



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	EXECUTIVE BOARD
<b>DATE:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CARBON FOOTPRINT 2021
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR 2021
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	NO
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MARSH, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, LEISURE AND CULTURE AND CARBON REDUCTION
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	HEATHER PRESCOTT
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	N/A
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	NO

## **SUMMARY**

East Lindsey District Council has agreed an ambitious target to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040, with a minimum reduction of 45% by 2027, in line with the Carbon Reduction Plan and the Strategic Aim of the Corporate Strategy. This report and accompanying analysis seek to provide our annual update on our progress towards these targets.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Executive Board note the findings of the Carbon Footprint for 2021 in line with the Partnership's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040.

Executive Board approve the addition of upstream scope 3 emissions to the baseline year and subsequent footprint reports in line with Carbon Trust recommendations as required to meet a net zero target.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To ensure that members are kept abreast of progress towards our net zero targets and provide an understanding of the factors which have impacted this progress. To bring ELDC in line with

developments in footprint reporting which will also ensure consistency in approach across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None - local authorities have a legal obligation to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. The Council has also made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum emissions reduction of 45% by 2027.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

**1.1** Climate Change is one of our greatest current challenges and local authorities have a crucial role to play in driving forward change and leading by example, to do what they can to effectively tackle this challenge and achieve a more sustainable future. As part of East Lindsey District Council's commitment to reducing their carbon emissions, our annual Carbon Footprint has been recorded to enable monitoring of these emissions and guide us as we work towards our net zero ambition.

## **2. UPDATE TO CARBON FOOTPRINT**

**2.1** In 2021, East Lindsey District Council's total emissions decreased by 26.3% compared to the baseline year (2019), however they increased compared to the previous year by 8.3%, going from 1,756.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 1,902.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**2.2** In the 2020 Carbon Footprint significant reductions were made to our emissions totalling 32%, however some of these resulted from impacts of the COVID pandemic, such as reduced occupancy of buildings and agile working. Whilst we hoped to maintain these gains as far as possible, re-opening of facilities and offices, alongside partial returns to the office, have resulted in an increase in electricity, gas, waste and commuting emissions this year.

**2.3** In 2021, electricity emissions of 243.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e were recorded and represent a 14.1% increase from the previous year. However, it is worth noting that 4% of this increase is due to the inclusion of new sites in the 2021 Carbon Footprint. Namely, the new Vehicle Maintenance Unit at Louth and the Princess Parade Depot at Skegness, which was brought back into our portfolio in 2021 due to a previously unidentified historic clerical error. The Vehicle Maintenance Unit recorded emissions of 4.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e resulting from electricity consumption and emissions of 16.94 tCO<sub>2</sub>e resulting from gas consumption, totalling 21.2tCO<sub>2</sub>e, and the Princess Parade Depot recorded electricity emissions of 4.76 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**2.4** Gas emissions of 261.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e were recorded and represent a 46.7% increase from the previous year. This has largely been caused by emissions from Tedder Hall and Skegness Town Hall (which will show reductions and ultimately removal from the Carbon Footprint for 2022 and 2023) alongside the inclusion of the Vehicle Maintenance Unit which accounts for 9.4% of this increase.

- 2.5** Emissions arising from waste were recorded as 12.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, which is a 29.9% increase from the previous year. However, this category makes up just 0.66 % of the total Carbon Footprint.
- 2.6** Emissions from Commuter travel were recorded as 42.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which represents a 38.6% increase from the previous year, indicative of increased office attendance. However, it should be noted that emissions from this category are still a fraction of the quantity recorded in 2019, having been reduced by 93% in the previous year. Assumptions have been made around commuting travel based on Tedder Hall access data. The behavioural shift towards online meetings has led to a further 5% decrease in emissions from Business Travel which was recorded as 68.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is a positive indicator that a long term change to working behaviours has been achieved and should continue to be encouraged and supported through communications and training opportunities.
- 2.7** Our operational Fleet recorded emissions of 1,273.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which represents a very small increase of 1.7%. A significant piece of work has been undertaken by the Climate Change and Environment Team in Partnership with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) over the last 12 months to complete a comprehensive fleet review and report which recommends a transition to low-carbon vehicles, alongside other measures such as improved telematics and driver training. A Project Team is currently being formed with a view to taking forward the recommendations set out in the EST report, in the short, medium and longer term. It is however, important to note that large scale transitions such as the decarbonisation of fleet can take numerous years to complete, and whilst such changes will make a large impact on our Carbon Footprint this will take time.
- 2.8** Over the last 18 months, the Council's Climate Change and Environment Team have also worked closely with the Carbon Trust to produce a similar Carbon Footprint for Boston Borough Council (BBC). This work has demonstrated new developments in Carbon Footprinting methodology and best practice, which requires several new additional categories being considered that were not previously included in ELDC's Carbon Footprint. A new category that records emissions from water consumption has therefore been recorded separately from the main dataset in 2021, and one of the recommendations in this report seeks to include this data in the baseline year, and future footprints, to bring the two Councils in line. Water emissions totalling 8.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e were recorded for 2021.
- 2.9** With methodology for Carbon Footprinting continuously evolving, the Carbon Trust has advised the Council should also seek to include upstream scope 3 emissions in the 2021 Carbon Footprint, which have not been considered thus far. These are emissions that arise from the production, refining, and transport, of the considered activities, giving a truer picture of their impact. The inclusion of upstream scope 3 emissions would again bring ELDC's footprint in line with current methodology. Upstream Scope 3 emissions must be measured as part of our Carbon Footprint if we are to truly achieve net zero. The upstream scope 3 emissions in 2021 totalled 445.2 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 2.10** The Climate Change and Environment Team have identified LED lighting upgrades at Louth Street Scene Depot as a decarbonisation project which was estimated to achieve an emissions reduction of 1.09tCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr. Unfortunately, works did not progress as anticipated in 2021 due to resourcing pressures on the Property Services team, however these

upgrades are due to be completed before the end of the current financial year, and they will therefore begin to have an impact on the Carbon Footprint for 2023.

- 2.11** Alongside the work directly impacting on the Carbon Footprint itself, the Climate Change and Environment Team has been working on the wider policy framework to support delivery of the Council's net zero ambitions. A Climate Change Strategy has been developed and adopted across the Partnership to set out our collective commitment to tackling Climate Change and provide an overarching framework to reduce emissions both within and outside of the Partnerships' direct control. It is recognised that partnership working with many stakeholders across the sub-region will be required to achieve these common goals and the South East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) has therefore been established as a key delivery mechanism for taking forward this strategy. SELCAN is comprised of members of the public, private and third sectors, and their remit is to drive strategic thinking and promote on the ground delivery and implementation of projects, to reduce emissions and build a more sustainable future across South and East Lincolnshire.
- 2.12** A Sustainable Products Policy has also recently been adopted across the partnership which highlights the damaging environmental impacts resulting from our consumption and disposal of single use products; and sets out the Partnership's commitment to discontinuing the procurement of these items as far as possible, sourcing the best alternative solutions where single use products cannot be eradicated completely. Improving our resource and waste management and seeking more sustainable options to reduce the waste we generate as an authority will ultimately provide environmental and health benefits resulting from reduced pollution levels, and whilst not all of the benefits of adopting this policy will be captured within the Carbon Footprint, it does seek to assist us with meeting our net zero targets and also to improve our accountability as a community leader.
- 2.13** Finally, a significant piece of work is due to be undertaken in the coming months to establish a Carbon Footprint for assets operated by Magna Vitae on behalf of the Council and to undertake an important decarbonisation study for our leisure facilities including fitness suites and the Embassy Theatre. This work will ensure that partnering organisations are not left behind in the journey to net zero and will identify works required to lower building emissions whilst also reducing the pressure of rising operating costs through energy price increases. Leased assets are currently not considered as part of the Council's footprint and this work is important as part of our net zero journey to ensure these Council-owned assets are not left behind.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1.** Whilst some increases in carbon emissions have been recorded in the Carbon Footprint for 2021, it is important to note that the overall trajectory is very positive and we are still on track to meet our net zero targets despite the challenges of a partial return to pre-pandemic working arrangements, with emissions reduced by 26% when compared to the baseline year.
- 3.2.** We have also undertaken work which seeks to align the Council's Carbon Footprint reporting with current methodologies and best practice and to that of BBC as far as

possible, to provide a more complete and accurate picture of our emissions, and progress towards our net zero targets. A Carbon Footprint exercise is scheduled to take place for South Holland District Council in 2023 which provides an opportunity to align carbon footprinting methodologies furthermore across the Partnership and maximise efficiencies from shared learning and joint working.

- 3.3.** We have additional planned projects in the pipeline to assist us in reducing our carbon emissions further in the coming years, and although some of these projects are longer term, they seek to target and address our most heavily emitting areas which will be crucial to successfully meeting our targets. We also look forward to the Council's relocation to the new Hub offices in Horncastle which are anticipated to bring further gains in terms of reduced energy consumption from 2023 onwards.
- 3.4.** Members should be aware that the Carbon Footprint is a very useful benchmarking tool but it isn't without limitations, and the Climate Change and Environment Team are looking to address all Council activities which have an environmental impact, as well as decarbonising our key operations. The Team cannot however deliver the vast array of carbon reduction and sustainability measures required to tackle these issues in isolation, and therefore a multi-departmental approach will be required if we are to meet our net zero by 2040 target and effectively tackle Climate Change across our region. The rollout of Carbon Literacy training to staff has started across the Partnership and will give all officers the opportunity to learn more about the challenges ahead and the impact and contributions towards tackling this that all service areas can make.

## **EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

Monitoring of our Carbon Footprint aims to assist us in meeting our net zero targets and the aspirations of our Environment Policy, whilst providing reputational benefits through our accountability as a community leader, setting a positive example for others to follow.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

Our ambition seeks to align our Carbon Footprinting methodology as far as possible across the partnership and undertake annual monitoring of reductions to our carbon emissions to enable mitigation and adaptation to climate change and delivery of environmental benefits across the sub region.

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Adapting to meet the challenge of a changing natural environment is a strategic aim of the Corporate Strategy.

### **STAFFING**

None.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Part of our commitment to reaching our net zero targets is to undertake an annual footprinting exercise. Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 and failure to do so could result in a legal challenge being made.

#### **DATA PROTECTION**

None.

#### **FINANCIAL**

A small Carbon Reduction reserve will assist with delivering some smaller projects with annual cost savings as a result going back into the fund for future schemes. External funding opportunities will be sought together with ensuring that future expenditure within existing Council budgets seeks to include carbon savings as part of the procurement and delivery.

Approximately £45,000 of the Carbon Reduction reserve has been used in 2022 to enable decarbonisation strategies to be produced for the Council's assets leased to Magna Vitae. Work is also taking place to support Magna Vitae with producing their own Carbon Footprint given that leased assets are currently excluded from the Council's methodology.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

None.

#### **STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Assistant Director Regulatory.

#### **REPUTATION**

Monitoring of our carbon emissions show our commitment to meeting both our net zero targets and environmental aims, enhancing our reputation as a community leader and setting a positive example for others to follow.

#### **CONTRACTS**

None.

#### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

None.

#### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

None

#### **HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

Reducing our carbon emissions also delivers positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities through impacts such as improved air quality.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Commitment to our agreed Carbon Reduction Target of achieving net zero by 2040 will be crucial alongside the work of all other authorities, businesses and individuals in the global battle to reduce our carbon emissions and limit climate change to temperature increases of well below 2% in line

with the Paris Agreement. Failure to do so would be catastrophic to the environment with extreme weather events expected to become more frequent and severe. Rising sea levels and huge losses to biodiversity could lead to water and food shortages amongst many other negative impacts on life as we know it. It is a global problem of which we can only make a small contribution, but we must seek to reduce our operational footprint as far as possible.

## LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

<b>MISSIONS</b>	
<b>This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.</b>	
<b>Health</b>	The monitoring of our Carbon Footprint and reducing our carbon emissions will deliver positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities through impacts such as improved air quality and reduced contamination of the food web, which thereby minimise health hazards across the district.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	The monitoring of our Carbon Footprint supports a more sustainable future for our operations which will lead to improved wellbeing for staff and ultimately residents.
<b>Local Leadership</b>	The monitoring of our Carbon Footprint highlights our commitment to meeting our net zero targets and environmental aims, enhancing our reputation as a community leader and setting a positive example for others to follow.

## ACRONYMS

None

<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	<i>Footprint Analysis Presentation</i>

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
<i>Corporate Strategy</i>	<a href="#"><i>Corporate Strategy 2020 to 2030 single pages.pdf (e-lindsey.gov.uk)</i></a>
<i>Carbon Reduction Plan</i>	<a href="#"><i>Carbon Reduction Action Plan Design v0.1 (e-lindsey.gov.uk)</i></a>

<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

**REPORT APPROVAL**

Report author:	Heather Prescott Climate Change & Environment Officer
Signed off by:	Christian Allen Assistant Director Regulatory
Approved for publication:	CLlr Graham Marsh