

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 September 2024

COUNCILLOR **ADAM VARLEY**- CABINET MEMBER FOR **CLIMATE CHANGE & NET ZERO**

For the period July to September 2024

### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

#### **Victory Swim and Fitness Centre - solar photo voltaic (PV) panels**

The tender opportunity to install PV panels on the roof at Victory received a lot of interest. The tenders have now been evaluated and the project has moved to preferred bidder status. The Contract should be able to be awarded shortly, following which, this fully (Swim England) grant aided project will commence. It is expected that this will meet approximately one third of the leisure centre's electricity demand each year. This will save the Council an estimated 30 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e each year.

#### **Work Experience**

The Climate and Environment Team hosted a Year 11 student from Cromer Academy on work experience. As well as learning about retrofit and the new EV pool cars, the student carried out a survey of the wildflower meadow outside the Council Offices. The survey identified over 30 species in flower at the time and observed a notable difference between the shorter mown paths and patches left to grow longer.



#### **Electric Vehicle Pool Cars**

The cars have now been available for staff and members to use for four months and have completed 179 trips on official business. These 5704 miles have reduced transport emissions for the year by 6% so far and saved the Council one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Officers are currently considering next steps and how the use of EVs can be expanded.

### **Energy saving and decarbonisation advice to local businesses and community groups**

The Climate and Economic Growth teams have been promoting low energy initiatives and various low carbon grant schemes to local businesses and community groups.

### **Cromer Office Decarbonisation Plan**

A full audit has now been undertaken of the Cromer Office building fabric and energy requirements. A set of recommended actions has now been prepared. The Council is now considering what external funding is available to assist with implementing carbon reduction measures at the office.

### **Net Zero Communities Project – Stalham**

The team supported Stalham Town Council to showcase their newly refurbished low-carbon Town Hall providing advice on home energy saving and grants available with colleagues from the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and Norfolk Warm Homes.



### **Norfolk Energy Plan**

The team hosted a workshop with Norfolk County Council to kick off a project to help develop an energy plan for Norfolk. This document will help plan future energy requirements and generation opportunities to help secure supply for homes and businesses across the County.

### **Decarbonisation Board**

The Council has set up its new Decarbonisation Board in response to a recommendation by the Corporate Peer Review Team.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

RSN National Rural conference 2024

<b>3 Meetings attended</b>
Ripple project discussion with NCC MAG 002: The Broads UK100 Countryside Climate Network – Q3 meeting Meeting with Mundesley Golf Club – eco & environmental measures Stalham Town Council environmental event