



PART 3 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY: HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

This is a guide of the actions that will be required to deliver the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy ambitions.

Further actions will also be required, and opportunities will come forward driven by funding and other incentives. These can be added.

It is [a live document](#) which will adapt to our organisational learning and actions will be revised to reflect greater knowledge and further evidence.

This plan will inform the Net Zero Programmer and Resourcing Strategy that is under development.

No.	Area	Action	Target Date	Delivers Against CPICC Recommendations	Mitigation	Adaptation	Natural Capital	Status	CCC Team Responsible
1	Corporate	All committee paper templates incorporate a requirement for officer clearance of implications of climate change impacts, carbon footprints and adaptation and environmental impacts, to help inform decision making	2021	-	✓	✓	✓	Completed	CCES (Climate Change and Environment Service)
2	Corporate	Develop and upskill officers' capability to undertake (or commission) lifecycle analysis when procuring construction goods and services to ensure minimisation of carbon emissions and waste.	2021	-	✓	-	-	In Progress	Strategic Assets / Education capital/MID/Highways
3	Corporate	Strengthen environmental requirements within Social Value portion of procurement specifications, specifying expected outcomes where appropriate and monitoring delivery via robust contract management	2021	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Procurement, supported by CCES/BID/Commercial
4	Transport	Work with the Districts, CPCA and GCP to develop and deliver a joint Public EV charging infrastructure plan to enable residents without access to off-street parking to switch to electric vehicles. Making use of different types of Council asset -e.g., car parks, P&R, highways	2021	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	CCES//Transport Strategy
5	Corporate	Develop and deliver a programme to ensure all new Council buildings, extensions, and retrofits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are designed to the highest appropriate energy efficiency standards, incorporating renewable generation where possible to deliver Near Zero Energy Buildings standards; - Are resilient to extreme weather events - Are fitted with appropriate passive building adaptations (e.g., shutters or green infrastructure rather than air conditioning) and nature-based solutions - priorities and deliver 20% biodiversity net gain. - Minimise water waste and make use of grey water systems where possible - Reduce embodied carbon emissions by designing out carbon in construction and choice of materials 	2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Property // Education Capital
6	Corporate	Develop and deliver Carbon reduction and Biodiversity Strategy's for the Highways Management contracts, considering lifecycle analyse, adaptation and use of materials.	2022	-	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Highways
7	Corporate // Natural Environment	Develop an overarching Tree and Woodland Strategy for the Council and County. For County Council assets, this should look to deliver policy to set out principles by which the Council will plant and manage its tree assets to maximise carbon and biodiversity benefits	2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Lead: CCES/ Biodiversity

No.	Area	Action	Target Date	Delivers Against CPICC Recommendations	Mitigation	Adaptation	Natural Capital	Status	CCC Team Responsible
8	Community, Business and Individuals	Produce a Climate Change and Environment Communications and Engagement Plan to provide residents, communities, and businesses information on the challenges of climate change, enable them to make the right choices to reduce their environmental impact and signpost to actions our communities can take along with funding opportunities. To incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon footprinting - Waste minimisation - Incorporation of climate into neighbourhood plans - Travel and EVs (Electric vehicles) myth busting - Enhancing nature, such as wildflower planting - Reducing water waste - Local impacts of climate change and how to reduce them - A web presence to keep the public and other organisations aware of the County's climate work and progress on delivering the Strategy - Flood resilience and responsibilities 	2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Communications Team
9	Business and Communities	Collaborate with businesses and partners (CPCA, Local Authorities) to scope the benefits of a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund to manage hard to treat carbon emissions in Cambridgeshire and the setting up of a business advisory service for SME's.	2022		✓	✓	✓	Scoping underway with CUSPE	CCES/Commercial
10	Corporate	Develop an offsetting strategy to enable the Council to consider options for dealing with its residual "hard to prevent" emissions through offsetting within the Council's assets.	2022	-	✓	-	-	Not Started	Commercial/Finance/Property/CCES
11	Corporate	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides across all CCC assets, with a view to minimising their use as far as possible while acknowledging the specific needs and requirements of different asset types.	2022	✓	-	-	✓	Not Started	LEAD: Biodiversity, supported: Education, highways, Property, Rural estates, EIU
12	Corporate	Develop a sustainable travel policy for all CCC staff, encouraging and enabling use of lower carbon alternatives.	2023	-	✓	-	-	In Progress	tbc
13	Corporate	Develop and deliver a training programme to upskill all CCC staff (and Members where possible) on carbon, climate, and biodiversity to enable improved decision making and delivery of other actions. Type of training to reflect needs of different types of staff.	2023	-	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	CCES/Learning and Development (L&D)
14	Corporate	Develop principles to mitigate carbon, adapt to climate change and minimise impacts on nature for inclusion in all council strategies and policies	2023	-	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	BID Strategic policy team/CCES

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15	Natural Environment	Continue to designate and support non-designated heritage assets, many of which can be managed to create a better environment for residents and for heritage itself.	2023	-	-	-	✓	In Progress	Historic Environment Team
16	Corporate	Identify opportunities on County Council assets to trial new technologies, including electrolysis of hydrogen using solar PV and carbon capture and storage mechanisms	2023	-	✓	-	-	In Progress	CCES
17	Water	Update county-wide Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to reflect the evolution of national and local planning policies and the need for adaptive measures	2023	✓	-	✓	-	In Progress	Natural & Historic Environment
18	Waste	Work with partners in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) to embrace changes within the Environment Act and the emerging Waste and Resource Strategy to align with the principles of the circular economy to promote more sustainable waste management practices.	2023	✓	✓	-	✓	In Progress	Waste, RECAP and Minerals and Waste Planning
19	Built Environment	Support Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority Partners to develop their Local Plans that include policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduce carbon emissions in line with government's carbon budgets or locally agreed standards if these deliver reductions faster - incorporate adaptive measures to the changing climate, including use of blue/green infrastructure - deliver positive environmental and biodiversity net gain for green spaces. 	2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	CCES
20	Built Environment	Collaborate with the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Combined Authority on its non-statutory spatial plan to ensure energy, water and electrified transport infrastructure facilitates carbon emissions reductions, supports adaptation measures to climate change impacts and delivers 20% net gain	2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	Not Started	P+E services including Growth, Planning and Environment (GPE); CCES, Transport
21	Energy Planning	Work with all stakeholders to develop a Local Area Energy Plan to deliver smart energy infrastructure to facilitate a net zero Cambridgeshire at lowest cost	2024	✓	✓	✓	-	Scoping underway with CUSPE	CCES/ Property/Commercial in partnership with CPCA, Districts, UKPN,
22	Corporate	Scope all Council building for suitability for workplace EV chargepoints and commence a delivery programme to facilitate staff and fleet transition to EV at all suitable locations	2025	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	Lead: Property // Support: CCES

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23	Corporate	<p>Improve management of highways to deliver environment net gains, including management of verges for biodiversity value. Assessment of all highway's assets and implementation plan in place by 2023. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data gathering (surveys and checking highways mapping) and consultation with PCs. - Training for Parish Councils on the ground. 	2025	-	-	-	✓	In Progress	Highways, supported by Biodiversity
24	Corporate	<p>Transition all corporate transport fleets (e.g., gritters, mobile libraries, highways fleet, pool and hire car & vans etc), to low carbon alternatives, e.g., EV (Electric Vehicle), e-bikes etc.</p>	2030	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	Teams with fleet vehicles
25	Corporate // Natural Environment	<p>Develop and implement a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council and County to describe how and where biodiversity enhancement can take place.</p> <p>For County Council assets- including wildlife sites, highways, rural estate and others - this should look to deliver improved environmental outcomes, adaptation, and a doubling of nature. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of existing assets and biodiversity audits to understand existing biodiversity assets and site conditions - Develop site specific improvement plans to deliver appropriate actions to bring site into positive conservation management - Identification of opportunities for residents to take part and engage in delivery of improvement plans, ongoing maintenance and monitoring - Ongoing monitoring programme to measure progress towards 20% net gain 	2030	✓	-	-	✓		LEAD: Natural & Historic Environment.
26	Corporate	<p>Establish an environmental policy for procurement to guide specification writing and support specification authors to fully consider climate change and environmental impacts of their tender.</p>	2030	✓	✓	-	✓	In Progress	Procurement, supported by CCES
27	Corporate	<p>Contract managers to identify key review points for existing contracts and to work with existing contractors to prepare them for carbon and environmental reporting (e.g., biodiversity net gain and reduction of single use plastics)</p>	2030	-	✓	-	✓	Not Started	ALL, supported by Commercial, procurement and CCES
28	Corporate	<p>Develop the council's approach to managing our leased-out properties (rural, and built) to, where possible, include or strengthen requirements for tenants to implement methods that are environmentally beneficial. For example: encouragement for carbon reduction measures, adaptation measures (i.e., water reservoirs to use in drought) and positive management of wildlife interest</p>	2030	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Strategic Assets

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29	Corporate	Explore and develop business models to enable Council investment to upgrade all commercial properties' energy efficiency and to share in the financial benefit from energy reductions	2030	✓	✓	-	-	Not Started	Strategic assets/BID Commercial
30	Waste	Work through the planning system with partners to influence and educate officers and developers to reduce the carbon impact of collection infrastructure for new developments	2030	✓	✓	-	-	Not Started	Growth & Development/Waste and RECAP
31	Community, Business, and Individuals	Work with partners, like the CPCA and businesses, to encourage commercial fleets – including buses and delivery vehicles in urban areas (where many of the air quality exceedances are) – to move to electric vehicles	2030	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	CCES, supported by Commercial
32	Transport	Work in partnership with our strategic transport partners to ensure policy and new schemes promote the travel hierarchy and contribute to carbon reductions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with GCP & CPCA to facilitate public and active transport being the “natural first choice” for Cambridgeshire residents through delivery of improved cycling and walking infrastructure. Influence the CPCA’s Local Transport Planning process to ensure policy measures will deliver carbon reductions - Continuing to expand the transport hub/Park & Ride network - Working with partners to increase the access to railways offer currently available. 	2030	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	Transport
33	Built Environment	Work with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver infrastructure to support the decarbonisation of housing, jobs, and transport through collaborations on electricity infrastructure upgrades, electric vehicle charging facilities, low carbon heating solutions and net gain.	2030	✓	✓	-	✓	In Progress	Place and Economy services including Transport, Energy Services, GPE
34	Built Environment	Work in partnership with the public and private sector to design, develop and deliver new infrastructure across the Cambridge-Oxford ARC that supports new communities to live net -zero carbon lifestyles and ensure water security and biodiversity benefits.	2030	✓	✓	✓	✓	In progress	Place and Economy
35	Water	Work with the Local Resilience Forum to ensure climate change impacts are included on its risk register including specific response measures for key groups	2030	✓	-	✓	-	In Progress	Natural & Historic Environment
36	Water	As Lead Flood Authority, work with the Future Fens Project and Fens Water Partnership, to secure sufficient storage and flood risk management capacity for new and existing buildings and assets on the basis that weather impacts will increase due to human-made climate change	2030	✓	-	✓	✓	In Progress	Natural & Historic Environment

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37	Natural Environment	Work with partners across the public and private sector (e.g. Fenland SOIL) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support improvements in the evidence base for Cambridgeshire peatland GHG emissions, soil improvement, research, environmental, social and economic adaptation and reduction of the carbon footprint for our Fen peat landscapes - support partner ambitions (e.g NFU) to deliver carbon reductions and minimise environmental impacts across the Cambridgeshire agricultural sector 	2030	✓	✓	-	✓	In Progress	Rural Estates/CCES/Biodiversity
38	Corporate	Through our Public Health, Social Care and Emergency Planning recovery functions, find ways to help manage the impacts on vulnerable people of severe weather or temperatures, including care homes, to prevent the vulnerable in our communities becoming more susceptible to the impacts of climate change.	None	-	✓	✓	-	Paused	Public Health & social care
39	Waste	Actively manage the closed landfill portfolio to reduce their environmental impact and identify opportunities to improve biodiversity, create natural habitats and/or generate low carbon energy	None	-	-	-	✓	In Progress	Waste Management Team // Biodiversity Team// Property
40	Community, Business, and Individuals	Work with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough service providers on 'Think Communities' to support and enable our communities to reduce their impact and to build community resilience / Develop place based targeted behaviour change programmes in communities to enable them to reduce their environmental impacts.	None	✓	✓	✓	✓	Not Started	Think Communities, supported by CCES
41	Water	Work with partners to develop Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects to allow catchment-wide adaptation to flooding and sea level rise	None	✓	-	✓	-	In Progress	Natural & Historic Environment
42	Built Environment	Building on work with the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, support other oil-based communities to find low carbon heating and hot water solutions to reduce carbon footprints and tackle fuel poverty	None	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	CCES
43	Built Environment	Support residents and communities to access renewable energy technologies. Eg. through collective purchasing schemes, such as solar PV with iChoosr	None	✓	✓	-	-	Ongoing	CCES
44	Natural Environment	Work with the Local Nature Partnership on the 'Doubling Nature' project and Future Parks Project, and promote the benefits of blue/green infrastructure for their adaptation benefits to communities	None	✓	-	✓	✓	In Progress	Natural & Historic Environment
45	Corporate	At each contract renewal, continue to purchase 100% renewable electricity for all buildings and street lighting operated by County Council.	Ongoing	✓	✓	-	-	Ongoing	CCES

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46	Corporate	Incorporate the principles of the CCES into the Council's Asset Strategy and develop and deliver a programme of reductions to the environmental impact of the Council's existing built assets, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximising energy efficiency - Maximising renewable generation at our assets - Minimising reliance on fossil-fuels, targeting removal of gas/oil systems by 2025 - Maximising biodiversity potential, targeting 20% net gain - Minimising waste, especially water through use of water saving and grey water approaches 	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	Lead: Property // Support: CCES
47	Corporate	Work with finance and corporate teams to better incorporate climate risk into the annual budgeting process to support wider decarbonisation of service delivery and the communities we support.	Ongoing	-		✓		In Progress	Lead: Finance // Support: CCES
48	Corporate	Develop new business models to enable investment into projects supporting mitigation, adaptation, and natural capital. E.g., selling of BNG credits	Ongoing	-	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	EIU // Finance/Rural Estate Supported by Commercial
49	Corporate	Identify and implement mechanisms to improve the data provision for carbon footprinting across all scopes 1,2 and 3	Ongoing	✓	✓	-	-	In Progress	CCES/Business Intelligence Directorate (BID)
50	Waste	Review disposal and treatment mechanisms in use within the waste PFI contract to identify and explore potential solutions that reduce carbon emissions, support circular economy principles, and reduce plastic pollution, in line with the contract timescales. The monitoring and measuring of these reductions will also be required.	Ongoing	✓	✓	-	✓	In Progress	Waste
51	Corporate	Work with schools to support their decarbonisation and improve environmental outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support schools to retrofit buildings to improve energy efficiency and offering finance mechanisms Including lifecycle heating and hot water replacements in schools to be fitted with low carbon solutions, offering energy performance contracts and heat agreements - Encourage purchasing of 100% renewable electricity - Encourage schools to utilise a full range of waste disposal options (e.g. providing recycling to students) - Provide guidance and advice to all schools to enhance and manage their sites for natural capital, such as SuDS and biodiversity enhancement, including tree planting 	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	In Progress	CCES//Education Capital// Natural & Historic Environment

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52	Transport	Work with the Districts, CPCA and GCP to improve air quality by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening collaboration within existing partnerships to tackle air quality challenges - Developing a shared vision for air quality improvement approaches that maximise the air quality, carbon, and wider environmental benefits - Tackle poor air quality around schools, using Regulation 3 applications for new Schools, and through developing a pilot for a “no car zone” around a Cambridge School. 	Ongoing	-	✓	-	✓	In Progress	CCES // Transport // Education
53	Corporate	All new highways and transport schemes to deliver 20% biodiversity net gain, use low carbon materials where possible and build resilience to climate change into the design.	TBC	-	✓	✓	✓	Not Started	Highways/MID/ Transport Strategy
54	Lobbying	Collaborate with the Districts and CPCA to lobby government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To incorporate stronger mitigation, adaptation and natural capital requirements into building regulations and the National Planning Policy Frameworks. - To ensure that all nationally significant infrastructure projects assess their climate impacts using both national and local carbon budgets - Improve and extend initiatives and funding schemes for projects to deliver carbon reductions, air quality improvements, adaptation and natural capital improvements, shaping the format of these schemes to enable appropriate funding regimes that provide certainty and longevity to enable business investments - develop and promote policies to ensure public transport and active transport is more competitive and attractive than the private car - deliver improvements in legislation around riparian watercourses and drainage provision for new developments - Enable Councils to collect a wider range of materials, especially those that are currently difficult to dispose of, through provision of funding for the additional costs of doing so - To stimulate the development of UK based infrastructure to sort and reprocess waste to reduce reliance on overseas outlets. 	TBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	Not Started	CCES//CPMW// Natural & Historic Environment // Waste
55	Corporate	Climate and Environment Education: Work with education teams and schools to deliver key messages to children on climate change, biodiversity, waste and recycling, and what children (and their families) can do to help.		✓	✓	✓	✓	Not Started	Lead: Education. Support: Waste, supported by CCES, Biodiversity, Education (incl Forest Schools)