

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

	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Expected completion date</i>	<i>Progress at 31/10/22</i>	<i>Next milestone</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Reduce consumption of resources and waste</b>				
1.1	Implement a strategy to reduce consumption of resources and reduce waste	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	n/a	Completed. A Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service Circular Resource Strategy is in place, and the corresponding action plan reviewed, revised and implemented on a weekly basis. Key performance indicators are reported internally each month	n/a
1.2	Move to paper-free Council and committee meetings	Democratic Services Manager	n/a	Completed. IT is now operational for Members to access all papers online.	n/a
	<b>Actions completed pre-2020</b> Review recycling facilities across the Council and implement changes – completed 2019 Review use of disposable single-use plastic and implement changes – completed 2019				
<b>2</b>	<b>Decarbonise planning and land use</b>				
2.1	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	First Proposals include seven policies relating to climate change, viz, CC/NZ Net zero carbon new buildings CC/WE Water efficiency in new developments CC/DC Designing for a changing climate CC/FM Flooding and integrated water management CC/RE Renewable energy projects and infrastructure CC/CE Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration	Draft version of the Local plan to be completed for consultation in 2023.

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				<p>Details of the proposed policies can be viewed at</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/climate-change">https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/climate-change</a></p>	
2.2	Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan	Planning Policy Manager	2024/25	<p>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.</p> <p>Further details can be viewed at <a href="https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/">https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/</a></p> <p>The Area Action Plan has been prepared on the basis that the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is currently located in the Northeast Cambridge area, will be relocated off-site. The process is now paused until a decision has been made on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant.</p>	Public consultation expected 2024

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<b>3</b>	<b>Decarbonise transport</b>				
3.1	<b>Decarbonise the council's vehicle fleet</b>				
3.1.1	Procure low emissions vehicles where new vehicles are needed and when replacing end of life vehicles (subject to availability of suitable alternative models and charging infrastructure)	Service Manager, Operations	Fleet decarbonisation strategy sets out a programme from 2020 - 2028	3 electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCV) and 3 electric vans procured	Order to be placed for 4 <sup>th</sup> eRCV to be delivered in 23/24 subject to available power supply. Still on course and additional power now sourced.
3.1.2	Develop and deliver solar PV, battery storage and electric vehicle charging network at the Council Depot - Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project (WREN)	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	Q3 2023/24	Business case completed and issued to CPCA to draw down £2.7m funding.	Business case to be agreed internally with recommendation to Cabinet 12 December 2022 to enter contract and move to implementation phase.

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3.1.3	Investigate feasibility of substituting diesel with HVO biofuel in one or more vehicles as an interim measure to reduce GHG emissions	Service Manager, Operations	Q2 2022/23	Trials completed with both Councils' agreeing to deploy fuel use further subject to budgetary sign off on fuel costs	n/a
3.2	<b>Reduce emissions from council's business mileage</b>				
3.2.1	Set up salary sacrifice electric car scheme	HR Co-ordinator	Q1 2021-22	Completed. Green Car scheme opened April 2022. Seven orders for the scheme have been processed, we are still awaiting delivery dates due to the stock availability across many of the models.	n/a
3.3	<b>Work with partners to install EV charging points across the district</b>				
3.3.1	Install Rapid chargers to help meet vehicle charging needs of taxi-drivers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Rapid chargers at SCH installed as noted above. Plans for Rapid charger to be installed at Babraham P&R  Discussions ongoing with County Council regarding location and costs of Rapid charger	Completion of installation of Rapid charger at Babraham P&R
3.3.2	Support development of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire-wide Electric Vehicle charging strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Ongoing	CPCA scoping an EV charging implementation plan for the area, we have fed into this & provided comments on the scoping document  Officer working group established with CPCA, County and Districts. Governance, terms of reference and key projects/workstreams for implementation have been identified, monthly meetings of working group	Scoping document considered by CPCA Head of Transport date TBC Allocate project leads and establish

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					separate project groups
3.3.4	Develop strategy for EV charging infrastructure on Council assets Including single supplier for EV chargers	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	completed	Completed, link to be added before report publication	
3.3.5	Deliver publicly accessible EV Charge Points, working with partners.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Public EVCPs installed at 2 sheltered accommodation sites. Grant scheme for parish & community chargers to be considered by Grants Advisory Committee  Grant Scheme approved at Grants Advisory Committee 28/10/22	EV Charger Grant to launch early November 2022
3.3.6	Install EVCPs at South Cambs Hall for use by staff and visitors	Corporate Programme Manager	Q3 2022/23	18 x 7kW EV chargers and 2 x 42kW Rapid chargers installed expected to be completed by end of Q1 22/23	Secure a back office system operator January 2023
3.4	<b>Taxis and private hire</b>				
	<b>Completed action</b> Revise taxi licensing policy to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles				
<b>4</b>	<b>Decarbonise housing and other buildings</b>				
4.1	<b>Decarbonise the council's buildings &amp; streetlighting</b>				
4.1.1	Complete retrofit of South Cambridgeshire Hall to include Ground Source Heat Pump,	Corporate Programme Manager	Q4 2022/23	Work almost completed. There have been some issues with the tarmac and sub layer of the car park. These are being rectified. All internal LED are installed. The fire alarm has been replaced. The EV chargers and solar	Q4 completion of car park allowing further implementation

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	Solar PV car park canopy, Lighting upgrade and new Building Energy Management System			panels have been installed and are awaiting completion of the car park to be used. The new BMS system is installed, awaiting training and final sign off.	
4.1.2	Review community rooms on our sheltered housing schemes to identify and deliver carbon reduction opportunities	Service Manager, Housing Assets	Q4 2024-25	Remote heating controls fitted to all communal rooms.  PAS 2035 assessments to be carried out on all communal rooms to determine carbon reduction measures available from current technologies and methods, potential proposals to be created from them, early 2023	Proposals, early 2023
4.1.3	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	Service Manager, Housing Assets	tbc	Business case proposal for installation of green energy measures received, proposal has been revoked and is being repriced by Bouygues but is taking months.	Review business case, potentially review contractor.
4.1.4	Install LED fittings in all Council owned streetlights	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Team Manager	tbc	Phase 1 completed other than some rectification work to be agreed. Phase 2 - ornate lights - is progressing with a plan for poor condition lights underway and a procurement plan for the remaining.	Discussions are taking place around plans to upgrade lights that are located on HRA land.
4.1.4	Raise energy performance of all Council properties to band C or above	Service Manager – Housing Assets	by end of 2026/7 subject to securing funding from Social Housing	The project funded partly by the government's Green Homes Grant LAD1b scheme to install solar PV to 69 properties and insulate approx. 100 properties has been delivered, administration is in progress.	Result of bid due early 2023.

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			Decarbonisation Fund	Work is being completed on an SHDF bid to be submitted Nov 22 with a proposal to deliver all properties to EPC C over the next 2 years 23/24 and 24/25.	
4.1.5	Improve energy efficiency of the Council's Ermine St Housing Company properties	Head of Ermine Street	ongoing	Contractor commissioned to inspect the portfolio and aim to introduce energy improvements to those properties with EPCs at a level C and below. Generally most of acquired stock is D and above with some exceptions.	tbc
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Help householders to decarbonise their homes by improving home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heating and electricity</b>				
4.2.1	Working with neighbouring LAs through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), set up a scheme to deliver home energy improvements through government schemes and for self-funding households.	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Procurement of a framework of installers is in final stages of completion A separate procurement exercise is underway for marketing material and website. The scheme will be branded as Action on Energy Cambridgeshire.  An application has been submitted by lead LA Cambridge City on behalf of CERP for funding for low carbon energy improvements to homes occupied by low income households in off-gas areas through the government's Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme	Contracts for the Action on Energy framework expected to be awarded by the end of Q3. We expect to hear if the bid to HUG2 was successful in the new year.
4.2.2	Deliver the government-funded Sustainable Warmth project to upgrade up	Waste Policy, Climate and	Q4 2022/23	Funding had been approved for measures on 14 properties (3 on-gas and 11 off-gas) on 21/11/22, with around 58 further properties in the pipeline. Measures will be installed to these properties in the coming weeks,	Work will continue until scheme ends on 31 Mar 23

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	to 80 privately owned properties occupied by low income households	Environment Manager		and work will continue to identify eligible households in suitable properties. A targeted mailshot to 1000 properties was sent out in September.	
4.2.3	Support delivery of the Cambs County Council led Cambridgeshire Solar Together group buying scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	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.	All installations expected to be completed by 31 December though that may slip.
4.2.4	In partnership with Green Energy Switch, provide a free home energy advice to eligible households	Communities Manager	ongoing	Local Energy Advice Partnership scheme had provided 51 advice calls and 59 visits at end of 21/22	Ongoing and active as part of our Cost of Living support package
4.2.5	Provide free thermal imaging camera loan scheme and training for residents	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Revamped scheme has been set up in partnership with Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Five cameras loaned to Cambridge Carbon Footprint and funding given to develop a booking system to deliver project outcomes. One camera sits with the Business Support Team to support energy improvements for businesses.	End of season report expected Q1 2023/24
4.2.6	Provide information, resources and case studies to support owners to make their heritage homes more energy efficient	Historic Environment Team Leader, GCSP	ongoing	A webpage has been created and can be viewed at <a href="https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/design-heritage-and-environment/historic-environment/making-historic-homes-more-energy-efficient/">https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/design-heritage-and-environment/historic-environment/making-historic-homes-more-energy-efficient/</a> . Work to grow and evolve this webpage and provide case studies of best practice is ongoing.	



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4.2.7	Raise energy performance of private rented sector properties	Principal Officer – People & Protection	ongoing	Cabinet has approved a new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) enforcement policy for the private rented sector (14/11/22).	Explore feasibility of PRS energy efficiency project
4.2.8	Support community-led projects to improve energy performance of community buildings through Zero Carbon Communities grant	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Various projects supported, see <a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> annual funding round expected to launch Q2 2022/23
	Completed action				
4.3	<b>Design and construction</b>				
4.3	In new build on Council owned land go beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency (part L) subject to feasibility	Head of New Build	ongoing	Update not available at time of publication of this report.	
5	<b>Decarbonise business and industry</b>				
5.1	Decarbonise the Council's commercial property	Head of Economic Development	ongoing	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	Other opportunities on commercial

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		nt & Investment		shared net zero expectations. An Outline Business Case is to be completed for site subject to tenant permission by Q3 22/23.	properties to be reviewed by Q3 22/23
<b>Completed actions</b>					
	Put in place new procurement rules requiring that awarding of contracts >£5,000 takes account of decarbonisation plans of bidders – completed 2019				
5.2	Signpost local SMEs to information, advice and funding on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency and recycling	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	ongoing	See next action
5.3	Develop partnership approaches to supporting local businesses to become more sustainable	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	External funding is being explored alongside partnership working with neighbouring local authorities and business organisations.	n/a
5.4	Explore setting up work hubs and co-working spaces to reduce commuter travel distances	Head of Economic Development & Investment	ongoing	This work is underway. Current opportunities are listed on the Business pages of the SCDC website.	n/a
<b>6</b>	<b>Decarbonise food systems and agriculture</b>				
6.1	Run communication campaigns to	Waste Policy,	ongoing	New action	n/a

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	encourage carbon-friendly diets eg Meat Free Monday, Veganuary	Climate and Environment Manager			
6.2	Explore feasibility of further work in this area, eg Sustainable Food Strategy	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Not started	Proposals for further work in this area
<b>7</b>	<b>Deliver training, education, communications and advocacy</b>				
7.1	Embed environmental sustainability into HR processes	HR Co-ordinator	Q4 2023/24	Work has started, see below	
7.2	Support staff to understand and engage with the climate emergency	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q3 2022/23	Staff climate change toolkit has been launched including intranet webpage and Climate Change handbook.	See below
7.3	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training to staff and Members	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Corporate Management Team to be trained by end of 22/23	Carbon Literacy training delivered to refuse crews Feb 2022. C&E team have completed training for Carbon Literacy trainers. Development of climate awareness training is in process.	Climate awareness training starting Jan 23 – first sessions completed by end of Q4 22/23

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7.4	Develop and deliver appropriate communications around climate change	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	Continuing work to develop and deliver co-ordinated messaging to residents through internal Climate and Environment Communications group and as part of the Cambridgeshire Climate Change Communications group.	Ongoing work
7.5	Advocacy work to influence and support other bodies	All, including elected Members	Ongoing	Numerous presentations and articles, including presentation on the Zero Carbon Communities programme to LGA webinar on Neighbourhood approaches to decarbonising buildings and transport. We are looking at how we might best capture the work being done under this heading going forwards.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Respond to the ecological emergency</b>				
8.1	<b>Increase green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity through Planning</b>				
8.11	Progress planning policies related to doubling nature as part of wider work on green infrastructure on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan.	Planning Policy Manager	ongoing	Seven policy areas have been identified under the Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. These are: BG/BG Biodiversity and geodiversity BG/GI Green infrastructure BG/TC Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population BG/RC River corridors BG/PO Protecting open spaces BG/EO Providing and enhancing open spaces CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration	Project planning is underway with our partners to identify the tasks needed to refine these initiatives and identify deliverable projects

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				<p>Further detail can be viewed at <a href="https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces">https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces</a></p> <p>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.</p>	supporting them.
8.12	Promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development by publishing case study/ies	Natural Environment Team Leader	ongoing	We are currently collating information that can be used to demonstrate positive outcomes for biodiversity from development mitigation. This will be presented as single-side narrative case studies with one or two photos.	Case studies to be posted on website
	Completed action Update and strengthen guidance relating to biodiversity by drafting and adopting a new Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document				
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Increase nature by supporting community action</b>				
8.2.1	Provide grants for biodiversity through the Community Chest	Communities Manager	Completed and ongoing	The Wildlife Enhancement Fund has been incorporated into the Community Chest with £20,000 ring-fenced for Biodiversity themed applications for 2022-23. Applications funded under this theme went to Shepreth Parish Council for the planting of wild orchids (June), Duxford Community Centre Events to plant an Oak Tree in the grounds of the Community Centre (July) and	Promotion of the fund is being stepped up and case studies and a link to Natural Cambridgeshire

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				Cambridge Past, Present & Future to create a pollinator garden at Wandlebury Country Park (September)	's Local Nature Recovery Toolkit has been included on the Community Led Plan and Community chest webpages.
8.2.2	Support tree-planting through Six Free Trees scheme	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager		2 <sup>nd</sup> scheme completed with 58 parish councils taking part and 228 trees planted  6 Free Trees 2022 ready to be launched on 14/11/22.	Parish councils to apply by end of December 2022 with trees being delivered on 30/01/23
8.2.3	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	Natural Cambridgeshire are developing a suite of resources to support local nature recovery. We are in discussion with them about supplementing this with advice and information specifically aimed at parish councils.	n/a
8.2.4	Support volunteers through our role as	Natural Environment	Under review and on hold	New Trees Officer appointed -	Long-term review

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	Tree Warden network co-ordinator	t Team Manager		The Tree Warden scheme was impacted from the pandemic and the previous Tree Officer leaving. It is understood that the Tree Warden Network is self-sustaining with the long-term ambition to re-engage when SCDC Planning Tree Services have availability to take up.	
8.2.5	Share community project good practice at Green Connect webinars and Climate and Environment fortnight	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	ongoing	<p>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.</p> <p>Autumn programme has included a Green Connect visit to Gamlingay Ecohub and a webinar on the Circular Economy.</p> <p>Planning has started for a Climate Conference next year to connect climate stakeholders within the district and encourage work on getting to net zero.</p>	Climate Conference, provisional date of 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
8.3	<b>Enhance opportunities for nature on our own estate</b>				
8.3.1	Take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower	Service Manager,	ongoing	We have received funding for tree-planting on two areas of HRA land through a successful joint bid led by Cambs	

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	strips and other initiatives on Council housing estates	Tenancy and Estates		<p>County Council to the LA Treescapes Fund Tree. Work is in progress to deliver this.</p> <p>We are accessing areas where we can reduce frequency of grass cuts in growing season for 2023, and alongside that considering areas where we could stop cutting altogether and allow wildflowers to grow, again for 2023 growing season. We are working up a pilot of an area where we don't use weedkiller to control weed growth.</p>	
	<p>Completed action: Complete audit of trees on Council housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work</p>				
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Enhance opportunities for nature through our work managing watercourses</b>				
8.4.1	Review management of awarded watercourses with a view to action to improve biodiversity	Environment Operations Manager	ongoing	<p>Over the exceptionally dry summer period we have worked with The Wild Trout Trust to reduce maintenance on our chalk streams in order to preserve water levels. SCDC have also corporately joined the Wild Trout Trust in acknowledgement of our working with Rob Mungovan.</p> <p>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.</p>	



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8.5	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works	Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager	Q4 2022/23	The bid to the Carbon Theme of Highway England's Environmental Legacy Fund was successful and Highways England are working with land agents to identify off-site partnership opportunities for biodiversity and carbon. Eight opportunities have been identified and are being reviewed internally by Highways England.	Further update awaited from Highways England