

County Councillor report December 2019

Have your say on the draft Climate and Environment Strategy

Following its declaration of a Climate and Environment Emergency in May 2019, the Council agreed on Thursday 19 December, to launch consultation on ambitious plans to reduce its own and the County's carbon footprint, and to support others in their efforts.

The consultation begins on 20 December until 31 January during which time the council will be gathering feedback at a range of events across the county, and via an [online survey](#).

DRAFT Climate Change and Environment Strategy:

Consultation Information

The Consultation

Climate Change action is a shared responsibility, the Council must have inputs from business, communities, and local authorities to plan for this. Many of the actions proposed will require multiple different stakeholders to take part if they are to be successful.

The Consultation asks for views on:

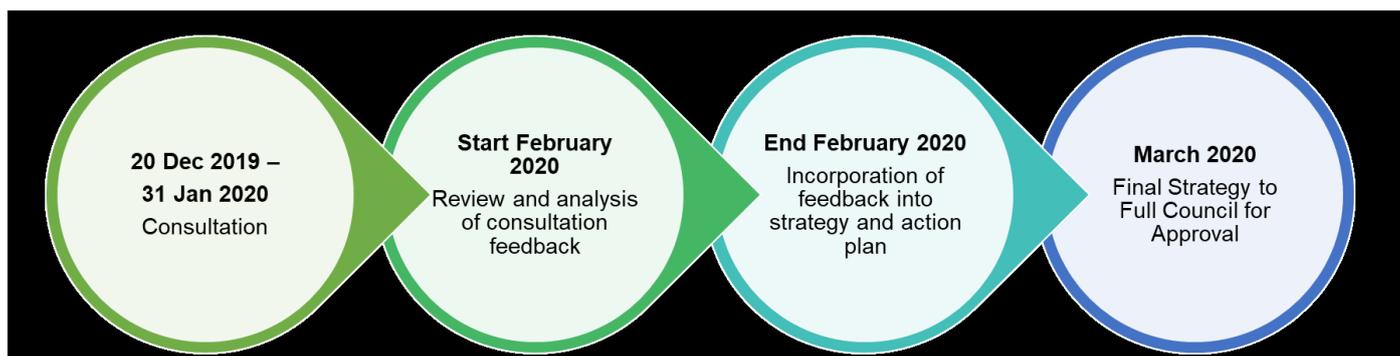
- CCC priority areas
- CCC targets
- What you are already doing
- Any comments, ideas, criticisms

The draft Strategy will be open for consultation from **20 December 2019 to 31 January 2020**.

Everyone is invited to take part: individuals, businesses, community groups, governmental organisations.

The consultation is online at <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy> (can direct public to search "ConsultCambs" and it will come up)

Following feedback from stakeholders, a final version of the Strategy and Action Plan will return to Full Council for approval, timeline below:



Why have a Climate Change and Environment Strategy?

Cambridgeshire County Council declared a Climate and Environment Emergency in May 2019. This was unanimously agreed by Full Council and was in response to the growing sense of urgency around undertaking significant action on human-driven Climate Change.

What the County Council already does?

Cambridgeshire County Council is already working on reducing its own operational environmental impact, primarily through renewable energy projects, and energy efficiency measures. However, to achieve widespread benefits, action must be embedded into how the Council operates and close strong collaboration with our local authority partners, businesses and communities developed.

Vision and Objectives of the Strategy

Our vision is to deliver net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050 in partnership with all stakeholders, whilst supporting our communities and Cambridgeshire's biodiversity and environmental assets to adapt and flourish as our climate changes.

Cambridgeshire social workers win top national awards

Two social workers from Cambridgeshire have been honoured for their contribution to the profession at the national Social Worker of the Year Awards.

Ella Waughman and Dan Grimes, who both work for Cambridgeshire County Council, were named the winners of the **Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year** and **Newly Qualified Children's Social Worker of the Year** awards respectively at the prestigious event which took place last week (Friday 29th November) in London. Mary Carter, a social work student at Anglia Ruskin University was also named **Student Social Worker of the Year**. The awards are organised by The Social Work Awards charity, which aims to improve public awareness and understanding of social work by showing the positive impact of social workers in the wide range of roles they undertake.

Since graduating from Anglia Ruskin University in 2018 with a master's degree in social work, Ella has worked in the Council's Huntingdon Older People's Team, supporting people living with conditions such as dementia or mental health issues. The judging panel commended Ella for her commitment to personal learning and development and said she shows "great potential for her future career." Speaking about her award, Ella said: "It's an amazing feeling to have been recognised by the judges in this way. Cambridgeshire County Council really does support its social workers, encouraging professional learning and development and I'd like to thank my team for all their help and support they've given me as a newly qualified social worker."

Dan Grimes currently supports and advocates for vulnerable young people and families in South Cambridgeshire. Alongside his main role, Dan has also volunteered in the past for Cambridgeshire's 'Siblings Forever' programme that supports siblings in care to spend time together. The judges praised Dan for going above and beyond to connect with families and build trust. Dan said: "There's lots of talented social workers where I work who have really inspired me and supported me. The awards come at a time when Cambridgeshire County Council has a campaign to recruit more social workers. To find out more about the #welovesocialworkers campaign click here <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/jobs-and-careers/we-love-social-workers/>

Golden win – campaign scoops hat trick by winning at international awards

A social care recruitment campaign has continued its winning streak by being awarded Gold at the 2019 [International Content Marketing Awards](#). [See the difference](#), a social care recruitment campaign for Cambridgeshire County Council, resulted in 52 new appointments - 130% ahead of its original four-month target. Almost 150 agencies and companies from 23 countries entered the awards, which were held in London on Tuesday 26 November. The campaign's focus was to recruit reablement care workers, a high priority area of recruitment for the council. Reablement workers play a very valuable role in helping people to regain their independence by supporting in the community and helping them to leave hospital in timely way and become independent again. They help people be where they want to be – in their own homes – and avoid people having to go into a care setting or receive personal care at home. Most importantly they focus on increasing confidence and independence.

Work starts in Alconbury

Cambridgeshire County Council's new Alconbury Weald Administration building is set to open in spring 2021. An event to mark the first spade in the ground on site was held on 16 December where councillors and contractors celebrated the start on site of a building which aims to deliver environmental excellence – as well as unlocking in excess of £45m to spend on local services. To lessen the building's environmental impact:

- The car park includes more than 20 spaces with electric car charging points, and below ground infrastructure ready to link up all spaces to electric charging points in the future.
- An increased number of photo voltaic (PV) panels on the roof will provide a renewable energy source to improve the energy efficiency of the building,
- A business case to install a solar array within the car park is currently being developed by the Council's Energy Investment Unit.

And to help support the local economy

- The council is planning a café in the HQ to be run as a social enterprise, helping to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 95% of the first £6.6 million of orders placed for the project so far have gone to local businesses.
- The new building will also massively reduce the council's building maintenance bill – from an annual £1.3m for Shire Hall to less than £500k a year for the new Administration Hub.

Peter Hudson

County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over