

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

Ref	Action	Business Plan 2020-25 (2020-21 revision) reference, where relevant	Service	Expected completion date	Progress at 30 September 2021	Progress at 31 Mar 2022	RAG rating - R for Red, A for Amber, G for Green
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1. Actions to reduce GHG emissions from the Council's own estate (not inc housing) and operations

Fleet							
1.1	Implement depot changes to prepare for electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging	C4) Continue to transition to electric recycling and waste vehicles, including hte investigation of on-site solar panel energy generation	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-21	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.		G
1.2	Procure five eRCVs to replace diesel version (ongoing)		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.		G
1.3	Develop a new solar pv array to supply low carbon electricity to power these vehicles.		Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Mar-21	A meeting looking at options to install a 1MW solar array was held in October with Energy Services Provider, Bouyges. We are awaiting further information from Bouyges on options following that meeting.		G
South Cambridgeshire Hall							
1.4	Complete retrofit of Cambourne office	C3) Retrofit our Council Commercial Propety including South Cams Hall with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures	Climate, Environment & Waste	31-Dec-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project mobilisation commenced March 2021 and on track to be completed at the end of Q4. • Ground source heat pump has been installed, boreholes are being drilled. • A more efficient building management system has been installed • Phase one to three of the LED lighting works have been completed. Phase four of the 7 phases commences Monday 25th October. 		G
Small sites (85 sites, including gas and electricity for heating and lighting in communal rooms and communal areas in blocks of flats)							
1.5	Install solar PV array to Elm Court sheltered housing scheme, Over	C1) In response to global climate crisis e will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050	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.		A
1.6	Review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction		Housing	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • A project is underway to investigate the potential for green energy measures at Elm Court Sheltered Housing scheme (at Over). • 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. 		A
Waterbeach Depot Office							
n/a	Action completed in 2020-21		Finance	n/a			G
Footway lights							
1.7	Install energy saving LED fittings in all council owned streetlights	C6) Upgrade our stock of 1,800 streetlights to LED, which will reduce energy consumption and save Parish Councils money	Waste & Environment	31-Mar-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 standard lights have works remaining relating to the initial footway lighting upgrade phase of the project. • Costs and plans are currently being obtained and developed in relation to the upgrade of ornate lights. • Discussions are taking place around plans to upgrade lights that are located on HRA land. 		A
Business mileage							

1.8	Investigate options to reduce carbon emissions from business mileage including salary sacrifice electric car scheme for staff	C1) In response to global climate crisis we will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050		31-Mar-22	• A report has been submitted to LT for consideration, outlining options. This will be progressed in Q3/Q4.	A
Further actions to reduce GHG emissions from resource use (not currently included in GHG emissions accounts)						
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) Council and committee meetings will be run paper-free wherever possible	Transformation	ongoing	• 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. • 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. • We continue to encourage councillors to move paperless in the meantime, but this currently requires a fairly high level of technical ability.	A

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

Housing						
In the Council's housing stock						
2.1	Commission a Stock Condition Survey including an audit of energy efficiency of existing housing stock relative to zero carbon target	B4) Improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs	Housing	31-Mar-22	• 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. • 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.	A
2.2	Approve a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero carbon target		Housing	31-Dec-21	• This work programme will be informed by the Net-Zero project and stock condition survey referred to in the update for measure B4) above. • 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.	G
2.3	Produce an Asset Management Plan			31-Mar-22	• 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.	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)			ongoing	ESH will in addition to EPC analysis wil develop an Asset Management Strategy to ensure energy performance is improved.	G
In private housing						
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.	n/a	Waste & Environment	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.	A
2.6	Oversee delivery of Cambridgeshire Solar Together group-buying scheme for solar pv and batteries in South Cambs	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	Waste & Environment	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.	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 Council's 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.		G
Commercial Sector							
2.8	Install solar pv to 270 Science Park	C3) Retrofit our Council Commercial Property including South Cambs Hall with renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures		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		
2.9	Undertake energy efficiency and generation audits of other Council owned commercial properties			31-Mar-22	• General ongoing greening business improvement work is happening on all commercially owned assets.		
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: Provide information and advice to help businesses to understand the benefits of generating their own energy,		ongoing	Action ongoing as per previous update		
Travel							
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.	C Ongoing objective: Promote walking, cycling and public transport improvements through planning and by working with local communities and partners		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.		G
2.12	Identify and deliver opportunities to install publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations, working with partners	C1) In response to global climate crisis we will continue to work towards a zero carbon future by 2050	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.		G
2.13	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	Policy, performance & projects	31-Mar-22	• EV Charge Points - Not started, dependent on completion of borehole drilling before solar panel work begins - in line with programme		G
Waste and Recycling							
2.14	Increase collection facilities for clothing and small electrical items	C Ongoing Objective - Reduce waste and raise awareness by promoting recycling	Waste & Environment	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.		A
2.15	Continue to support waste reduction events at community level including Repair Cafes	C8) Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events	Waste & Environment	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.		G
2.16	Promote the guide and resource toolkit to improve recycling and reduce waste at small community events		Waste & Environment	Completed	This guide has been created and is available on-line. We will continue to promote it.		G
2.17	Plan and implement 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	Waste & Environment	September and 21 and March 22	3 waste reductions campaign have now been delivered. Plastic free July Campaign, promoting avoidance of plastic, Remember you reusables campaign and the launch 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.		Waste & Environment	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		G
Cross-cutting actions							
	Through Planning						

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.	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	G
By supporting community action						
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) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, move toward the zero-carbon target and help double nature through habitat enhancement, advisory support for community land acquisition, local green space designation and tree-planting	Waste & Environment	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)	G

3 Actions contributing to our aspiration to double nature

Through Planning						
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"> 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. In addition, the First Proposals includes a proposed policy requirement for 20% biodiversity net gain. 	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)			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.	G
3.3	Publish at least one case study to promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development			31-Dec-21	Already identified one case study from Cambridge, but are looking for more, likely will come in time.	G
By supporting community action						
3.4	Review and relaunch the Wildlife Enhancement Grant scheme	C5) Support Parish Council and community group projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, move toward the zero-carbon target and help double nature through habitat enhancement, advisory support for community land acquisition, local green space designation and tree-planting		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.	G
3.5	Provide six free trees to every parish			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.	G
3.6	Explore options for delivering support for parish councils and community groups to create and deliver Local Nature Recovery Plans			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).	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.	Ongoing objective: strengthen the ability for local communities to deliver on local environmental ambitions and priorities included in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies.	Planning		This work has been ongoing during Q1Q2. Tree Warden position currently vacant.	A
3.8	Run a second Climate and Environment fortnight of online events highlighting successful community action and inspiring and encouraging further action.			31-Mar-22	A second fortnight of online events will take place early in 2022 to be planned from January 2022.	G
On our own estate and through our operations						

3.8	Add a step to the Housing Estates Inspection process to identify and take forward opportunities for tree-planting and other wildlife-friendly initiatives in appropriate locations.			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.		A
3.9	Complete the audit of trees on Council-owned housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work			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.		G
3.1	Identify appropriate locations and set up three pilot schemes to establish wildflower strips or patches on Council housing estate land.			31-Mar-22	See 3.8 above		A
3.11	Review management of awarded watercourses appearing in the 2021 Chalk Streams Report and agree action if and where possible to improve biodiversity.			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.		G
By working with partners							
3.12	Work with Highways England to ensure positive environmental legacy from A428 Improvement works			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.		A