

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

This action plan has been developed in response to the climate and ecological emergency, to deliver the objectives agreed by Council in the Zero Carbon Strategy adopted in May 2020 and the Doubling Nature Strategy adopted in February 2021. It is a live document, reviewed and updated annually in line with our Business Plan. This update builds upon learning from independent reviews of our response to the climate and ecological emergencies by Climate Emergency UK and Bioregional. New actions have been added, and information about existing processes and actions that were not previously captured have been included, in order to provide a more complete picture of our work in this area.

Our Zero Carbon Strategy recognises the need to reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is in line with the science-based emissions target for the UK recommended by the Committee on Climate Change and adopted into UK legislation in June 2019. The target is set at the level necessary to deliver the commitment that the UK made in adopting the 2015 Paris Agreement which aims to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Our Doubling Nature Strategy supports the vision first articulated by Natural Cambridgeshire, the Local Nature Partnership, to double nature in Cambridgeshire by 2050.

The objectives in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature strategies are to:

1. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from our estate and operations by 45% on a 2018-19 baseline by 2025 and by 75% on the same baseline by 2030
2. Achieve net zero for the district of South Cambridgeshire by 2050, (in line with, and as defined by the Committee on Climate Change and adopted into UK legislation in June 2019)
3. Double nature in the district by 2050

Reaching net zero and doubling nature are ambitious targets which will require concerted action by many players, including the UK Government, higher tiers of local government, businesses and households. Our action plan is limited to actions within our spheres

of influence. This starts with our own estate, including our 8000+ council homes, extends to our operations - for example, refuse collection for over 60,000 properties - and extends out to the many ways we work with partners to achieve carbon reductions and improvements for nature in the wider district. Where we come across limitations of legislation and finance that stand in the way of taking action on the climate crisis we use the influence we have to overcome these, as Members did as part of the Local Government Association delegation at COP26, advocating successfully for recognition of the role of local and regional governments in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

## **Governance, development and funding of the plan**

The action plan is led by the Head of Climate, Environment and Waste. Responsibility for developing and delivering the plan sits with the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, who is advised by our cross-party Climate and Environment Advisory Committee. Progress in implementing the action plan is monitored by the Climate and Environment team, overseen by the Head of Climate, Environment and Waste. Progress reviews are provided to the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee at 6 monthly intervals, and recommendations are in turn made to Cabinet or the lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, as appropriate.

The plan is embedded in the [Council's Business Plan 2020 - 25](#), which sets 'Being Green to our Core' as our key objective. Funding for the plan is agreed on an annual basis as part of our budget-setting process, which takes place in tandem with an annual review of the Council's Business Plan. Funding for the plan is drawn from a variety of sources, including from within existing budgets, and from external grants and awards. Funding is also drawn from our reserves, in particular our 'Renewables Reserve' made up of business rates from renewable energy developments in the district, retained under the Business Rates Retention scheme, and earmarked for Green to our Core initiatives. In the longer term, many projects in the plan deliver net cost savings to us because of lower energy bills following investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## **Integration of the plan into existing local authority plans and strategies**

We have a process in place to ensure that implications for climate change of new and revised local authority plans and strategies are considered before decisions on these are made. Climate change and Biodiversity and green spaces are key themes in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan which draws upon a strong net zero carbon evidence base.

## Community, engagement and communication

We will involve residents, businesses and other local partners in the development and delivery of the plan through regular communication and engagement activities, co-ordinated through an internal Climate Communications group. For the elements of the plan that require working in partnership, we will identify and engage those relevant partners and establishment agreements for collaborative action. The Zero Carbon Communities programme, including the Green Connect networking sessions, are key for both communication of key messages, but more importantly collaboration and delivery of projects. As part of the Zero Carbon Communities programme, the Climate and Environment team are exploring partnership working with relevant organisations to expand the reach of the programme to a wider range of participants, include young people.

### Co-benefits

Action to reduce carbon emissions often results in significant benefits, known as co-benefits, to health and wellbeing, community cohesion and nature. Examples of these include:

- Switching from fossil fuel powered vehicles to electric vehicles and/or active travel results in fewer vehicle emissions and cleaner air, which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing
- Switching from car journeys to cycling or walking means more physical exercise which has a positive impact on health and wellbeing
- Organising community projects funded through our Zero Carbon Communities grant benefits social cohesion
- Planting trees to lock up carbon, provided the trees are well chosen, can enhance green space and provide natural habitat

### Impacts of climate change

The impacts of climate change can already be seen in South Cambridgeshire, for example in the unprecedented heat and drought of summer 2022. Further warming is inevitable due to time lags in how quickly the Earth's climate system responds to changes in emissions. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out for this plan and will highlight unequal impacts and action to mitigate these.

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

| 12   | Action   | Responsible Officer                                | Expected completion date | Progress at 31/10/22  | Next milestone                                      |
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| <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 -<br/>           Review recycling facilities across the Council and implement changes – completed 2019<br/>           Review use of disposable single-use plastic and implement changes – completed 2019</b> |  |  |                          |   |   |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>Decarbonise planning and land use</b>                                       |  |                          |   |   |
| 2.1  | Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change | Planning Policy Manager                            | Ongoing                  | First Proposals include seven policies relating to climate change, viz,<br>CC/NZ Net zero carbon new buildings<br>CC/WE Water efficiency in new developments  | Draft version of the Local plan to be completed for |

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|     | <p>policies as part of work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options consultation and work on the draft plan</p>                              |                                |                | <p>CC/DC Designing for a changing climate<br/> CC/FM Flooding and integrated water management<br/> CC/RE Renewable energy projects and infrastructure<br/> CC/CE Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy<br/> CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration</p> <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>  | <p>consultation in 2023.</p>             |
| 2.2 | <p>Progress planning policies related to net zero carbon and wider climate change policies as part of work on the Northeast Cambridge Area Action Plan</p> | <p>Planning Policy Manager</p> | <p>2024/25</p> | <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</p> <p><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</p> | <p>Public consultation expected 2024</p> |

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|          |   |  |  | made on the separate Development Consent Order process for the relocation of this plant. |   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Decarbonise transport</b>  |  |  |  |   |
| 3.1      | <b>Decarbonise our 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 our 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 Park & Ride.<br><br>Discussions ongoing with County Council regarding location and costs of Rapid charger.  | Completion of installation of Rapid charger at Babraham Park & Ride.                                    |
| 3.3.2 | Support development of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridge's hire-wide Electric | 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.<br><br>Officer working group established with CPCA, County and Districts. Governance, terms of reference and key projects/workstreams for | Scoping document considered by CPCA Head of Transport. Date to be confirmed. Allocate project leads and |

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|          | Vehicle charging strategy  |   |            | implementation have been identified, monthly meetings of working group.   | establish separate project groups.                |
| 3.3.4    | Develop strategy for EV charging infrastructure on our assets, including single supplier for EV chargers | Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager | Completed  | Completed:<br><a href="https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/21956/scdc-ev-charging-approach-2022.pdf">https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/21956/scdc-ev-charging-approach-2022.pdf</a>   | –   |
| 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.<br><br>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: Revise taxi licensing policy to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles</b>               |   |            |   |   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Decarbonise housing and other buildings</b>   |   |            |   |   |



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| 4.1   | <b>Decarbonise our buildings &amp; streetlighting</b>   |  |                 |   |   |
| 4.1.1 | Complete retrofit of South Cambridgeshire Hall to include Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar PV car park canopy, Lighting upgrade and new Building Energy Management System | 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 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. | Q4 completion of car park allowing further implementation                                 |
| 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.<br><br>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                    | To be confirmed | 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 | To be confirmed | 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. |

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| 4.1.4 | Raise energy performance of our properties to band C or above   | Service Manager – Housing Assets              | by end of 2026/7 subject to securing funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund | <p>The project, funded partly by the government’s Green Homes Grant LAD1b scheme to install solar PV to 69 properties and insulate approximately 100 properties has been delivered, administration is in progress.</p> <p>Work is being completed on an SHDF bid to be submitted November 22 with a proposal to deliver all properties to EPC C over the next 2 years 23/24 and 24/25.</p>   | Result of bid due early 2023.  |
| 4.1.5 | Improve energy efficiency of Ermine Street 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.  | To be confirmed  |
| 4.2   | <p><b>Help householders to decarbonise their homes by improving home energy efficiency and moving to low carbon heating and electricity</b></p>   |   |   |  |  |
| 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  | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 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. |

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| 4.2.2 | Deliver the government funded Sustainable Warmth project to upgrade up to 80 privately owned properties occupied by low-income households | Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager | 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, and work will continue to identify eligible households in suitable properties. A targeted mailshot to 1000 properties was sent out in September. | Work will continue until scheme ends on 31 March 23                              |
| 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 in making their heritage homes more energy efficient                    | Historic Environment Team Leader, GCSP        | Ongoing    | A webpage has been created: <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 | —  |

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|          |   |   |         | and provide case studies of best practice is ongoing.  |  |
| 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:<br><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 |
| 4.3      | <b>Design and construction</b>  |   |         |  |  |
| 4.3      | New builds 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.  | –  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Decarbonise business and industry</b>  |   |         |  |  |
| 5.1      | Decarbonise our commercial property   | Head of Economic Development & Investment     | Ongoing | 270 Cambridge Science Park photovoltaics (Solar PV) will be complete Q2 22/23. At 140 Cambridge Science Park initial discussions are taking place with the tenant regarding shared net zero  | Other opportunities on commercial properties to be                 |

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|          |  |   |         | expectations. An Outline Business Case is to be completed for site, subject to tenant permission, by Q3 22/23.                    | reviewed by Q3 22/23 |
| –        | <b>Completed action: Put in place new procurement rules requiring that awarding of contracts &gt;£5,000 takes account of decarbonisation plans of bidders – completed 2019</b> |   |         |   |                      |
| 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 our website.                                     | n/a                  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Decarbonise food systems and agriculture</b>  |   |         |   |                      |
| 6.1      | Run communication campaigns to encourage carbon-   | Waste Policy, Climate and                 | Ongoing | New action  | n/a                  |

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|          | friendly diets, for example: Meat Free Monday, Veganuary                                 | Environment Manager                           |   |   |  |
| 6.2      | Explore feasibility of further work in this area, for example, 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 February 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 |
| 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  |

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| 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>   |                                |         |  |  |
| 8.1<br>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 Policy Manager        | Ongoing | <p>Seven policy areas have been identified under the Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BG/BG Biodiversity and geodiversity</li> <li>BG/GI Green infrastructure</li> <li>BG/TC Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population</li> <li>BG/RC River corridors</li> <li>BG/PO Protecting open spaces</li> <li>BG/EO Providing and enhancing open spaces</li> <li>CC/CS Supporting land-based carbon sequestration</li> </ul> <p>Further details:<br/> <a href="https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-">https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-</a> </p> | Project planning is underway with our partners to identify the tasks needed to refine these initiatives and identify deliverable projects supporting them. |

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|  |   |                                 |                       | <a href="#">proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces</a>   |  |
|  |   |                                 |                       | 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.  |  |
| 8.1<br>2   | Promote good practice in securing benefits to biodiversity through development by publishing case study/studies | 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 1 or 2 photos.   | Case studies to be posted on website.  |
| Completed action:<br>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.<br>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 Cambridge Past, Present & Future to create a pollinator garden at Wandlebury Country Park (September). | Promotion of the fund is being stepped up and case studies and a link to Natural Cambridgeshire's Local Nature, Nature Recovery Toolkit has been included on the Community Led |



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|       |   |   |                          |  | 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.<br><br>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 Tree Warden network co-ordinator   | Natural Environment Team Manager              | Under review and on hold | New Trees Officer appointed:<br>The Tree Warden scheme was impacted by 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.                                    | Long-term review  |
| 8.2.5 | Share community project good practice at Green Connect webinars and Climate and Environment fortnight                             | Waste Policy, Climate and Environment Manager | Ongoing                  | 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. | Climate Conference, provisional date of 17 March.                                       |

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|       |  |                                      |         | <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>   |   |
| 8.3   | <b>Enhance opportunities for nature on our own estate</b>  |                                      |         |   |   |
| 8.3.1 | Take forward opportunities for tree-planting, wildflower strips and other initiatives on our housing estates           | Service Manager, Tenancy and Estates | Ongoing | <p>We have received funding for tree-planting on 2 areas of HRA land through a successful joint bid led by Cambs 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> | — |
| —     | <b>Completed action: Complete audit of trees on Council housing estates and undertake recommended maintenance work</b> |                                      |         |   |   |

|       |  |   |            |  |  |
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| 8.4   | <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. We 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 our equipment to facilitate works that would be too costly for groups to purchase from a contractor.</p> | –  |
| 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 |