

# **Service Delivery Committee - Working Group Update**

## **ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP**

### **Update on climate change work plan**

As a local authority we have a leadership role to play and we are taking action to reduce carbon emissions from our own assets and operations. However, tackling climate change cannot be done alone and we also have a role in working locally to reduce the wider borough's emissions, influencing local residents and businesses and encouraging a partnership approach involving a range of stakeholders.

We are already taking action on climate change, for example relocating the main Council Offices to Brocks Hill should realise significant energy and cost savings. We have used grant funding for private sector housing to make energy efficiency improvements and install solar PV panels. There is also investment to improve the energy efficiency of our council housing stock. Local Plan policies promote higher levels of sustainability in development with the intention to thread climate change through the updated plan. We are exploring the use of electric vehicles for fleet and installing more EV chargepoints. There is now a dedicated climate change webpage and we will be launching the Net-Zero Collection for the Learning Pool to raise awareness of climate change for staff and Members.

We collaborate with other Leicestershire Authorities on climate related projects under the Green Living Leicestershire partnership - the bi-monthly meetings of this group are Chaired by Anne Court. The projects include signing The Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact which stands as a statement of intent on the county's climate action pledges; developing a toolkit to help community groups to tackle climate change; and a second phase of the Solar Together group buying scheme has been launched offering local residents the opportunity to switch to clean energy with competitively priced solar panel installation.

The council has been working with APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Energy to produce a climate change baseline study for the reporting year April 2019 to March 2020. We will use this study to feed-in to a full review of our current Environment Strategy and Action Plan - the move from the existing Action Plan to the new one will have a stronger focus on climate change and reducing carbon emissions. The proposed timeframe for the Climate Change Strategy (Borough wide) is a working draft to SLT in September and Environment Working Group in October with a sign off for the final draft at Committee in Autumn and consultation early in new year.