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# APSE Central Region Event

Building Resilience and Strengthening Communities



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# Embedding the climate change agenda into your local authority

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**APSE Presentation**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



# Overview

- Understanding the partnership approach to climate change in Northamptonshire
- The challenges and opportunities for the move to unitary
- Highlighting the climate change agenda to senior leaders



# Setting the scene

- Northamptonshire move to two Unitary authorities from April 2021
- A great deal has already been achieved locally and in partnership
- Opportunities to raise climate change up the agenda and re-write the rule book



Nene Valley illustration by Rachel Hudson



# Climate Declarations

Organisation	Commitment	Target date	Scope
Northamptonshire County Council	Carbon neutral	2030	Northamptonshire
Northampton Borough Council	Carbon neutral	2030	Northampton
Daventry District Council	70% emission reduction	2030	Daventry District Council
Kettering Borough Council	Net zero carbon	2030	Kettering Borough
South Northamptonshire Council	Carbon neutral	2050	South Northamptonshire
Corby Borough Council	Carbon neutral	2030	Corby Borough



# Partnership working in Northamptonshire

- Number of different partnerships working together to enhance the environment and tackle the impacts of climate change
- Climate Change Strategy and Annual Action Plan in place since 2010
  - Raise awareness of the issues of climate change;
  - Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and
  - Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Dedicated officers within both county and district / borough councils with different expertise and priorities
- A lot has been delivered to date:
  - ISO 50001 Energy Management System
  - Carbon neutral energy procurement
  - 72% carbon reduction since 2008
  - Ecosystem Service / Natural Capital Mapping
  - 250,000 trees planted
  - Fuel poverty initiatives
  - eV charging infrastructure

Northamptonshire  
Local • Nature • Partnership



# Task and Finish Groups

- Proposed by Members through the Shadow Executive Committee
- Two separate groups established with a mix of Members and supporting Officers covering the North and West Unitary Authorities

## Scope

- Identify best practice in environmental enhancement within local authorities locally and nationally
- Identify areas in which the new authority can demonstrate environmental enhancement
- Develop an environmental framework which the Council can use to guide its decision making, policy development and service delivery in relation to environmental enhancement and Climate Emergency commitments.



# Scope of services

- **Corporate Policy / Culture** – embed sustainability and environmental considerations in all aspects of Unitary work
- **Decision making** – environmental considerations in Cabinet Reports
- **Energy and Carbon Management** – energy efficiency and environmental management in buildings, schools, SMEs etc.
- **Procurement** – green energy and influencing the supply chain
- **Planning services / Growth** – Local Plan policies, environmental net gain, Special Protection Areas, natural capital and more
- **Green Economy** – SEMLEP Local Industrial Strategy, green business and finance
- **Public Health / Environmental Health** – access to nature and social prescribing
- **Environmental Services** – Waste and recycling, Country Parks, trees, natural flood risk management
- **Highways** – encouraging sustainable/active transport, EV charging points, Air Quality Management Areas etc.
- **Housing** – energy efficiency, renewable generation, fuel poverty
- And....emergency planning, education, licensing, trading standards





# Framing the discussion

- Utilising the Centre for Public Scrutiny and LGA document, “10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change” - <https://cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CfPS-Climate-Change-LINKS.pdf>
- Series of five meetings to discuss two questions – themed into Governance / Leadership, Procurement / Investment, Partnership working, Place and People
- Subject matter experts present to give context and answer “what could you do?”
- High level recommendations and priority areas captured from Members and public
- Framework created to shape recommendations based on priorities and delivery of services and presented to the Shadow Executive Committee for adoption



# 10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change

How well does the council understand the need to take action locally?	How is the council planning to understand and act on the need to adapt existing properties and estates to address the impacts of climate change – and to plan for new housing stock which is resilient to these impacts?
How does the council's leadership champion and direct action on climate change?	How is the council promoting climate education, diversifying the labour market and focusing on sectors that are sustainable?
How is the council adopting a clear and detailed strategic plan, and how is it mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation?	What measures are being taken to ensure that health and social care systems will be resilient with the extra pressures they will come under due to climate change?
Has the council reviewed its investment strategy, supply chains and procurement models to give due consideration to climate change impacts?	How does the council identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and what is being done to assist the most vulnerable?
How is the council integrating sustainability and resilience into its transport and energy plans?	How is the council supporting and working with all relevant private and civic actors in the area towards climate change mitigation and adaptation?



# Opportunities and challenges

- Buy in at a senior level
- Allows a consistent baseline to be established across both Unitaries at the highest current level
- Embed a culture of climate change throughout the Authority from the start without having to 'retrofit' delivery
- Allows closer working on certain issues e.g. air quality / transport
- Ensure sufficient resources to deliver on recommendations - recommendation vs reality



# Questions?





# Panel 1:

Andy Mudd, APSE Solutions

Eddie Curry, Nottingham City Council

Phil Jones, Nottinghamshire County Council



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Northamptonshire  
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The APSE logo consists of the lowercase letters 'apse' in a white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a magenta oval shape. The oval is tilted slightly to the right.

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The background of the lower half of the slide is a black and white photograph of a lighthouse. The lighthouse is a tall, dark tower with a lantern room at the top. The sky is filled with dramatic, white clouds, and a seagull is visible in flight in the middle ground. The lighthouse is partially obscured by a teal semi-transparent overlay.

Now:

**Virtual coffee break**

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