Climate Change
Strategy 2026–2031

Action plan

CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL

The Climate Change Action Plan underpins the Climate Change Strategy 2026–2031, setting out the actions needed to deliver its goals and the Council's net zero target. The Climate Change Action Plan will be reviewed at least annually and updated on a regular basis.

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For any queries, please contact sustainablecity@cambridge.gov.uk

Key

Green = actions which contribute to a Sustainable Cambridge City Council

Blue = actions which contribute to a Sustainable Cambridge

1. Energy and Retrofit

Energy and Retrofit						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
1.1	Assessment of building decarbonisation upgrades recommended for all building stock.	General Fund Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •Consultants •Budget/ funding bids required for subsequent feasibility studies	Jul-26	Identification of projects	Improved investment prioritisation, stronger funding bids, reduced long term energy and maintenance costs and a clear evidence base to support future decarbonisation delivery across corporate estate
1.2	Reduction of gas consumption in City Council corporate buildings and improving energy efficiency through insulation and building fabric upgrades.	General Fund Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant design team and contractors. • Subject to business case •Budget/ funding bids required •External grant funding (when available) •Funding for prioritized measures to be agreed, including use of the council's Climate Change Fund.	Apr-29	Reduction in gas consumption and carbon emissions	Reduced operational carbon and energy costs, improved asset value and resilience and lower long term maintenance liabilities

1.3	Reduce electricity consumption from heating and lighting in City Council corporate buildings and improving energy efficiency through insulation, building fabric upgrades and optimised building management.	General Fund Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant design team and contractors. • Subject to business case •Budget/ funding bids required •External grant funding (when available) •Funding for prioritised measures to be agreed, including use of the council's Climate Change Fund.	Apr-29	Reduction in electricity consumption and carbon emissions	Improved energy efficiency and building performance, strengthened financial resilience to grid prices, improved asset value
1.4	Undertake a strategic asset review of all City Council corporate and commercial assets to identify priorities for disposal, investment and improvement, including decarbonisation and meeting government energy efficiency standards.	Director of Economy & Place with Chief Property Surveyor and Strategy Lead	•Existing staff and consultants •Budget secured and procurement commenced	Dec-26	identification of projects only	Potential income, reduced running costs and Council carbon emissions from disposal, higher energy performance and compliance of buildings
1.5	Procurement of new leisure contract 2026-2041 will seek to reduce carbon emissions at the pools and leisure facilities towards net zero through requirements for capital investment into the facilities.	Recreation Development Manager	•Third party capital investment as part of tender. • Subject to business case •Budget/ funding bids required •External grant funding (when available) •S106 developer contributions (where appropriate).	Outcome of tender due - April 2026 Work due to be carried out September 2026 - March 2030	750+ tonnes of Co2 saving per annum	Reduction of carbon from one of the highest emitters within the Council portfolios, reduction of energy utility costs, partnership working, comfortable swimming experience, customer

						satisfaction, promotional opportunities, promotion of sustainable lifestyle
1.6	Redeveloping Cambridge's Civic Quarter, including retrofitting the Guildhall (to ENERPHIT and emerging Net Zero Carbon standards) and Corn Exchange, and improving the sustainability of the Market Square, through installing water saving measures, solar PV panels and fabric upgrades.	Assistant Director - Development / Senior Development Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant •Contractors •Funding not yet approved	If approved, works completed on a phased basis from 2028 - 30	•Water neutrality •20% Biodiversity Net Gain by 2030 across the Civic Quarter •Achieve operational net zero for the Guildhall by 2030 •Achieve 65% reduction in Corn Exchange carbon emissions by 2030	
1.7	Exploring broad-scale heat decarbonisation opportunities in the city centre to support the long-term transition away from fossil-fuels (subject to funding).	Senior Development Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant •Contractors •External funding required	Targeting cabinet approval for final decision no later than March 2028	Decarbonisation projects implemented in city centre	Reduced gas consumption for Council buildings

1.8	Development of the Cambridge City Centre Heat Network to support the phase out of gas heating in Cambridge City Centre and targeting long term expansion (subject to Cabinet approval and funding).	Senior Development Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant •Financial contributions from project partners •Government funding (when available, subject to successful application)	Target 2030 for first phase of building connections to district heat network	Reduction of c500,000 tonnes of CO2 (93% carbon emissions reduction) over a 40-year project lifetime compared to gas boiler business as usual scenario	
1.9	Reduce energy use from data storage on the Council's servers and websites.	3C Shared Services ICT, Website and Digital Manager	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Server energy usage	Improved efficiency of 3C ICT service delivery
1.10	Delivering new Council homes in line with the adopted Sustainable Housing Design Guide, designing homes to Cam Standard from 2021, and to Net Zero from 2030 (subject to securing further funding beyond what is already secured).	Assistant Director - Development / Senior Development Manager	•Existing staff •Consultant •Contractors •Budget/ funding bid required	Subject to Homes England funding 1,300 council homes by 2036	•Cam Standard then Net Zero from 2030 •Meeting of 20% biodiversity net gain across development sites brought forward by the Council •Water usage targeting below 90l/pp/per day •Parking ratios to not exceed 0.5bays per home	
1.11	Develop a delivery plan and funding plan for accelerating decarbonisation of Council homes, including transition to low carbon heating.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff and budget • Consultant if required	Sep-27		

1.12	Create a citywide retrofit strategy that enables a coordinated and defined approach to deliver accelerated, equitable and high-impact retrofit at scale across all housing tenures (council owned homes, private rented sector and owner-occupied homes).	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •Collaborative work with local stakeholders and regional partners	Dec-26		Healthier homes, reduced fuel poverty, improved air quality and long term social and economic benefits for communities
1.13	Develop delivery plan and pilot projects (subject to funding) for Council homes including remaining housing archetypes identified in the Fielden and Mawson report (below EPC C and not yet addressed by the current energy efficiency programme), including system-built, solid-walled, traditional and heritage buildings.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff Consultants with expertise in non-traditional and heritage retrofit •Budget/ funding bid required	Oct-28		
1.14	Develop an overheating mitigation strategy and design guidance for Council homes, including monitoring of internal temperatures following retrofit to assess impact of measures on overheating.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff and budget •Consultant •Academic research partnerships (subject to exploration)	Apr-29		

1.15	Investigate and secure funding sources (such as Government regulated supplier obligation funding, local authority and combined authority funding and innovative funding opportunities) to support installation of energy improvements in private homes.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •Partnership working through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership •External funding required	Ongoing		
1.16	Explore and pilot alternative funding routes and innovative financing opportunities for the willing to pay market (e.g. bulk purchase and low interest loans) and look to create a blended finance delivery model.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff	Apr-27		
1.17	Develop Action on Energy as a local route for energy advice and retrofit support, increase awareness through resident engagement and behavioural support, investigate feasibility of cross-tenure and introduce new projects that respond to the needs of residents.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff	Ongoing		

1.18	Develop a new procurement framework to support cross tenure retrofit work.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff	May-27		
1.19	Develop policy for heat pumps and any other energy efficiency installations for leaseholders in council owned blocks.	Sustainable Energy Manager (currently vacant)	•Existing staff •Consultant if required	Mar-27		
1.20	Retrofit council homes using Wave 3 grant funding by installing external wall insulation, windows, doors and loft insulation where required, and improved ventilation.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	Existing staff	Mar-28	Deliver retrofit measures to 370 Council homes Install 37 air source heat pumps	
1.21	Investigate, plan and procure a programme of cavity wall insulation (CWI) to council-owned blocks including extract and refill of failed CWI.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff and budget •External funding required (when available)	Mar-30		

1.22	Deliver a targeted engagement and support programme for private landlords to help them meet new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (private rented housing stock EPC C or above by 2030), including providing advice, signposting to relevant grant funding and providing support to those with least energy efficient properties, to improve energy efficiency from EPC E to EPC D, or in line with legislation.	Residential Team Manager, Environmental Health & Public Safety	•Existing staff	2028	Sharing information as widely as possible with L/L & Property Manager Communities in the city – at least those on the Councils database / HMO licence register / L/L & Property Manager 'opt in' contact list.	Ensuring good private rented sector housing standards within the city. Ensuring safe & healthy homes for private renters in the city. Ensuring compliance with statutory provisions via an informal approach.
1.23	Targeted action plan from 2030 (subject to funding) to enforce new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Regulations where appropriate (to achieve EPC C on all applicable private rented housing stock).	Residential Team Manager, Environmental Health & Public Safety	•Existing staff •Budget/ funding bid required	2031	Approx 435 property EPC reviews. Up to approx. 244 investigations inc. progression of enforcement where necessary / appropriate.	Ensuring good private rented sector housing standards within the city. Ensuring safe & healthy homes for private renters in the city.

1.24	Reduce the environmental impact of future events by exploring the feasibility of installing a renewable electricity supply at Parker's Piece to power generators for events, (to reduce reliance on biofuels); exploring the use of solar panels and drones and reducing transport emissions from events, (including through analysing mileage on quotes and promoting sustainable methods of travel).	Parks Development Officer & City Events Manager	•Existing staff •Electrical consultants	Mar-27	Installing renewable electricity supply - £150k saving year on year in Biofuel usage/transportation Reduction in emissions of future events.	Reduction and cessation in fossil fuel and bio diesel generators use currently required on site for all large-scale events, financial savings, improved air quality.
1.25	Update the Council's Events Policy to further reduce emissions from events including through requirements to reduce the use of diesel for generators (subject to successful budget/funding bid).	Asset Development Officer	Budget/ funding bid required	Apr-26	New electrical supply would save approximately 2.8 tonnes CO_2 per year	Increased security of supply of power, improved air quality and noise nuisance reductions

1.26	Explore how AI and emerging technologies can help reduce carbon emissions in Cambridge, including supporting smarter retrofit planning, optimising local energy use, and enabling innovative low-carbon solutions.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff • Government funding (when available) • Collaborative partnerships (where possible)	2030 - Initial exploration, piloting and integration completed to support net zero with ongoing and continuous development and improvement	AI-driven tools are integrated into council climate initiatives to improve decision-making, optimise retrofit with more efficient and cost-effective retrofit programmes, and enhance emissions reduction projects	Better understanding of building performance and heat loss patterns, reduced energy bills for homes and council buildings, improved grid resilience
1.27	Contribute, in collaboration with partners, to the completion of the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Cambridgeshire, setting out the evidence base to meet future energy demand.	Climate Change Officers	Existing staff	End of f/y 26/27	Completion of the plan	Increased reliance in the face of greater energy demand and international energy insecurity. Reduced costs where energy demand can be better managed
1.28	Use all available means to encourage developers to go beyond current requirements for energy efficiency in new developments.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Principal Sustainability Officer	Existing staffing resources	Ongoing	Average EPC in Cambridge, Domestic emissions	Mitigating health impacts from living in cold homes, reduced energy bills for residents, where undertaken appropriately improved resilience in the face of increasingly adverse weather.

1.29	Progress planning policies requiring high energy efficiency standards and environmental sustainability for new homes and non-residential developments as part of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, considering the outcomes of the Greater Cambridge Net Zero Evidence Base study and other evidence informing the plan, as well as the National Planning Policy Framework.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	Existing staffing resources	End of f/y 2027/28	Average EPC in Cambridge, Domestic emissions	Mitigating health impacts from living in cold homes, reduced energy bills for residents, where undertaken appropriately improved resilience in the face of increasingly adverse weather.
1.30	Provide energy efficiency support and advice through 3C Building Control.	3C Shared Services - Building Control	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Number of promotional materials released/resident reach	Mitigating health impacts from living in cold homes, reduced energy bills for residents, where undertaken appropriately improved resilience in the face of increasingly adverse weather. Reduced demand on grid

1.31	Explore opportunities to respond to climate risks through policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, such as water efficiency and the management of water resources; designing buildings that are simple to keep cool; and Sustainable Drainage Systems measures to help reduce flood risk, implementing changes through the Water Resources Group.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	Existing resources	End of f/y 2027/28	Implementation of policies	Support in adapting to climate change, reduction in water consumption, protecting and enhancing biodiversity where nature-based solutions are implemented

2. Nature and Water

Nature and Water						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
2.1	Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project: Deliver and monitor city case study sites to inform and secure future restoration investment.	Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project Lead	•Existing staff •Council, CPCA and South Staffs Water and Anglian Water funding and grants •External funding (when available) to extend project	Ongoing funded programme of works until at least November 2026. Seeking funding for 3-year extension beyond Nov 2026	Enhance condition of designated sites and priority habitats, where possible, to increase resilience and contribute to the Cambridge Nature Network.	Flood resilience, water quality, wellbeing, community engagement and empowering
2.2	Revise, consult and adopt management plans for core sites (including all LNRs and Commons) identified in the Biodiversity Strategy, to ensure designated sites and priority habitats are in good / favourable condition and connected, where possible, to increase resilience to a changing climate and contribute to the Cambridge Nature Network.	Biodiversity Manager	•Existing staff and budgets •CPCA grant	Ongoing	Enhance condition of designated sites and priority habitats, where possible, to increase resilience and contribute to the Cambridge Nature Network. That every site achieves at least one habitat condition improvement (as defined by DEFRA Condition Assessment) by 2031.	Natural Green spaces provide cooling, mitigating heat island effect, trees provide shade and filter pollutants. Wetlands hold back flood waters and improve water quality. Recreational spaces provide health and wellbeing benefits.

2.3	Manage climate change-related flood risk through delivering watercourse improvements to ensure runoff is directed in more appropriate locations, working with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners in the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.	Sustainable Drainage Engineer	•Existing staff	By 2027	Management of climate change - related flood risks (from extreme weather)	Reduced flooding, improvement in water quality
2.4	Pilot Project Plan for the restoration of Jesus Green Ditch - trial project aims to restore a 60-metre section of the ditch by using solar-powered pumps to simulate natural flow conditions.	Sustainable Drainage Engineer	•Existing staff	End of 2026/early 2027	Enhancement of the local ecosystem and improvement in water quality.	Reduced flooding, improved flow
2.5	Strengthen statutory protections for the urban forest while enhancing maintenance practices and monitoring tree health.	Urban Forest Manager/ Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	•Existing budget •External grant funding (when available), to accelerate delivery	2050	Achieve and sustain 20% canopy cover by 2050. Current carbon storage baseline 330.3 tCO_2	
2.6	Expand the urban forest canopy equitably by planting the right tree in the right place.	Urban Forest Manager	•Existing staff and budget •External grant funding (when available), to accelerate delivery	2030–2050 (for long-term canopy outcomes)	Contribute to achieving and sustaining 20% canopy cover by 2050. Updated benefit valuations on i-Tree software system in 2030	

2.7	Promote public engagement and collaborative stewardship to support the health and sustainability of the urban forest.	Urban Forest Manager/ Communities Group & Corporate Group	•Existing staff and budget •External grant funding (when available), to accelerate delivery	2030 (scheme established) – ongoing thereafter	Increased community participation in planting and stewardship (metrics to be confirmed through engagement strategy)	
2.8	Continuation of water efficiency campaign in both Council owned homes and non-domestic buildings.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff	March 2027	Reduction in domestic water use.	
2.9	Explore the effectiveness of rain gardens in retaining water and reducing surface water run-off in communal areas and car parks of Council housing stock.	Estate Services Manager	•Existing staff	By March 2027	Reduced surface water run-off in communal spaces. Flooding avoided in car parks	
2.10	Encouraging climate-resilient gardening by updating the annual garden competition for council tenants. focusing on gardens for rain retention, drought-tolerant gardens, and kitchen gardens.	Resident Engagement Manager	•Existing staff	September 2026	10 x entries per category Positive press coverage 3 x case studies captured	
2.11	Develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Environmental Services activity, following the move to the new operational hub; prepare the system for future	Assistant Director Public Realm & Environment/ Senior Operations	•Existing staff	December 2026	To be confirmed following aspects/impacts assessment but anticipated to support: 0.05–0.1	Improved compliance, reduced waste, reduced resource use, supports Net Zero objectives.

	ISO 14001 accreditation once embedded and operational.	Manager (Public Realm)			$ktCO_2$ annual reduction through operational efficiencies (reduced fuel, water, energy use).	
2.12	Continuing climate resilient management of Council parks and open spaces by expanding drought-tolerant and pollinator-friendly planting, reducing chemical use, increasing floral wildflower meadows and adopting less intensive management practices such as no-mow regimes and no herbicides.	Parks Development Officer	•Existing staff	Ongoing initiative and formalised through site management plan reviews which can specifically target dates.	Continuous contribution towards the City Councils commitment to the 2019 Biodiversity Emergency declaration	Demonstration of citywide net biodiversity gain.
2.13	Explore feasibility of implementing rainwater harvesting solutions from buildings on/near Council open spaces, such as Parkside Pool and car park, to reduce flooding risk and re-use water for plant irrigation. Implement solutions if feasible.	Recreation Development Manager	•Existing staff and specialist company •Water Retrofit funds	March - September 2026 First phase investigations and implementations at Abbey and Parkside Pools. March 2028 for the remaining pool facilities.	Savings to be calculated as part of the project and is dependent as a % against annual rainfall recovery so will be based upon East of England estimated annual rainfall, currently at 800mm per annum.	Savings being calculated as part of initial project work Reuse of grey water and harvested water for local tree watering, reduce reliance on local water resources Reduced water bills

2.14	Explore the feasibility of recycling water from pool filter backwashing and diverting for tree and plant irrigation on open spaces.	Recreation Development Manager	•Existing staff and specialist company •Water Retrofit funds	March 2026 – September 2026 for first phase investigations and implementations at Abbey and Parkside Pools. Summer 2027 for the remaining pool facilities starting at Kings Hedges Pool.	Abbey & Parkside Pools Backwash water saving is estimated as 10,000m3 per Annum per site. Saving per site based on electrical heating costs £20,000 per site per annum or £12,000 per site per annum based on Gas heating costs Savings 150,000kwh per annum per site of heating costs	Savings being calculated as part of initial project work Re use of grey water and harvested water for local tree watering reduce reliance on local water resources Reduced water bills
2.15	Reduce the environmental impact of cleaning processes at the Corn Exchange and Guildhall by exploring the use of different cleaning products.	Venues General Manager	•Existing staff	Sep-26	Switch to new products by September 2026	
2.16	Progress planning policies which protect and enhance nature as part of wider work on green infrastructure in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	•Existing staff	End of f/y 2027/28	Planning policies identified	Mental health benefits from exposure to green space and community benefits from joining together with other people.

2.17	Work with the Community Health Initiative on the development of a contemporary open spaces policy for the Great Cambridge Local Plan that places wellbeing as a central policy objective.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	•Existing staff	End of f/y 2027/28	Planning policies identified	Mental health benefits from exposure to green space and community benefits from joining together with other people.
2.18	Continue to develop our processes, resources and guidance to ensure delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in new developments.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service – Natural Environment Team Leader	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Average % BNG implemented as part of new developments	Mental health benefits from exposure to green space, community benefits from joining together with other people and tackling social isolation.
2.19	Require new housing to meet the water efficiency standards in the current South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (maximum of 110 litres/person/day) and explore where higher standards could be adopted in the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	•Existing staff	End of f/y 2027/28	Water efficiency standards implemented	Reduced water stress, increased resilience
2.20	Use opportunities from the development of the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project to create high-quality areas for nature.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Operations Manager	•Existing staff	End of f/y 2026/27		

2.21	Work with the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group and other stakeholders to advocate for solutions to address short term water supply issues and longer-term strategies to identify solutions which protect the environment and enable growth needs to be met.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	•Existing staff •Water Retrofit funds	Ongoing	Positive outcome with solution with strategic solutions identified	Reduced water stress, increased resilience
2.22	Explore opportunities to respond to climate risks through policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, such as water efficiency and the management of water resources; designing buildings that are simple to keep cool; and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) measures to help reduce flood risk, implementing changes through the Water Resources Group	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Planning Policy Manager	•Existing staff	End of f/y 2027/28	Implementation of policies	Support in adapting to climate change, reduction in water consumption, protecting and enhancing biodiversity where nature-based solutions are implemented

3. Transport

Transport						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
3.1	Purchase Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) when replacing vans and trucks in the Council's fleet (where there is a suitable ULEV alternative and the infrastructure allows).	Fleet & Garage Operations Manager	•Existing staff •Consultants - funding bid already secured •Budget/ funding bids required for fleet replacement	Annually to 2030	Annual fleet emissions TBC When suitable ULEV replacements are not currently available, examine alternative fuel solutions such as HVO to reduce fleet emissions	Improved air quality, reduced emissions from fleet
3.2	Continue to expand the utilisation of alternative fuels, including hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) in our waste fleet to support emissions reduction in the interim before the implementation of the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Operations Manager	•Existing staff and budget	End of f/y 2026/27	Annual fleet emissions	Reputational benefits, improved air quality and so health benefits
3.3	Deliver the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project which will increase electricity provision at the Waterbeach Waste Depot, enabling the electrification of up to 18 further waste collection vehicles as they reach the end of their life.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Operations Manager	•Existing staff •Approved Council and CPCA funding	End of f/y 2026/28	Annual fleet emissions	Reputational benefits, improved air quality and so health benefits

3.4	Promote sustainable modes of transport to staff to increase the use of low carbon options for business travel, including the Car Club (particularly the hybrid and electric options) and pool bikes, as alternatives to using own vehicle.	Senior Operations Manager	•Existing staff	Ongoing (see below for Car Club)	Reduction in staff business milage claims and increase in miles travelled reported for car club	Improved air quality, reduced Council business mileage claims.
3.5	Promote the Car Club to residents to increase use.	Senior Operations Manager	•Existing staff	Continuation of contract beyond August 2026 subject to agreement between Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council	Increased use of car club.	Improved air quality.
3.6	Further delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Council car parks through a commercial partner.	Assistant Director Homes & Commercial / Deputy Operations Manager	•Existing staff •No City Council funding, although Council will work with commercial partner to bid for LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) funding to support delivery.	15 years fixed contract. Up to 600 EV chargers by 2038 or earlier, subject to attracting LEV funding and commercial viability I	Up to 600 EV chargers to be installed by 2038.	Improved air quality.

3.7	Develop and deliver a programme of activities and events that promote walking and active modes of transport, in partnership with local community groups and health partners.	Senior Active Lifestyle Officer	•Existing staff •Grant funding when available	Ongoing		Improved air quality, improving physical health, reducing congestion, mental health benefits from exposure to green space, community benefits from joining together with others and tackling social isolation
3.8	Work with councils within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support the delivery of the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and delivery of Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grant scheme.	Inclusive Economy & Climate Manager	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Number of charging points	Improving connectivity, reduced costs for users. Reduced costs of improvements for infrastructure.
3.9	Applying policies in the current Cambridge Local Plan and the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document to support housing and non-residential development which supports travel by walking, cycling and public transport.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Annual Monitoring report Monitoring requirements from new developers. Number of charging points installed in new developments	Reduced traffic so community benefits, improved health where people travel more actively, reduced fuel costs of people. Improving rural connectivity, reduced costs of EV owners

3.10	Developing new policies related to promoting sustainable transport and ensuring accessibility of new development sites to sustainable transport infrastructure is a key aspect in decision-making in preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Annual Monitoring report Monitoring requirements from new developers.	
3.11	Encouraging the provision of electric vehicle charging points in future new housing and non-residential developments to support the electrification of transport.	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Existing Resources	Ongoing	Annual Monitoring report. Monitoring requirements from new developers.	
3.12	Promote sustainable modes of transport through the planning system by: • Applying policies in the current Local Plan and Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document to support housing and non-residential development which supports travel by walking, cycling and public transport. • Develop new policies related to promoting sustainable transport and ensure that the accessibility of new development sites to	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service	Existing Resources		Annual Monitoring report Monitoring requirements from new developers. Number of charging points installed in new developments	Reduced traffic so community benefits, improved health where people travel more actively, reduced fuel costs of people. Improving rural connectivity, reduced costs of EV owners

	sustainable transport infrastructure is a key aspect in decision making in preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Encourage the provision of electric vehicle charging points in future new housing and non-residential developments to support the electrification of transport.					
3.13	Supporting the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to deliver a range of walking, cycling and bus improvements on key routes into and across Cambridge, including: • 12 Greenways, providing radial cycling and walking routes connecting Cambridge and surrounding settlements and employment sites to promote active travel and modal shift. • The Chisholm Trail Phase 2 cycling route connecting Cambridge and Cambridge North Stations • Bus, cycling and walking improvements to Madingley Road. • Public transport corridor schemes to connect growing	Greater Cambridge Partnership - Senior Programme Officer	GCP Officer time, CCC support where required	Ongoing through to 2030 (end date of GCP's City Deal funding).	These schemes represent a significant increase in sustainable transport capacity that will support more people to walk, cycle or take public transport.	

	communities to employment hubs Cycling Plus Hills Road and A1134, improving cycling facilities in Cambridge.					

4. Sustainable Food

Sustainable Food						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
4.1	Continue to provide and increase plant-based food options at Council meetings and events including at outdoor events (subject to financial offers) and menu at Corn Exchange.	Venues General Manager & City Events Manager	Existing staff	Ongoing	50% of products to be plant based at Corn Exchange. by March 26 100% plant-based food at civic events from 2026	
4.2	Supporting the Cambridge Sustainable Food Network to maintain the Sustainable Food Cities Network Gold Award for Cambridge.	Strategic Enabling Communities Lead	Existing staff		Gold Award maintained for the city	
4.3	Working towards more sustainable food practices at Council-run community centres and reducing food waste through hosting holiday lunch activities and breakfast clubs, hosting a social supermarket and supporting circulation of surplus food.	Strategic Communities Facilities Lead	•Existing staff •Outsourcing where café operations are contracted	By July 2026	25 holiday lunch events provided within council community centres, with a total of 1000 meals provided.	

4.4	Supporting the creation of community orchards and wildlife gardens in new developments through planning policy and by supporting residents to transform local spaces.	Parks Development Officer	•Externally lead initiative by local Friends and Community groups •Supported by existing staff	Look towards achieving a city side portfolio of orchards and gardens or have a plan in place to expand these by 2028	At least 3 new community orchards and wildlife gardens in Cambridge by 2030 Support reduction on maintenance liability to the Council and release resources operationally. Continuous contribution towards the City Councils commitment to the 2019 Biodiversity Emergency motion	Demonstration of citywide net biodiversity gain
4.5	Promote access to local food growing by requiring all new developments to provide allotments through planning policy, increasing awareness through communication and promotion, and making plots more accessible by dividing them into smaller, manageable sizes to ensure local access to sustainable home-grown food to all socio-economic groups.	Parks Development Officer	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Short term target – let all new plots transferred as part of new Darwin Green site -spring 2026.	Reduced reliance on shop bought produce to, at a local level, demonstrate sustainable home growing, citywide awareness of Council allotments

4.6	Using guidance in the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to encourage developers to incorporate food growing in new housing and non-residential development (e.g. providing fruit trees, roof top gardens and growing space as part of landscape design).	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service - Principal Sustainability Officer	Existing Resources	Ongoing until 2027/28	Number of initiatives implemented	Mental health benefits from exposure to green space, community benefits from joining together with others and tackling social isolation, carbon emission reduction, tackling food poverty and encouraging healthy eating

5. Waste Minimisation

Waste Minimisation						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
5.1	Review and reinforce messaging and promotions for staff around waste and recycling in Council offices and work locations to ensure that waste is recycled correctly and waste sent to landfill is minimised.	Waste Project Officer (Comms) & Climate Change Officers	Existing staff including Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service	Ongoing		Increase in quantity and quality of recycling collected, reducing amount sent to landfill
5.2	Using recycled materials for surfacing in Council playgrounds to reduce waste and support a circular economy.	Parks Development Officer	Existing staff	Ongoing initiative supported by Play Strategy 2024	To remove all play surfaces in portfolio that require regular upkeep and maintenance replacement, e.g. bark and sand materials.	Medium-long term budgetary benefit realised.
5.3	Support the national Refill campaign by promoting free drinking water access across the city, including maintenance of Council-provided facilities and integration of new fountain sites into public realm projects.	Parks Development Officer	•Existing staff •S106 contributions where appropriate for installation of new fountains (public realm and open space)	Ongoing		nationally evidenced to reduce bottled water use by: approx. 0.005–0.01 $ktCO_2$ per year based on increased refill usage, resilience to hotter summers, public health, reduced plastic waste Indirect carbon benefit through single-use plastic reduction

5.4	Support a circular economy: Redistribute abandoned bikes with community partners, reducing landfill and enabling more sustainable travel.	Strategic Enabling Communities Lead	Existing staff	Ongoing	Redistribution of 400 bikes per year 3 x case studies captured	
5.5	Work with Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) partners on the new Joint Municipal Waste Strategy setting out how authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will collect and dispose of waste over the next 10 years.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Policy Manager	Existing staffing resource	Ongoing	Increase in recycling and reduction in black bin waste	Waste reduction and avoiding ghg emissions
5.6	Seek opportunities to increase reuse of or recycle items not collected as part of kerbside collections e.g. small electricals.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Policy, Change & Innovations Manager	•Existing staffing and budget •Budget/funding bid required if taken forward further	Financial year 2027/28	Volume recycled	Waste reduction and avoiding ghg emissions
5.7	Deliver separate weekly food waste collections from April 2026.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Policy, Change & Innovations Manager	Existing resources	End of financial year 2026/27	Collections implemented across Cambridge	Methane emissions avoidance

5.8	Review food waste collection through commercial waste service to identify opportunities for support for food waste reduction.	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service – Commercial Waste Manager	Existing staffing resource	2026/27	Food waste collection volumes from commercial waste	Avoidance of methane emissions, tackling food poverty through redistribution of surplus food.
5.9	Carry out communications campaigns focused on increasing recycling rates and reducing non-recyclable waste from Circular Resource Plan. Provide information, communications and support to businesses to design-out waste, adopt circular economy practices and increase recycling (ongoing).	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service - Waste Policy, Change & Innovations Manager/ South Cambridgeshire District Council - Climate & Sustainability Manager / Commercial Waste Manager	Existing staffing and budget	Ongoing	Number of communications activities undertaken and number of people engaged	Reduced costs, waste reduction, avoiding ghg emissions, reduce amount going to landfill

6. Supply Chain and Procurement

Supply Chain and Procurement						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
6.1	Work with Council suppliers where possible to encourage and support them to measure and reduce their emissions.	Chief Procurement Officer, Procurement Delivery Manager, Senior Community Investment Officer (social value), Climate Change Officers	Existing staff	Ongoing		
6.2	Explore how councils might compensate for unavoidable residual emissions to meet net zero targets to inform future decisions that may be needed by the council or a newly formed unitary council to achieve net zero by 2030 and seek funding through budget bid/ funding bid if taken forward.	Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff •Budget/ funding bid required if taken forward	By 2029		

6.3	Working with our supply chain through the Council's social value framework, to provide advice and support, connecting suppliers with local environmental projects to enhance the social and environmental impact of Council procurement.	Senior Community Investment Officer & Procurement team		Ongoing		Suppliers actively engaged in reducing emissions and social value, and contributing to local community projects in Cambridge
6.4	Review existing contracts and introduce further sustainability conditions into all new commercial event agreements on council-owned land, including requirements such as the use of biodiesel and a ban on single-use plastics.	Strategic Lead for Culture & Events	Existing staff May be hidden costs in contract pricing	Jun-27	Approval of revised Events Policy	
6.5	Providing retrofit apprenticeship opportunities to support the development of green skills and long-term green jobs.	Energy & Retrofit Manager	•Existing staff •External funding required such as government or retrofit focussed funding (when available) •Embed social value and green skills clauses in all retrofit contracts Apprenticeship levy funding	2030	•Completion of initial retrofit green skills expansion •At least 30-50 retrofit apprentices delivered through the supply chain by 2030 •100% of major retrofit contracts to include mandatory green skills and apprenticeship requirements	Strengthened local supply chain addressing skills shortages, enhanced resilience and economic growth through a skilled workforce, long-term green job creation and improved career pathways

6.6	Supporting businesses to reduce carbon emissions by facilitating access to tailored advice, funding opportunities, and peer support, working in partnership with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and local business networks.	Inclusive Economy & Climate Manager	•Existing staff •Partnership working		Local businesses are better equipped to tackle climate through improved access to practical decarbonisation support	Businesses are more resilient to the impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events

7. Community Support and Engagement

Community Support and Engagement						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/ Target**	**Co-benefits**
7.1	Develop and implement a communications plan to regularly communicate and engage with different audiences, build a city-wide approach to climate action, encourage collaboration and co-ordinate council engagement in communities and with business e.g. through social media posts, a climate change themed newsletter, residents training and working with Neighbourhood Hubs.	Inclusive Economy and Climate Manager	•Existing staff	Sept 26 for plan	Plan produced and initiatives being delivered. E-Newsletter published and being read. Reach and engagement increased. Residents and businesses trained/ supported.	Awareness raising, increased levels of engagement and action. Collaborative initiatives/partnerships which accelerate Cambridge's path to net zero and climate resilience. Further environmental, social and economic co-benefits unlocked.
7.2	Design and deliver a creative behavioural change campaign for high-footfall venues, including the Corn Exchange, using evidence-based 'nudge' techniques to engage eventgoers and encourage adoption of low-carbon behaviours and choices.	Strategic Lead for Culture & Events	•Existing staff	July 2026	Behavioural change campaign designed and delivered.	increased levels of engagement and action, changes in behaviours/choices bring financial and wellbeing benefits

7.3	Inspire local climate action by delivering at least one high-impact, environmentally themed public event each year, designed to raise awareness, motivate behaviour change, and empower communities with practical knowledge to address climate change.	Strategic Lead for Culture & Events	•Existing staff	Ongoing - continuous project	Environmentally themes public event delivered annually	Stronger community engagement, increased carbon literacy, changes in behaviours/choices bring financial and wellbeing benefits
7.4	Continue to develop and deliver training on net zero, sustainability and climate change to staff and councillors.	Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Training sessions delivered to staff and councillors.	Financial savings for Council where staff make changes as a result which leads to a reduction in consumption e.g. energy consumption, fuel consumption
7.5	Developing Ward Climate Action Plans for each neighbourhood in Cambridge, reflecting local priorities and opportunities, to encourage and empower climate action, and reduce carbon emissions within each neighbourhood.	Strategic Enabling Communities Lead/ Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff	2027	4 Neighbourhood Climate Action Plans created and promoted	Increased resilience to impacts of climate change (such as extreme weather), community cohesion, more equitable climate action (ensure all neighbourhoods benefit, including those most vulnerable to climate impacts.) stronger partnerships between Council, communities, residents and local groups

7.6	Fund community activities by voluntary and community groups, through the annual Council's Sustainable City Grant, to deliver the objectives of the Climate Change Strategy, including reducing energy use, reducing consumption and waste, supporting sustainable food and sustainable travel and communities to be more resilient to climate change.	Community Investment Team/ Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff •Council's annual grant budget	Annually	Reduction in emissions in the City as a result of reduced energy consumption, waste or reduced transport powered by fossil fuels	Reduction in amount sent to landfill, financial savings from reduced energy use, better prepared for impacts of climate change (such as extreme weather), local economic benefits
7.7	Review the Council's Sustainable City Grant to update the fund's criteria and priorities to ensure they are in line with the new Climate Change Strategy's objectives and the Community Wealth Building Strategy.	Community Investment Team/ Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff	Aug-26	Review completed and changes made to eligibility criteria and amendments included in guidance for 2027/28 funding round	

7.8	Explore opportunities for community-led renewable energy generation and shared ownership models, and work with Cambridgeshire County Councils Community Energy team to provide accessible and inclusive support and advice to help unlock funding for groups who wish to empower low-carbon behaviour change and deliver community energy generation projects.	Climate Change Officers/ Cambridgeshire County Council Community Energy Team/	•Existing staff	Ongoing to 2030	Collaboration leading to support provided to groups and projects identified for council sites.	Less reliant on national electricity grid, more resilient energy system, less vulnerable to national/global price hikes, stronger community cohesion, improved air quality (as fewer fossil fuels being emitted), community wealth building (keeps financial benefits in local area), possible financial savings from lower energy costs
7.9	Supporting young people to access and prepare for green job opportunities through green skills development, digital badges and employer engagement and collaboration with a range of partners.	Region of Learning Delivery Manager and Inclusive Economy and Climate Manager	•Existing staff (subject to continued programme funding)	Ongoing to 2031 with annual review (subject to continued programme funding).	Support at least 200 young people in Greater Cambridge to engage with green skills learning and career pathways through the Region of Learning by 2031	•Improved youth employability and clearer progression routes into emerging green jobs •Increased engagement in learning among young people, particularly those furthest from opportunities •Stronger local employer relationships and improved alignment between training and labour-market needs •Enhanced digital literacy and recognition of transferable skills through digital badges •Contribution to a more inclusive, future-ready workforce that supports local economic

						resilience •Strengthened community confidence and wellbeing through supported pathways into meaningful careers
7.10	Link young people, especially those who are facing most disadvantage, to career opportunities in the climate sector through the Included project and Region of Learning delivery.	Head of Economy, Energy and Climate & Region of Learning Delivery Manager	•Existing staff •Partnership working	Ongoing	Opportunities are promoted on the Included website and via the partnership programme	Young people can explore opportunities created locally in line with their ambitions. Quality of life outcomes improved via access to good employment and education/training.
7.11	Work with the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and South Cambridgeshire District Council on a shared approach to implementing the Employment and Skills Plans which are encouraged as part of the Sec 106 process as a route to enabling access to jobs including green/ climate related roles created during the construction and operation phases of new developments.	Head of Economy, Energy and Climate and Inclusive Economy Manager	•Existing staff •Partnership working	Ongoing	Sec 106 agreements Employment and Skills Plans deliver opportunities for green jobs and upskilling	Quality of life outcomes for people as a result of accessing good quality employment and education/training.

7.12	Maintain an Environmental Management System for the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service.	South Cambridgeshire District Council - Climate & Sustainability Manager	•Existing staff	Ongoing	Environmental Policy completed	Consideration of climate and nature within decision making

8.Collaboration

Collaboration						
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Resources**	**Completion date**	**Outcome/Target**	**Co-benefits**
8.1	Continue to convene the City Leaders Climate Change Group, bringing together Cambridge based businesses, public sector and institutions to identify opportunities for collaboration and systems working and support and progress collaborative cross-sector initiatives that occur as a result.	Climate Change Officer	•Existing staff •Partnership working	Ongoing		Collaborative initiatives/ partnerships which accelerate Cambridge's path to net zero and climate resilience. Further environmental, social and economic co-benefits unlocked.
8.2	Co-ordinate a research project in partnership with the Cambridge Ahead Young Advisory Committee Sustainability Subgroup to engage with organisations based in Cambridge through an interview-based approach to identify key themes, challenges, opportunities and areas of good practice to addressing climate change.	Inclusive Economy & Climate Manager / Climate Change Officer	•Existing staff •Partnership working	Dec-26	Report produced	

8.3	Support the growth of a climate cluster in Greater Cambridge in partnership with Innovate Cambridge, Cambridge Cleantech, Cambridge Zero, CISL and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to drive innovation that addresses climate change and creates high value jobs.	Head of Economy, Energy and Climate	•Existing staff •Partnership working • Potential for Local Innovation Partnership Funding (bid submitted)	Ongoing		
8.4	Explore grant funding opportunities for projects and provide test bed opportunities (where feasible) to support innovators to develop and scale sustainable solutions, in partnership with the CISL Living Lab Accelerator project and other university, business and innovation partners.	Inclusive Economy & Climate Manager / Head of Economy, Energy and Climate	•Existing staff •Partnership working	Ongoing		

8.5	Establish the feasibility of a Cambridge Climate Awards for 2027, scope and seek media partner and sponsorship support and explore funding if feasible	Inclusive Economy & Climate Manager/ Climate Change Officer	•Existing staff •Partnership working • Media partner and/or sponsor support to be secured •Budget/funding bid required if feasible to take forward	Feasibility by Nov 26	Resources in place to enable Awards and launch early 27 for awards later in 27	Awareness raising, increased levels of engagement and action. Collaborative initiatives/ partnerships which accelerate Cambridge's path to net zero and climate resilience. Further environmental, social and economic co-benefits unlocked.
8.6	Work collaboratively with local authority partners, including Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, to explore the feasibility and funding options for developing a Locally Determined Contribution (LDC) for the Greater Cambridge area, aligned with the new unitary authority area following Local Government Reorganisation.	Climate Change Officers	•Existing staff •Budget/funding bid likely required if taken forward	March 2027		