



REPORT TO:	POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL
DATE:	25 TH JUNE 2024
SUBJECT:	SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
PURPOSE:	TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ADOPTED IN APRIL 2022
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ELIZABETH SNEATH
REPORT OF:	AD REGULATORY
REPORT AUTHOR:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

Following the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy, the South & East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) was established with a view to providing a mechanism for driving forward action in relation to climate change across the sub-region, in line with the Strategic Action Plan in the Climate Change Strategy. A core steering group of approximately 30 members from across the public, private and third sector have come together and developed eight sub-groups based around the key themes of the Climate Change Strategy and each sub-group selected actions from the Strategic Action Plan to form their delivery plans, which they have since been working towards.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress towards delivery of the Strategic Action Plan which supports the successful implementation of the Climate Change Strategy, in line with the Council's commitments to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change and to meet our net zero ambitions.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

South Holland District Council is committed to mitigating and adapting to climate change in line with the Climate Change Strategy, as well as meeting our responsibilities as a community leader.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in driving forward action and leading by example, to enable us to adapt to and mitigate against Climate Change effectively and achieve a more sustainable future for our communities. That being said, we can only play a small part in working to address this global issue and collaborative approaches from across different sectors will be crucial if we are to overcome the complex and numerous challenges associated with climate change and decarbonisation.
- 1.2 The South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) was therefore established with the aim of creating a transparent forum that brings together members representing the public, private and third sector. It provides a platform for sharing expertise and best practise, as well as acting as a mechanism for driving forward action in relation to climate change by assisting in shaping actions from the South & East Lincolnshire Climate Change Strategy. Members work collaboratively with the relevant local authorities to drive forward climate change action across South & East Lincolnshire, as we collectively work towards our net zero ambitions and the network includes balanced representation from across the different communities and sectors in the area.
- 1.3 The SELCAN core steering group meet quarterly, and the eight sub-groups have joint meetings with others working towards similar aims, every six weeks throughout the year, where they work towards delivery of actions from their delivery plans.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The development of the Climate Change Strategy was facilitated by the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership in April 2022, to drive forward action across the sub-region. When SELCAN was established, their first step was to formally adopt the Climate Change Strategy and take responsibility for delivery and monitoring of the action plan within. The SELCP is an equal partner with other public, private and third sector organisations and has one seat at the Board currently held by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Leisure and Culture, and Carbon Reduction, Councillor Graham Marsh at ELDC on behalf of the Partnership.
- 2.2 While the Climate Change and Environment Team continues to provide secretariat and assist with facilitating the administration of SELCAN, it is not solely responsible for its running or for tracking progress against the Climate Change Strategy.

2.3 From the outset, SELCAN's Marketing, Education and Community Engagement sub-group prioritised the creation of a website, social media channels and a Communications Plan, which sets out a framework for engagement. Members felt that development of the website was key, as it provides a platform for us to direct interested parties too and enables us to share our aims and promote the work we are doing, as well as disseminating advice and information. Our members also recognised the role that we must play in educating and raising awareness of the issues around climate change and therefore set about developing a number of informative webpages which sought to bring together materials and information in one place.

2.4 In addition to this work each of the sub-groups chose a priority proposal to take forward over the coming 12-18 months which are as follows:-

- Transport sub-group - A proposal to reduce emissions arising from courier deliveries, by promoting the use of collection points at commonly visited locations.
- Business sub-group - Webinars to assist businesses across the sub-region, featuring topics including carbon footprinting advice, promoting the benefits of a circular economy, transitioning to renewable energy, resource auditing and monitoring, and communicating low carbon credentials.
- Agriculture & Food sub-group - A proposal to assist agricultural businesses to understand and quantify their carbon footprints and learn how to undertake energy audits, supported by infographics.
- Nature Based Solutions & Biodiversity sub-group - A project which promotes the concept of 'right tree in the right place' and explores opportunities to protect and enhance our wildlife via more inclusive and interconnected landscape-scale habitat restoration, by utilising tools such as the emerging ELMS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Built Environment sub-group - A proposal which will support residents and businesses to access available funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.
- Water, Resilience & Adaptation sub-group - A proposal to promote technologies and behaviours that reduce water consumption across all domestic and commercial sectors and to support initiatives to improve the management of waterways and coastal areas thereby reducing flood risk and benefitting the natural environment by keeping water higher in the catchment for longer.
- Energy & Renewables sub-group - A proposal around mapping of energy flows in and out of the sub-region with a focus on Anaerobic Digestion.

Please note that these projects are all at different stages of development as members pick up other relevant work alongside taking these longer-term actions forward.

2.5 The Business sub-group have lead on a webinar series for businesses, creating intro slides and promotional materials to support the success of this project which saw members from across the network hosting each of the sessions. We also brought in several specialist presenters who we had engaged with around other work and who acted as supportive partners for this project. The series sought to support and advise local businesses on understanding their carbon footprint and identifying routes to decarbonise their operations, promote and foster opportunities for businesses to grow and develop within the low carbon and renewables sector and encourage sustainable procurement practices that support local supply chains and foster the building of a circular economy. Recordings of these sessions will also be made available on the SELCAN website as an ongoing resource.

- 2.6** SELCAN members also successfully recruited several student volunteers from Lincoln University with a view to putting together some snappy video content, including an interview with Justin Leckie from the Grants for Growth team and a jargon busting video, which are now being finalised and will be added to the website shortly.
- 2.7** SELCAN delivery plans include an action to develop an EV policy for the area based on modelling current and predicted future requirements, and members have therefore agreed to fund the development of a set of first principles with several representatives from the Transport sub-group being invited to be part of the development of this work. The first principles will outline clear markers of expectation for any operators wanting to enter into discussions around opportunities in South and East Lincolnshire, and it will set out considerations such as equitability, exclusivity, financing and delivery mechanisms and ensure we are engaging the market with a clear position on what the sub-region wants to achieve.
- 2.8** The network have identified the need to understand what people would like to see from us and therefore recently developed a questionnaire for businesses and residents, and have put together a presentation to share with elected members at an upcoming Members Day with a view to gauging the favoured approaches for upcoming projects. Further to this work we are now looking to develop some promotional materials and are hoping to attend events over summer and autumn, which will provide opportunities to share the questionnaire and further promote the network. More specialist events such as Boston Food Festival will also provide opportunities to tackle some specific actions from the sub-group delivery plans, such as educating and encouraging residents to access affordable, local and seasonal food through promoting local supply chains and food markets.
- 2.9** The network have also engaged with many other organisations since its inception, to ensure that we brought in a variety of perspectives and expertise, and took a truly collaborative approach, welcoming a number of guest speakers at meetings. We have also welcomed many new sub-group members over the last 12 months including a youth representative and representatives from the Woodland Trust, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, Lincs Food Partnership, Duncan & Topliss, and Micronclean, to name a few, which is a positive indication of how the network is gaining momentum and growing.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1** In summary, the SELCAN network has developed a great framework for further growth and promotion over the last 12 months via the development of branding, a communications plan, and the development and growth of the website as well as working towards the delivery of a number of projects, both short and long term, which seek to drive forward action in relation to climate change in line with the delivery plans.
- 3.2** It is however recognised that some of the actions in the strategic action plan, such as embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation within strategic planning policies are more difficult to influence, as they are beyond our direct control. In this instance we have therefore asked to be consulted on the Local Plan Review, and in other such scenarios have discussed at length what the first steps towards achieving these goals will be and have recognised the role we may be able to play in educating and raising awareness.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The work the SELCAN network is undertaking will increase the reputation of the Partnership as a community leader and through partnership working that highlights our commitments to tackling climate change not just within our own operations, but also across our communities.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Our ambition seeks to mobilise action across the sub-region to deliver environmental benefits, and shared learning for the benefit of communities and businesses across South & East Lincolnshire.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

STAFFING

None.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies 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

SELCAN has a small annual budget and also hopes to access additional funding from external sources where necessary for larger projects.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation with Key Officers and portfolio holder have been undertaken.

REPUTATION

Facilitating the establishment of the SELCAN network and the Climate Change Strategy shows 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

SELCAN seeks to promote inclusion and diversity, and includes balanced representation from across the different communities and sectors in the area.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The SELCAN network aims to deliver positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Commitment to our net zero targets is 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.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Health	The establishment of the SELCAN network seeks to reduce pollution and contamination of the food web thereby reducing hazards to health across the sub-region
Wellbeing	The establishment of the SELCAN network supports a more sustainable future for our communities which will lead to improved wellbeing for businesses and residents across the sub-region.
Local Leadership	The establishment of the SELCAN network highlights 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.

ACRONYMS

None.

APPENDICES
None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Climate Change Strategy	FINAL Climate Change Strategy.pdf

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

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Heather Prescott Climate Change and Environment Officer
Signed off by:	Christian Allen Assistant Director Regulatory
Approved for publication:	CLr Elizabeth Sneath