

Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework
Climate Change Sub Group
Progress on work
January 2020

1. Background

- 1.1. At the request of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Members Forum, a sub-group was created to investigate how climate change impacts upon the creation and delivery of local plans and conversely, how policies in Local Plans impact on Climate Change.
- 1.2. The aim of the work was to see what role planning in Norfolk could take to contribute to achieving reductions in carbon emissions, in line with recent government target commitments, and emerging commitments at district and county council levels. It also looked into adapting to climate change as well as potential ways to sequester greenhouse gases.
- 1.3. The Group is made up of the following membership:

Organisation	Representative
Environment Agency	Keith Moore (Chair)
Greater Norwich Local Plan Team	Mike Burrell/Sam Walker
Broads Authority	Natalie Beal
Norfolk County Council	Dominic Allen
Norfolk County Council	Martin Seymour
New Anglia LEP	Ellen Goodwin
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC	Alan Gomm
Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework	Trevor Wiggett
Breckland DC	Rachel Gibbs
North Norfolk DC	Iain Withington

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework addresses issues and topic areas that are strategic in nature and cross boundaries of Local Planning Authorities. One such issue is climate change.
- 2.2. In 2019 the Climate Change subgroup were formed and tasked with investigating what Local Plans can do in relation to climate change. To date the group has met regularly in the last 5 months to review of all information in relation to Climate Change with a specific focus on the role and impact insofar as it relates to Local Plans and the planning system generally, as prescribed under the National Planning Policy Framework. It has also explored some of the emerging policy work around climate change, and background information, such as the Report from the Committee on Climate Change that helped inform the Government's changes to the Climate Change Act 2008, and the adoption of the 2050 net zero target.

- 2.3. It is important to note that Local Plans plan for and guide development and change. Local Plans can have policies that set requirements for new build and these will be considered and addressed when permitting such schemes. But there are many more buildings already in place than will be permitted now and in the future. The work to date has looked into how a building can be upgraded at the same time as an extension (for example) is permitted/completed. But it is important to recognise that emissions from the existing buildings (and other sources of emissions) would need to be addressed through Government or wider Local Government intervention.
- 2.4. It is also important to note that addressing many of the issues does not just tackle climate change, but has benefits to, for example, the individual by saving money and this is an important part of the work.
- 2.5. Finally, many of the approaches to tackle the issues are already included in existing local plans or have been found sound recently in newer local plans. There are some more innovative approaches discussed and their appropriateness and effectiveness will need careful consideration.

3. Issues and Topics

- 3.1. As far as responding to climate change is concerned, it is generally broken down to two approaches – mitigation and adaptation.
- 3.2. Mitigation aims to reduce the human impact on the environment through reducing the release of gases that contribute to global warming. Adaptation recognises that changes will happen due to historic impact, and that measures are needed to respond to this inevitable change, such as higher incidences of flooding, for example.
- 3.3. In framing the work around these two approaches, we have created a separate category to look at the role of carbon sequestration in this process. This recognises the role that appropriate landscape management can have in supporting the absorption of greenhouse gases.
- 3.4. For the three main topic areas (mitigation, adaption and sequestering) various sub-categories have been explored that have a bearing on the planning process, and link to aspects of climate change. For example the role that building methods, residential design standards, energy production, location of development and transport all have in either reducing contributions to or addressing the impacts on Climate Change.
- 3.5. An outline of the topics covered in the emerging work can be seen in Appendix 1.

4. Further areas to explore

- 4.1. As well as recommendations, work completed by the group identifies areas for further exploration. These are initial thoughts for future work streams and if supported by Members, will be firmed up with timelines, prioritisation or cost estimates

- 4.2. The Group would also want to explore the possibility for Local Plans in Norfolk to potentially include some topic specific targets to contribute to emerging local climate priorities within districts. In addition, there could be potential for model policies. It is important to note that many of these emerging thoughts are being considered in producing new Local Plans already, so it would be more around collaborating to ensure consensus. Therefore, the Group would not wish to duplicate this emerging work.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. As an exercise the work is progressing well. An example of one row in the emerging table is included as an indication of progress (see Appendix 2).
- 5.2. A key aspect of the work identified the need for further collaborative working e.g. potential works around a Design Guide with reference Climate Change
- 5.3. At the Member Forum meeting in January, Officers shall present and discuss the emerging recommendations and emerging areas to explore further and will invite Members to confirm support to take these forward.

Appendix 1 – topic areas and related issues

The following topics and related issues have been identified as the main causes and impacts of climate change. The last section discusses potential ways to sequester greenhouse gases. It is considered that, to some extent, there is scope for many of these issues to be addressed in Local Plans.

Tackling the Causes of Climate Change – Mitigation

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Design of new build – water | k. Emissions |
| b. Design of new build – energy | l. Waste |
| c. Energy production | m. Construction methods |
| d. Location of development | n. Build materials |
| e. Movement | o. Embodied energy in existing buildings |
| f. Parking standards | p. Local Energy Area plans |
| g. Food production | q. Air pollution |
| h. Peat soils | r. Addressing existing dwellings |
| i. Broadband and telecommunications | s. Strong Sustainability Appraisal and Local Plan Objectives |
| j. Light pollution | |

Tackling the impacts of climate change – adaptation

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|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Flood risk | e. Seas and water bodies |
| b. Coastal erosion | f. Health |
| c. Biodiversity | g. Design |
| d. Change in weather patterns | h. Green Infrastructure (GI) and open space |

Sequestering greenhouse gases

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Woodland, Trees and hedges | d. Peat soils – protecting, management and creation of carbon sinks |
| b. Green Infrastructure and open space | |
| c. Habitat creation | e. Carbon offsetting |

Appendix 2: Example topic area and issue

Tackling the causes of climate change - mitigation

Topic areas	Commentary	What some LPAs and Local Plans do already	What Local Plans are able to do	Current evidence/ongoing work	Further areas to explore	Recommendations	What else benefits
2.1 Design of new build – water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design buildings to reduce water use and therefore associated emissions. New build including residential and commercial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate optional building regulations standard relating to water of 110 l/p/d. (building regulation requirement currently 125 l/p/d) Refer to BREEAM requirements for non-residential developments – has a standard for water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate optional building regulations standard relating to water of 110 l/p/d. Refer to BREEAM requirements for non-residential development. “Fittings based approach” to water savings (as Wales and Scotland¹) Promote Rainwater harvesting and water reuse in new schemes at community level Encourage new evidenced based water saving technology in new builds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWS and EA documents showing East of England as area of water stress. DEFRA Consultation to reduce personal water use July 2019 Energy Savings Trust Currently 100 Local Authority areas in water stress. Require 110 l/p/d Key demand in Water UK report 105 l//p/d Water Resources East. Most literature concentrates on cold water. Need to consider hot water EA and Anglian Water Services work around Grey Water / Black Water systems². Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICWS) Projects by Norfolk River Trust at River Mun, Northrepps and River Ingol. Creation of Wetland systems which use natural functions such as vegetation, soil and organism to treat waste water for major housing projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water consumption per district (DEFRA) Water consumption per use - key areas to target Water Consumption per appliance Research on the effectiveness of water recycling & rain water harvesting (including energy demand) and what scale of development is best. Register of Water related emissions for industry for Norfolk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate optional building regulations standard relating to water of 110 l/p/d. AWS do not charge a tariff if 100 l/h/d – that could be a recommendation. <i>AWS contacted to confirm this is still the case.</i> Further to the above – if the potential to set more demanding standards locally is established by Government, apply the highest potential standard. Non-residential development meet BREEAM standard WAT01. Advice note on how to achieve this covering issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require Developers to use fixtures and fixed appliances that meet certain criteria from government led mandatory label for all water using product All new builds have grey/rain water low energy recycling technology in their residential/non-residential buildings – may be best on site-wide basis³. All new builds have energy recycling technology from waste hot water Related conditions on planning permissions. Encourage ICWS schemes where appropriate on Major Schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the medium to long term – enough water for people benefitting natural environment and human health. Sufficient water to meet housing growth. Less money spent on supply, distribution and disposal/treatment of water. ICWS increase biodiversity.

¹ <https://www.waterwise.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Waterwise-National-water-strategy-report.pdf>

² Water Recycling Long Term Plan: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/in-the-community/water-recycling-long-term-plan.pdf>

³ Refer to British Standard BS 825-1:2010 Grey Water Systems Code of Practice and BS EN 16941 -1:2018 Rainwater Harvesting Systems Code of Practice