



## **Communities Scrutiny Group**

**Thursday, 3 April 2025**

### **Carbon Management Action Plan Review**

#### **Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods**

##### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. On 10 March 2020, Cabinet agreed a target to become carbon neutral by 2030 from the Council's direct operations and adopted a Carbon Management Action Plan to monitor progress against the target. The Carbon Management Action Plan is a working document and is scrutinised annually by the Communities Scrutiny Group, most recently in March 2024.
- 1.2. The Communities Scrutiny Group is requested to consider progress to date for the year 2024-25 financial year and, if satisfied, accept the recommendation of the report.

##### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) considers the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and
- b) contributes towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2025/26.

##### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. In December 2021, Cabinet adopted the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030. The Strategy reaffirmed the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral for the Council's operations by 2030 but also included a confirmation of its commitment to be "Net Zero" as a Borough by 2050 in line with national government targets. The wording of the Strategy was also strengthened to recognise the ecological crisis.
- 3.2. The Carbon Management Action Plan sets out how the Council will seek to drive carbon behaviour change through its policy and regulation work along with acting in a leadership capacity to positively influence residents and businesses across the Borough.

##### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. The UK Committee on Climate Change states: "There is a crucial role for local authorities in reducing emissions to meet national carbon budgets", and: "the

focus of a local authority low-carbon plan should be emission drivers over which they have significant influence. In particular, residential, and non-residential buildings, surface transport, waste, and own estate”.

- 4.2. Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

**Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions** from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.

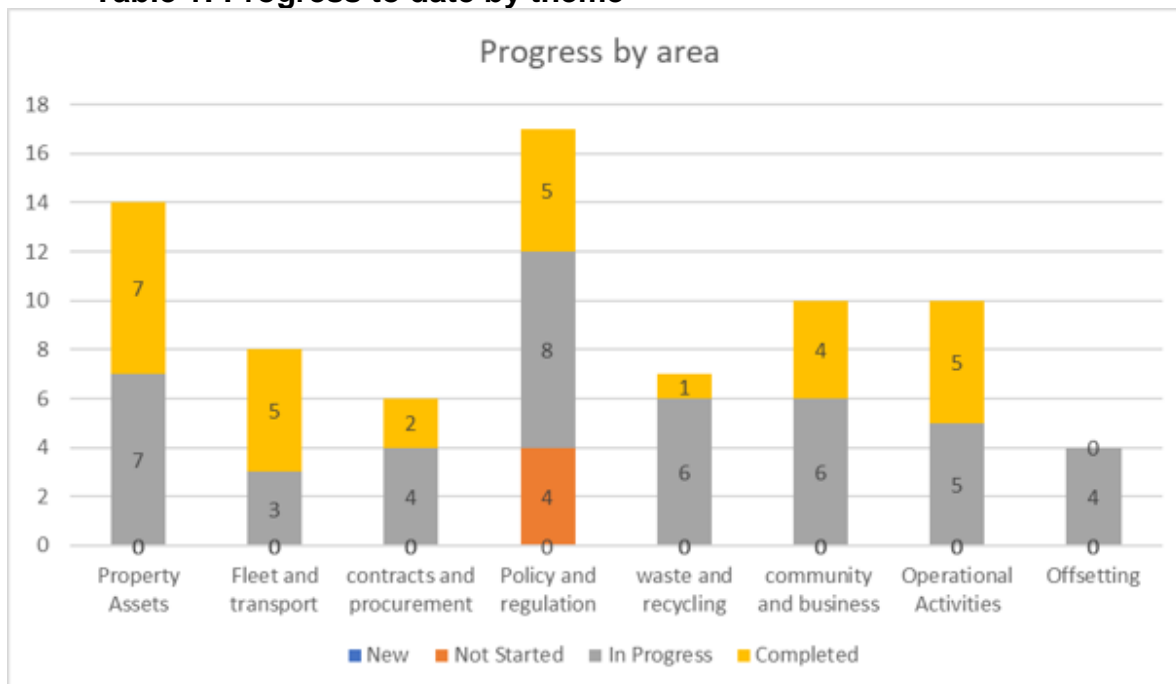
**Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions** from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

**Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions** from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water, staff commuting, business travel, RBC’s leased properties, staff working from home.

### **Carbon Management Action Plan**

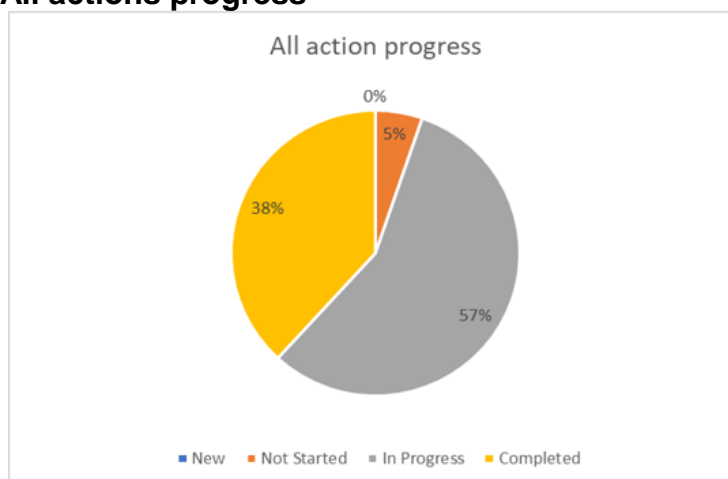
- 4.3. Overall, the latest data for gas and electric Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions provide evidence that the Council continues to make very good progress against the original 2008/09 baseline with a carbon reduction of 65% for 2024/25. This has primarily been achieved by improvements in both the Council’s estate and leisure centres resulting in less gas and electric consumption along with switching to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil fuel in our fleet. Furthermore, if the Council’s renewable energy guarantees of origin (REGO) green sourced electricity was incorporated then the reduction would be even greater at 74%.
- 4.4. There were 67 actions in the first iteration of the Carbon Management Action Plan. These were spread across eight key theme areas: property assets, fleet and transport, contracts and procurement, policy and regulation, waste and recycling, operation activity, community and business, and offsetting. Since the last review, overall actions have decreased to 77 from 90, due to the Climate Action Plan review and the completion of projects.
- 4.5. The Carbon Management Action Plan is a live document which is regularly updated. The current plan has 44 live actions, 0 new, 4 not started, 29 completed actions, Table 1 below shows the progress to date by theme.

**Table 1: Progress to date by theme**



4.6. In this reporting period, the majority of completed actions are around property infrastructure development, Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel use in our heavy fleet vehicles and other transport decarbonisation projects (PSDS). The ongoing schemes are the SALIX Public Sector Decarbonisation projects, electrification of the Streetwise Depot and changes to waste collection.

**Table 2: All actions progress**



### 2030 Own Operations Net Zero Target

4.7. The major impact that will reflect on next year's carbon reporting will be the figures produced on fleet carbon reduction. HVO has been running the Waste and Recycling fleet, R2go and large Streetwise vehicles for a year. It is expected that the carbon savings will be that of around 700-800T CO<sub>2</sub>e. There has also been another successful bid into the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3c for an award of £105k from SALIX to decarbonise Sir Julian Cahn and Gamston Community Hall. Sir Julian Cahn

will be a full fabric and heat decarbonisation project alongside a refurbishment, Gamston Community Hall will be replacing the old gas system to an air source heat pump unit. There has also been the procurement of 2 x electric vans for the Facilities team and R2GO to operate their day-to-day business which will now be entirely net zero.

### **2050 Borough Wide Net Zero Target**

- 4.8. The Council continues to work in partnership to deliver successful fuel poverty projects that support vulnerable homeowners in hard-to-treat properties. The Heating Upgrade Grant 2 project is delivering insulation and low carbon heating to off gas properties within the Borough. The DEVO (Devolution Retrofit Funds) project, specifically targeting homes with poor energy efficiency ratings, the most poorly insulated and low-income households has delivered 57 fully funded measures to 40 properties. These range from whole house retrofit including loft, external wall insulation and solar electric, to modern heating controls and room in a roof insulation. There has also been work to ensure that we are prepared to act on the forthcoming £1.5M. expected allocation from the Warm Homes Local Delivery grant which will replace the Local Authority Delivery (LAD).
- 4.9. The Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard **Appendix 1** provides a summary of progress to date. The Communities Manager/Team Manager - Environment will deliver a presentation at the meeting to provide an overview on the action plan activity.
- 4.10. Key priorities for 2025/26 will be to focus on completing the existing Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) which provides government grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures. Our schemes which come from the 3b/3c tranche of funding are the decarbonisation of Cotgrave Leisure Centre, the Sir Julien Cahn decarbonisation and the replacement of the boiler at Gamston Community Hall and also the installation of the UK Shared Prosperity funded EV charge points at Streetwise Depot in Bingham. Due to the unavoidable expected shortfall in carbon emissions due to operational activities there will also be a drive to procure the circa 114 acres of offsetting land that will be required to meet the 2030 target.
- 4.11. There will be a focus on exploring the future national, East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCA) and alternative funding models to continue with the decarbonisation of the existing council commercial stock. With the expected changes in local government, it is crucial that we can still deliver the recommendations set out in the Heat Decarbonisation Plans produced for our estate.
- 4.12. There will also be exploring the continued roll out more funded rapid charge points at Council owned car parks supported by colleagues at the County Council. We are currently in talks with them over ethical local cooperative installation companies who are keen to do this.

- 4.13. Building on the CENEX report which was presented last year and provided a comprehensive review of the councils fleet and vehicle replacement programme with the aim to align the vehicle replacement programme with low emission transport and energy infrastructure technologies. The use of HVO fuel has been fully implemented at the Eastcroft Depot. This has also been strongly publicised via all media and visual advertising on the refuse freighters. The new electric vans have also been fitted with a corporate 'carbon clever' livery to demonstrate the Council's commitment to decarbonise its fleet. To add to the EV points at Streetwise Depot in Bingham, there has also been one installed at West Park to ensure that there is always somewhere for the vans to be charged as part of the Council's own EV infrastructure network.

## **5. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 5.1. There is overwhelming scientific consensus that human activities have caused global warming. Without significant change in behaviour and policy, continued increases in temperature at the current rate will result in global warming reaching 1.5 degrees between 2030 and 2052. This would cause irreversible damage to the environment and result in climate related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply and economic growth (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report; October 2018). This highlights a significant longer-term risk of major environmental and societal damage resulting from inactivity to tackle climate change.
- 5.2. The technology available to deliver the significant carbon reductions required is constantly evolving. The desire to make faster carbon reductions through early adoption of new technology needs to be balanced against the risk that technology may be superseded or become available at a lower cost in the future. The available options will go through a process of due diligence to minimise the level of risk to the Council.
- 5.3. Proposed changes to the structure of local government will be a risk factor on how future projects are delivered and funded. Although there is likely to be a two-year period before any changes begin to happen it is worth exploring all avenues to ensure that the net zero 2030 target is achieved.
- 5.4. The cost of climate change targets presents a cost risk to the Council, delivery of carbon reduction schemes can be costly and does not always equate to financial savings e.g. electricity.
- 5.5. External funding can mitigate the cost of delivering carbon reduction, but there is a risk that external funding cannot be utilised in full if resources are not available to deliver schemes to deadlines.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

6.1.1. See **Appendix 2** for the movements and commitments of the Climate Change Reserve. The original Climate Change Reserve was established at £1m; and has been topped up with New Homes Bonus (£750k) and additional Government Grant (£100k) in 2023/24. The projected balance at the end of 2024/25 is £918k.

The award of external energy efficiency grants and the use of the Climate Change Reserve to match fund has levered in over £6m of additional funding (Appendix 2).

6.1.2. For any further potential funding bids, a business case will be produced to demonstrate the non-financial and financial benefits/costs in line with Financial Regulations. This will ensure that grant submissions cover anticipated costs and, where match funding is required, the appropriate approval and budgetary provision is sought.

6.1.3. At the end of each financial year, the schemes identified are assessed for funding from the Climate Change Reserve and will be included in the Outturn Report for approval.

6.1.4. There is pressure on this Reserve going forwards as the Council strive to meet the commitment to achieve a carbon neutral target by 2030. In the outturn report for 2024/25, any underspends will be assessed with a view to identifying a top-up to the Climate Change Reserve.

## 6.2. **Legal Implications**

In 2019, the Government passed legislation to commit the UK to a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050. The target requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero, compared with the previous target of at least 85% reduction from 1990 levels. The Council's Carbon Management action plan supports this aim at a local level.

Individual actions in the Action Plan may have legal implications (i.e. procurement, land acquisition) that will need to be considered for each project.

## 6.3. **Equalities Implications**

Tackling climate change through reducing emissions has the potential to benefit groups vulnerable to heat and air pollution. Where applicable, Equality Impact Assessments will be completed.

## 6.4. **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

There are no implications arising from this report that impact on community safety in respect of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

## 6.5. **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)**

Since the last report there has been a change to the Ecology Team with the new Senior Ecologist and Sustainability Officer along with the introduction of the Assistant Ecologist and Sustainability Officer. This has put the Council in a very strong position to deliver the BNG when it came live on 12 February 2024. The intention is for the team to work in partnership with Planning to deal with the BNG applications on a case-by-case basis. The Assistant will be responsible for conducting the site assessments and follow up inspections as the years go on. This will be an ever-growing commitment as the sites need to be maintained for 30 years.

## 7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Implementing a carbon reduction action plan and providing a budget to support delivery, are all designed to improve and safeguard the environment.
Quality of Life	Delivery of the carbon management action plan contributes to improvements in public health for example through improved air quality, food consumption and more physical activity through travel behaviour change.
Efficient Services	Enhancing the energy efficiency of the Council's assets will potentially lead to reductions in operating costs.
Sustainable Growth	Over the longer term it is anticipated that policy changes will lead to improved energy efficiency within residential and commercial developments.

## 8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

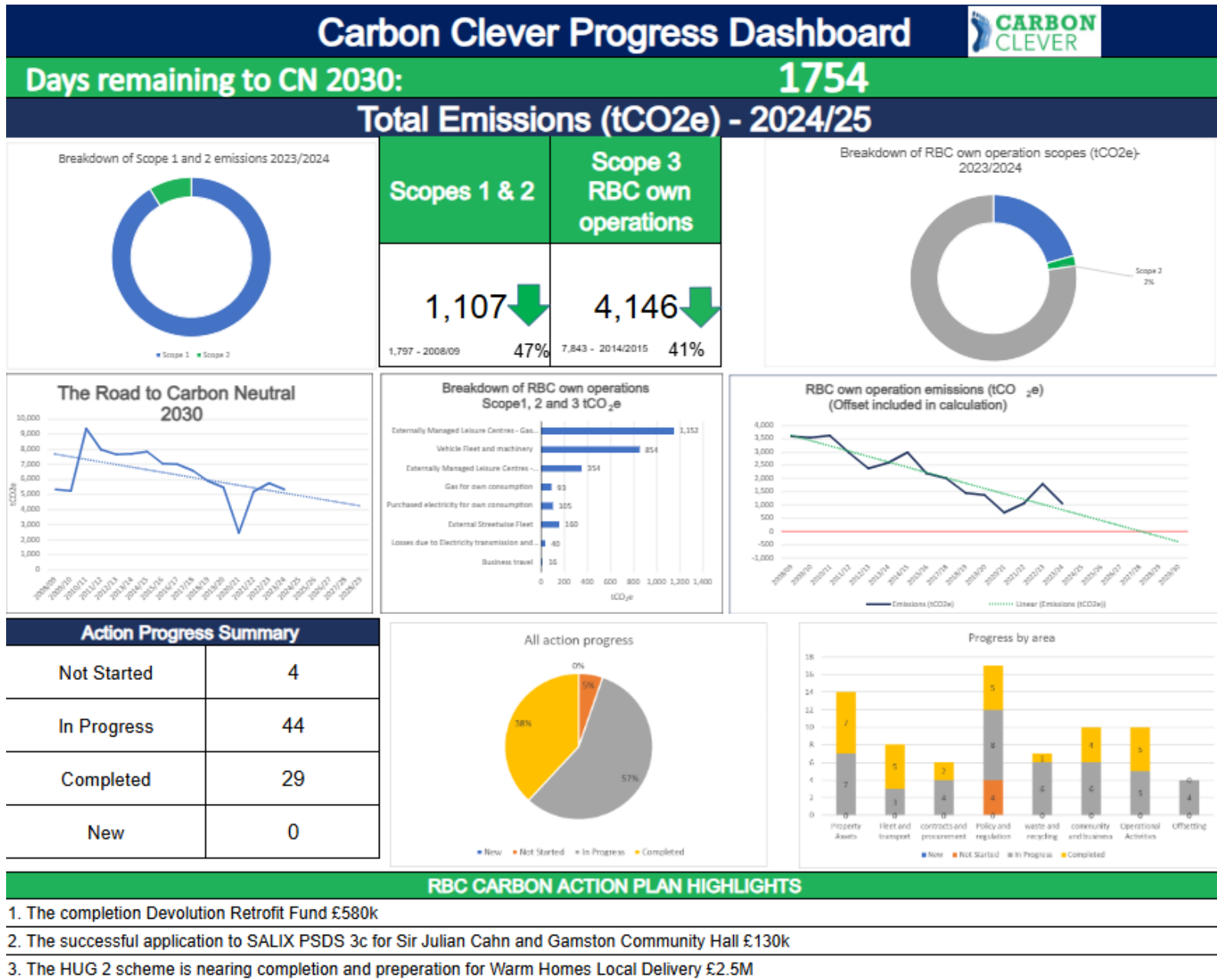
- a) considers the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and
- b) contributes towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2025/26.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Report to Communities Scrutiny 21 March 2024 Carbon Management Plan annual scrutiny  Report to Cabinet 14 December 2021 'Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030'  Report to Cabinet 10 March 2020 'Carbon Management'

<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard Appendix 2 – Climate Change Reserve
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# Appendix 1



## Appendix 2

<b>Climate Change Reserve</b>	<b>Amount £'000</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b><i>To reserve</i></b>		
Create reserve council 05/03/20	1,000	
Top up 03/03/22 Council	200	
Budget Report Council 07/03/24	750	New Homes Bonus
Budget Report Council 07/03/24	100	From additional government grant
Outturn report 23-24 Cabinet 09.07.24	425	
COG 19.11.24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report G	698	From 24/25 revenue underspend
COG 19.11.24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report G	377	From 24/25 New Home Bonus
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,550</b>	
<b><i>From reserve</i></b>		
Allocation Cabinet 10/11/20	(200)	National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar
Rushcliffe Country Park Enhancements Capital Appraisal Council 03/03/22	(30)	£22k PV Panels and £8k Air Source Heat Pump
The Crematorium	(300)	Green Tech Measures
Bingham Leisure Hub	(300)	Green Tech Measures
Gamston	(7)	Insulation
Gresham	(9)	EVCP ancillary works
Rushcliffe Country Park	(25)	EVCP Parking Bays and Ancillary Works
Fleet	(20)	Cenex Fleet and Infrastructure Audit
		50% match funding for Salix bid
Cotgrave Leisure Centre	(146)	decarbonisation works
U10 Moorbridge	(91)	Heat Decarbonisation Works
Fleet	(4)	Bin Wraps for Carbon Clever
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,132)</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance 31 March 2025</b>	<b>2,418</b>	
<b>Schemes Identified</b>		
Land acquisition	(1,500)	
Streetwise 25/26	(100)	Decarbonisation works
Cotgrave and Keyworth Leisure Centres 25/26	(125)	Enhancements
Hound Lodge 26/27	(285)	Insulation and solar panels
Rushcliffe Arena 27/28	(175)	Enhancements
Lutterell Hall 28/29	(75)	Enhancements
<b>Estimated reserves balance 31 March 2030</b>	<b>158</b>	

<b>Climate Change Expenditure met from other</b>		
Gresham floodlights existing	(31)	Football Foundation Grants/Sec106
Gresham floodlights new	(66)	Football Foundation Grants/Sec106
LED energy efficiency lighting schemes	(101)	Salix Grant
RBC EV Network	(53)	OZEV Grant from Department of Transport
Energy Efficiency Grants to owner/occupiers	(899)	LAD2 Grants
Energy Efficiency Grants to owner/occupiers	(1,149)	LAD3 and HUG Grants
Energy Efficiency Grants to owner/occupiers	(979)	HUG2
Energy Efficiency Grants to owner/occupiers	(584)	Retrofit Grants
Public Sector De-carb Scheme Cotgrave Leisure	(1,215)	Salix Award
Energy Audit	(50)	UKSPF
Gamston and Sir Julien Cahn Decarbonisation	(105)	Salix Award
Edwalton Community Facility - PV and air source heat p	(250)	UKSPF
Cotgrave Leisure Centre decarbonisation works	(110)	UKSPF
Keyworth Leisure Centre decarbonisation works	(150)	UKSPF
Unit 10 Moorbridge Electric Vehicle Charging Point	(40)	UKSPF
Cotgrave Leisure Centre PV panels	(250)	Sport England
<b>Total</b>	<b>(6,032)</b>	