Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	16th December 2025
Subject:	Net Zero Action Plan
Purpose:	To seek approval on the Net Zero Action Plan as per Policy Development Panel
Key Decision:	Yes
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Elizabeth Sneath
Report Of:	Christian Allen, Assistant Director Regulatory
Report Author:	Dean Hempsall, Environment and Sustainability Officer
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

In April 2025, South Holland District Council adopted a new Carbon Reduction Plan which included a commitment to be Net Zero by 2040. A Net Zero Action Plan has now been developed to outline the programme of work required to deliver the necessary reductions based on the Carbon Reduction Plan with a view to providing a roadmap for reducing carbon emissions in the coming years to assist in meeting the net zero ambition.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the Net Zero Action Plan in line with the Council's commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2040

Reasons for Recommendations

To set out a delivery pathway to achieve the Council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2040 via a pipeline of projects and actions as set out in the Net Zero Action Plan.

1. Background

1.1 Climate Change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time and local authorities have a crucial role to play in driving forward change, leading by example to enable us to adapt to and mitigate Climate Change effectively and achieve a more sustainable future. Monitoring of our carbon emissions via an annual Carbon Footprint and producing plans such as the Carbon Reduction Plan and Net Zero Action Plan will guide us on our pathway to meet our target of becoming net zero by 2040.

1.2 Following on from the recommendations put forward by consultants WSP in the adopted Carbon Reduction Plan, a Net Zero Action Plan has now been developed to set out the projects identified in order to investigate the feasibility of these recommendations further and provide delivery timescales, where applicable, for the proposed actions. The Action Plan also encompasses other environmental initiatives identified by the Climate Change and Environment Team and lays out a more detailed pathway to Net Zero via the development of our current position in relation to carbon emissions. This will ensure that the most effective and viable pathways forward are taken in relation to our operations.

1.3 The Carbon Footprint takes account of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions falling under categories for gas, electrical, fleet, waste and business and commuter travel and these categories have therefore been used as a framework for the Net Zero Action Plan.

1.4 It is not currently possible, at this time, to provide costs or projected carbon savings for some of the projects identified in the Net Zero Action Plan. These details will be identified during the progression of the projects following full feasibility and cost-benefit analysis of projects. Where significant financial decisions are required, these proposals will be brought to Members for approval as appropriate.

2. Report

1.1 Despite the Carbon Reduction Plan only being adopted in April 2025, work has already begun on moving forward various elements of the document and some areas of activity have already been in place for some time.

1.2 Fleet

The opportunity to bid for a fully-funded fleet review via the Midlands Net Zero Hub was successful and saw Cenex engaged to review the potential for future electrification of fleet vehicles based at the two depots – Bervor Close and West Marsh Road. This includes smaller vehicles such as small-medium size vans and cage trucks as well as HGV’s but does not include any newly purchased Refuse Collection Vehicles and/or new food waste collection vehicles. The report was completed in August 2025 and has provided valuable insights which will help inform our future actions in relation to fleet and identify sites with the best potential for accommodating electric vehicle options once vehicles are due for replacement.

Following on from this review, other fleet options such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (a low emissions diesel alternative) will also be investigated as part of the process.

The Partnership's position means that we are also well placed to learn from initiatives being trialled at our neighbouring councils. East Lindsey District Council is currently rolling out a new telematics system into its fleet vehicles to assist with better data intelligence and provision of training to vehicle users which is anticipated to result in 10-15% savings on fuel economy and therefore costs. Lessons learned from this approach may assist with rollout of such technology at South Holland District Council in the future. Technology is constantly evolving, and it is therefore crucial that we are at the forefront of identifying and assessing the viability of new ways of working.

2.3 Operational Buildings

We are looking to develop Decarbonisation Strategies for key operational buildings identified in the Net Zero Action Plan and these strategies will inform the future actions we take forward in relation to those premises. They will also ensure we are in a better position to access potential future external funding opportunities.

Funding and support options in relation to the development of these plans is currently being investigated with support from Midlands Net Zero Hub.

2.4 Priory Road/South Holland Centre

Opportunities are being identified at both sites and include but are not limited to fabric, HVAC and heating systems and also feasibility studies for renewable energy measures in the short term/medium term. These studies will once again enable more detailed business cases to be developed ensuring the Council is in a positive position to make informed decisions and potentially access future external funding opportunities.

2.5 Social Housing

A number of significant improvement programmes have taken place within South Holland District Council's social housing stock. These programmes are continuing with the rollout of energy efficiency projects such as Solar PV and heating upgrades and will be complemented by engaging with residents on energy saving methods and the opportunity for them to access support and advice on reducing their utility costs and in turn, their carbon emissions.

3. Conclusion

3.1. The Net Zero Action Plan will help guide us on our pathway to Net Zero via identification and, as appropriate, rollout of the projects highlighted in the plan. It is important to note that the Action Plan is based on the best options currently identified and may be subject to change as further feasibility studies are conducted and other technological advancements become apparent.

3.2. Funding opportunities will be sought as appropriate. Being prepared for these opportunities as they arise is important through the investigation of various feasibility studies.

3.3. It is important to note that the pathway to Net Zero is a long process and does not require immediate action across all areas. The implementation of this Action Plan will ensure that opportunities can be explored whilst demonstrating the Council's commitment to moving forward towards its Net Zero target.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

To facilitate collaborative working across the Partnership, sharing best practice and having a positive environmental impact on communities and businesses alike within South and East Lincolnshire.

It demonstrates that the Partnership is leading by example, taking opportunities to deliver financial benefits and shared learning where opportunities arise.

Corporate Priorities

This Net Zero Action Plan will make a significant contribution towards South Holland District Council's corporate ambitions especially with regard to the Net Zero by 2040 target and the vision set out within the Sub-regional Strategy, Environment Policy and the Climate Change Strategy.

Staffing

There are no direct staffing implications resulting from the adoption of this plan. The facilitation of this work will continue to be carried out by officers within the Climate Change and Environment Team and will be part of their ongoing duties, however engagement and consultation will be sought from the relevant service(s).

Delivery of this plan and the Council's work towards a its Net Zero ambition is a collective responsibility for all those within the Council who will be encouraged to consider the impact of their own services and decision-making.

Implementation of any agreed improvement works may require the input of contractors/consultants, but this will all be considered as part of project proposals.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

None.

Data Protection

None.

Financial

The delivery of Net Zero has financial implications which need to be managed through the normal process for agreement of budgets within the Council and mindful of the financial constraints that apply.

External funding sources will be sought as appropriate and will be used alongside any existing available budgets on a case-by-case basis. Approval of the Net Zero Action Plan does not commit the Council to any specific financial obligations regarding the plan or the individual projects highlighted within it.

It is anticipated that taking action to address some of the contributory factors to the carbon footprint such as building utility costs and vehicle fuel costs can be reduced in the longer term through implementation of this plan which will in turn result in cost and efficiency savings for the Council.

Risk Management

If the plan is not approved the risks include but are not limited to:

1. Reputational impact if the council is not seen to lead by example.
2. Failing to meet the expectations of local residents and businesses potentially affected by the impact of climate change.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Consultation will continue to take place with the relevant Portfolio holder, members and relevant officers and managers within South Holland District Council. This will continue as feasibility studies are undertaken and any work progresses.

Reputation

Implementing some or all the recommendations within the Net Zero Action Plan will help enhance the reputation of South Holland District Council and will demonstrate the commitment to dealing with or helping to prevent the impacts of Climate Change.

It would also demonstrate the commitment to becoming a community leader and will help set an example for others to follow.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

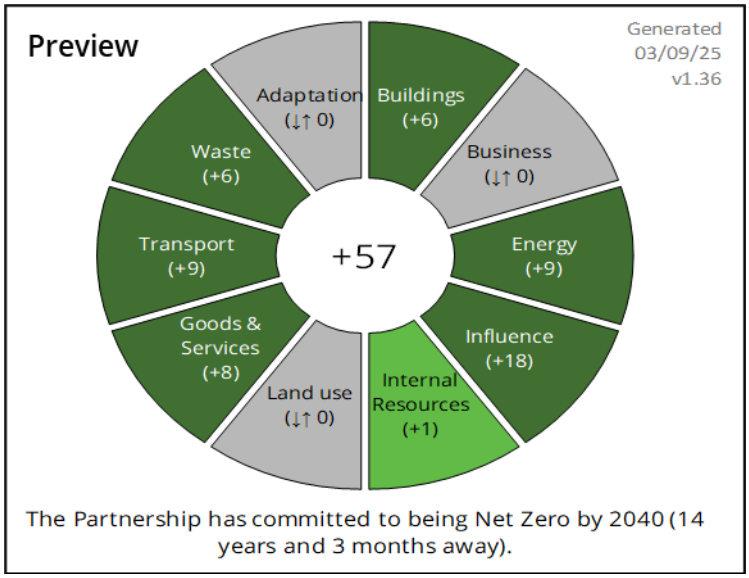
Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken with no impacts identified as a result of this report.

Health and Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment



The work undertaken so far has helped understand South Holland District Council's current carbon footprint and the report highlights the pathway to the Council's Net Zero by 2040 target. The attached demonstrates the potential areas of benefit that could be achieved under the proposed Net Zero Action Plan.

Acronyms

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning.
PV – Photovoltaic (Solar Panels)

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix 1 Net Zero Action Plan.

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

The draft version of the report has previously been submitted for consideration.

Name Of Body	Date
Policy Development Panel	25/11/2025

Report Approval

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Approved for publication: Cllr Elizabeth Sneath