACTION UNDERTAKEN

CATEGORISED BY STRATEGY THEME

 BUILDINGS	 ENERGY & RENEWABLES	 NATURE	 TRAVEL & TRANSPORT	 WASTE, RECYCLING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	 COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming Pool Support Fund £700k awarded for PV Solar at OLSI, Triple Glazing and Insulated pool cover.</li> <li>RIBA stage 4/ final reports for the decarbonisation plans for EFH, PFH and OLH Dryside completed</li> <li>Increased meter readings for water, gas and electricity at sites to enable more accurate monitoring of consumption.</li> <li>Home energy support of HUG2 &amp; ECO4 Flex schemes encouraging &amp; enabling residents to improve the energy efficiency of homes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED Lighting projects completed at EFH and PFH</li> <li>Solar reporting done on all sites to establish best potential sites, cap ex outlay and payback times.</li> <li>Solar PV roof surveys on 4 potential sites arranged to be completed April 2024</li> <li>Involvement in LAEP (Local Area Energy Plan) steering group as board member</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Green Skills Biodiversity Projects completed across the District with Groundwork East and students.</li> <li>Biodiversity Grant Scheme created and 10 sites selected across the District</li> <li>2 Graduate Ecologists employed to work on Biodiversity projects</li> <li>HDC site Biodiversity audit reports completed</li> <li>Community Planting Day at Huntingdon Riverside Park</li> <li>Community Planting 400+ trees at Sapley Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal Fleet Review at completion stage</li> <li>HVO Fuel Pilot Project launched to run from November 2023 to July 2024</li> <li>Influencing and encouraging other large organisations on trialing HVO - leading by example</li> <li>EV charging resident survey undertaken</li> <li>EV Charging Strategy completed</li> <li>Promoting cycling and active travel to staff and residents via partnership with Love to Ride</li> <li>Internal Staff travel survey completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established sustainable procurement training Program with ARU</li> <li>Real nappy scheme implemented</li> <li>Implementation of cable recycling bins in select locations</li> <li>Carbon Literacy Training - 63 members of staff now certified Carbon Literate</li> <li>Yearly Greenhouse Gas Accounting completed of HDC's own emissions</li> <li>Climate Impact Assessment Tool Internal Pilot Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Conversation community and stakeholder events</li> <li>Climate Education Pilot project - 5 local schools</li> <li>Creation of Online Climate Hub</li> <li>Home Energy scheme support and advice</li> <li>Green Business Programme launched for local businesses as part of the UK shared prosperity fund</li> <li>Kids Climate Strategy created</li> <li>Home Energy Coffee Mornings in partnership with Cambs Libraries</li> </ul>

## **Appendix 3**

### **Decarbonising our Fleet**

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- HVO Fleet Trial

HDC declared a climate emergency in 2023. As part of the strategy, research from the Local Partnerships Consultancy showed that Co2e from HDC's fleet was one of the single, largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions from the Council. Transitioning the fleet to alternative fuels to reduce carbon emissions were highlighted as a key priority and hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) was selected as an alternative fuel as it reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 92%. This fuel is much cleaner than standard road diesel so the harmful tailpipe emissions from NOx is reduced by up to 25% and PPMs are reduced by up to 60%. The project is trialling the fuel in 15 vehicles, which range from tractors to mowers to skip lorries to reflect the diversity of the fleet in terms of size, usage and vehicle ages. The timeframe of the project is from November 2023 through to June 2024 in a low stress period to determine the success criteria.

- Facilities

The facilities team have several projects ongoing to meet the criteria set out in the climate strategy, particularly with retrofitting Council buildings to make them more sustainable. The LED Lighting Project was finished at the end of March 2024 which updated Council properties with longer term sustainable lighting for the offices. Facilities received a grant fund from the Lottery fund for £700,000 for updating the swimming pool facilities at One Leisure St Ives. Other upcoming work includes an ideas process for the PV roof surveys and a submission for the upcoming energy strategy.

- GHG Calculator – Monitoring

To establish a robust monitoring mechanism to track carbon emissions, the Council has engaged with Local Partnerships, a joint venture between HM Treasury, the Local Government Association and Welsh Government to embed their Climate Tool into our reporting processes. The tool calculates local authority carbon emissions, which can be then used to identify the key sources of HDC's carbon emissions, set out the pathway we need to follow to achieve our net Zero Carbon target and to continue to monitor our emissions.

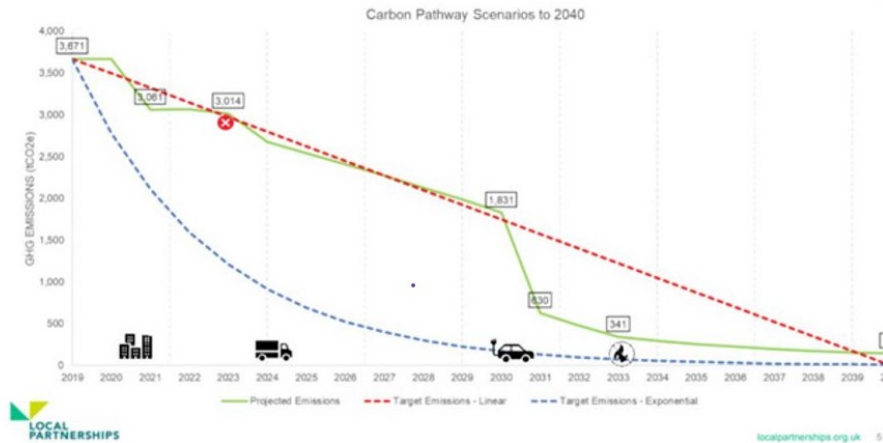
Our latest Greenhouse Gas Accounting Report ends March 2023, but enables HDC to plot our progress so far in emissions reduction.

The current position, viewable in the graph below indicates that HDC are in the positive position of being slightly below both the targeted and projected emissions set out in the Climate Strategy originally.

Savings from April 2019 to March 2023 are 692 tCo2e (for full emissions breakdown by scope see Appendix 5)

# Carbon Emissions Trajectory

All implementations (excluding purchasing green electricity)

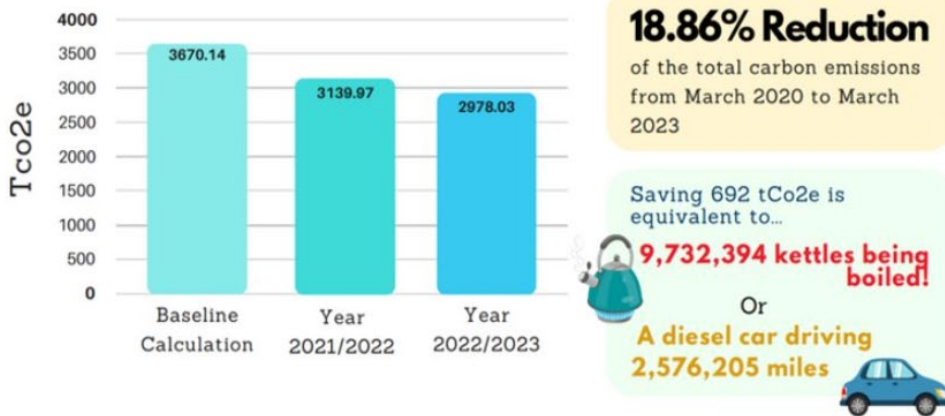


Whilst the Council would like to move its fleet to renewable fuel the technology, practicalities of service provision in Huntingdonshire and costs of this mean that this must be planned as the market and technology develops. Actions have therefore concentrated on fuel efficiency, piloting a lower carbon impact fuel (HVO) and starting to develop a plan for phasing to non-fossil fuel in the future.

The green line shows the original anticipated timing and impact of the changes we planned to make. If opportunities arise to achieve this sooner, within the financial considerations of operating the Council’s services we will take them.

## Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Scope 1, 2 and 3 Included



DRAFT – SUBJECT TO REVISED TRAJECTORY BEING RECEIVED

- Facilities Team

HDC has been looking at ways to reduce its own carbon waste from their own services. It has recently been awarded £700,000 from Sport England as part of the Swimming Pool Support Fund. This funding will go towards the installation of solar panels and triple glazing at St Ives Leisure Centre. This aligns with HDC’s commitment to sustainability, ensuring that the facility remains environmentally



friendly and energy efficient. £650,000 of this will be assigned to solar car ports and £50,000 has been assigned for triple glazing windows around the pool. Work will commence later this year.

- Carbon Literacy Training – Groundworks East

Groundworks East have been running carbon literacy training, which has been made available to all staff from January to April 2024. 62 members of staff have been certified as carbon literate so far. This is a great step forward in educating our employees on key climate issues and the small changes that can be made within their own roles and lives to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. The certified staff members feature a mix of those who have undertaken the management and leadership course and the generic staff course. Discussions are in place to examine a shorter course for the next financial year in a classroom scenario to entice more staff to attend.

- Online Climate Hub

Based on the feedback from the Annual Climate Conversation 2023, HDC have launched an online climate hub. In 2023 there were a series of events including the Conversation, which invited local stakeholders, community groups and residents to gather and discuss Climate Change and the local environment in Huntingdonshire. Feedback from the sessions suggested the need for a platform where this engagement could continue, which led to the creation of the Hub. It's split into 12 sections, showing what HDC is doing to tackle climate change, resources for local authorities, information on biodiversity and launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

- Impact Assessment Tool

Developed to **influence** HDC's ideas process, a trialled impact assessment tool was submitted with the plan of embedding this into any pre-project and strategy work to give consideration of possible climate and environmental implications before projects begin. The initial feedback focussed on further trials of the tool required, an introduction of a short version of the assessment tool and a demonstration of the benefits against the time and effort it takes to use the tool.

## **Procuring Wisely**

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Huntingdonshire District Council have partnered with Anglia Ruskin University to develop a bespoke sustainable procurement training programme to support HDC's procurement team to achieve the Council's net zero target. The training programme, internal toolkit and stakeholder toolkit will help embed this knowledge to allow a transfer across the rest of the organisation. The toolkit focuses on approaching procurement to drive reductions in supply chain emissions. The training programme covers themes such as circular procurement, engaging suppliers on net zero, low carbon procurement strategies, net zero landscape, reporting progress and much more. The first sustainable procurement training sessions started in Q4, enabling our procurement team to gain the knowledge and insight



they need to review and change current procurement rules to embed sustainability.

## Sustainable Travel with Low Emissions

- Staff Travel Survey

HDC conducted a staff travel survey to understand how employees are travelling to work and their reasons for travelling this way. Although 26% of respondents said that 'nothing' would encourage them to car share, there was a positive response towards providing respondents with the tools and rewards of finding a car share partner. Despite this, 61% of respondents are not aware of car sharing schemes to help find a partner to care share with and 72% respondents travel to work by car so there is great potential for encouraging different behaviour here.

## Reduce energy use, shift to Renewables

- Home Energy

Home Energy continues to share 'Action on Energy Cambridgeshire' grants to Huntingdonshire residents through resident enquiries via HDC email, social media communications, the Online Climate Hub platform and in-person events including Climate Conversation events in November 2023, Home Energy coffee morning in March 2024 and joining Pidley's Eco Fayre in June 2024.

As Home Energy establishes itself at HDC, key connections have been made with Cambridgeshire Libraries, other local councils within the Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership and home energy service providers, such as Citizens Advice and PECT. As Home Energy and Climate intertwine, retrofitting will help with the delivering of HDC's climate strategy, corporate plan and local plan, whilst building resilient communities.

**Highlights Summary**

*Getting Started With Retrofit*

*Our Retrofit Guide - For the Climate HUB!*

**HOME UPGRADE GRANT (HUG)**

**Home Energy Coffee Morning**

*Our Home Energy Coffee Morning!*

**Completed Resident Install**

I am hoping to work with REED ENVIRONMENT to support the a Local Assessors Journey to becoming "TrustMark" Registered, as of this moment, our guide can not be completed due to lack of local assessors - unable to sign post residents.

- LAEP

Local Area Energy Planning, or LAEP, aims to define the extent of the transformation required to transition an area’s energy system to net zero in each timeframe. Huntingdonshire District Council was asked to contribute to the development of LAEP for Cambridgeshire with partners. These partners are Cambridgeshire County Council (Lead Partner), the CPCA, Cambridgeshire City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. HDC’s participation within the LAEP steering group, will ensure Huntingdonshire is part of the solution leading the way in planning for the future and tackling Climate Change.

- CANFFUND

Currently, there is no standardised reporting requirements for local authorities which align to the government’s climate initiatives and targets. The CANFFUND Pathfinder Project, funded by Innovate UK, is a collaboration between CCC and all its district councils. It began on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and will run until June 2025 and has just finished its 1<sup>st</sup> stage, which has involved lead researchers from Cambridge University analysing various current reporting frameworks from involved local authorities, local net zero targets and place-based ambitions to provide evidence-based foundations for working to build a framework that aligns local contributions to these national targets. In Phase 2 a workshop will be held where key, interested stakeholders can come along to share knowledge and network, building on the foundation of the work they have done already.





- Climate Education

In partnership with PECT, HDC is piloting a climate education programme within 4 schools: Thongsley Fields Primary School, Crosshall Junior School, Ernulf Academy Secondary School and Stukeley Meadows Primary School. The project is designed to continually **engage** and educate young people on key climate issues including sustainability, increasing biodiversity for all, minimisation waste and engaging their own communities. The initial trial is from January 2024 through to January 2025 and if successful, the aim is to expand this to fund additional schools in the following year. As well as this, HDC have developed a children's climate change guide to be used in schools. This aims to give a brief lesson on climate change, what our Climate Strategy is at HDC and why we need to tackle climate change together. HDC have also been invited to attend the ECO Awards hosted by PECT. This is an opportunity for primary and secondary schools to come together and take part in practical hand-on activities to inspire new ideas and projects to back to schools.



- Food Poverty and Sustainable Food Action Plan

Through the climate reserve, HDC is assisting with funding for consultancy services to enable support the development of a comprehensive food security and sustainable living action plan for Huntingdonshire. The consultation, scheduled to finish in December 2024, will provide a 10-year plan for the whole district to combine fighting food poverty and engaging in sustainable living. This £5,000 project will align its goals with those of the climate action plan, climate strategy and the corporate plan and link in community green spaces with growing food. Work has already begun on this through the Food for Nought initiative, which has delivered more than 2,600 tonnes of surplus food from local farmers and supermarkets which would have otherwise been disposed. Going forward, the plan will involve working with schools, food banks and partners to lower carbon emissions whilst promoting communities to grow their own food, thus becoming more self-sufficient, **creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.**



### **Increase Biodiversity and Natural Capital**

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- Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes

With funding received from the CPCA, the Bio4All team have been tackling the national biodiversity crisis on a local level, **enabling** HDC's aims of combatting climate change. Bio4All identified 'strategic sites', examining them for carbon sequestration, improved air quality, shading, reduced physical erosion through chemical water as these



climate change threats are exacerbated towards the local ecology. Using the Bio4All's environmental grant scheme, ecologists are reporting on and facilitating financial incentives for these environmental improvements which will be carried out on externally owned public landholdings. This will **help to create a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.**

These are our natural environment's resistance to climate change. Alongside this, the team has also employed a programme to extend these climate combatting 'Green Skills' to the wider community. This has been done through several educational packages carried out through biodiversity work on HDC's own estates. A citizen science application has been adopted (iNaturalist), connecting the public to nature, whilst providing our ecologists with vital data regarding Huntingdonshire's local fauna and flora's responses to climate change. Each applicant will have their land audited, and a report written, which will provide 3 additive scenarios to improve the local environment and outline a way to manage the land sustainably. HDC will fund up to £8,000 of the work the applicant has selected to adopt from their report.

- Green Recovery Project

HDC has hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Green Recovery Project in collaboration with Groundworks East, this time focussing on Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. Paxton Pits supports a high diversity of habitats and wildlife. This work will help to maintain that level of biodiversity and the condition of the already developed and valuable habitats. The initiative ran for 8 weeks, primarily focussing on landscaping skill development for the volunteers taking part, including earning a Level 1 City & Guilds qualification in horticulture and landscaping. The Project is a key step towards creating a greener, more resilient future for Huntingdonshire and was made possible through a £1.3 million grant from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).



- Community Chest

Initially, the community chest scheme welcomed applications to focus on residents recover post the pandemic. This has now evolved into provision of funding for community projects which have to meet one of the following criteria: improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone, keeping people out of crisis, helping people in crisis and lowering carbon emissions. HDC has awarded grants to key community green initiatives including £1,000 to Hilton Community Garden to provide equipment to grow their own fruits and vegetables and £1,000 to Upwood Allotments to provide a shed to house gardening equipment.



- Green Flag Awards

Launched in 1996 by Keep Britain Tidy, The Green Flag Award is a scheme for the national benchmark standard for parks and green spaces. Parks who win the award must fulfil several key criteria including demonstrating sustainability, conservation and heritage and community involvement. HDC has received 3 awards for 3 of their parks: Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Paxton Pits Nature Reserve and Priory Park in St Neots. This is a huge testament to work that has been **done** to **enable** people to care for green spaces so that everyone can enjoy them.

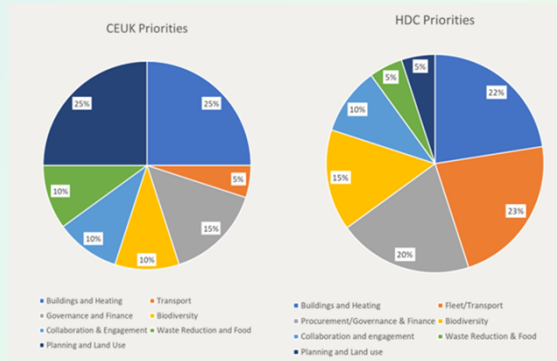
## Climate Emergency UK – Council Climate Scorecards GAP Analysis

**Benchmarking.  
Learning.  
Identifying gaps.**

Undertaking the GAP analysis based upon our Climate Emergency UK council scorecards score, has identified –

- Possible areas for improvement
- Suggested new actions for forthcoming years
- Help to improve our score and also enhance the Climate Action Plan.

Suggested actions to bridge the gaps are currently being discussed and agreed with relevant services and will be put forward as suggestions in the Annual Climate Review.



**A FURTHER BENCHMARKING TASK USING CIPFA NEAREST NEIGHBOURS WILL ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THIS WORK, TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT OUR SCORE COMPARATIVELY**





# Climate Strategy ◦



# Foreword

As global temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, the most vulnerable suffer and are least able to adapt. Huntingdonshire's residents and wildlife already feel the effects and more dramatic changes are likely in the decades to come. This Council must consider its duty of care and use its position of influence to act. **We therefore declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency.**

This Climate Strategy outlines the Council's vision for addressing that emergency with an Action Plan designed to lead us to a net zero carbon council by 2040 and to strongly influence district-wide action on emissions and biodiversity. The six objectives reflect the priorities of our residents and the strategic goals of this council.

Actions required by council service areas will be delivered through spending wisely and systemic change. Capital investments will require individual business cases.

The participation of our local communities will be essential. Local people want to take action, but look to this council for leadership. Therefore, we will bring together our parish councils, local businesses and environmental interest groups each year in a Climate Conversation summit. This will provide a platform for knowledge sharing as well as signposting to resources and funding. We will check in with our stakeholders, share our council's progress and review our plans.

Our response to the climate and ecological emergency will be embedded into every action taken and each decision made by this council. Together with the help of local people, we will support the recovery of Huntingdonshire's ecology and play our part in tackling climate change.

**Lara Davenport-Ray**  
Executive Councillor for  
Climate & Environment



We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example



BUILDINGS

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. We need to ensure what is built is as environmentally sustainable as possible



ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

We need to reduce emissions caused by our activities and ensure that our energy is from renewable sources



NATURE

We know our residents highly value the open spaces and natural environment in Huntingdonshire. We need to protect, restore and improve our environment, and build resilience to extreme weather events



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where our residents are able to access what they want locally, with effective lower carbon transport options and safe cycling routes



WASTE, RECYCLING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

We want to see a Huntingdonshire where much less is thrown away



COMMUNITY

Our communities should shape the places they live in to be better adapted to the future climate

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The Climate Strategy is the Council's response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency. It sets out what we will do to play our part in addressing climate change. We will be a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service to the changed climate, an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners, and an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Carbon Net Zero council by 2040.

ACTIONS



POSITIVE EXAMPLE

Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings, and by 2040 stop using gas for heating  
Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change

Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings  
Implement an Energy Strategy to guide our future decisions on renewable energy supply and resilience

Deliver community developed plans for greater biodiversity gain and more trees on our land

Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040  
Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions

Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission

Openly share progress against our climate targets  
Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making



ENABLER

Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work

Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy

Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity

Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure  
Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel

Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill

Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities



ENCOURAGER

Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice  
Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change

Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables

Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects

Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices

Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products

Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district



# Vision and Objectives



"77% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID IT IS 'VERY IMPORTANT' OR 'ESSENTIAL' THAT WE TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE"

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.



# Why? – Evidenced Priorities

Impacts of the climate crisis and ecological emergency are visible across the world and within Huntingdonshire. All of us need to take action. This Council has an important role in leading this action. This strategy sets out what we will do to improve our own operations, but also how we will work with others to ensure district-wide change. Our approach will also reflect the importance of supporting our residents and businesses at a time of increasing cost of living.

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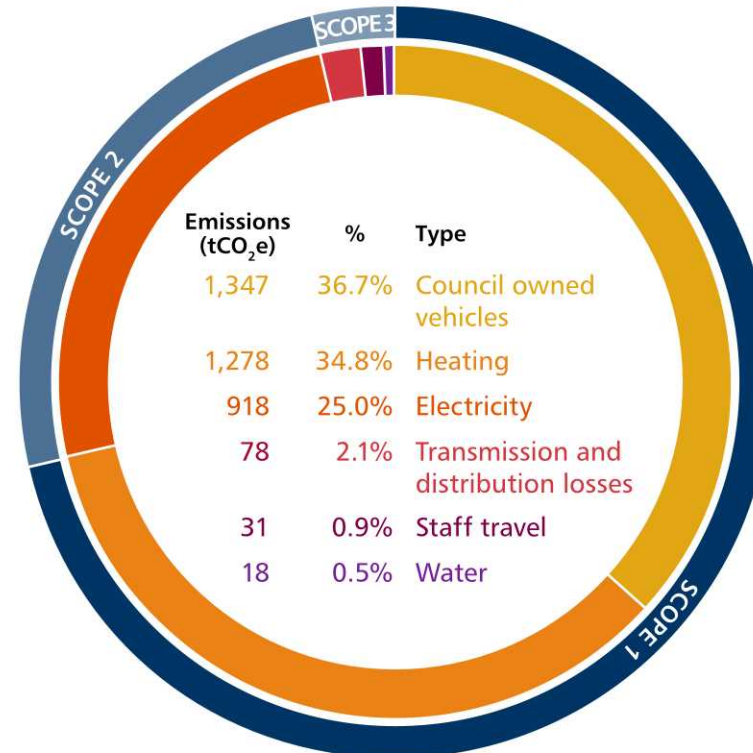
## Council Key Priorities

1  
Decarbonise Fleet

2  
Reduce energy use,  
shift to renewables

3  
Procure wisely

## What Causes the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions of 3,670 tCO<sub>2</sub>e?



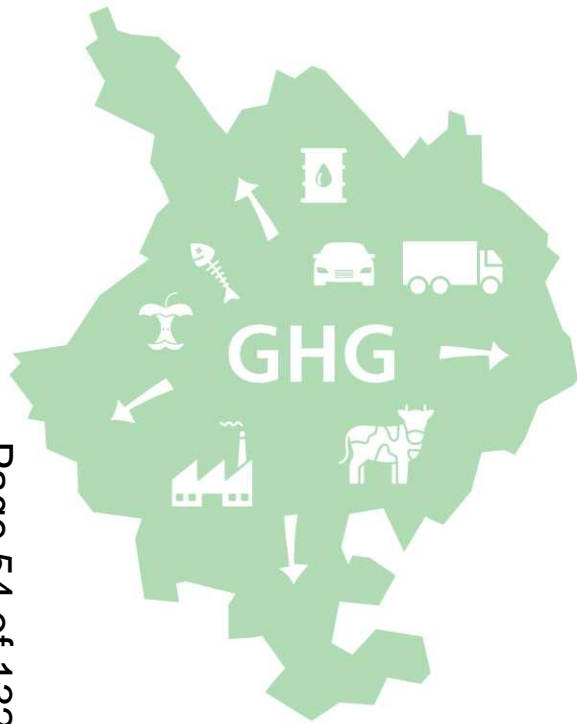
**SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS**  
Direct emissions from the Council's owned or controlled sources. This includes on-site energy, e.g. natural gas and fuel

**SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS**  
Indirect emissions from purchased or acquired energy, e.g. electricity, steam, heat, or cooling

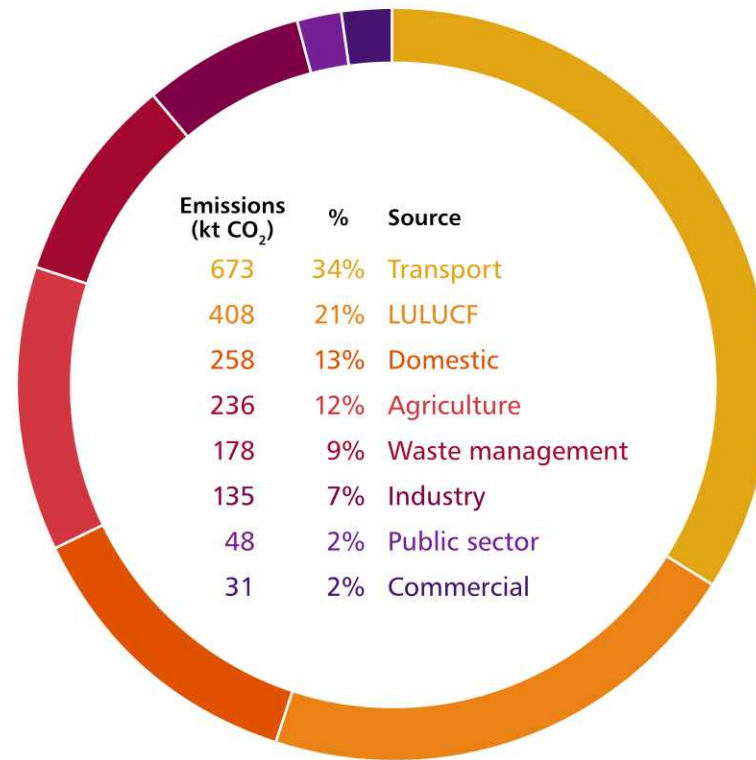
**SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS**  
All indirect emissions that occur in the value chain e.g. the emissions resulting from staff travelling to work

"32% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL'S HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE ITS OWN EMISSIONS"

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.



### What Causes Huntingdonshire’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions of 1,966 kt CO<sub>2</sub>?



“40% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL’S HIGHEST PRIORITY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS”

#### District-wide Key Priorities

- 1 Sustainable travel with low emissions
- 2 Reduce energy use, shift to renewables
- 3 Increase biodiversity and natural capital

\* Of those responding to the Council’s 2022 Climate Survey.

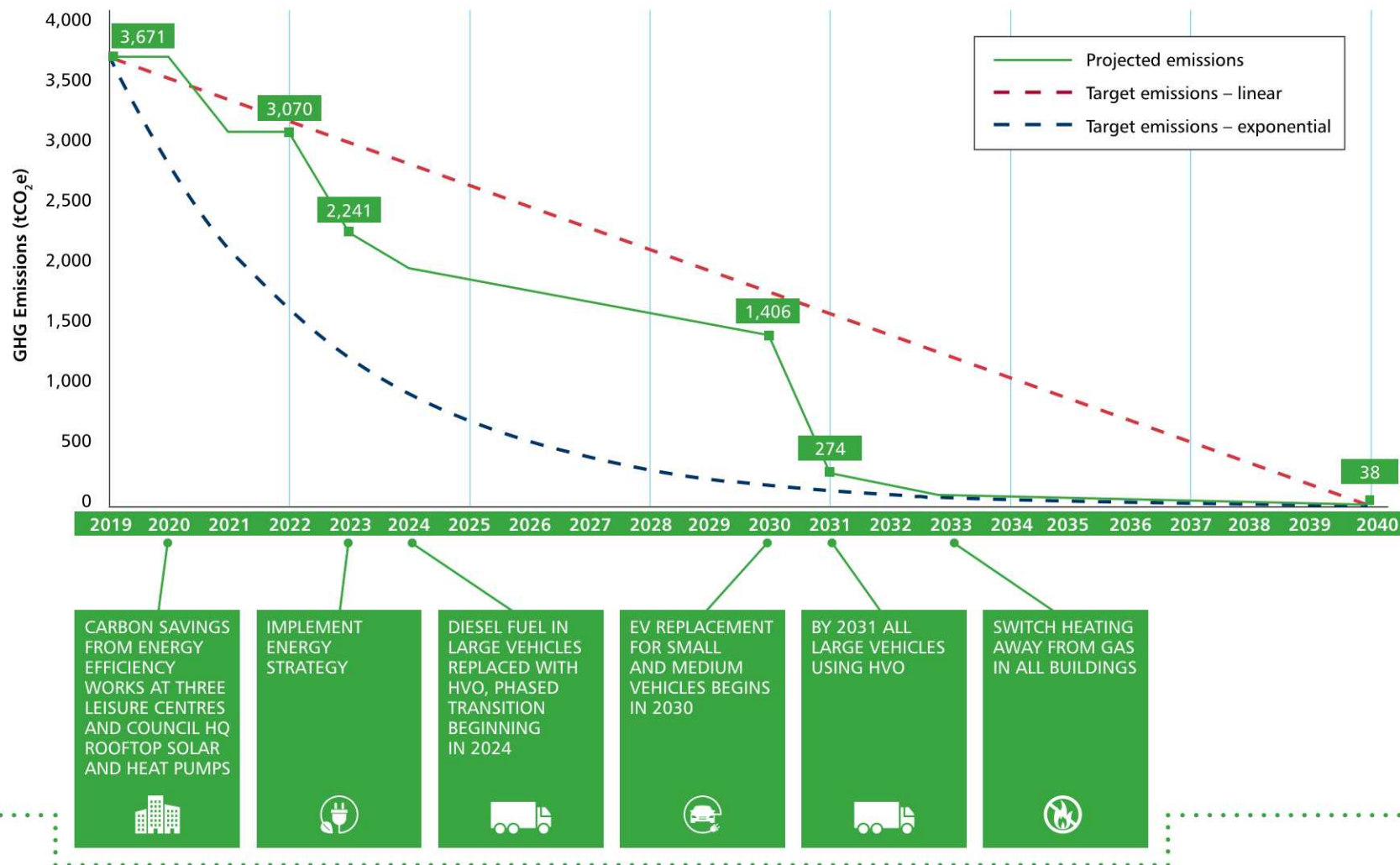
# Our Pathway to Carbon Net Zero 2040

The red and blue show two target lines we could follow.

Green shows the impact of the changes we expect to make through our current action plan to reduce emissions, based on what is currently known about improving technology.

Our action plan will be revisited annually, if opportunities arise that improve the business case for action, we will reduce our carbon emissions earlier.

## Carbon Pathway Scenarios to 2040





# Our Priority Actions

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**We will be a Positive Example:**

## Key Climate Actions



Review our assets to understand opportunities to improve the building fabric, energy efficiency and carbon impact of our buildings

Undertake a fleet review to determine when our vehicles should be switched from petrol/diesel to low carbon alternatives

Define a pathway for the council to move to 100% renewable energy usage

**We will Enable and Encourage:**



Enhance environmental aspects of the Local Plan where possible to do so

Deliver programme of biodiversity with the CPCA to include Community and Council Open Spaces

Work with partners to promote and support more active and net zero carbon travel

# How we will Achieve our Objectives?

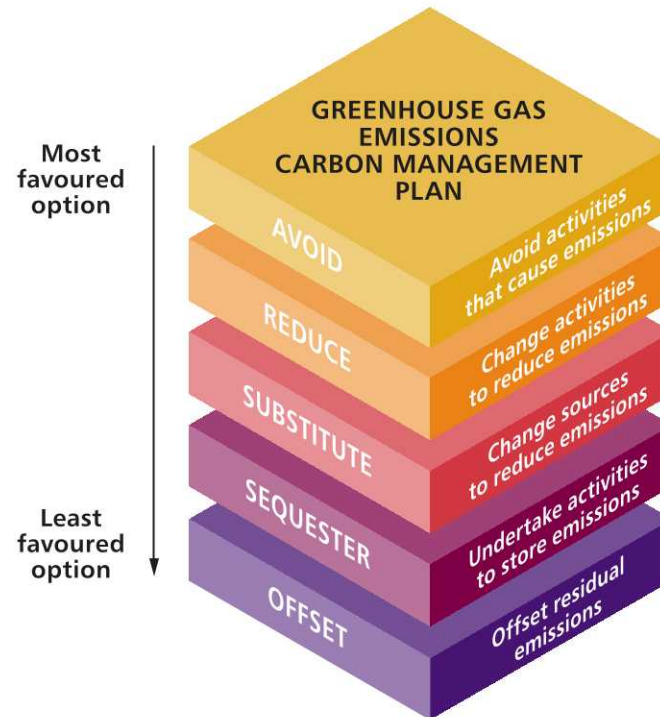
The Council will be a positive example in its approach to making decisions with due regard to the impact on climate and environment.

By focussing on our key actions we will make progress towards our Carbon Net Zero Council 2040 target. We will track progress against our pathway, calculated using the Greenhouse Gas emissions calculating tool, developed by Local Partnerships and the Local Government Association. This will be updated and shared with our community and partners at Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation summit.

Actions required by council service areas will be delivered through spending wisely and systemic change. These will be included in the budget for each service area and be subject to the annual budget-setting of the Council.

Capital investments will require individual business cases to ensure prioritised and economically sustainable investment.

The Council will follow a hierarchy of action, prioritising reduction in emissions through changing activity and demand for energy



and fossil fuels, then replacing fossil fuels. Recognising the importance of carbon sequestration and the high value placed on our natural and biodiverse environment, the Council will increase the natural capture of carbon through changed land management regimes and tree canopy enlargement. The Council will only consider carbon offset as a very last resort as this does not address the need to reduce and adapt consumption that the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency require.





# Priority Actions by Theme



## Buildings

The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. They are also a significant source of GHG emissions. For the Council 60% of our emissions come from heating and using electricity in our buildings.

### ★ Positive Example

Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings and by 2040 stop using gas for heating.

Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

### 🔌 Enabler

Support development of sustainable communities through our Local Plan review to provide lower carbon places for people to live and work.

### 👍 Encourager

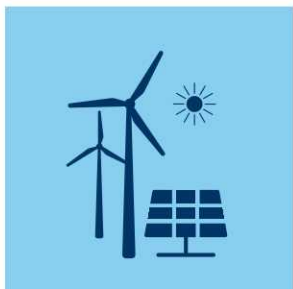
Use the Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice.

Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change.

“78% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD USE PLANNING RULES SO NEW DEVELOPMENTS MEET SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS”

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.

# Priority Actions by Theme



## Energy and Renewables

Energy is one of the most significant contributors to our emissions. Factors outside of our control, such as recent energy prices rises and the war in Ukraine, highlight the need for us to increase the resilience of our local energy supply, and reduce our consumption.

“88% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THEY HAVE REDUCED THEIR ELECTRICITY USE WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES”

“73% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY”



### Positive Example

Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings.

Implement an Energy Strategy to guide our future decisions on renewable energy supply and resilience.



### Enabler

Support schemes that help communities and businesses reduce their emissions and use renewable energy.



### Encourager

Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures that they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables.

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.

# Priority Actions by Theme



## Nature

Nature benefits health, as well as being a haven of biodiversity, and important natural processes. Huntingdonshire has a wealth of green spaces and natural assets, rich in biodiversity providing a home for many native species and a link to the natural environment for our residents.



### Positive Example

Deliver community developed plans for greater biodiversity gain and more trees on our land.



### Enabler

Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity.



### Encourager

Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects.

“83% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD RESTORE NATURE AND PLANT TREES”

“20% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THEIR HOME OR BUSINESS HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY EXTREME WEATHER”

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.



# Priority Actions by Theme



## Travel and Transport

In response to climate change we need to consider how we travel and how the food we eat and the products we buy reach us.

We will work with our partners and our transport authorities to support more environmentally sustainable choices through the infrastructure they provide.

“46% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD SWITCH TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES”

### ★ Positive Example

Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040.

Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions.

### 🔌 Enabler

Seek partnerships and funding to enhance our electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel.

### 👍 Encourager

Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices.

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.

# Priority Actions by Theme



## Waste, Recycling and Resource Management

We generate waste as a by-product of almost all of our activities. Resource management describes how we can work together to consume less, reduce waste and recycle the valuable resources we have. Huntingdonshire residents already recycle more than 50% of their waste, but the recycling rate has plateaued.

“80% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD IMPROVE RECYCLING RATES”

“93.6% OF RESPONDENTS\* SAID THEY WERE MAXIMISING THEIR OWN RECYCLING”

### ★ Positive Example

Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission.

### 🔌 Enabler

Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill.

### 👍 Encourager

Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products.

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.

# Priority Actions by Theme



## Community

The many communities of Huntingdonshire have a significant role in responding to climate change. The Council must work with our communities to build resilience to future extreme weather events, support community initiatives to benefit the climate and ecology whilst enabling more positive impact to achieve Carbon Net Zero.

### ★ Positive Example

Openly share progress against our climate targets.

Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making.

### 🔌 Enabler

Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities.

### 👍 Encourager

Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district.

"12% OF RESPONDENTS\* THINK THE COUNCIL SHOULD PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FUNDING FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO HELP THEM ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE"

\* Of those responding to the Council's 2022 Climate Survey.



# Monitoring Progress Together

We will **enable** our communities, businesses and partners through an Annual Climate Conversation event to showcase their efforts, share what has worked, challenges and priorities.

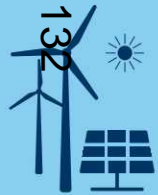
We will continue to **encourage** action through the event and sharing the positive impacts for Huntingdonshire's climate and environment.

We will openly share our own progress in this conversation, but also to listen to changing challenges and priorities which may need to be reflected in revised actions.

The inaugural event will be an opportunity to share progress and seek input on our priority actions:

- Biodiversity for All Programme
- Local Plan Revision
- Sustainable Travel

Feedback from the Climate Conversation will be captured in an annual report. This will sit alongside formal annual reporting of the Council's achievements against its action plan and any revisions that are recommended.



# Further Information



## Huntingdonshire District Council

Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN

T 01480 388388

E [climateconversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:climateconversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

W [huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

f Huntingdonshire

t huntscd

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# Annual Climate Report 2024

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Huntingdonshire District Council's progress to  
to Net Zero by 2040 so far...





# Introduction



**Harriet Robinson**

Climate Coordinator



[ClimateConversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:ClimateConversation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



01480 388388



# Executive Councillor Statement



**Lara Davenport-Ray - Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment**

**In 2023 this council agreed to take action. We committed our time and resources to tackling the climate crisis and ecological emergency. We agreed to focus on supporting nature recovery on our land and to target net carbon zero council operations by 2040. We also committed to enabling and encouraging both local people and our peers to take robust action with us. One year later, we have made significant progress.**

**The carbon footprint of our council continues to decrease. Changes to the way we operate are reducing our emissions. From lighting in our buildings to trailing new fuels in our fleet, our progress is promising. However, each year on our journey to net carbon zero will become more challenging. In future years we will have hard choices to navigate and difficult financial decisions to make.**

**Local people can already see nature thriving in our council's parks and open spaces. Not only are we enriching our own land, we are investing in rural and urban biodiversity projects put forward by residents across Huntingdonshire.**

# Executive Councillor Statement contd.



**Lara Davenport-Ray - Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment**

**Climate action and supporting nature both require unique skills. Jobs in ecology, horticulture, heating and plumbing are becoming ever more important. We want people in Huntingdonshire to be ready to take up these new jobs. To build local skills, our council has partnered with local university students, hired graduate ecologists, trained job-seekers in countryside management and helped deliver a local energy training academy. Our greatest success this year has been training local people in skills needed for the future while also delivering the tasks in our climate action plan.**

**After one year our council has achievements to celebrate, but we cannot become complacent. Global temperatures are still rising and extreme weather events continue to endanger our residents. Despite the daunting challenges ahead, our council and local people will work together to recover Huntingdonshire's ecology and play our part in tackling climate change.**





# Overview:

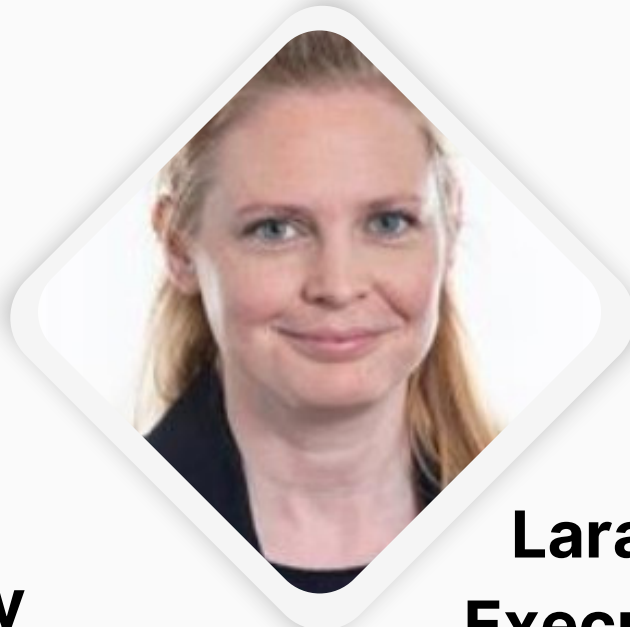
- **Huntingdonshire District Council's Climate Strategy & Priorities**
- **April 2023 - April 2024 Progress Overview**
- **The Achievements: Key Climate Projects & Updates**
- **Going forward, what's next?**



# Who are your Climate partners? —



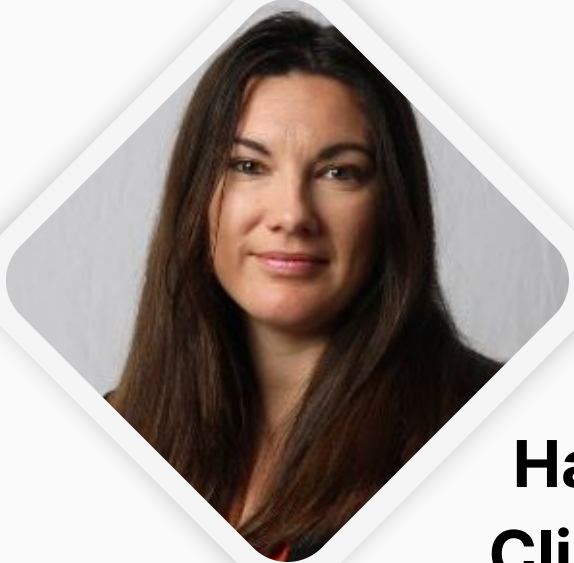
**Ellie McCreanor -  
Energy and Sustainability  
Support Officer**



**Lara Davenport-Ray -  
Executive Councillor for  
Climate and Environment**



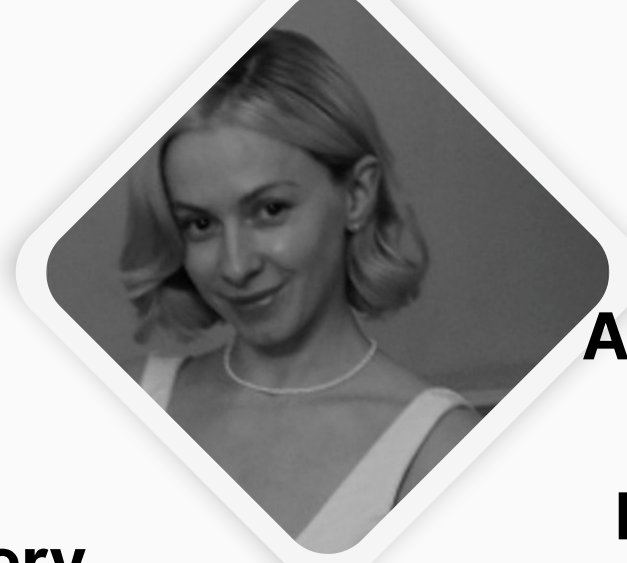
**Helen Lack -  
Development and  
Delivery Manager  
Parks and Environment**



**Harriet Robinson -  
Climate Coordinator**



**Neil Sloper -  
Assistant Director for  
Strategic Insight and Delivery**



**Amber Beardshall -  
Home Energy  
Reduction Officer**

# Climate Strategy & Priorities

In February 2023, Councillors formally recognised a **Climate Crisis and Ecological emergency** in Huntingdonshire and adopted a **Climate Strategy and Action Plan**.

**We will be:**

- ✓ **a positive example** to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service.
- ✓ **an enabler** to support action within our communities and across our partners.
- ✓ **an encourager** to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Net Carbon Zero Council by 2040.

# Corporate Plan Priorities

**Our Corporate Plan prioritises our journey to Net Carbon Zero Council operation. Our 3 priorities are:**

- **Priority 1: Improving quality of life for local people**
- **Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations**
- **Priority 3: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations**





## Do

## Enable

## Influence

Complete HVO Fuel Trial and present a business case for decision

Deliver a Fleet Decarbonisation Plan

Deliver our Energy Strategy

Deliver the Climate Conversation in 2024

Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact

Establish climate and carbon emissions learning and development plan for Council employees

Accelerate Solar Power Adoption on Council Buildings

Support community projects and plans that reduce carbon emissions

Deliver Biodiversity for All to enable community action and support green skills development

Commission Active Travel Studies (UKSPF) to influence/inform future investment priorities

Deliver the Phase 1 Rural Pilot HDC Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Actions

Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value

Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge

Adopt the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature and influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy with our priorities



P R I O R I T Y

Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

O U T C O M E

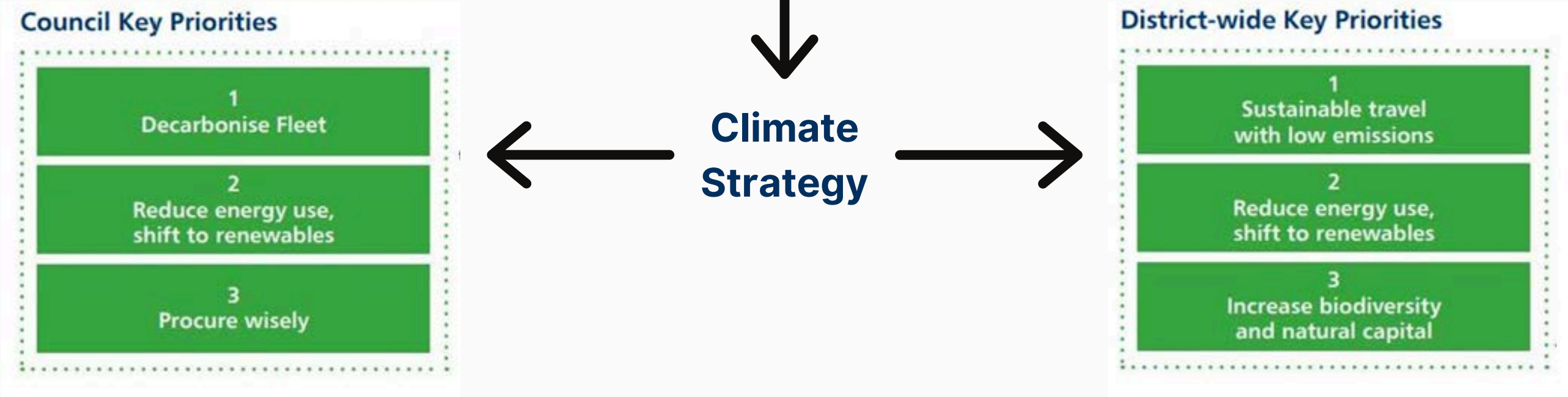
Lowering carbon emissions

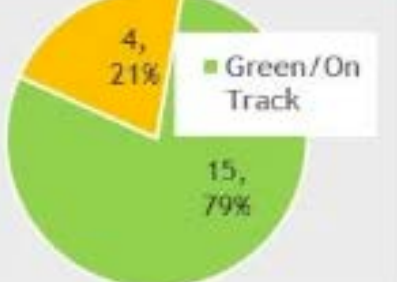
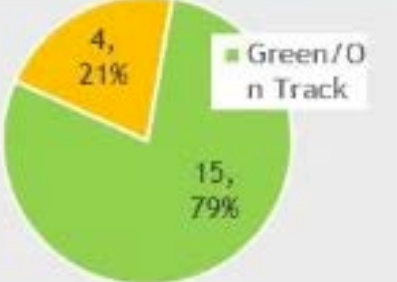
# Corporate Plan Outcome Deliverables



**P R I O R I T Y**  
Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

**O U T C O M E**  
Lowering carbon emissions



Horizon	Target Date	Quarter 1 Progress	Quarter 2 Progress	Quarter 3 Progress	Quarter 4 Progress
SHORT TERM	2024				



# Facilities, Fleet and Procurement



**Awarded £700,000 by Sports England to install solar panels and triple glazing at One Leisure St Ives. Decarbonisation works have been completed in PFH and there have been LED light upgrades in EFH. An Energy Strategy has been drafted in collaboration with Local Partnerships**



**15 HDC vehicles being trialled on HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel, which reduces CO2 emissions by 92%. Partnership between Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire Fire also under way and has already reduced 72 tonnes of CO2 between all 3 services**

**8.6 million smart phones charged!**



**Partnering with Anglia Ruskin University, we developed a sustainable procurement programme and toolkit. These will focus on examining effective ways to drive reductions in supply chain emissions and the 1st sessions started in Q4**

# HVO Fleet Trial

Research from the Local Partnerships Consultancy showed CO<sub>2</sub>e from HDC's fleet was one of the Council's largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) was chosen as it reduces these emissions by 92%

**Trial timeframe: November 2023 to June 2024**

**This is a low stress period to allow for the determination of the success criteria**

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**Currently being trialled in 15 vehicles including:**

- tractors
- mowers
- skip lorries

**This reflects the diversity of the fleet in terms of size, usage and vehicle ages**

**The results will be reported in July 2024**

**Advantages of HVO:**

- Cleaner than standard road diesel
- Reduces harmful NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 25%
- PPMs are reduced by up to 60%



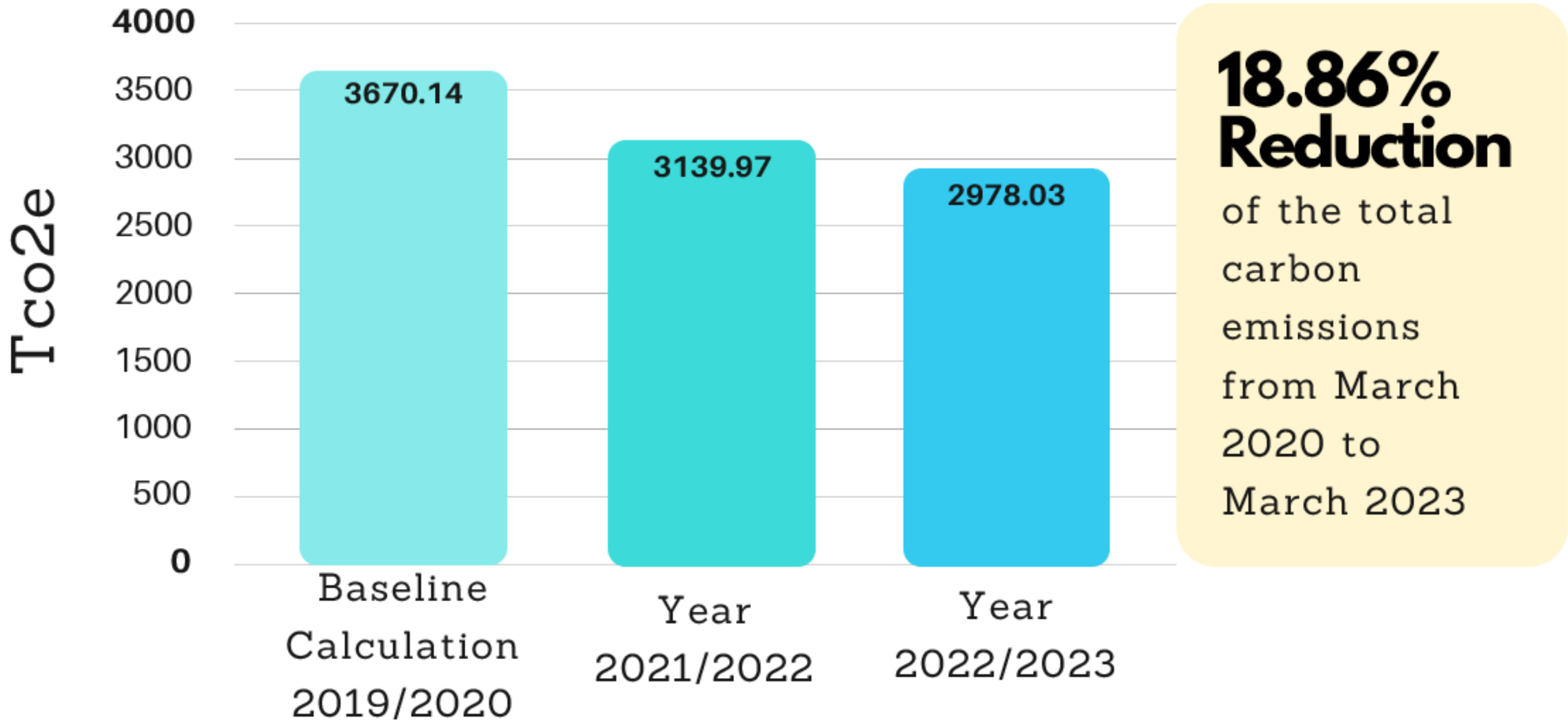
**A fuelling station has been established at HDC's depot, granting access to Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire Fire to facilitate with various vehicle types. The trial has already reduced the carbon footprint of the combined services by 72 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**



# Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Scope 1, 2 and 3 Included

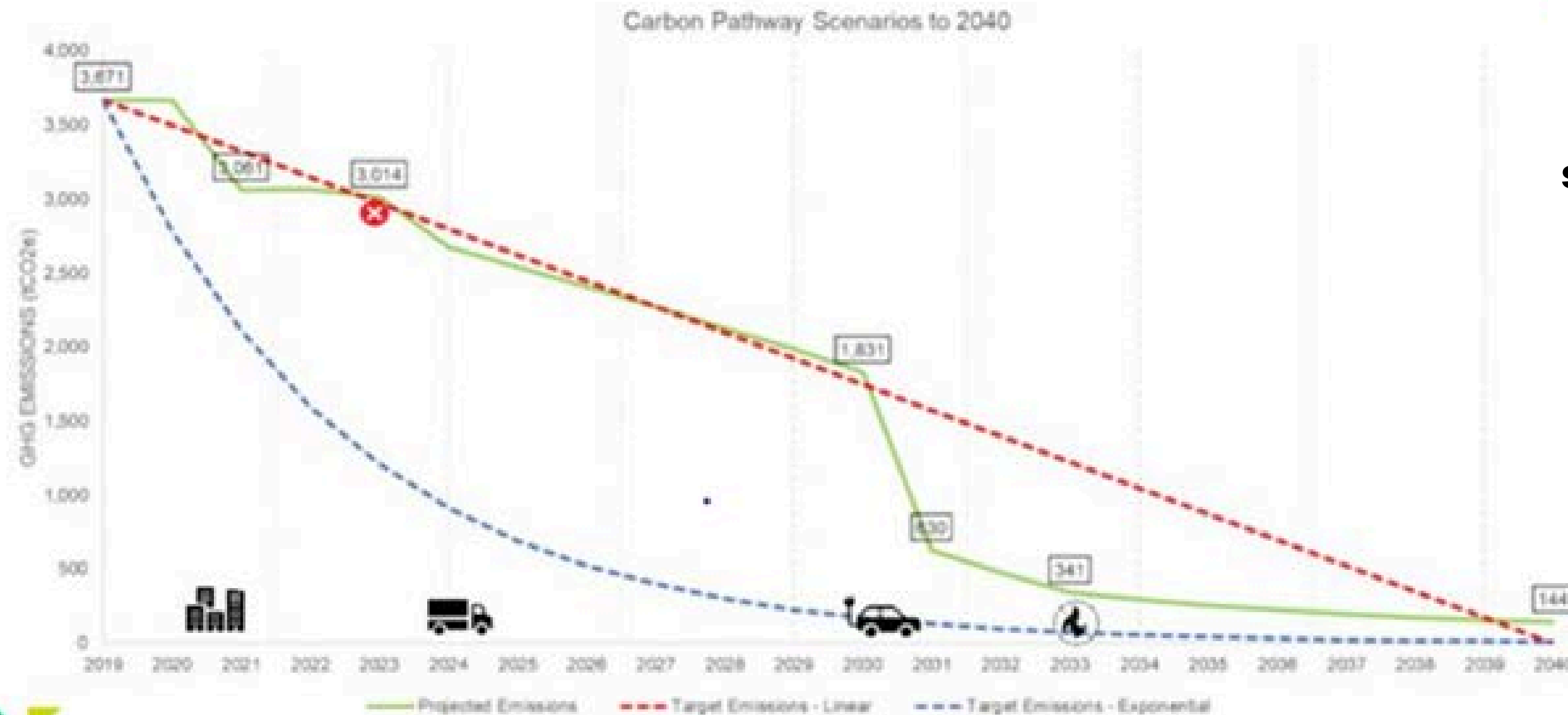


**692.11 tCo2e saved!**

**7,612 refrigerators**

## Carbon Emissions Trajectory

All implementations (excluding purchasing green electricity)



Early indications show the trajectory is slight below targeted

# Home Energy

In person events across 2023 and 2024

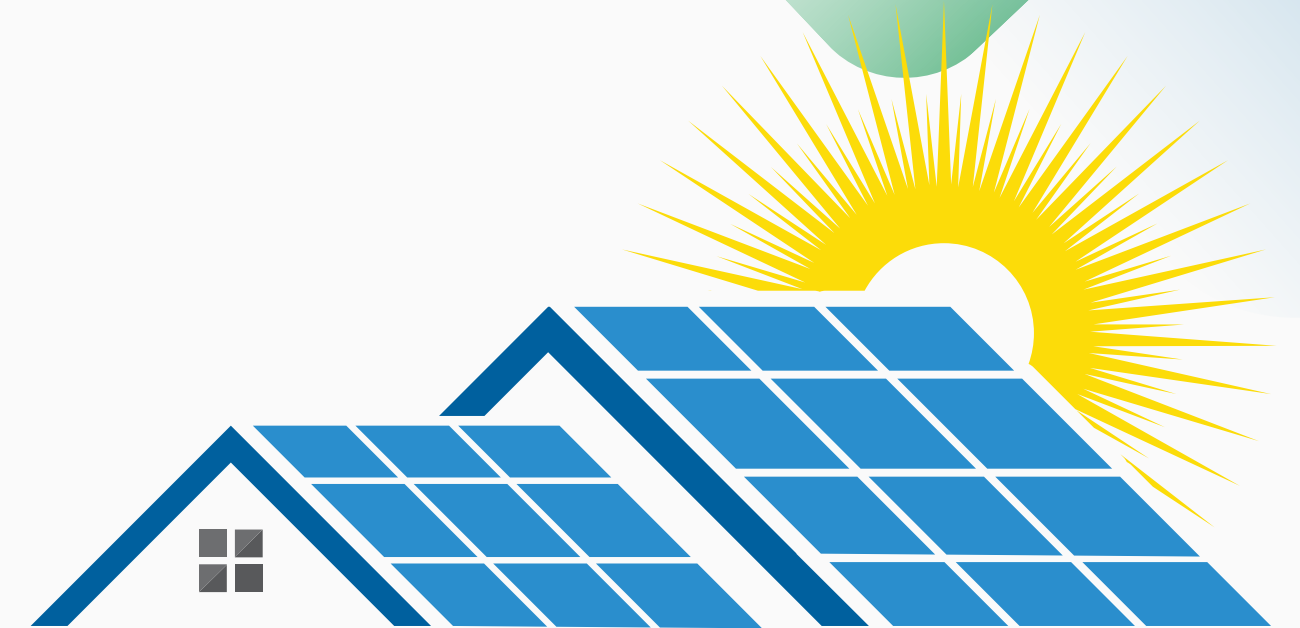
Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Grants

Online Climate Hub Platform

citizens advice



**PECT**  
CREATING SUSTAINABLE PLACES



**As Home Energy establishes itself at HDC, key connections have been made with Cambridgeshire Libraries, other local councils within the Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership and home energy service providers, such as Citizens Advice and PECT. As Home Energy and Climate intertwine, retrofitting will help with the delivering of HDC's climate strategy, corporate plan and local plan, whilst building resilient communities.**



# Annual Climate Conversation - you said, we did

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A central place to access content concerning HDC's work on climate and how people can contribute to tackling climate change

Utilise connections for further events with local groups, parish councils and Cambs Libraries

**Online Climate Hub launched in May 2024**

Environment Hub - 4th June 2024

CANFFUND Locally Determined Contribution Workshop - 6th June 2024

Cambridge Libraries Workshops - planning in progress

Annual Climate Conversation - November 2024



# Upcoming Events



**Burgess Hall  
St Ives**



**Overview & Scrutiny Panel  
for Environment Workshop**

**July 2024**  
(exact date tbc)

**Location: PFH**

# Questions





# Appendix

# Climate Strategy and Priorities

## Scope 1 Emissions

Emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly e.g. from burning fuel in our fleet of vehicles

## Scope 2 Emissions

Emissions that are caused indirectly and come from where the energy it purchases and uses is produced e.g. emissions caused when generating the electricity that we use in our buildings

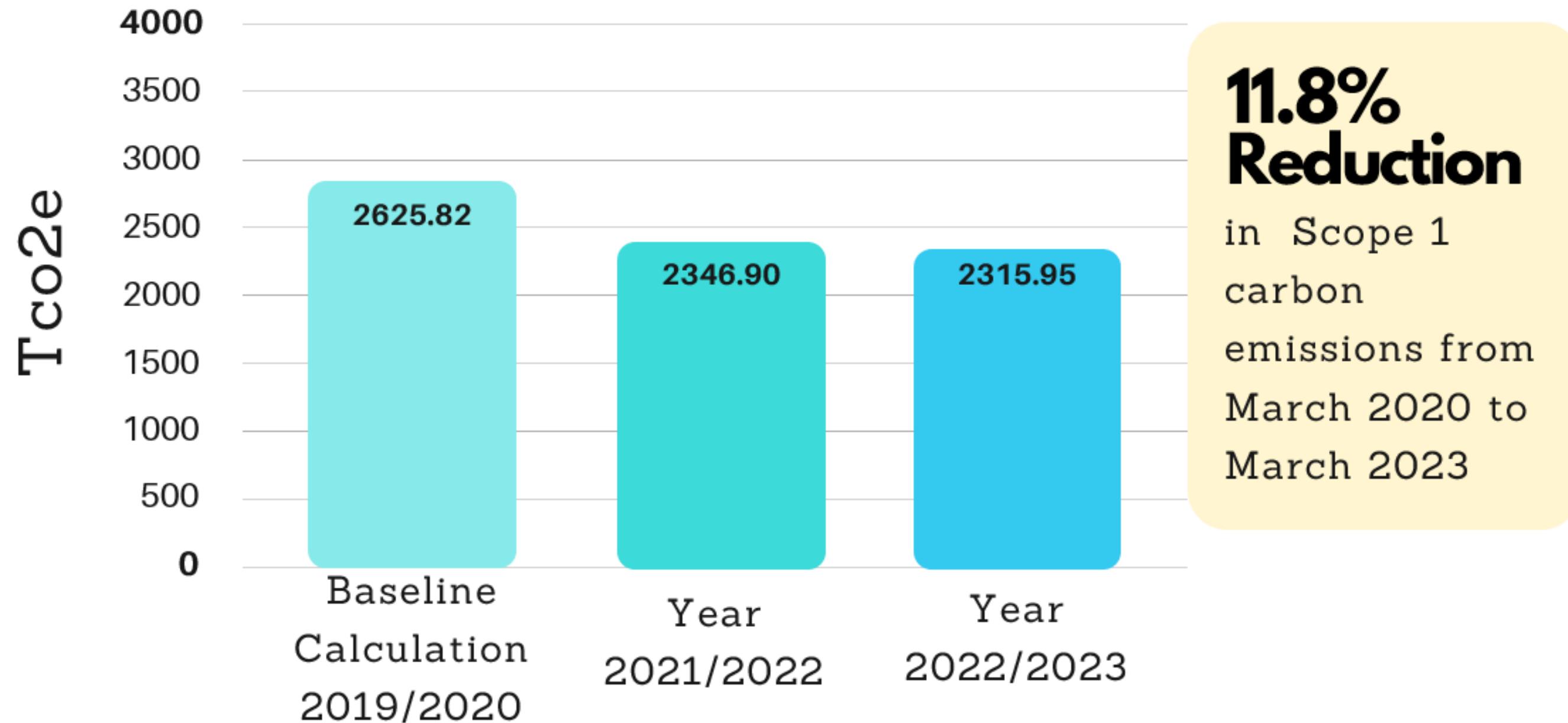
## Scope 3 Emissions

Emissions that are not produced by the company itself and are not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them but by those that it's indirectly responsible for up and down its value chain e.g. when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers. They include all sources not within the Scope 1 and 2 boundaries.

# Scope 1 Emissions

## Scope 1 Emissions

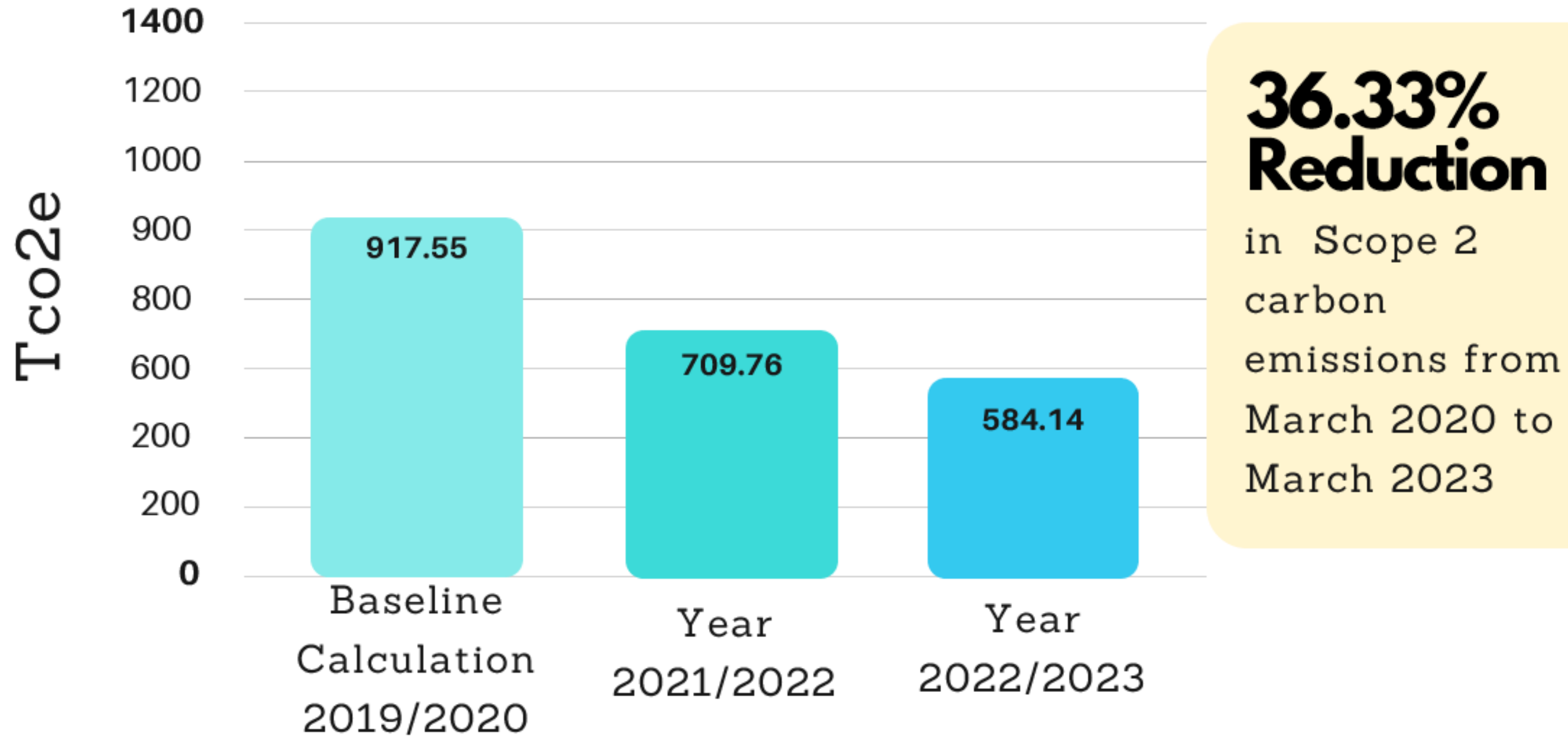
Scope 1 Only - Gas Consumption, Logs & Fleet



# Scope 2 Emissions

## Scope 2 Emissions

Scope 2 Only - Electricity Consumption

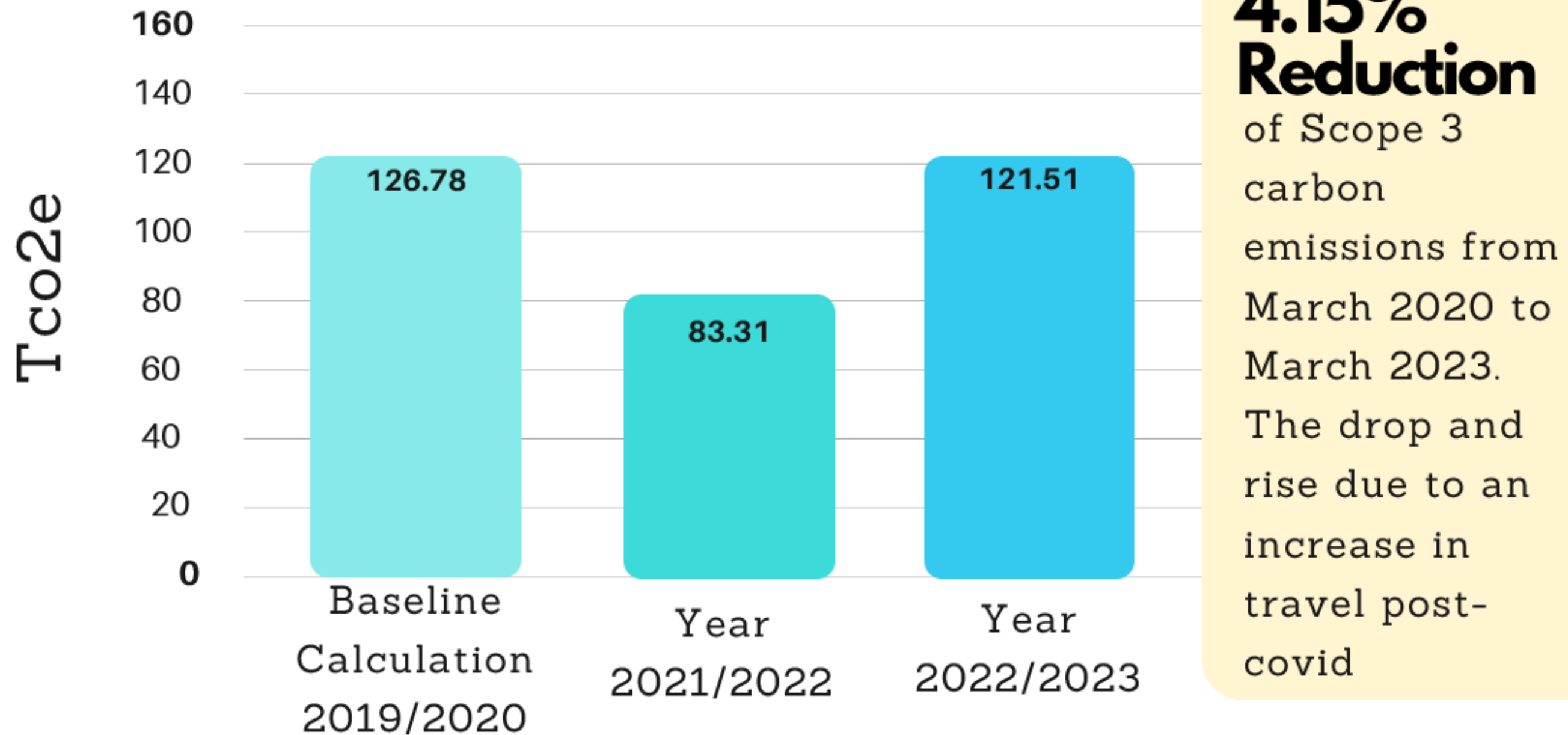


# Scope 3 Emissions

## Scope 3 Emissions

Scope 3 Only

Currently - Staff Travel, Distribution and Losses & Water Usage





# Appendix

We will be a Council that proactively tackles the climate crisis and ecological emergency, working closely with partners, and leading by example

BUILDINGS	ENERGY AND RENEWABLES	NATURE	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT	WASTE, RECYCLING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	COMMUNITY
The buildings and infrastructure around us shape how we live, our health and our well being. We need to ensure what is built is as environmentally sustainable as possible	We need to reduce emissions caused by our activities and ensure that our energy is from renewable sources	We know our residents highly value the open spaces and natural environment in Huntingdonshire. We need to protect, restore and improve our environment, and build resilience to extreme weather events	We want to see a Huntingdonshire where our residents are able to access what they want locally, with effective lower carbon transport options and safe cycling routes	We want to see a Huntingdonshire where much less is thrown away	Our communities should shape the places they live in to be better adapted to the future climate

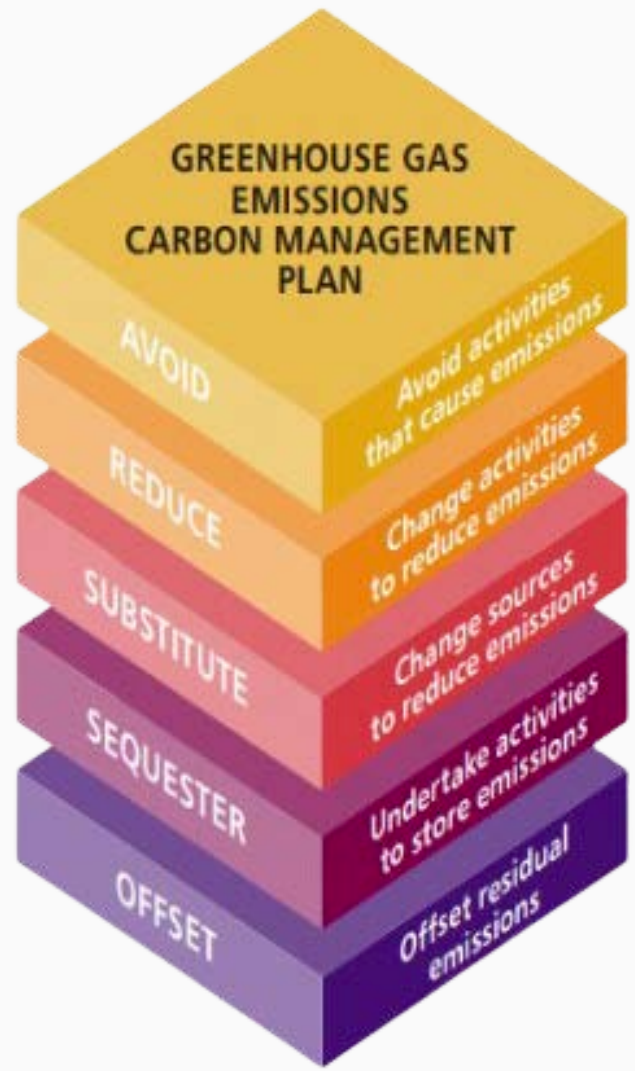
The Climate Strategy is the Council's response to the climate crisis and ecological emergency. It sets out what we will do to play our part in addressing climate change. We will be a positive example to others by reducing our own emissions and adapting our service to the changed climate, an enabler to support action within our communities and across our partners, and an encourager to ensure all efforts help to deliver our ambition of a Carbon Net Zero council by 2040.

ACTIONS	POSITIVE EXAMPLE	ENABLER	ENCOURAGER
	<p>Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings, and by 2040 stop using gas for heating</p> <p>Adapt our buildings and make our services more resilient to prepare for the impacts of climate change</p>	<p>Look for opportunities to install renewable energy generation on our land and buildings</p> <p>Implement an Energy Strategy to guide our future decisions on renewable energy supply and resilience</p>	<p>Deliver community developed plans for greater biodiversity gain and more trees on our land</p> <p>Engage our communities, partners and businesses in managing their open spaces for nature, sharing opportunities to increase biodiversity</p>
	<p>Develop a plan to invest in fleet to reduce emissions from council owned vehicles to zero by 2040</p> <p>Understand how our staff travel for work, and how we can reduce these emissions</p>	<p>Reduce the carbon impact and waste from our own services and those we commission</p> <p>Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill</p>	<p>Openly share progress against our climate targets</p> <p>Include climate and biodiversity in our impact assessments to ensure they are embedded in our decision making</p> <p>Host Huntingdonshire's annual Climate Conversation for sharing of best practice, concerns and priorities</p>
	<p>Use Sustainable Business Awards to recognise and promote great practice</p> <p>Work with our partners and communities to adapt to the needs of climate change</p>	<p>Support the sharing of guidance and advice to residents and businesses on measures they can take to improve energy efficiency, insulation, switch to low carbon heating, and install renewables</p> <p>Work with communities and businesses to help them look after the natural environment, including delivering community litter picking/river cleaning projects</p>	<p>Promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices</p> <p>Support and celebrate re-use and recycling schemes to reduce the use of disposable products</p> <p>Work with communities and partners to support climate action across the district</p>



# April 2023 - April 2024 Progress Overview

Horizon	Target Date	Quarter 1 Progress	Quarter 2 Progress	Quarter 3 Progress	Quarter 4 Progress
SHORT TERM	2024	<p>Green/On Track: 14, 74% Not Started: 5, 26%</p>	<p>Green/On Track: 15, 79% Not Started: 4, 21%</p>	<p>Green/On Track: 15, 79% Not Started: 4, 21%</p>	<p>Green/On Track: 15, 79% Not Started: 4, 21%</p>
MEDIUM TERM	2025 & 2026	<p>Started: 7, 29% Not Started: 16, 73%</p>	<p>Started: 10, 37% Not Started: 12, 55%</p>	<p>Started: 11, 41% Not Started: 11, 50%</p>	<p>Started: 12, 44% Not Started: 10, 45%</p>
LONG TERM	2027 & Onwards	<p>Started: 5, 31% Not Started: 11, 69%</p>	<p>Started: 9, 56% Not Started: 7, 44%</p>	<p>Started: 9, 56% Not Started: 7, 44%</p>	<p>Started: 11, 69% Not Started: 5, 31%</p>



# April 2023 - April 2024 - what we have done so far

Priority	Action	Service Area	Theme	Portfolio	Status	Progress	Target Completion Date
High	Review Council assets to establish further opportunities to improve insulation, energy efficiency and adaptation to reduce their carbon impact	Facilities	Energy and Renewables	Corporate and Shared Services	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Appoint a Climate Co-ordinator	Open Spaces	All	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Set the Council's emissions baseline and continue to report on an annual basis	Climate	All	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed*	01/02/2024
Medium	Deliver the communications plan for the Climate strategy	Comms	Community	Place	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Include all services in the Climate Conversation to ensure objectives in services plans achieve carbon net zero by 2040	Climate	Community	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed but ongoing	01/02/2024
Medium	Conduct a staff travel survey on employee commuting, to assess climate impact	Climate	Travel and Transport	Climate and Environment	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Medium	Implement a real nappy initiative scheme	Waste	Waste, Recycling & Resource Management	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Commission a provider to offer expert net zero business planning advices to SMEs and access to capital match funding grants for implementation	Economic Development	Buildings	Jobs, Economy and Housing	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Undertake a behavioural study/survey on EV choices and charging in Huntingdonshire	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Commission a feasibility study to look to expand the Council's existing network of EV Charging, exploiting any funding opportunities that become available	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed	01/02/2024
Low	Develop an EV strategy for Huntingdonshire	Operations - Parking	Travel and Transport	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Green	Completed - on to the next phase	01/02/2024



# HVO Fleet Trial

Research from the Local Partnerships Consultancy showed CO<sub>2</sub>e from HDC's fleet was one of the Council's largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) was chosen as it reduces these emissions by 92%

**Trial timeframe: November 2023 to June 2024**

**This is a low stress period to allow for the determination of the success criteria**

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**Currently being trialled in 15 vehicles including:**

- tractors
- mowers
- skip lorries

**This reflects the diversity of the fleet in terms of size, usage and vehicle ages**

**The results will be reported in July 2024**

**Advantages of HVO:**

- Cleaner than standard road diesel
- Reduces harmful NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 25%
- PPMs are reduced by up to 60%



**A fuelling station has been established at HDC's depot, granting access to Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire Fire to facilitate with various vehicle types. The trial has already reduced the carbon footprint of the combined services by 72 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**

# Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes

With funding received from the CPCA, the Bio4All team have been tackling the national biodiversity crisis on a local level, enabling HDC's aims of combatting climate change. They identified 'strategic sites' and examined a number of key pointers:

- Carbon sequestration
- Improved air quality
- Shading
- Reduced physical erosion through chemical water

Using Bio4All's environment grant scheme, ecologists are reporting on and facilitating financial incentives for these environmental improvements, which will be carried out on externally owned public landholdings.

The team has extended its 'Green Skills' programme to the wider community through several educational packages carried out through biodiversity work on HDC's own estates



Use of the app 'iNaturalist' has helped connect the public to nature, whilst providing our ecologists with vital data concerning Huntingdonshire's flora and fauna responses to climate change

Each applicant to the Biodiversity Community Grant Scheme will have their land audited and a report written, which will provide 3 additive scenarios to improve the local environment and outline a way to manage the land sustainably. HDC will fund up to £8,000 of the work the applicant has selected to adopt from their report.



# Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes



HDC Ecologists running an educational programme in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

# Green Recovery Project

**HDC has hosted its 4th Green Recovery Project in collaboration with Groundwork East, this time focusing on Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.**

**Paxton Pits supports a high diverse habitat for wildlife and this work will help to maintain that level of biodiversity and condition of those habitats already developed.**

**The initiative ran for 8 weeks, honing in on landscaping skill development for the volunteers taking part, including earning a Level 1 City & Guilds qualification in Horticulture and Landscaping.**

**The Project is a key step towards creating a greener, more resilient future for Huntingdonshire and was made possible through a £1.3 million grant from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).**



Green Recovery Project



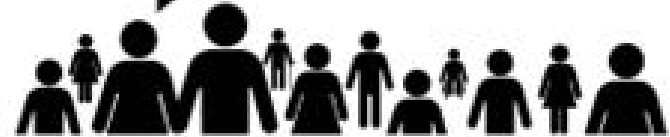


# Carbon Literacy Training



**62 members of staff have been certified as carbon literate so far**

**Certified Carbon Literate**



**Certified staff encompass a wide range of Council employees. They have taken both the management/leadership course and the generic staff course**

**HDC have partnered with Groundwork East to deliver some carbon literacy training, which has been made available to all staff initially from January through to April 2024**



**The course encourages members of staff to make 2 pledges towards working to combat climate change**

**HDC have paid for 10 courses, 1 of which is yet to run**





# Food Poverty and Sustainable Food Action Plan

**HDC is assisting and funding (through the climate reserve) for consultancy services to develop a plan for sustainable living and comprehensive food security for Huntingdonshire. The consultation is set to finish in December 2024, cost £5,000 and will provide a 10-year plan for the whole district to combine fighting food poverty and engaging in sustainable living.**

**The plan will align its goals with the climate action plan, climate strategy and corporate plan. It will also link in with community green spaces and growing food.**

**work has already begun through the 'Food for Nought' initiative, which has delivered more than 2,600 tonnes of surplus food from local farmers and supermarkets, which would have otherwise gone to landfill.**

**The plan will involve working with schools, food banks and partners in order to lower carbon emissions whilst promoting communities to grow their own food. This will promote and encourage them to become more self-sufficient, creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.**



**HDC Communities helping deliver food alongside Food for Nought**

# Climate Education

In partnership with PECT, HDC is piloting a climate engagement programme within 4 schools: Thongsley Fields Primary School, Crosshall Junior School, Ernulf Secondary Academy and Stukeley Meadows Primary School

The project is designed to continually engage and educate young people on

key climate issues including:

sustainability

increasing biodiversity for all

minimisation waste

engaging their own communities

Initial trial: Jan 2024 to Jan 2025

If successful, the aim is to expand this to fund additional schools in the following year.

HDC have also been invited to attend the ECO Awards hosted by PECT. This is an opportunity for primary and secondary schools to come together and take part in practical hands-on activities to inspire new ideas and projects to back to schools.

HDC have developed a climate change guide for children to use in schools. It explains what Climate Change is, what HDC's Climate Strategy is and ideas on how we can tackle Climate Change together



We want to make sure that all children learn about climate change and the things they can do to help.

We want Huntingdonshire to be the best place to live and grow up in, and we want to make sure future generations are able to learn about Climate Change and how to look after the planet so that we can all try to tackle Climate Change together in the years ahead.

It's not something that one person can do alone, it needs every person to play their part and make small and big changes to make a difference to tackling climate change.



# Community Chest Grants

Initially, the community chest scheme welcomed applications to focus on residents recover post the pandemic. This has now evolved into provision of funding for community projects which have to meet one of the following criteria: improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone, keeping people out of crisis, helping people in crisis and lowering carbon emissions. HDC has awarded grants to key community green initiatives including £1,000 to Hilton Community Garden to provide equipment to grow their own fruits and vegetables and £1,000 to Upwood Allotments to provide a shed to house gardening equipment.



Hilton Community Garden





# Online Climate Hub

From feedback from our Annual Climate Conversation back in 2023, HDC have launched an online climate hub in May 2024. One action was to have an online resource to educate, inform and guide Huntingdonshire residents through:

- Referencing HDC's progress on combatting climate change
- Provide links to tools, documents and guidance to encourage influence Huntingdonshire to take further climate action
- Educate the public on what Climate Change is
- Note the positive work that has already been undertaken in our district
- Listen to residents

The hub is split into 12 sections:

- What are HDC doing?
- What's happening in Huntingdonshire?
- Active Travel
- Climate Education
- Biodiversity
- Extreme Weather Adaptation
- Home Energy
- Waste
- Resources & Funding
- Resources for Local Authorities
- Resources for Local Businesses
- Engagement, Events and Climate Calendar

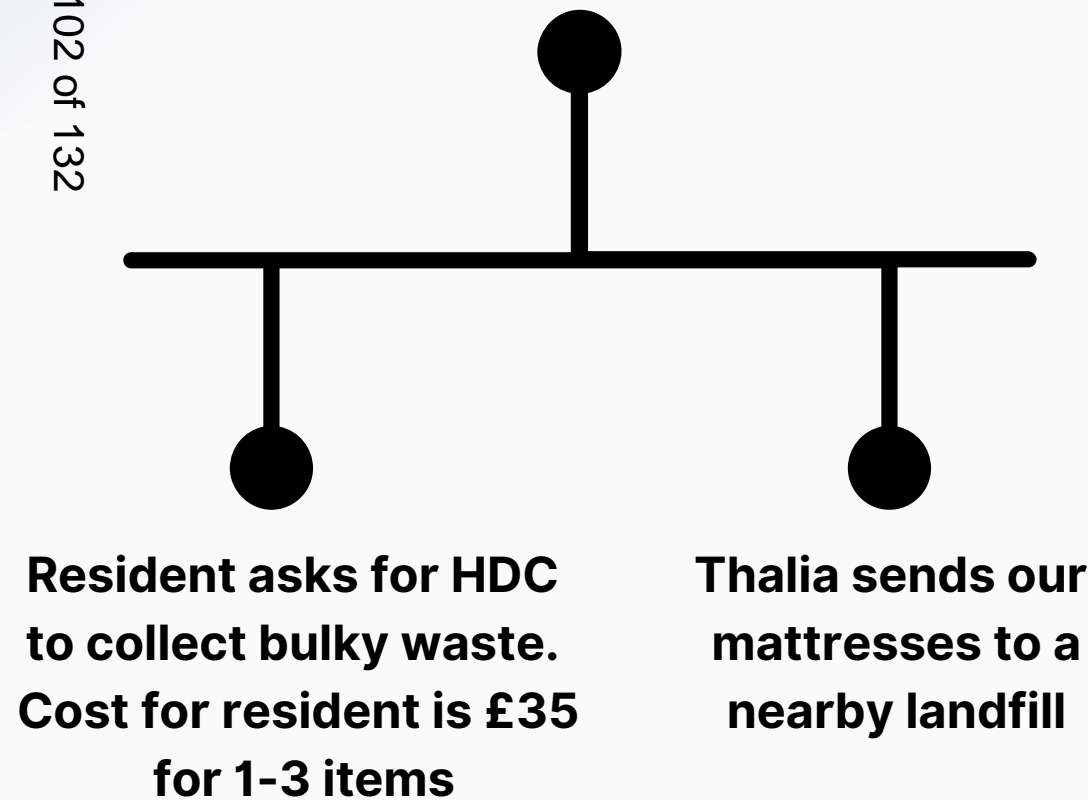




# Waste Minimisation

## Current linear method:

Mattresses plus other bulky items are sent to Waterbeach

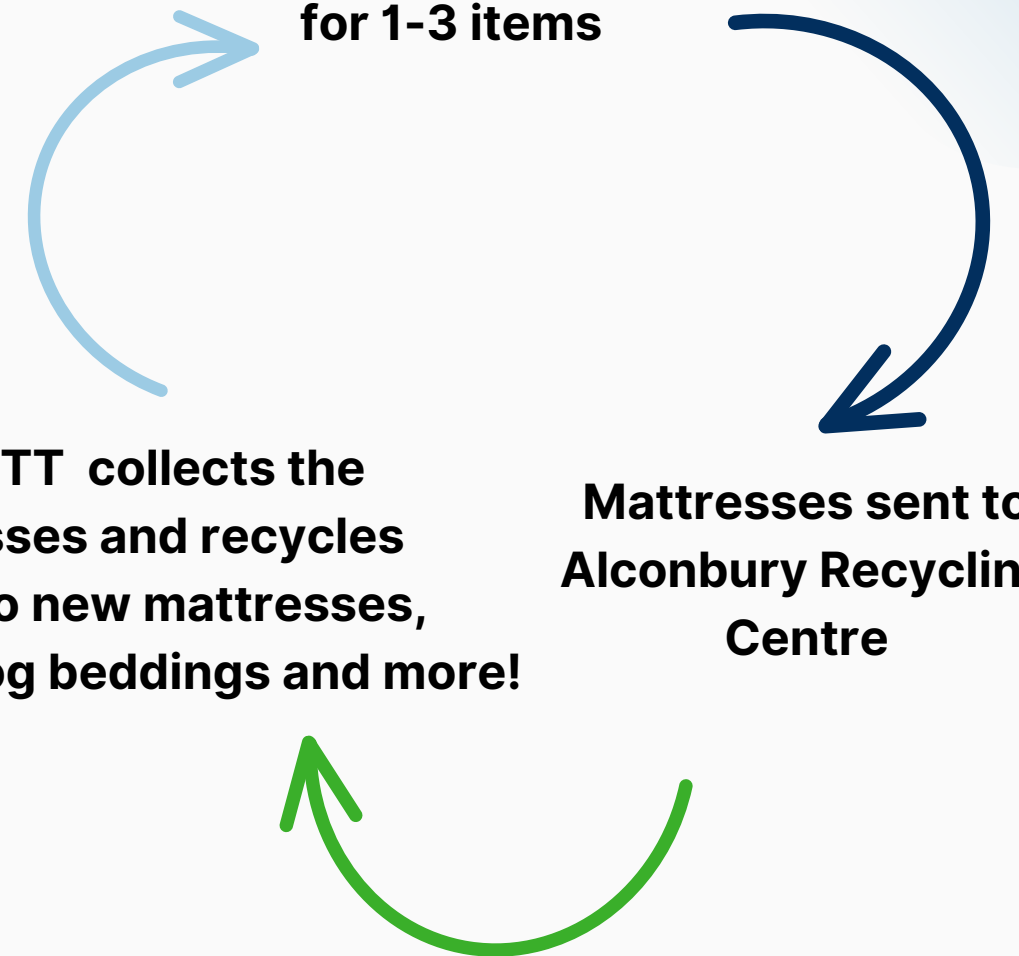


## Proposed circular method:

Resident asks for HDC to collect bulky waste. Cost for resident is £35 for 1-3 items

REMATT collects the mattresses and recycles them into new mattresses, car seats, dog beddings and more!

Mattresses sent to Alconbury Recycling Centre





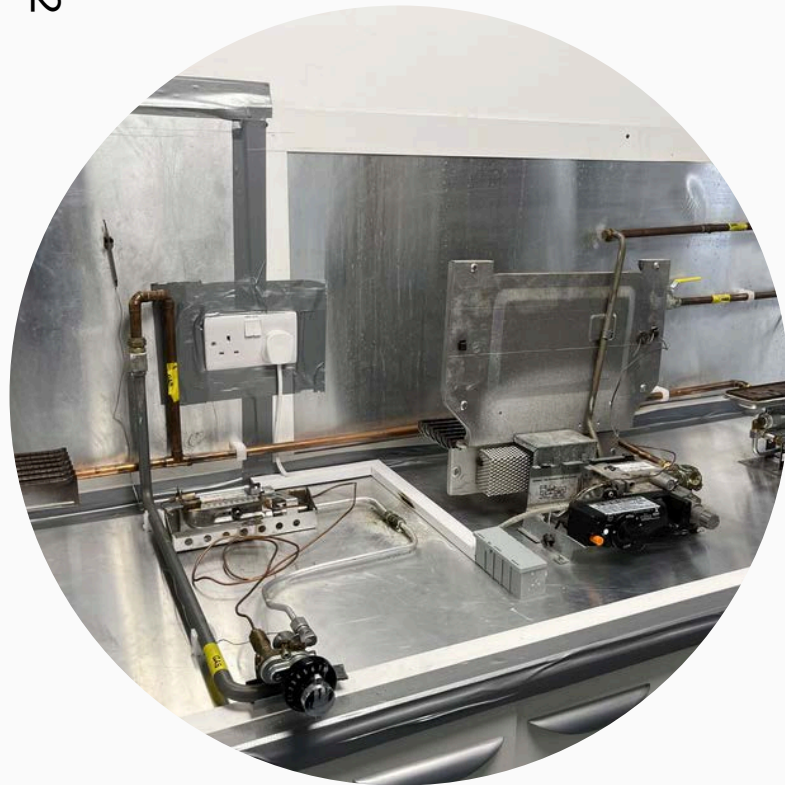
# Energy Academy Slide

**HDC celebrated the opening of the East Anglia Energy Academy in St Ives, which will bring forward new jobs, skills and investment into the district**

**The Academy is a joint venture between Reed Environment and Oxford Energy Academies**

**HDC's 'Invest in Huntingdonshire' team have used their influence whilst working with Reed Environment over the last 6 months to identify a suitable site for this academy to help assess and retrofit social housing stock**

**The academy will support 150 apprentices and 400 adult learners by September 2025**





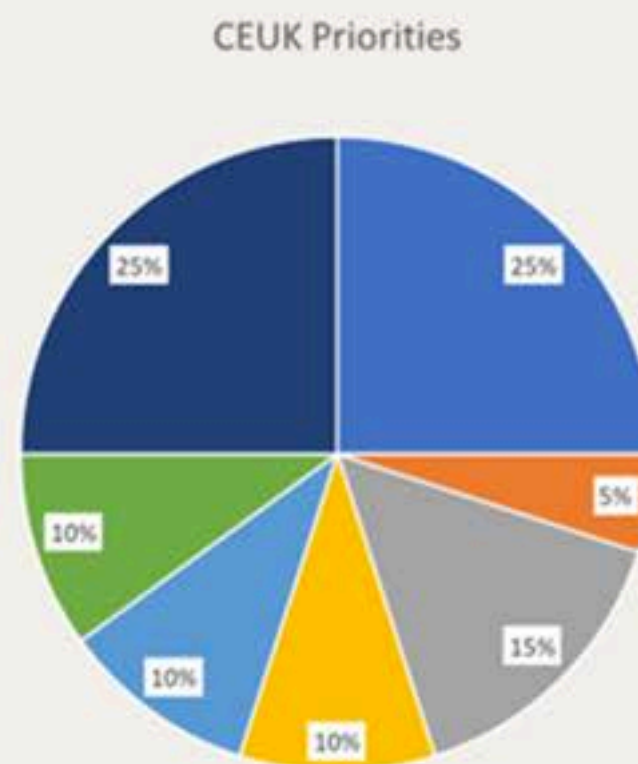
# Climate Emergency UK – Council Climate Scorecards GAP Analysis

**Benchmarking.  
Learning.  
Identifying gaps.**

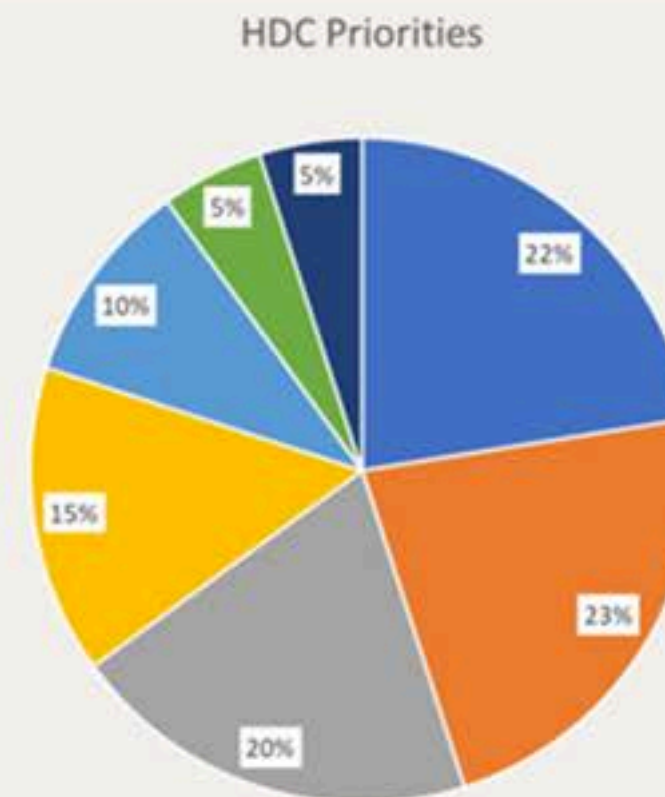
Undertaking the GAP analysis based upon our Climate Emergency UK council scorecards score, has identified –

- Possible areas for improvement
- Suggested new actions for forthcoming years
- Help to improve our score and also enhance the Climate Action Plan.

Suggested actions to bridge the gaps are currently being discussed and agreed with relevant services and will be put forward as suggestions in the Annual Climate Review.



- Buildings and Heating
- Governance and Finance
- Collaboration & Engagement
- Planning and Land Use
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Waste Reduction and Food



- Buildings and Heating
- Procurement/Governance & Finance
- Collaboration and engagement
- Planning and Land use
- Fleet/Transport
- Biodiversity
- Waste Reduction & Food

**A FURTHER BENCHMARKING TASK USING CIPFA NEAREST NEIGHBOURS WILL ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THIS WORK, TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT OUR SCORE COMPARATIVELY**





# Climate Scorecard Slide



- HDC scored 27%, which is just below UK average of 29%
- **96th out of 164 districts.**
- In 2021 we scored **zero** along with 42 other Councils - this shows how far we have come in a short space of time and our continued focus on positive climate impact and reducing emissions.
- We want to keep this momentum of progress going by focussing on the areas that we scored lower in and will be undertaking a GAP analysis based on this in the new year.



- This scoring was based upon only publicly available information up until March 2023, we have since made many further steps of progress which will be accounted for in the next scorecards
- We can use this score to inform the annual revision of the climate action plan and look at areas that need more focus on.
- Checking correct actions are prioritised alongside resident priorities which we will gather from our responses from our Climate Conversation survey and feedback and the Gap Analysis in the new year.

Questions	Huntingdonshire District Council	Councils with full marks per question
Buildings & Heating	41%	▼
Transport	8%	▼
Planning & Land Use	17%	▼
Governance & Finance	11%	▼
Biodiversity	25%	▼
Collaboration & Engagement	35%	▼
Waste Reduction & Food	36%	▼
<b>Total score</b>	<b>27%</b>	

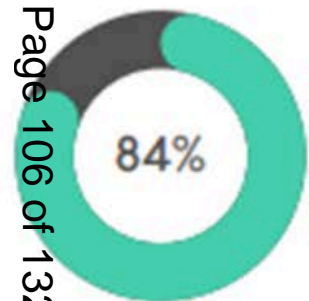


# Staff Travel Survey

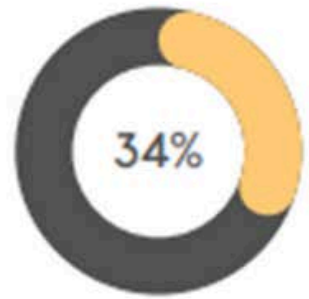
In February 2024, we asked staff to fill out a travel form to help us understand how we travel to work and also how we travel within working hours. The results will help us to see where there is room for positive changes and how we can help to encourage more sustainable and active travel amongst staff.

## OUT OF 133 RESPONDENTS: THE MAJORITIES

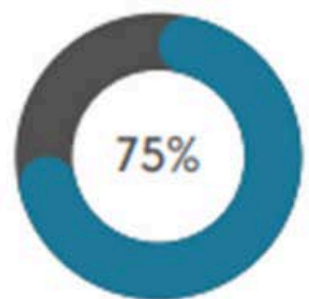
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**84% OF RESPONDENTS WORK FULL-TIME.**



**34% OF RESPONDENTS TRAVEL TO WORK 2 DAYS PER WEEK, FOLLOWED BY 28% TRAVEL 1 DAY OR LESS (AD HOC BASIS) PER WEEK AND 17% TRAVEL 5 DAYS PER WEEK.**

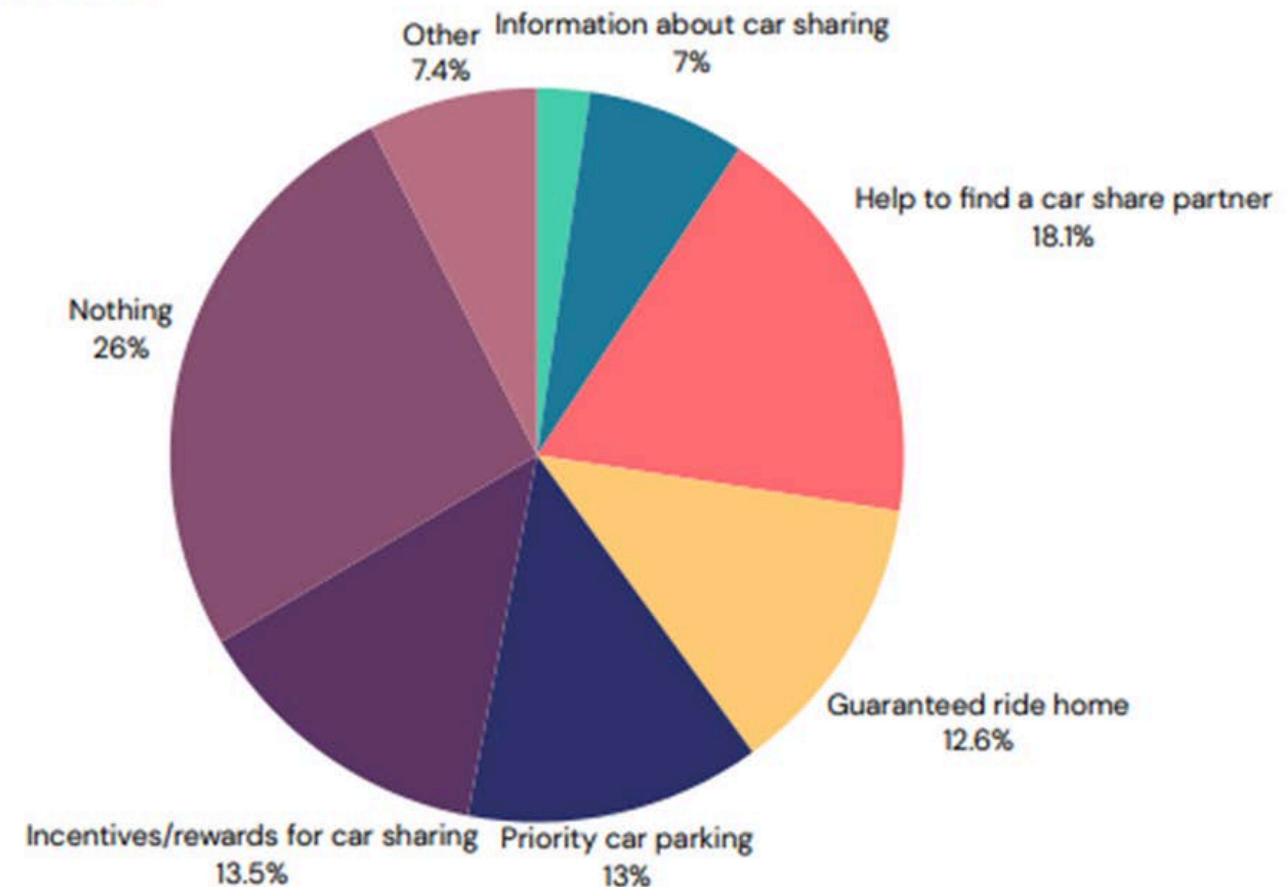


**75% OF RESPONDENTS TRAVEL TO WORK BY CAR.**

## CAR SHARING

Although 26% of respondents said that 'nothing' would encourage them to car share, there was a positive response towards providing respondents with the tools and rewards of finding a car share partner.

### Q. WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO CAR SHARE TO WORK?



# EV CHARGING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND (REPF)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS)  
6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

## EV CHARGING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

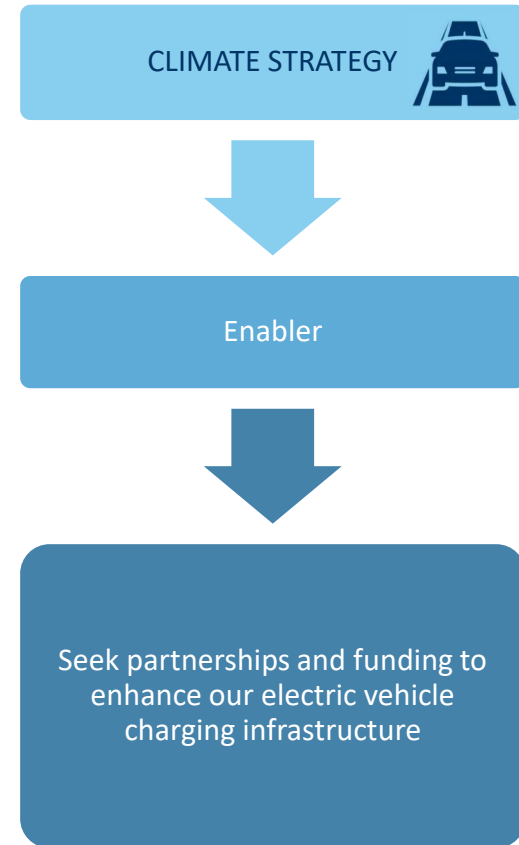
In recent years there has been a **significant growth** in the number of **Electric Vehicles** seen on the roads in the UK with **over 3,500** now registered **in our District**. This is anticipated to further increase in line with restrictions on the sale and manufacture of vehicles.

The Council's **Climate Action Plan** approved February 2023 set out an action to 'Develop an EV Strategy for Huntingdonshire'.

During 2023/24, the Council's Climate Working Group in collaboration with officers developed a Public EV Charging strategy to identify and provide clarity on the Council's role in public EV charging.

In **March 2024**, the Council adopted the **Public EV Charging strategy**.

The Strategy set out what the Council will **Do**, which includes utilising **external funding** to support **rural off-street provision** in proximity to local amenities.





# GRANT FUNDING

## BACKGROUND

The CPCA bid for and has been **successfully** approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”) for funding from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**.

This allocation is to help the local authorities within the area to support the UK government’s wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives.

## FUNDING AWARD

Awarded for:

- Capacity building & Infrastructure

Requirement:

- A **minimum** installation of **6 new charging** points in rural locations

Grant:

- £250,000

When:

- Before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### SCOPE

The project will deliver Rural Community Infrastructure supporting Electric Vehicle Charging with through a minimum of 6 new charging points.

The REPF have specified that project should:

- Undertake the installation of a minimum of 6<sup>\*1</sup> charge points
- Provide an increased number (2<sup>\*2</sup>) of charging locations for community use
- Support the use of community facilities

The REPF Prospectus identifies Rural areas as:

- Towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 people, and;
- Wider countryside market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve the surrounding rural areas as centre of employment and in providing services.



<sup>\*1</sup> a greater number of charge points may be installed where possible within funding

<sup>\*2</sup> the number of charge points may be delivered over a greater number of sites

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## APPROACH

A **phased delivery approach** will be adopted for this project. This will incorporate delivery tranches:

- Tranche 1: We will **continue working with Parish Councils** that were **part of the EV Strategy development** to undertake further assessment of sites:
  - Sawtry
  - Holywell-Cum-Needingworth
  - Grafham
  - Yaxley
  - Fenstanton

Working with **remaining budget**, we will progress works into tranches 2 & 3:

- Tranche 2: Review of **HDC car park sites in rural locations** against site identification and feasibility flow.
- Tranche 3: **identification alternate sites** in line with the site identification flow.

The **benefits** to this phased approach include:

- Enabling **ongoing review** of costings to determine remaining budget
- Ability to **review** the grant deliverables against **remaining delivery time**
- Supporting our aim to **fully utilise available budget** to maximise deliverables
- An opportunity to **review** the current tranche and benefit from any **lessons learned**

## SITE IDENTIFICATION

Identification of areas within a 'higher population rural area' without publicly accessible EV Charging facilities.



Review of the areas against a list of 'assets of community value' with linked off-street parking where EV will:

- Support residents in the area with no off-street residential parking (overnight)
- Not monopolise the parking facility of the site with EV use.



Confirm ownership of site. This should be a Parish Council owned/linked sited to enable simplification of agreements for use of land.



## OUR STRATEGY

### ROLE & OBJECTIVES

The Council's Public EV Charging Strategy set out what the Council will Do; this includes:

- Utilising external funding to support rural off-street provision in proximity to local amenities.
- Supporting a Parish who lack the General Powers of Competence (GPC) required to operate a charge point by acting as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party operator

### STRATEGY SPECIFICATION

In line with our strategy, we will follow our principle for charge point type and operation by:

- Aiming to achieve a minimum standard of 7kW charging (subject to site constraints)
- We will consider the average dwell time of a site to further inform an appropriate speed of charging
- Creating charging bays with EV parking bay markings to ensure the use of the bay is apparent to all users



**PUBLIC  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
CHARGING**

Our Role: A  
Strategy for  
Huntingdonshire  
District Council

April 2024

## OUR CORPORATE PLAN

### CORPORATE PLAN

The Council's Corporate Plan Priority 2 Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations sets out our ambition for Lowering Carbon Emissions

*We will take positive action to reduce carbon emissions and become a net zero carbon Council by 2040. We will enable and encourage local people and businesses to reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity across Huntingdonshire.*

### CORPORATE PLAN ACTIONS

Action 47 of our Corporate Plan sets out that we will Enable through Delivery of Phase 1 of Rural Electric Vehicle Charging as set out in our EV Strategy



## DELIVERY

### STRATEGY APPLICATION

To work within the funding time scales, we will **apply our strategy** by:

- Focusing on **maximising use** of available funding
- Undertaking installation of **tranche 1** sites within the **existing supply** unless we are confident it will not impact the overall delivery of the project
- Supporting **Parish Councils without GPC** through an appropriate agreements enabling **us to operate** the charge points
- Progressing sites where **non-complex** arrangements can be made relating to the **land ownership**

### OPERATIONAL SCENARIOS

Impacted by the **General Powers of Competence**, the expected scenarios for installation and operation are:

- We will work with a charge point supplier and the Parish Council. We will fund the equipment and the installation process. **Holding GPC**, the Parish may own and operate the charge point.
- We will work with a charge point supplier and the Parish Council. **Without the Parish GPC** in place, an agreement will be in place before works commence granting the Council the right to use the land to operate a charge point which will retain ownership of.





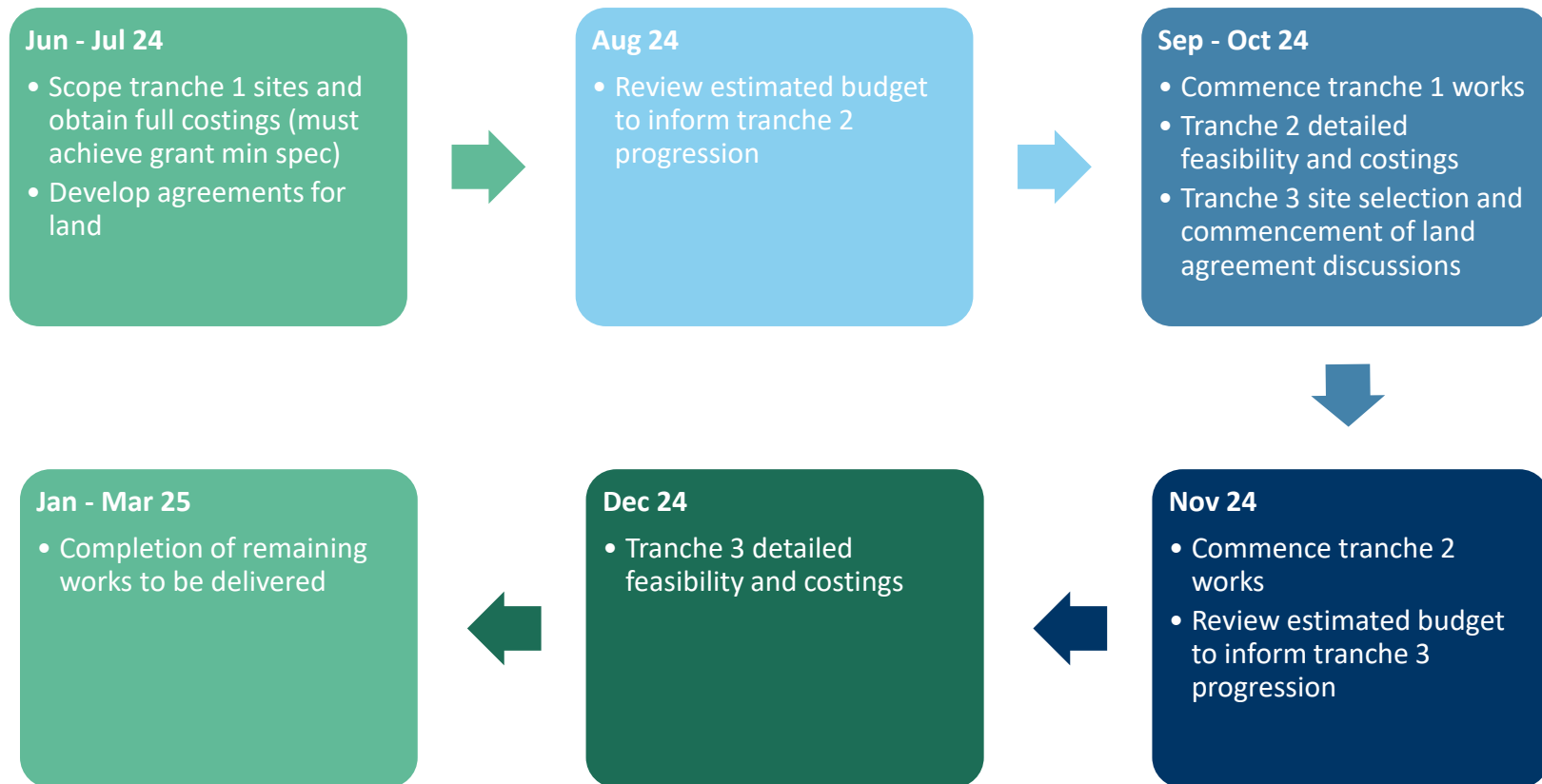
## RISK OVERVIEW

A risk log for the project is being maintained. The below is an extract noting the key risk areas. This will be managed in line with the Councils project management process.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation	Status
Ability to meet the grant delivery timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reputation of the Council to deliver projects.</li> <li>• Ability to draw down funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-site-specific grant enables ability to select /adjust sites based on ease of installation (district wide scope).</li> </ul>	Green
Insufficient funding to deliver minimum grant specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reputation of the Council to deliver projects.</li> <li>• Ability to draw down funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated costs to meet grant scope within the grant allocation based on previous works undertaken.</li> <li>• Communication pathway with UKSPF/REPF Programme to consider rescopeing options.</li> <li>• No undertaking of installation works until costed plan to meet grant scope in place.</li> </ul>	Green
Ability to appoint a suitable supplier to deliver within timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet the grant delivery timescales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple supplier options within the marketplace available</li> <li>• Procurement route exploration underway.</li> <li>• Grant does not have a power spec so able to work within existing site supply.</li> </ul>	Green

## DELIVERY

The project has outlined a pathway that will support **delivery of the grant scope** within the **allocated timeframe**. This approach allows continual review of progress against the requirements to assess remaining time and budget whilst overcoming complex sites.



THANK YOU

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# HOME ENERGY UPDATE

Presented by Amber Beardshall -  
Home Energy Reduction Officer  
6th June 2024

# Contents

- Recent Home Energy Highlights
- HUG2 Update
- HUG2 FY1 & progress into FY2

# Funding



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Initial HUG2 funding £11.9M



## ACTION ON ENERGY

The CERP (Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership) delivery vehicle. CERP members operate an inter-authority agreement to enable us to work together to bid for funding and deliver schemes throughout Cambridgeshire.



## OUR CORPORATE PLAN

### Improving housing

**Do, Enable and Encourage** - Facilitating access to schemes

### Forward thinking economic growth

**Enable** - guidance on retrofit, not just for homes but for businesses.

### Lowering CO2 emissions

**Do, Enable and Encourage** - by offering guidance and leading by example



## HOME ENERGY

# 'IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE'

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - CORPORATE PLAN 2023 -2028

## Local person A

Those that can help themselves - **Self Funded**  
They may need a guide, a document that outlines what retrofit is and how the measures will help them save money.

## Local person B

Those who need some reassurance and access to schemes -Able to access funding, asking "Is this scheme legitimate?"

## Local person C

Our **most vulnerable residents** - Who may need more hands on assistance, from filling in forms to communicating with contractors. Residents we may need to "locate"



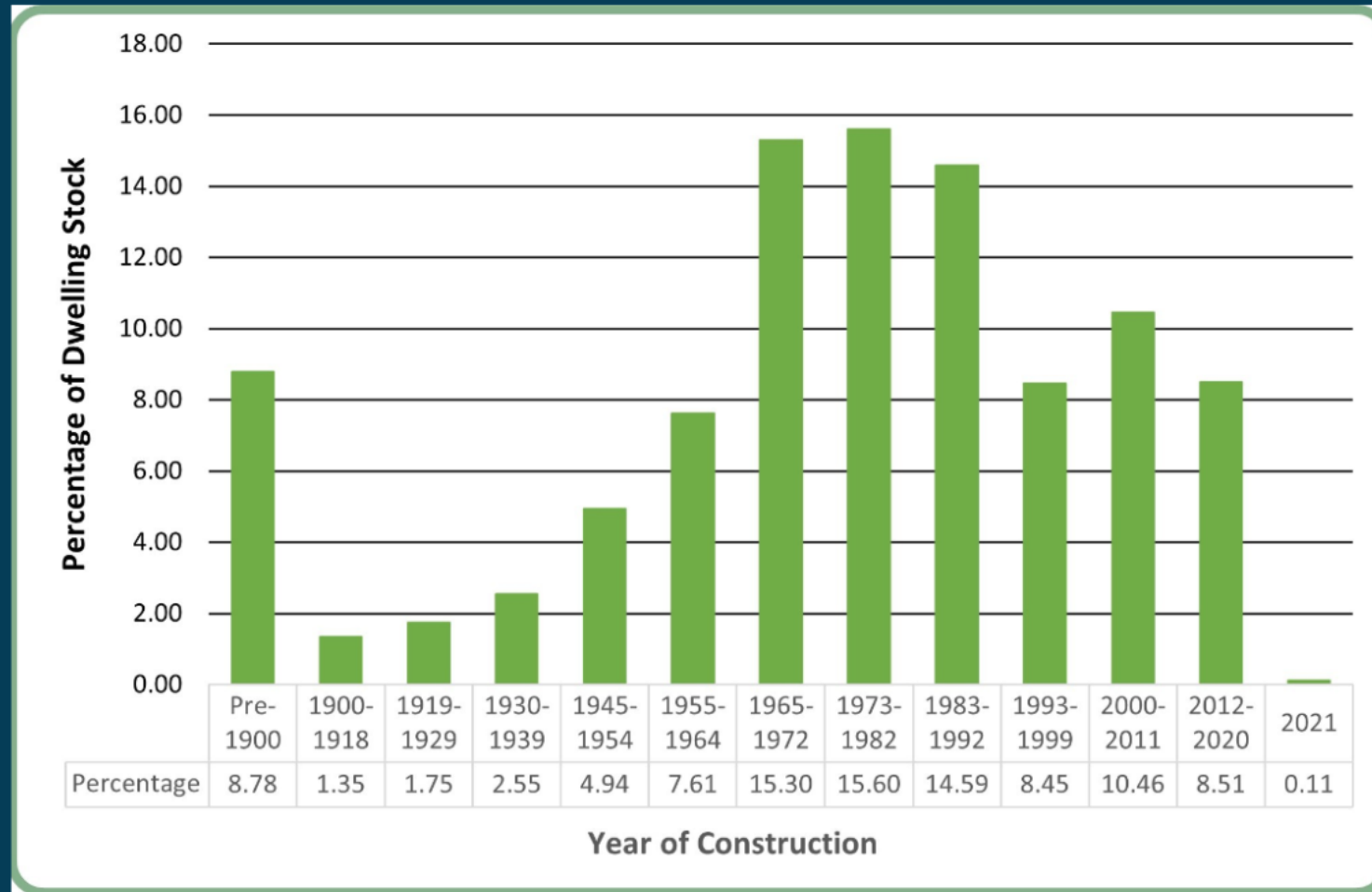


The most recent data available and shows that within Huntingdonshire fuel poverty affects **10.95% of households overall**. With the increase in fuel prices since 2022 and uncertainty over future prices and supply, it is anticipated that a greater proportion of households will now be in fuel poverty.

**The highest levels of fuel poverty in Huntingdonshire at 21% and 22% are experienced in the following areas:**

- **Thongsley**
- **Norfolk Road/Nene Road areas of the Oxmoor estate in Huntingdon**
- **Great Raveley**
- **Woodwalton**

Homes built since 2000 typically included insulation in the cavity walls, double glazed windows, and deeper roof insulation.; however this accounts for only 19% of the district's homes and the **vast majority will still need some level of retrofitting of energy efficiency measures for us to meet our NET ZERO ambitions.**



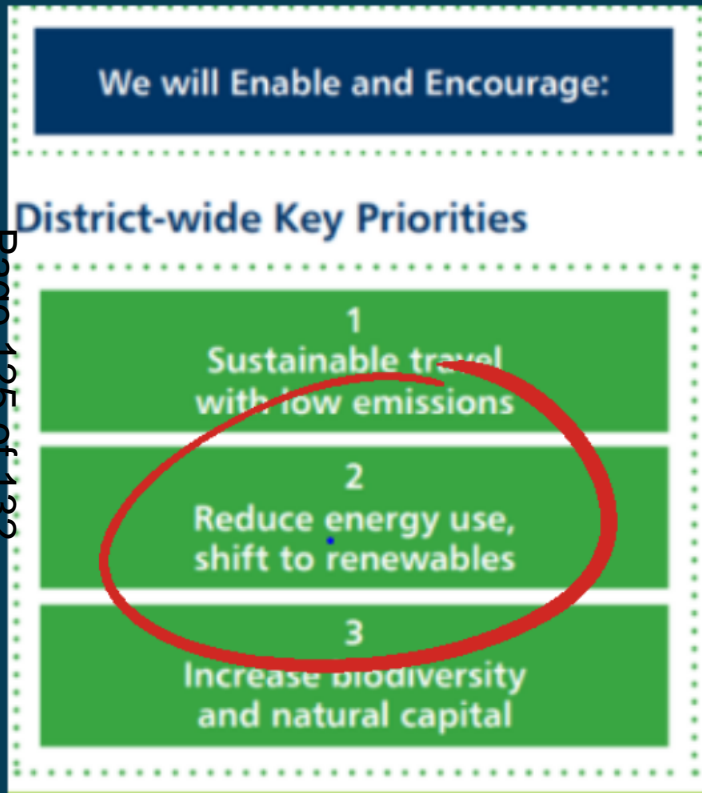
# Our Climate Strategy

Retrofitting has enormous potential and could play a central role in helping us achieve net zero.

With so much demand on the built environment to develop more infrastructure and yet equal pressure to address its impact on the climate emergency,

Our ageing housing stock could (and should) be seen as an opportunity, not a thorn in our side.

Retrofitting provides a more sustainable alternative to redevelopment, taking into account “Embodied Carbon” both in the short and long-term. And with our net zero carbon targets fast approaching, it’s an option we should all be considering.



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**RESIDENTIAL HOMES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST 20% OF ALL CARBON EMISSIONS.**

# Highlights January 24 - April 24

## JANUARY

- **Home Energy Coffee Morning Event** - dates secured. A collaboration with PECT, CAB and Huntingdon Library.
- Work commenced on **The Retrofit Guide** - a simple guide for our residents to turn to when they enquire about retrofit.

## FEBRUARY

- Local Area Energy Plan - Brief note incl contributions agreed (£10k hdc)
- **LAEP Report** for Informal Cabinet produced.

## MARCH

- First ECO4 FLEX Declarations made to OFGEM
- Our first **Home Energy Coffee Morning** at Huntingdon Library, supported by CAB and PECT. We met with over 30 residents to discuss their home energy concerns and we were able to sign post where necessary.

## APRIL

- **First site visit to see residents completed install - ASHP and SPV**
- Marketing for off-gas villages to include new case study
- Pidley Eco Fair booked for June.
- **HUG2 income cap lifted by DESNZ**, new comms to reflect this generated + website updated.
- FY1 figures finalised - **DESNZ delivery target exceeded** for the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership.



# Highlights Summary

*Our Retrofit Guide - For the Climate HUB!*

I am working with REED ENVIRONMENT to support a Local Assessors Journey to becoming "TrustMark" Registered, as of this moment, our guide cannot be completed due to lack of local assessors - unable to sign post residents.

*Our Home Energy Coffee Morning!*



**TRUSTMARK**  
Government Endorsed Quality

SCAM ME

The most important thing about the plan is that it does not have to all be done at once, but it identifies the work that needs to be done.

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Getting Started With RetroFit

Huntingdonshire 2024/25



## HOME UPGRADE GRANT (HUG)

A government funded Retrofit scheme, making a difference locally!

**WHAT IS HUG AND ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

Are you an owner-occupier or private renter living in an off-gas grid, low energy efficiency home (EPC D or below)?

If you are, you may be eligible to benefit from a government-backed home retrofit scheme designed to improve the warmth of your home and possibly even cut your energy bills.

Local residents have already benefitted from the Home Upgrade Grant and are now living in cosy homes with reduced bills.

Check your eligibility by visiting [www.actiononenergy.com/uk](http://www.actiononenergy.com/uk) or scan the QR code below.

If you have any questions about HUG or require home energy support, please email [homeenergy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:homeenergy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

**Local Installations**

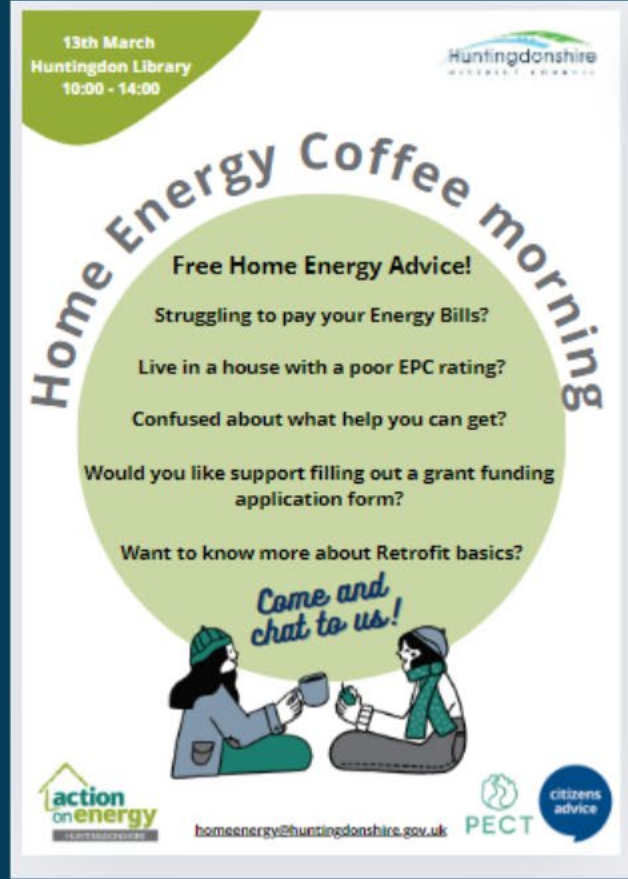
Below is an installation recently completed in Fildley

Challenges	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expensive, inefficient electric heaters.</li><li>Coal fire as main heat source, resulting in dangerous trips to the coal store in the garden on icy winter mornings.</li><li>One-level property, draughty and expensive to heat.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New radiators in every room</li><li>ASHP which provides steady consistent warmth throughout.</li><li>Solar Power panels installed, with simple to use app, allowing resident to see her usage and savings.</li></ul>

"I was so happy to return home from Hospital to a warm home, it wasn't a fast process but it was truly worth it, it has made such a big difference to my life and I love the Solar App, which shows me how much money I am saving."

"Hopefully more people will check to see if they can benefit too!"

Scan to check eligibility



13th March  
Huntingdon Library  
10:00 - 14:00

## Home Energy Coffee morning

**Free Home Energy Advice!**

- Struggling to pay your Energy Bills?
- Live in a house with a poor EPC rating?
- Confused about what help you can get?
- Would you like support filling out a grant funding application form?
- Want to know more about Retrofit basics?

*Come and chat to us!*

action on energy

homeenergy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

PECT

citizens advice

*Completed Resident Install*

# HUG2 FY1 Review

Total properties within Cambridgeshire - 89

Total properties within our district - 7

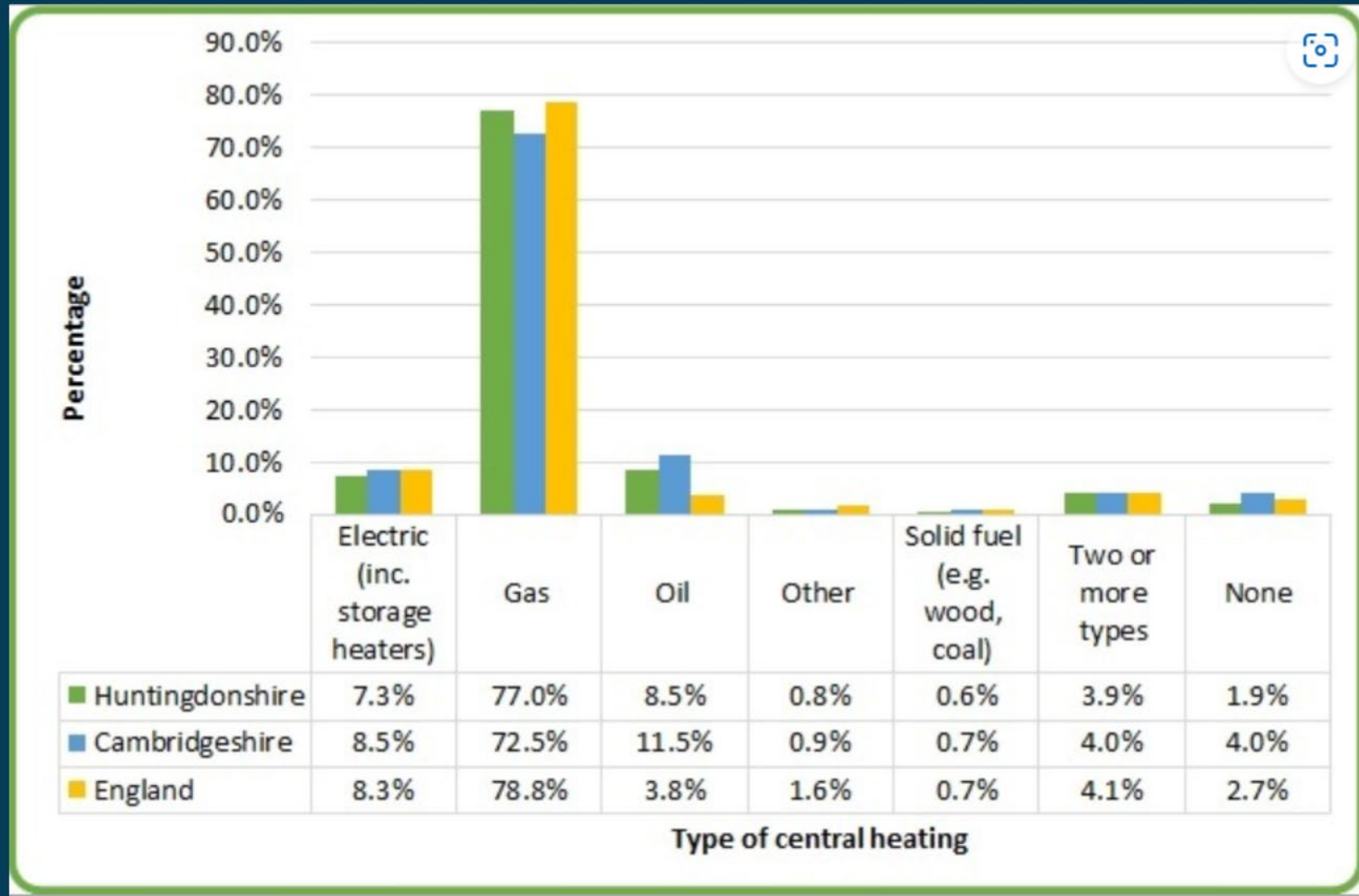
Total number of measures installed within Cambridgeshire -243

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## The National Picture

The HUG2 programme had installed 782 measures across 243 households throughout the UK according to the latest ADEPT report.

# TYPES OF CENTRAL HEATING ACROSS HUNTINGDONSHIRE (ONS 2011 CENSUS)





# HUG2 progress into FY2

- Increased household income threshold from **£34k to £36k**. All applications previously rejected due to income exceeding the previous limit will be reassessed under the new threshold. Eligible households will be contacted to progress their applications.
- Simplified the per home cost cap structure
- High Retention Storage heaters to be listed as a grade B measure for electric heated flats.

<b>New Projected forecast of total number of homes to be upgraded</b>	355
<b>New estimated Capital cost of project</b>	£6,390,000
<b>New estimated Admin and Ancillary cost of project</b>	£958,500
<b>New estimated total cost of project</b>	£7,348,500



# Future Energy Schemes

## *The Local Authority Retrofit Accelerator Scheme*

As part of CERP, we have supported the bid to participate in the LARA, a pilot project which will aim to set up local delivery groups, which will aim to turn the plan into substantive action, working with local supply chains, businesses, colleges and installers. For more information about this pilot, please visit [www.mcsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mcsfoundation.org.uk)

## *Local Authority Retrofit Scheme*

The LARS - £500 million is being made available for local authorities across England as part of a new local authority retrofit scheme. This funding is expected to be delivered from **2025-2028**. Whilst the scope of the new local authority retrofit scheme is subject to final policy design and cross-government agreement. We will release the eligibility criteria in due course, but we expect the scheme to focus on private, low-income households living in EPC D-G homes in England, **both on and off the gas grid**.

**Find out more about HUG2 and ECO4 Flex schemes, visit our new Climate Hub!**

SCAN ME



Or visit [www.letstalkhuntingdonshire.net](http://www.letstalkhuntingdonshire.net)

