

Environment & Emergency Committee

To: Committee Members

Cllrs Pitt (Chairperson), Banks, Bolanz, Dunford, Goodman, Simonis, and S Smith

Copies: County Councillors – S Ferguson, K Prentice, S Taylor & G Seeff

District Councillors – L Davenport-Ray, S Ferguson, A Jennings, M Pickering, I Taylor, S Taylor & G Welton

Town Councillors (not a member of this committee)

Local Press, Town Council website

Agenda for the meeting of the **Environment & Emergency committee** to be held on **Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.15pm** in the Eatons Centre, 18 The Maltings, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

Please be aware that meetings may be recorded and made available to the public. Your participation in the meeting indicates your consent to being included in these recordings.

Public Participation

There will be a 10-minute session before the meeting to allow any resident to address the committee on any matter appearing on the agenda for this meeting.

Members of the Environment & Emergency committee are hereby summoned to attend this meeting to consider the following business.

C Robson
Town Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

To receive Councillors apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest

To receive from Councillor's declarations as to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and/or Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests along with the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item.

3. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Emergency Committee meeting held on 12th November 2024 as a true and accurate record. Attachment 1

4. Action List

To receive and note the committee action list. Attachment 2

5. Energise Reports Summary

- i) To receive and consider a report summarising key information from the recent energy audits of Council buildings as completed by Energise. Attachment 3
- ii) To receive and consider a recommendation for delivering decarbonisation actions.

6. Eatons Centre Biomass Boiler

To receive and consider a recommendation on replacing the biomass boiler at the Eatons Centre with an Air Source Heat Pump (subject to compatibility assessment, three comprehensive quotes, and subsequent planning permission). Attachment 4

7. Transition of Operational vehicles to EV

To receive and consider a recommendation on replacing two operational vehicles and a ride-on lawn mower with plug-in hybrid or electric alternatives. Attachment 5

8. Date of next meeting

To note that the date of the next Committee meeting will be 4th March 2025.



Environment & Emergency Committee

Present: Committee Members
Cllrs S Smith (Deputy Chairperson), Dunford, Goodman and Collins

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Environmental Project Officer, Project Delivery Officer

Absent: Cllrs Banks, Bolanz, Pitt and Simonis

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment & Emergency committee** held on **12th November 2024** at **6.15pm** in the Eaton's Centre, 18 The Maltings, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present. No member of the public wished to address the Council.

071 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Bolanz, Pitt and Simonis.

ACTIONS

072 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

073 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Environment and Emergency Committee meeting held on 10th September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

074 Action List

Members received and noted the action list for the committee.

The Environmental Project Officer presented the action list and drew Member's attention to the biodiversity grant, explaining there is a delay as a response is awaited from the Diocese of Ely seeking clarification on whether the ground is consecrated and if so, seeking permission to plant trees in proposed locations. The grant provider, HDC are aware of the delay and are happy to work within the Council's timeframes. Members queried whether the timeframes would impact on the right time to plant trees. It was confirmed that this could continue through to the start of spring.

075 Emergency Plan

Members received and considered a draft Community Emergency Response Plan for St Neots Town Council.

Members discussed the need to seek volunteers and contact details for roles within the plan. It was agreed this would be requested once the Full Town Council has approved and adopted the plan.



It was requested that the duties/roles set out in the report be condensed into checklists of tasks and that it is made clear who the action checklists are aimed at and who is responsible for action delivery.

Members asked that the plan be amended to include options for multiple deputy coordinators to be appointed/recorded and that tables be labelled.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that St Neots Town Council adopt the draft Community Emergency Action Plan subject to the following amendments;

- Condensing duties and roles into checklists and labelling/identifying who checklists are aimed at and owners of actions.
- Increasing the number of potential deputy coordinators and amending the table accordingly.

076 Budget Setting

Members received and considered a report from the Environmental Project Officer on budgets under the committee's remit. Members noted there was a current revenue budget of £10,000 for Carbon Neutral Revenue.

Members considered budgeted requirements for the 2025-26 financial year based on key work and objectives that the committee wished to focus on.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council allocate £10,000 for the Carbon Neutral Revenue budget in the 2025-26 budget.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council allocate a £5,000 budget for biodiversity projects in the 2025-26 budget.

RESOLVED that the Environmental Project Officer be delegated management and expenditure of the Carbon Neutral Revenue budget and proposed Biodiversity budget.

077 Transition of Fleet to EV

The Environmental Project Officer introduced a report outlining feasibility around transitioning the council's fleet to EV.

A Member expressed concerns over changing the fleet as part of decarbonisation and whether the right vehicles were available that would provide suitable outcomes. Changing the entire fleet at this stage did not seem logical in their view.

The Project Delivery Manager advised that some specific equipment is hard to transition due to the lack of suitable alternatives in EV. The advice for these items would be to continue to monitor the market at this stage.

It was pointed out that the Council does have three older diesel vehicles which could be the focus of a transition. Such vehicles could be second-hand rather than new,

offering a more affordable and best value solution. This would allow the Council to start addressing its carbon emissions in a tangible way, while also allowing future flexibility as the EV and hydrogen market continued to develop. It was felt the question the committee needed to address was a recommended timeline for the Council to start transitioning vehicles.

The committee discussed the practicalities of EV vehicles, the benefits and challenges across the market with costs, range and batteries. It was agreed long range was not an issue for council vehicles, but ensuring it met the requirements and specifications needed.

A gradual approach to EV was considered the best option by addressing two older diesel vehicles in the Council's fleet as a priority in the next year. A third vehicle, a Ford Transit should be transitioned within the next two years.

Members felt second-hand vehicles would provide best value, subject to suitable vehicles that provided the Operations team with what it requires being available.

The Clerk commented that it was important that the Operations Team leader be fully involved with any recommendations on transitioning fleet and appropriate vehicles. The impact on the team's operation and service delivery must form part of any recommendations made.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Operations and Amenities Committee that the Council look to start a gradual transition of its fleet to EV by replacing its 2010 Ford Ranger and 2013 Nissan Navara within the next financial year and the 2017 Ford Transit within the next 2 years.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that when transition council vehicles to EV the preferred replacement will be with second-hand EVs subject to identifying suitable vehicles which provide the operations team with the flexibility and requirements it needs.

078 Strategic Projects

The Project Deliver Manager and Environmental Project Officer introduced four areas identified as key projects which should be included in the Council's strategic plan. These were agreed as:

- 1) Priory Centre and any associated buildings clean energy solutions.
- 2) Council buildings and retrofitting.
- 3) Fleet transition to electric.
- 4) Increasing biodiversity on Council assets.

The Committee discussed the four strategic focuses and considered timeframes in which these should be recommended for delivery.



Members commented that they did not feel confident in setting timelines for building retrofitting and biodiversity until the results of auditing was received and fully understood. A period of time would be needed to assess audits and agree actions. It was noted that building audits were being carried out and the Environmental Project Officer hoped these would be received in December.

Members feedback the following proposed timeframes to the Project Delivery Manager;

- 1) Priory Centre and associated buildings energy solutions – To be delivered over the next 24 months in line with the Priory Centre project.
- 2) Council Building Retrofitting – By March 2026 surveys to be completed and scope, actions, costs defined for buildings. Actions to be phased from April 2026 dependant on audit recommendation.
- 3) Two vehicles to be transitioned over the next year and a third vehicle to be transitioned within the next two years.
- 4) Biodiversity auditing, mapping and understanding to be completed within the next 6 months. Phasing of actions to be put in place from May 2025

The Project Delivery Manager would amend the draft Strategic Plan accordingly for recommendation to Council.

079 Date of Next Committee Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next committee meeting would be 14th January 2025 at 7:15pm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL – ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

ACTION LIST 2024/25

The following Action List summarises outstanding resolutions and activities that are ongoing from the last Council and will continue to be worked on over the year.

| ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|
| Project | Objective | Status | Responsibility | Timescales |
| 2024/25 Activities | | | | |
| COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN | | | | |
| Community Emergency Plan for St Neots | To continue to develop and bring forward a completed, comprehensive Community Emergency Plan document for consideration by the Committee. | <p>Newly appointed Environmental Project Officer has reviewed current document and contacted relevant external partners to gather information required to complete the plan.</p> <p>Responses have been incorporated into the document and it is now being brought back to the committee for adoption.</p> <p>Adopted by Full Council on 26th November 2024.</p> <p>Request by member of the public to amend the plan regarding flooding brought to Full Council meeting on 17th December 2024.</p> | 1) Env. Officer | To review flood element of plan with FLAG representative |
| Solar Panels on Cemetery Gate Lodge | To obtain quotes and work with the tenant of Gate Lodge to bring forward a proposal on the installation of solar panels on the building, as requested by the tenant. | <p>The E&E committee previously expressed support for a proposal from the tenants of Gate Lodge (Council owned building) to look at a scheme to install solar panels on the building.</p> <p>Quotations were taken to the Operations and Amenities Committee for consideration. The Committee has referred the matter back to the Environment Committee asking for further clarity on a wider approach to solar panels across the Council's estate.</p> | 1) Env. Officer | To be reviewed after energy audits have been completed |

AGENDA ITEM 4**ATTACHMENT 2**

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | The E&E Committee recommended that this action now be considered as part of a wider review of the Council's Net Zero ambitions in relation to its buildings. | | |
| BIODIVERSITY - NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT | | | | |
| HDC Biodiversity Audit and Grant | Reviewing the results of HDC's audit and bringing forward opportunities / ideas that may arise from the audit | <p>Biodiversity Audit has been completed by HDC. Awaiting publication of resulting report. To review and see whether it provides opportunities for SNTC and the committee.</p> <p>Grant award confirmed and HDC will undertake works. Awaiting funding from HDC.</p> <p>HDC will provide timescales for works which will be reported to the committee. Works will most likely need to be undertaken in autumn.</p> | 1) Env. Officer | Update to be brought to next meeting of the Committee |
| CLIMATE ACTION | | | | |
| Climate Action Plan for St Neots Town Council | To continue to develop a climate action plan, with achievable and measurable actions for adoption and implementation by the Council. | <p>An initial draft plan was brought forward by the Chairperson for consideration. The newly appointed Environmental Project Officer will be developing the process and the plan itself in partnership with the Committee. The development of the Plan forms a key part of the role.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider recommending the plan for formal adoption.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan has now been formally adopted by Full Council.</p> | <p>1) E&E</p> <p>Env. Officer</p> | COMPLETED |

ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Committee | ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE |
| Date: | 14th JANUARY 2025 |
| Title: | ENERGISE REPORTS SUMMARY |
| Contact Officer: | ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive and consider a report summarising key information from the recent energy audits of Council buildings as completed by Energise.
- 1.2 To receive and consider a recommendation for delivering decarbonisation actions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee takes forward a recommendation to the Operations and Amenities Committee that recommendations identified as 'quick wins' for decarbonising Council buildings are completed within the next 6-12 months.
- 2.2 That the Committee takes forward a recommendation to the Operations and Amenities Committee that a carbon neutral alternative to the Eatons Centre biomass boiler is prioritised for delivery. (see Agenda item 6 for further details).
- 2.3 That the Committee considers how to prioritise longer-term decarbonisation opportunities with a view to developing a plan for completion of works over the next 5 years.
- 2.4 That the Committee considers if they require any further information from Energise to support any decision-making on how to prioritise the decarbonisation of Council buildings.

3. Background

- 3.1 Energise has now completed energy audits of seven Council buildings (six owned and one rented) to establish their current Carbon footprint and the recommended actions for improving their efficiency to reach Net Zero.
- 3.2 Please be advised that all associated prices are indicative and may not accurately reflect market prices. Energise does not supply or install any recommended products, so have made an estimation of costs, but further surveys and quotes from relevant installers will be required to establish actual costs.

4. Information

- 4.1 Please see **APPENDIX A** attached to this report which outlines the key points of all Energise reports, including current Carbon footprint and energy use, and their recommendations for actions to take to reach Net Zero.
- 4.2 Full Energise reports will be made available to members.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The total indicative financial implications linked to this report and the actions recommended within it total £98,400. The indicative financial implications for just the 'quick wins' total £6,200.

6. Legal Powers

- 6.1 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which St Neots Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

| Recommendations | Total Indicative Cost* | * Costs are indicative and may not reflect market prices. Quotes would need to be obtained for all works to establish accurate pricing |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Seal 'drying room' door ^{QW} | £100 | |
| Install PIR ^{QW} | £3,345 | |
| Review heating and cooling set points ^{QW} | £0 | |
| Install rooftop Solar PV | £54,700 | |
| Upgrade to LED lighting ^{QW} | £2,500 | |
| Install ASHP | £25,200** | ** Government grants may be available for ASHP's |
| Install daylight sensors for outdoor lighting ^{QW} | £95 | |
| Install double glazed windows | £9,700 | |
| Seal cellar door ^{QW} | £50 | |
| Replace electric heaters with AC | £2,600 | |
| Install timer on water heater ^{QW} | £110 | |
| Total indicative cost | £98,400 | |

^{QW} - 'Quick Wins', i.e., those that can be completed relatively quickly and have a relatively small budget attached to them

BUILDING OVERVIEWS

DEPOT

RESULTS IN NUMBERS

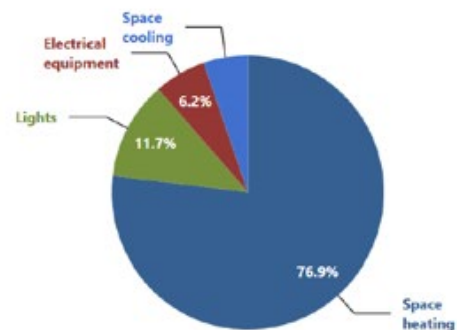
22 MWh
Total Annual Energy
Consumption

£5,830
Total Annual Energy
Expenditure

4 tCO₂e
Total Emissions Per Annum

22 MWh
Electricity Used

100%
Savings Achievable Worth
£7,500 Per Annum



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Seal 'Drying Room' Door | 4,200 | 1 | £1,100 | £100 | 0.1 | £12,600 | 11.1% | 19.0% |
| 002 | Implement PIR | 1,500 | 0 | £400 | £800 | 2.0 | £3,800 | 0.5% | 6.8% |
| 003 | Review Heating and Cooling Set Points | 1,300 | 0 | £300 | £0 | - | £4,000 | - | 5.9% |
| 004 | Install Rooftop Solar PV | 21,300 | 4 | £5,600 | £20,500 | 3.6 | £51,700 | 0.3% | 96.8% |
| TOTAL | | 28,286 | 5 | £7,400 | £21,385 | 2.9 | | | |

EATONS COMMUNITY CENTRE**RESULTS IN NUMBERS****76 MWh**Total Annual Energy
Consumption**£10,570**Total Annual Energy
Expenditure**10 tCO₂e**

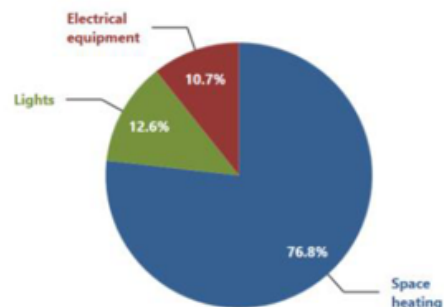
Total Emissions Per Annum

18 MWh

Electricity Used

58 MWh

Wood Pellets Used

59.3%Savings Achievable Worth
£5,700 Per Annum**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|-------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Install PIR | 1,100 | 0 | £300 | £200 | 0.8 | £1,400 | 1.3% | 2.3% |
| 002 | Upgrade to LED Lighting | 1,800 | 0 | £500 | £200 | 0.4 | £2,500 | 2.5% | 3.6% |
| 003 | Replace Biomass Boiler with ASHP | 46,300 | 5 | £4,600 | £20,900 | 4.5 | £32,100 | 0.2% | 51.2% |
| 004 | Install daylight sensors for outdoor lighting | 1,100 | 0 | £300 | £95 | 0.3 | £1,600 | 3.2% | 2.3% |
| TOTAL | | 50,339 | | £5,700 | £21,411 | 3.8 | | | |

ALLOWABLE SOLUTIONS**4 tCO₂e**Of offsets are needed to achieve Net Zero
Carbon further to the recommendations made
in this report.**£24**We estimate this will cost (using Gold Standard
Offset):

EX-SERVICEMAN'S CLUB**RESULTS IN NUMBERS**

73 MWh
Total Annual Energy
Consumption

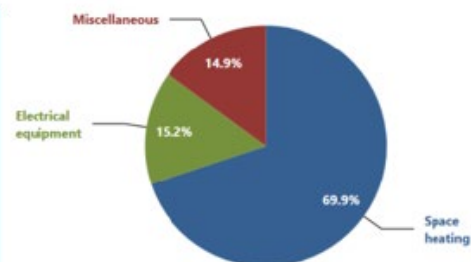
£10,025
Total Annual Energy
Expenditure

14 tCO₂e
Total Emissions Per Annum

27 MWh
Electricity Used

46 MWh
Gas Used

64.3%
Savings Achievable Worth
£12,000 Per Annum

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implement ation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Replace Central Heating with Heat pump | 32,000 | 6 | £2,000 | £4,300 | 2.1 | £18,700 | 0.5% | 42.9% |
| 002 | Install Double Glazed Windows | 6,700 | 1 | £1,800 | £9,700 | 5.4 | £10,700 | 0.2% | 9.6% |
| 003 | Review Heating and Cooling Setpoints | 5,900 | 1 | £1,600 | £0 | - | £17,800 | - | 8.3% |
| 004 | Implement Remaining LED | 1,300 | 0 | £300 | £400 | 1.1 | £3,600 | 0.9% | 1.8% |
| 005 | Implement Remaining PIR | 700 | 0 | £200 | £1,100 | 6.0 | £1,000 | 0.2% | 1.0% |
| 006 | Seal the Cellar Door | 500 | 0 | £100 | £50 | 0.4 | £1,400 | 2.5% | 0.7% |
| 007 | Install Rooftop Solar PV | 22,500 | 4 | £6,000 | £21,600 | 3.6 | £54,700 | 0.3% | 32.0% |
| TOTAL | | 69,592 | | £12,000 | £37,129 | 3.1 | | | |

ALLOWABLE SOLUTIONS

1 tCO₂e

Of offsets are needed to achieve Net Zero Carbon further to the recommendations made in this report.



£6

We estimate this will cost (using Gold Standard Offset):

GATE LODGE, CEMETERY ROAD**RESULTS IN NUMBERS**

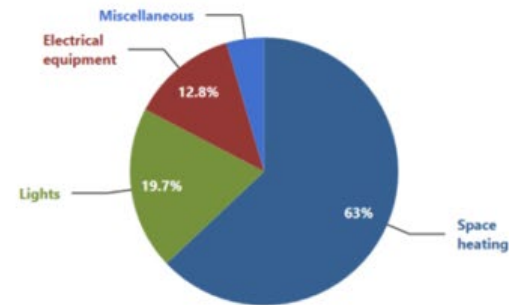
12 MWh
Total Annual Energy
Consumption

£3,840
Total Annual Energy
Expenditure

2 tCO₂e
Total Emissions Per Annum

12 MWh
Electricity Used

100%
Savings Achievable Worth
£4,200 Per Annum

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Replace electric heaters with AC | 5,100 | 1 | £1,000 | £800 | 0.5 | £9,900 | 0.6% | 42.7% |
| 002 | Implement Remaining LED | 1,400 | 0 | £400 | £1,000 | 2.2 | £4,100 | 0.5% | 11.6% |
| 003 | Install PIR | 600 | 0 | £200 | £800 | 4.5 | £1,200 | 0.2% | 4.7% |
| 004 | Install Rooftop Solar PV | 6,100 | 1 | £1,900 | £5,900 | 3.0 | £19,100 | 0.3% | 50.9% |
| TOTAL | | 11,225 | 2 | £3,500 | £8,452 | 2.0 | | | |

MUSEUM**RESULTS IN NUMBERS**

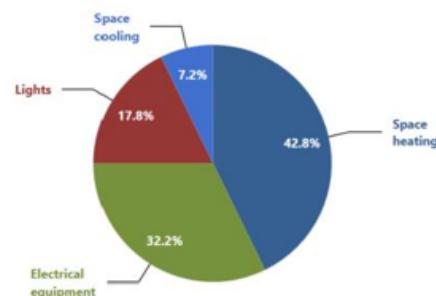
15 MWh
Total Annual Energy
Consumption

£3,975
Total Annual Energy
Expenditure

3 tCO₂e
Total Emissions Per Annum

15 MWh
Electricity Used

74.1%
Savings Achievable Worth
£2,900 Per Annum

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Install timer on POU water heater | 1,900 | 0 | £500 | £55 | 0.1 | £3,600 | 9.1% | 12.4% |
| 002 | Install PIR | 500 | 0 | £100 | £300 | 1.9 | £800 | 0.5% | 3.8% |
| 003 | Implement Remaining LED | 1,500 | 0 | £400 | £600 | 1.6 | £4,500 | 0.6% | 10.0% |
| 004 | Install Rooftop Solar PV | 7,200 | 1 | £1,900 | £6,700 | 3.5 | £17,500 | 0.3% | 47.9% |
| TOTAL | | 11,115 | | £2,900 | £7,696 | 2.6 | | | |

ALLOWABLE SOLUTIONS

1 tCO₂e

Of offsets are needed to achieve Net Zero Carbon further to the recommendations made in this report.



£6

We estimate this will cost (using Gold Standard Offset):

MAN CAVE**RESULTS IN NUMBERS**

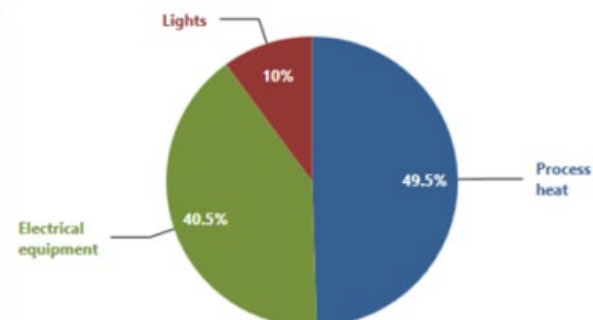
3 MWh
Total Annual Energy
Consumption

£795
Total Annual Energy
Expenditure

1 tCO₂e
Total Emissions Per Annum

3 MWh
Electricity Used

37.9%
Savings Achievable Worth
£300 Per Annum

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

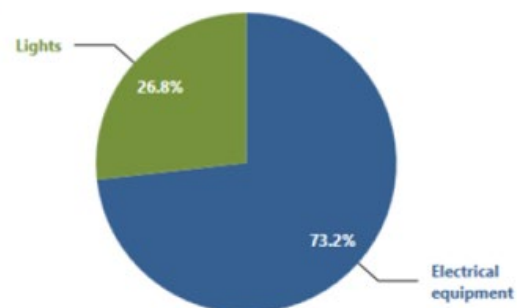
| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Replace electric heaters with A/C | 1,000 | 0 | £300 | £1,800 | 6.8 | £1,200 | 0.2% | 32.8% |
| 002 | Upgrade to LED Lighting | 100 | 0 | £33 | £200 | 7.3 | -£57 | 0.1% | 3.5% |
| 003 | Install PIR | 44 | 0 | £11 | £48 | 4.2 | £16 | 0.2% | 1.7% |
| TOTAL | | 1,170 | | £344 | £2,091 | 6.8 | | | |

VOLUNTEER CENTRE**RESULTS IN NUMBERS****1.6 MWh**Total Annual Energy
Consumption**£530**Total Annual Energy
Expenditure**0 tCO₂e**

Total Emissions Per Annum

1.6 MWh

Electricity Used

25.9%Savings Achievable Worth
£100 Per Annum**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

| Ref | Recommendation | Savings | | | Implementation cost | Payback (years) | NPV (£) | RoI (%) | Pathway (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | Energy (kWh) | Carbon (tCO ₂ e) | Cost (£) | | | | | |
| 001 | Upgrade to LED lighting | 300 | 0 | £87 | £100 | 1.3 | £400 | 0.8% | 15.5% |
| 002 | Install timer on POU water heater | 200 | 0 | £42 | £55 | 1.3 | £300 | 0.8% | 7.8% |
| 003 | Install PIR | 70 | 0 | £18 | £97 | 5.3 | £38 | 0.2% | 2.6% |
| TOTAL | | 570 | | £147 | £252 | 1.8 | | | |

ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Committee | ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE |
| Date: | 14th JANUARY 2025 |
| Title: | EATONS CENTRE BIOMASS BOILER |
| Contact Officer: | ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive and consider a recommendation on replacing the biomass boiler at the Eatons Centre with an Air Source Heat Pump (subject to compatibility assessment, three comprehensive quotes, and subsequent planning permission).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee recommends to the Operations and Amenities Committee that a carbon neutral alternative to the Eatons Centre Biomass boiler is prioritised for delivery.

3. Background

- 3.1 The biomass boiler at the Eatons Centre has repeatedly broken down since installation, requiring expensive repairs. It has reportedly barely worked so far this winter, even with repairs, and the centre is having to use space heaters to try to warm the rooms for visitors.
- 3.2 The Council has incurred regular maintenance and repair costs over the years the biomass boiler has been operational, costs from the end of December 2022 until the end of December 2024 were £5,979.98. However, this did include annual service costs.

4. Information

- 4.1 The recent Energise assessment of the Eatons Community Centre recommended that, for energy efficiency and carbon reduction purposes, an Air Source Heat Pump be installed to replace the biomass boiler.
- 4.2 Whilst it is intended that there will be a long-term plan for improvements to Council buildings, it is recommended that a replacement to the current biomass boiler is prioritised and moved forward as a matter of urgency.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There is an indicative cost of £20,900 linked to this report and the actions recommended within it. This cost is purely indicative and may change following a full heat assessment (to determine the exact specification of the pump and any relevant infrastructure) and subsequent quotes from suppliers. There will also be a charge for obtaining planning permission. It is worth noting that it may be possible to obtain a Government grant to assist with the purchase costs, and this will be explored further.

6. Legal Powers

- 6.1 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which St Neots Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL

| | |
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| Committee | ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE |
| Date: | 14th JANUARY 2025 |
| Title: | TRANSITION OF OPERATIONAL VEHICLES TO EV |
| Contact Officer: | ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a recommendation on replacing two operational vehicles and a ride-on lawn mower with plug-in hybrid or electric alternatives.
- 1.2 To note the recommendation would change a previous recommendation from the committee on transitioning vehicles to electric. The recommendation in this report arises from further discussions with the Operations Manager.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee recommends to the Operations and Amenities Committee:
 - 2.1.1 That the Council replaces the 2010 Ford Ranger with a plug-in hybrid box-van style alternative which meets the requirements of the Operations team in terms of size, capacity, security, and towing functionality.
 - 2.1.2 That the Council replaces the 2013 Nissan Navara with a plug-in hybrid box-van style alternative which meets the requirements of the Operations team in terms of size, capacity, security, and towing functionality.
 - 2.1.3 That the Council replaces one ride-on diesel lawn mower with a new electric ride-on lawnmower (minimum 74" deck).

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee previously considered a report on the transition of the council's vehicle fleet to EV. The Committee recommended that;

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Operations and Amenities Committee that the Council look to start a gradual transition of its fleet to EV by replacing its 2010 Ford Ranger and 2013 Nissan Navara within the next financial year and the 2017 Ford Transit within the next 2 years.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that when transition council vehicles to EV the preferred replacement will be with second-hand EVs subject to identifying suitable vehicles which provide the operations team with the flexibility and requirements it needs.

- 3.2 Following the recommendation further work has been done with the Operational Manager and Senior Maintenance Technician on reviewing needs, requirements and suitability of alternative vehicles to ascertain the most appropriate transitions at this time.
- 3.3 The work highlighted in section 3.2 has highlighted a need to consider alternative vehicles further due to the needs of the team and suitability of vehicles on the market. Discussions also considered the level of fuel usage within the operations team and where the most impact could be made.

4. Information

- 4.1 As detailed above, it was previously agreed that the 2010 Ford Ranger, 2013 Nissan Navara, and 2017 Ford Transit be recommended for transition to EV over the next 12-24 months. However, further work with the Operations Team has highlighted that the EV alternatives to replace the Ford Ranger and Nissan Navara do not currently have the required towing capacities required and there is currently no suitable EV or hybrid alternative to the 2017 Ford Transit, although an alternative is due to reach the market imminently.
- 4.2 As such, the team has considered alternative options which would allow for a transition while making the most impact on the Council's carbon footprint.
- 4.3 The Council's vehicles are used to transport operations and equipment to locations in the town where they then undertake work. Therefore, the mileage from these vehicles is limited and is low on a day-to-day basis.
- 4.4 As well as operating its vehicles, the Council has four diesel ride-on lawn mowers which the operations team use to undertake grass cutting across the town. The ride-on lawn mowers, which are diesel fueled, undertake grass cutting throughout the town daily during grass cutting season. The operations manager has reported that these use 20-25 liters of diesel each per day. Therefore, the council uses significantly more diesel in operating its lawn mowers than it does running its vehicles.
- 4.5 Taking into account the usage and impact of the vehicles and their usage it is suggested that the 2010 Ford Ranger and 2013 Nissan Navara which were recommended to be transitioned are replaced with plug-in hybrid box vans, which do have the required towing and secured storage capacities the Council needs. With electric powered ranges in an area of 27 miles, day-to-day use (up to a few miles per day) would only ever require electric consumption, meaning that the vehicles would be using 'clean' fuel only. Although, flexibility would exist for longer journeys, also considerably 'cleaner' because of the petrol engines.

- 4.6 Also, low daily mileage of the diesel vehicles created additional issues and costs related to the vehicle maintenance. EV, hybrid or petrol vehicles won't have same issues.
- 4.7 New plug-in hybrid box vans cost up to £35,000 each, whilst the used versions cost up to £21,000. This transition could take place over the next 12 months as per the committee's previous recommendation.
- 4.8 It is recommended that the 2017 Ford Transit is not transitioned within the next 12-24 months as previously recommended. The 2017 Ford Transit offers a level of flexibility and heavy duty that is needed by the team and at this point it is recommended that it is operated until the end of its economic life, when an alternative replacement is then re-considered.
- 4.9 As the ride-on lawn mowers use considerably more diesel than the vans, requiring up to 25 litres of fuel each per day (the vans tend to be refueled only monthly), it would seem pertinent to consider transitioning the mowers as a priority.
- 4.10 One of the mowers is coming to the end of its life, so it would be advisable to use the opportunity to replace this with an electric alternative. A model which has been demonstrated to the Operations team and would be suitable is the Mean Green Evo Zero Turn costing £44,185 (74" deck) or £61,250 (96" deck).

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Replacements for the 2010 Ford Ranger and 2013 Nissan Navara combined will cost up to £70,000 (new) or £40,000 (used), plus the cost of charging points installation at approximately £5,000 (for 2 chargers).
- 5.2 A replacement ride-on lawn mower would cost up to £61,250 plus £2,450 for a battery charger (at today's market prices). This is significantly more than a diesel lawnmower but could make a larger impact on the Council's fuel usage.
- 5.3 The Council has an EMRs of £34,567 for vehicles and mowers. There is also the current year's budget of £30,000. This gives a total allocated available budget of £64,567.
- 5.4 Funds could be released from the sale of the vehicles to be replaced, although it is anticipated this will be minimal.
- 5.5 A transition to hybrid or electric alternatives will of course result in fuel and operational savings.

6. Legal Powers

- 6.1 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which St Neots Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.