

Zero Carbon Action Plan Progress Report at 30 Sep 2020

Ref	Action	Business Plan 2020-25 reference, where relevant	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2020	RAG rating
Achieve 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the Council's own estate and operations by 2025 relative to 2018-19 baseline					
T1	Explore options for additional energy efficiency improvements at the Depot		31-Mar-21	A project to upgrade lighting has been scoped and the contract for works awarded to a local company. Work is due to be completed by end of October.	
T2	Investigate options for making energy improvements to the trading estate in St Neots, the buildings on the Science Park and any future investment properties		ongoing	The feasibility of energy improvements to all property acquired via the Investment Strategy will be assessed through the new Energy Services Framework, which was awarded in September. Feasibility reports will be presented to the Investment Selection Team and Investment Governing Board for decision.	
T3	Deliver major energy retrofit project to South Cambs Hall	C3) Retrofit our Cambourne office with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	31-Mar-21	Work has commenced on a major project to deliver seven energy conservation measures to South Cambs Hall, comprising solar carport system, ground source heat pump, building energy management system upgrade, air handling unit fan upgrades, chiller modifications and enhancements, internal lighting upgrade to LED and electric vehicle charging points. The project is projected to deliver carbon emissions savings of 49% of the 2018 annual baseline and annual energy bill savings of over £76,000. Completion is expected June 2021.	
T4	Upgrade our 1804 streetlights to LEDs	C6) Upgrade our stock of 1,800 streetlights to LED, which will reduce energy consumption and save Parish Councils money	31-Mar-21	An Investment Grade Proposal for replacement of footway lighting stock was agreed in May 2020. The contract has been signed and work has commenced. Expected delivery completion date end of March 2021	
T5	In partnership with stakeholders develop a new solar pv array to supply low carbon electricity to power these vehicles.	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	tbd	Options are being explored for electricity to be provided from renewable sources via a Power Purchase Agreement to align with the increase in electric Refuse Collection Vehicles.	
T6	Replace refuse vehicles with electric or hydrogen models.	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	tbd	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has now begun the use of electric refuse vehicles.	
T7	Minimise use of paper in our offices.	D5) Council and committee meetings will be run paper-free wherever possible	ongoing	Use of paper in our offices has plummeted from 420 boxes of A4 and 36 boxes of A3 in the first two quarters of 2019 to 80 boxes of A4 and 0 boxes of A3 in the first two quarters of 2020, no doubt largely because of home-working due to Covid. The planned switch from paper to digital agenda and reports for Members has been delayed due to technical issues with Mod Gov app. This is expected to be resolved by the end of the year.	
T8	Deliver tree-planting project on our Housing estates in collaboration with our repairs contractor		tbd	<p>Despite Covid, there has been significant progress around trees on our HRA estate. A district-wide audit to identify the type, size, location and condition of all trees on communal land belonging to the HRA is soon to be commenced by our grounds maintenance contractor. It will take about a year to complete with results reported each quarter. It is likely that the survey will reveal that some trees need to be taken down due to their condition. At least one replacement tree will be planted for each tree removed.</p> <p>We have commenced a programme of " Formal Estate Inspections " with Housing Officers, Tenant Inspectors and local residents. These inspections will allow conversations to open up with interested parties about taking care of existing trees and planting additional ones. Our repairs and maintenance contractor has confirmed they are still willing to support the planting of additional trees through the " social value " element of their contract.</p> <p>Our grounds maintenance contractor will continue to support us with expert advice and physical labour to plant these trees.</p> <p>In addition, we have reached out to a couple of residents who came forward late last year with an interest in planting trees close to where they live, and we are in discussion with one of our parish councils who have requested permission to plant trees on land belonging to the HRA in collaboration with their local school.</p>	
Aspire to a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the district as a whole by 2030					
i) Domestic Sector					

A1	We will determine what steps are needed to bring down emissions to zero by 2050 in our Council Housing	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	30-Jun-20	An audit showing the energy improvement measures required to meet the standard of zero carbon operational emissions in the Council's housing stock has been undertaken and a report received. The report shows the estimated capital costs of improvement, the estimated fuel cost savings accruing to residents the estimated reduction in CO2 emissions of the measures described and the funding implications.
A2	We will develop a four year programme of work on our Council homes to tackle the areas of highest priority.	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	31-Mar-21	We have joined a major research study (the largest in the UK) into decarbonisation of homes, NetZero CO2 Collective, in order to develop our understanding of the energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies required for cost effective carbon reduction across our housing stock. We expect to have the necessary data to support the development of a plan for a programme of works within 12-18 months.
A3	We will develop appropriate policies such that our new Local Plan supports the transition to zero carbon in the district.			We have commissioned a major study to inform the development of Local Plan policies to support the transition to zero carbon. This is underway with the initial report expected to be ready for publication before the end of the year.
A4	We will work towards taking the same approach to reducing energy use and carbon emissions on Ermine Street properties as we do on our Council homes.			Ermine Street Housing is in its final phase of acquisition and continues to acquire homes with high EPC ratings. Where this is not the case, funds are set aside to upgrade the dwelling. Several properties had solar panels installed when Feed in Tariffs were available. The Company benefits from the feed in tariff and the tenant benefits from the free electricity. Fifteen boilers have been installed in the past 6 months, replacing obsolete inefficient units with new energy efficient units.
A5	We will 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.		ongoing	Together with Cambridge City Council, we explored the possibility of entering a bid for the 1st phase of the government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme but were unable to do so, due to various factors including that nearly all the Council's housing stock have already been upgraded to a level which makes them ineligible for funding. We are currently investigating the possibility of entering bids for further government schemes, the details of which have recently been announced or are expected soon.
A6	We will support landlords with advice and guidance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes			Our Environmental Health Officers visit private rented properties to investigate tenants' complaints. As part of these visits we check that the property has been issued with an EPC meeting the minimum energy efficiency standards. To date this has always been the case, but if it were not, we would ask the landlord to improve the property so that it is compliant with current legislation. We would signpost to advice and guidance as to how to do this, and provide information on any current funding opportunities.
A7	We will take appropriate enforcement action where necessary to uphold the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector legislation			Nationally, there are a number of challenges to enforcement of the MEES legislation, solutions to which are currently being explored through pilot schemes in various other local authorities. We are looking at how we can develop our work in this area as part of our service planning for 2021-22, and will draw on the learning from the pilot schemes.
A8	We will work with partners to provide home surveys, advice, free insulation and other home energy measures for households in fuel poverty			Following an energy services tender process, Green Energy switch have been appointed to deliver Free energy advice and services to Council tenants and private sector residents within the South Cambs District. The service launched in October. It was originally intended to provide energy advisor home visits but this has been adapted due to Covid to telephone support services with free energy products sent by post to householders.
ii) Industry and Commerce Sector				
A9	Require bidders for contracts to confirm that they monitor their carbon emissions and submit plans to achieve net zero emissions. Use this information as part of assessment of bids.		ongoing	Changes have been made to our contract regulations section of the Council's Constitution such that bidders for Council contracts are not required to confirm that they monitor their carbon emissions and submit plans to achieve net zero emissions. This information is now part of the assessment of bids.
A10	Raise awareness amongst local businesses of the financial, reputational and well-being benefits of reducing their environmental impact. Make it easier for them to access information, advice and funding on how to improve their energy efficiency, increase their water and waste recycling and generate their own energy.	Section A Ongoing Objectives - Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their energy efficiency, increasing water and waste recycling		A new business support team was set up over the summer and are in the process of developing their full range of services which will include providing guidance to companies on their response to the climate emergency, including advice on generating their own electricity, improving energy efficiency and recycling more waste and water.
A11	Investigate innovative opportunities to work with businesses and our partners to support the reduction in energy and resource use across the South Cambs economy, eg group purchasing of solar panels.		31-May-21	In collaboration with our neighbouring Cambridgeshire local authorities we have launched a group buying scheme for solar panels. Although primarily targeted at residents, we have also promoted it to our business community. We are also exploring further opportunities in this area of work.
A12	Work towards divestment in fossil fuels in all investments including our staff pension funds.			Green investments continue to be significant part of the Council's Investment Strategy. Staff pensions are part of the Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Fund which is administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. Members will be invited to make representations regarding the investment strategy of this Fund as part of the regular consultation process with participating local authorities.

iii) Transport Sector				
A13	Continue to run the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		The second year of the Zero Carbon Communities scheme launched in July with a pot of £100,000 for parish councils and community groups for projects to cut carbon emissions and engage communities on climate change issues, with a category specifically for projects to promote cycling. Fifty seven applications have been received and are being processed. Funding awards will be made following the Grants Advisory Committee meeting on 27 November.
A14	Continue to work alongside partners including the Cambs County Council, GCP and CAPCA to deliver projects that will enhance sustainable transport including cycling provision.	C Ongoing objective: Promote walking, cycling and public transport improvements through planning and by working with local communities and partners		There are numerous aspects to our work in this area. We are working on an Active Travel Toolkit for new developments which we have developed with the help of the Design Council. We are currently researching the viability of a Community Transport scheme for the northern villages, funded through Northstowe developer contributions. The three cycling projects funded through our Zero Carbon Communities scheme are in progress, with new electric bike schemes set up this year in the Abingtons and in Teversham, and new cycling infrastructure installed in Waterbeach.
A15	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	C3) Retrofit our Cambourne office with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures		Electric Vehicle Charging Points are one of the seven technologies making up the South Cambs Hall energy retrofit project.
A16	Explore ways to reduce carbon footprint from staff commuting, eg Salary Sacrifice scheme for cycles and options for encouraging take-up of Evs by staff			We are at the start of a project to review and update our staff Travel to Work plan, which will include consideration of ways to reduce the carbon footprint of staff commuting.
A17	Include requirements to move to low carbon vehicles in Taxi Licensing Policy	2019-24 Business Plan C3v		A new taxi licensing policy was adopted in February, under which new licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission from 1 December 2021. From 1 December 2028, renewed licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission
A18	Install EVCPs for taxis			Funding for six EVCPs (3x rapid and 3x fast) in South Cambs has been secured from the government's Ultra-Low Emissions Taxi Infrastructure scheme. Work is underway to identify suitable locations.
A19	Make reductions in staff and Councillor mileage as a result of Council Anywhere IT improvements	2019-24 Business Plan D5ii) Provide new technology to our officers so they can get more done for communities whilst out in the district		Covid has clearly been the main driver of reductions in staff and Councillor mileage in Q1 and Q2. The Council Anywhere IT improvements have made the move to remote working forced on the Council due to Covid far easier than it would otherwise have been. Mileage claims were more than 50% under budget at month 6, creating an underspend of about £50,000. It is unclear as yet how mileage will be affected in the longer term.
A20	Support the development of infrastructure for EVs through Planning Policy			EV charging infrastructure is one of the areas under consideration in policy development for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Meanwhile, Policy SC/12: Air Quality in the current Local Plan requires the submission of a Low Emissions Strategy for all major developments and developments where air quality is likely to be an issue. Specific guidance on how this policy should be implemented including provision of EV charging infrastructure, forms part of the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document adopted in January.
iv) Waste and Recycling				
A21	Increase collection facilities for clothing and small electrical items	C Ongoing Objective - Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling	ongoing	Preparation and planning work for these is underway.
A22	Continue to support waste reduction events at community level including Repair Cafes	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		These have not been possible due to Covid. No repair cafés have been organised during this period, but support for these still stands.
A23	Create a resource toolkit to improve recycling and reduce waste at small community events	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		This was completed in May. It has not been widely promoted as yet due to Covid.
A24	Provide equipment and information kit to minimise and separate recycling for larger events	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events		This is available as and when required once events are being organised again.
A25	Continue to run campaigns to minimise waste, eg Love Food, Hate Waste and Refill campaigns	C9) Run an information campaign to help reduce the amount of food waste in the black bin		We launched our LFHW campaign on 28 Sep. It will be running for the rest of the year
A26	Trial separate collection of food waste. If successful at diverting food from landfill, roll out.	C9) Run an information campaign to help reduce the amount of food waste in the black bin		The trial has been extended, and further properties will be added in December, bringing the total number to just under 4,000.
A27	Continue to encourage recycling through our waste collection policies, eg collect extra recycling from households where their recycling bin is full; provide additional blue bins at no extra charge	Ongoing objective: Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling		This is ongoing. A rolling schedule of focussed communications is in place to increase recycling rates and maintain the quality of blue bin recycling.
A28	Continue to collect green bins monthly in winter to reduce transport emissions.			This is continuing as intended.
v) Energy				

A29	Continue to explore renewable energy projects to invest up to £50,000,000 between now and 2024.			Options for making energy improvements to all properties acquired via the Investment Strategy are being investigated through the new Energy Services Framework, and feasibility reported through the Investment Governing Board.	
A30	Explore opportunities for local electricity generation and supply to ensure that our estate and operations hit zero carbon by 2050 eg smart electrical grids	C4) Trial electric recycling and waste vehicles, including the investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation		We are exploring various opportunities through our Green Investments work including for locally generated solar electricity to charge waste collection vehicles at our Depot in Waterbeach and smart grids on new/existing development sites to serve business parks and/or housing stock..	
A31	Support the development of community energy projects, eg community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects through the Zero Carbon Communities programme including e-newsletter, information-sharing workshops and ZCC grants.	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		As noted above, the second year of the Zero Carbon Communities scheme launched in July with a pot of £100,000 for parish councils and community groups for projects to cut carbon emissions and engage communities on climate change issues. Fifty seven applications have been received and are being processed. Funding awards will be made following the Grants Advisory Committee meeting on 27 November. In addition to the grant scheme, we have developed an online Climate Emergency toolkit and published three editions of our Zero Carbon Communities quarterly e-bulletin.	
A32	Promote group-buying schemes for renewable energy.	Ongoing objective: Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy, improving their energy efficiency, increasing water and waste recycling	31-Mar-21	In collaboration with our neighbouring Cambridgeshire local authorities we have launched a group buying scheme for solar panels. Although primarily targetted at residents, we have also promoted it to our business community.	
vi) Land and Trees					
A33	Fund community tree-planting through our Community Chest and Zero Carbon Communities grant schemes	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and move toward the zero-carbon target		Four tree-planting schemes were funded through the first round of the Zero Carbon Communities grant. Due to delays caused by Covid planting has been delayed in three of the four schemes and is expected to be completed by early next year. One project, (Cambourne) is completed.	
A34	Develop policies to double nature through planning policy - commission evidence to support the development of these			A comprehensive study of Green Infrastructure Opportunities in Greater Cambridge has been commissioned. The report is expected to be published as part of the Local Plan evidence base this autumn.	
A35	Support tree-planting through our Tree Warden Network			The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative co-ordinated by The Tree Council to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The Council is the registerd network co-ordinator for South Cambs for the scheme, providing training tailored to local needs and keeping parishes up-to-date on current tree issues. This work is ongoing.	