

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026**

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN – PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 4 2025/26</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Keith Merrie Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Council Delivery Plan</a> <a href="#">Council meeting held on 14 November 2023</a>	<b>Public Report: Yes</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	No direct financial implications.	
	<b>Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes</b>	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No direct legal implications arising from this report.	
	<b>Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes</b>	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	The Council Delivery plan sets out the priorities for the Council for a five-year period so has significant corporate and staffing implications.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes</b>	
<b>Reason Agenda item submitted to Scrutiny Committee.</b>	To report the performance of the Council during the fourth quarter of 2024/25 against the objectives and key performance indicators as detailed in the Council Delivery Plan as agreed by full Council on 14 November 2023. To request that Scrutiny Committee reviews the comments of Cabinet on the performance report and provides feedback on its response for consideration by Cabinet through the next performance Cabinet report.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. NOTES THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PERFORMANCE REPORT BY CABINET AT THEIR MEETING ON 19 MAY 2026.</b></li> <li><b>2. PROVIDES COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ON CABINET’S RESPONSE TO THE PERFORMANCE</b></li> </ol>	

	<b>ACHIEVED, TO BE FED BACK THROUGH THE NEXT CABINET PERFORMANCE REPORT.</b>
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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council prepared a Council Delivery Plan during late 2023, and the plan is scheduled to cover the lifetime of the Council administration for the period 2023/24 until a year beyond the next election in May 2027 (to ensure continuity in the aftermath of that election and to allow time for a new plan to be developed). The plan was developed with inputs from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the opposition groups and was agreed by Council at its meeting on the 14 November 2023.
- 1.2 The plan will be monitored in relation to the targets and a suite of performance indicators on a quarterly basis in line with the performance management framework. This will involve quarterly reports to Cabinet, the outcomes of the reports will then be shared with the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. Further information on the progress of the set of plans that sit below the Council delivery plan, the directorate plans, are monitored at officer level by the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 1.3 The reporting period for this report runs from January to March 2026.

## **QUARTER 4 2025/26 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN**

### **Performance Monitoring Report**

The minutes from the Cabinet meeting on 19 May 2026 can be found [here](#).

## **2.0 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- 2.1 Executive Summary – the Council Delivery Plan contains four key priority areas – “A well run Council, Clean and Green, Housing and Communities and Planning and Regeneration”.
- 2.2 The table in Appendix 1 shows the performance in quarter 4 overall against each of the four priority areas.
- 2.3 There are 18 key performance indicators (KPIs) in the Plan. Six relate to Planning and Regeneration, five to Housing and Community Services, four relate to Clean and Green and three relate to a well-run Council.
- 2.4 This report also includes a summary of the Zero Carbon Roadmap activity for 2025/26.

## **3.0 KEY PROGRESS AREAS**

- 3.1 Planning performance remains strong, with the Council comfortably exceeding government targets for determining major (72.72%), minor (84.84%) and other (91.66%) planning applications. This reflects sustained operational effectiveness within the Planning and Development Team.
- 3.2 Good progress continues to be made on the Council’s emerging Local Plan and the Good Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document is due to be considered for final sign off, following consultation, by Local Plan Committee in April 2026. Key Statements of Common Ground are to be considered by Council in May 2026, keeping the Council

on track for the Local Plan (Regulation 19) consultation in the summer and submission of the Local Plan for examination by the end of the year.

- 3.3 Regeneration activity has gathered momentum, with both the Coalville Regeneration Framework and the Districtwide Regeneration Framework progressing well. Several projects have achieved key milestones, supported by regular reporting and portfolio holder engagement.
- 3.4 The Housing Service is showing significant improvement, with tenant satisfaction rising to 78% (+23%) and repairs satisfaction improving to 71% (+15%). These improving trends provide assurance ahead of the mobilisation of a new repairs' contractor in 2026/27.
- 3.5 Environmental performance is a notable strength, with North West Leicestershire achieving a 43.5% recycling rate—the highest in Leicestershire—and ranking in the upper half nationally. Progress on waste service modernisation and food waste introduction continues.
- 3.6 Clear progress on climate and biodiversity commitments, including approval of the Environmental Policy and Biodiversity Duty report, implementation of EV infrastructure, and delivery of Tree Management Strategy actions.
- 3.7 Financial resilience remains strong, with a balanced budget achieved, zero funding gap, and forecast underspends reported for the General Fund alongside a break-even position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

#### **4.0 AREAS REQUIRING IMPROVEMENT AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS:**

- 4.1 Customer complaints performance remains below target, with 84% responded to on time against a 90% target. While this represents an improvement on earlier quarters, further work is required across service areas to ensure consistent and timely responses.
- 4.2 Although the Statements of Accounts for 2023/4 and 2024/5 have been approved, rebuilding assurance will require sustained effort over the coming years.
- 4.3 It is challenging to show performance improvement for some indicators which are inherently constrained by legislative or reporting cycles. This includes mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), where the Council can only ask for 10 per cent BNG and many applications are exempt so reporting is only where this amount of BNG is secured and annual leisure centre assessments, where progress in between these assessments cannot be reported.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	This report measures progress against all of the Council's priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning and regeneration</li> <li>- Communities and housing</li> <li>- Clean, green and Zero Carbon</li> <li>- A well-run council</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	No direct considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No direct considerations, the plan impacts across all of the Council's communities.
Customer Impact:	No direct considerations.
Economic and Social Impact:	As detailed in the report.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	As detailed in the report.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	No direct considerations.
Risks:	Detailed in the Corporate risk register.
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## Performance of Transformation Delivery Plan

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Key for table

### ● Red – High Risk / Serious Issues

- **What it means:** The item is significantly off track or underperforming.
- **Action required:** Immediate attention and intervention are needed.
- **Examples:**
  - A project is behind schedule and unlikely to meet deadlines.
  - A key performance indicator (KPI) is far below target.
  - A risk has materialized or is very likely to.

### □ Amber – Moderate Risk / Some Concerns

- **What it means:** There are issues or risks, but they are manageable or being addressed.
- **Action required:** Monitoring and possibly corrective action to prevent escalation.
- **Examples:**
  - A project is slightly behind schedule but can recover.
  - A KPI is below target but within an acceptable range.
  - A risk is identified but mitigation is in place.


#### □ Green – Low Risk / On Track

- **What it means:** Everything is progressing as planned.
- **Action required:** No immediate action needed beyond routine monitoring.
- **Examples:**
  - A project is on schedule and within budget.
  - KPIs are being met or exceeded.
  - No significant risks are present.

#### ○ White- Work hasn't commenced yet/there is insufficient data to monitor progress.

- **What it means:** Work hasn't commenced against this KPI or there is insufficient data to be able to monitor at this stage.
- **Action required:** Monitoring to ensure work commences or is in a position for data to be captured and the target deadlines are adhered to.
- **Examples:**
  - The KPI refers to an annual target where the Council is awaiting information from an external body to assess progress
  - There is currently insufficient data, for instance the target is a national one, the implementation is recent and there is insufficient data to determine progress.

Appendix 2- Table of Performance against Key Performance Indicators.

Priority	KPI reference	Key Aim	Target	Q4 Progress	Commentary	Head of Service	RAG rating
 Planning and regeneration	1	<a href="#">We will adopt a local plan by 2026</a>	2023-4 Submit local plan (Reg 18 consultation) . 2024/5 Pre-submission consultation ( Reg 19) Submission of local plan and examination by December 2026.	Good progress continues to be made on the emerging Local Plan with a view to consulting on the Reg 19 Local Plan in Q2, 2026/27.	At its meeting on 28 January 2026, Local Plan Committee agreed a report on the Diseworth and Isley Woodhouse Area of Separation, and a report on the Open Space and Playing Pitches and Built Facilities Strategies and Policy IF4: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities.  At its meeting, Local Plan	Head of Planning and Infrastructure	


					<p>Committee agreed reports on the Leicester &amp; Leicestershire Authorities statement of common ground on Strategic Distribution and the Leicester &amp; Leicestershire Authorities statement of common ground – Housing Distribution under the new standard method. Members were also provided with an emerging Local Plan progress update.</p>		
	2	<p><a href="#">We will deal with your planning applications for major, minor and other</a></p>	<p>Major- At least 60% of applications determined within 13 weeks.</p>	72.72%	<p>The Planning and Development Team has comfortably exceeded</p>	<p>Head of Planning and Infrastructure</p>	

		<a href="#">developments by consistently meeting and exceeding the government's targets of 60%, 65% and 80% respectively.</a>	<p>Minor- At least 65% of applications determined within 8 weeks.</p> <p>Other- At least 80% of applications determined within 8 weeks.</p>	<p>84.84%</p> <p>91.66%</p>	national targets for Q4.		
3		<a href="#">We will have developed a new local design guide and new developments will comply with it.</a>	<p>2023-4 Develop a new Design Guide for North West Leicestershire adopting current best practice in accordance with the Government's National design guide.</p> <p>Undertake public consultation on the new</p>	<p>Good progress continues to be made towards the adoption of the New Good Design Guide for North West Leicestershire with a view to the document being adopted at Local Plan Committee on 22 April 2026</p>	<p>At its meeting on 24 March 2026, Cabinet was presented with a revised Good Design Guide for North West Leicestershire for consideration, with a recommendation that the Local Plan Committee adopts the SPD at a future meeting. Cabinet resolved that</p>	Head of Planning and Infrastructure	

			<p>Design Guide for North West Leicestershire.</p> <p>2024/5 Adopt the new design guide for North West Leicestershire.</p> <p>New development complies with the requirements of the adopted design guide.</p>		the Local Plan Committee be requested to adopt the Good Design Guide for North West Leicestershire SPD.		
4	<a href="#">We will effectively manage unauthorised development</a>	Work begins in 2024/5 Adopt a new local enforcement plan by the end of Q2 24/25	Local Enforcement Plan adopted October 2024. Monitoring of enforcement cases has	The first report on enforcement cases was taken to Planning Committee in November 2025 for Q3 and Q4 2024/2025 and	Head of Planning and Infrastructure		


			<p>Monitor and measure response times against the targets set out in the adopted Local Enforcement Plan and report biannually to Planning Committee in Q3 and 4 24/25</p>	<p>been ongoing since adoption of the Local Enforcement Plan.</p> <p>Updates in respect of planning enforcement cases are given to Planning Committee every six months in November and May.</p>	<p>Q1 and Q2 2025/2026. A summary of the first period of monitoring was set out in the Performance Report for Quarter 3 2-2025/26.</p> <p>The next report will be taken to Planning Committee in May 2026 for Q3 and Q4 2025/2026.</p>		
5		<p><a href="#">We will have delivered our ambitious Coalville Regeneration Framework.</a></p>	<p>Quarterly progress statement plus an additional Annual Framework review in Q4</p>		<p>Progress towards project delivery has been demonstrated throughout the year via quarterly reports and portfolio holder briefing notes. Key milestones have been achieved on</p>	Head Of Property and Regeneration	

					three projects. A Framework review has been commenced.		
6	<a href="#">We will have developed a regeneration framework and will be on the way to supporting thriving towns, villages and communities across the district.</a>	Work begins in Q4 with the production of the NWL Regeneration Framework		The Council has an adopted Districtwide Regeneration Framework document that sets out the projects the Council intends to deliver. During the year significant progress has been made on six of these projects with three achieving key milestones. Reports setting out progress have been provided as part of each quarters performance report. Heading into 2026/27 a refresh of the	Head Of Property and Regeneration		

					Framework will be undertaken whilst seeking completion of remaining undelivered projects.		
 <b>Housing and Communities</b>	7	<a href="#">We will provide a high quality housing service to our tenants.</a>	2023/4 First data publication		The latest annual figure was published in quarter 4 and shows a 78% resident satisfaction level, representing an increase of 23% in comparison to the previous year. This is an encouraging increase to build upon and is a further endorsement of the progress demonstrated to the Regulator of Social Housing during its inspection in Aug 2025 and the subsequent	Head of Housing	

					C2 rating awarded		
	8	<a href="#">We will deliver an excellent repairs' service.</a>	2023/4 First data publication		71% satisfaction level reported annually in Q4. This has increased by 15% since last year driven by a concentration on this area as a key service improvement challenge. A notable change in operation in 2026/27 will see the advent of a new main repairs' contractor allied to close contract management, to drive performance even further	Head of Housing	
	9	<a href="#">Our private rental tenants across the district are able to live</a>	100% of Landlords contacted within the specified time-period within the		100% contacted within Q4	Head of Community Services	

		<a href="#">safely in their homes.</a>	MEES policy for non-compliance				
			Creation of a Private Sector Housing Charter.		The Private Sector Landlords Charter was formally launched at the Landlords Forum in November 2025.	Head of Housing	
	10	<a href="#">Our food businesses meet food safety standards.</a>	2024/25 81% of food businesses having a hygiene rating of 5 (very good)	82.4% for Q4 - food businesses with a hygiene rating of 5 (Very Good)		Head of Community Services	

	11	<a href="#">Our two major leisure centres in Ashby and Whitwick and Coalville provide good services to our communities.</a>	The leisure centres will be assessed independently against a national standard and achieve a 'good' or higher rating. (This will be provided annually in Q3)		This is an annual indicator and was reported on in Q3 therefore there's no update in Q4	Head of Community Services	
Clean and Green 	12	<a href="#">We will have reviewed our waste service so that it is easy for the public to use and our recycling performance will be improved.</a>	43% Recycling rate 2023/4	Progress continues with the review of the waste and recycling service to ensure it is easy for residents to use and supports improved recycling	During 2024/25, household recycling performance across the Leicestershire district councils remained broadly stable, with end-of-year recycling rates ranging from	Head of Community Services	

				<p>performance. This work is being delivered through the New Recycling Container Project, which is central to modernising the service. An order has been placed for 17 new collection vehicles, which are currently estimated to arrive in November 2026, alongside the planned introduction of a new food waste collection service. For the 2024/25 period, the Council achieved an</p>	<p>40.0% to 43.5%, as confirmed through the annual data reported in March.</p> <p>North West Leicestershire District Council achieved the highest recycling rate at 43.5%, making it the top-performing authority in Leicestershire for 2024/25. This was closely followed by Harborough District Council, which recorded a rate of 43.4%. A group of councils, including Hinckley &amp; Bosworth and Charnwood,</p>		
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				<p>overall recycling rate of 43.5%, placing us top in Leicestershire for recycling performance during this period. Work on the recycling container change project remains ongoing and has moved into phase one rollout planning and transitional stages, this includes detailed service planning, operational readiness, and continued review of the Waste and</p>	<p>delivered solid performance with recycling rates just above 41%, while Oadby &amp; Wigston, Blaby, and Melton reported rates at or close to 40%.</p> <p>In national terms, North West Leicestershire District Council ranked 129<sup>th</sup> of 321 authorities in 2024/25. This places the Council comfortably within the upper half of all English authorities and further confirms its position as the leading district council for recycling</p>		
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				Recycling Policy to ensure it aligns with the new collection arrangements and supports long-term service improvement.	performance within Leicestershire.		
	13	<a href="#">We will aim to be carbon neutral as a Council by 2030, and as a district by 2050.</a>	2023/4 Development of assessment work and target setting	<p>Environmental Policy approved by Cabinet in January 2026</p> <p>Biodiversity Duty report approved by Cabinet in March 2026.</p> <p>Housing and General Fund Asset Management Plans are underway which will inform options,</p>	<p>A full update on the Zero Carbon Roadmap activity for 2025/26 is provided in an appendix of this report.</p> <p>Emissions for 2025/26 will be reported in Q2.</p> <p>Key inputs are the Asset Management Plans for both General Fund and HRA which are being progressed.</p>	Head of Community Services	

				<p>costs and impact on emissions.</p> <p>Housing replacement fleet proposal has been drafted and going through approval process.</p> <p>Money Hill EV charging hub work – final costings have been agreed and funding transfer is due shortly. Community EV chargers installed. EV Car Club in Coalville is progressing.</p> <p>Warm Homes Local Grant scheme, to improve</p>			
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				<p>energy efficiency of private homes, is live.</p> <p>Focus is on end of year emissions reporting and mine water heating opportunity.</p>			
	14	<a href="#">We will increase the biodiversity of our District.</a>	10% Biodiversity Net Gain on large developments with planning permission	<p>10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) secured on planning applications where it is required or applications refused if the required 10% BNG is not provided.</p> <p>86 planning applications have been determined</p>	<p>National legislation sets out the circumstances where applications are exempt from mandatory 10% BNG, which include householders, those where de minimis applies (where less than 25 sqm of habitat is affected), self/custom-builds, some variation of</p>	Head of Planning and Infrastructure	

				<p>in Q4. Of these, none were subject to mandatory 10% BNG, as all of the applications were exempt or BNG was not applicable.</p> <p>In Q4, three discharge of condition applications have also been determined that relate to the mandatory Biodiversity Gain Plan condition, other details relating to BNG or a mix of both. All of these applications were approved.</p>	<p>conditions, reserved matters and retrospective applications.</p> <p>Only planning applications are included, as other types of applications are not subject to mandatory BNG, e.g. permission in principle, advertisements, prior notifications/prior approvals for permitted development and listed building consent.</p>		
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	15	<a href="#"><u>We will have produced a Tree Management Strategy to better manage our tree stock.</u></a>	2024/25 Publication of updated tree management strategy		All actions in the 2025/26 Action Plan have been delivered or managed. The 2026/27 Action Plan has been developed which includes actions around opportunities for additional tree planting, details of tree surveys and works, and woodland management actions.	Head of Community Services	
 <p>A well-run Council.</p>	16	<a href="#"><u>Our customers are at the heart of everything we do.</u></a>	2025-6 90% of Complaints responded to on time by end of year	84% overall across both stages Stage 1 – 83% Stage 2-80% At the time of reporting 3 complaints still pending a response but within time frame	In Quarter 4, 84% of complaints were responded to within the expected timeframe, which is below the target of 90% but an overall improvement on previous	Customer Services Team Manager	

					<p>quarters in 2025/26. It is important to clarify that while the Customer Services Team is responsible for administering and overseeing the complaints process including tracking, monitoring, and issuing timely reminders they are not accountable for the performance of individual service areas. The responsibility for responding to complaints <i>within the designated timeframes ultimately lies with the relevant service officers. The Customer</i></p>		
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					<i>Services Team remains proactive and diligent in their efforts to support compliance; however, their influence is limited to oversight and facilitation rather than direct control over response rates</i>		
17	<a href="#"><u>We will provide value for money services.</u></a>	Unqualified Opinion to be provided	Disclaimed opinion received for 2023/24 and 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.	The Audit and Governance Committee approved the Statement of Accounts for both 2023/24 and 2024/25 on the 12 March 2026. Disclaimed opinions were received from the External Auditors for both sets of accounts. Work is underway to	Head of Finance		

					build back assurance on the accounts, however, this will take a couple of years due to the work involved.		
	18	<a href="#">We live within our means</a>	Zero funding gap	Achieved	A forecast underspend as at Quarter 2 in respect of the General Fund and a break-even position was for the HRA was reported to Cabinet in November 2025. A balance budget has been set for 2026/27.	Head of Finance	

### Appendix 3: Zero Carbon Roadmap - Summary of Activity – Financial Year 2025/26

	Sector	Action Plan Year (2025/26)	Update
	<b>Buildings</b>		
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.	The Business Plan for the HRA (30 year vision) has been completed and published during Q4. This was delayed due to late changes made in the financial settlement and specifically regarding key decisions regarding the future stock conditions that needed to be met. The Asset Management Plan (five-year plan) for the HRA is being developed and will be published in time to feed into budget setting for 2027/28.
		Develop and deliver a retrofit programme, including decarbonisation improvements and exploration of grant funding opportunities	The retrofit programme is well underway. Under the completed Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.2 scheme 134 properties were improved to an EPC rating of C.  SHDF Wave 3 will bring improvements to 844 properties across three years, to March 2028. The grant value is £8,069,585. Smart meter devices are also being trialled to provide real time insight, enable proactive management and monitor energy efficiency.
		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.	End of year status is 1299 properties below EPC C. 924 will be addressed under current programmes to be delivered by 2028/29. The balance of 375 will be addressed and the work remains on track for end 2029/30 if not earlier.
		Develop new homes/new development standard aligned to the Council's zero carbon commitment and Decent Homes Standard 2, once published	New developments in progress to include sustainable measures such as solar PV and ASHP as a minimum. All fabric insulation and ventilation is required to be maximised where feasible and within the remit for the Council's own developments. Consideration will be taken where S106 and other acquisitions are made as to current specification and upgrade potential.
		Explore LED lighting and EV charging opportunities across Housing car park portfolio	Procurement is in process to commence an electrical upgrade programme where scheme and communal lighting will be upgraded to LED where possible. Work is to be undertaken across our sites through 2026/27 to assess feasibility to improve parking and EV charging opportunities.

2	Property	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Council's new CAFM system went live in late 2025 and is providing information to inform investment decisions. Further data needs to be added to the system particularly in regard to building improvements that are needed to ensure ongoing compliance with MEES Regulations. Savills has been appointed to provide the required advice. Continuing compliance with the MEES Regulations will incrementally contribute to carbon reduction.</p>
		<p>Explore opportunities to decarbonise General Fund asset portfolio linked to general maintenance activity.</p>	<p>Opportunities are considered as part of maintenance activity across the property portfolio. One example is that there are a number of premises with currently uninsulated roller shutter doors where the doors require replacement on Health and Safety grounds. As part of the replacement exercise, officers are looking at the additional cost that would be required in order to purchase and install insulated doors and how this would then impact the thermal performance of the property.</p>
		<p>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.</p>	<p>A report has been commissioned and received an estimate of the cost of moving the Council's general fund property assets towards Zero Carbon.. Information on the investment required to maintain compliance with MEES regulations has now taken priority and will inform the future Asset Management Strategy and budget setting for 2027/28.</p>
		<p>Demonstrate how regeneration activity has considered zero carbon implications and biodiversity net gain within all projects.</p>	<p>As part of the planned redevelopment of the old Council office site, with the associated demolition of the old offices over 99% of the materials were recycled in other construction projects or through recycling companies. The Stenson Square Gardens project is now moving forwards which will create a new public garden on London Road.</p>
3	Leisure Centres	<p>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</p>	<p>Additional solar panels were installed on Whitwick &amp; Coalville Leisure Centre in March 2025 which are having a significant impact on energy efficiency and carbon reduction and driving resilience. The project was delivered in partnership with Everyone Active and funded by a Sports England Grant of £242,000. Focus is now on Ashby Leisure Centre and decarbonisation activity options.</p>

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).	<p>The Warm Homes Local Grant scheme follows on from previous government funded Sustainable Warmth schemes (LAD and HUG), to help drive energy efficiency of private homes. It is being delivered collectively across 6 districts in Leicestershire working in conjunction with the Warm Homes team at Leicestershire County Council, working with the delivery partner, Sustainable Building Services Limited.</p> <p>The scheme is now live and has had a high number of applications to date and improvement work has started. Funding is phased over the 3 years to March 2028. Eligibility is usually based on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D,E,F or G and household income of less than £36,000. Further information about the scheme is available on the Council's website including an eligibility checker and registration link.</p>
<b>Power</b>			
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.	The Council continues to procure green electricity. Usage information for gas and electricity can now be reliably attributed to individual properties and there are plans to add usage data into the CAFM system. This 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. Water and drainage information remains to be addressed.

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 policies on Renewable Energy (AP3) (including targets for wind and solar energy generation) and Reducing Carbon Emissions (AP4) which seeks to ensure new development addresses the need to reduce carbon emissions. The wording of Policies AP3 and AP4 have been agreed by Local Plan Committee for inclusion in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan, subject to the findings of the whole plan viability assessment. The viability assessment is currently underway. Consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan will take place in 2026.
		Reflect the council's zero carbon ambitions in the Good Design Supplementary Planning Guidance refresh.	The Good Design SPD was approved by Cabinet on 24 March 2026. It is scheduled to go to Local Plan Committee on 22 April 2026. The Good Design SPD references climate change, street trees, allotments, SuDs and emphasises the importance of connectivity through sustainable walking and cycleways. Chapter 12 of the SPD 'Looks to the future' and details the requirements for developments in terms of achieving greater energy efficiency and using sustainable methods.
		Explore carbon offset options including opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	The requirement for a carbon offset fund for new development has been removed from Policy AP4 of the Local Plan following external advice which identified a number of significant issues with setting up a carbon offset fund.
		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) are detailed on the Planning and Development section of the Council's website. The wording of Policy En1 (Nature Conservation/BNG) has been agreed for inclusion in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. Consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan will take place in 2026.  The Council's Biodiversity Duty Report was approved and published in March 2026.

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.	<p>The Solar Together scheme contract has now ended. This was a collaboration contract working with all other Leicestershire district and borough councils. There is a minimum number of properties required so an individual district council cannot take part in the scheme on their own.</p> <p>The threeschemes delivered 1023 solar installations across Leicestershire of over 10,800 panels. 1346 (12.5%) of these panels are in in NW Leicestershire along with 52 batteries across 126 properties.</p>
8	Energy Switch	Support the delivery of the Energy Switch group buying scheme to assist householders to switch to renewable energy.	The Council has taken part in this scheme at every opportunity to help residents compare their utility costs for free. This year, it was rebranded as "Switch Together Energy" and three schemes ran. Further information about the scheme is available on the Council's 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 2 feasibility survey for Coalville, focusing on the area around Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre. The second report was very positive. The next step is a techno-economic survey. Whilst a grant application for funding was unsuccessful, this was approved in the Council's budget and options are being explored.
	<b>Waste</b>		

10	Waste Services	<p>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.</p>	<p>The latest recycling national results have been published by DEFRA for 2024/25. The Council achieved 43.5% and is the top performing district/borough in Leicestershire.</p> <p>The FlexCollect trial continues for 13,000 households and in 2025/26 29 tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping were collected and sent for recycling.</p> <p>Preparations are underway to roll out the new recycling container change, meeting the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements. This will be a phased approach with the first collections due at the end of 2026 which will include plastic bags and wrapping. One bin will be used to collect plastic, glass and metal (replacing red boxes); the other will be used for paper and cardboard (replacing yellow and blue bags). 61% of almost 20,000 residents chose this as their preferred option.</p> <p>The Council is the waste collection authority, with Leicestershire County Council the disposal authority. None of the general waste collected goes to landfill, it is incinerated.</p>
		<p>Continue with the food waste collection trials and prepare for legislative changes to roll out district-wide collections by end 2026.</p>	<p>Food waste trial continues with 202 tonnes collected in the year, from 4000 properties. Preparations for the district wide roll out continue and are scheduled to go live by the end of 2026. This will be a weekly collection.</p> <p>It is estimated the content of a general waste bin comprises of 35% food waste. Collecting food waste separately will reduce the amount of general waste sent to incineration, and contribute to the Council's recycling rates.</p>
	<b>Transport</b>		

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.	<p>17 new Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) have been procured, providing a modern, reliable core fleet capable of supporting current operations and future service change. This investment directly addresses fleet age, reliability, and compliance risks highlighted in the Waste Service Review. In addition, procurement has commenced for two further service vehicles to support the recycling container change programme.</p> <p>The Housing fleet trial has concluded. Housing fleet replacement will continue to consider electric vehicles (EV), where home charging feasibility allows, and plans to replace the aging, inefficient fleet are going through the approval process with a decision due Q1 2026/27.</p> <p>Fleet infrastructure requirements identified through the Waste Service Review continue to be progressed to ensure depot facilities and maintenance arrangements remain fit for purpose and aligned with future fleet requirements. The non-EV fleet will continue to run on hydrotreated vegetable oil, HVO.</p>
12	Cycling & Walking	Deliver the cycling & walking "quiet lane" improvements in Kegworth.	The Quiet Lane has been delivered and has received positive feedback. Concerns are being raised around the speed limits which have not been reduced and these have been referred to Leicestershire County Council for consideration.
		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.	Leicestershire County Council and Sustrans are supporting the Council with feasibility assessments and costings to develop two cycling routes, one in Coalville to link London Road to Broom Leys Road and one in Ashby de la Zouch to link Ashby to Hicks Lodge.
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.	The Money Hill car park EV charging hub is progressing. Planning has been approved, a DNO connection agreed and final costings confirmed along with the mechanism to transfer funding from Harborough District Council. Installation timescales are to be confirmed but expected to be Q1/Q2.

		Explore EV charging opportunities across the council's property portfolio, including HRA.	The Council has engaged with a number of commercial tenants in regard to their desire for landlord provided EV facilities. To date none have expressed significant desire for this. Some have introduced their own charge points to avoid the need to share. For HRA, work is to be undertaken across sites through 2026/27 to assess feasibility to improve parking and EV charging opportunities.
	<b>Other</b>		
14	Finance	Develop a "cost of net zero" plan for budget cycle 27/28 and beyond, including measurement methodology and costs associated with achieving the Council's net zero carbon ambition.	This work is underway and encompasses three key inputs - Asset Management Plans for both the General Fund and HRA portfolios together with Fleet replacement plans. Each is progressing through the relevant governance but early indications are that decarbonising both estate portfolios will be unaffordable without further funding support. All three workstreams will inform the budget process from 2027/28. Hydrotreated vegetable oil, HVO, the interim fuel solution used across the non-electric fleet, continues to have a huge positive impact on the Council's direct emissions
15	Procurement	Build links to the zero carbon impact assessment in the procurement process.	Carbon footprint is referred to in the Procurement Plan Report that officers have to complete at the start of any procurement process. A Zero Carbon impact assessment is being developed, with the intention of it being used to help support and influence both project and procurement activity.
16	Reporting	Establish approach to explore Scope 3 emissions (indirect, supply chain related) reporting, to shape the council's procurement and influence spend	This activity links to the procurement strategy. The next stage is to develop spend mapping priorities and help drive a focus and consideration as part of procurement activity.
17	Air Quality	Continue delivering air quality action plan	This activity is complete. The Annual Status Report for Air Quality has been approved by DEFRA and is published on the Council's website

18	Biodiversity	Continue free tree scheme, if funding can be secured.	In November 2025, in partnership with the National Forest, 15,100 free trees were given away to residents that live within the National Forest. The scheme aims to encourage tree planting in gardens and hedgerows, supporting wildlife and contributing to a greener, healthier environment
		Continue to explore opportunities and funding to plant trees, working together with partners such as LCC and National Forest.	<p>The Council's Tree Management Strategy was approved in March 2025 and reflects the Council's commitment to boost tree planting and increase the amount of tree canopy cover across the district.</p> <p>A tree planting scheme of 117 trees has been completed in Coalville. Both Broomleys Cemetery and Coalville Park retained their Green Flag Award, an international quality mark for parks and green spaces, for a sixth consecutive year.</p>
19	Engagement	Work in conjunction with Green Living Leicestershire to develop district engagement opportunities.	<p>Green Living Leicestershire continues to support and promote schemes including the work under the Leicestershire CAN project, funded by Innovate UK, which resulted in the creation of a Leicestershire Local Area Energy Plan and visualisation tool. Further information is available here:  <a href="https://greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk/laep">https://greenerfutureleicestershire.co.uk/laep</a></p> <p>The LEVI grant which is funding Moneyhill solar EV hub has also provided electric vehicle chargers at Measham Leisure Centre and Blackfordby Village Hall to support communities and is funding an electric vehicle car club based at Coalville CAN.</p>
		Support community groups with zero carbon grants	Five community groups were supported with Zero Carbon grants in 2025/26. The total funding allocated was £4,230 and this facilitated the delivery of projects to the value of £11,378.

20	Governance	Seek approval for a corporate Environmental Policy and if approved, develop a plan to embed it into all Council activity.	<p>The Environmental Policy was approved by Cabinet in January 2026. The purpose of the policy is to outline the Council's commitment to environmental sustainability and the steps the Council will take to minimise its environmental impact. It applies to all activities, services, and operations of the Council. Environmental considerations will be integrated into all decisions and operations to ensure that the Council is proactive in reducing its environmental footprint, in line with the Council Delivery Plan commitment to a "clean, green, zero carbon district". The environmental policy is published on the Council's website.</p>
	Additional		<p>The Council retained its position as the top scoring Leicestershire district/borough Council in the Climate Emergency UK scorecard.</p> <p>All taxis will be Euro 6 compliant for renewal of their licence from 1 January 2026.</p>