



Report to: Strategy Performance and Finance, Climate Change, Housing

Decision Date: 6 June 2024

Portfolio Holders: Cllr Paul Peacock, Cllr Keith Melton and Cllr Lee Brazier

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director of Communities and Environment

Lead Officer: Gregory Dowson, Environmental Policy and Projects Officer

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Non-key decision
Report Title	Proposal to re-visit the Council’s net zero target in line with the aspiration set out in the Community Plan
Purpose of Report	This report illustrates the cost and actions required to properly scope the feasibility of accelerating the decarbonisation target, our pledge to become Net Zero by 2035 and expanding it to include social housing. The recommendations listed below are provided to enable the successful application of the review.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The creation of a Working Party made up of Members and Officers, listed in section 3.1 be endorsed by Portfolio Holders. 2. That the timeline at section 4.0 is noted
Alternative Options Considered	The alternative is to not engage with the Carbon Trust and continue with our own gradual decarbonisation plan as it stands. This would be without the skills, expertise, benchmarking and granular detail The Carbon Trust can provide.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the work undertaken and delivered by The Carbon Trust is properly scrutinised, in line with the specific requirements of NSDC and the Community Action Plan.
Decision Taken	As per recommendations

1.0 Background

1.1 Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) worked with Carbon Trust in 2020 to establish a climate emergency action plan which included the development of an emissions baseline, a 2035 carbon neutrality target and a pipeline of carbon reduction interventions. The work also included an assessment of the emissions associated with

NSDC social housing stock, and a high-level review of the potential retrofit strategies/costs that would be required to achieve carbon neutrality of housing emissions under various pathways (e.g., 2030, 2035, 2040). The decision was taken not to include NSDC social housing stock in the initial target given the relative scale of emissions (>80% of total measured emissions) and associated costs and challenges involved. Since 2020, a number of carbon reduction measures have been progressed towards implementation such as Solar PV installations at NSDC corporate and leisure buildings and EV charging infrastructure. Additionally, NSDC portfolio of assets has changed, most significantly with the inclusion of leisure assets including Southwell Leisure Centre, Dukeries pool and new recycling services, all of which have been delivered in response to community demands, but they have served to further increase our carbon footprint.

- 1.2 NSDC continues to work towards carbon neutrality by installing and retrofitting green technology including Air Source Heat Pumps, Ground Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV. In addition to the completed works on the Newark Sports and Fitness Centre and Newark Beacon, NSDC have now completed the installation of Solar PV at Vicar Water and are now running the final testing and calibration. At The Dukeries and Sconce and Devon, preliminary work has started.
- 1.3 Although NSDC Housing Stock has not been included in the current calculations, NSDC has continued working towards carbon neutrality. To date it has delivered a range of works including insulation, 71 Air source heat pumps and 69 Solar PV systems at approx. £22K per property.
- 1.4 Presently there are approximately 5200 properties left to retrofit.
- 1.5 The carbon emissions from the Council owned housing stock were a total of 17,130 tCO₂e for 2018/19. This includes the emissions associated with gas and electricity consumption across 5467 properties, alongside emissions associated with 67 vehicles, previously owned by Newark and Sherwood Homes. 81% of emissions from N&SH activities are associated with gas consumption across the housing stock. Over 5000 of the properties are currently connected to the gas grid. As the Council seeks to reduce the emissions associated with the housing stock, it will be vital that sources of heat are electrified using technologies such as Ground/Air Source Heat Pumps, alongside other measures. The electrification of heat sources therefore plays a crucial role in the proposed decarbonisation strategy for housing.

2.0 Proposals:

When creating the original Climate Emergency Action Plan NSDC worked closely with the Carbon Trust, during which they demonstrated significant expertise that NSDC does not have. Because of this first engagement we have a good understanding of what they can deliver. In addition, because of the work they carried out before, they can offer a better value proposition as they are not starting from nothing. They are already familiar with our organisation and its asset base enabling an accelerated program of works.

- 2.1 We propose that a working party made up of the Elected Members listed at section 3.1 is endorsed by Portfolio Holders. The purpose and focus of this group is to help

guide the Carbon Trust and to ensure that some of the unique elements of a District Council are considered when creating their reports. e.g., District Councils do not have the legal authority to force decarbonisation technologies and/or interventions onto tenants.

2.2 That the timeline at section 4.0 is noted.

3.0 **Proposed working party/group details.**

The Carbon Trust has indicated that the time required to deliver this piece of work would take approximately 6 months. An update would be made at the mid-way point.

To effectively manage the flow of information to and from the Carbon Trust, two working parties are to be formed:

3.1

Members Working Party:	Role:
Cllr Paul Peacock	Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder-Strategy, Performance & Finance
Cllr Lee Brazier	Portfolio Holder - Housing
Cllr Keith Melton	Portfolio Holder - Climate Change
Cllr Mike Pringle	Chair of Policy - Performance and Improvement Committee
Cllr Rhona Holloway	Leader of the Conservative Group

3.2

Officers Working Group:	Role:
Matt Finch	Director of Communities & Environment
Carl Burns	Transformation & Service Improvement Manager
Caroline Wagstaff	Business Manager - Housing Maintenance & Asset Management
Matt Adey	Development Manager Environmental Services
Stephen Young	Building Surveyor - Corporate Property
Nick Wilson	Business Manager- Financial Services
Ryan Oliff	Waste & Recycling Manager - Environmental Services
Cara Clarkson	Business Manager - Regeneration and Housing Strategy
Matthew Norton	Business Manager - Planning Policy & Infrastructure
Gregory Dowson	Environmental Policy and Projects Officer

3.3 It is suggested that the Members and Officers groups meet at the outset of Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 and at the end of Phase 3. This equates to 4 meetings over the 6 month project duration. This will enable any questions to be raised and facilitate the flow of information for both parties.

4.0 Timeline

Phase	Activities	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
1	Project Kick Off						
	Mobilisation of data and info collection						
	Carbon Footprint assessment						
	Carbon Footprint Briefing						
2	NSDC Corporate portfolio emission reduction feasibility						
	N & S Homes portfolio emissions reduction feasibility						
3	Model targets & intervention pathways						
	Development of target options and appraisal report						
	Summary presentation and close.						

5.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN24-25/9518)

Following a Carbon Footprint Assessment and Target Feasibility Review provided by the Carbon Trust, the proposal sets out a total cost of £56,325 to complete Activity Phase 1 - 3 in a timeline of 6 months.

The previous commitment of £60,000, approved by SLT in November 2023, sufficiently covers this cost and is committed within the Capital Feasibilities Reserve to be drawn down into Transformation Feasibilities, once approved by SLT.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None