

Draft Climate Change Strategy – Summary for Consultation

The draft West Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy is a comprehensive plan to achieve the Council's pledge to net zero West Northamptonshire resident and business emissions by 2045.

This document is intended to give a summarised view of the key parts of the draft strategy for quick reference. Those wishing to respond to the consultation are encouraged to review the full sections of the strategy before responding.

The main parts of the draft strategy that we would like to gather people's views on are the Vision and the Aims of our key areas, which are set out below.

Vision and Approach

The strategies vision outlines our the mid to long term goals and aspirations for addressing climate change in West Northamptonshire. It provides direction and purpose, guiding efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

- **Vision:** A sustainable future with a thriving green economy, energy-efficient homes, accessible green transport, and a resilient natural environment.
- **Approach:** Focuses on mitigation, adaptation, innovation, and stakeholder engagement to address the local challenges of climate change.

Key areas and Aims

To help us achieve our Vision we have developed a set of aims for each of the key areas within the strategy, these aims have been developed to provide direction for future action plans and to allow progress of the strategy to be tracked through the achievement of our aims.

People

- **Challenges:** Climate change impacts daily life and well-being, key challenges include: air pollution, high energy prices, access to green spaces, public transport and active travel provision, increased access to high-quality employment, and access to affordable fresh food.
- **Aims:** Improve air quality, improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings, support the development of accessible public transport and active travel routes, support the creation of high-quality jobs, increase access to green space, and ensure equitable benefits from local action on climate change.

1. Energy

- **Challenges:** Emissions from energy use, reliance on fossil fuels, and the need for renewable energy infrastructure.
- **Aims:** Support increased renewable energy generation, improve energy efficiency of homes and buildings, and support the transition to clean power.

2. Buildings

- **Challenges:** Low energy efficiency in older buildings, high retrofitting costs, and the need for new energy-efficient buildings.
- **Aims:** Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, support high standards for new constructions, and promote retrofitting.

3. Transport

- **Challenges:** High levels of emissions from road transport, the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), and developing EV infrastructure.
- **Aims:** Support the development of active travel infrastructure and improved public transport provision, and development of EV charging infrastructure.

4. Waste

- **Challenges:** Emissions from waste management, increase recycling, and engagement with commercial waste operators.
- **Aims:** Promote a circular economy, reduce waste, and increased recycling rates.

5. Nature

- **Challenges:** Balancing competing land use needs, increasing tree cover, and preventing biodiversity loss.
- **Aims:** Protect and expand natural habitats, enforce biodiversity net gain and other environmental legislation, and promote sustainable farming practices.

6. Economy

- **Challenges:** Need for investment in green technologies, skills gap in the green job market, and encouraging consumer behaviour change.
- **Aims:** Support green job creation, engage businesses in sustainability and secure funding for green projects.

7. Adaptation

- **Challenges:** Increased frequency of extreme weather, rising temperatures, and water management issues.
- **Aims:** Enhance resilience to climate impacts, integrate adaptation into planning, and support health systems.

8. Governance

- **Structure:** Includes a cross-party Sustainability Working Group, Net Zero Implementation Group, and Transformation Executive Leadership Team.
- **Aims:** Ensure effective delivery of net zero targets, engage residents in governance, and maintain transparency.

Conclusion

The strategy emphasises the need for collaborative efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience to the local impacts of climate change. By focusing on key areas such as energy, buildings, transport, waste, nature, economy, and adaptation, West Northamptonshire aims to create a sustainable and prosperous future for its residents. Regular monitoring,

stakeholder engagement, and continuous improvement will be essential for the successful implementation of this strategy.