



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2022**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE PERFORMANCE
REPORT TO DECEMBER 2021**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest performance update on the key performance indicators that the Council is responsible for delivering against the Council's Strategic Plan.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The updates in this report reflect progress against the Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework within the Strategic Plan to 2022, and the Environment performance framework and related high-level plans and strategies which inform the current performance framework and indicators in this report.

Background

3. This report highlights how a variety of Environment and Climate Change performance indicators are performing against the Council's key outcomes: Strong Economy, Wellbeing, Keeping People Safe, Great Communities, Affordable and Quality Homes and supporting corporate enablers.
4. The performance dashboards include several indicators where the Council does not have direct control of delivery, such as air and river quality and biodiversity. The latter examples are pillars within the Environment Strategy but are not directly delivered by the Council. They have been included to provide greater oversight of the environment, inform policy making and help understand what life is like in Leicestershire. They include a mixture of national and locally developed performance indicators. Measuring these may highlight areas for scrutiny of other departments and agencies delivery or the need for lobbying to influence Government policy and funding. It is expected that action by a range of agencies will improve a number of these metrics over time. Internal indicators, where the Council has the most control, are identified with an 'L' within the performance dashboards.

5. The Council monitors and assesses its performance by considering its RAG rating, direction of travel (DOT) and quartile position when compared to other English Counties.
6. For each indicator reported, the dashboard shows information on the latest data against the previous update and target (if available), the RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green) if applicable (see definitions of RAG ratings in Appendix A), the DOT, the trend, and the comparison quartile position, where available.
7. Improvement or deterioration in performance is indicated by the DOT on the performance dashboard. For example, if carbon emissions from Council buildings decline, the DOT will show a green arrow pointing upwards representing an improvement in performance. If the indicator does not have a DOT arrow, this is because no update is available. This may be due to the time taken to obtain data from third parties and calculate the results or because some indicators are updated less frequently e.g. annually.
8. The Council's performance is benchmarked against 33 English authorities which covers large, principally non-urban geographical areas. Where it is available, the performance dashboards within Appendix B indicate which quartile Leicestershire's performance falls into. The Council's quartile position provides insight into how this indicator compares to other county councils in England. The first quartile is defined as performance that falls within the top 25% of county councils. The fourth quartile is defined as performance that falls within the bottom 25% of county councils. The comparison quartiles are updated annually.
9. The frequency in which the indicators are reported varies; some are quarterly, others are annual, and some less frequent. Quarterly updates tend to have a data lag of two quarters or more. For clarity, the time-periods the data covers are contained in the performance dashboards (Appendix B).

Performance Update – latest data to December 2021

10. The quarterly performance dashboard shows Environment and Climate Change performance up to December 2021. Overall, there are 29 performance indicators included in this report which are aligned with the Council's Strategic Plan Outcomes. They are presented in the Environment and Climate Change performance dashboards (Appendix B). This report focuses on the indicators that have been updated, which is 12 this quarter. Where DOT is available: six show performance improvements, two had declined and four remained the same as the previous update.
11. The latest position shows that nine KPIs that have met target or are on track (green), three amber (performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a narrow margin) and three KPIs that are rated red (where performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target).
12. Across all KPIs the Council has notably good performance for: 'Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence)', 'NO₂ exceedances for Leicestershire'

and 'PM2.5 air pollution fine particulate matter.' Most of these were positively impacted during the pandemic as fewer people were on the roads and some businesses had reduced activity during lockdowns, except for 'Carbon emissions per capita' which refers to pre-pandemic data (2019).

13. Where comparative performance is available, the Council is in the top quartile for one indicator, the 'percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (new) and in the bottom quartile for two indicators: 'The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill' and 'the percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (existing)'.
14. The updates that follow focus on indicators that have been recently updated that either haven't met their target, have seen a decline in performance or show notable good performance.

Strong Economy – Green Economy

15. This outcome includes indicators that support a greener economy. Within this outcome three indicators were updated in quarter 3 (detailed in the following paragraphs), all of which had seen an improvement in performance. Targets haven't been set for these indicators because the Authority has limited influence over them.
16. 'Electric vehicle charging locations per 100,000 population' improved in performance as charging locations increased by 9.9% from 29 locations per 100,000 in quarter 2 (2021/22) to 32 in quarter 3 (2021/22) and a huge 60.5% increase since the same period last year, when the figure was 20. In terms of comparison with other counties, Leicestershire has now moved up to the second quartile for 2021 (above average) compared to its third quartile (below average) last year.
17. 'Electric vehicle ownership – Ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population' also improved in performance by 12% as ownership increased from 68/10,000 in quarter 2 (2021/22) to 77/10,000 in quarter 3 (2021/22). This has doubled since the same period last year, which was 38/10,000. This continues to demonstrate a significant momentum of people moving from fossil fuelled vehicles to more sustainable electric alternatives. However, Leicestershire remains in the third quartile (below average) when compared to other counties for 2021.
18. 'Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) exceedances for Leicestershire' declined from three in 2019 to two in 2020, suggesting an improvement in NO₂ air quality performance. Both exceedances were in North West Leicestershire (34 Bondgate and M1 Bridge Copt Oak). NO₂ is a gas that is mainly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels. This indicator is the number of times NO₂ has exceeded 40 micrograms. It is published by district councils in their Air Quality Annual Status Reports. During 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic greatly reduced the number of vehicles on County roads during periods of lockdown

which is likely to have impacted this result along with the increased uptake of electric vehicles.

Wellbeing – Air Quality

19. Inhalation of particulate pollution can have adverse health impacts. The biggest impact of particulate air pollution on public health is understood to be from long-term exposure to fine particulate matter, also known as PM2.5. PM2.5 data describes the annual concentration of human-made fine particulate matter at an area level, adjusted to account for population exposure and is measured in micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The major sources of primary PM2.5 are combustion in the energy industries, road transport (both exhaust and non-exhaust emissions), rail and air transport, residential sources, and small-scale waste burning. Performance on this has improved as total PM2.5 decreased from $9.92 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2019 to $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2020. Similarly, to NO_2 , this improvement in performance is likely to have resulted from reduced traffic during lockdowns. Levels of PM 2.5 are generally higher in the west of the County, in Blaby, North West Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth and along the M1 in Charnwood. The M1, East Midlands Airport and various quarries appear to have the most impact on levels. Leicestershire remains in the third quartile (below average) when compared to other counties for 2020.

Keeping People Safe – Environmental risks

20. The Department continues to support the Keeping People Safe outcome primarily through its environmental risks monitoring. There are no further updates for this indicator and the Council's 'Environmental risks managed' remain at a low rate of five.

Great Communities – Waste and Energy

21. The Department supports the Great Communities outcome through its waste management and energy initiatives and evaluates performance through public opinion and wider County indicators. Of the six indicators updated in quarter 3, one indicator improved in performance, three indicators remained the same and two declined, detailed below. Indicators with a green RAG rating include 'Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill' and 'Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence)'.
22. Of the eight comparable indicators, all performed below average when compared to other English county councils, except for 'Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence)' and 'Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population' (second quartile).
23. The 'percentage of household waste sent by local authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling or composting' remained similar to the previous quarter, 44% in quarter 1 (data is two quarters in arrears) and missed its 50% target, resulting in an amber rating. It lies within the third quartile position (2020/21). This indicator has remained static over the past year. Over recent years it has been particularly impacted by national issues, the pandemic,

seasonal fluctuations in garden waste, economic factors, as well as issues specific to Leicestershire such as the closure of the Cotesbach Mechanical Biological Treatment plant (MBT) and service changes across the County. Most of the factors identified are beyond the sole control of the Council, limiting the opportunity to mitigate the impacts. The Council is currently working with the Leicestershire Waste Partnership to develop the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy which includes a draft pledge to put in place collection systems to contribute towards the national target of 65% recycling by 2035.

24. The 'annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill' indicator met its target of 30% (rated green). Performance has remained steady at 28% in quarter 1 since the previous quarter (data is two quarters in arrears). In recent years, performance against this indicator has been affected by a loss of alternative (non-landfill) disposal points. The Authority has negotiated an increase in the amount of waste delivered to alternative disposal points which has begun to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Performance against this indicator remains in the fourth quartile in 2020/21.
25. The 'Total household waste per household (kg)' indicator saw a slight (2%) decline in performance as waste increased from 1,020 kg in quarter 4 2020/21 to 1,043 kg quarter 1 in 2021/22 (data is two quarters in arrears). This remains in the third quartile for 2020/ 21 when compared to other English county councils. The pandemic has impacted waste patterns and more home working and lockdowns are likely to have led to more household waste during those periods.
26. Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population increased significantly from 5.5 during 2019/20 to 8.6 during 2020/21. Factors affecting fly tipping levels are complex and the impact of the pandemic is not fully understood. National research suggests that deprivation levels and urban-rural classification may have significant association with levels of fly-tipping. This remains in the second quartile for 2020/21 when compared to other English county councils.
27. The Council's Community Insight Survey aims to understand public perceptions across areas of importance to the Council. It is a telephone survey of 1,600 respondents annually. The quarterly reporting uses rolling 12-month results. The latest survey results tell us that 98% of respondents agree that 'protecting the environment is important' in the 12 months to quarter 2 (2021/22), while 64% of respondents think that the Council should do more to help protect the environment (including carbon reduction and helping tackle climate change) in the same period. Both results are statistically similar to the previous quarter's results.

Affordable and Quality Homes

28. As part of supporting the Council's Affordable and Quality Homes outcome, the Council monitors both the energy efficiency of new and existing homes within the County. The latest data shows that 99.7% of new homes are energy efficient (energy performance certificate rating C+) compared to older homes of which only 40% are rated as energy efficient in quarter 2 (2021/22). Both new

and existing homes have seen a small improvement in performance since the previous quarter. Comparisons (2020/21) with other English county council's show that the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (new homes)' falls within the first (top) quartile and the 'Percentage of domestic properties with Energy Performance certificate rating C+ (existing homes)' falls within the fourth (bottom) quartile, indicating that existing homes in the County would benefit from more energy efficient incentives. The Authority does not have direct control over this, and further improvement may be contingent on national programmes such as grant schemes to improve insulation and energy efficiency.

Corporate Enabler: County Council Environmental Impact

29. The Department supports the Corporate Enabler outcome largely through its environmental initiatives. There are no new updates to report this quarter due to staff capacity issues arising from difficulties in recruiting to a vacant post within the Environment Policy and Strategy Team.

Background papers

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Outcomes Framework and Strategic Plan 2018-22

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/the-strategic-plan>

Environment Strategy 2018-30

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/13/Environment-Strategy-2018-2030-delivering-a-better-future.pdf>

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

30. There are no specific equal opportunities implications to note as part of this performance report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Definitions of RAG ratings

Appendix B - Strategic Plan Performance Dashboards by Outcomes (Environment and Climate Change Performance) to December 2021

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Appendix A. Explanation of RAG Rating

RED	<p>Close monitoring or significant action required. This would normally be triggered by any combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a significant amount. • Actions in place are not believed to be enough to bring performance fully back on track before the end of the target or reporting period. • The issue requires further attention or action
AMBER	<p>Light touch monitoring required. This would normally be triggered by any combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance is currently not meeting the target or set to miss the target by a narrow margin. • There are a set of actions in place that is expected to result in performance coming closer to meeting the target by the end of the target or reporting period. • May flag associated issues, risks and actions to be addressed to ensure performance progresses.
GREEN	<p>. No action required. This would normally be triggered when performance is currently meeting the target or on track to meet the target, no significant issues are being flagged up and actions to progress performance are in place</p>

The degree to which performance is missing a target is open to debate. A common way of overcoming this is to use a precise percentage threshold between current performance and the target. However, a blanket approach (such as plus or minus 10%) is not appropriate due to the varying ways that metrics are reported e.g. small numbers, rates per capita, percentages.

Appendix B. Environment & Climate Change Performance dashboards Q3 2021/22

Strong Economy

Environment & Waste KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22



Area
Environment & Waste

Select Strategic Plan Outcome
Strong Economy

■ C = County indicators ■ L = LCC indicators

* = Statutory Returns

RAG Rating

NA

5

DOT Arrow

NO UPDATE

2

UP

3

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG	Performance DOT	Previous Quarters/Years	Quartiles
C Electric vehicle charging location per 100,000 population	SP		32.1	Q3 2021	29.2	NA	↑		2nd 2021
C Electric vehicle ownership - Ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) rate/10,000 population	SP		76.64	Q3 2021	68.48	NA	↑		3rd 2021
C NO2 exceedances for Leicestershire	SP	2		2020	3	NA	↑		NA
C Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) are in good ecological status (%)	SP	9.4		2019	0.67	NA			NA
C Leicestershire rivers (excluding Leicester) are in good chemical status (%)	SP	0		2019	99.6	NA			NA

Wellbeing

Environment & Waste [KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22](#)



Area
Environment & Waste

Select Strategic Plan Outcome
Wellbeing

■ C = County indicators ■ L = LCC indicators

* = Statutory Returns

RAG Rating

NA

1

DOT Arrow

UP

1

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG	Performance DOT	Previous Quarters/Years	Quartiles
C PM2.5 Air pollution fine particulate matter (µg/m³)	SP	7	2020	2020	9.92	NA	↑		3rd 2020

Keeping People Safe

Environment & Waste [KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22](#)



Area
Environment & Waste

Select Strategic Plan Outcome
Keeping People Safe

■ C = County indicators ■ L = LCC indicators

* = Statutory Returns

RAG Rating

R

1

DOT Arrow

NO UPDATE

1

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG	Performance DOT	Previous Quarters/Years	Quartiles
L Environmental risks managed	SP	0	5	2020/21	5	R			NA

Great Communities

Environment & Waste KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22



Area: Environment & Waste
 Select Strategic Plan Outcome: Great Communities

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG Rating			DOT Arrow				Quartiles
						NA	A	G	NO UPDATE	DOWN	NO CHANGE	UP	
C * % of household waste sent by local authorities across Leicestershire for reuse, recycling, composting etc. (former NI192)	SP	50	43.64	Q1 2021/22	43.1	6	2	2	4	2	3	1	3rd 2020/21
C * Annual percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill (former NI 193)	SP	30	28.3	Q1 2021/22	27.8		2	2					4th 2020/21
C * Total household waste per household (kg)	SP		1,043	Q1 2021/22	1,020		2	2					3rd 2020/21
C Carbon emissions per capita (in LA influence)	SP	5	4.8	2019	5			2					2nd 2019
C Renewable energy capacity in the area (MW)	SP		326.1	2020	326.5			6					3rd 2020
C Renewable energy generated in the area (MWh)	SP		561,237	2020	537,711			6					3rd 2020
C Renewable heat incentives deployment (Domestic) per 10,000 households	SP		42.36	Apr 14 - Dec 20	37.36			6					3rd 2020
C Total fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population	Dpt		8.6	2020/21	5.5			6					2nd 2020/21
C % feel protecting the environment is important (Community Insight Survey)	SP		97.5	Q2 2021/22	97.1			6					NA
C % think the Council should do more to help protect the environment (Community Insight Survey)	SP		63.8	Q2 2021/22	67.2			6					NA

Affordable & Quality Homes

Environment & Waste KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22



Area
Environment & Waste

Select Strategic Plan Outcome
Affordable and Quality Homes

■ C = County indicators ■ L = LCC indicators

* = Statutory Returns

RAG Rating

NA

2

DOT Arrow

NO CHANGE

1

UP

1

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG	Performance DOT	Previous Quarters/Years	Quartiles
C % domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (existing)	SP	40.4	39.3	Q2 2021/22	39.3	NA	↑		4th 2020/21
C % domestic properties with Energy Performance Certificate rating C+ (new)	SP	99.7	99	Q2 2021/22	99	NA	→		1st 2020/21

Corporate Enablers

Environment & Waste KPI Performance Dashboards Q3 2021-22



Area
Environment & Waste

Select Strategic Plan Outcome
Corporate Enablers

C = County indicators
 L = LCC indicators

* = Statutory Returns

RAG Rating
R
2
A
1
G
7

DOT Arrow
 NO UPDATE
 10

Indicator	Type	Target	Latest Data	Period	Previous Data	RAG	Performance DOT	Previous Quarters/Years	Quartiles
L Carbon emissions from LCC buildings (tonnes)	SP	3,885	3,380	Q4 2020/21	3,393	G			NA
L Carbon emissions from LCC street lighting and traffic signs (tonnes)	SP	5,790	2,401	Q4 2020/21	2,209	G			NA
L Carbon emissions from LCC fleet	SP	2,072	2,455	2020/21	2,905	A			NA
L Total Carbon emissions from LCC sites (non-operational)	SP	14,403	9,228	2020/21	11,480	G			NA
L Total LCC GHG emissions	SP	16,098	9,434	2020/21	11,702	G			NA
L % waste recycled from LCC sites (non-operational)	SP	62.3	48.4	Q4 2020/21	48.4	R			NA
L Tonnes of waste produced from LCC sites	SP	410.1	132.8	Q4 2020/21	188	G			NA
L Amount of renewable energy generated as a % of consumption	SP	22.9	14.3	Q4 2020/21	16.8	R			NA
L % of staff who say LCC is doing enough to reduce its environmental impact	SP	80	93	Q4 2020/21	93	G			NA
L Total Business miles claimed ('000s of miles)	SP	5,745	2,462	Q4 2020/21	3,409	G			NA