



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 15 September 2026

Portfolio Holder: Simon Forde - Climate & the Environment

Director Lead: Jenny Walker, Director - Communities & Environment

Lead Officer: Rachael Cranch, Transformation & Service Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Progress Towards Net Zero 2035: Annual Carbon Emissions and Programme Update 2025/26
Purpose of Report	To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's corporate carbon emissions for 2025/26, progress towards the Net Zero 2035 target, and delivery of the Council's Carbon Programme.
Recommendations	That Cabinet: a) notes the Council's 2025/26 corporate emissions position and progress towards the Net Zero 2035 target; b) notes the achievements delivered through the Carbon Programme during 2025/26; and c) supports the continued delivery of priority decarbonisation activities identified within the programme.
Alternative Options Considered	The Council could choose not to monitor or report progress against the Net Zero 2035 target. However, this would reduce transparency, limit oversight of carbon reduction activity and hinder informed decision-making regarding future decarbonisation priorities.
Reason for Recommendations	To provide assurance on progress towards the Council's Net Zero 2035 target, inform Members of current emissions performance and ongoing carbon reduction activity, and support the continued prioritisation of actions that deliver measurable carbon savings.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Newark & Sherwood District Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and subsequently adopted a target to achieve net zero carbon emissions from its corporate activities by 2035. In support of this ambition, the Council worked with the Carbon Trust to develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan, establishing a programme of interventions to reduce emissions and support the transition to a low-carbon future
- 1.2 In 2025 the Council revisited its carbon commitments by commissioning the Carbon Trust to again evaluate both our performance and forecast towards becoming net zero. The review specifically looked at two areas: A - whether the target of 2035 could be advanced under the current conditions and B - whether the target could include our housing stock within the existing 2035 target. All implications were considered by Cabinet, and it was decided that the council would remain on the existing pathway to net zero which is set at 2035 and does not include our housing emissions. The report that was presented to Cabinet in June 2025 is linked in the background papers below.
- 1.3 Since adoption of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Council has developed a coordinated Carbon Programme to provide governance, oversight and delivery of climate-related activity across the organisation. The programme brings together projects, performance monitoring and emissions reporting to support progress towards the Net Zero 2035 target.
- 1.4 This report provides Cabinet with the Council's latest corporate emissions position for 2025/26, progress made during the year, and an overview of planned activity to accelerate carbon reduction and support delivery of the Net Zero 2035 target.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 This report presents the Council's 2025/26 corporate emissions position; progress made towards the Net Zero 2035 target and planned activity for the coming year. Corporate emissions for in-scope activities totalled 2,542.7 tCO₂e in 2025/26, which shows a 12% reduction, continuing the overall downward trend in emissions and demonstrating progress towards the Net Zero 2035 target. The report highlights the Council's latest emissions profile, identifies the principal sources of emissions and sets out the emissions trajectory required to achieve Net Zero by 2035.

Full details found in the appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Progress Towards Net Zero 2035: Annual Carbon Emissions and Programme Update 2025/26
- Appendix 2 - Assurance Review of Climate Sustainability Assessment – Tiaa audit, April 2026

- 2.2 The report highlights progress delivered through the Carbon Programme during 2025/26, including increased renewable energy generation, continued delivery of solar PV projects, housing decarbonisation activity, tree planting initiatives, implementation of a green electricity tariff and further development of the Council's governance and reporting arrangements.
- 2.3 The report also identifies the key areas requiring further focus to maintain progress towards the Net Zero 2035 target. These include operational fleet decarbonisation, increased use of low-carbon technologies and fuels, ongoing energy efficiency improvements, and continued delivery of projects across priority areas including transport and renewable energy.

3.0 **Implications**

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

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	N/A	Equality & Diversity	N/A
Human Resources	N/A	Human Rights	N/A
Legal	N/A	Data Protection	N/A
Digital & Cyber Security	N/A	Safeguarding	N/A
Sustainability	N/A	Crime & Disorder	N/A
LGR	Yes	Tenant Consultation	N/A

3.1 **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

The proposed reorganisation of local government creates some uncertainty regarding the future governance arrangements, priorities and climate commitments that will apply following Vesting Day. Whilst it is not yet known whether the successor unitary authority will retain, amend or replace the climate targets currently adopted by Newark and Sherwood District Council, the Council remains committed to delivering against its existing climate objectives and action plans. Progress towards the Council's climate targets will continue throughout the transition period and climate considerations will remain embedded within decision making, service planning and project delivery. Until any revised targets, strategies or priorities are formally agreed by the new unitary authority, officers will continue to work towards the Council's existing commitments and ambitions, ensuring that momentum is maintained and opportunities to reduce emissions and improve environmental sustainability are not lost during the reorganisation process.

Members can therefore be assured that Local Government Reorganisation does not alter the Council's current commitment to climate action and that work will continue to progress against agreed targets unless and until alternative arrangements are approved by the successor authority.

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.

[Cabinet - Review of the council's net zero target](#)

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