

Meeting Date: 28th February 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –**
Councillor Nigel Christian

CLIMATE CHANGE

Carlisle is one of 25 cities that are participating in a Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) pilot to develop a methodology for identifying heat network zones in English cities, in order to map where heat networks are the lowest carbon solution. This will shape future policy development by BEIS. The City Council are a partner in this work and Officers recently met with BEIS and specialist consultants to provide local knowledge to shape the mapping for Carlisle.

[Heat Networks Zoning Pilot - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heat-networks-zoning-pilot)

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Additional charging capacity has been installed at our main depot at Bousteads Grassing for the seven new all-electric vans now on order. This will also support visitors and customers with electric vehicles using our MOT and taxi testing facilities. The vehicles will be operated by Teams in Green Spaces, Pest Control, Hostels and Property Services (cleaning teams).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

The 16 Carlisle and District chargepoints already in operation under the Charge My Street Project have seen steadily rising usage levels over the past six months, as more people make the switch to EVs. A further tranche of sites is currently being assessed and a bid for On-street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) funding was submitted on 27th January by the County Council on behalf of Cumbria's Electric Vehicle Charging Partnership, including locations in Carlisle.

A business-to-business promotional event is being hosted by the Partnership at Keswick Pencil Museum on Tuesday, 14th March at which a number of equipment suppliers and

operators, as well as EV dealers, will demonstrate the benefits of electric vehicles and the options for businesses who wish to change to make the change from petrol/diesel.

HM Government have announced that the next phase of funding for EV infrastructure will not be subject to competitive bidding as in the past but instead will be allocated to local authorities based on head of population. The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund will be available in two tranches, 2023 - 2024 or 2024 - 2025. Officers of the Cumbria EV Partnership held a meeting with LEVI on 8th February to discuss options.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Members will be aware of the change in the way the Environment Agency is now enforcing legislation in relation to the disposal of upholstered furniture items (WUDS – Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating). Colleagues at the County Council (disposal authority) were told at very short notice, just before Christmas, that the changes would be implemented from 1st January 2023: existing arrangements for landfilling this waste would no longer legally compliant and new arrangements for incineration needed to be put in place. Pending the new arrangements, WUDS could not be accepted at the local household waste recycling centres or collected as part of the City Council's bulky waste service.

The County Council, towards the end of January, was able to secure the alternative, compliant disposal arrangements for these items and our bulky waste and fly-tipping clearance services have been fully reinstated. The household waste recycling centres at Brampton and Carlisle are also able to accept these items but this is not the case for all sites in the County, so residents are advised to check before setting off to any of the other sites.

GREEN SPACES

A recent public consultation which sought the views of residents in Harraby and Upperby regarding the creation of a new park has recently ended. This project, funded by the Government's **Levelling Up Parks Fund**, proposes to formalise public access in a former horse grazing field off Petteril Bank Road, Harraby South & Parklands Ward. Over 150 residents responded to the request for comments and feedback on plans for the site, with 94% of respondents being in favour.

The Green Spaces Team joined forces with Carlisle Rotary Club to plant 300 native trees and 100 crocus bulbs in Heysham Park. 85 larger 'standard' trees have also been planted across the city by Carlisle City Council's Grounds Team as part of our annual tree planting programme.

Over the last few months the Fell Foot Forward team have been sourcing arts grants and a total of £25,000 has been successfully raised to progress the **Dark Sky's** sculpture at Talkin Tarn. A Contractors has been appointed to carry out this arts project. The design

is based on traditional roundhouse building techniques and draws inspiration from the locality of the Tarn and adjacent woodland. The project will include community engagement sessions and workshops where members of the community and site visitors can get involved and learn the traditional craft skills of willow hurdle construction. The design will also allow memorial plaques to be incorporated into the structure. People will have the opportunity to purchase a small memorial plaque which can be placed on the main supporting roof beams. This will allow family members to make the connection between their loved ones and the stars beyond. It is hoped that the public engagement sessions will start next month with the construction of the sculpture commencing in early Spring.

In the last few months we have been consulting with the Forestry Commission and Natural England regarding the **Kingmoor Woodland Creation Project**. All permissions are now in place so we are in a position to proceed. It is hoped that tree planting will start in March with the access improvements starting over the Summer. There will be approximately **15,000 trees** planted. The bulk of these will be planted by contractors, but volunteers, local residents and schools will be given the opportunity to come along and tree plant also.

SMOKE CONTROL AREA UPDATE

A Report will be submitted for approval, to enable the Council to adopt the civil penalty framework for smoke control emissions, this will impact the smoke control areas in the City. The civil penalties were introduced in May 2022 under updates to the Clean Air Act 1993 under the Environment Act 2021.

FOOD BUSINESS INSPECTIONS

As of January 2023, the majority of high to medium risk food business have now been inspected and by the end of March 2023, the department will be up to date, with only low risk business outstanding.