

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

2 July 2024

COUNCILLOR ADAM VARLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO

For the period March to June 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

A total of 68 staff and members have now received carbon literacy training and 33 have been certified as carbon literate to date. A shorter carbon awareness training session has also been delivered to 100 members of staff.

The proposed roof-mounted solar panels (PV) at Victory Swim and Fitness Centre have received the necessary permissions, and designs will now be finalised with a specialist contractor. Knowledge gained and lessons learned from the construction of the Reef solar car port have been shared with colleagues at Norwich City and Breckland District Councils and a local NHS surgery. The carport continues to generate electricity at the rate predicted by the business case.

A consultant has been commissioned to produce a decarbonisation plan for the Council's Cromer office. Potential energy saving solutions being explored, include air source heat pumps and destratification fans, such as those recently installed at Cromer Parish Church.

Electric pool cars for official business use have been established at the Council offices and have been operational since the beginning of May. Staff (and members) are asked to trial these vehicles in preference to their own for suitable journeys. A film to promote their use has been shared on social media: [Martyn Fulcher giving one of them a try](#).

Uptake of the Council's Home Upgrade Grants (HUG2) scheme, administered by Norfolk Warm Homes (a consortium of five Norfolk Council's), has been so good that the scheme has been paused to new applications for grants for home improvements. More than 50% of the grants across all councils in the partnership awarded so far have been for North Norfolk residents. New applicants are being added to a waiting list and will be contacted when a further round of funding is available. In addition, some households are being helped with home improvement measures through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and ECO schemes.

The Norfolk Change Climate Partnership (which is co-chaired by Steve Blatch) brings together climate and environmental strategic officers across the seven Norfolk districts, together with officers from NCC. The Partnership launched its Net Zero Communities project at an event at UEA in May.



This project aims to identify and help overcome barriers to communities trying to reduce their carbon footprint. Each district has a nominated community, and in North Norfolk this is Stalham. Initial engagement was made with community groups at a meeting in May and a Net Zero Living drop-in event with an emphasis on reducing utility bills is planned in collaboration with the Town Council for July.



The Climate Team also took part in the Sheringham Community Sustainability and Climate Fair and Sustainable Saturday event.



As part of a work experience initiative with the UEA, the team *commissioned* “consultancy” reports from two final year UEA Environmental Science students. One has looked at the ways to re-wild some of the small council owned grass areas and another has looked at woodland and pond creation on farmland in the district. The team has also hosted a year 10 work experience student from Cromer Academy who has been carrying out a survey of the wildflower meadow at the NNDC office.

The Council has worked in partnership with Groundwork East to provide advice and support for local businesses, as part of the free North Norfolk Net Zero Business Advice service. This provides carbon footprint calculations, decarbonisation plans and support to access grant funding to businesses within North Norfolk, funded through the Council administered UK Shared Prosperity Fund. .

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

3 Meetings attended

