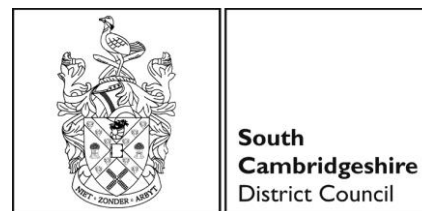


South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

t: 01954 713000

f: 01954 713149

[www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)



26 September 2022

To: Chair - Councillor Pippa Heylings  
Vice-Chair – Councillors Dr. Martin Cahn and Geoff Harvey

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –  
Councillors Ariel Cahn, Paul Bearpark, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya,  
John Loveluck, Dr Lisa Redrup, Peter Sandford and Bunty Waters

Substitutes: Councillors Graham Cone, Heather Williams, Dr. Richard Williams,  
Lina Nieto, Sue Ellington, Stephen Drew, Dr. Tumi Hawkins and  
Peter Fane

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Climate and Environment Advisory Committee**, which will be held in **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **Tuesday, 4 October 2022** at **2.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully

**Liz Watts**

Chief Executive

**The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you**

---

## Agenda

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022.	<b>1 - 8</b>
<b>4. Revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25</b>	<b>9 - 30</b>
<b>5. Forward Plan</b>	
<b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 2 pm.	

## **Guidance For Visitors to South Cambridgeshire Hall**

### **Notes to help those people visiting the South Cambridgeshire District Council offices**

While we try to make sure that you stay safe when visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall, you also have a responsibility for your own safety, and that of others.

#### **Security**

When attending meetings in non-public areas of the Council offices you must report to Reception, sign in, and at all times wear the Visitor badge issued. Before leaving the building, please sign out and return the Visitor badge to Reception.

Public seating in meeting rooms is limited. For further details contact Democratic Services on 03450 450 500 or e-mail [democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk)

#### **Emergency and Evacuation**

In the event of a fire, a continuous alarm will sound. Leave the building using the nearest escape route; from the Council Chamber or Mezzanine viewing gallery this would be via the staircase just outside the door. Go to the assembly point at the far side of the staff car park opposite the staff entrance

- **Do not** use the lifts to leave the building. If you are unable to use stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings have fire refuge areas, which give protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for help from Council fire wardens or the fire brigade.
- **Do not** re-enter the building until the officer in charge or the fire brigade confirms that it is safe to do so.

#### **First Aid**

If you feel unwell or need first aid, please alert a member of staff.

#### **Access for People with Disabilities**

We are committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to our agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you. All meeting rooms are accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities on each floor of the building. Infra-red hearing assistance systems are available in the Council Chamber and viewing gallery. To use these, you must sit in sight of the infra-red transmitter and wear a 'neck loop', which can be used with a hearing aid switched to the 'T' position. If your hearing aid does not have the 'T' position facility then earphones are also available and can be used independently. You can get both neck loops and earphones from Reception.

#### **Toilets**

Public toilets are available on each floor of the building next to the lifts.

#### **Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones**

We are open and transparent about how we make decisions. We allow recording, filming and photography at Council, Cabinet and other meetings, which members of the public can attend, so long as proceedings at the meeting are not disrupted. We also allow the use of social media during meetings to bring Council issues to the attention of a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch your phone or other mobile device to silent / vibrate mode.

#### **Banners, Placards and similar items**

You are not allowed to bring into, or display at, any public meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. Failure to do so, will result in the Chairman suspending the meeting until such items are removed.

#### **Disturbance by Public**

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chairman may call for that part to be cleared. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

#### **Smoking**

Since 1 July 2008, South Cambridgeshire District Council has operated a Smoke Free Policy. No one is allowed to smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

#### **Food and Drink**

Vending machines and a water dispenser are available on the ground floor near the lifts at the front of the building. You are not allowed to bring food or drink into the meeting room.

**Declarations of Interest - Information for Councillors**

As a Councillor, you are reminded of the requirements under the Council's Code of Conduct to register interests and to disclose interests in a meeting. You should refer to the requirements set out in the Code of Conduct which are summarised in the notes at the end of this agenda frontsheet.

### **Disclosable pecuniary interests**

A "disclosable pecuniary interest" is an interest of you or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) which falls within the categories in [Table 1 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#).

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your disclosable pecuniary interests you must:

- disclose the interest;
- not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter; and
- must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to notify the monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election
- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of a disclosable pecuniary interest that is not on the register that you have disclosed to a meeting
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a disclosable pecuniary interest or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

### **Other registerable interests**

These are categories of interest which apply to the Councillor only (not to their partner) and which should be registered. Categories are listed in [Table 2 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#). Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter; and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

### **Disclosure of non-registerable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects – a. your own financial interest or well-being; b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in Table 2 you must disclose the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied. Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) affects the financial interest or well-being: a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and; b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

[Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]



This page is left blank intentionally.

# Agenda Item 3

## South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on  
Tuesday, 21 June 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

**Chair:** Pippa Heylings  
**Vice-Chair:** Dr. Martin Cahn and Geoff Harvey

### **Committee Members in attendance:**

Paul Bearpark  
Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya  
Ariel Cahn  
John Loveluck  
Dr Lisa Redrup  
Peter Sandford  
Bunty Waters

### **Councillors in attendance:**

Councillors Dr. Tumi Hawkins was in attendance, by invitation.

Councillors Cllr Brian Milnes was in attendance remotely, by invitation.

### **Officers:**

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Peter Campbell	Head of Housing
John Cornell	Natural Environment Team Leader
Bode Esan	Head of Climate, Environment & Waste
Jane Green	Built and Natural Environment Manager
Eleanor Haines	Climate & Environment Project Officer
Siobhan Mellon	Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Alex Snelling-Day	Green Energy Investment Manager
Luke Waddington	Climate and Environment Project Officer

## **1. Apologies and Introductions**

Officers and Councillors introduced themselves to the meeting.

No apologies were received as all members of the Committee were present.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Shrobona Bhattacharya declared an interest as she had started an environmental group called Serve the Planet, which would soon be registered with the charity commission.

Councillor Martin Cahn declared an interest as a member of the Wildlife Trust, an organisation which was mentioned during the meeting.

## **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no Matters Arising.

#### **5. MJ Award for Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency**

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment reported that the Council had been shortlisted for the Municipal Journal's annual award for Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency for its Green to our Core programme. It was noted that the Chair will represent the Council with two officers at the awards ceremony on Friday 24 June.

The Chair reported that earlier in the year the Council's Green to Our Core programme had been shortlisted for the iESE's 2022 Green Public Service Award and had been awarded silver. The Chair suggested that members change their e-mail signature to include the fact that they represented a Council, which had achieved this recognition.

#### **6. Annual Progress Review of Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan**

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment presented this report on the review of the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan as at the end of the 2021/22 financial year.

The Chair decided that the Committee would receive the next report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounts for the Council's Estate and Operations, 2021-22 and then Committee Members would be invited to ask questions on both agenda items.

#### **7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounts for the Council's Estate and Operations, 2021-22**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste presented this report which updated the Committee on the greenhouse gas emissions for the Council's estate and operations for 2021-22. It was understood that the data was collected in line with Government guidance. It was noted that South Cambridgeshire's population had grown by 2.15% the Council's emissions had decreased by 13.1%.

##### **Transport**

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment explained that the Council's Planning Policy section could influence the transport policies that affected the District. The transport data came from the Government and was eighteen months old when received. The Development Officer, Climate and Environment did not believe that the information could be divided into public transport vehicles, private vehicles and freight but she agreed to check this and report back to the Committee. It was also hoped that officers could provide separate data on local traffic in the district and national traffic that was passing through the district, which the Council could have no real influence on.

**[Following the meeting the Development Officer, Climate and Environmental ascertained that the Council has data on CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from diesel railways, road transport (subdivided into A roads, minor roads and motorways) and 'other'. For 2020 the data for South Cambridgeshire is as follows (all figures are tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>):**

**Diesel railways: 3.6**

**Road transport**

**A roads 328.1**



**Minor road 99.9**

**Motorways 116.4**

**Other transport emission 7.0**

**Note that the Government considers all except Motorways to be under Local Authority influence.]**

### **Energy use at South Cambs Hall**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste explained that the Council was reducing carbon emissions from its main office building through the installation of a ground source heat pump, solar car port and the use of lower energy LED lightbulbs. It was noted that energy use by staff who worked from home could be estimated by using the LGA accounting tool.

It was understood that the renovations at South Cambs Hall, including the installation of the ground source heat pump, would be completed by the end of the month. The Head of Climate, Environment and Waste explained that the increase in energy costs meant that the pay back period for the capital investment had reduced from around 15 years to around 10 years due to the increase in energy costs. He stated that the maintenance costs of the heat pumps were less than the maintenance cost of a conventional boiler. He agreed to arrange a tour of the building for members to see the energy saving improvements that had been implemented.

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment explained that it was difficult to find out whether the energy used by the ICT shared service could be divided by each individual local authority. She agreed to report back on this issue at the next meeting.

It noted that although the Council's electricity tariff was certified as renewable, it was not possible to determine whether the power came directly from only renewable resources.

### **Reducing energy use when collecting waste**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste explained that the fuel use for waste collection was accurately divided between this authority and the City Council. The Chair explained that the Committee wanted to monitor the conversion of the fleet to electric vehicles.

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment explained that the bio-fuel used in waste vehicles was ethically sourced according to international accreditation standards. It was noted that this was a controversial issue and the Chair asked for further assurances on this matter. Councillor Brian Milnes asked for assurances that palm oil was not a component of this fuel.

Councillor Paul Bearpark suggested that residents should be encouraged to compost their waste instead of putting it in the green bin, as this would reduce the amount of energy needed to collect green waste. The Head of Climate, Environment and Waste stated that a home composting scheme was available to the District's residents. He added that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough waste strategy would be renewed at the end of the year and minimising green waste could be prioritised in the new Strategy. It was agreed that this suggestion should be put on the Forward Plan and discussed at the member workshop.

Councillor Brian Milnes, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, suggested that the Council should consider promoting In-Vessel Composting (IVC), as it was an efficient way to compost bio-degradable waste. He called for a more co-ordinated approach in dealing with waste, which involved collection by the District Council and treatment by the County

Council.

### **Improving the energy efficiency of housing**

The Development Officer, Climate and Environment explained that the Council owned approximately 8% of the District's homes and could also influence the energy efficiency of privately rented homes through the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES). It was noted that the £8.5 million fund for more energy efficient private housing was divided across four rural districts and the city council. This authority's share of that funding was expected to help renovate approximately 100 homes.

Councillor Shrobona Bhattacharya suggested that due to advances in technology younger residents had been brought up in an unsustainable "excess" culture. It was agreed that residents needed to be encouraged to repair their goods and that this issue should be further considered at the forthcoming member workshop.

The Chair congratulated staff on achieving reductions in the Council's emissions but the downward trajectory needed to continue. She suggested that a business plan was required that could focus on transport and housing to ensure that emissions continued to decrease.

## **8. Update on Electric Vehicle Charge Points**

The Project Officer presented this report, which updated the Committee on the electric vehicles charge points infrastructure in the District. It was noted that chargers had been installed at the Business Park in Cambourne and were due to be installed at Sheltered Housing estates in the District and the Babraham Road Park and Ride Site.

### **Cost of installing chargers**

The Project Officer agreed to investigate reports that Ofgem were working to ensure that the cost of installing rapid chargers would not fall disproportionately on those who first paid to install the charger in a particular area.

### **Installing chargers at supermarkets and garages**

In response to a query about the challenges in finding a location for charge points, the Project Officer explained that chargers had been installed at Morrisons supermarket in Cambourne and Tesco supermarket in Milton. Installing rapid chargers at petrol stations was also being delivered.

### **Chargers as revenue generators**

In response to the suggestion that coverage would inevitably improve when charging points become clear revenue generators, the Project Officer stated that the Council could focus on attempting to remove barriers to revenue generation but the initial plan was to install chargers at the lowest possible cost.

### **Charging at home**

It was noted that it was cheaper for electric car owners to charge their cars at home but charging points needed to be available for the estimated 25% of residents who were unable to do this, as they did not have access to private parking. Charger sharing was a potential solution that could be investigated at the forthcoming workshop, along with other ways to increase the number of chargers in the District.

### **Working with partners**

The Project Officer explained that the Council was working with parish councils in trying to identify appropriate sites for chargers. Councillor Dr Tumi Hawkins suggested that parish

councils would be aware of businesses that could install charging points in their villages. It was noted that the Council was working in partnership with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the County Council and the Combined Authority on this issue, particularly regarding the challenge of grid capacity. The County Council were considering the use of electric buses and had agreed to install chargers at their Babraham Road Park and Ride site.

The Chair suggested that the Council should promote the locations of chargers in the District and help to address any areas which had no chargers. Steps could also be taken to ensure that chargers were installed in new developments such as Waterbeach and Northstowe.

The Committee **noted** the report.

## **9. Guidance to Parish Councils on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste presented this report, which updated the Committee on the guidance available to parish and town councils on declaring Climate and Ecological Emergencies. Committee members were invited to review the proposed webpage in Appendix A to the report and suggest any amendments.

### **Wildlife Trust**

The Chair explained that the Wildlife Trust had recently carried out a survey on the biodiversity in the area and she requested this be referred to on the proposed webpage. It was agreed that the Wildlife Trust should be invited to explain their work, the data that they gather and what has been achieved in Cambourne to the Committee.

### **Emissions data**

In response to the suggestion that targets could be expressed in terms of the number of tonnes of emissions that needed to be reduced instead of percentages, the Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste explained that a link could be sent to parish councils on how to calculate their own emissions. The aim was to get to net zero by 2050.

### **Preserving green spaces**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste recognised the importance of green spaces to local communities and its preservation could be encouraged through the Zero Carbon Communities Programme.

### **Green Connect Webinars**

The Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste explained that six Green Connect Webinars had been held this year and more would be arranged from September. Committee members were invited to suggest topics for these webinars.

It was agreed that the Committee would discuss this matter further at its forthcoming workshop.

## **10. Project Update: Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN)**

The Green Energy Investment Manager presented this report, which updated the Committee on the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project, which was being developed to respond to the plan to replace the diesel waste collection vehicles with cleaner vehicles including electric ones, which will require an upgrading of the infrastructure to generate the necessary electricity. It was noted that the costs would be

shared between this authority and the City Council, with additional funding provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

In response to questioning the Green Energy Investment Manager explained that the seasonal variances in the power generated by solar panels had been factored in. Ground mounted solar panels could be optimally positioned to generate more energy than roof mounted panels although on occasion, energy from the grid would still be required.

The Green Energy Investment Manager agreed to check that the increasing energy demands from the new town at Waterbeach would not adversely affect the project and its own demands on the grid.

It was noted that Cabinet had approved funding of the project and would be asked to consider a recommendation on the business plan later this year.

The Committee **noted** the report.

## 11. **An Interim Approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Including Offsite Provision**

The Natural Environment Team Leader presented this report, which invited the Committee to recommend the proposed interim approach of guiding principles for siting biodiversity net gain for developments within the District to Cabinet. It was noted that all planning permissions agreed by local authorities would have to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023. The interim guidance was expected to be used before this date. Further guidance on this was expected in November 2023 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

### **Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain outside the planning area**

Councillor Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, thanked the Natural Environment Team Leader and his team for their work on this. She hoped that the biodiversity offsetting would take place in the same area as the development but she warned that this could be difficult, especially with the smaller developments. The Natural Environment Team Leader explained that in cases where the bio-diversity enhancements were taking place outside the planning area, the aim would be to ensure that area enhanced was of a similar habitat to the area being developed. If this proved impossible then the bio-diversity net gain would have to be delivered locally and managed by a non-commercial organisation like a parish council or community group. A national credit system where the developer could purchase "credit" from the Government was the last and least attractive option. The Built and Natural Environment Manager added that given the size of the District and the number of developments taking place all the options were likely to be used at some point. The Natural Environment Team Leader assured the Committee that the establishment of strategic sites was preferable to identifying sites outside the development area or the developer purchasing credits.

### **Chalk streams**

The Natural Environment Team Leader agreed that chalk streams were vital habitats that had to be managed carefully but they it was difficult to enhance their biodiversity.

### **DEFRA's regulations and criteria**

The Natural Environment Team Leader explained that the guidelines provided by DEFRA necessitated careful consideration and a holistic approach when considering the use of brownfield sites and land that had become contaminated for biodiversity net gain. He added that the Council had already responded to a consultation on biodiversity net gain

regulations from DEFRA. It was noted that all sites would need to be assessed using the DEFRA criteria to establish the baseline data of the area before development. This was essential in calculating the percentage biodiversity net gain.

### **Locating sites**

The Chair recommended that officers liaise with parish councils and community groups to inform them of the forthcoming legislation and invite them to identify areas that could benefit from biodiversity net gains. The Built and Natural Environment Manager explained that the Council would work with local groups to identify sites that could be enhanced but these would not always be in the same area as the development. It was agreed that site visits should be organised for members to areas that could be enhanced.

### **Doubling nature**

It was noted that delivering on the Council's biodiversity net gain target would assist the authority in achieving its doubling nature target. The Chair suggested that this issue could be discussed at the forthcoming forward plan workshop. The Natural Environment Team Leader explained that improving habitats would contribute to achieving the doubling nature target. It was noted that training would be offered to councillors and planning colleagues on biodiversity net gain.

The Natural Environment Team Leader explained that the planning process will ensure that green infrastructure will be built through conditions on planning applications and the biodiversity net gain approach will complement the process.

The Chair thanked officers for including the aspirational target of 20% biodiversity net gain. The Chair stated that the Council had to manage expectations and recognise how difficult it will be to meet the biodiversity net gain targets on many of the smaller sites. She recommended that areas of connectivity needed to be set up before development made such connections impossible. This would involve connecting biodiversity net gain projects on small pieces of land.

The Committee **recommended** that Cabinet agree the biodiversity net gain report.

## **12. Forward Plan**

The Committee noted that a workshop meeting would be held on Tuesday 5 July to discuss areas of key focus for the Committee.

- Green Connect/ZCC programme planning
- Food security/sustainability
- Household composting of green waste
- Developing repair workshops in the District.
- EV infrastructure plans
- How will we achieve our doubling nature aspirations?

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 October at 2 pm.

---

**The Meeting ended at 1.05 p.m.**

---

This page is left blank intentionally.



<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 04 October 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Brian Milnes
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste, Bode Esan

---

## Revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

### Executive Summary

1. The Council's Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature actions - part of the Being Green to Our Core corporate objective - have been independently reviewed by two external organisations. This report explains how the review recommendations have been reflected in a revised Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 at Appendix A for recommendation to the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment.
2. The revised plan addresses gaps flagged in two independent reviews of the council's climate and ecological emergency response. Gaps have been addressed by adding:
  - i. Information and actions, which are not new but were not included in the previous action plan
  - ii. new actions which can be carried out within existing resources by the Climate and Environment team
  - iii. new actions to be led by other teams, for which additional resource is available from a budget allocated for that purpose

### Recommendations

3. That CEAC recommend to the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment adoption of the revised plan.

### Reasons for Recommendations

4. CEAC's role is to advise Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions and provide updates on progress towards achieving agreed targets and outcomes.

## Details

5. The Zero Carbon Action Plan 2020-25 was developed following adoption of the Zero Carbon strategy in May 2020. It was expanded to include nature-related actions following the adoption of the Doubling Nature strategy in February 2021.
6. The revised plan addresses gaps flagged in two independent reviews of the council's climate and ecological emergency response. Gaps have been addressed by adding:
  - i. Information and actions, which are not new but were not included in the previous action plan
  - ii. new actions which can be carried out within existing resources by the Climate and Environment team
  - iii. new actions to be led by other teams, for which additional resource is available from a budget allocated for that purpose
7. The revised plan includes actions recommended in an independent review of the Council's climate and ecological emergency response work by Bioregional and incorporates good practice for climate action plans as set out in Climate Emergency UK's checklist.
8. The Climate Emergency UK report on the Council's plan was part of a review and scoring exercise of local authority climate action plans against a checklist devised by Climate Emergency UK with the support of Friends of the Earth, Ashden, the Centre for Alternative Technology and APSE Energy. Climate Emergency UK are a not-for-profit organisation funded through grants and donations to support campaigners and councils to learn from each other and lobby for further action to address the climate crisis. The climate action plans reviewed were those published and available to view on each local authority's website on or before 20 September 2021. The Climate Plan Scorecard was released in January 2022 and can be viewed online at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/councils/south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>.
9. The Bioregional report was commissioned by the Council in March 2022 following a procurement exercise for a review of the Council's climate and ecological emergency response drawing on information from a wide range of sources, (not just the climate action plan). The report, completed on 15 June 2022, reviews the Council's record of accomplishment in relation to the ten principles set out in Bioregional's One Planet Living framework. It can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/media/21562/bioregional-review-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council-2022.pdf>.
10. The Bioregional review found that the Council's activities and policies were particularly strong on: decarbonisation of the Council's own estate and



operations; biodiversity and green infrastructure; renewable energy; zero carbon planning policy for new developments; waste and recycling; business support and the local economy; and community engagement.

11. It suggested the Council could be more ambitious in the areas of: circular economy; regenerative agriculture and land use; reducing car usage in the district; climate justice; behaviour change around sustainable food; and embodied carbon in new developments.

12. The revised plan includes actions from the previous plan and new actions. All actions from the previous plan have been retained although in some cases they are subsumed into wider actions. Some headings have been changed to show more clearly how actions contribute to the strategy goals.

## **Implications**

13. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

### **Financial**

14. Financial resources for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been or will be assigned through the Council's usual budgetary processes.

### **Staffing**

15. Staffing for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been or will be assigned through the Council's usual processes.

### **Climate Change**

16. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### **Consultation responses**

17. The action plan has been the subject of internal consultation.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

18. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change and double nature.

## **Background Papers**

Climate Emergency UK Climate Plan Scorecard

<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/councils/south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>.

Bioregional review of South Cambridgeshire District Council's response to the climate and ecological emergency against the One Planet Living framework

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/21562/bioregional-review-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council-2022.pdf>.

Annual Progress Review of Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plans, 21 June 2022

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s127353/ZCDNAP%20review%20CEAC%2021%20June%2022%20FINAL.pdf>

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

[https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy\\_.pdf](https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy_.pdf)

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s116330/200521%20Zero%20Carbon%20Strategy%20Report%20to%20Council%20FINAL.pdf>

## **Appendix**

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 (2022-23 revision)

### **Report Author:**

Siobhan Mellon, Development Officer, Climate and Environment  
Telephone: (01954) 713395

## South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25

This action plan has been developed in response to the climate and ecological emergency, to deliver the objectives agreed by Council in the Zero Carbon Strategy adopted in May 2020 and the Doubling Nature Strategy adopted in February 2021. It is a live document, reviewed and updated annually in line with the Council's Business Plan. This update builds upon learning from independent reviews of the Council's response to the climate and ecological emergencies by Climate Emergency UK and Bioregional. New actions have been added, and information about existing processes and actions that were not previously captured have been included to provide a more complete picture of the Council's work in this area.

Our Zero Carbon Strategy recognises the need to reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is in line with the science-based emissions target for the UK recommended by the Committee on Climate Change and adopted into UK legislation in June 2019. The target is set at the level necessary to deliver the commitment that the UK made in adopting the 2015 Paris Agreement which aims to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Our Doubling Nature Strategy supports the vision first articulated by Natural Cambridgeshire, the Local Nature Partnership, to double nature in Cambridgeshire by 2050.

The objectives in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies are to:

1. reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 45% on a 2018-19 baseline by 2025 and by 75% on the same baseline by 2030
2. achieve net zero for the district of South Cambridgeshire by 2050, (in line with, and as defined by the Committee on Climate Change and adopted into UK legislation in June 2019)
3. double nature in the district by 2050

Reaching net zero and doubling nature are ambitious targets which will require concerted action by many players including the UK Government, higher tiers of local government, businesses and households. Our action plan is limited to actions within our spheres of

influence. This starts with our own estate including our 8000+ council homes, extends to our operations for example refuse collection for over 60,000 properties and extends out to the many ways we work with partners to achieve carbon reductions and improvements for nature in the wider district. Where we come across limitations of legislation and finance that stand in the way of taking action on the climate crisis we use the influence we have to overcome these as Members did as part of the Local Government Association delegation at COP26 advocating successfully for recognition of the role of local and regional governments in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

### **Governance, development and funding of the plan**

The action plan is led by the Head of Climate, Environment and Waste. Responsibility for developing and delivering the plan sits with the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, who is advised by the Council's cross-party Climate and Environment Advisory Committee. Progress in implementing the action plan is monitored by the Climate and Environment team, overseen by the Head of Climate, Environment and Waste. Progress reviews are provided to the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee at six monthly intervals, who make recommendations to Cabinet or the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment as appropriate.

The plan is embedded in the [Council's Business Plan 2020 - 25](#), which sets 'Being Green to our Core' as a key objective for the Council. Funding for the plan is agreed on an annual basis as part of the Council's budget-setting process, which takes place in tandem with an annual review of the Council's Business Plan. Funding for the plan is drawn from a variety of sources including from within existing budgets, from external grants and awards and from Council reserves, in particular the Council's 'Renewables Reserve' made up of business rates from renewable energy developments in the district, retained under the Business Rates Retention scheme, and earmarked for Green to our Core initiatives. In the longer term, many projects in the plan deliver net cost savings to the Council because of lower energy bills following investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

### **Integration of the plan into existing local authority plans and strategies**

The Council has a process in place to ensure that implications for climate change of new and revised local authority plans and strategies are considered before decisions on these are made. Climate change and Biodiversity and green spaces are key themes in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan which draws upon a strong net zero carbon evidence base.

### **Community, engagement and communication**

The Council will involve residents, businesses and other local partners in the development and delivery of the plan through regular communication and engagement activities, co-ordinated through an internal Climate Communications group. For the elements of the plan that require working in partnership, the Council will identify and engage those relevant partners and establishment agreements for collaborative

action. The Zero Carbon Communities programme including the Green Connect networking sessions are key fora for both communication of key messages, but more importantly collaboration and delivery of projects. As part of the Zero Carbon Communities programme, the Climate and Environment team are exploring partnership working with relevant organisations to expand the reach of the programme to a wider range of participants include young people.

### **Co-benefits**

Action to reduce carbon emissions often results in significant benefits, known as co-benefits, to health and wellbeing, community cohesion and nature. Examples of these include:

- Switching from fossil fuel powered vehicles to electric vehicles and/or active travel results in fewer vehicle emissions and cleaner air, which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing
- Switching from car journeys to cycling or walking means more physical exercise which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing
- Organising community projects funded through our Zero Carbon Communities grant benefits social cohesion
- Planting trees to lock up carbon, provided the trees are well chosen, can enhance green space and provide natural habitat

### **Impacts of climate change**

The impacts of climate change can already be seen in South Cambridgeshire, for example in the unprecedented heat and drought of summer 2022. Further warming is inevitable due to time lags in how quickly the Earth's climate system responds to changes in emissions. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out for this plan and will highlight unequal impacts and action to mitigate these.

**Objective 1: reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 45% on a 2018-19 baseline by 2025 and by 75% on the same baseline by 2030**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible officer</b>	<b>Expected completion date</b>	<b>Progress at end of 2021/22</b>	<b>Next milestone</b>
1.1	<b>Decarbonise fleet</b>				
1.1.1	Procure low emissions vehicles where new vehicles are needed and when replacing end of life vehicles (subject to availability of suitable alternative models and charging infrastructure)	Service Manager, Operations	Fleet decarbonisation strategy sets out a programme from 2020 - 2028	3 electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCV) and 3 electric vans procured	Order to be placed for 4 <sup>th</sup> eRCV to be delivered in 23/24 subject to available power supply
1.1.2	Install chargepoints at Council Depot and South Cambs Hall	Service Manager, Operations	Q2 2022/23	Chargepoints installed at Council Depot; Chargepoints being installed to South Cambs Hall project	Complete installation of chargepoints at South Cambs Hall
1.1.3	Develop and deliver solar PV, battery storage and electric vehicle charging network at the Council Depot - Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project (WREN)	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	Q3 2023/24	Initial business case completed	Q3 2022/23 Investment Grade Proposal completed and Councils' make investment decision.
1.1.4	Investigate feasibility of substituting diesel with HVO biofuel in one or more vehicles as an interim measure to reduce GHG emissions	Service Manager, Operations	Q2 2022/23	Trials completed with both Councils' agreeing to deploy fuel use further subject to budgetary sign off on fuel costs	n/a

	Actions	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at end of 2021/22	Next milestone
1.2	<b>Decarbonise buildings &amp; streetlighting</b>				
1.2.1	Complete retrofit of South Cambridgeshire Hall to include Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar PV car park canopy, Lighting upgrade and new Building Energy Management System	Corporate Programme Manager	Q2 2022/23	Work almost completed	n/a
1.2.2	Review community rooms on our sheltered housing schemes to identify and deliver carbon reduction opportunities	Service Manager, Housing Assets	Q4 2024-25	Remote heating controls fitted to 10 communal rooms	Fit remote heating controls to remaining communal rooms
1.2.3	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	Service Manager, Housing Assets	tbc	Business case proposal for installation of green energy measures received	Approval of business case
1.2.4	Install LED fittings in all Council owned streetlights	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	tbc	Phase 1 completed other than some rectification work to be agreed. Phase 2 - ornate lights - is progressing with a plan for poor condition lights underway and a procurement plan for the remaining.	Discussions are taking place around plans to upgrade lights that are located on HRA land.
	<b>Action completed prior to 2020-25 plan</b> Energy saving and carbon reduction measures to the Waterbeach Depot building (solar PV installed and lighting upgraded)				
1.3	<b>Decarbonise business mileage</b>				
1.3.1	Set up salary sacrifice electric car scheme	HR Co-ordinator	Q1 2021-22	Green Car scheme opened April 2022	n/a

	Actions	Responsible officer	Expected completion date	Progress at end of 2021/22	Next milestone
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Minimise resource use/move towards a circular economy</b>				
1.4.1	Move to paper-free Council and committee meetings	Democratic Services Manager	completed	IT is now available for Members to access all papers online	n/a
	<b>Action completed prior to 2020-25 plan</b> Review of recycling facilities and collection and use of disposable single-use plastic and implementation of changes				
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Decarbonise supply chain</b>				
1.5.1	<b>Action completed prior to 2020-25 plan</b> New procurement rules put in place requiring that awarding of contracts >£5,000 takes account of decarbonisation plans of bidders				



**Objective 2: reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the district to net zero by 2050**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible officer</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Progress at end of 21/22</b>	<b>Next milestone</b>
2.1	<b>Reduce consumption of resources and waste</b>				
2.1.1	Implement a strategy to reduce consumption of resources and reduce waste	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	Circular Resource Strategy for Greater Cambridge Waste Service is in place and being implemented. Key performance indicators are reported internally each month.	Ongoing review, revision and implementation of the Circular Resource Strategy
2.2	<b>Decarbonise planning and land use</b>				
2.2.1	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	First Proposals include a net zero carbon buildings policy as well as wider policies related to the role of new development in responding to the climate emergency.	Full draft plan to be developed during 2022.
2.2.2	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning Policy Manager	2024/25	The submission draft Area Action Plan includes a net zero carbon buildings policy as well as wider policies related to the role of new development in responding to the climate emergency.	Public consultation expected 2024 ahead of submission to the Secretary of State following conclusion of the Development Consent Order process for the relocation of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
2.3	<b>Decarbonise transport</b>				
2.3.1	Through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, develop and implement a strategy to decarbonise transport	n/a Member-led	ongoing	The draft new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan responds to the recommendations set out by the Cambridgeshire & P'boro Independent Commission on Climate Change and includes an objective to reduce emissions from transport to net zero by 2050, see <a href="https://yourltcp.co.uk/Board">https://yourltcp.co.uk/Board</a> .	The final version of the LTCP is expected winter 2022/early 2023 for adoption by the CPCA Board.
2.3.2	Through the Greater Cambridge Partnership, develop and implement City Deal funded sustainable transport initiatives	n/a Member-led	ongoing	The GCP has an ongoing programme of sustainable transport initiatives, see <a href="https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/">https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/</a> .	n/a
2.3.3	Support development of Cambridgeshire County Council's Active Travel Strategy	Communities Manager	Q3 2022/23	The proposed Active Travel Strategy, currently out for consultation, includes the Active Travel Toolkit for New Developments developed by our Sustainable Communities team.	Public consultation in September
2.3.4	Support community-led active travel projects through Zero Carbon Communities grant	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	Various projects supported, see <a href="https://www.scambbs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/">https://www.scambbs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> annual funding round expected to launch Q2 2022/23
2.3.5	Explore feasibility of community car share/e-	Waste Policy, Climate and	Q4 2022/23	New action	n/a

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible officer</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Progress at end of 21/22</b>	<b>Next milestone</b>
	club schemes with rural coverage	Environment Manager			
	<b>Car travel</b>				
2.3.6	Support development of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire-wide Electric Vehicle charging strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	CPCA scoping an EV charging implementation plan for the area, we have fed into this & provided comments on the scoping document	Scoping document considered by CPCA Head of Transport date TBC
2.3.7	Develop strategy for EV charging infrastructure on Council assets Including single supplier for EV chargers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	completed	n/a	n/a
2.3.8	Deliver publicly accessible EV Charge Points, working with partners.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Public EVCPs installed at 2 sheltered accommodation sites. Grant scheme for parish & community chargers to be considered by Grants Advisory Committee	Grants Advisory Committee 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
2.3.9	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	Corporate Programme Manager	Q3 2022/23	18 x 7kW EV chargers and 2 x 42kW Rapid chargers installed expected to be completed by end of Q1 22/23	Secure a back office system operator October 2022
	<b>Taxis and private hire</b>				

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
2.3.10	Install Rapid Chargers to help meet vehicle charging needs of taxi-drivers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Rapid chargers at SCH installed as noted above. Plans for Rapid charger to be installed at Babraham P&R	Completion of installation of Rapid Charger at Babraham P&R
	<b>Completed action</b> Revise taxi licensing policy to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles				
2.4	<b>Decarbonise housing and other buildings</b>				
	<b>Support home energy improvements through partnership projects with the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership</b>				
2.4.1	Working through CERP, set up a scheme to deliver home energy improvements to eligible households funded through government Local Authority Delivery schemes and provide a Council endorsed route for self-funding households.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Procurement of the framework of installers is live until 5 October with contracts expected to be awarded by the end of the year.  A separate procurement exercise is underway for marketing material and website. The scheme will be branded as Action on Energy Cambridgeshire.	Contracts expected to be awarded by the end of Q3
2.4.2	Deliver the government-funded Sustainable Warmth project to upgrade up to 80 privately owned properties occupied by eligible households	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Interim arrangements in place for delivery by appointed contractor. Targeted mailshot sent to 1000 households. Funding agreed to first few households.	Completed work to initial households
2.4.3	Support delivery of the Cambs County Council led	Waste Policy, Climate and	Q3 2022/23	In Round 2 of the scheme, targeted mail drops and publicity through social	Completed installations

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible officer</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Progress at end of 21/22</b>	<b>Next milestone</b>
	Cambridgeshire Solar Together group buying scheme	Environment Manager		media and other channels led to 3083 residents signing up to the scheme. 854 households in South Cambridgeshire accepted their offer.	
2.4.4	In partnership with Green Energy Switch, provide a free home energy advice to eligible households	Communities Manager	ongoing	Local Energy Advice Partnership scheme had provided 51 advice calls and 59 visits at end of 21/22	n/a
2.4.5	Provide free thermal imaging camera loan scheme and training for residents	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Revamped scheme being set up in partnership with Cambridge Carbon Footprint	End of season report expected Q1 2023/24
2.4.6	Raise energy performance of private rented sector properties	Service Manager - People, Protection and Planning	ongoing	Work has started to agree a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards enforcement policy for the private rented sector	Explore feasibility of PRS energy efficiency project
2.4.7	Raise energy performance of all Council properties to band C or above	Service Manager – Housing Assets	by end of 2026/7 subject to securing funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	Projects to install solar PV systems on 60 properties and add insulation to about 100 properties during Q1 22/23 are underway. We continue to carry out improvements on properties as they become vacant and engage with appropriate funding streams as they become available and assess suitable properties to benefit from this. This will all feed into the continuing improvements plan for the stock.	Longer-term improvement plan being prepared and due in Q2.

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
2.4.8	Improve energy efficiency of the Council's Ermine St Housing Company properties	Head of Ermine Street	ongoing	Contractor commissioned to inspect the portfolio and aim to introduce energy improvements to those properties with EPCs at a level C and below. Generally most of acquired stock is D and above with some exceptions.	tbc
2.4.9	Support community-led projects to improve energy performance of community buildings through Zero Carbon Communities grant	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Various projects supported, see <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> annual funding round expected to launch Q2 2022/23
<b>Design and construction</b>					
2.4.11	In new build on Council owned land go beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency (part L) subject to feasibility	Head of New Build	ongoing		
2.5	<b>Decarbonise business and industry</b>				
2.5.1	Decarbonise the Council's commercial property	Head of Economic	ongoing	270 Cambridge Science Park solar pv will be complete Q2 22/23. At 140 Cambridge Science Park initial	Other opportunities on commercial properties to be reviewed by Q3 22/23

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
		Development & Investment		discussions are taking place with the tenant regarding shared net zero expectations. An Outline Business Case is to be completed for site subject to tenant permission by Q3 22/23.	
2.5.2	Signpost local SMEs to information, advice and funding on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency and recycling	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	ongoing	See next action
2.5.3	Develop partnership approaches to supporting local businesses to become more sustainable	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	External funding is being explored alongside partnership working with neighbouring local authorities and business organisations.	n/a
2.5.4	Explore setting up work hubs and co-working spaces to reduce commuter travel distances	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	This work is underway. Current opportunities are listed on the Business pages of the SCDC website.	n/a
2.6	<b>Decarbonise food systems and agriculture</b>				
2.6.1	Run communication campaigns to encourage carbon-friendly diets eg Meat Free Monday, Veganuary	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	New action	n/a
2.6.2	Explore feasibility of further work in this area	Waste Policy, Climate and	Q4 2022/23	New action	n/a

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
		Environment Manager			
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Training and education</b>				
2.7.1	Embed environmental sustainability into HR processes	HR Co-ordinator	Q4 2023/24	New action	n/a
2.7.2	Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Staff climate change toolkit developed including intranet webpage and Climate Change handbook	Staff climate change handbook to be launched Q3 2022/23
2.7.3	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Corporate Management Team to be trained by end of 22/23	Carbon Literacy training delivered to refuse crews Feb 2022. Training for desk based staff being developed.	C&E team to do training for Carbon Literacy trainers in Sep 22



**Objective 3: double nature in the district by 2050**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible officer</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Progress at end of 21/22</b>	<b>Next milestone</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Increase green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity through Planning</b>				
3.1.1	Progress planning policies related to doubling nature as part of wider work on green infrastructure on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan.	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	In partnership with Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England, 14 strategic green infrastructure initiatives have been identified and published alongside the First Proposals for the Local Plan.	Project planning is underway with our partners to identify the tasks needed to refine these initiatives and identify deliverable projects supporting them.
3.1.2	Promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development by publishing case study/ies	Natural Environment Team Leader	ongoing	Information has been collected for first case study	Case study to be posted on website
	Completed action: Update and strengthen guidance relating to biodiversity by drafting and adopting a new Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document				
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Increase nature by supporting community action</b>				
3.2.1	Provide grants for biodiversity through the Community Chest	Communities Manager	completed	The Wildlife Enhancement Fund has been incorporated into the Community Chest with £20,000 ring-fenced for Biodiversity themed applications for 2022-23. The first application under this theme - for planting of wild orchids	Promotion of the fund is being stepped up and case studies and a link to Natural Cambridgeshire's Local Nature Recovery Toolkit have been included on the

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
				- went to the Grants Advisory Committee in June.	Community Led Plan webpage.
3.2.2	Support tree-planting through Six Free Trees scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager		2 <sup>nd</sup> scheme completed with 58 parish councils taking part and 228 trees planted	2022/23 scheme to be launched subject to confirmation
3.2.3	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Natural Cambridgeshire are developing a suite of resources to support local nature recovery. We are in discussion with them about supplementing this with advice and information specifically aimed at parish councils.	n/a
3.2.4	Support volunteers through our role as Tree Warden network co-ordinator	Natural Environment Team Manager	ongoing	New Trees Officer appointed	tbc
3.2.5	Share community project good practice at Green Connect and Climate and Environment fortnight	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Six events held in February and March during a fortnight of Climate and Environment sessions including on Electric Vehicles, planning for climate change, community action and cycling. 198 people registered for the events in total and recordings of the events were put on the websites so that they could be accessed afterwards.	Autumn programme of events

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
3.3	<b>On our own estate</b>				
3.3.1	Take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower strips and other initiatives on Council housing estates	Service Manager, Tenancy and Estates	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a programme of further estate inspections planned for this year, beginning early in Q1. These will be supplemented by informal estate inspections throughout the year.</li> <li>• Total number of trees planted on our own estates in 21-22 was 25.</li> <li>• We have lots of good examples where PCs and local community groups have offered to water and monitor the trees we have planted.</li> <li>• We have set up a project group with tenant representatives to look at how we can support the Doubling Nature Strategy at a local level.</li> </ul>	Tree planting on two areas of HRA land funded through LA Treescapes Fund
	Completed action: Complete audit of trees on Council housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work				
3.4	<b>On watercourses</b>				
3.4.1	Review management of awarded watercourses with a view to action to improve biodiversity	Environment Operations Manager		We have received the report from Rob Mungovan as well as accompanying photographs and contact references for local conservation groups within awarded chalk stream locations. The report focuses on maintenance techniques, periods of intervention and makes a justified reason for Ecology improvements that can be added to the	Moving forward we will be looking at supporting local nature conservation groups by exploring joint working initiatives that can enable groups to complete improvements to watercourses. Such joint working will look at using

	Action	Responsible officer	Completion date	Progress at end of 21/22	Next milestone
				general maintenance program. The usefulness of the report is that a view has been taken in consideration of flood mitigation as well as the ecology benefits. The document serves as a reference towards the SCDC annual maintenance program and in consideration and knowledge of conservation groups that also have work undertakings.	SCDC equipment to facilitate works that would be too costly for groups to purchase from a contractor.
3.5	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	The bid to the Carbon Theme of Highway England's Environmental Legacy Fund was successful and Highways England are working with land agents to identify off-site partnership opportunities for biodiversity and carbon.	Eight possible opportunities have been identified and are being reviewed internally by Highways England.