



Northampton  
TOWN COUNCIL

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 -18:00**

**To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:**

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Fuchshuber, Joyce, McNicholas, Meredith, Miah, Soan and Tarasiewicz

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information.

**You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held at the Committee Room, Northampton Town Council Offices, Guildhall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 18.00.**

Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of public will need to contact the Town Clerk in advance if they wish to speak on any agenda item.

**Stuart Carter**  
**Town Clerk**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Guildhall**  
**Northampton**  
**NN1 1DE**

**A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024 AND ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS – ATTACHED**

*Pages 3 - 6*
- 4. BUDGET REPORT UPDATE - ATTACHED**

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- 5. CHAIR'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

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- 6. CHAIR'S VERBAL UPDATE ON THE JOINT WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE SUMMIT PLANNING FOR AUTUMN 2024**
- 7. BLOOM UPDATE – REPORT ATTACHED**

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- 8. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE – VERBAL REPORT**

**9. TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S POSITION ON THE PREVIOUS DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

**10. TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF AIR QUALITY IN NORTHAMPTON TOWN – SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEM FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**11. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

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**12. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (2024-2030) CONSULTATION**

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**13. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

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**14. ANY FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- **Environmental Services Committee's Budget:** the next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 will focus on discussing and setting this committee's budget for Financial Year 2025-26.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024 AT 6PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillors Stevens (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Fuchshuber, Meredith and Tarasiewicz

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ms Sally Burn (Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services), Nuala Duffy (Environmental Crime Manager, WNC), Karen Pell (Environmental Protection Officer, WNC) and two members of the public from Southfields Allotment.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Miah, Soan and Joyce.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Meredith declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 as he was an allotment holder at Southfields Allotment. Councillor Stevens declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 10 as he was an allotment holder at Broadmead Avenue.

### **3. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM SALLY BURNS (DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH & REGULATORY SERVICES, WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL) ON THE TOWN CENTRE WASTE & RECYCLING POLICY**

Sally Burns presented the Town Centre Waste & Recycling Policy, that was agreed by the WNC Cabinet in May 2024. The policy aims to change the way waste is stored and presented in the Town Centre. Key points from the presentation included:

- The policy would be effective from 1st July 2024.
- There are currently ten neighbourhood wardens covering West Northamptonshire Council, with plans to recruit an additional warden.
- Funding had been sourced from the government to assist with the implementation of the policy and to fund an additional neighbourhood warden.
- Businesses will need to label their waste bins, and engagement was taking place to ensure all 554 businesses in the Town Centre are aware of the policy.
- Businesses who did not comply could be issued with a fixed penalty notice, however enforcement would be gradually introduced to ensure business owners were engaged and informed.
- Commercial bins under the policy should not be stored on public highways, except during the designated collection windows and would need to be stored but within premises or private land.
- Information packs will be delivered to businesses, including policy details and identification stickers for waste bins.

- The policy is informed by successful implementations in other local authorities like Bristol.
- If the roll-out is successful the policy could be extended to encompass the Wellingborough Road, Kettering Road or other areas that have issues with commercial waste and storage.

Concerns were raised about engagement with neighbourhood wardens and the inadequacy of the numbers of wardens. Issues with clothing donation bins were discussed as it had been noted fly-tipping occurred around them. Questions about waste disposal by businesses without commercial waste contracts and potential fly-tipping were addressed.

**4. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 AND ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS**

**RESOLVED:** The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**5. BUDGET UPDATE**

The latest budgetary report for the committee were circulated. The Chair explained there was high expenditure within the Northampton in Bloom budget as the project was underway. A Councillor commented the flowers looked lovely this year and requested this be passed onto the responsible Event and Projects Officer.

**NOTED**

**6. UPDATE ON THE JOINT WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE SUMMIT PLANNING FOR AUTUMN 2024 – REFER TO CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported on the planning of a joint NTC and WNC Climate Summit for parish councils to collaborate, which was agreed upon at a West Northamptonshire Council meeting in November 2023. The summit aims to be an open forum for residents, schools, and community groups to provide their views on climate change. A Councillor suggested inviting Northamptonshire Partnership Homes for their role in sustainability.

In response to a question, the Chair explained the first planning meeting was an open forum with other parish and town councils to discuss the matter of climate change and how we could collaborate.

**7. PROPOSAL TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE JOINT WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE SUMMIT – REFER TO CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair asked the Committee to provide £5,000 from the Environmental Projects budget code toward the cost of the Climate Summit. A Councillor suggested the Town Council host a stall at the event with promotional material.

**RESOLVED:** That £5,000 from the Environmental Projects budget code be used to support the Summit programme.

**8. BLOOM UPDATE – ATTACHED**

Circulated within the agenda was the latest Bloom Report update. In response to a question, the Chair explained the Town Council intends to partake in Midlands in Bloom next year in 2025. The Chair added it would take a large amount of work to prepare for the Town Council's submission. A Councillor asked whether any further sustainable planters were available. The Chair explained the Abington Street sustainable planter was transferred to Eastfield due to the high amount of vandalism in at the eastern end of Abington Street. A Councillor commented that no NTC branding was included on the planters within the Town Centre. The Town Clerk stated he would get an update in relation to the branding of the planters.

*Clerk's Note: The Bloom Working Group would place branding on the smaller planters however, it was decided not brand the larger planters as the floral arrangements would grow down and over any branding placed there.*

## **9. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk referred to the detailed report enclosed within the agenda, providing updates on several key allotment sites.

The Town Clerk explained that the Kingsthorpe South and Studland Avenue allotment sites were not included within the vesting day document. These sites predominantly serve residents of the Kingsthorpe parish council area. The access road and the majority of the site's catchment fall within this area.

The Town Clerk highlighted that the Glebeland Road allotment site had previously been undersubscribed. In response, the former Northampton Borough Council had fenced off a section of the area, reducing the overall size of the allotments. The Town Clerk, along with the Community Engagement Officer, planned to visit the site to assess its current condition and potential for future use of the unused area.

In response to a Councillor's query, the Town Clerk explained the complexities involved in selling allotment sites. Although theoretically possible, the process is complicated due to specific allotment legislation that protects these spaces. This legislation ensures allotments are preserved for community use, making any potential sale a legally intricate matter.

The Town Clerk reported on the concerns raised by allotment holders regarding security and incidents of anti-social behaviour at the Southfields Allotment site. A detailed report from a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) had provided recommendations to enhance security. Allotment holders had approached the Town Council, expressing their worries that these problems might also affect other sites.

A Councillor suggested obtaining indicative quotes for the recommended security enhancements and presenting these at a future Environmental Services Committee meeting. The Town Clerk noted that while the Idverde Allotment contract includes assistance with minor repairs, the proposed security measures would exceed their remit, making the Town Council responsible for implementation.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk to source an indicative quote on the recommended works and be presented at a future Environmental Services Committee meeting.

## **10. CCF UPDATE – REFER TO CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair stated the Climate Change Forum had not had many meetings recently. The Chair added he believed a discussion should be held to review the Town Council's declaration of a

climate emergency. A Councillor asked whether the goal for the Town Council was to be carbon neutral by 2030, and the Chair replied that there was no specific goal defined as yet, but this issue should be part of the climate emergency declaration review at a future Environmental Services Committee meeting. The Chair requested comments and recommendations would be welcome from members to incorporate into the review.

A Councillor commented that clean air in Northampton was very important to people's health and wellbeing. The Chair said that the Town Council could do little on its own on air quality, but he had produced some information on the Council's website with information on clean air quality and links to West Northamptonshire Council's air quality monitors in the town.

**ACTION** – Clean Air Quality be included on the next agenda.

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 7:37PM**

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGETARY REPORT

06/09/2024

Northampton Town Council

Page 3

07:46

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/08/2024

Month No: 5

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>Environmental Services</b>								
<u>210 Open Spaces &amp; Environment</u>								
1537 Northampton in Bloom Income	0	5,200	0	(5,200)			0.0%	
Open Spaces & Environment :- Income	0	5,200	0	(5,200)				0
4015 Travel and Subsistence	0	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4140 Advertising and Marketing	0	837	1,000	164		164	83.7%	
4536 Northampton In Bloom	450	63,133	87,172	24,039	345	23,693	72.8%	
4560 Environmental Projects	0	280	25,000	24,720		24,720	1.1%	
4561 Environmental Grants	0	4,455	25,000	20,545		20,545	17.8%	4,455
Open Spaces & Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	450	68,705	138,272	69,567	345	69,222	49.9%	4,455
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(450)</b>	<b>(63,505)</b>	<b>(138,272)</b>	<b>(74,767)</b>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,455						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(450)</b>	<b>(59,050)</b>						
<u>230 Allotments</u>								
4400 Repairs and Maintenance	380	2,156	60,000	57,844	5,056	52,788	12.0%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	380	2,156	60,000	57,844	5,056	52,788	12.0%	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(380)</b>	<b>(2,156)</b>	<b>(60,000)</b>	<b>(57,844)</b>				
Environmental Services :- Income	0	5,200	0	(5,200)			0.0%	
Expenditure	830	70,861	198,272	127,411	5,401	122,010	38.5%	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(830)</b>	<b>(65,661)</b>	<b>(198,272)</b>	<b>(132,611)</b>				
plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,455						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(830)</b>	<b>(61,206)</b>						

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## **CHAIR'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

This report has one overall theme, which I first brought to this Committee on 4th September 2023; that is, the proposal that our council establishes an 'Environmental, Climate Change & Sustainability Officer' post.

My rationale for this is that as a council I think it unlikely we're going to make much progress with Environmental issues, other than discuss such issues, and then only have the resources to implement relatively very small projects, events or campaigns. Meanwhile, there are major environmental problems that are even now affecting the lives of our residents, and some of which are likely to increasingly impact on our residents' health and welfare in the future. I think we will be not fulfilling our responsibilities as elected members and community leaders if we don't do more. If this sentence seems somewhat melodramatic to any committee members, then I would suggest, more pragmatically, that to have in post an ECCS Officer will be an obligatory step we shall have to take as the demands of gradually taking over the management of our 10 allotment fields comes to pass.

As well as being involved in future allotment management, a summary of other areas an ECCS Officer in post would help the Council to address include:

1. more effective joint working with West Northamptonshire Council and other local Parish Councils on the WN Councils' Climate Change 5 Year Programme, the first event of which is the initial annual Summit on October 9th this year. The other components of the program will involve a support network, regular training and briefing events, and a resource database accessible for all councils in the area. I would like to propose that we seek to establish with WNC and some local parish councils a formal partnership to progress this 5 Year Programme, and allocate some dedicated hours from any new environmental Officer post we establish to that partnership.
2. bringing our council nearer to actually implementing the words from our 2021 declaration of a climate emergency; that is: a) "as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take", and b) 'this Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon neutral by".
3. providing the officer support that will enable the Climate Change Forum to make real progress with some projects that the Forum has discussed and come up with ideas for implementation but which without dedicated officer time make little progress. Community volunteers are a great asset that we should continue to encourage and develop, but the projects need professional input to really make progress. One specific task as stated in the climate emergency declaration is to 'annually review targets and progress' towards the Council becoming carbon neutral, which a Council officer needs to lead on, albeit supported with advice by councillors and community volunteers.
4. to help implement the requirement Under the 2021 Environment Act, to consider what the Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and to develop and implement a Biodiversity Recovery Plan.

5. to take forward more effectively other environmental actions that the Environmental Services Committee proposes that could include matters such as the councils' closed churchyards, other underused green spaces in our area, litter, re-cycling of waste materials, liaising with local interest groups on such issues, responding to WNC consultations that relate to environmental matters more thoroughly and with evidence-based proposals, etc.

**Finally, I would like to suggest we discuss the establishment of this post at the ESC of 2<sup>nd</sup> December as part of our budget setting proposals to the council.**

## Environmental Services Committee September 2024

### Northampton in Bloom

#### Report by Nicole Haviland, Events and Projects Officer

**Purpose of report:** To update on the Northampton in Bloom project for 2024- 2025.

**Recommended:** That subject to any comments, the committee note the report. Officers will work with Northampton in Bloom Working party, keeping them informed as the project progresses.

#### **2024 Summer Orders**

As we approach the end of the summer flower season, Plantscape will begin collecting the planters starting 30<sup>th</sup> September. We would welcome any photos of the planters in your area to put on our website and socials if you could kindly forward any our way. In addition, any feedback you may have received from residents. Please email Nicole on [nicole.haviland@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:nicole.haviland@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk)

A total of 40 hanging plaques displaying the message "Provided by Northampton Town Council, Northampton in Bloom" were attached to the hanging baskets along St. Giles Street. A photograph of these plaques is included in Appendix A.

#### **Bloom Grants Scheme**

The Northampton Town Council (NTC) Bloom Grant scheme for the 2024-2025 year is currently in progress. We are delighted to report that two additional groups have successfully applied for and received the £200 start-up grant to support their sustainable planting initiatives. These organisations include:

- C2C Social Action
- Friends of Billing Road Cemetery

The other four groups were,

- St Giles Community Group
- Northampton BID
- Friends of St Peters Marefair
- Broadmead Community Church

Please visit <https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/northampton-in-bloom-start-up-gr> for more information.

#### **IYN- It's your Neighbourhood Awards**

The 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards' has now concluded. Between July and August, NTC coordinated visits to each of the 12 community groups, inviting a local photographer to capture the interactions between the dedicated groups and the assessors. Although the July report mentioned 13 groups, it was later determined that one group was located outside the Town Council area.

NTC has organised an awards ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, at the Guildhall. This event will serve as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of these groups, encourage collaboration, share ideas, and resources that will improve Northampton's community projects. The Mayor and other Councillors involved in the project will present the groups with certificates and the reports from East Midlands in Bloom (EMiB), highlighting their assessment outcomes.

## **Schools**

In addition to the community groups, we also piloted the school's competition. Greenfields SEN School was selected as the participating school, and we visited their community garden in June. The judges from EMiB provided valuable feedback that we could take on board for the 2025 entry into East Midlands in Bloom.

## **Sustainable Planting**

NTC has collaborated with the Royal Derngate on the relocation of the Coronation planter from outside V&Bs at the top of Guildhall Road to the main entrance of Derngate, where they will assume responsibility for its maintenance. To facilitate this, NTC is assisting in sourcing plants through the community group, Bees Be Happy in Headlands, who also contributed to the design and plant selection for the relocated Abington planter for Eastfield's residents.

Furthermore, Bees Be Happy are eager to collaborate with NTC and the CCF group to design and source plants for the remaining sustainable planters. Partnering with a local community group will not only enhance the project but also enrich the Bloom 2025 portfolio.

## **Wellness Walks, Abington Park:**

Abington Park has been showcasing the Wellness Walks, featuring poetry written by James McInerney. The bedding and display boards were installed since June, and they are publicised on social media and the website alongside the online map of locations.

We have received positive feedback from the park rangers at Abington Park, who report that visitors are enjoying the wellness walks and have heard favourable comments from passersby. The wellness boards will remain in place until around October.

NTC are working with Tangerine Red to create a design for the two roadside boards for Abington Park which will be used to advertise events.

## **East Midlands in Bloom Awards: Northampton**

The Bloom working group party are currently working on a plan to meet the East Midlands in Bloom awards criteria – with the view to be ready for judging in 2025, when the town will have had all renovation work completed. A walking route around the town centre and a driving route (via a Northampton Transport Heritage vintage bus) into the town council wards has been agreed by members of the Bloom Working Group. A lunch will be paid for from the NTC Bloom budget which will thank all partners, volunteers, groups and judges for attending and taking part.

The Bloom team has begun compiling the portfolio for July 24–July 25, which will document positive news stories, social media posts, and an overview of the recent It's Your Neighbourhood visits. This portfolio will highlight groups, activities, and locations that could not be integrated into the main route.

Although a Bloom meeting was scheduled for August, it had to be postponed due to unavailability among the group members. A new meeting will be arranged in the next couple of weeks to continue discussions.

Cllr. Catherine Russell and Cllr. Turon Miah have both reported great success with the new planters in their wards, receiving positive feedback from residents.

Additionally, a new Bloom logo has been proposed to the Bloom working group. This simpler logo will be easier to adapt across various print and digital formats and aligns with the colours of the new NTC branding, ultimately enhancing the overall brand identity of NTC.

## **Budgets**

### **2024-2025**

£87,172 was the agreed Bloom budget for the 24/25 financial year. Preparations for the summer planting scheme 25/26 will begin shortly, and a review of the budgets is scheduled for this month.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A.



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## DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

**PURPOSE:** To inform the Environmental Services Committee on West Northamptonshire Council's draft Local Transport Plan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** a) The Committee note this report;

b) The Committee determine whether they wish to respond to the consultation and how they plan to do so.

### BACKGROUND

West Northamptonshire Council's Draft Local Transport Plan outlines the vision, objectives, and strategic policies that will guide transportation development and improvements within the West Northamptonshire area through 2045, with an emphasis on sustainability, accessibility, and the integration of various transportation modes.

### OVERVIEW OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Draft Local Transport Plan sets out West Northamptonshire Council's strategy for achieving a net zero emissions transport system by 2045. It includes 16 core policies organized under three themes: Connecting People Better, Shaping Healthier Places, and Mobility Enabling Prosperity. These policies address various aspects of transportation, including public transport, active travel networks, road safety, climate change adaptation, and the integration of new technologies.

The plan itself has a large volume of policies covering a variety of themes, I recommend members of the Committee review the plan [here](#), where there is a summary list of policies on page 6.

However, the main objectives of the policies aim to achieve the following:

- 1. Sustainable Transport Hierarchy:** Prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transport over private car use, with a focus on reducing car dependency.
- 2. Connected and Accessible Networks:** Developing a more efficient and integrated transport system that improves accessibility for all users.
- 3. Climate Change Mitigation:** Committing to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and enhancing the resilience of infrastructure.
- 4. Mobility Hubs:** Establishing strategic hubs to improve the integration of different transport modes, particularly in key towns such as Northampton, Daventry, and Towcester.

### CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation closes at midnight on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and can be completed via the West Northamptonshire Council's website [here](#).

After the consultation period, West Northamptonshire Council will carefully review the feedback received and make any necessary revisions. The Local Transport Plan will then be presented to the Cabinet and Full Council in early 2025 for consideration and formal adoption. Once adopted, the plan will serve as the foundation for West Northamptonshire Council's transport-related decision-making in the years to come.

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## DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (2024-2030) CONSULTATION

**PURPOSE:** To inform the Environmental Services Committee on West Northamptonshire Council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** a) The Committee note this report;  
b) The Committee determine whether they wish to respond to the consultation and how they plan to do so.

### BACKGROUND

West Northamptonshire Council's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (WNEVIS) sets out the vision and strategic framework for establishing an extensive electric vehicle (EV) charging network. This strategy is critical to meeting the Council's goal of achieving a net-zero carbon transport system by 2045, in line with both the national government's decarbonisation objectives and local sustainability priorities.

### OVERVIEW OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The strategy aims to facilitate widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by addressing the growing need for reliable and accessible charging infrastructure. With, transport emissions currently contributing significantly to carbon emissions, this strategy outlines policies and initiatives to support the shift from fossil fuel vehicles to electric ones.

Key objectives include the development of an EV charging network with a particular focus on equity, accessibility, and geographic distribution to ensure all residents, including those without private parking, can easily transition to electric mobility.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- **Strategic Charging Network:** Establish a comprehensive network of public charging stations that serve the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, with an emphasis on strategic locations across Northampton, Daventry, and Towcester.
- **Equitable and Accessible Charging:** Ensure that EV charging infrastructure is accessible for all users, including individuals with disabilities. Efforts will focus on ensuring appropriate geographic coverage, particularly in urban areas where off-street parking is limited.
- **Residential Charging:** Provide on-street charging for households that lack access to private chargers, with slow chargers as the primary solution and faster chargers available for urgent needs.
- **Charging Hubs and Super Hubs:** Develop high-power charging hubs in key locations to support longer-distance travel and higher traffic areas, alleviating range anxiety and supporting EV adoption on a larger scale.

- **Smart Charging Integration:** Encourage the integration of smart energy systems to optimize charging during off-peak hours, reduce strain on the energy grid, and enable cost savings for users.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

WNC will review consultation responses and adjust the strategy as necessary before presenting the final plan for adoption in 2025. Once adopted, the strategy will serve as the foundation for the Council's efforts in building a sustainable, net-zero transport system.

The consultation closes on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 however, I have requested a deadline extension to enable the Committee to make comment if it wishes – more detail to be provided at the meeting.

The Consultation can be accessed directly [here](#).

## **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS REPORT ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

**PURPOSE:** To inform the Environmental Services Committee on West Northamptonshire Council's request for views on the development of their Climate Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** a) The Committee note this report;  
b) The Committee determine whether they wish to respond to the consultation and how they plan to do so.

### **BACKGROUND**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is developing a Climate Change Strategy aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change impacts. WNC has set an ambitious target of achieving Net Zero by 2045, five years ahead of the national target.

WNC is seeking input from residents, businesses, and organizations to ensure the strategy reflects the needs and priorities of the whole community. Your feedback will help shape the final version and ensure it effectively addresses local climate challenges.

### **THE CONSULTATION**

The consultation closes on 29<sup>th</sup> September and the web page can be accessed [here](#).

Feedback from this consultation will shape the final draft of the Climate Change Strategy. A second round of consultations will take place later this year, and the final strategy will be presented for WNC approval in early 2025.