



CITY OF  
*Lincoln*  
COUNCIL

Together, let's deliver  
Lincoln's ambitious future



# Environmental Management System Report 2022/23



## Introduction:

### Background

The City of Lincoln Council has a strong track record when it comes to reducing our environmental impact and addressing the challenges of climate change. In April 2007 the Council produced a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (CM SIP) to identify and plan a series of initiatives to reduce the City of Lincoln Council's (CoLC's) Carbon Dioxide emissions by 20% over the next 5 years based on 2005/06 levels. Over this period the council delivered a range of planned carbon emission reduction projects and was able to exceed this target, reducing emissions by 38% over 5 years. Overseen by an internal working group, which continues today as the Climate Change Vision Group.

The Council has prioritised addressing the challenges of climate change in previous Corporate Strategic Plans since 2008 addressing a wide range of environmental issues and acting as community leader to coordinate climate action across the city. The Council set up the Low Carbon Lincoln partnership in 2012, worked with our partners to develop the Low Carbon Lincoln Action Plan. The group was relaunched in 2019 as the Lincoln Climate Commission with representatives from the public, private and community sectors. In September 2022 the Lincoln Climate Commission approved the [Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan](#).

There are 47 Local Wildlife Sites, making up 740 hectares and account for 21% of the land in the City of Lincoln administrative boundary and protected from development in our Local Plan.

Since 2008 we have been gradually increasing the number of Electric Vehicle Charge Points in city council owned car parks for use by commuters, visitors as well as residents with limited access to off road parking at home. As of July 2023 Lincoln is in the top 15% of Local Authority areas in England for provision of EV charge points with 72 EVCPs per 100 000 population.<sup>1</sup>, Citywide reduction of carbon emissions of 48% since 2005 baseline year.<sup>2</sup>

### Continuous Improvement

On the 23rd July 2019 the council agreed a motion declaring a Climate and Environmental Emergency. The motion includes a commitment for Lincoln to achieve a net zero carbon target by 2030.

In August 2020 the Council's Environmental Management System was externally audited by Investors in the Environment (iE) and awarded the Silver level accreditation with a score of 74%. In 2021 the Council's EMS was awarded the highest level Green accreditation which was maintained in 2022. During 2022/23 the Council has reviewed and updated its Environmental Policy, carried out an employee travel survey and updated our Employee Travel Plan, published the City of Lincoln Council Decarbonisation Plan and worked with the Lincoln Climate Commission to prepare and publish 'Lincoln 2030 A Climate Action Plan'.

This document is updated on an annual basis in order to demonstrate on-going progress and continuous improvement. This report demonstrates our journey towards net zero carbon, where we are now and where we want to be, not just to demonstrate our environmental progress, but to fulfil our duty to protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of our residents.

**Angela Andrews . Chief Executive – City of Lincoln Council  
July 2023**

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<sup>1</sup> [Electric Vehicle Charge Point Statistics January 2023](#)

<sup>2</sup> [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Organisational Structure

### Vision 2025 Strategic Plan

This document sets out what we want to achieve over the next five years and how we are going to achieve it. This is the second phase of our long-term vision for Lincoln by 2030 and follows on from the success of Vision 2020. The strategic priorities that support Vision 2025 are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

These are underpinned by the One Council programme and reinforced by our core values, which govern our approach to everything we do.

Weblink:- [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#)

### Corporate Management Team (CMT)

The Council's CMT consists of the Chief Executive, Strategic Director for Communities and Environment, Strategic Director for Housing and Investment and Strategic Director for Major Developments who is our CMT Climate Champion.

### Lincoln Climate Commission

The Lincoln Climate Commission emerged from a collaboration with the City of Lincoln Council, Siemens, Transition Lincoln and the University of Lincoln. Since then the group has expanded to include the valuable input from a range of businesses, organisations and community representatives who wish to work together to make a positive choice on issues relating to energy, carbon, weather and climate. The Lincoln Climate Commission is part of the wider Place-Based Climate Action Network.

The value of the Climate Commission is its ability to harness the collective energy, vision and ambition of key stakeholders across Lincoln and Lincolnshire to deliver a step-change in its response to the climate emergency.

In September 2020 the Commission approved the Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero Carbon by 2030. Lincoln 2030 was formally adopted by the Lincoln Climate Commission on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and published on the commission and City of Lincoln Council websites. During 2023 the commission have been focusing on delivering net zero projects outlined in the Journey to Net Zero Action Plan and extensive community consultation as part of its commitment to establish a citizen's assembly.

Weblinks:-

[Lincoln Climate Commission |](#)

[Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan](#)

[Lincoln's Journey to Net Zero](#)

## **Climate Change Place Portfolio Holder**

Councillor Bob Bushell is the Council's Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place and Climate Change and holds responsibility for championing and driving environmental progress at the Council at the highest level. The portfolio holder receives monthly portfolio briefings which include an update on climate change, which is a standing item on the agenda. The Portfolio holder reports on the Council's strategic priority 'Addressing the challenges of climate change,' to Performance Scrutiny Committee annually.

## **Climate Change Vision Group**

The Climate Change vision group is responsible for supporting the Council's Investors in the Environment Scheme, along with a range of priority climate actions as part of the council's Vision 2025 priorities. The Group consists of representatives from all service areas within the Council and are responsible for encouraging environmental behavioural change and delivering carbon reduction projects within their service areas.

## **Internal Communication and Engagement**

### **City People (Intranet)**

The Council's Intranet site contains information on Climate Vision initiatives including the Environmental Policy, the Climate Vision Group Team and monitoring table, employee Travel Plan, the Council's latest Environmental Performance Summary report, and guidance on Sustainable living and office recycling. Employees can find out who their service area representative is on the Climate Change Vision group.

In July 2021 a new MS 365 SharePoint [Zero Carbon Lincoln - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com) has been set up with all the documents related to the council's zero carbon journey in preparation for when City People will be transferred to SharePoint and all staff transition to MS 365.

### **Councillors Briefing**

City Councillors receive a fortnightly email briefing, which regularly includes updates on the Council's environmental performances as well as new and initiatives on Climate actions.

### **Assistant Directors and Service managers updates**

The Council's Assistant Directors and Service Managers are updated on a quarterly basis on the Council's V2025 Climate Action Plan.

### **Weekly CX update**

Chief Executive sends a weekly email update and this regularly includes information on the council's environmental performance, staff surveys etc.

### **Your Lincoln**

The Council's news magazine is distributed to residents of Lincoln 3 times a year and this is used to share information on climate action and environmental news to our residents, in addition to social media, Lincoln Climate Commission quarterly newsletter.

## Environmental Policy:

The Council's Environmental Policy demonstrates a top-level commitment to sustainability. The Environmental Policy is reviewed annually and is signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, along with contact details for the Council's Climate Change Manager. A copy of the Environmental Policy is available on the Council's Intranet and Zero Carbon Lincoln SharePoint site along with guidance for staff and elected members on how to apply the policy and additional training materials. The Council's [Environmental Policy](#) is located on our website and can be viewed in Appendix A.

## Monitoring Resources.

The council monitors the following resources on a monthly or quarterly basis:-

### Scope 1 emissions<sup>3</sup>

- Gas consumption(kWh)

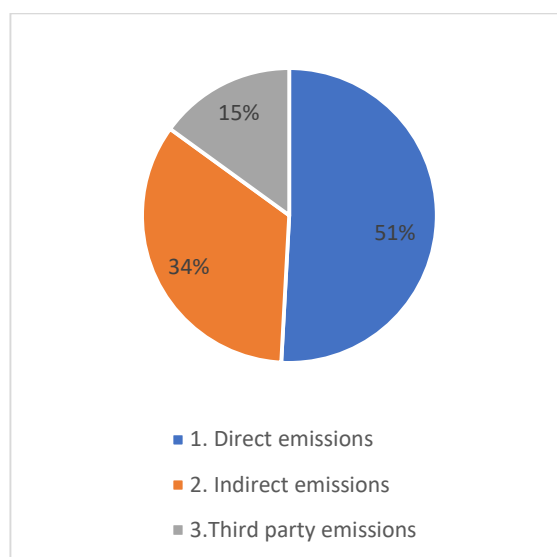
### Scope 2 emissions<sup>4</sup>

- Electricity consumption(kWh)

### Scope 3 emissions<sup>5</sup>

- Grey Fleet<sup>6</sup> (miles)
- Train Journeys (km)
- General waste and recycling produced (kg)
- Paper Consumption has been included for the first time in the 2021/22 report.
- Leased Council vehicle fleet (miles)
- Water consumption (M3 -Quarterly)

**Pie chart showing the council's scope 1,2 and 3 emissions for 2022/23**



## Green House Gas Emission Projections and Targets

The Council have a strong track record of delivering CO<sub>2</sub>e emission reductions and financial savings. There have been significant reductions in emissions over time against both the target and business as usual (BAU)

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<sup>3</sup> Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization (e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles)

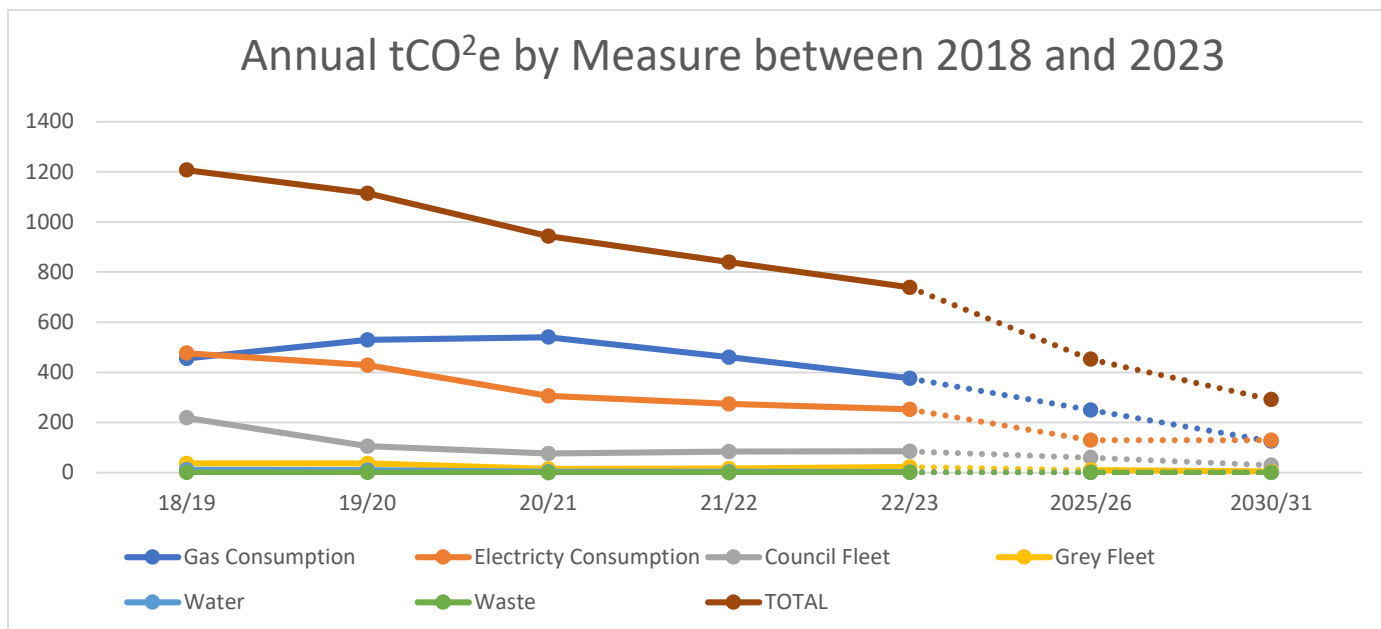
<sup>4</sup> Scope 2 emissions are indirect greenhouse (GHG) emissions and come from where the energy it purchases and uses is produced. For example, the emissions caused when generating the electricity that we use in our buildings would fall into this category

<sup>5</sup> Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the company itself and are not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that it's indirectly responsible for up and down its value chain. An example of this is when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers.

<sup>6</sup> Grey fleet covers vehicles that are not owned or managed by the council such as employees own cars when used for business purposes.

scenarios. Since our first baseline year was set in 2008/9 CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions reduced by 36% by 2020, against a target of 20% by 2020.

The current reduction trend sets a solid foundation upon which to aim for carbon neutrality. Due to changes in the Council’s operations and services we set a new baseline year in 2018/19, since then CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions have reduced by 39% overall and a breakdown of emission reductions and projections up until 2030 are shown in the following graphs.



Green house gas calculations are measured in Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (tCO<sup>2</sup>e) and are taken from the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Conversion Factors which are updated annually and published on the UK Government’s website.<sup>7</sup> These emission conversion factors are for use by UK and international organisations to report on 2023 greenhouse gas emissions.

### CoLC Performance since the 2018/19 baseline year

Overall green house gas emissions have reduced across a range of council owned and managed buildings as well as our operations since 2018/19. Electricity consumption in all buildings reduced by 10% however in the 2023 update, the UK Electricity CO<sup>2</sup>e factor has increased by 7% (compared to the 2022 update) due to an increase in natural gas use in electricity generation and a decrease in renewable generation.

The Council’s 50 year old Crematorium underwent a major refurbishment in 2021/2022 and the gas consumption for the building reduced by 27% between 2020/21 and 22/23. This is despite an increase in usage of the building over this period.

In 2023 work has commenced on decarbonising the council’s owned and managed Lincoln Central Market which is due to open in autumn 2023.

### Breakdown of Resource Usage and Targets

#### Gas Consumption (Scope 1 emissions)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2023>

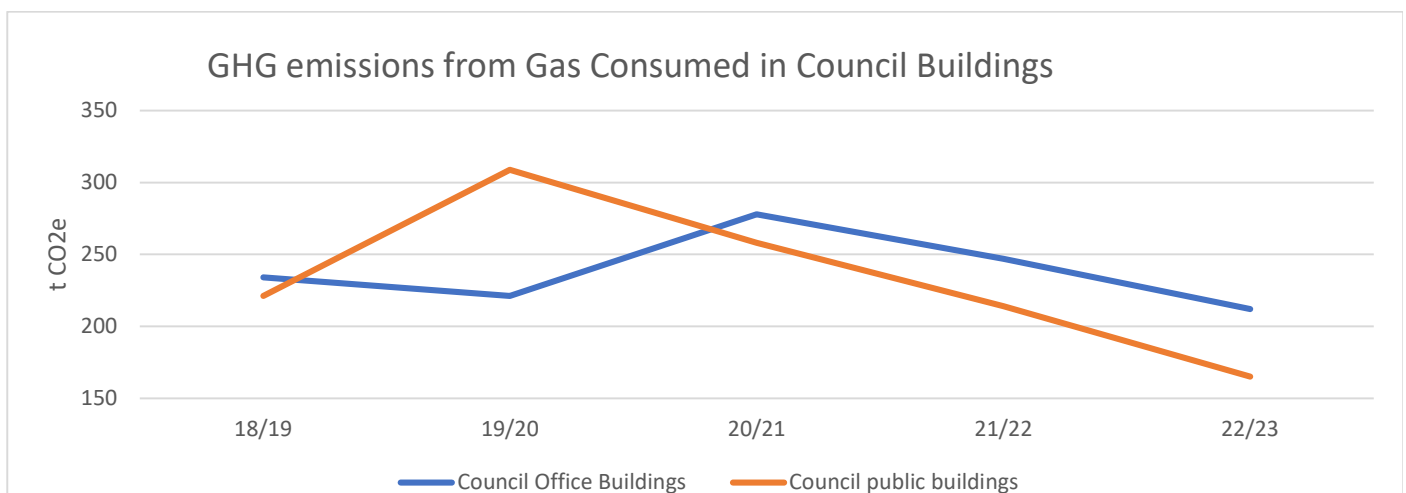
The Council owns several buildings which use gas as a main form of space heating and hot water. For recording and monitoring purposes the buildings are split into council buildings and public buildings. Council buildings include City Hall as the main administrative building for the Council and shared with the DWP and various charities and organisations. Public buildings include the Central Market and the City Crematorium. Gas consumption for our public buildings is unpredictable due to the marked variation of usage throughout the year.

The buildings are listed in **Appendix B** with monthly consumption expressed as Kilo Watt Hour (kWh) and Green House Gas Emissions expressed as Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO<sup>2</sup>e) emissions. The building’s gas meters are all automated and readings are provided by Total Energies once a month and uploaded onto a spreadsheet which is available to staff to help monitor consumption throughout the year. The Council also monitor gas consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce gas consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions.

**Gas Target** – Reduce CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions from gas consumed on site by 4%.

The following table and graph show gas consumption and Green House Gas (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for council office buildings and public buildings since 2018.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22		2022/23	
	kWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	kWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	kWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	kWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	kWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Council Office Buildings	1,274,153	234	1,201,325	221	1,546,457	278	1,372,252	247	1,175,147	212
Council public buildings	1,203,271	221	1,679,237	309	1,409,86	258	1,192,277	214	915,076	165
Total	2,477,424	456	2,743,100	530	2,956,244	541	2,564,529	461	2,090,224	376



## Achievements

During 2022/23 total gas consumption has reduced by 18% on the previous year due to the improved efficiency of the cremators at the crematorium, the closure of the central market due to refurbishment and the handover of Beaumont Manor to Acts Trust in September 2022.

In May 2022 the gas heating system was removed at the Central Market, this will be replaced in 2023 with an air source heat pump reducing gas consumption to zero in future years. During Summer 2022 the gas central heating at Beaumont manor was replaced by more efficient electric heating system as part of a major refurbishment and new usage as the Lincoln Community Grocery Store which opened in October 2022.

Gas consumption and CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions continued to reduce in 2022/23 in all council buildings, despite the increased usage of the Crematorium since refurbishment works to the original chapel, the addition of a second chapel and new efficient cremators were installed. Overall gas consumption at the crematorium reduced by 27% since 2020/21. Prior to the refurbishment works there had been a steady increase in gas consumption from several council buildings which is now showing evidence of decline.

Further details of the Central Market and Crematorium improvement works are included in the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2026.

**Total CO<sup>2</sup>e has decreased since the 18/19 baseline year for gas - 17%**

### Electricity Consumption (Scope 2 emissions)

Electricity consumption in Council's office buildings is mostly used for lighting, lifts, IT equipment and supporting infrastructure as well as air conditioning units in the IT server room. In the council's public buildings electricity is mostly used for heating and lighting.

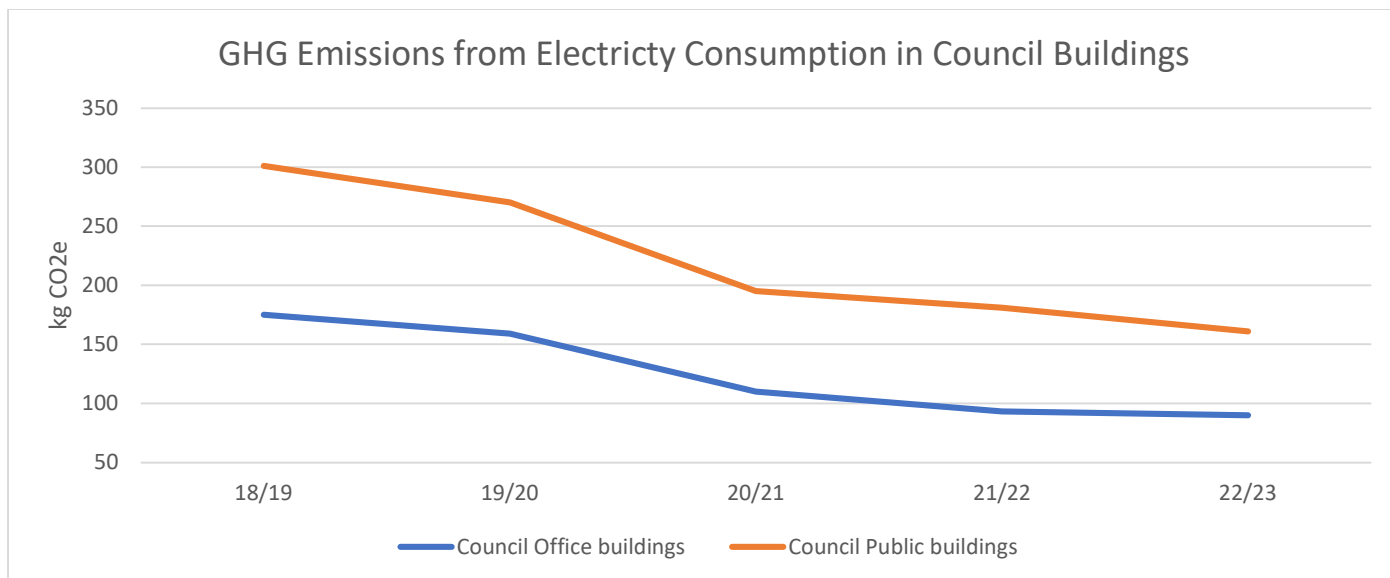
The building's electricity meters are automated and readings are provided by Total Gas and Power once a month and uploaded onto a spreadsheet which is available to staff to help monitor consumption throughout the year. The Council also monitor electricity consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce gas consumption and CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions.

**Electricity Target** – Reduce CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions from electricity generated off site and consumed by 5%.

The following table and graph show electricity consumption and Green House Gas (CO<sup>2</sup>e) emissions for council office buildings and public buildings.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	kWh	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kWh	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kWh	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kWh	Kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kWh	Kg CO <sup>2</sup> e
Council Office buildings	618,352	175	621,178	159	473,855	110	481,169	93	460,824	91
Council Public buildings	1,064,945	301	1,054,692	270	837,722	195	935,634	181	817,217	161
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,683,298</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1,675,870</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1,311,577</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1,416,803</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1,278,040</b>	<b>252</b>





## Achievements

### Council Office Buildings

During 2022/23 electricity consumption at the council’s largest building reduced by 2% on the previous year, continuing the reduction despite increased number of staff returning to office working post the covid pandemic. Many staff continue an agile working practice which has enabled a significant reduction in the number of physical IT servers and the need for air conditioning units for the Server room.

In the 2023 update, the UK Electricity CO2e factor has increased by 7% (compared to the 2022 update) due to an increase in natural gas use in electricity generation and a decrease in renewable generation.

### Council Public Buildings

During 2022/23 electricity consumption has decreased by 13% on the previous year as most public buildings have made significant energy efficiency savings. The Lincoln Central Car Park has increased electricity consumption by 16% on the previous year and this is due to the increase visitor numbers to Lincoln due to an increased events programme as part of Covid recovery. In addition, the Lincoln Central Market was closed due to refurbishment which has contributed to the significant reduction which we expect to increase for 23/24. However due to the energy efficiency measures we expect to maintain an above target reduction overall since the 18/18 baseline.

### Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for electricity – 47%

Priority actions to further reduce CO2e emissions from electricity consumption can be viewed in the Decarbonisation Action Plan 2021-2026.

## Water Consumption (Scope 2 emissions)

Water consumption in Council’s office and public buildings is mostly used in kitchens and toilets. Due to water meters not being automated, readings are taken manually on a quarterly basis.

The Council also monitor water consumption in our outsourced buildings such as community and leisure centres and work with organisations occupying the building to identify and deliver projects to reduce water consumption and CO2e emissions.

**Target** - Reduce CO2e emissions from electricity generated off site and consumed by 2%.

The following table shows water consumption and Green House Gas (CO2e) emissions for council office and public buildings.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22		2022/23	
	M3	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	M3	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	M3	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	M3	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	M3	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e
Council Office buildings	7398	7783	6602	6945	6023	2536	2899	1220	2723	1029
Council Public buildings	3704	3897	2636	2773	2429	1022	3840	1617	1690	639
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,102</b>	<b>11679</b>	<b>9238</b>	<b>9718</b>	<b>8452</b>	<b>3558</b>	<b>6739</b>	<b>2837</b>	<b>4413</b>	<b>1858</b>

Water consumption in council office buildings have reduced by 6% on the previous year and 52%. However water consumption in Council's public buildings increased by 37%, this was partly due to a significant increase in water consumption at the Crematorium due to construction works. There was also a 48% increase in water consumption at Hartsholme Country Pak as a result of increased visitor numbers to both the park and caravan site.

**Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for water – 76%**

**General waste and recycling (scope 3 emissions)**

In July 2023 the Council prepared a draft Internal Waste Minimisation Plan setting out all the council's waste streams and how they are minimised as well as diverted from landfill. Waste streams include office waste as well as material waste from the housing maintenance service, park and leisure services. Following consultation over August the plan is scheduled for the Executive committee in October and will be published on the council's website, subject to approval.

For most of the waste streams the volume is monitored and recorded on a monthly basis. The volume of waste and recycling is also recorded and monitored at community centres, public buildings, parks, however this is outside the scope of the council's environmental management system and therefore not included in the council's total waste figures or CO2e emissions.

In order to encourage recycling of waste in council office buildings all kitchen areas are provided with a separate glass bin and combined plastic/cans recycling bin. All offices have a paper recycling bin (confidential waste) and shared general waste bin. Individual general waste bins have been removed to encourage staff to use the recycling bins provided. Our Caretakers regularly monitor general waste bins and remind staff if they identify recycling bins are not being used. Posters and stickers are located in communal areas to remind staff what materials they can put in the bins.



A waste audit carried out in May 2023 revealed that the communal recycling bins were being used with minimal evidence of contamination. A copy of the audit can be viewed in [Appendix B](#) under the tab 'May 2023 Waste Audit'. The audit will be repeated in Autumn 2023.

The Council have a waste and recycling contract with Biffa, dry mixed recyclable waste is collected from various council buildings and taken to the material recycling facility sorting plant (MRF) in Lincoln depot where mixed recyclables are sorted into single waste streams. The plastic bottles are sent to Biffa's plastic bottle sorting facility in Aldridge in the West Midlands. Aluminium and steel cans go through a 60 day closed loop recycling process, cans are sorted, crushed and baled at the Lincoln MRF and the sent to a polishing plant in Derby.

Confidential paper from all remote council office sites are collected weekly by the caretakers and brought to City Hall. Paper waste is then collected from City Hall by Restore datashred where it is taken to be shredded at a facility in Rugby before being baled and sent for onward recycling back to paper based products.

General waste materials are sent to the Energy from Waste Plant in North Hykeham, located 5 miles from our City Hall site in Lincoln.

**Target** - Reduce general waste produced in council buildings by 2%.

In 2021/22 the total volume of waste and recycling reduced by 44% and the CO2e from waste and recycling reduced by 42%. In 2021/22 recycling made up 34% of waste, this reduced from 51% in 2020/21

Council Office buildings	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Kg	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kg	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kg	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kg	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	kg	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e
Glass	4	82	1	20	1	20	0.15	3	0.52	11
Dry Mixed recyclables	49	1052	23	484	14	291	3	66	3.8	81
Confidential Waste Paper	158	3382	19	404	4	84	2	37	1.5	31
<b>Total recycled</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4516</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>123</b>
General Waste	64	1370	30	631	21	450	15	309	33	708
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>5887</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1539</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>831</b>

## Achievements

The total amount of waste produced in council office buildings has increased by 50% since 2020/21. This is mostly due to changing working patterns where a significant number of employees have returned to working in the office.

During 2022 we have carried out a number of campaigns reminding staff about use of recycling bins and our targets to reduce the amount of printed paper. New posters were placed above the printer and recycling bins providing clear information on where staff need to put recyclable waste. The September 2022 waste audit showed recycling bins were being used correctly and that bins are emptied regularly to reduce the need for using the wrong bins due to lack of space. We are due to repeat the audit in September 2023.

**Total CO2e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for waste – 48%**

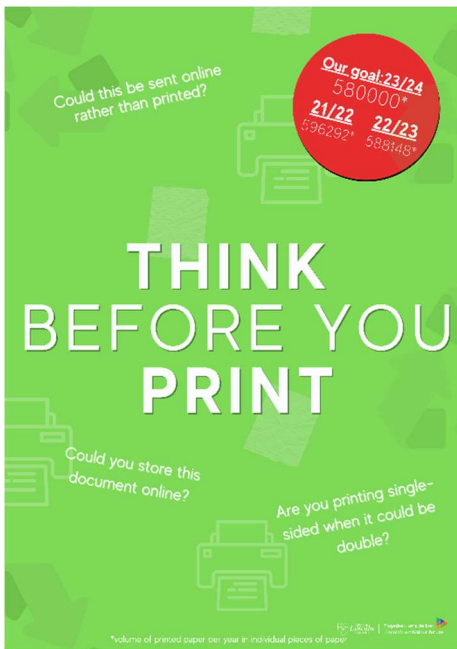
## Paper consumption (Scope 3 emissions)

In 2021 the council started collating data on the amount of paper used, as this information is available via the photocopiers. They have now been set up to send monthly data to Directorate administration teams who are now responsible for recording and monitoring paper consumption.

**Target** – Reduce CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions from paper usage by 2% from 2021/22 onwards.

Total Paper Usage	2021.22		2022.23	
	Volume	Kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	Vol	Kg CO <sup>2</sup> e
No of Sheets	592692		588148	
Tonnes	0.3841	353	0.3811	347

Since the 2021/22 baseline year the volume of paper used in the printer has reduced by 1%, however the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from paper consumption has reduced by 2%. Note that the carbon emissions are from the production of paper and do not include emissions from recycling waste paper which are captured in the waste a recycling disposal table above.



2023 poster placed in council print rooms/spaces encouraging staff to help with our target to reduce the amount of paper printed in 2023/24.

### Council vehicle fleet (scope 3 emissions)

The Council's vehicle fleet is made up of 84 vehicles and include small diesel cars and vans, the majority of the council's fleet is made up of short wheel-based diesel vans, used to carry out housing repairs to just under 8000 council homes.

In addition the council have an electric van used by our parking services team.



**Target** - Reduce CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions from vehicle fleet by 2% annually.  
 - Long term target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2030.

In 2022/23 vehicle fleet mileage increased by 6% compared to the previous year, CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions remained the same due to cleaner petrol and diesel.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22		22/23	
	Miles	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Miles	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Miles	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Miles	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Miles	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Fleet Vans	551800	207	394155	99	278849	67	302977	73	324507	74
Fleet Cars	30564	11	31862	7	40624	9	46392	11	45611	10
E Vehicles					6295	0.3	6530	0.3	7053	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>582364</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>426017</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>325768</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>355899</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>377 171</b>	<b>84.4</b>

## Achievements

### Total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for council fleet – 62%

In early 2020 the Council carried out a successful trial of area based housing repair work and in Summer 2020 this was introduced across the whole housing repair service resulting in significant reduction in vehicle miles and fuel consumption. During the lockdown from March to May 2020 housing repairs were reduced to a minimum, providing an essential repairs only service. At this time housing repair operatives were diverted to other Covid emergency response tasks such as setting up testing sites, delivering food parcels to vulnerable households and providing a telephone befriending service. Therefore depending on the task some staff increased or decreased their mileage during this time.

Throughout 2022/23 there has been a slight increase in fleet vans, due to an expansion of the housing maintenance team which, due to recruitment issues, has not been operating at full capacity over recent years. Therefore over the last year there has been an additional van being used and spare vans used while covering holiday and absences which was not possible previously due to staff shortages. Despite this CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions remained the same on previous year and overall have reduced significantly since the baseline year demonstrating that the changing working patterns introduced are having a sustained impact, keeping mileage and emissions down.

The Council's electric van, which is used by our parking services team used 16% of the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions when compared to the same distance for a small diesel fuelled van. The Council's housing repair team have reviewed the lease contract and in April 2022 signed a new contract to replace the diesel cars with ultra low emission vehicles and have switched the vans to a combination of petrol and the most efficient diesel available on the market. However there has been a long delay in receiving the new vehicles, which have been arriving in small batches during 2023 and therefore the impact on the council's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions will not be clear until late 2023 or early 2024.

The council considered a range of equivalent ULEV vans that can cover the required range, due to limited availability it hasn't been possible to introduce more ULEV vans for the current lease, however a review is currently underway into the EV infrastructure required and cost/availability of vehicles in preparation for the next lease in 2025/26. Procuring a new lease contract usually has a two year lead up time and the council want to be able to introduce as many ULEVs into the fleet as possible. Based on full electrification of the council's fleet vehicles we have introduced a new target of **80% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 2030.**

In 2022 the Council have replaced the civic car, used by the mayor for civic visits, to an electric vehicle.



### Grey Fleet (council business miles – Scope 3 emissions)

A number of staff use their own vehicles to carry out council work, this could be attending site visits within the city boundary or meetings in and outside the city. A record of mileage claims are recorded on a monthly basis.

**Target** - Reduce grey vehicle fleet mileage by 2% annually.

In 2021/22 the council's grey fleet miles reduced by 32% on the 2018/19 baseline year.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		21/22		2022/23	
	Miles	t CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	t CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	t CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	t CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	t CO <sup>2</sup> e
Grey fleet	129,414	37	131,999	38	55,477	15	90,723	25	82,764	23

### Achievements

The reduction of grey fleet miles in 2020/21 was largely due to many staff working from home on a full time basis, switching to virtual meetings and even site visits, i.e. Building Control Officer carried out virtual site visits during periods of national lockdown. Due to the return of a small number of in person meetings and site visits there has been a return to more normal grey fleet miles, however this remains significantly below pre pandemic levels. The transition to online working was helped by the introduction of MS 365 to many mobile staff in late 2019 and the remaining staff being transferred throughout 2020. As a result staff continue to attend virtual meetings, training courses and conferences and some of the reduction in mileage is expected to be maintained in future years.

**Total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction achieved since the 18/19 baseline year for council fleet – 38%**

### Rail Journeys – (Scope 3 emissions)

Council staff travel by rail to attend meetings, conferences or training courses and the council keep a record and monitor rail mileage and CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions.

**Target** - Reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from rail travel by 2% annually.

	18/19		19/20		20/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Miles	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e	Miles	kg CO <sup>2</sup> e
Rail travel	36254	1604	27813	1145	0	0	2359	84	3492	124

The reason for including a target for rail travel is due to the Carbon emissions and opportunity to replace some rail journeys with virtual events and online meetings, reducing CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions and achieving a financial saving for the council. However due to the reduced CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions from rail travel compared to the same distance for an individual to travel by car, where staff need to attend meetings in person they will be encouraged to travel by public transport where possible. There have been some challenges for staff since June 2022 due to ongoing rail strikes making some rail journeys uncertain and staff have preferred to travel by car, however many staff car share where 2 or more people are travelling to the same event.

### Carbon Reduction Pathways to achieve a net zero target.

The Council has set an ambitious target to be net zero carbon in all its buildings operations and services by 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, it is necessary to break decarbonisation down into the following six manageable pathways to identify the key actions required.

<b>Decarbonisation Pathway</b>	<b>What does this cover?</b>	<b>Emissions %</b>
Heat	Decarbonising space and water heating (and cooling) in CoLC's buildings will be part of a wider transition away from a national heating system based on a standardised gas grid. It is very early in this transition but it seems clear that the switch will not be to a single technology, but involve a range of alternatives such as district heating networks, heat pumps, hydrogen and solar thermal to fit local circumstances.	51%
Transport	Direct transport includes all work related travel by CoLC employees, whether in their own, or in CoLC fleet, vehicles or by public transport. This also covers indirect transport such as the refuse fleet vehicles owned and operated by a contractor to deliver a council service.	15%
Electricity	This transition is now well underway, with the grid becoming increasingly green as a variety of forms of renewable power are installed (solar, wind, hydro). Energy efficiency is also improving, with the council making substantial investments in energy efficiency throughout its buildings. Low carbon electricity will also play a key area in decarbonising other areas such as heating and transport, placing pressure on supply.	34%
Waste	This pathway focuses on waste from council offices and depots as well as waste generated by the public at council owned and managed sites such as Hartsholme County Park. Public behaviour has a large impact on the volume and type of waste entering our waste system. Not just at the point of waste disposal, but in consumer choices made prior to this. Waste that is not recycled is converted to energy, at the Energy from Waste facility at North Hykeham.	0.1%
Water	Water is used on council sites for drinking and cleaning, the supply and treatment of water have a carbon impact. Due to the small volumes of water used at council office sites this is the lowest of the utility emissions. However we are working with our partners to identify opportunities to reduce water consumption at community and leisure sites across the city.	0.2
Built Environment	The Council has some influence on Lincoln's built environment, through the building, renovation, repair and remodelling of over 7000 council homes. The Council is also the Planning Authority for Lincoln and has a joint Central Lincolnshire Local Plan with an ability to influence carbon neutral planning policy.	NA
Natural Environment	There are 47 Local Wildlife Sites, making up 740 hectares and account for 21% of the land in the City of Lincoln administrative boundary. The natural environment plays an important role in decarbonisation, removing emissions from the atmosphere, these negative emissions are crucial to achieving carbon neutrality. In addition, as land owner the council is responsible for substantial carbon stocks already captured, grasslands, wetlands, trees and soil are the main natural carbon stores in the city.	-2%



In December 2021 the Council approved the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2026), which has been published on the Council's website is due to be approved by the Council's Executive in October 2021. The purpose of the plan is to describe how the City of Lincoln Council intends to replace fossil fuel reliant systems with low carbon alternatives (e.g. Electric Vehicles, renewable energy). To meet the challenge of net zero, the Council will need to decarbonise its buildings and transport over the next 8 years. The plan is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis to monitor the Council's performance and clearly set out what the Council has already done, what it is currently doing, what it plans to do in the future to achieve our net zero target.

A copy of the Council's draft Decarbonisation Plan is here [Zero Carbon Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council](#)

## City of Lincoln Council's Environmental Projects

In addition to monitoring the Council's own environmental performance we are also delivering a range of environmental projects throughout the City, working with our community to deliver a citywide net zero target. The following projects are a summary of the Council's community environmental actions.

### Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Since 2006 the City of Lincoln Council have been installing electric vehicles charge points in Council owned and managed car parks to gradually increase electric vehicle infrastructure to meet the growing demand from residents, commuters and visitors to the city. Currently seven of the city council car parks provide charge points ranging from 7kW to 50kW and are accessible 24/7. Residents without access to off street parking can purchase reduced price parking permits, enabling them to park free of charge overnight to charge their vehicles. As of April 2023, Lincoln has 74 publicly available EV chargers and is in the top 20% local authority areas with the highest provision per 100 000 population in the UK<sup>8</sup> The council are due to increase the provision of electric vehicle charge points where required across the city in 2023 with a further 48 charging points in areas of the city with limited of street parking.



### Sustainable Warmth Programme

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<sup>8</sup> [Electric vehicle charging device statistics: April 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

In 2018 the City Council launched the Lincs 4 warmer homes scheme, along with a consortium of Local Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire, to support households living in fuel poverty. The consortium was able to secure funding from the Warm Homes Fund and jointly provided additional funding for an administrator to provide advice to householders on grants available and provide ongoing support throughout the application and installation process. The scheme has provided support for 150 homes with the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures.

In 2021 the Council secured additional funding to deliver the Green Homes Grant and installed energy efficient measures in 32 homes by the end of 2021 and in 2022/23 completed installations on a further 87 properties. In December 2022 the council published its statement of intent for Local Authority ECO Flexible Eligibility, this will enable a greater number of households to qualify for ECO 4 funding to install energy efficiency measures through their energy supplier or ECO4 provider.

In 2023 the Central and South Lincolnshire Home Energy Upgrade Scheme, which provides fully funded home energy upgrades to Lincoln residents, was named Large Scale Project of the Year at the Regional Energy Efficiency Awards.

More information about the scheme can be found on the Council's website [www.lincoln.gov.uk/greenliving](http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/greenliving)



### **Lincoln Climate Commission**

In 2019 the City of Lincoln Council set up the Lincoln Climate Commission, since then the group has expanded to include the valuable input from a range of businesses, organisations and community representatives who wish to work together to make a positive choice on issues relating to energy, carbon, weather and climate.

The value of the Climate Commission is its ability to harness the collective energy, vision and ambition of key stakeholders across Lincoln and Lincolnshire to deliver a step-change in its response to the climate emergency.

In September 2020 the Commission approved and published the [Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero Carbon by 2030](#) as well as the [Lincoln Sustainability Toolkit](#) providing a one stop guide to all things sustainable. It includes everything from saving energy to reducing plastics at home. Learn about local cycle routes and how to easily transition from carbon consumer to carbon saver.

During 2021 the commission organised a range of practical workshops and online events to engage the community in climate action. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 the Commission hosted the Lincoln Roadmap to net Zero event, which is part of a UK wide tour to promote the UN Climate Conference to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Throughout Spring and Summer 2022 the commission worked with the community to prepare the Lincoln 2030 Climate Action Plan which was adopted by the commission on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and published on the Council and commission websites.

In June 2023 the council and Lincoln Climate Commission launch #Climate Hope Lincoln and organised a series of events during Great Big Green Week, including a flash dance in the city centre.



The Climate Hope Lincoln flash dance can be viewed [here](#) and the full series of events taking place during GBGW can be viewed [here](#).

On the 15th of June 2023 we held a Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) workshop attended by 68 organisations, individuals and policy makers. They came together to explore the four lenses of our city by addressing both social and ecological issues, while combining the local aspirations of a place with its global responsibilities. [You can view a short video of the event here](#)

[Zero Carbon Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council  
Lincoln Climate Commission |](#)

### **Plastic Free Lincoln**

A member of the Council's small business support team and a City Councillor sits on the Plastic free Lincoln steering group and is supporting the group to achieve plastic free status for the city. In September 2019 the Council passed a motion to become a single use plastic free council and has since carried out an audit and prepared an action plan which is updated quarterly.

[Green and sustainable living – City of Lincoln Council](#)

### **Lincoln rewilding projects**

In January 2020 the Council successfully secured £658,700 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund towards the restoration of Boultham park lake. To total project value is £1.17 million and was completed in Summer 2021. The project focused on improving biodiversity and restoring the lake, supported by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and provides more opportunities for people to get involved in the park, create more space for wildlife to flourish and open up natural and cultural heritage to existing and new visitors.

[Boultham Park – Boultham Park in Lincoln is undergoing an extensive regeneration project](#)

In Spring 2021 the City Council launched several ‘rewilding’ initiatives to support biodiversity and enable the natural environments in the city to thrive in a way that best supports native wildlife.

[City council ‘rewilding’ initiative to introduce more wildflower areas to Lincoln – City of Lincoln Council](#)



Rewilding sites have been maintained and extended during 2022/23 and included an extension to the popular floating biohavens on the Brayford Pool.



### Local Climate Impacts Profile

A Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCIP) for Lincolnshire was undertaken by the City of Lincoln Council in 2021 to increase our understanding of the county’s vulnerability to severe weather events. Based on data which

spans the period from 2010-2020, it aims to help inform public sector organisations about those weather events which affect the Council's assets, infrastructure and capacity to deliver services. The LCIP also informs the Council about the impacts on other public service providers and local communities. The purpose of an LCIP is to help the council prepare for future climate change and inform the Lincoln Climate Adaptation strategy which is due to be completed by the end of 2023.

### **City of Lincoln Travel Plan**

The Travel Plan is designed to reduce car use and provide improved travel options for Council employees traveling to their place of work as well as while at work. The Travel Plan was introduced in 2019 following a staff travel survey. The staff travel survey was repeated in June 2021 once all teams had been advised on longer term, post pandemic working arrangements. The employee survey was repeated in Spring 2023 and the Travel Plan was reviewed and updated in August 2023.

Following the survey the Travel Plan has been updated and approved by the Council's Corporate Management Team and published on the council's website as well as the Council's Zero Carbon share point page. For many people the Covid Pandemic has made a significant change to their working practices and has had a positive impact on reducing the number of vehicle journeys to and from work as well as travel while at work.

[A copy of the City of Lincoln Council Employee Travel Plan can be viewed here](#)

### **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan review**

Throughout 22/23 the central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team undertook a review of the environmental and climate policies within the Local Plan. In April 2023 the new local plan was adopted and includes ambitions climate policies on biodiversity, energy efficiency and high carbon standards of new buildings, carbon adaptation measures and support for the expansion of renewable energy in the county. The new Local Plan is pioneering in placing climate change at its core and will help ensure Central Lincolnshire is a net zero carbon area.

In 23/24 the Central Lincs local plan team will introduce a carbon offsetting scheme, enabling investment in existing homes where carbon reductions can not be met onsite.

[Homepage | Central Lincolnshire Local Plan \(n-kesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

### **City of Lincoln Council's Plans for continuous improvement in 2023/24**

- Continue and expand community engagement on climate change as part of #Climate Hope Lincoln initiative.
- Complete review of electric vehicle infrastructure required as part of the 25/26 electrification of the fleet.
- Prepare a Decarbonisation Plan for the Council's Leisure Centre and secure capital funding to deliver decarbonisation in 24/25.
- Continue to deliver the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme to enable fuel poor households to improve the energy inefficiency of their homes.

- Launch the new Home Energy Advice Service demonstrator scheme, funded by DESNZ.