

Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel
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Environmental Strategy & Delivery Plan

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Portfolio: Environmental Excellence

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of the Report:

The purpose of this report is for the Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel to outline changes to the Environmental Strategy and recommend to Cabinet the approval and adoption of an updated Environmental Strategy and associated Delivery Plan.

Recommendations:

To recommend to cabinet:

1. Approve and adopt an updated Environmental Strategy (Appendix 1)
2. Approve and adopt the Delivery Plan (Appendix 2)

1. Summary

- 1.1 The current Environmental Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 2020.
- 1.2 A revised strategy has been drafted, to demonstrate our achievements to date and to set more ambitious targets.
- 1.3 The revised strategy includes two new key commitments; 2030 Net-Zero target for organisational emissions and a commitment to align to the government's 2050 target for wider district decarbonisation.
- 1.4 A delivery plan has been created as a companion document to outline the activities taking place over the next two years support these commitments.
- 1.5 The Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan will continue to be living documents, updated regularly to ensure they continue to address local priorities and opportunities. Progress against activities will be presented to members as part of the existing performance management structure.

2. Background

- 1.6 The existing Environmental Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 2020.
- 1.7 To complete a baselining activity and coordinate progress against the Strategy, an Environmental Coordinator and Environmental Projects Assistant were appointed.
- 1.8 The Environmental Reserve was set up in 2021 to fund environmental projects.
- 1.9 Members of this panel were invited for their input into the production of a revised Strategy as informal session in May 2022. Recommendations from this meeting, along with those received from other stakeholders have been integrated into the final documents.
- 1.10 The revised Strategy and Delivery Plan are underpinned by a series of evidenced based plans including annual carbon footprints and a decarbonisation plan, which will be published online alongside the strategic documents.

3. Current position

- 1.11 The strategy has been redrafted and restructured to a more streamlined document and recognise the achievements to date. The addition of a delivery plan as a companion document simplifies the process of tracking progress against objectives.
- 1.12 The structure of the strategy has been revised as follows:

- 1.12.1 Leading by example: focuses on actions that will reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
 - 1.12.2 Enabling & Encouraging: focuses on actions to reduce emissions in the district.
 - 1.12.3 The remaining sections cover warm homes, sustainable communities, biodiversity and greenspace, clean and safe environment and waste minimisation.
- 1.13 The updated Delivery Plan will be the published document to communicate the aims and outcomes with Broadland's residents.
- 1.14 Once the content has been finalised, the documents will be reformatted by the communications team before the Delivery Plan is published online.

4. Proposed action

- 1.15 This report proposes that Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel recommend to Cabinet to approve the adoption of the revised Environmental Strategy and the use of the Delivery Plan as an external facing document to outline the Council's commitment to protecting and improving the local environment.

5. Other options

- 1.16 Members could choose not to adopt the new version of the Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan, but this misses an opportunity to move to a more streamlined strategy with a delivery plan, and to reference the achievements to date.

6. Issues and risks

- 1.17 **Resource Implications** – The updated Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan within existing resources. Resource implications will be considered as individual work streams are developed and will be brought to Members as required.
- 1.18 **Legal Implications** – N/A based on current recommendations
- 1.19 **Equality Implications** – N/A based on current recommendations
- 1.20 **Environmental Impact** – The purpose of the Environmental Strategy and Delivery plan will allow the council to have a greater positive effect on the environment.
- 1.21 **Crime and Disorder** – N/A based on current recommendations
- 1.22 **Reputational Risk** – The updated Environmental Strategy includes an organisational and district net zero target; failure to adopt these commitments is likely to expose the Council to negative public perception.

7. Conclusion

- 1.23 The updated Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan demonstrate the Council's commitment to the environment, confirming the aspiration to meeting net zero as an organisation by 2030, and committing to an area-based target of net zero by 2050.
- 1.24 The updated documents are more streamlined, the delivery plan is a clear and concise plan and the document allows the Council to demonstrate the success of achievements so far.

8. Recommendations

- 1.25 To recommend to cabinet:
1. Approve and adopt an updated Environmental Strategy (Appendix 1)
 2. Approve and adopt the Delivery Plan (Appendix 2)

Background papers

[broadland-council-environmental-strategy-document \(southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk\)](https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/broadland-council-environmental-strategy-document)