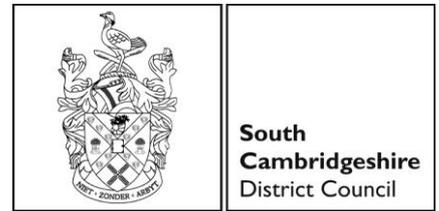


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13 June 2022

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

Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee –  
Councillors Paul Bearpark, Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya, Ariel Cahn,  
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 and Dr. Tumi Hawkins

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, 21 June 2022 at 10.00 a.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**

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<b>Agenda</b>		<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 7 March 2022		<b>1 - 6</b>
<b>4. Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>		
<b>5. MJ Award for Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency</b>		
<b>6. Annual Progress Review of Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature</b>		<b>7 - 22</b>

## **Action Plan**

- |            |   |                |
|------------|---|----------------|
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounts for the Council's Estate and Operations, 2021-22</b> | <b>23 - 36</b> |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Update on Electric Vehicle Charge Points</b>   | <b>37 - 40</b> |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Guidance to Parish Councils on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency</b>        | <b>41 - 46</b> |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Project Update: Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN)</b>                         | <b>47 - 50</b> |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>An Interim Approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Including Offsite Provision</b>     | <b>51 - 64</b> |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Forward Plan</b>   |                |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b><br>Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 2 pm.                            |                |

**GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL**

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### **Disturbance by Public**

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# Agenda Item 3

## South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee held on  
Monday, 7 March 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

**Committee Members in attendance:**

Paul Bearpark  
Graham Cone

Councillor Cllr Peter Fane was in attendance remotely.

**Councillors in attendance:**

Councillors Bridget Smith was in attendance, by invitation.

**Officers:**

Jane Green	Built and Natural Environment Manager
Eleanor Haines	Climate & Environment Project Officer
Soraya Hashemi	Scientific Officer
Siobhan Mellon	Development Officer - Climate and Environment
Alex Snelling-Day	Green Energy Investment Manager
Kate Swan	Project Officer - Commercial Development & Investment

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Grenville Chamberlain.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Draft Green and Blue Strategy - Northstowe Employment Zone and Local Centre**

Riccardo Boise and Fred Labbe from AR Urbanism gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the emerging plans for the public realm, specifically

sustainability and green and blue infrastructure at the Northstowe Local Centre and Enterprise Zone site.

Councillor Bridget Smith asked if the proposed 20% biodiversity net gain was a target or whether this could be exceeded. Fred Labbe replied that he was confident that the 20% figure would be met and that potentially more could be achieved but this depended on unknown factors.

Councillor Paul Bearpark welcomed the use of the “doughnut” economic model, which balanced different competing influences. He suggested that the figure of 10% energy generation appeared unambitious and asked if solar panels could be installed at the busway car park. Fred Labbe assured the Committee that the aspiration was to achieve a higher figure than 10% for energy generation. The Project Development Officer explained that car parks were owned by the County Council and so the Council would have to liaise with them regarding the installation of solar panels. Riccardo Boise explained that efforts were being made to reduce the use of cars for commercial deliveries.

Councillor Graham Cone asked at what height the bird boxes would be installed and if more energy could be created on site and more water captured. Fred Labbe explained that rainwater would be harvested to flush toilets to reduce the use of potable water. Riccardo Boise explained that no decisions had yet been taken regarding the height of the bird boxes.

Councillor Geoff Harvey asked whether embodied carbon had been taken into account when considering the building materials. Fred Labbe assured the Committee that there were ambitious targets regarding sustainable construction.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and hoped that the Zero Carbon Strategy and the Doubling Nature Strategy could help to inform the project. The Chair suggested that semi-permeable paving could be used and requested that water scarcity be emphasised, a plan for waste management be included and the business quarter not be placed on the edge of the development. The Committee **Noted** the report.

## **6. Cambridgeshire Solar Together Update**

The Climate and Environment Project Officer introduced this report that updated the Committee on the outcomes of the recently completed Solar Together Cambridgeshire Scheme.

The Climate and Environment Project Officer explained that 2,466 residents had registered with the Scheme and 605 had accepted the offer. She considered this to be a good acceptance rate. The Development Officer – Climate and Environment reported that the plan was for the Scheme to break-even but it had returned a profit, which indicated how successful the first year had been. It was expected that many of those who had registered in the first year would fully sign-up in the second year.

In response to questioning the Development Officer – Climate and Environment

explained that iChoosr originally offered two different grades of solar panel but now only offered the higher grade of panel.

Councillor Graham Cone asked if residents could be advised if it was economically viable to purchase a battery pack. Councillor Geoff Harvey added that the different tariffs and size of batteries made this a complex issue. The Climate and Environment Project Officer agreed to contact the Council's partner iChoosr regarding this issue. The Development Officer – Climate and Environment advised that residents who required a loan were probably best served by contacting a reputable bank or building society.

Councillor Bridget Smith stated that she owned a listed building and asked if there was any specific guidance on installing solar panels in conservation areas or on listed buildings. Councillor Peter Fane stated that it was possible to install solar panels on listed buildings, which integrated with the Conservation area. The Development Officer – Climate and Environment agreed to discuss this issue with iChoosr.

The Chair requested feedback on how the money generated by the scheme was being invested. The Committee **Noted** the report.

## 7. **Air Quality Update**

The Scientific Officer Air Quality presented this report, which updated the Committee on the progress being made on implementing the Air Quality Strategy that was adopted on 4 February 2022. She explained that the Council was using portable monitors called Zephyrs at Northstowe, Swavesey and Histon.

In response to questioning from Councillor Paul Bearpark, the Scientific Officer Air Quality explained that the developer had increased their monitoring of air quality at Waterbeach new town and data would be available to analyse in six months' time. It was noted that the location of the school at this development had been a long-running concern of this Committee.

The Chair warned that the World Health Organisation could change the threshold levels regarding air quality and the Council should therefore plan for this when agreeing planning approval for new settlements.

Councillor Geoff Harvey suggested that oil heating systems could be contributing to poor air quality. The Scientific Officer Air Quality explained that it was not possible to determine if poor air quality was due to vehicles or oil heating systems. She added that DEFRA had produced guidance on safe wood burning systems that could reduce emissions.

The Chair asked that a future report could include an analysis on the effect of efforts made by this authority and the City Council to reduce emissions by encouraging taxi drivers to change their vehicles.

The Committee **Noted** the report.

## 8. Green Investments Update

The Green Energy Investment Manager presented this update on the following three projects:

- Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne
- Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network
- LED Streetlighting

Councillor Bridget Smith welcomed the work on the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network and the efforts to secure funding from the Combined Authority. She suggested that the Council should highlight the fact that East Cambridgeshire vehicles use the depot and so the grant would benefit more than one local authority. The Green Energy Investment Manager agreed to explain to the Combined Authority that the project will benefit other public sector organisations who could use the charging facilities at the Depot.

Councillor Geoff Harvey asked whether electric waste collection vehicles would need to connect to the grid when overcast conditions and winter months meant that there was insufficient energy being generated by the PV array. The Green Energy Investment Manager explained that the Council was testing its business case regarding the benefits, costs and energy demands of the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network, which included proposals to replace the fleet with electric vehicles. She agreed to provide Councillor Harvey with more details of the technological aspects of the proposed network.

The Committee **Noted** the report.

## 9. Forward Plan

The Committee agreed that the following items should be discussed at the next meeting:

- Update on EVCPs.
- Providing guidance to parish councils on declaring a climate emergency and promoting biodiversity.
- Update on zero carbon and doubling nature.

### **Annual Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise awards**

The Development Officer – Climate and Environment informed the Committee that the Council was a finalist in the category of Green Public Service at the annual iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise) Public Sector Transformation Awards.

### **Zero Carbon Grants scheme**

Members of the Committee agreed to contact the Chair with any views they had on the proposed changes to the Zero Carbon Grants scheme by the end of the week.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21 June at 10 am.

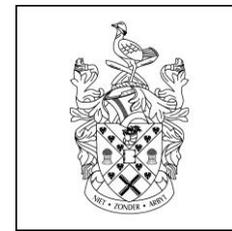
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**The Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.**

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# Agenda Item 6



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 June 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment incl. Environmental Services and Licensing, Cllr Brian Milnes
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste, Bode Esan

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

### Executive Summary

1. This report presents the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) with a progress review on the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan (ZCDNAP) 2020-25 at end of the 2021-22 financial year. Detailed progress updates are provided in the appendix.
2. Progress is largely on track, as can be seen in the table below.

Section	Number of actions	Red stalled	Amber delayed	Green on track
1 Reducing GHG emissions on the Council's estate and operations	9	0	2	7
2 Reducing district wide GHG emissions	17	0	1	16
3 Doubling nature	12	0	1	11

3. However, further action is likely to be needed to reach the targets and aspirations set out in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies.
4. The Council has a target for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions of 45% on a 2018-19 baseline by 2025, and 75% by 2030. Several projects are underway which upon completion will deliver significant reductions in emissions. These will not deliver the necessary reduction by 2025, and so additional action to reduce emissions from the vehicle fleet by substituting a low carbon fuel for diesel is being considered as an interim measure.
5. The Council's ambitions for the district are expressed in the ZC and DN strategies in terms of aspirations – to reach net zero GHG emissions and double nature in

the district. The language chosen recognises that these targets will be reached only by action at all levels including households, businesses, all tiers of local government and national government and not by the Council alone. Although there is much that the Council can do to influence emissions and create the conditions for increasing biodiversity – as set out in Sections 2 and 3 - it is beyond the scope of this report to monitor progress towards these aspirations.

6. Meeting our targets, both for our own estate and operations, and the targets we aspire to for the district, will be challenging; we have done much of the 'low-hanging fruit' and meanwhile rapid population growth means that action is needed simply to stay still.
7. Further action in support of the targets is being developed, to include enabling others to do more both within and outside the Council, collaborating more effectively and entering into, or developing existing partnerships with other organisations better suited to addressing specific aspects of the work needed.
8. It is likely that in the medium term more resources, i.e., an expanded Climate and Environment team will be required to deliver this work.

## **Recommendations**

9. It is recommended that CEAC considers the report and advises the lead Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment accordingly.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

10. 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**

11. Following adoption of separate Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies in May 2020 and February 2021 respectively, a combined cross-Council action plan to deliver both strategies was received and noted by CEAC in July 2021. A mid-year update was presented to CEAC in November 2021. This report presents the end of year update for the combined action plan.

### **ZCDNAP Section 1: Actions to reduce GHG emissions from the Council's estate and operations**

12. This section should be considered alongside the next item on the agenda, the Council's Annual GHG Emissions Report.
13. As reported in the Annual GHG Emissions Report the Council's GHG emissions totalled 1667 tonnes CO2e (gross) for 2021-22.
14. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, almost two thirds of the Council's GHG emissions come from fleet vehicles, (mainly refuse vehicles). The remaining one third is accounted for by office buildings – South Cambs Hall and Waterbeach Depot, 85 small sites (mainly communal rooms in our sheltered accommodation, external lighting etc), footway lighting and business travel.

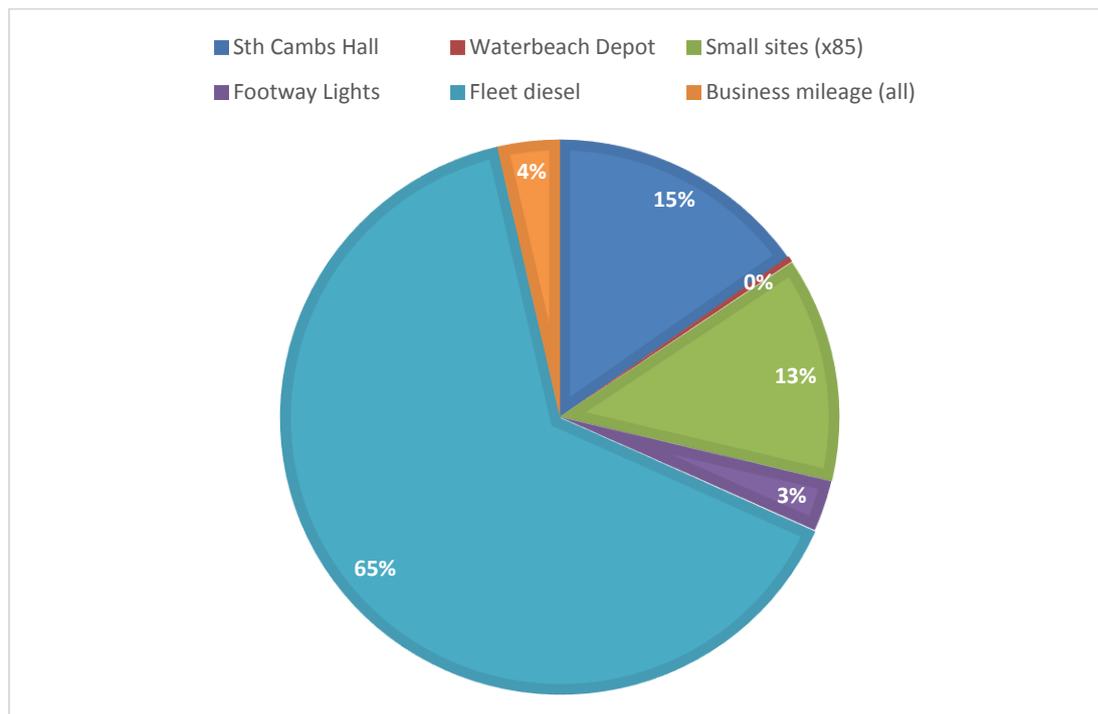


Figure 1 Breakdown of SCDC GHG emissions (gross) 2021-22

15. Figure 2 shows the change in gross GHG emissions since 2018-19

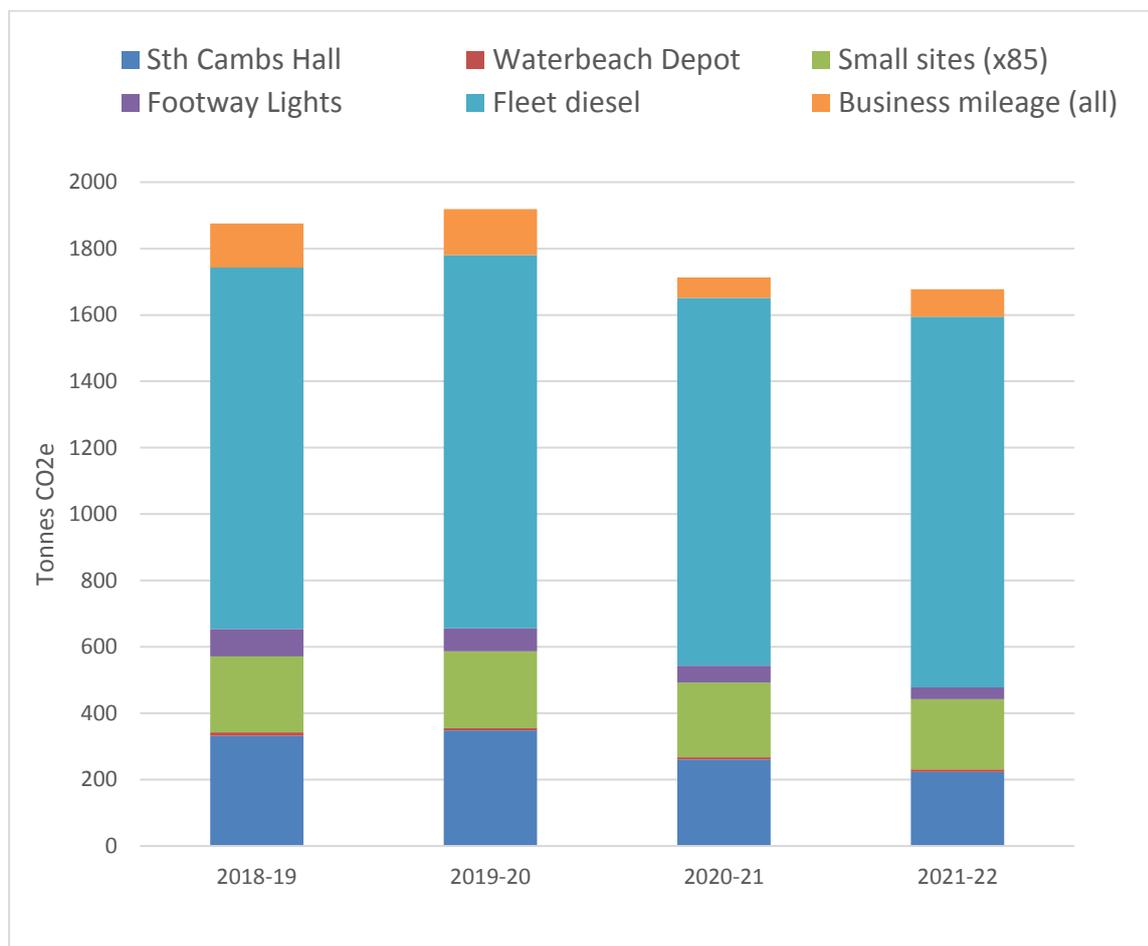


Figure 2 SCDC GHG emissions (gross) 2018-19 to 2021-22

16. The Council's interim targets are for reductions in *net* GHG emissions. There is no standard protocol as to what 'net' means in GHG accounts. For the purpose of this report, the net figure takes account of electricity purchased on a green tariff and electricity generated on-site from solar PV and exported to the grid. Figure 3 below shows net GHG emissions totals taking and the required trajectory to reach the target reduction of 45% on 2018-19.

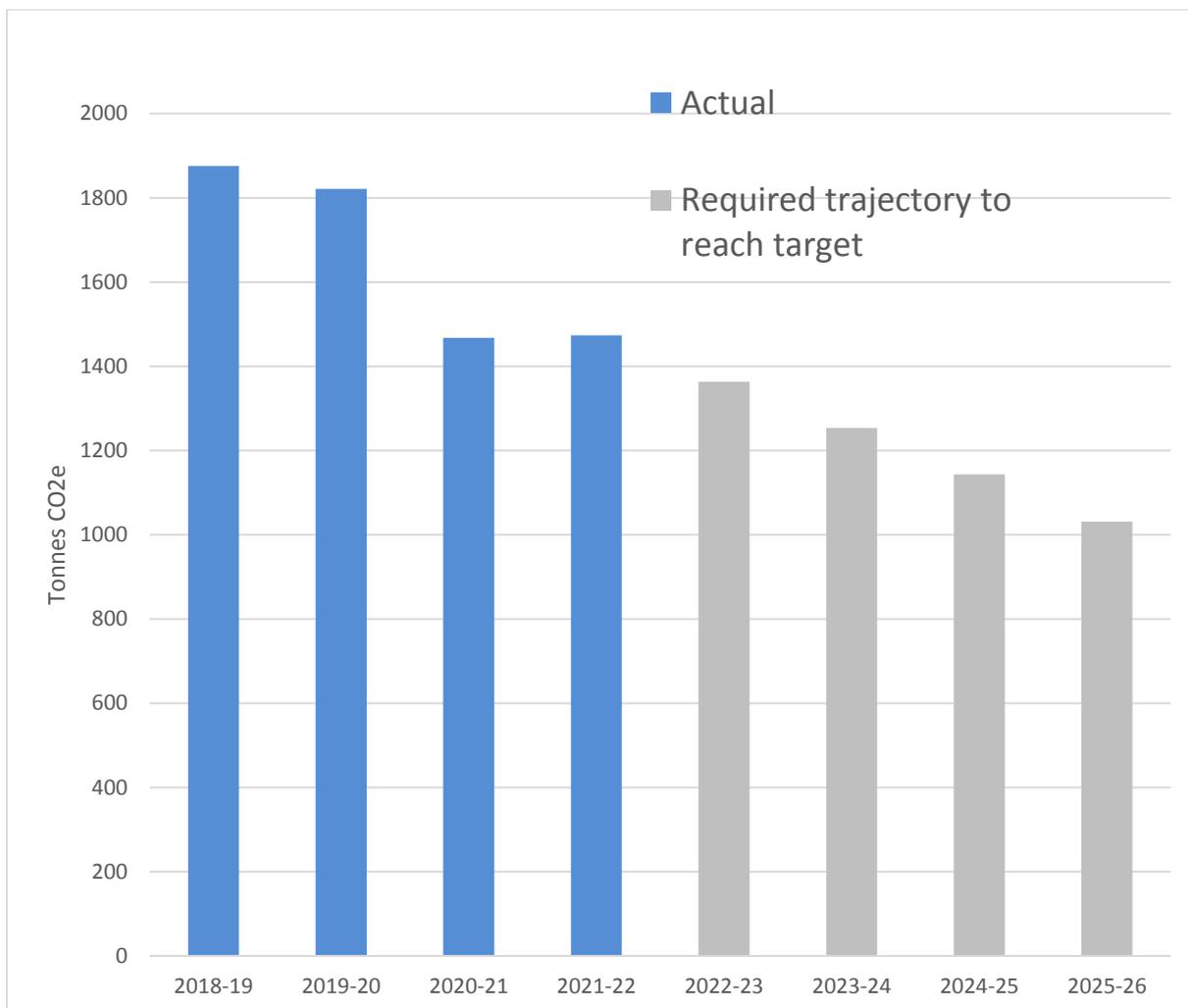


Figure 3 SCDC GHG emissions (net) 2018-19 to 2021-22 with required trajectory to reach 45% reduction target shown in grey

17. The ZCDNAP shows actions to tackle emissions on the Council’s estate and operation in Section 1. As can be seen by the RAG (red, amber and green) ratings, progress has been made on all actions.

18. To achieve the GHG emissions reductions required for the 45% reduction target further action will be needed. This might include using HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel - certified as low carbon because from renewable feedstock - in place of diesel for the vehicle fleet. A small-scale pilot with this fuel has been completed and a larger pilot is being developed.

**ZCDNAP Section 2: Actions to support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the district**

19. Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for South Cambridgeshire were 1,213,000 tonnes for 2019. Figure 4 shows the breakdown by sector, (most recent data available). Note this only shows CO<sub>2</sub>, the most important GHG, accounting for about 76% of total GHG emissions. Data on other GHGs is not shown as it is not so readily available.

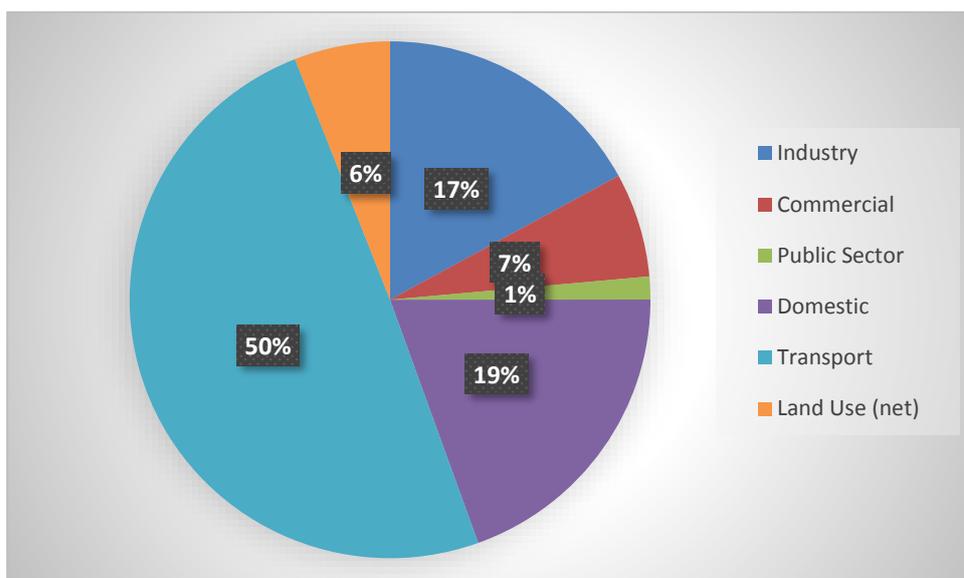


Figure 4 South Cambridgeshire CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector, 2019, (BEIS)

20. The Council controls less than 0.2 percent of GHG emissions from the South Cambridgeshire district. The ZCDNAP shows actions to support the aspiration to halve these in the present decade in Section 2. Halving these would be a proportionate contribution to international efforts to mitigate climate change. As can be seen by the RAG ratings, progress has been made on all actions.
21. It is difficult to quantify the impact of the Council's actions on GHG emissions for the district. However, some general points can be made about the areas of greatest impact:

### Housing

22. As a social landlord, the Council owns around 8% of domestic properties in South Cambridgeshire (5,200 out of 67,000). As a result of past investment in energy improvement including solid wall insulation and air source heat pumps these are relatively energy efficient compared to the average for all properties, even though their age profile is relatively old, (only 3% built since 2002 with most between 40 and 100 years old). Further improvements in energy efficiency of these properties is a key area of opportunity for the Council with route maps to net zero requiring almost all GHG emissions from housing to be eliminated by a combination of improved energy efficiency and replacement heating systems.
23. The Council has further influence on GHG emissions from housing as the authority with responsibility for enforcing the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for private rented sector (PRS) properties. The MEES are the key means by which energy performance in this historically poor-performing sector can be improved. Work has started by the Council to look at how we can use our powers to improve energy efficiency in this sector.

24. The Council is also able to influence GHG emissions from owner-occupied properties. Working in collaboration with our neighbouring councils through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership, we have bid successfully for £8.5M of UK Government funding through Local Authority Delivery (LAD) schemes. This will deliver energy improvements to over 100 of the least energy efficient properties, occupied by lower income households. We will continue to pursue further funding opportunities.

## **Transport**

25. Transport accounts for 50% of CO2 emissions from South Cambridgeshire. This is almost entirely from road traffic, with major roads running through the district a key factor explaining the high figure.

26. Two aspects of the Council's work in this area stand out. The first is planning policy where the Council's role in deciding location of development has a huge impact on future emissions from transport.

27. The second area is our own fleet, especially refuse collection vehicles where we are developing a long-term programme of work to replace conventional vehicles with electric vehicles powered by on-site solar PV and battery storage system (Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network, WREN). As well as reducing the impact of the Council's own transport emissions we hope that by sharing our knowledge as these projects progress, we can give confidence to others to embark on similar initiatives.

## **ZCDNAP Section 3: Actions to support doubling nature**

28. The Doubling Nature strategy outlines the Council's approach to supporting the aspiration to double nature in the county, as originally articulated by Natural Cambridgeshire, (Cambridgeshire's partnership of organisations, businesses and people aiming to bring about improvements in the local natural environment).

29. The ZCDNAP shows actions to tackle emissions on the Council's estate and operation in Section 3. As can be seen by the RAG ratings, progress has been made on all actions.

## **Implications**

30. 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**

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

## **Staffing**

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

## **Climate Change**

33. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change.

## **Consultation responses**

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

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

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

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

## **Background Papers**

Mid-year Progress Report on Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plans, 23 Nov 2021

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s124794/Zero%20Carbon%20and%20Doubling%20Nature%20Report%20CEAC.pdf>

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan report to CEAC, 13 July 2021

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s122603/210713%20ZC%20and%20DN%20Action%20Plan%20report%20to%20CEAC.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 (2021-22 revision) Progress update at 31 March 2022.

### **Report Author:**

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

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## Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-25 (2021-22 version)

Ref	Action (with Business Plan reference where relevant)	Service	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2021	Progress at 31 March 2022	RAG rating - R for Red, A for Amber, G for Green
<b>1. Actions to reduce GHG emissions from the Council's own estate (not inc housing) and operations</b>						
<b>Fleet</b>						
1.1	Implement depot changes to prepare for electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging (C4i)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	Charging points for an additional two eRCVs are in progress and will be completed by the time the two new vehicles are delivered. These will reach the limit of 3 eRCVs which can be charged under our current arrangements which use electricity from the grid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Outline Business Case for Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) has been received and the project is now into detail design / Investment Grade Proposal stage.</li> <li>A key aspect will be the charging infrastructure and this will interface with the fleet decarbonisation plan through the spec of vehicles being purchased.</li> <li>We are exploring interim measures for charging with landlord and partners.</li> <li>Looking forward, the IGP, including charging infrastructure details is due for completion by end of Q3 22/23. The overall WREN scheme completion will be due Q2 23/24.</li> </ul>	G
1.2	Procure five eRCVs to replace diesel version (ongoing C4ii)	Climate, Environment & Waste	ongoing	A further two Electric RCVs have now been ordered and are expected to be delivered in January 2022 and March 2022. Further eRCVs will be considered for 2022-23 as recharging options allow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Refuse Collection Vehicle has been delivered. A second is scheduled to be delivered in June 2022 and a third in August/September 2022.</li> </ul>	G
1.3	Develop a new solar pv array to supply low carbon electricity to power these vehicles. (C4iii) Develop outline business case for on-site solar panel energy generation with partners	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	A meeting looking at options to install a 1MW solar array was held in October with Energy Services Provider, Bouygues. We are awaiting further information from Bouygues on options following that meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Business Case received and reviewed. Bouygues have now been instructed to complete the next stage of project development - an Investment Grade Proposal (fully designed and costed) by Q3 22/23 • SCDC are now leading on overseeing scheme design and implementation – roles and responsibilities altered, landlord secured planning consent however will now lease land to SCDC/City and SCDC/City instruct Bouygues to design and build the scheme.</li> </ul>	G
<b>South Cambridgeshire Hall</b>						
1.4	Complete retrofit of Cambourne office (C3)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Dec-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project mobilisation commenced March 2021 and on track to be completed at the end of Q4.</li> <li>Ground source heat pump has been installed, boreholes are being drilled.</li> <li>A more efficient building management system has been installed</li> <li>Phase one to three of the LED lighting works have been completed. Phase four of the 7 phases commences Monday 25th October.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED Lighting, new heating system and new fire alarm system installed, with wi-fi nodes upgrade carried out at the same time. Ground Source Heat Pump installed and connected but not commissioned as yet. Wiring for solar car ports installed. Next setp is to erect the car ports and install the solar panels. Expected finish is Q1 22/23</li> </ul>	G
<b>Small sites (85 sites, including gas and electricity for heating and lighting in communal rooms and communal areas in blocks of flats)</b>						
1.5	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over (C1a and C1b)	Housing	31-Mar-22	The project to install solar PV to Elm Court has been delayed due to staffing issues but is now moving forward. As well as solar PV, additional improvements including insulation, LED lighting, EV charging points and battery storage are being considered.	Investment proposal has been received and financing discussions are in progress, this should be decided during June 22 and works planned in with the contractor as soon as possible following that.	G
1.6	Review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction (C1ib)	Housing	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 remote heating monitors and controls have been fitted in communal rooms, 2 more than at end of Q1. Planning to install another 15 - delayed due to product supply issues.</li> <li>A project is underway to investigate the potential for green energy measures at Elm Court Sheltered Housing scheme (at Over).</li> <li>Wider project work exploring energy efficiency measures on sheltered sites has been on hold during the pandemic due to communal room closures. This will be taken off hold in coming months as communal rooms re-open. Covid-19 infection rates will continue to be monitored before deciding when to commence face-to-face consultation with residents.</li> </ul>	The project is resuming and the remaing controls will be fitted and monitored.	G
<b>Waterbeach Depot Office</b>						
n/a	Action completed in 2020-21	Finance	n/a			Completed
<b>Footway lights</b>						
1.7	Install energy saving LED fittings in all council owned streetlights (C6i)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 standard lights have works remaining relating to the initial footway lighting upgrade phase of the project.</li> <li>Costs and plans are currently being obtained and developed in relation to the upgrade of ornate lights.</li> <li>Discussions are taking place around plans to upgrade lights that are located on HRA land.</li> </ul>	Outstanding works have been completed and checking and verification of work is being carried out. The next phase of work is to agree an approach to rectification period for the next six months. Phase 2 for the 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.	A
<b>Business mileage</b>						
1.8	Investigate options to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage including salary sacrifice electric car scheme for staff (C2iC)	Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report has been submitted to LT for consideration, outlining options. This will be progressed in Q3/Q4.</li> </ul>	The electric car salary sacrifice scheme opened in April 2022. Results will be available quarterly with updates on applicants and numbers accessing the scheme	G

	<b>Further actions to reduce GHG emissions from resource use (not currently included in GHG emissions accounts)</b>					
1.9	With a view to enabling the elimination of paper agendas and reports for Council and committee meetings, explore options for overcoming technical difficulties which are preventing some Members from accessing the ModGov app, and through this, electronic agendas (D5)	Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3C ICT have stated that they do not have the capacity to deliver the technical fixes (in conjunction with Civica) required to get the paperless Mod.Gov system working as intended to provide Members with access to electronic documentation on any device.</li> <li>• Cabinet (and approximately 5 other Members) are operating fully paperless at this point in time. We now need to wait for Civica ModernGov to implement a new form of authentication between themselves and 3C ICT back-end services to fix our issues, this is estimated for the end of 2021.</li> <li>• We continue to encourage councillors to move paperless in the meantime, but this currently requires a fairly high level of technical ability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is now underway between Modern.Gov and 3C ICT to implement a new back-end system that will address previous authentication issues. An implementation date is being established between stakeholders across all three partner councils.</li> <li>• A new staff role has been established in Democratic Services to support Members with access to technological resources, including the Modern.Gov app.</li> <li>• Hardware in the form of 30 laptops for councillors have been procured to be rolled out at the start of the new term of office in May 2022. Depending on the success of this, further hardware could be purchased for the remaining councillors. (Comment provided by Aaron Clarke)</li> </ul>	A

## 2. Actions contributing to our aspiration of a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the district as a whole by 2030

Ref	Action	Service	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2021	Progress at 31 March 2022	RAG rating - R for Red, A for Amber, G for Green
<b>Housing</b>						
<b>In the Council's housing stock</b>						
2.1	Commission a Stock Condition Survey including an audit of energy efficiency of existing housing stock relative to zero carbon target (B4)	Housing	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is still our intention to undertake a stock condition survey. This will follow the procurement of our new Repairs and Maintenance Contract which will commence in June 2022.</li> <li>• We have received the survey results of our Net Zero project and we are working with the project group to agree retrofit works, consult with residents and set a time frame for commencement. This is likely to be in December/January. Once the renewable technologies are installed performance will be monitored and will help inform a wider programme of retrofit works across the Council stock of properties.</li> </ul>	We are currently in the process of scoping and specifying the tender requirements for the Stock Condition Surveys with an intended start date late 2022 and completion during 2023. It is important to obtain a service that will provide the best value-for-money and to effectively inform our investment plan for the long-term future of our housing stock. We are working on a large piece of work on EPC data and assessments of our lowest-performing properties to target these properties as early as possible	G
2.2	Approve a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero carbon target (B4)	Housing	31-Dec-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This work programme will be informed by the Net-Zero project and stock condition survey referred to in the update for measure B4i) above.</li> <li>• We will also continue to carry out improvements works, fit renewable technologies and improve insulation to our poorest performing properties when they become vacant. Examples include fitting Internal Wall Insulation Systems to non traditional style properties.</li> </ul>	This work program has deep implications for our residents with the increases in fuel costs and fast-paced movement of technologies. A blanket approach to installing renewable technology or energy efficient measures is no longer viable and a detailed review of options is underway with priorities placed on reducing carbon emissions but also preventing fuel poverty. We currently have projects underway installing solar PV systems on 60 properties and adding insulation to about 100 preproperties during Q4/Q1 and the longer-term plan is being prepared and due in Q2 22/23. We will continue to carry out improvements on our properties as they become vacant and engage with appropriate funding streams that become available and assess suitable properties to benefit from this. This will all feed into the continuing improvements plan for the stock.	G
2.3	Produce an Asset Management Plan (B4)	Housing	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Asset Management Plan has been presented to Leadership Team on 25th October and is now being taken through the committee process and will be presented to Cabinet in January.</li> </ul>	The Asset Management Plan was approved at Feb Cabinet and an Action Plan has been prepared based on the key points within the Plan. This is now being implemented and will continue to develop over the next three years. A number of the actions have already been started and some are coming to completion. This will provide good direction and a robust basis for the future of our housing stock.	A
2.4	In our Ermine Street Housing Company, analyse the EPCs of the acquired properties, (generally D and above) and aim to introduce measures to improve the ratings by at least one level)	Ermine Street Housing Company	ongoing	ESH will in addition to EPC analysis wil develop an Asset Management Strategy to ensure energy performance is improved.	ESH have a commissioned a contractor 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, but they are some exceptions.	G
<b>In private housing</b>						
2.5	Continue to work with partners, including through the Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership, to find ways of supporting and encouraging home energy work, including exploring options for funding and delivering energy efficiency projects for our residents.	Climate, Environment and Waste	ongoing	We are continuing to work with neighbouring Cambridgeshire LAs and with the Greater SE Energy Hub to make the most of opportunities for fully and part-funded low carbon energy efficiency work for low income households through the Government's Green Homes Grants LA Delivery schemes.	Through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership we have secured government funding for insulation and low carbon heating upgrades to an average value of £10,000 per property to around 80 owner occupied or private rented sector homes in Sth Cambs. We are preparing to procure commercial partners to deliver energy improvements under a local authority endorsed brand, Action on Energy Cambridgeshire. This arrangement will deliver this and future successful funding bids. Meanwhile we are moving forwards to deliver work to the first properties under interim arrangements.	G
2.6	Oversee delivery of Cambridgeshire Solar Together group-buying scheme for solar pv and batteries in South Cambs	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Dec-21	This Cambridgeshire-wide project to deliver a collective solar PV purchasing scheme is managed by Cambs County Council on behalf of the participating Cambridgeshire local authorities. The update from Cambs County Council on 29/09/21 indicated that 359 installations had been completed in South Cambs but that due to continuing delays with delivery of solar panels and batteries, completion of all installations has been delayed and is now expected in December.	In Round 2 of the scheme, targeted mail drops and publicity through social media and other channels led to 3083 residents signing up to the scheme. 854 households in South Cambridgeshire accepted their offer for the installation of Solar PV panels. This is out of a total of 2,227 acceptances across the County since registration for the scheme closed on 1st April. 81 households in the district opted to add battery storage to their existing panel systems.  In Round 1 total of 416 solar panel installations in South Cambridgeshire through Solar Together Cambridgeshire. This equals an annual CO2 emission reduction of 386,637kg.	G

2.7	Work with partners to provide home surveys, advice, free insulation and other home energy measures for households in fuel poverty	Housing	Apr-22	The scheme is aimed at those in fuel poverty, meeting a basic eligibility criteria for a minimum of 1 aspect based on income, Health, Vulnerability for both Social housing tenants & private sector residents across the District of South Cambridgeshire. This is a referral service delivered by the Councils partners Green Energy Switch, specialist home energy advisors provide a range of services free of charge on energy saving measures insulation, fuel debt advice fuel tariff switching providing & installing small energy saving measures eg LED lightbulbs, radiator reflectors, draughtproofing measures & much more. The scheme is into its second year and been received well & promoted through SCDC media platforms to reach those most in need that would benefit from the services during times of need and increasing fuel prices.	A Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) scheme operated by Green Energy Switch, a subsidiary of the Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), has continued to operate in South Cambs through out the year, providing advice and free energy saving measures to eligible households. These include chimney balloons, hot water cylinder jackets, draught proofing strips, LED replacement bulbs, reflector strips to be put behind radiators, shower aerators and TV standby plugs. Data provided by GES indicates that since January 2021, 51 advice calls and 59 visits were completed in South Cambridgeshire, supplying a total of 616 measures saving an estimated 190 tonnes of CO2 calculated over a ten year period. Additional savings as a result of energy advice bring the total estimated savings to 260 tonnes. For the purposes of this report the savings are expressed in tonnes of CO2, but of course they also represent considerable savings in household expenditure.	G
<b>Commercial Sector</b>						
2.8	install solar pv to 270 Science Park (C3)	Economic Development and Investment	31-Mar-22	Work is currently underway on solar PV installation however, wider issues have been identified as part of this work which may require a full re-roofing. If the latter transpires to be the case, there may be a delay to solar PV installation in its entirety	270 Cambridge Science Park solar pv will be complete Q2 22/23. At 140 Cambridge Science Park initial 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. We will review other opportunities on commercial properties by Q3 22/23.	G
2.9	Undertake energy efficiency and generation audits of other Council owned commercial properties (C3iv)		31-Mar-22	• General ongoing greening business improvement work is happening on all commercially owned assets.		G
2.10	Our Business Support team will continue to help local businesses access information, advice and funding on how to increase energy efficiency, generate their own energy, and improve water efficiency and recycling rates.		ongoing	Action ongoing as per previous update	Action ongoing as per previous update	G
<b>Travel</b>						
2.11	Continue to work alongside partners including the Cambs County Council, GCP and CAPCA to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable transport including cycling provision.		ongoing	Sustainable transport and cycling provision continue to be an area of focus for responses by the Communities Team to all stages of planning application. The Team liaises with CAPCA over the combined Authority's Community Transport responsibilities within major sites. The SCDC S106 Officer works with Communities Team Development Officers to make provision for Community Transport in smaller (non-major) sites. The Council's Active Travel Toolkit is being reviewed with a view to it forming part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan.	A proposal to adopt the Active Travel Toolkit for New Developments is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation on its new Active Travel Strategy. This is currently at stakeholder engagement stage and will go out to public consultation in September.	G
2.12	Identify and deliver opportunities to install publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations, working with partners (C1iii)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	• Work on this has started, with a broad approach and next steps agreed at a meeting on 13th October. An additional Climate & Environment Project Officer has started in post and is working on this project.	An EV charging webinar and a follow-up article in the Council's parish council bulletin has so far generated interest from 5 parishes in public EV charge points in parish council owned car parks. Potential to pursue a group bid for the On Street Residential Charge Point Scheme is being investigated with these parishes. Announcement of Government's pilot Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund has highlighted need for an SCDC EV infrastructure strategy. This will strengthen the Council's position when the full fund is available in late 22/23. Two sites have been selected for a pilot installation of public EVCPs at sheltered accommodation and agreed by the Green to our Core Cluster Board and the project documents are being finalised prior to procurement. Two Rapid Chargers at South Cambs Hall are being ordered to provide rapid charging primarily for taxis to support changes in taxi licensing policy. An installer has been engaged to replace the broken charger at Cambourne Business Park. Discussions with the County Council have taken place regarding installation of a rapid charger at Babraham Road Park and Ride with lease/legal arrangements close to being agreed	G
2.13	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors (C3)	Policy, performance & projects	31-Mar-22	EV Charge Points - Installation underway and in line with current programme	There will be 20 charging units including two rapid ones for visitors - 18no 7kW and 2no 42kW. The installation will be complete by end of Q1 22/23	G
<b>Waste and Recycling</b>						
2.14	Increase collection facilities for clothing and small electrical items	Climate, Environment & Waste	Mar-22	Funding has been successfully secured for the expansion of recycling points for small electrical items and site reviews are underway to suitable sites for this and for textiles.	To streamline reporting of this section with corporate Business Plan reporting, progress on all aspects of work to reduce non-recyclable household waste and improve recycling rates is reported together in this section.	G
2.15	Continue to support waste reduction events at community level including Repair Cafes (C8)	Climate, Environment & Waste	Dec-21	There has been an ongoing commitment to help those running events and decrease waste via events guide, see below. We have also tried to maximise the amount of waste we capture for recycling by supporting recycling litter picking at a community levels, with 11 events this summer.	We delivered a multi-pronged communications campaign targeting waste prevention and reduction, comprising social media campaigns around Plastic Free July, Remember Your Reusables and Refill Revolution, and a cross-media campaign around National Food Waste Action Week in Q4.	G
2.16	Promote the guide and resource toolkit to improve recycling and reduce waste at small community events (C8)	Climate, Environment & Waste	Completed	This guide has been created and is available on-line. We will continue to promote it.	We have continued to trial weekly separate food waste collections in anticipation of these being made mandatory by Government. A decision from DEFRA regarding these is expected by the end of June. 5000 households were added in phase 3, bringing the total number of households served by the trial to around 1400. The trial is going well with participation rates typical for food waste collection services, at 59% and 52% respectively in phases 1 and 2, and 48% in phase 3. Households have used the scheme correctly with no loads rejected by the composting contractor. Residents satisfaction levels have been high at 4.5/5. Just over 550 tonnes of food waste has been collected through the scheme.	G
2.17	Plan and implement campaigns to minimise waste, eg Love Food, Hate Waste and Refill campaigns (C9)	Climate, Environment & Waste	September and 21 and March 22	3 waste reductions campaign have now been delivered. Plastic free July Campaign, promoting avoidance of plastic, Remember your reusables campaign and the launch of a discount scheme to encourage use of washable nappies.		G

2.18	Extend the trial separate collection of food waste. If successful at diverting food from landfill, roll out. (C9)	Climate, Environment & Waste	Nov-21	The 3rd phase of the trial has now been extended to another 5,000 properties. with collection starting in november 2021. The rest of the year will be reviewing the scheme to feed into future prep and plans with the national waste strategy		
<b>Cross-cutting actions</b>						
<b>Through Planning</b>						
2.19	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of the work on the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning	Ongoing	The Draft North East Cambridge 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, giving consideration to issues such as flood risk, water availability and overheating. The draft Area Action Plan will be considered by Councillors towards the end of 2020.	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. The plan will be subject to public consultation ahead of submission to the Secretary of State following the conclusion of the Development Consent Order process for the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant.	G
2.20	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	Ongoing	The Greater Cambridge Local Plan - First Proposals document 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. The document has now been considered by Councillors and approved for full public consultation, which will take place between November and December 2021	The Greater Cambridge Local Plan - First proposals document 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. Following consultation on the First Proposals document between November and December 2021, officers are now reviewing responses received. A full draft plan will be developed during 2022.	G
<b>By supporting community action</b>						
2.21	Deliver a third round of funding through our Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, awarding grants totalling £100,000 to community-based projects (C5)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	A third round of funding has awarded 15 projects a total of £98,796. Funding awarded to projects is in the process of being distributed. Projects will reduce communities' reliance on fossil fuels, through improvements to heating and lighting and help to enhance habitats and biodiversity through tree planting. All projects also provide educational benefits on zero carbon strategies for local communities. Continued advisory support is provided to projects. (Comment provided by Eleanor Haines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awards totalling £103,796 were made at the end of December for 15 projects to reduce carbon and engage communities on climate change. These comprised 3 building projects, 7 nature-based projects, one project to engage communities around sustainable food, one to create a climate change website and one towards the cost of a community building for a Horticultural Association.</li> <li>A further round of the ZCC grant scheme has been launched with applications due by June 17.</li> <li>Our Zero Carbon Communities network of parish councils, community groups and residents has continued to strengthen with seven online events held in Q4. These were a 'Green Connect' networking session held in January on the theme of food, sustainability and community, and 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.</li> <li>The Spring edition of the Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter was published on 1 March and included articles spotlighting Biodiversity and Energy Efficiency, including sharing the Solar Together Scheme and the Action on Energy Service. There were a total of 504 views of the Newsletter.</li> </ul>	G
<b>3 Actions contributing to our aspiration to double nature</b>						
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Expected completion date</b>	<b>Progress at 30 September 2021</b>	<b>Progress at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>RAG rating - R for Red, A for Amber, G for Green</b>
<b>Through Planning</b>						
3.1	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	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First Proposals Local Plan is being published for consultation in Autumn 2021. This includes 14 strategic scale green infrastructure strategic initiatives identified in the Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Final Report being published alongside the Local Plan. Most of the strategic initiatives support habitat enhancement and creation. These have been developed drawing on discussion with Natural Cambridgeshire partners and Natural England.</li> <li>In addition, the First Proposals includes a proposed policy requirement for 20% biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul>	As previously reported, 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.	G
3.2	Draft and adopt a Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to update and strengthen guidance in the SCDC Biodiversity SPD (2009)	Planning	28-Feb-22	Drafted, public consultation complete, amendments to document and themes from consultation currently underway, revised timeline for adoption now is Feb 2022, anticipating no further delays to the publication of Environment Bill / Act.	n/a - action completed	G
3.3	Publish at least one case study to promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development	Planning	31-Dec-21	Already identified one case study from Cambridge, but are looking for more, likely will come in time.	Information collected - but decided not to include within Biodiversity Supplementary Document which was recently adopted - instead they will be added to our website (easier to update). To be completed by June 2022	G
<b>By supporting community action</b>						
3.4	Review and relaunch the Wildlife Enhancement Grant scheme (C5)	Transformation, HR and Corporate Services	31-Dec-21	Various conversations underway. Community Chest have amended their grants guidance to incorporate the WES funding and are taking on the management of the WES funding for the time being.	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 - goes to the Grants Advisory Committee in June. 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 Community Led Plan webpage.	G
3.5	Provide six free trees to every parish (C5)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	Applications to the 6 Free Trees project have now closed and applicants have been sent instructions for ordering the trees. 72 Parish Councils have applied and 169 trees have been ordered so far. We have started to receive photos from tree planting events and plan to share these during Tree week at the end of November.	At the close of the scheme, 58 Parish Councils had received and planted trees. A mix of 228 standard and smaller trees were resultantly planted through the scheme. Photos of these were shared in the South Cambs Magazine and the Zero Carbon Communities newsletter.	G

3.6	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans (C5)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	Local nature recovery plans will be supported by funding for projects aimed at increasing biodiversity, which will be made available to community groups through the Community Chest, (see 3.4 above).	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.	G
3.7	Continue to support volunteers to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods through our role as registered Tree Warden network co-ordinator for this area with the Tree Council.	Planning		This work has been ongoing during Q1Q2. Tree Warden position currently vacant.	Tree Warden post recently appointed.	A
3.8	Run a second Climate and Environment fortnight of online events highlighting successful community action and inspiring and encouraging further action. (C5)	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	A second fortnight of online events will take place early in 2022 to be planned from January 2022.	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.	G
<b>On our own estate and through our operations</b>						
3.9	Add a step to the Housing Estates Inspection process to identify and take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower strips and other wildlife-friendly initiatives in appropriate locations.	Housing	completed	The new Housing Estates Inspection process, which includes a step for identifying locations for tree-planting is now in place but has not resulted in many opportunities for tree-planting or wildflower strips. Other ways to identify these areas are mpw being explored. These include through informal estates inspections and in collaboration with parish councils and community groups.	<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. Alongside that work we have identified two areas of HRA Land that we are looking to take forward as a bid in conjunction with the County Council to procure funding to purchase trees and after care support.</li> <li>We hope to at least double the number of trees planted in the last financial year during 2022-23.</li> </ul>	G
3.10	Complete the audit of trees on Council-owned housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work	Housing	31-Mar-22	Two of four sections of the Tree Audit have now been completed. The third is due in November and the final one by the end of Q4. Urgent maintenance work has been completed or is in train. Less urgent work has been incorporated into a three year programme of tree surgery work.	All sections are now completed and a programme of work in place to carry out maintenance.	G
3.11	Review management of awarded watercourses appearing in the 2021 Chalk Streams Report and agree action if and where possible to improve biodiversity.	Climate, Environment and Waste	31-Mar-22	Principal Operations Manager (Environmental Ops) met with Rob Mungovan in the summer and did a tour of the chalk streams in the Bassingbourn and Shepreth area. Budget has been approved for Rob to prepare a report with options for improving management of these streams for biodiversity. The completed report is expected by the end of the year.	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 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. 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 SCDC equipment to facilitate works that would be too costly for groups to purchase from a contractor.	G
<b>By working with partners</b>						
3.12	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-22	We are awaiting an update from Highways England on progress of a bid to the Carbon Theme of the Environmental Legacy Fund.	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.	G

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# Agenda Item 7



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21/06/2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Brian Milnes
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste: Bode Esan

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

### Executive Summary

This report provides the Committee with Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions accounts for the Council's estate and operations for 2021-22. It is provided to the committee for information.

### Key Decision

1. No

### Details

2. Annual GHG emissions accounts for 2021-22 for the Council's estate and operations are provided in **Appendix A**. This is the fourth set of annual GHG emissions accounts produced for the Council. As in previous years, they have been drawn up according to principles and procedures outlined in the latest Environmental Reporting Guidelines issued by the Government's Departments for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). As such, they aim to be relevant, quantitative, accurate (insofar as this is practical), complete (with any exclusions specified, disclosed, and justified), consistent, comparable, and transparent.

### Overview

3. **Gross emissions totalled 1,667 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 11.2% reduction from the 2018-19 baseline year.**
4. **Progress towards reduction target**

From the gross data, compared to the baseline year the 2021-22 emissions are lower for all scopes:

- scope 1 – 0.8% decrease in direct emissions
- scope 2 – 38.3% decrease in indirect emissions from electricity

- scope 3 – 39.3% decrease in other indirect emissions (business travel is the only category of scope 3 emissions currently included in our accounts)

**5. Scope 1 emissions continue to stay roughly the same.**

There has been a decrease in emissions from gas consumption in South Cambridgeshire Hall, which is projected to decrease further with the introduction of a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) due to be completed in 2022. However, there has been an increase in Fleet diesel usage due to a growth in the number of houses served by the waste service. That said, the number of diesel vehicles has stayed the same, and increased efficiency has been implemented to accommodate this increase. There has been a slight decrease in emissions from small sites.

**6. Scope 2 emissions have decreased for a second year.**

- The greatest decrease in Scope 2 emission has been from the footway LED lighting upgrades (68.1% from baseline levels). This is estimated based on a total of 1,809 lights, with 90 ornate lights, and 88 standard lights awaiting upgrade.
- Emissions from electricity usage at South Cambridgeshire Hall have decreased by 31.2% from baseline levels. This may be due to the ongoing energy efficiency improvement work in the building, and the continuing high levels of staff working from the home, as started during the pandemic.
- Emissions from electricity usage at the Waterbeach Depot have increased due to the charging of Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (ERCVs). This will reduce the direct CO<sub>2e</sub> and particulate emissions in the district but increase emissions from electricity generation elsewhere. This is expected to increase as the number of ERCVs grows until provision for on-site renewable electricity is completed.
- Emissions from electricity from small sites have decreased.

**7. Scope 3 emissions have increased, but have remained below baseline levels:**

- A decrease in mileage in 2020/21 resulted from reduced business travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has now increased again as staff have returned to the office. These figures remain below baseline levels.

**8. Avoided emissions from green electricity tariffs**

Reporting guidelines advise that emissions from grid electricity usage are calculated and reported using standard grid conversion factors supplied by UK Government. Avoided emissions are included in our net accounts, including the green electricity tariff and the electricity exported to the grid from the Waterbeach Solar PV roof panels (50% as agreed in the Feed in Tariff Terms of Agreement). Avoided emissions from green electricity tariffs have decreased since 2020 – 21. This is due to an overall reduction in electricity usage in South Cambridgeshire Hall and the small sites.

9. An external assurance statement on the accounts was completed by the Council's internal auditors in June 2022. Audit have provided written assurance that all figures used in calculating the tCO<sub>2</sub> reflected the data presented to (the service), and all formulas used were appropriate.

### *Scope and Assumptions*

10. In line with the Guidelines, the accounts include emissions from the estate and operations owned and controlled by the Council. Full details of inclusions and exclusions are included in the report, but the following are highlighted:
11. The baseline year used in these accounts is 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019. All reductions in emissions are based on this reporting period. For the same period in 2021-22 there has been an overall 11.2% decrease in gross emissions for scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (indirect energy emissions) and scope 3 (other indirect emissions). For the same period in 2020-21, there was an overall 8.8% decrease in gross emissions.
12. In line with standard reporting procedures, GHG emissions avoided are included in a report of the net total in the 2021-22 accounts. These amount to 203.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (202.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the green electricity tariffs and 1.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for electricity exported to the grid from the solar PV panels on the Waterbeach Depot). Using this data, the Council's total net emissions compared to the baseline year, show a reduction of 22.0%. This remains roughly the same as in 2020/21 (21.9%) as, although the Gross emissions are lower, the total electricity used (and therefore avoided) under the green tariff is also lower.
13. Emissions from the Council's housing stock are excluded because the Council does not control energy use from these properties, (nor does it have access to this data). However, it does include gas (25 small sites) and electricity (85 small sites and two gypsy traveller sites) for external, stairwell and communal areas for community facilities and sheltered accommodation.
14. Emissions from 1,809 streetlights owned by the Council, and defined as 'footway lighting', are included in these accounts, on the grounds that they are owned and controlled by the Council (although energy costs for these are paid for by Parish Councils).
15. **Scope 3 emissions** are defined as those resulting from assets not owned and/or controlled by the reporting organisation, but that the organisation indirectly impacts in its value chain. The reporting of scope 3 emissions is relatively new, and methodologies are still emerging. We currently report only business travel emissions under scope 3, as data for these is readily available. Our current approach is to limit this to the available data.
16. During 2021-22 the Council's small sites switched to a green electricity tariff. Electricity data from two traveller sites (Whaddon and Blackwell) are included in the list of small sites. The solar PV panels on the Waterbeach Depot continue to provide electricity generation. The solar PV panels installed on the roof of South

Cambridgeshire Hall belong to Cambourne Town Council and are therefore not included in SCDC's GHG emission accounts.

17. As in 2020-21, the GHG emission accounts for 2021-22 include 50% (instead of 100% as previously reported) of electricity consumed at the Depot, on the grounds that the service is shared with Cambridge City Council. Accordingly, the CO<sub>2</sub> avoided through the energy generated by the solar PV panels is also split by 50%. This approach is agreed with and shared by Cambridge City Council. In 2020-21 a baseline recalculation was made to provide consistency with previous accounts.
18. The conversion factor used for business mileage classes the fuel type as 'unknown', as has been calculated in previous years. This accounts for the mixture in fuel types expected for a large organisation.
19. The Local Government Association (LGA) has produced an accounting tool to help councils to calculate their GHG emissions. Although a useful tool, this was not used to solely calculate the council's carbon emissions but was completed alongside the 2021/22 accounts to assess its accuracy and use as a tool for calculating GHG emissions and to provide continuity with previous years. This tool calculates emissions from home working and transmission and distribution (T+D) losses automatically. Emissions from home working are estimated at 20.63 tCO<sub>2e</sub> and those from T+D at 0.15 tCO<sub>2e</sub>. Gross emissions as calculated by the tool are therefore 1,685.77 tCO<sub>2e</sub>. This would make our emission decrease from the baseline year 10.2% rather than 11.2%. To use this tool in the future a baseline recalculation would be required.

## 20. Future plans

- Gas consumption is expected to decrease by 79% due to the recent installation of the GSHP at South Cambridgeshire Hall. The introduction of improved energy management systems in the building is expected to reduce the gas consumption further, through improved heating efficiency.
- The biggest producer of GHG emissions is our refuse collection fleet vehicles which run on diesel. The emissions produced by these are projected to stay the same in the coming years as new housing developments will be incorporated into the collection schedules. The need for the purchase of new diesel vehicles due to this growth will be mitigated by the electrification of the fleet. A trial using HVO as an alternative fuel was conducted, finding that HVO produced 0.036kgCO<sub>2e</sub> per mile whereas diesel produced 2.75kgCO<sub>2e</sub> per mile, showing the resultant emission reduction of this transition.
- The introduction of the solar carport is expected to generate 20% of the electricity used by South Cambridgeshire Hall. 18 fast and 2 rapid electric vehicle charging points will also be installed encouraging a reduction in Scope 3 business mileage emissions.

- Plans have been approved to build a solar farm to supply the Waterbeach Depot with Solar PV. This will help to power the fleet when electrified and contribute to the emissions avoided at the depot. This is expected to reduce future Scope 2 emissions through fleet diesel usage and Scope 2 emissions through electricity required from the grid.
- The introduction of an Electric/Hybrid vehicle incentive scheme for staff members is expected to increase the number of staff using electric vehicles for travel, decreasing Scope 3 emissions.

### **Implications**

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

### **Risks/Opportunities**

22. Prior to 2020, there were no existing risks on the Corporate Risk register in respect to a reduction in carbon emissions. A new risk, 'Failure to meet carbon emission reduction target' was added by Internal Audit in November 2020 following the actions highlighted from the Internal audit Carbon Management report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: GHG Emissions accounts for the Council's estate and operations 2021-22

### **Report Author:**

Eleanor Haines, Project Officer, Climate, Environment and Waste  
Telephone: 01954 713490

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# South Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Account 2021/22

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14. GHG Emissions avoided
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## 1. Introduction

These accounts have been compiled to better understand the impact of the Council's estate and operations on climate change, and to inform action to mitigate this impact by reducing emissions. They have been drawn up according to the [Environmental Reporting Guidelines](#) issued by the Government's Departments for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), updated March 2019.

The guidelines provide procedures and principles for accounting and reporting environmental impacts drawn from the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard from the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, known as the "GHG Protocol Corporate Standard". These principles are that the accounts should be relevant, quantitative, accurate (insofar as is practical), complete (with any exclusions specified, disclosed and justified), consistent, comparable and transparent.

Under the GHG Protocol, emissions are defined in three different Scopes.

- Scope 1: direct GHG emissions from activities owned or controlled by the organisation.
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions associated with consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.

- Scope 3: Indirect emissions that are a consequence of the organisation's actions, but which occur at sources not owned or controlled by the organisation.

## 2. GHG Emissions from the Council's Estate and Operations

Table 1: Overall GHG emissions for 2021-22 showing the percentage change from the baseline year

	GHG Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) 2021-22	GHG Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) 2018-2019 (baseline year)	Percentage change from baseline year
Scopes	2021-22	2018-19	
Scope 1 (direct emissions)	1,349	1,360	-0.8%
Scope 2 (indirect emissions, electricity)	236	383*	-38.3%
Scope 3 (indirect emissions, other)	82	135**	-39.3%
Total gross emissions	1,667	1,878 (adjusted baseline)	-11.2%
Population <sup>1</sup>	160,904	157,519	
Intensity measurement (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e per person)	0.01036	0.01192	-13.1%
Electricity generated from Council owned sources and exported to the grid	1.4	0	-
GHG Emissions Avoided (Green electricity Tariff)	202.3	0	-
Total Net Emissions	1,464	1,878	-22.0%

\*scope 2 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation of electricity 50% shared with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot.

\*\* scope 3 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation using the 'unknown' fuel type conversion factor

<sup>1</sup> Based on Office for National Statistics 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates released June 2021:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/mid-year-pop-est/editions/mid-2020-april-2021-geography/versions/1>

Table 2: Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2021-22 – by scope showing the percentage change from the baseline year

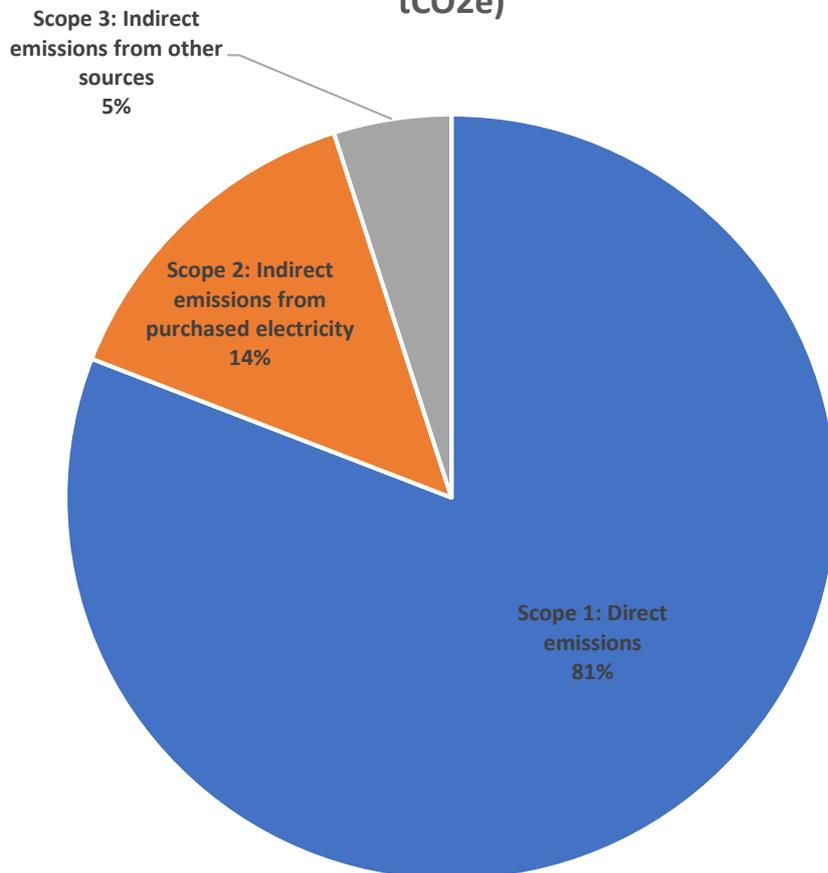
	GHG Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) 2021-22	GHG Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) 2018-2019 (baseline year)	Percentage change from baseline year
Scope 1			
Gas consumption	232	271	-14.4%
Fleet	1,117	1,089	+2.57%
Process emissions	n/a	n/a	-
Fugitive emissions	n/a	n/a	-
Total Scope 1	1,349	1,360	-0.8%
Scope 2			
Purchased electricity	236	383*	-38.3%
Total Scope 2	236	383*	-38.3%
Scope 3			

Business Travel	82	135**	-39.3%
Transmission and Distribution losses	Not included	Not included	-
Employee commuting	Not included	Not included	-
Procured goods and services	Not included	Not included	-
Waste Disposal	Not included	Not included	-
Total Scope 3	82	135**	-39.3%
Total gross emissions	1,667	1,878	-11.2%

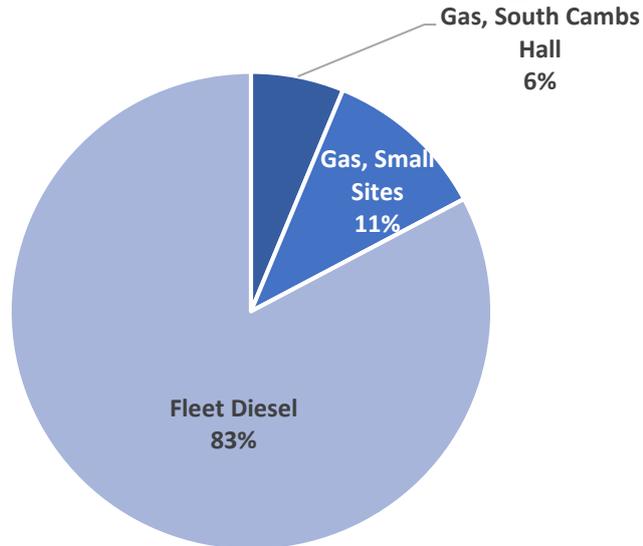
\*scope 2 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation of electricity shared 50% with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot.

\*\* scope 3 emissions figure is different to that reported in 2018-19 due to the baseline recalculation using the 'unknown' fuel type conversion factor

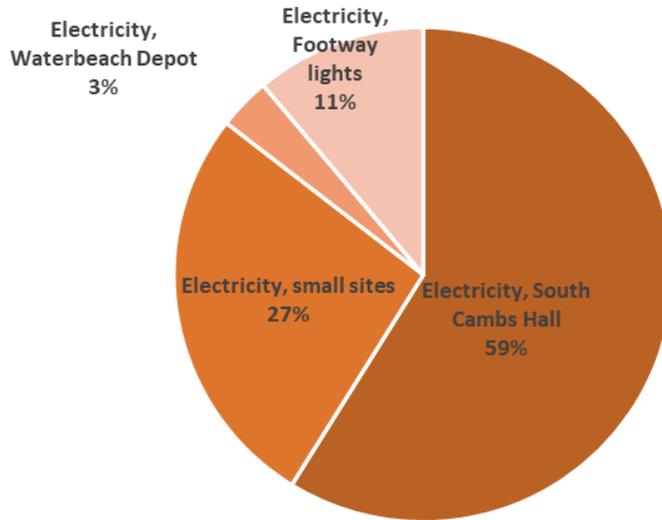
### GHG emissions from SCDC Estate and Operations 2021/22 (1,667 tCO2e)



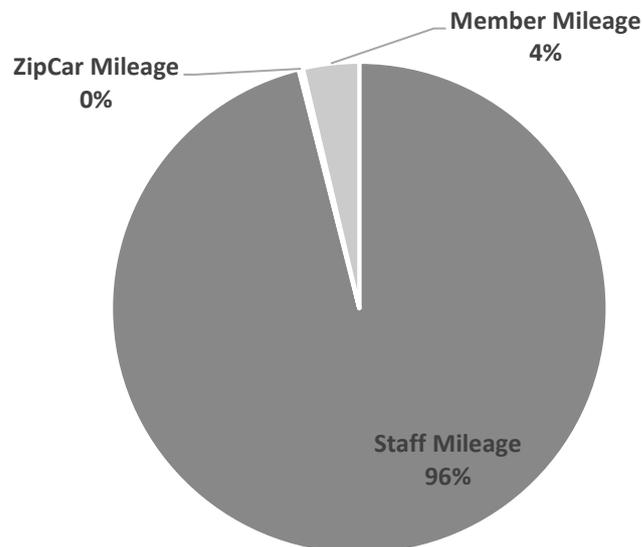
**Scope 1: Direct emissions (1,349 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**



**Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity (236 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)**



**Scope 3: Indirect emissions from other sources (82 tCO<sub>2</sub>)**



### 3. About the Council

South Cambridgeshire District Council is a non-metropolitan district authority and is responsible for providing a range of services to residents of South Cambridgeshire, visitors to the district, and businesses and other organisations based in the district. Services include housing, refuse and recycling collections, licensing, planning and building control, Council Tax collection, and environmental health services. The Council serves a population of 160,904 living in 106 parishes and settlements, has 45 elected Members; and employed 655 members of staff as of 31 March 2022. Further information about the Council can be found on our website at [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk).

### 4. Reporting Period

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.

### 5. Approach

We have followed Government guidance, published by Defra at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/measuring-and-reporting-environmental-impacts-guidance-forbusinesses>.

### 6. Organisational Boundary

We have defined our organisational boundary following the Financial Control approach which means we have included operations which the Council owns and controls. Further detail on which operations or activities have been included within our organisational boundary for the purposes of compiling this greenhouse gas report is provided under 'Operational Scopes' below.

### 7. Operational Scopes

We have included Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for all properties and vehicles that we fully own and control and for properties that we lease from others, where the Council is delivering a service.

We reported Scope 3 emissions where we have access to comprehensive and reliable data; and where we have a degree of control over the operation/ activity in question. See the table below for details:

**Table 4: Rationale for Inclusion and Exclusion of Emissions.**

Source of Emissions	Included in reporting?	Reason for exclusion where applicable
<b>Source 1 (Direct)</b>		
Gas consumption in buildings we own and control	Yes	This includes our main office buildings, our three hub offices and our sheltered housing community rooms.

Gas consumption in buildings we lease to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We have not included data on energy used in Council housing, Ermine Street Housing (the Council's private sector housing company), or in the commercial building, 140 Cambridge Science Park owned by the Council.
Gas consumption in buildings we lease from others	No	The Waterbeach Depot is the only building we lease from others. No gas is consumed on these premises.
Fuel consumption in owned transport	Yes	Includes Shared Waste Services transport, e.g. refuse vehicles, operating in South Cambridgeshire; excludes Shared Waste Services transport operating in the City Council.
Process emissions	No	Not applicable.
Fugitive emissions, e.g. from air conditioning units	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
<b>Scope 2 (Indirect, energy)</b>		
Purchased electricity; in buildings we own, occupy and control	Yes	This includes our main office buildings, our three hub offices, our sheltered housing community rooms and the two traveller sites- Whaddon and Blackwell.
Purchased electricity in buildings we lease to others	Partially	We have only included emissions arising from energy used in the communal areas of some of the buildings that we lease out (energy used in communal areas is provided and paid for by the Council). We do not have access to data on energy used by our tenants.
Purchased electricity in buildings we lease from others	Yes	Waterbeach depot,
Purchased electricity used in street lighting owned by the Council	Yes	1,809 streetlights.

<b>Scope 3 (indirect, other)</b>		
Purchased goods and services	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Business travel	Yes	This includes mileage claimed by staff and Members; and travel using the Zipcar.
Commuter travel	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Waste disposal	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Water usage	No	Excluded due to difficulty and/or cost of obtaining data.
Outsourced activities	No	

## 8 Conversion/ Emissions Factors Used

The emissions factors used to calculate the emissions in this Greenhouse Gas Report are those provided by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) and Defra (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) titled: 'UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting' which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>

## 9. Geographical Breakdown

All of our operations and activities are carried out in the UK.

## 10. Baseline Year

1 April 2018 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

## 11. Base Year Recalculation Policy

For consistent tracking of performance over time, the Council may need to recalculate the baseline year to compare current emissions with historic emissions. The reasons for change are documented in Part 9 of the Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions provided by DEFRA. For example, changes in calculation methods or improvements in the accuracy of emission factors or activity data that result in a significant impact on the base year emissions data. Since the 2018 -19 report was published, a survey identified the number of footway lamps in use to be 1,796, not 1,677 as reported. Although the figure of 1,796 was used in 2019-20, this number changed again for 2020-21 to 1,803, and to 1,809 in 2021-22 due to the identification of some more footway lamps not captured in last year's survey. Due to the very small difference in numbers and the fact that a small number of streetlamps are due to be disconnected, a second baseline recalculation is not necessary.

Further baseline recalculations have been made to reflect 50% of the electricity shared with Cambridgeshire County Council at the Waterbeach depot and the amendment to the fuel conversion factor from 'diesel' to 'unknown' which is used for the business fuel consumption.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69282/pb13309-ghg-guidance-0909011.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69282/pb13309-ghg-guidance-0909011.pdf)

## 12. Intensity Measurement

We have included an intensity ratio of 0.01036 tonnes of CO<sub>2e</sub> per resident of South Cambridgeshire, which is based on mid-year population statistics, produced in June 2020.

The dataset is at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

## 13. External Assurance Statement

The Authority's Internal Audit service have had opportunity to review the reported emissions figures, supporting calculations and sample test available source data and have provided assurances on the figures provided.

## 14. Avoided GHG Emissions

For South Cambridgeshire Hall and the Council owned small sites, a purchased green electricity tariff has been included as avoided emissions.

## 15. Amount of Electricity Generated from Owned or Controlled Sources

The solar array on the Waterbeach Depot started exporting electricity in March 2019. We have included the total renewable electricity exported from the PV array as avoided emissions. This is split 50:50 with Cambridgeshire County Council.

## 16. Amount of Heat Generated from Owned or Controlled Sources

South Cambs Hall benefits from a roof mounted solar thermal installation. Accurate figures for heat generated are unavailable at the present time but should be available for next year's report. As solar thermal panels only 'generate heat' it will in turn mean that the heat drawn by the gas boilers will be less than if solar thermal wasn't available.

**For further information about this report, please contact:**

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# Agenda Item 8



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing: also responsible for Waste, Climate and the Environment and Sustainable Travel
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

## Update on Electric Vehicle Charge Points

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on on Electric Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) infrastructure, funding, and opportunities for SCDC involvement in provision of EVCPs

### Key Decision

2. No

### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC note the report. No decision is required.

## Updates

### Introduction

Based on research to date, the majority of EV users will be able to charge EVs at home overnight, at work, or at rapid chargers installed by commercial companies at key locations and on the major road network.

EV charging classes

**Slow** charging rates range between 2.3 kW (domestic) and 3 kW (~10-14 hours full charge)

**Fast** charging rates range between 7kW and 22kW (~2-6 hours to full charge)

**Rapid** 43-50kW, charge to 80% in around 20 minutes, another 20 mins to full charge

**Ultra-Rapid DC** 100kW+ ~20 minute full charge

The main gap in EVCP provision is likely to be in chargers for residents who are not able to charge at home, usually because they have no access to private off-street parking. These users are likely to be more reliant on public infrastructure, and there is a role for Local Authorities to help fill this gap, where there is demand for charging in residential areas or locations that are less commercially attractive.

## **Ongoing Fast Charging Projects**

Fast chargers are generally suited to locations in or near to residential areas, where accessible to EV users who do not have their own driveways, or in 'destination' locations where users expect to stay for several hours.

A project to trial the installation of public fast EVCPs at two Sheltered Accommodation communal buildings is underway, with Project Initiation Documents approved by the Green to Our Core cluster board. The specification has been drafted and we will shortly be inviting quotes from suppliers. Prior to this some practical considerations (e.g., most appropriate internal process for taking payments) are currently being addressed to establish best practice internally.

Should this installation be a success, lessons learned can be applied to other EVCP projects on HRA land or elsewhere on the Council's estate.

The broken fast EVCP at Cambourne Business Park Marketing Suite has been replaced by a new supplier, Anglia Car Charging, under the Cambourne Business Park Commercial Management Services contract.

## **Ongoing Rapid Charging Projects**

Initial investigations into South Cambridgeshire District Council's involvement in EV Charging centred around provision of rapid EVCPs, to support taxi-drivers making the switch to EVs in the light of updated requirements in our taxi licensing policy.

Primarily for use by taxis. Installation can be far more expensive than fast chargers due to high energy use of rapid chargers and resultant grid connection upgrades often required.

However, opportunities have now been identified and are being delivered to integrate rapid chargers into existing projects, to avoid a significant proportion of the costs being in the securing of the required energy supply:

- A rapid charger for taxis and public use at Babraham Rd Park & Ride is being progressed. This will integrate into a current Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) project to provide EV chargers and a solar carport at the site. A legal agreement with CCC has been drafted and charger to fit the required specification is currently being sourced by the County Council's delivery partner for the project.
- A rapid charger for taxis and public use at South Cambridgeshire Hall is ordered, to be installed alongside the other 18 fast chargers as part of the Greening South Cambs Hall project.

While we will continue to investigate opportunities for rapid charging, UK Government's recent Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2022) recognises that rapid charging network is growing chiefly as a result of private investment, and funding opportunities for rapid charging (the Rapid Charger Fund) are targeted toward the private sector, with the aim of unlocking grid capacity at services on major roads.

## **Future projects**

Following conversation with the Energy Saving Trust, a group bid to the On-street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS) for chargers in Parish car parks may not be suitable given the requirements for this funding, which targets larger concentrated areas with

no off-street parking. While there are properties without off-street parking in the district these often tend to be sporadic as opposed to being concentrated into areas of high demand.

On the Council's own estate, opportunities for public charging that satisfy these demands are constrained. SCDC generally lacks ownership of public car parks within residential areas and does not operate its own sports centres or other typical destinations for public charging.

However, there is still interest in EVCP installation from several Parishes, which may enhance public charging infrastructure. Alternative ways of supporting interested Parishes and community buildings to install chargers are being investigated, provided that potential locations can show a likely demand for chargers, for instance from nearby destinations, or properties without private driveways. This could be through remaining funds currently budgeted for EV charging in 22/23, or via future rounds of the Zero Carbon Communities Grant.

Aside from car parks, on-street charging infrastructure requires the input of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) as the Local Highways Authority. It is considered that provision of any on-street charging is therefore best accomplished in partnership with CCC.

### **Next steps and strategy**

A cohesive approach with CCC would provide more consistency of infrastructure across the district and county for EV users, could allow for greater opportunity to leverage commercial investment, and could strengthen a bid for government funding.

There is no County-wide strategy or delivery plan for EVCP infrastructure as yet, however this has been initiated by CPCA, and SCDC will work with CPCA, CCC and other districts to develop this strategy.

To support this, we are developing a short high level strategy document to set out SCDC's position in relation to public EVCP provision. Broadly this has three main components:

- Firstly, to continue identifying and delivering smaller scale opportunities for installing public charging on our own estate and with partners, and EV charging for our own tenants.
- Secondly, to promote and support emerging alternatives to public charging infrastructure such as charger sharing and EV car clubs/car sharing
- Thirdly in terms of wider public charging provision, the strategy will state our support for any wider strategy or delivery plan emerging from the County Council and/or CPCA, and for related funding applications such as the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) fund planned for 2022-25.

### **Background Papers**

List any background papers in relation to the report. Background papers means those documents (other than published ones) that relate to the subject matter of the report and which disclose facts/ matters on which the report is based and were relied on materially in producing the report.

Further information on the Local EV Infrastructure fund (LEVI)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-local-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-levi-pilot-funding>

Further information on the Rapid Charger Fund  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-charging-fund>

Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy (2022)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1065576/taking-charge-the-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1065576/taking-charge-the-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-strategy.pdf)

Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018 regulatory report  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automated-and-electric-vehicle-act-report/automated-and-electric-vehicles-act-2018-regulatory-report>

The consumer experience at public chargepoints  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-consumer-experience-at-public-electric-vehicle-chargepoints/the-consumer-experience-at-public-chargepoints>

### **Report Author:**

Luke Waddington – Project Officer  
Telephone: (01954) 713493



<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 June 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing: also responsible for Waste, Climate and the Environment and Sustainable Travel
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

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## Guidance for Parish/Town Councils on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on guidance available to Parish/Town Councils on Declaring Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This was requested by CEAC on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 following suggestions by Parish/Town Councils that this would be of help

### Key Decision

2. No

### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC note the report. No decision is required.

### Details

4. A request for guidance to Parish/Town Councils on declaring a Climate and Ecological emergency was made by CEAC on 12 January 2022. This aligns with the Council's ambitions to support wider emission reduction and natural enhancement and protection in the district.
5. Through the Zero Carbon Communities programme, the Council has been enabling and supporting groups in the district to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies since 2019 (see para 8 below). Guidance on declaring an emergency complements this ongoing programme of work.
6. Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency can allow Councils to commit to acting to address the issues associated with climate change through mitigation and adaptation. South Cambridgeshire District Council declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies in 2019. Although some Parish/Town Councils in the District have made declarations, support may be required to help others to do the same and provide suggestions for further action once they have done so.

7. A webpage is being developed to fulfil this need. Appendix A provides a draft of the wording of the webpage and any suggestions for topics for inclusion or additional details are welcomed.
8. Additionally, the Council's Zero Carbon Communities programme enables and supports groups in the district to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Green Connect online networking sessions
    - i. These are sessions for Parish/Town Councils and community groups to allow them to share ideas and experiences and make connections with other groups. Past sessions have included 'Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings' and 'What to do once you have declared a Climate Emergency'.
  - b. Zero Carbon Community Newsletter
    - i. This is a quarterly newsletter which contains Climate and Environmental news in the district. A range of articles provide information on support offered by SCDC and ideas for actions that they can take to address the climate emergency.
  - c. Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme
    - i. This annual grant scheme provides funding for projects which Parish/Town Councils may want to undertake in response to the climate emergency.

## **Background Papers**

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, Wednesday 12 January:  
[Minutes 12012022 Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft Website Text for Parish/Town Council Support on Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency

## **Report Author:**

Eleanor Haines  
Telephone: (01954) 713490

# **Appendix 1: Website text for Parish/Town Council Support on Declaring Climate and Ecological Emergencies**

## **Why declare a Climate and Ecological emergency?**

Declaring a climate and ecological emergency shows that a council acknowledges the need to act on the causes and impacts of the climate change and biodiversity crises. For the declaration to be meaningful, it needs to be accompanied by determined action. South Cambridgeshire District Council declared climate and ecological emergencies in 2019 and stepped up to reduce its own carbon emissions and support others in the district to do the same.

Many Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire have already declared a Climate Emergency. At a local level, Parish Councils can deliver a noticeable difference to people in the community. This page provides information and resources on how to declare a Climate and Ecological emergency and some ideas on taking action following this.

## **Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency.**

One of the first steps to taking climate action is declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency. In a formal meeting, the Parish/Town Council should put forward a Climate and Ecological Emergency motion and do the following:

- Use the phrasing 'declare a climate emergency' and 'declare an ecological emergency'.
- Set target dates of reducing your own emissions and local climate impacts.
- Set up a working group to work on climate issues and provide regular reports to the Parish/Town Council.
- Work out are what the council and the community are most interested in working on. Think about what might have the most impact, but also what the local community will want to support.

## Acting on your Declaration

Once you have declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency there are some actions that you can take to make a difference. You might be able to do some of these straight away, others might require some planning, the key is to keep up the momentum from the word go. Our [Climate Emergency Toolkit](#) provides ideas, tips and guidance on taking action.

The consultancy ARUP have created a [resource](#) which provides in-depth information on some of the actions you can take.

### Parish Council Emissions

An important first step is to calculate your carbon emissions to establish a baseline of where you are and where you need to go. We provide guidance to Parish Councils on [calculating your carbon footprint](#).

Once you have worked this out, there are a number of ways that you can reduce these emissions.

#### *Energy Saving*

Improving the energy efficiency of your community buildings is one of the most effective ways of reducing your carbon emissions and also reduces energy costs. An energy survey can tell you the best ways to improve your energy efficiency. You could also review community building energy use, change to a green electricity tariff, or upgrade your lighting to LEDs. Are you due a boiler replacement? How about changing the way you heat your building, such as using infra-red heating panels or heat pumps? Funding is available for such projects through the [ZCC Grant](#).

#### *Renewable Energy*

Do you have a space suitable for solar PV panels? Funding is available through the [ZCC Grant](#) for such projects. Alternatively, if you think that there might be a good site near you for renewable energy, such as solar or wind turbines, how about suggesting these as part of your Neighbourhood Development Plan?

### *Protecting Biodiversity through Land Management*

There are some great ideas for what you can do in Natural Cambridgeshire's [Local Nature recovery toolkit](#), which helps you to prioritise the best actions for your community.

How about changing your verge mowing routine to enhance biodiversity in your local area. You can also designate sites for tree planting, so that when schemes such as the [6 Free Trees scheme](#) come up, you are able to take full advantage of them.

### *Recycling and Waste*

Make sure that your Council is minimising waste where it can and recycling properly. If you are having an event – how about reducing the amount of plastic that you use, such as using re-usable cups. See our [Waste Less guide](#) for more details.

## **Within the Community**

### *Manage Land to Enhance Nature*

Encourage members of the community to think more about [biodiversity](#), set up bird boxes and bat boxes around the area. Have you thought about how people can grow their own food? Make sure that those in the area know about opportunities in the community such as allotments. Have you thought about setting up a community fridge like the [Gamlingay Food Project](#) did? Encourage people to buy seasonally or local to support businesses nearby, the [Visit South Cambs website](#) gives information on where to shop locally.

### *Sustainable Travel*

Raise awareness about sustainable travel choices. Share information on cycle routes or car sharing clubs. More information on sustainable travel is available on our [Sustainable Living webpage](#). How about installing cycle racks or shelters in public areas so that there are more places for people to leave their bikes?

### *Energy Efficiency in Homes*

Encourage residents to think about energy efficiency in their homes. SCDC runs a [Thermal Imaging](#) camera loan scheme where people can use a thermal imaging

camera to see where they might be losing heat from their homes so that they know what improvements they can make.

### *Minimise waste*

Repair cafes are a great way to encourage people to mend their items rather than throw them away. There are a number of repair cafes around the district. More resources are available to support them on the [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) website.

### *Other activities*

There are a number of other ways you can promote a climate friendly lifestyle. Eco festivals, open evenings or even signposting on your website can create greener lifestyles in your local area.

## **Churches and Religious Buildings**

There are a number of resources that can help churches to consider how they may address the climate and ecological emergencies. [The Collaborative Carbon Calculator](#) helps Churches / Religious buildings to calculate their carbon footprints so that they can identify where they can reduce this. [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#) is an award scheme for Eco Friendly churches, can you be awarded for your eco action?

## **Collaboration**

Remember that there are other Councils who are in the same position as you, who have declared climate and ecological emergencies, or have done similar projects as you. There are some great ways that you can connect with others to find out more about doing similar projects. Sign up to the [ZCC Newsletter](#) to keep up to date with environmental news in the District. The monthly [ZCC Green Connect](#) sessions give you an opportunity to link up with others near you doing similar projects.

# Agenda Item 10



**South  
Cambridgeshire**  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 June 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing: also responsible for Waste, Climate and the Environment and Sustainable Travel
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste

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

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) as requested by the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.

### **Key Decision**

2. No

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that CEAC note the report. No decision is required.

### **Details**

4. The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has made firm policy commitment to decarbonise the fleet of refuse collection vehicles by 2030. Both Cambridge City and SCDC have declared a Climate Emergency, and each has established targets and an Action Plan to reach zero carbon by 2050.
5. A key part of the decarbonisation programme is to replace the fleet of existing diesel RCVs (Refuse Collection Vehicles) as the current stock accounts for 1,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The first electric RCV has been in operation since November 2020 and the Councils' have ordered two further vehicles arriving in June and September 2022.
6. The Shared Waste Service operates from Waterbeach Depot off the A10, in between the Cambridge Research Park and Waterbeach Waste Management

Park. The local electricity network has insufficient capacity to meet the charging requirements of the Councils' fleet – the maximum grid supply will be reached once the two new eRCVS are operational by Q2 2022/23.

7. In order to continue the fleet decarbonisation programme to meet the Councils' 2028 and 2030 net zero targets, there is an urgent need for an on-site renewable energy solution to enable charging of electric RCVs. The project proposal will focus on servicing electricity demands of 35 electric RCVs to align with the first stages of the fleet decarbonisation and generation capacity from the solar pv array.
8. SCDC is leading the project team and is utilising the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities Energy Performance Services Contract, a Framework Agreement with Bouygues E&S Solutions Limited. An Investment Grade Proposal will be developed which verifies the feasibility of the project, refines the options for a renewable energy grid; qualifies and assesses major project risks; and develops a clear scope and approach for the development of the project.
9. The project team is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to ratify the funding of £2.7m towards the project which has an estimated value of £4.9m.
10. The renewable energy network will involve the following components:
  - a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array 1MWp on adjacent land to the depot (with partial planning consent, final design will determine if amendments are required) ,
  - an Energy Storage System (ESS) 2MWh capacity to maximise the use of renewable energy from the solar PV array,
  - a Power Management system to control energy and optimise performance,
  - charging infrastructure,
  - and a point of connection to the electricity distribution network
11. The project proposal has been compared to an alternative option solely reinforcing the grid connection (without generating energy from renewable sources, using energy storage or integrating energy management). The initial assessment of the options shows that the project proposal out-performs in terms of financial benefit, carbon savings and renewable energy generation.
12. The next steps for the project team are to complete the business case and design; finalise the land lease with the landowner; and secure the grid connection. Following the completion of these tasks, officers will review the IGP to check it meets the key performance parameters and investment criteria and will then make recommendations to Cabinet in December 2022. Subject to approval, the build out would be programmed to start in early 2023.

## **Background Papers**

No background papers

**Report Author:**

Alex Snelling-Day – Green Energy Investment Manager

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021.
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Lead Member for Planning
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

## **An interim approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) including offsite provision**

### **Executive Summary**

1. The Environment Act introduces the requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain above baseline conditions for all developments in England from November 2023. Local Planning Authorities (LPA) will need to ensure that developments in their jurisdictions comply with this new legislation and that BNG is delivered in a sustainable and transparent way.

Prior to November 2023, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is looking to be day-one ready for this new legislation. This means having viable solutions to the challenge of where to site BNG (if not wholly within the redline boundary) and how to approach this prior to new laws and guidance coming from Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

This paper proposes an interim approach for Greater Cambridge to fulfil that this need while recognising the principles already set out in the Environment Act around BNG, and emerging best practice. It is intended to provide guidance for planners, Planning Committees, and developers on a credible approach as developments currently underway need a practical and consistent approach to this challenge.

### **Recommendations**

2. This Advisory Committee is asked to consider the proposal and recommend that Cabinet, at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, endorses it as an interim approach of guiding principles for siting biodiversity net gain for developments within South Cambridgeshire, with delegated powers given to the Joint Planning Director of Planning and Economic Development to make minor changes.

## Reasons for Recommendations

3. To provide a practical and consistent approach to BNG to help Planning Officers, Planning Committee and developers.

## Details

4. The proposed interim approach is set out in the attached guidance note at appendix A, which also includes details of two emerging habitat banks within Greater Cambridge .
5. The proposed approach will be considered by Cambridge City Council in a parallel Member approach by its Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport after Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Options

6. Approve this interim approach as written
7. Approve an amended approach
8. Do nothing and wait for more guidance to come from DEFRA (timescales unknown)

## Implications

9. 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: -

## Legal

10. A modified Section 106 document is currently being prepared by 3C legal in order to ensure that any agreements for offsite BNG at the locations listed in the approach document, or others that may come into operation conform to existing legal frameworks and are fit for purpose.

## Risks/Opportunities

11. This proposal offers an opportunity to provide a transparent approach which supports the creation of long-term habitat enhancement at a landscape scale.
12. A lack of any clear or consistent approach towards BNG, particularly off site BNG in the period prior to mandate in Nov 2023 may cause confusion, open the Council up to criticism and possibly legal challenge.

## **Climate Change**

13. The proposal would strengthen the Council's green credentials and would thus contribute to greening and carbon sequestration services provided by enhanced vegetation and habitats.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

14. Health and wellbeing is linked to a sustainable natural environment accessible to residents. By putting in place a robust approach to BNG we would help to ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and green Infrastructure across all Greater Cambridge developments.

## **Consultation responses**

15. This proposal and technical note has had significant input from a broad range of officers from within the Council, discussions with relevant NGOs in the field, other LPAs and the Planning Advisory Service.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

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

16. This interim approach would suggest that the Council are taking this issue (BNG) seriously and getting ahead of the curve on an important topic directly relevant to green policies and greening actions.

### **A modern and caring Council**

17. This interim approach would suggest that the Council are taking this issue seriously and getting ahead of the curve on an important topic.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: GCSPS Protocol for the provision of BNG including offsite provision.

## **Report Author:**

John Cornell – Natural Environment Team Leader  
[John.cornell@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:John.cornell@greatercambridgeplanning.org)

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## Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

# Protocol for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) including Off-site provision.

June 2022

### **Introduction**

This Technical Note provides interim local guidance in relation to proposed offsite BNG to ensure that applicants and decision makers are clear on what is expected by the Councils when considering offsite BNG proposals, prior to November 2023.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats affected by development. BNG can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of on-site and off-site measures, with a starting point always being what can be done on-site.

The mandatory 10% BNG as set out in the Environment Act (November 2021) is likely to become law in autumn 2023 and will apply to all Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) applications. In the interim Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document outlines that measurable BNG is the minimum legal requirement, however, developers are encouraged to seek the 10% BNG now. In addition, both Councils aspire for a 20% BNG requirement, to be tested through the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

The Environment Act also introduces a statutory requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to be produced by a responsible authority appointed by the Government. The responsible authority is yet to be officially confirmed but is likely to be the Local Nature Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council or similar body. These strategies will be developed with stakeholders to map important habitat areas where there is an opportunity to improve the local environment to guide BNG and other policies.

However, there is a clear and present need for credible interim guidance from the Local Planning Authority for developers and planners prior to November 2023, as planning applications will require a consistent approach to the provision of BNG, particularly how to support offsite BNG within the GCSPS area.

### **Interim BNG decision sequence**

- 1. Through careful site selection, application of the mitigation hierarchy, good practice and design principles, seek to achieve BNG on site and wherever ecologically feasible aim to achieve a minimum 10% net gain within the red line boundary.**

BNG best practice is to deliver on site (within the red line) and this approach is rewarded through the Defra BNG metric 3.0. However, it is recognised that on many sites practical, sustainable ecological enhancement may not be viable. Onsite BNG invariably forms part of a multifunctional space and may not be the primary function, for example recreational space or Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. This can lead to compromises in habitat condition and long-term value of the new habitats. In these circumstances offsite BNG provides a more sustainable option. A key policy aim of mandatory BNG is to improve people's access to nature, but this needs to be balanced against the risk of overwhelming the biodiversity goals of the policy, which may favour placing a proportion of BNG offsite, away from public access.

- 2. Where onsite options for BNG are agreed between the LPA and the promotor have been exhausted, compensatory arrangements to provide BNG shortfalls should be provided offsite (outside of the redline boundary) in identified strategic locations. Strategic offsite proposals can be a bespoke scheme devised by the applicant or through purchase of units from a habitat bank provider, provided they meet the guidance set out below for those services.**

BNG has been identified as one of the primary mechanisms for the restoration of biodiversity across the UK and the local need is recognised within the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature vision. To achieve the vision, a strategic approach to habitat creation and enhancement will be required in line with the Lawton principles of more, bigger, better and more joined up. This will require focus on improving the condition of existing designated biodiversity sites (must demonstrate additionality), increasing their size, and improving connections between them by creating stepping-stones and corridors of biodiversity rich habitats.

Where off-site habitat measures are required, they must provide UK habitat assessment surveys to agree a baseline metric of the existing offsite habitats, conform to BNG CIEEM/IEMA/CIRIA- Good Practice Principles for Development and seek to deliver strategic BNG as close as feasible to the impacts of the development. The Defra Biodiversity Metric trading rules should also be observed.

This interim guidance considers strategic BNG to be enhanced and new habitats delivered within the developments surrounding Natural Cambridgeshire priority landscape areas such as Cambridge Nature Network, West Cambridgeshire Hundreds and Ouse Valley, (see map below). These provide an interim Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Where proposals are for enhancement to a designated Local Wildlife Sites or Local Nature Reserve, they must provide measurable additionality to existing management arrangements.

The Local Planning Authority will verify the accuracy of the biodiversity value calculations and consider the merits of any off-site net gain measures with reference to Greater Cambridge Local Plan Opportunity Mapping (2021), Natural Cambridgeshire Priority Areas and the Biodiversity Opportunity Maps managed by Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC). Any scheme of Biodiversity Net Gain must include a mechanism for delivery of the target habitats, management, and monitoring of their condition, and an approach to remediation in the event of targets not being met.

To ensure the delivery of BNG measures, the Councils will seek to secure off site habitat creation and its long-term management (minimum 30 years), through planning obligations, such as Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, where BNG is on land outside the applicant's control.

- 3. If no bespoke strategic site or habitat bank solution is available, opportunities should be explored for a Local community led BNG scheme proximate to the development site. If a development is outside of a Natural Cambridgeshire priority landscape area, then the Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping, Local Wildlife Site Register (managed by CPERC), and Parish Plans (where available) should be used to identify appropriate locations near the development impact.**

As previously raised, BNG should not be delivered on Local Wildlife Sites that are in good condition where there are existing commitments, duties or requirements to manage them for nature conservation. Proposals for Local Wildlife Sites must demonstrate additionality to existing management and not support management that should already be undertaken by a public body. Sites in private ownership that are in poor condition may be suitable for BNG contributions for enhancement.

When considering local BNG proposals the LPA will be seeking to ensure that the BNG is the primary use of the space, is ecologically viable and not subsidising green infrastructure requirements for a Parish or development. Proposals will require agreement by the LPA ecologist that they provide a long-term benefit to local biodiversity that is compatible with other site uses such as recreational space or sports pitches.

- 4. If the above options have not identified a suitable scheme, then the offsite BNG should be delivered within a recognised habitat bank elsewhere within the Greater Cambridge area.**

This scenario allows for strategic delivery of BNG; however, it is the least desirable option as it is removed from the immediate impact of the development on both local biodiversity and the local community.

- 5. From November 2023 the Government will announce the provision of “off the shelf” biodiversity credits that will be available through Defra, wherein developers will be able to purchase credits for offsetting taking place at strategic biodiversity sites within England.**

### **Interim Assessment Criteria for Strategic Habitat Banks**

For strategic habitat banks established prior to the proposed national register the LPA will not provide an accreditation or specific endorsement. Proposed offsite BNG offers will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the application process to ensure they meet the criteria outlined by Defra and follow BNG best practice principles. Habitat bank Biodiversity Unit credits will be recognised for habitat enhancement or creation in advance of development, provided the works began after January 2020 and clear baseline evidence is available. Strategic Habitat bank sites will be assessed against the following criteria:

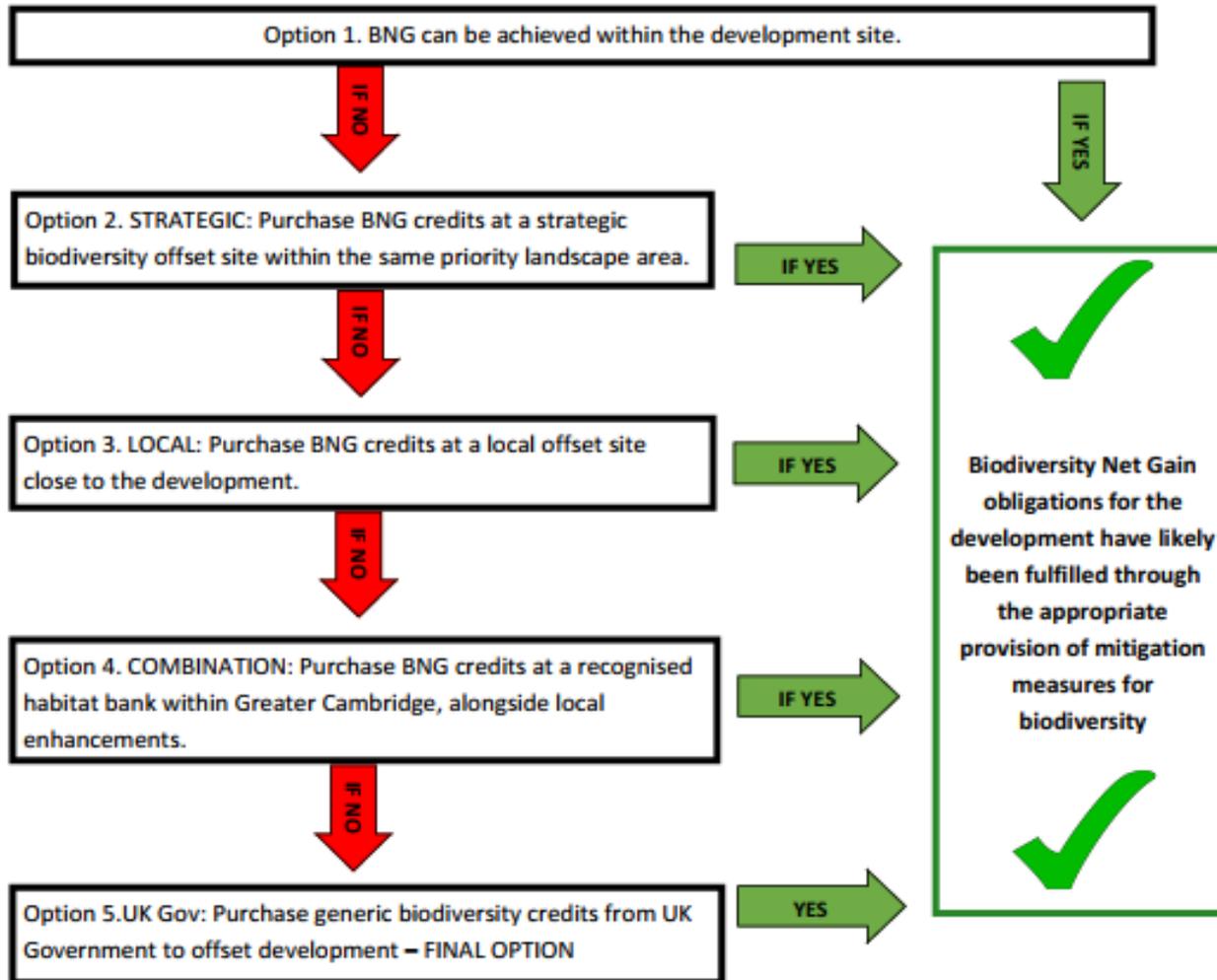
- **Location:** Located within a recognised strategic biodiversity location, for example Cambridge Nature Network, Natural Cambridgeshire Priority Landscape Areas or identified within Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping
- **Habitats:** baseline habitats are surveyed, and appropriate priority habitats are planned.
- **Scale:** Site is over 40 hectares or forms part of a 100-hectare wider priority habitat unit
- **Governance:** The site can be privately owned or managed by a public body or a non-statutory conservation provided that a minimum 30-year creation / enhancement and management plan is in place and can be secured for the proposed development through S106 or similar agreement.

Please also see the Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD 2022 which can be found here: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-biodiversity-supplementary-planning-document/>

The four graphics on the following pages are provided for context and to help the reader better understand the process of deciding on the siting of BNG, as well as the spatial opportunities and local landscape character. The graphics include;

1. **A BNG offsite decision flowchart that steps through the logical sequence of how BNG siting should be considered as development mitigation and is in line with current thinking and guidance from DEFRA.**
2. **This first map displays Greater Cambridge National Character Areas, which broadly reflect underlying geology and thus predict predominant soils and vegetative communities across the Greater Cambridge area.**
3. **This second map displays Greater Cambridge Landscape Priority Areas, such as those suggested by Natural Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge Nature Network.**
4. **This last map displays those sites designated for nature conservation interests across Greater Cambridge.**

## Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) offsite decision flowchart



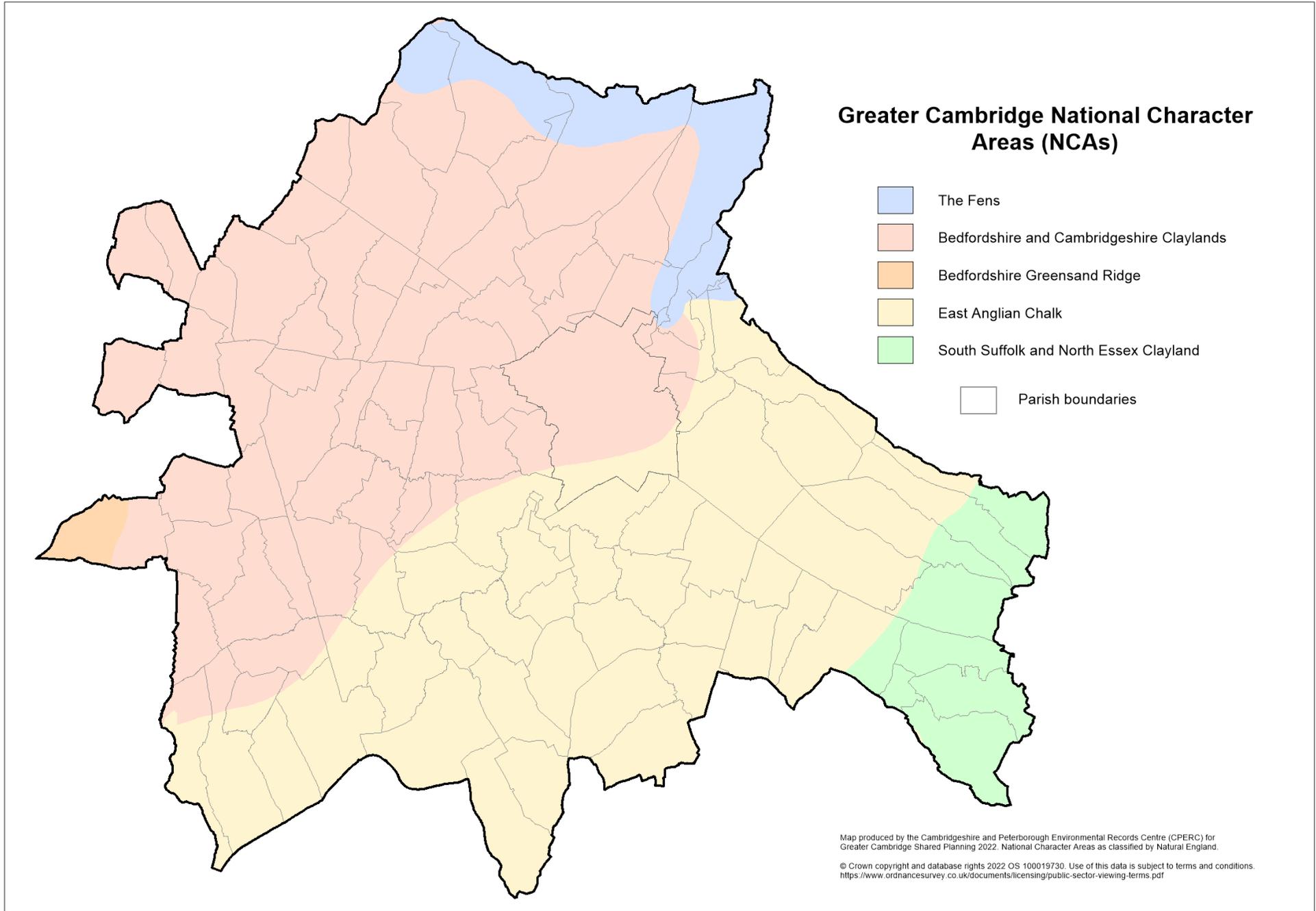
### GUIDANCE NOTE:

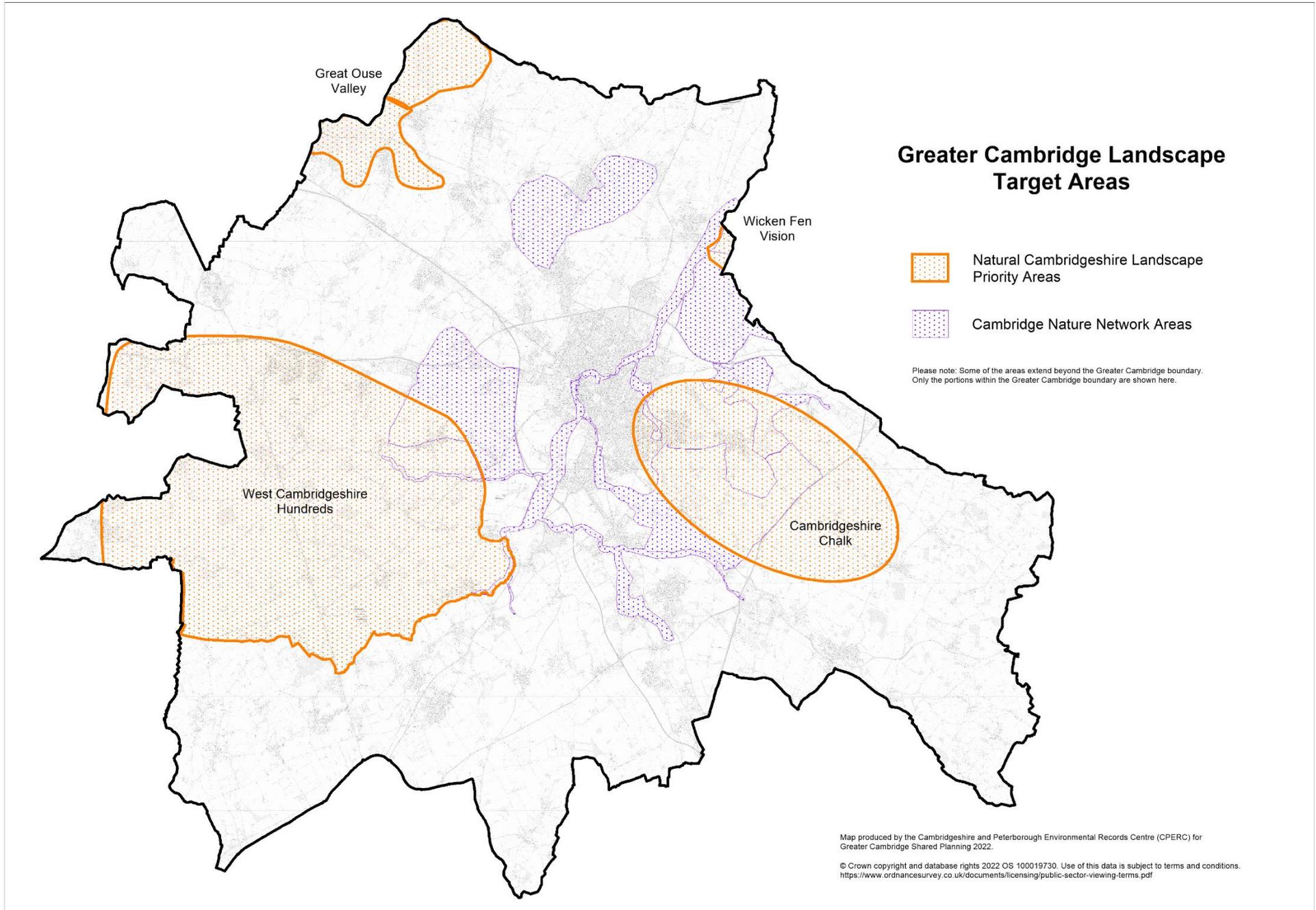
AT ALL TIMES the Mitigation Hierarchy must be followed by developers who should also ensure that their scheme provides evidence of high quality, appropriate Landscaping and Green Infrastructure features onsite, which if undertaken properly can count towards the overall BNG score for the development within the Defra Metric 3.1. The inclusion of bird and bat boxes etc will not add to the BNG score but will enhance the site for biodiversity along with other features.

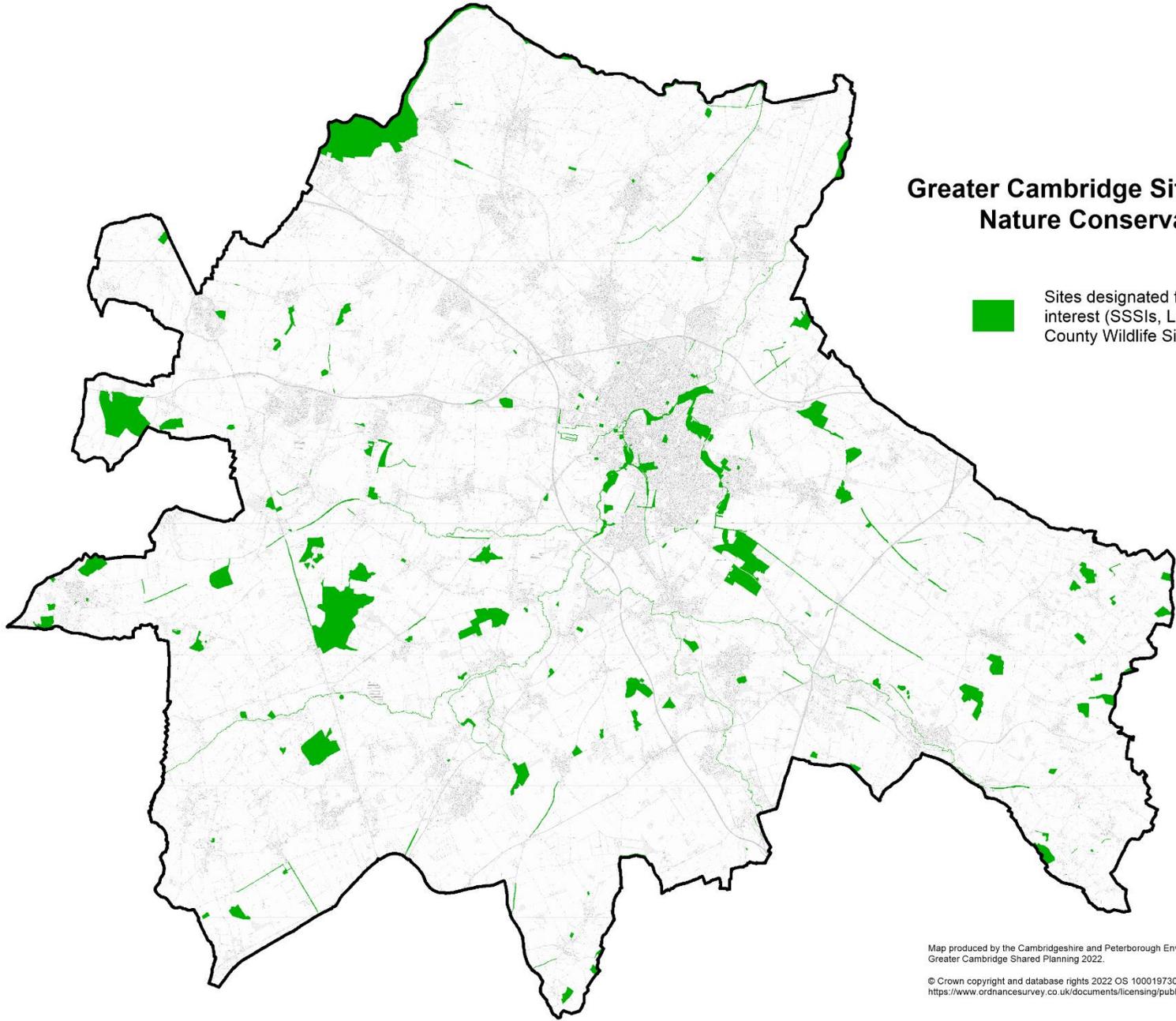
All BNG wherever located must demonstrate that it has a 30-year management plan at minimum, has a legal agreement with the LPA for delivery and maintenance and passes the viability and sustainability tests.

### Options criteria

1. All BNG delivered is within the redline boundary of the development
2. Within the same priority landscape area; Bespoke site or larger habitat bank.
3. Proximate to development site; Parish or community led project.
4. Within Greater Cambridge geography; Recognised habitat bank / Local.
5. Details to be announced by DEFRA in 2023.







### Greater Cambridge Sites Designated for Nature Conservation Interest

 Sites designated for nature conservation interest (SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites, City Wildlife Sites)

Map produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) for Greater Cambridge Shared Planning 2022.

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## Emerging local habitat banks

Currently, there are advance habitat creation mitigation sites being set up in Greater Cambridge in order to meet the anticipated need for offsite biodiversity net gain mitigation from development. These sites are being created, run and managed independently of any directive by the Local Planning Authority or its constituent Councils, but are important and necessary as the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirement comes into law from November 2023, and will thus ensure that Greater Cambridge are day-one ready to appropriately mitigate for biodiversity loss from development in this LPA area.

Work for the Cambridge Nature Network has identified opportunities to create significant areas of new habitat which would meet the needs for BNG locally. These can either be progressed in line with demand or created in advance of development as habitat banks. Pilot BNG work in the Cambridge Nature Network, funded by Natural England, has already created some habitat banks, for example 20 acres of new habitat at Wandlebury Country Park.

An example of a larger site is Lower Valley Farm (see image below), a 140 Hectare arable farm, owned by the County Council just outside the village of Fulbourn, in South Cambridgeshire. The farm is the location of a pilot advance habitat bank project set up and managed in partnership with Bidwells, a local land agent, who will run a scheme on the site to advance-create habitats in order to offset biodiversity losses from developments taking place elsewhere. This project will support the interim BNG offsite approach being suggested in this document, and the more formal approach that DEFRA will announce in 2023. For more information on that specific project, please visit the following linked webpage for more details. ([webpage link here](#)).



From November 2023 DEFRA will regulate the process of habitat bank creation and require projects to comply with rigorous criteria for their creation, management and evidence of positive conservation outcomes. More can be found [here](#) at the regularly updated Planning Advisory Service website about Biodiversity Net Gain.

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