

**Nottinghamshire Local Authority D2N2  
Environmental Strategy Working Group  
Friday 4 November 2022  
Microsoft Teams**

**Notes and Actions**

**Attendees:**

Michael Gallagher	Midlands Net Zero Hub
Kath Marriott	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Edward Leddy-Owen	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Will Morlidge	D2N2 LEP
Mick Allen	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sim Duhra	Gedling Borough Council
Emma Georgiou	Broxtowe Borough Council
Dave Armiger	Bassetlaw District Council
Alex Rainbow	Nottinghamshire County Council
Charlotte Reardon	Bassetlaw District Council
Charlotte Wood	Nottingham Trent University
Jennifer Panting	BEIS - NZSI
Andrew Norton	Mansfield District Council
Matt Finch	Newark & Sherwood District Council

1.	<p><b>Welcome, Introduction</b></p> <p>Kath Marriott and Michael Gallagher welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Summary of previous session and Midlands Net Zero Hub update</b></p> <p>Michael Gallagher provided an update to the Group.</p> <p>Hub updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hub is preparing to bid for SHDF Wave 2 and HUG funding</li> <li>• Hub is reviewing bids into the Homes Decarbonisation Skills Training Competition, for up-skilling workforce in retrofit.</li> <li>• Electrification of Depots guide now launched:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/energy-projects/electrification-of-depots/">https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/energy-projects/electrification-of-depots/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• If people are not getting the Hub Newsletter and would like to, let Michael know. The Autumn newsletter has been released.</li> </ul>

### 3. **Green Rewards Update**

Presentation delivered by Emma Georgiou

Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood are still to confirm their commitment to be part of the Green Rewards App project in year 2.

(Newark and Sherwood have a slightly different anniversary as their element of the platform only went live in February 2022).

The latest registration figures total 5,254 across Nottinghamshire.

Residents have undertaken 117,921 actions which has resulted in residents avoiding emitting 300 tonnes of carbon.

The main aim for year 2 is to increase sign ups and engagement, especially for those partners whose signups are not so strong.

Actions planned to tackle this include:

- Incentives for residents work really well (Demonstrated by the NCT discount scheme). We were aware that this was only beneficial for certain districts, so there are currently discussions taking place with Stage Coach and Trent Barton. EMR and NET have also been approached.
- Early positive discussions have been undertaken with Co-op to be a partner in the scheme.
- Local business engagement will also be explored.
- Whilst Jump (the platform provider) have a communications plan, a district specific plan is currently being drafted and budgetary support for this will come from Nottinghamshire County Council (£5k)
- **Encouragement of closer working between the senior management teams/portfolio holders/Green Rewards district lead and their respective communications teams.**
- Provision of marketing tool kits for the districts (if needed).

Whilst there are some generic communication messages for the platform, each district is responsible for the promotion of the platform in their area. From Broxtowe's perspective what we have found has worked well for us is:

- The use of an Environment Email me (this is a function of the Gov Delivery platform that allows residents to sign up to newsletters on various topics of interest) which has regular posts on Green Rewards
- Social Media posts that focus on the Climate Change Action that Broxtowe residents have made
- Linking Green Rewards Membership to incentives (for example residents need to have subscribed to Green Rewards App this year to be eligible for our Free Tree Scheme – anything with an environmental focus)
- Green Rewards information on our bin collection calendars and articles in Broxtowe Matters (our twice yearly newsletter).
- Updates in Members Matters (our monthly email newsletter to Members) on progress.

- Having a Ward biodiversity prize (the winners get to work with the Council to identify a suitable location within the Ward and then choose between meadow planting, bulbs, trees etc...)
- Promote Green Rewards at our Green Festival events – one event held in each of Broxtowe’s town centres during 2022/
- We are now also looking at the financial savings residents can make when they undertake certain carbon saving activities.

All this has been shared with the other district leads, including some of Broxtowe’s Green Rewards communication assets.

To allow the Green Rewards platform to become more established and to take on board learning from year 1, a more in depth review of the platform is to take place in March 2023. This will then give a clearer understanding of the preferred direction of travel for the project with regards a possible year 3. We will also be able to include the findings from a Masters Student at Sheffield Hallam University, studying Environmental Management. As part of his final project, he is researching the effectiveness of rewards-based incentives on positive climate change mitigation behaviour (Nottinghamshire Platform only). All partners are aware. The results from his study will not be published without consent and the results will be anonymised.

#### 4. **STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) Update - Bassetlaw**

Presentation delivered by Dave Armiger

Fusion has the potential to provide a near-limitless future source of low carbon energy when a mix of two forms of hydrogen are heated to extreme temperatures – 10 times hotter than the core of the sun – they fuse together to create helium and release huge amounts of energy.

On 3 October the Government announced that the West Burton power station site in North Nottinghamshire will be home to the ground-breaking STEP prototype fusion energy plant.

##### **Background**

STEP is a 21 year programme to deliver a prototype fusion plant, and to drive the evolution of a UK fusion delivery industry.

The STEP programme is about delivering cutting edge technical evolution, and establishing industrial capability to deliver to a global market.

STEP will bring around 3,500 jobs during the construction phase as well as around 1,000 long-term jobs directly once the plant is in operation.

A key result of this investment will be the development of a technical skills pipeline and the creation of long-term, high-quality jobs

The site will also have a major supply chain which will benefit the whole midlands and beyond.

##### **Timescale**

- Power plant decommissioning starts in 2023 and will take around 3 years.
- **April 2023** will see the start of initial master-planning.
- **April 2024 to April 2026** will see the development of engineering design, developing consents proposals and the preparation of site development and delivery plans.

- Between **2026 and 2028** early enabling activities will be done at the site.
- **2028** onwards as the next funding stage is passed and planning approvals are in place, significant infrastructure developments should be underway.
- **2032** on will see the main construction phase.
- Start of operations is anticipated around **2040**.
- There is no current estimate of the lifetime of STEP, however the JET plant in Oxfordshire has operated for approximately 40 years, and is now nearing end of life.

5. **LAEP Socio-Economic Report: update and actions**

Michael Gallagher

- Socio Economic report shared with Chief Execs, see attached for circulation to ESWG
- Chief Execs in broad support to progress to full LAEP
- As part of this work a new Technical Officer is to be appointed to support the procurement and delivery of a LAEP over a two year period. The Officer will be funded by equal contributions from all LAs, and hosted in Nottingham City Council Environment and Sustainability Division, supported by the Hub.
- LAEP procurement will be managed by Nottingham City Council, with LA area being divided in-line or similar to option 3 in the Socio-Economic report and presented as work packages that can be called off as funds are made available.
- Actions:
  - LAS to confirm to Michael who is gearing up to be ready to go, and when will internal approvals be in place?
  - LAs to confirm who in each would like to feed into the specification (officer group)?
  - Data Gathering could be started in advance, as this task should not be under-estimated.

**6. Group Session: round the room update**
**Ashfield District Council**

Our Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan has recently been refreshed and we've set a target of becoming net zero for our scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, with a further commitment to reducing our scope 3 emissions by 2050. We're currently working with a consultant to help us produce energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation schemes for our non-domestic properties that will reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions. Other actions include:

- Carrying out an Asset review to determine if any under-utilised assets can be disposed of rather than investing in them;
- Carrying out a fleet review (with a view to becoming fully electric by 2030);
- Internal Climate Change Working Group has been set up share ideas, avoid duplication and promote Climate Change across the Council;
- Producing a strategy for installation of EV Charge points across the District;
- Rolling out Climate Change training across the Council.

Our new Climate Change Action Plan is still in its infancy but we're making good progress on producing a detailed plan for reducing our scope 1 and 2 emissions. There's a lot more work to be done but we are impeded by challenges in recruiting staff and resources required for funding applications (SHDF and PSDS etc).

We outsource our emission footprint calculations; we don't have the resource to do it in house. We're also looking at the way in which we collect energy data with a view to improving the quality of data collection and reporting processes.

**Mansfield District Council**
**Action Plan Progress**

- Still in the process of adopting the Draft Strategy and Delivery Plan;
- Currently seeking to establish base line position which should conclude in January;
- Hope to consider the Strategy at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January.

**Challenges**

- Having the desired staff resources with the right skills, especially with ongoing budget constraints in Local Government;
- Obtaining data

**Do we need help meeting or measuring targets?**

- MDC are hoping to appoint into vacant Climate Change & Sustainability Officer post very soon. This will enable the council to meet / measure targets;
- Would be interested to know what support is being offered to help establish whether input from others would be helpful and how it might be provided.

**Are you facing any issues with cost of fuel on key buildings?**

- Yes, fuel prices are forecast to rise significantly and have had to budget for this.

### Are warmth banks being considered?

- MDC are involved in a warm rooms scheme, there are only a couple of MDC buildings but many are community groups and partners running them.
- MDC are hoping to get the full list out w/c 7/11 and start promoting them.

### Are you expecting more people back in offices?

- No, MDC are working a hybrid approach which is now consistently being applied.

### Broxtowe Borough Council

#### Challenges:

- Staff resources
- Skill shortage
- Budgetary constraints –especially in the current climate
- Tight time frame (CN by 2027)
- Options for carbon capture/ off set
- Action needs to be faster
- Single points of failure

#### Support:

- Measuring scope 3 (especially supply chain)

### Newark & Sherwood District Council

Newark & Sherwood District Council declared a Climate Emergency on 16 July 2019.

The Carbon Trust were appointed to work alongside the council to develop Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.

Carbon net neutral target date of 2035 was approved by Full Council in December 2020.

#### What has happened so far...

- **Solar Panels feasibility** – We have explored the feasibility of installing solar panels on some of our assets. The recommended sites for installation were approved at Policy and Finance committee in November.
- **Tree Planting** – We have committed to planting 10,000 trees by 2023
- **Electrification of the fleet** – A pilot has commenced and 2 electric vans have been purchased for use by the Community Protection Team. The next phase is to explore the full electrification of the fleet including adapting the layout of Brunel Drive.
- **LAD2 completed on 50 properties** – £724,850 of funding to deliver a project which improves the quality of homes by increasing the EPC ratings of properties to enable cost saving for householders and carbon reduction as well as creating green jobs.



- **EV Charging Points** – 15 electric vehicle charge points have now been installed across the district.

We have submitted for £104,000 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for green energy works at the Beacon to include a green heating system, Solar PV for the building and LED lighting.

### What is coming up next

- Decarbonisation of our assets
- Revising new tree planting target
- Reporting carbon footprint on annual basis
- First solar panel installation – March 2023
- Improve capacity and understanding in organisation around the agenda
- Additional £200k in budget for fuel to accommodate fleet
- Cost of leisure centres rising rapidly
- Not considering warm banks at the moment but looking at ways of supporting the community locally with cost of living challenges
- Return to working in offices – 50/50 split

### Nottinghamshire County Council

- Green Investment Fund going through approval processes – supporting projects such as trees for climate extensions, on street charging, smart lockers at bus stations.
- Rolling out carbon literacy training to officers and members
- Greenhouse gas reporting for 21/22 to see impact of Covid over that time
- Financial challenges means not recruited to full team across climate change
- Warm banks is a no at the moment – libraries will be open all day
- Offices – hybrid model but looking at balance of closing buildings early or keeping open for people to work in a warm place

### Gedling Borough Council

- Carbon management strategy – approved by Cabinet March 2022 – working towards action plan
- Undertaken carbon literacy training for heads of service and managers – rolling out to Members in coming months
- Annual progress report – undertaken with heads of service
- Warm spaces – communal spaces where people can come together – leisure centres, theatres, community halls and churches etc.
- Offices – hybrid working – encourage staff to come in 2 days a week

### Rushcliffe Borough Council

- Carbon data – focussing on scope 2, gas and electric
- Meetings with Stark so we can log data and see what and how much is being used
- Parish Council liaison group meeting
- LAD2 closing down
- Develop rolling programme to get homes up to heating and insulation standards rather than relying on places to go to keep warm
- Big Business Carbon Club is up and running

7.	<b>A.O.B. &amp; items for next sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5.1m postgraduate research training project to solve local community challenges</li> <li>• Derbyshire's Local Climate Engagement project &amp; Renewable Energy Planning (Caroline Topliss)</li> <li>• Trees for Climate Change</li> <li>• Route Map to Net Zero – delivery actions</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Summation &amp; Thank You</b>  Date and location of next meeting  <b>Friday 9 December at 13:30-15:30 Virtual – MS TEAMS</b>