

ZERO CARBON APPENDIX

1. Summary of Year Five Activity – Financial Year 2024/25

No.	Sector	Action Plan Year 5 (2024/25)	Update
	Buildings		
1	Housing	Develop an asset and investment plan for the Housing asset portfolio, including decarbonisation activity.	Work on an asset and investment plan is underway with the initial report due end Q2 2025/26. This will feed into the budget process for 26/27.
		Develop an improvement and decarbonisation work programme for the Housing asset portfolio for budget cycle 26/27 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.	
		Develop and deliver a retrofit programme, including decarbonisation improvements and exploration of grant funding opportunities	A retrofit programme has been developed as part of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) grant funding with NWLDC match funding. SHDF wave 2 funded improvements across 131 properties and this programme is due to complete by January 2026. The grant value was £852,000. Total spend £1,472,630. SHDF Wave 2 Warm Homes is a much larger programme phased across 3 years to March 2028. This will fund investment in 844 properties. The first phase of 102 properties is due to start November 25. The grant value is £8,069,584.
		Complete stock condition surveys, refresh EPCs (100% by June 2025) and build plan to achieve a minimum EPC rating of C by 2030 across the Housing portfolio.	The stock condition survey has been completed and EPCs updated as required to identify properties qualifying for the SHDF funded improvements. Whilst the legislative deadline is 2030, the target is to achieve this by 2028.
		Develop new homes/new development standard aligned to the Council's Zero Carbon commitment and Decent Homes Standard 2 once published	This work is on-going. The Decent Homes Standard (DHS) consultation has ended and should be published by mid-2026. The new homes/new development standard will not be finalised until the DHS is published.
2	Property	Develop and adopt a corporate assessment management toolkit.	A corporate assessment management toolkit has been produced which will bring consistency in approach across teams, providing guidance and clarifying roles and responsibilities. It was approved by Cabinet in July 2024 and will be used to support the computer aided facility management (CAFM) system rollout.
		Procure and implement a Computer Aided Facility Management (CAFM) system to provide one stop view of all General Fund (GF) properties and the associated data, to support portfolio decision making, including Zero Carbon/decarbonisation activity.	The CAFM system has been procured and implementation is underway. It is due to go live in Q3 2025/26. The initial focus is on accurate data upload before rolling out for all teams to use. This system will help the Council understand how General Fund buildings are performing across many measures, including Zero Carbon, and will help to inform the new General Fund Asset Management Strategy. Any improvement measures will be required to meet a business case and would be expected to bring joint benefits such as reducing annual running costs, reduced future maintenance, increased income, alongside Zero Carbon benefits.

		Explore opportunities to decarbonise General Fund asset portfolio linked to general maintenance activity.	A number of opportunities to decarbonise have been identified but cannot be implemented at present as no budget has been allocated. However, opportunities are being delivered where this fits with general maintenance plans - for example the upgrade to LED lights at the Courtyard.
		Develop an improvement and decarbonisation work programme for the General Fund asset portfolio for budget cycle 26/27 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.	CAFM, new Asset Management Plan and stock condition surveys will lead to creation of this work programme plan by end of 25/26 financial year. This will include a review of the GF asset portfolio to establish which assets to retain, which to dispose of and which to invest in.
		Demonstrate how regeneration activity has considered Zero Carbon implications and biodiversity net gain within all projects.	The refurbishment of the Memorial Toilets as a work space is underway and will be finished in 25/26. This work will see LED lighting installed alongside electric heating and maximisation of natural daylight.
3	Leisure Centres	Together with Everyone Active, continue to drive a reduction in emissions at the Leisure Centres, build the business case to install solar panels and explore funding opportunities to support delivery of energy and carbon reductions.	Additional solar panels have been installed at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre using Sport England Swimming Pool Support funding. It is anticipated these will lead to a reduction of 39 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum.
4	Private Sector Housing	Together with Green Living Leicestershire partnership, deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme (LAD3 on-gas and HUG2 off-gas) to improve the efficiency of some of the worst energy efficient homes in the district.	HUG2 scheme was to support improving energy efficiency of off-gas properties. It was delivered collectively across 6 districts in Leicestershire working in conjunction with the Warm Home team at Leicestershire County Council. Despite strong uptake, significant drop out was experienced due to difficulties in identifying viable measures within cost caps and value for money triggers under the scheme. Across the programme, 108 properties received 145 measures driving a SAP improvement score of 21 SAP points, a significant improvement versus the previous scheme which achieved 12 points (HUG1 off-gas) and 11.5 points (LAD3 on-gas). Further funding has been made available under Warm Homes Local Grant, which can be used on both on and off gas properties. This scheme will launch in early 2026.
	Power		
5	Utilities	Develop building level utility usage reporting to identify opportunities to reduce utility consumption at council owned and operated buildings - across gas, electric and water.	Focus has been on maintaining green electricity, driving value for money through contract renewal and preparing for CAFM system set up and data input. The CAFM system will provide visibility of utility usage across the portfolio at building level and unlock the opportunity to review usage by both Property Services and building users.
6	Planning	Build the Council's Zero Carbon ambition into the substantive review of the Local Plan including renewable energy and energy efficiency standards for new homes.	The new Local Plan includes draft policies on Renewable Energy (including targets for solar and wind energy generation) and Reducing Carbon Emissions which seeks to ensure that new developments address the need to reduce carbon emissions. We are currently reviewing the responses to the draft local plan consultation. The wording for Policy AP3 (Renewable Energy) has been agreed by Local Plan Committee for inclusion in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. The draft wording of Policy AP4 (Reducing Carbon Emissions) is going to Local Plan Committee on 19 November 2025. The

			Regulation 19 Local Plan will be consulted on in 2026.
		Reflect the council's Zero Carbon ambitions in the Good Design Supplementary Planning Guidance refresh.	<p>Work is ongoing on the Good Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. It was consulted on between 23 July and 17 September 2025. The responses are currently being reviewed.</p> <p>It is intended to report the consultation responses and seek approval for adoption of the document at Cabinet in December 2025 and Local Plan Committee in January 2026.</p>
		Explore carbon offset options including opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	The issue of carbon offsetting will be considered at Local Plan Committee on 19 November 2025 as part of the consideration of Policy AP4.
		Implement Biodiversity Net Gain legislation requirements and support the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategy (led by Leicestershire County Council) to increase the biodiversity of our district.	The requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for planning applications are detailed on the Planning and Development section of our website. The draft wording of Local Plan Policy En1 (Nature Conservation/Biodiversity Net Gain) has been agreed at Local Plan Committee for inclusion in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. The Regulation 19 Local Plan will be consulted on in 2026.
7	Solar Together	Support the delivery of the third Solar Together group buying scheme to assist householders and small businesses to install solar PV and battery storage.	The third Solar Together scheme supported residents to invest in 514 panels and 46 batteries across 51 properties in NW Leicestershire.
8	Energy Switch	Refresh the contract and support the delivery of the Energy Switch group buying scheme to assist householders to switch to renewable energy.	The contract has been completed, and the Council has taken part in every scheme. Residents can sign up and at any time for the scheme - all details are available on the website.
9	Mine Water	Continue to explore mine water feasibility. (This technology could provide low carbon, low cost heat from water from dis-used mines underneath Coalville with the potential to feed the new Leisure Centre, Stephenson College and the Council offices.)	The Mining Remediation Authority, formerly the Coal Authority, was commissioned to undertake a phase 1 feasibility survey for Coalville, focusing on the area around Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. The report was very positive suggesting that mine water is likely to be present reasonably close to the surface, and the site has good potential with the recommendation to complete a phase 2 study. This has been commissioned.

	Waste		
10	Waste Services	As part of the Waste Services review, reflect all relevant actions from the Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan.	Waste Services Review was approved by Cabinet in April 2025. This will see the change for recycling collection to a twin bin collection, which meets the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements. This decision was supported by 61% of the 19507 residents who responded to a survey, alongside waste teams due to the reduction in manual handling and other safety considerations. The plan is to roll out the new service from November 2026. The Council is the waste collection authority, with Leicestershire County Council the disposal authority. None of the waste collected goes to landfill, it is incinerated.
		Continue with the food waste collection trials and prepare for legislative changes to roll out district-wide collections by April 2026.	Preparations continue for the requirement of weekly food waste collections from April 2026. This includes food waste collection vehicle procurement and the purchasing of food waste containers. Food waste collections form part of the Simpler Recycling reforms and this will be rolled out across the district in late 2026.
	Transport		
11	Fleet	Continue to roll out the Fleet Management Strategy, including fleet replacement and infrastructure as identified by the Waste Services review and Housing EV trial. Develop a plan for budget cycle 26/27 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.	This work is directly linked to the Waste Services review which will inform the waste collection vehicles required in future. Vehicle replacement is also required for much of the Housing fleet. Whilst home charging is considered successful, not all employees have the opportunity to home charge and alternative options will be explored.
12	Cycling & Walking	Deliver the cycling & walking "quiet lane" improvements in Kegworth.	Leicestershire County Council (LCC) is now leading on this project, working with the Council and Kegworth Parish Council. Due to purdah, LCC was were unable to consult on proposals which meant that the project was not completed until summer 2025. The "quiet lane" is now open.
		Work with County to support the development of the NWL element of Leicestershire Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan with a view to being able to access Active Travel England funding to be able to deliver elements of NWL LCWIP.	Work with Leicestershire County Council colleagues continues to develop detailed costings for key routes in the LCWIP, along with the development of highway improvements that LCC have responsibility for.
		Develop local infrastructure plans and priorities to build connectivity improvements, as per the Cycling & Walking Plan.	The LCWIP has been developed, and work is ongoing with parish/town councils to support the delivery of improvements when opportunities allow.
13	EV charging	Support the Installation of a solar EV charging hub at Money Hill car park, Ashby working with Green Living Leicestershire partnership and Midland Net Zero Hub.	This project will deliver a solar PV charging hub in each of the districts. In NWL this will be a Money Hill car park in Ashby. Procurement is underway led by Harborough District Council with first phase installations planned for Q4 2025/26, including Money Hill.
		Explore EV charging opportunities across the council's property portfolio, including HRA.	For commercial properties, opportunities are explored where tenants are requesting or supportive of chargers. In addition, a public car park is being considered for EV chargers. For HRA estates, the focus has been on retrofit of properties, but this will remain on the agenda.

	Other		
14	Finance	Develop a "cost of net zero" plan for budget cycle 26/27 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.	This work is underway and will feed into the budget cycle for 26/27 and beyond across General Fund and HRA buildings and fleet. Early indications are that it will cost £66m spread across 20 years up to 2040 to decarbonise the Council's social housing estate. This will be unaffordable without further funding support. General fund assessment is underway. Property that the Council directly occupies are priorities, especially Whitwick Business Centre and Stenson house as they are gas heated, with Linden Way workshop running on LPG. HVO, an interim fuel solution used across the non-electric fleet, continues to have a huge positive impact on the Council's direct emissions. Electric vehicles are considered for car and vans as part of the fleet replacement business case.
15	Procurement	Refresh the Procurement Strategy aligned with the Council's Zero Carbon ambition	Cabinet approved and adopted the revised Procurement Strategy on 25 March 2025. The update was made to align with the Procurement Act 2023, which came into effect on 24 February 2025, introducing reforms to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public procurement, with references to environmental sustainability and commitments to prioritise sustainable procurement practices, such as reducing carbon footprints, minimising waste, and promoting the use of eco-friendly products and services
16	Reporting	Establish approach to explore Scope 3 emissions (indirect, supply chain related) reporting, to shape the council's procurement policies and influence spend	This activity links to the procurement strategy above. The next stage is to develop spend mapping priorities to influence procurement activity.
17	Air Quality	Continue delivering air quality action plan	Complete, Annual Status Report for Air Quality approved by DEFRA and published on the Council's website
18	Biodiversity	Continue free tree scheme, planting trees and support communities with grants	The Free Tree Scheme was delivered in partnership with the National Forest in November 2024 with 13795 hedging trees and 609 individual trees given out to residents within the National Forest area. Trees continue to be planted, including over 500 trees planted at Hermitage Eco Park and 47 more mature trees across cemeteries and parks. £5,271 of Zero Carbon grant funding has been issued by the Council towards 6 projects with a total value of £12,446.
		Continue to deliver elements of Hermitage Recreation Ground Eco Park and improve biodiversity working with the National Forest and Woodland Trust	All biodiversity improvements at the Hermitage Eco Park have been delivered, including the planting of a Tiny Forest and 3,600 trees.
		Develop Tree Management Strategy for the planting and management of the Council's tree stock.	A Tree Management Strategy has been developed and consulted on and was approved by Cabinet in March 2025. The strategy outlines the Council's commitments and approach to tree management and also signs up to the principles of the Leicestershire Tree Charter, developed between Leicestershire County Council and The National Forest. It refers to using trees and hedgerows to help mitigate climate change impact and to integrate tree planting into carbon reduction and flood prevention strategies as well as planting native species to support biodiversity. The strategy will be supported by an annual action plan.

19	Engagement	Work in conjunction with Green Living Leicestershire to develop district engagement opportunities.	The net zero toolkit, designed to help kick-start community action, was refreshed in February 2025. To aid community groups in addressing energy efficiency challenges with community buildings and village halls, there are links to ACRE net zero guide and encouragement to apply for the Council's Zero Carbon Grants.
20	Governance	Explore the Council's current baseline status against ISO14001 principles and draft a corporate Environmental Policy	An assessment was undertaken by Unipart to help determine the current status and identify next steps. The first activity agreed is to create an environmental policy which has been drafted and will go through the approval process, including Corporate Scrutiny and Cabinet in 2025.

2. Year Six Plan – Financial Year 2025/26

No.	Sector	Action Plan Year 5 (2025/26)
	Buildings	
1	Housing	Develop an asset and investment plan for the Housing asset portfolio, including decarbonisation activity, measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.
		Develop and deliver a retrofit programme, including decarbonisation improvements and exploration of grant funding opportunities
		Develop and deliver the plan to achieve a minimum EPC rating of C by 2028, and before legislation is introduced in 2030, across the Housing portfolio.
		Develop new homes/new development standard aligned to the Council's Zero Carbon commitment and Decent Homes Standard 2, once published
		Explore LED lighting and EV charging opportunities across Housing car park portfolio
2	Property	Implement a Computer Aided Facility Management (CAFM) system to provide one stop view of all General Fund properties and the associated data, to support portfolio decision making, including Zero Carbon/decarbonisation activity.
		Explore opportunities to decarbonise General Fund asset portfolio linked to general maintenance activity.
		Develop an improvement and decarbonisation work programme for the General Fund asset portfolio for budget cycle 26/27 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.
		Demonstrate how regeneration activity has considered Zero Carbon implications and biodiversity net gain within all projects.
3	Leisure Centres	Together with Everyone Active, continue to drive a reduction in emissions at the Leisure Centres and build business cases to support delivery of energy and carbon reduction initiatives.
4	Private Sector Housing	Together with Green Living Leicestershire partnership, deliver the Warm Homes Local Grant programme to improve the efficiency of some of the worst energy efficient homes in the district (on and off gas funding).
	Power	
5	Utilities	Develop building level utility usage reporting within the new CAFM system to identify opportunities to reduce utility consumption at council owned and operated buildings - across gas, electric and water.
6	Planning	Build the council's Zero Carbon ambition into the substantive review of the Local Plan including renewable energy and energy efficiency standards for new homes.
		Reflect the council's Zero Carbon ambitions in the Good Design Supplementary Planning Guidance refresh.
		Explore carbon offset options including opportunities for the Council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.

		Implement Biodiversity Net Gain legislation requirements and support the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategy (led by Leicestershire County Council) to increase the biodiversity of our district.
7	Solar Together	Explore contractual options for Green Living Leicestershire partnership and the Solar Together group buying scheme to assist householders and small businesses to install solar PV and battery storage.
8	Energy Switch	Support the delivery of the Energy Switch group buying scheme to assist householders to switch to renewable energy.
9	Mine Water	Continue to explore mine water feasibility. (This technology could provide low carbon, low-cost heat from water from dis-used mines underneath Coalville with the potential to feed the new Leisure Centre, Stephenson College and the Council offices.)
	Waste	
10	Waste Services	As part of the Waste Services review, reflect all relevant actions from the Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan and plan for the new container roll out. Continue with the food waste collection trials and prepare for legislative changes to roll out district-wide collections by end 2026.
	Transport	
11	Fleet	Continue to roll out the Fleet Management Strategy, including fleet replacement and infrastructure as identified in the Waste Services Review and Housing EV Trial and infrastructure options.
12	Cycling & Walking	Deliver the cycling & walking "quiet lane" improvements in Kegworth. Work with Leicestershire County Council to support the development of the NWL element of Leicestershire Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan with a view to being able to access Active Travel England funding to be able to deliver elements of NWL LCWIP.
13	EV charging	Support the Installation of a solar EV charging hub at Money Hill car park, Ashby working with Green Living Leicestershire partnership and Midland Net Zero Hub. Explore EV charging opportunities across the council's property portfolio, including HRA.
	Other	
14	Finance	Develop a "cost of net zero" plan for budget cycle 2027/28 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net Zero Carbon ambition.
15	Procurement	Build links to the Zero Carbon impact assessment in the procurement process.
16	Reporting	Establish approach to explore Scope 3 emissions (indirect, supply chain related) reporting, to shape the council's procurement and influence spend
17	Air Quality	Continue delivering air quality action plan
18	Biodiversity	Continue free tree scheme, if funding can be secured. Continue to explore opportunities and funding to plant trees, working together with partners such as LCC and National Forest.
19	Engagement	Work in conjunction with Green Living Leicestershire to develop district engagement opportunities. Support community groups with Zero Carbon grants
20	Governance	Seek approval for a corporate Environmental Policy and if approved, develop a plan to embed it into all Council activity.