

## FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27th June 2023

### Answers to Questions from the meeting

#### PERFORMANCE MONITORING – QUESTIONS (minute 2023/24 5).

**From the Director of Housing and Wellbeing regarding the number of outstanding kitchen and bathrooms to be delivered and the dates for when they would be completed.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*There are 534 kitchens and 487 bathrooms that need to be delivered to maintain the Charnwood Standard and support compliance with the Decent Homes Standard.*

*This work was being delivered by J Tomlinson Ltd, which is now understood to be in administration. An alternative delivery option is being progressed. A programme of works, including the timeline for delivery will be established when the works are re-mobilised.*

**From the Director of Housing and Wellbeing to provide further information about the Council's Decent Homes Standard.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*Properties must meet the decent homes standard.*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7812/138355.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7812/138355.pdf)

*Under the Charnwood Standard we aim go over and above the decent homes standard by replacing kitchens and bathrooms on a fixed life cycle rather than condition basis.*

*Our void (empty property) re-let standard can be found here:*

[Void property standard - Charnwood Borough Council](#)

**From the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety regarding the actions taken to reduce theft of and from vehicles, including details of work with stakeholders and to explain what was driving the Council's poor performance in its family grouping in Community Safety Partnership**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member (Blackshaw) response:*

*This indicator does not directly relate to Council performance, but the Charnwood Neighbourhood Policing Area Commander (NPA) provided an update on this issue to the Community Safety Partnership on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.*

*During Q1 of 2023/24, the partnership has seen a reduction in 'theft from motor vehicles' of 16% and an improvement within the family group moving from 12/15 to 11/15. The partnership is aware of an increase in 'theft of motor vehicles' of 10.4% but in line with the partnership's family group, Charnwood has moved from 11/15 to 9/15 and is below the average within the family group.*

*The Police will continue to take a target hardening approach in these areas and the partnership has also issued Car Key Pouches to all beat surgeries and given out “nothing left in this van” stickers during events.*

**From the Director of Commercial and Economic Development to provide further information on the provision of EV charging facilities outside of Loughborough and a status update on other Carbon Neutral schemes.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*Charnwood Borough Council’s Street Management Team have worked in partnership with the national highway’s authority to site a 50kW dual ‘rapid’ charger on Sileby car park.*

*Projects Street Management are currently working on or supporting:*

**1. ORCS (On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme) – Sileby and Anstey**

*[ORCS](#) is a government funded scheme to provide Electric Vehicle infrastructure for residents that do not have driveways and therefore cannot charge vehicles from their homes.*

*ORCS funding has been awarded to CBC and a contractor procured for: Anstey 4 x fast dual units, Sileby 3 x fast dual units.*

*Legal contracts and lease agreements have been completed, with installation expected to commence on-site imminently. Final connection to be arranged with National Grid (approx. mid to end of Aug).*

**2. LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) scheme funding – Leicestershire County Council on street EVCPs (Electric Vehicle private Charge Points)**

*Leicestershire County Council are leading on a project for on-street residential charge points. LCC have been awarded funding through the government’s [LEVI](#) (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) scheme. CBC will have little involvement other than discussions on the proposed on-street site locations – All sites being on County Council Highways.*

**3. Flex-D solar hubs partly using LEVI funding and car share scheme**

*CBC is part of a Leicestershire wide project which has been awarded LEVI funding for the installation of Solar canopies, battery storage and EV charge points in public car parks throughout the County. The project is headed up by Harborough District Council and supported by Nottingham City Council Midlands Net Zero Hub. Syston has been agreed by SLT as the preferred site in Charnwood. There will be between 6 to 12 7kW charge points to be agreed with Flex-D project (given the size of the car park, this will probably be on the lower side. Installation expected September 2024.*

**4. There are other EV charging sites in the Borough which can be found on the [Zap Map](#) App.**

*A status update on actions in the Carbon Neutral Plan are provided in the table below.*

Action	Lead	KPI(s)	Date		Update	RAG
			Start	End		
1/ Ensure dedicated resources are in place to implement the management and delivery of the CNP	Strategic Director - Commercial and Economic Development (JH)	Resource review completed and implemented	March 23	March 23	Resources in place and assigned	C
2/Formalise and embed a process for evaluating the impact arising for the council's decisions.	Sustainability Officer (MF)	Number of decisions made with a beneficial carbon impact	Jan 23	June 23	Reporting system in place	C
3/ Install a solid and better insulating door at the rear entrance of the Town Hall (stage door) to eliminate the current loss of heat and cold draughts.	Head of Assets & Property (IB)	Building gas use reduced	Apr 23	Apr 23	Installation completed	C
4/ Commission a technical feasibility study for low or zero carbon heating options in the Town Hall. This would replace the 20-yr-old boiler and would be installed as part of a full building renovation.	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB)	Preferred option identified			Town Hall boilers are less than ten years old having been replaced already. Whole site feasibility planned for low carbon solutions.	R
5/ Renew quotes for double glazing and flat roof insulation at Charnwood Museum and procure best option.	Head of Assets & Property (IB)	Building gas reduced			Building Surveyor instructed. Roof inspections completed & Specification prepared for tender issue through NCC. Windows still awaiting quotes and being treated as a separate scheme to reduce lead in times.	R
6/ Complete LED installations in Museum staff areas with person-in-room sensors.	Head of Assets & Property (IB)	Building electricity use reduced			Works scoped and quotes being obtained.	R
7/ Continue to replace lamps when needed with best available LED option across the estate.	Head of Assets & Property, Head of Landlord Services (IB / PO)	Building electricity is reduced			Being done as individual/multiple units fail using R&M budgets.	C

8/ Procure renewable gas.	Sustainability Officer (MF)	Building gas use reduced	May 22		Given wholesale energy market conditions this is no longer a financially viable project. The green gas premium was in the region of 0.9p/kWh in May 2022. The unit standard gas price in 21/22 was 1.4321 pp/kWh and in 22/33 is 2.4788 pp/kWh	C
9/ Upgrade and switch to electric vehicles in the street management and pest control fleet	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB)	Fuel use reduced from fleet			Delivery of the new electric Pest Control vehicles is imminent. The street management vehicles are in the process of being ordered.	A
10/ Smart bin feasibility study	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB)	Fuel use reduced in waste collection fleet			Prices have been obtained to undertake the smart bin trial. Consideration needs to be given as to whether the trial represents value for money and whether this action is to be pursued. A rental trial costs £95 per month inclusive of software and the set up and removal costs are £260 each way per unit. Value to be reviewed.	R
11/ Cross-service electric pool car and charging feasibility	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB) / Sustainability Officer (MF)	Preferred option identified	Jan 23	Jan 23	1 Hybrid vehicle in place. The hybrid was chosen due to the difficulties in sourcing an electric vehicle.	C
12/ Cross-service maintenance vehicle feasibility and pilot	Director of Housing and Communities (PO)	Feasibility study complete and viable pilot project identified			Pending	R
13/ Progress tree programme including 13,000 to 14,000 trees at Hathern during	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment	14,000 trees planted			Some residual issues with tree tubes falling over on high winds are being addressed	C

Autumn/Winter 2021-2022.	(MB)					
14/ Embedding Nature Positive in the Carbon Neutral Plan.	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB)	Carbon emissions impact calculated			Discussions ongoing with idVerde	A
15/Site feasibility studies for Solar PV installations on Council owned land, including land purchased for the purpose.	Head of Assets & Property (IB)	Short-list of options identified			The solar farm(s) are off the cards for a while. The Grid has no ability to take the load at the moment, and there is a long queue when the necessary Grid upgrades will be in place. Looking beyond 2030.	C
16/ Borough-wide feasibility study for land-based solar PV installations, for example at Council-owned car parks.	Car Parks Manager	Technical supplier procured and preferred option identified			Car parks team are reviewing options	R
17/ Feasibility study for rooftop solar PV installations across built estate.	Head of Assets and Property, Head of Landlord Services	Short-list of options identified			Pending general asset review	R
18/ Site feasibility studies for wind energy generation taking account of Local Plan Opportunity Areas.	Sustainability Officer (MF)	Short-list of options identified			Pending	R
19/ Complete LED installations upgrade at the Town Hall	Head of Property and Assets (IB)	Building electricity is reduced			This is a new action that has been added to the CNP.	A
20/Feasibility waste fleet change from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO)	Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste & Environment (MB)	Fuel use reduced			This is a new action that has been added to the CNP.  Feasibility paper in preparation	A
21/Smart boiler replacement & new radiators at Oak Business Centre	Head of Property and Assets (IB)	Building gas use reduced			This is a new action that has been added to the CNP.  Installation complete	C

**From the Head of Economic Development to provide further information about the progress of the Charnwood Economic Development Strategy.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*Production of a new Economic Development Strategy was delayed due to staffing vacancies, changes and consequent prioritisation of delivery of existing programmes and projects with the resources available. Production of a new Economic Development Strategy for the borough is in the work plan of the Service and is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in December 2023.*

**From the Head of Contracts; Leisure, Waste and Environment to provide clarification on the legal process for converting Gorse Covert into a Nature Reserve.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*Under Sections 19 and 21 of National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, local councils have the power to declare any land under its control as a Local Nature Reserve. Each site will need to have a Management Plan containing information relating to:*

- ownership of the land*
- any agreements or partnerships*
- why the LNR site was chosen*
- aims and objectives*
- biodiversity management and environmental education*
- community participation, access and visitor management*
- costs and funding arrangements*

*Councils are asked to formally declare an LNR by sending a draft declaration document to Natural England. Following a period of public consultation, the Council will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England.*

*An advert announcing the LNR will be placed in a local paper to let the public inspect the declaration and boundary map free of charge.*

*In the case of Gorse Covert, the Council has written and consulted on a Management Plan and are in the process of formally declaring the site as a LNR.*

**From the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety to share the 2023 plan to deliver 10 crime and ASB prevention campaigns for a safer Charnwood**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) met on the 13/7/23 where the new CSP plan was formally signed off by partners.*

*The CSP Plan is made up of 4 key priorities:*

- Safeguarding Communities from Abuse and Violence*
- Reduce the Harm caused by Youth ASB and Crime*
- Reduce Criminal Exploitation*

- *Deliver Statutory Duties.*

*The partnership also shares an online community safety campaign calendar which shows the upcoming local and national campaigns, such as:*

- *ASB Awareness Week*
- *Domestic Abuse Awareness*
- *Hate Crime Prevention*
- *Fire Safety*
- *Online safety*
- *Modern Slavery*
- *Sexual Violence Awareness*
- *Trading Standards campaigns*
- *Crime stoppers National Campaigns.*
- *Promoting the work of Youth Engagement works funded under Safer Streets funding*
- *Using the Mobile CCTV Cameras in Hotspot Locations for ASB referred to the Joint Action Group*
- *Support for Police Operations to tackle Violent Crime associated with the Night-time Economy*
- *Promoting Neighbourhood Link – which the police use to get out crime prevention messages to residents*
- *Promoting ASB Case Reviews (Community Triggers) to victims of Anti Social Behaviour.*

#### **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUESTIONS (*minute 2023/24 6*).**

**from the Director of Housing and Wellbeing to provide further information regarding gifted properties fulfilling developer’s contributions.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*The Housing Supplementary Planning Document (2017) can be found here:*

[https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/files/documents/housing\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_document\\_2017/SPD%20Update.pdf](https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/files/documents/housing_supplementary_planning_document_2017/SPD%20Update.pdf)

*The document sets out guidance around the provision of affordable housing through the planning system.*

*The section on Affordable Housing Cascades on Page 9 at Section 2.20 and HSPD 3 PP9-10 relate, setting out guidance that:*

*“if the alternative package does not successfully attract a registered provider (or the local housing authority) then the cascade will provide a mechanism for the following options to be considered:*

- *the gifting of a reasonable proportion of the units to the Council; or*
- *the provision of a commuted sum to the Council.”*

**from the Chief Executive to liaise with the Communications Manager to increase the public visibility and accessibility of the Annual Performance report.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member response:*

*The Communications Team created a graphic highlighting key achievements in the annual report and a URL to directly link to the full report –*

*[www.charnwood.gov.uk/AnnualReport](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/AnnualReport)*

*This was shared on social media platforms LinkedIn and Twitter and via the Council's news email which has over 11,000 subscribers. On LinkedIn and Twitter, the post had around 1,500 impressions. The email had an open rate of 40% (4,400 unique opens) and 128 unique clicks to the URL.*

*Here is a link to the post on LinkedIn:*

*<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7087113803481407488/>*

*A large display board has also been installed in the Council offices car park highlighting some key statistics. The board included the URL link to the full annual report. As outlined above, the report is on the Council website.*

#### **CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT – QUESTIONS (*minute 2023/24, 8*)**

**A further update regarding the status of Carbon Neutral projects was requested from the Director of Commercial and Economic Development.**

*Officer/Cabinet Lead Member (Jones) response:*

*A status update on actions in the Carbon Neutral Plan are provided in question as above*