Wiltshire Climate Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-2024

Contents

Introduction

This delivery plan sets out how Wiltshire Council will deliver the objectives of its Climate Strategy, adopted in February 2022. The Climate Strategy cannot be implemented by Wiltshire Council alone, so the actions are ones which Wiltshire Council can take, either alone, or in partnership with others. Separately, the "Carbon Neutral Council Plan 2022-2024", focusses on actions that the council will take to reduce its own emissions, and has been published at the same time as this outward-facing delivery plan.

Work was carried out by the council and consultants Anthesis to understand the specific measures required for the county to achieve carbon neutrality. The resulting report, published in May 2022, has informed this plan.

The delivery plan is initially for the period 2022-2024. The Climate Strategy set out 'areas of focus' where it was clear that work needed to be done. Some of these were marked with an exclamation mark to indicate that work needed to start immediately. The actions have been prioritised according to their impact on carbon emissions, but also their ability to kick start the necessary change or generate the understanding that we will need to help us move to a carbon neutral Wiltshire. This takes account of the 'greenhouse gas hierarchy' (see Figure 4.2 in our Climate Strategy Discussion Document).

Prioritisation also takes into account co-benefits, feasibility and cost. This helps to make sure the actions align with the Principles set out on page 8 of our Climate Strategy.

The Climate Strategy has seven Delivery Themes. This document sets out the actions that will take place in relation to six outward-facing Climate Strategy delivery themes during the period 2022-2024.

Who has been involved?

In addition to the steer from national government strategies and a growing evidence base on the impact that local authorities can have on climate change, this delivery plan was informed by the following sources of information:

- Comments from stakeholder organisations and members of the public during the consultation on the Climate Strategy which took place in Autumn 2021, as reported to Cabinet in February 2022;
- Studies by consultants Anthesis on the pathways to carbon neutral;
- Input from Wiltshire Council officers across many service areas, as to how the council might act on the pathways studies and Climate Strategy 'areas of focus' and what the actions should be;
- Consultation with Wiltshire Councillors, in particular Cabinet and the Climate Emergency Task Group. The task group developed two reports and recommendations covering energy, transport and air quality (see Environment Select Committee papers for 13 January 2021) and planning (see Environment Select Committee papers for 3 March 2021).

How will Wiltshire Council implement the Climate Strategy?

This delivery plan sets out actions that Wiltshire Council can lead and can undertake in the short term. The responsible council service is named, as they will lead the action from the council perspective.

It is not a partnership plan, however it contains many actions that involve working with partners where Wiltshire has a role to play. The 'Levers of Influence' diagram on p 9 of our Climate Strategy shows the different ways the council can have an impact, and these are reflected in the actions.

Engagement with Wiltshire communities

Delivery will require working with organisations, residents, businesses and the entire community of Wiltshire.

Many of the actions will need to be delivered in partnership with stakeholders in a delivery or an advisory capacity and these will include the (Councillor) Climate Emergency Task Group, Wiltshire Climate Alliance and its member groups, town and parish councils and community area boards, businesses, community organisations as well as individual residents.

The council will explore effective ways of engaging with partners and stakeholders and look for ways to encourage and support delivery of the Climate Strategy through local initiatives. Specific actions are listed below under 'Cross-cutting Delivery'.

A new Climate and Environment Forum has been set up to enable a regular two way dialogue and share ideas with local community representatives. This Forum is a representative group of approximately 30 Wiltshire residents, meeting up to four times a year. It will act as a sounding board to help shape communications and initiatives to help implement the strategy and objectives of the council's Environment Directorate, including the Climate Strategy. An inaugural meeting was held in July 2022 and the first formal meeting will take place in Autumn 2022.

Cross-cutting Delivery

This section sets out actions that cut across all seven delivery themes. These actions support, enable or deliver objectives from all themes.

When the Climate Strategy was adopted in February 2022, next steps were highlighted, and the following have already been delivered:

The council will continue to deliver carbon reduction work, while working to understand the pathway to carbon neutral and net zero
- Work is underway to reduce the council's emissions, for example through property decarbonisation, fleet transition to electric vehicles and working on retrofitting council homes and much more, to be detailed in the October 2022 Cabinet Report "Update on the council's response to the climate emergency" and annual Greenhouse Gas Return.
- Consultants Anthesis carried out studies to understand the pathways to carbon neutral for the council's emissions as well as the wider emissions of the county of Wiltshire.

By Summer 2022 the council will have the results of studies showing the pathway to carbon neutrality for council operations and for key areas of Wiltshire county emissions

- The results of the studies by Anthesis showed pathways to carbon neutrality for council operations and for key areas of Wiltshire county emissions. These have been used to inform the development of the "Carbon Neutral Council Plan" and this document "Climate Strategy Delivery Plan".

The council will produce evidence-led delivery plans, identifying targets to deliver this strategy. Priorities will be based on carbon savings, cost, feasibility and co-benefits, in line with the principles of this strategy (see p 8 of our Climate Strategy)
- This county-wide delivery plan and the Carbon Neutral Council Plan are the deliverables and the selection and prioritisation of actions has been based on impact (which may be carbon-savings where known, or transformational impact or ability to enable future carbon savings), feasibility and co-benefits, in line with the principles of the Climate Strategy.

The council is incorporating Climate Strategy objectives into its annual service delivery planning
- The development of service plans during Winter 2021/22 involved the consideration of climate objectives and this will be continued and built on through the next cycle of service planning (as per Carbon Neutral Council Plan action **C1.1**).

An information campaign will help to increase awareness of climate change and provide practical steps to residents
- During 2021 and 2022 the council's Communications Team and Climate Team have worked together to develop messages and use social media channels to raise awareness of climate change and give practical tips. This will be built on and developed further in the council's comms and engagement work to support implementation of the Climate Strategy.

Going forward the following cross-cutting actions are planned between now and 2024:

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
Wiltshire Council will:				
X1. Explore effective ways of engaging with partners and stakeholders, and look for ways to encourage and support delivery of the Climate Strategy through local initiatives				
X1.1 Set up Climate and Environment Forum	Inception meeting July 2022; 2-4 meetings per year thereafter	Complete	Awareness; Shaping council climate policy and comms	Environment Directorate with Communications
X1.2 Support town and parish councils in their efforts to address climate change, e.g. dedicated webinars for town/parish councils, building on the workshop held in 2021 with Centre for Sustainable Energy to develop climate action plans	Event for town and parish councils Autumn 2022	Underway	All	Climate Team; Partnership and Engagement Team; Communications; Environment Directorate.

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
X1.3 Support Area Board Environment Leads, town and parish councils and community groups to identify and initiate local action that helps to create a significant impact on key priority areas of the climate strategy. e.g. • Electric vehicles charging infrastructure (**T4.6**) • Support for developing sustainable transport plans (**T11.1**) • Car clubs (**T21.1, T21.2**) • Retrofit of homes and community buildings (**B5.2, B5.3, B9.8**) • Nature recovery (**N1.3, N2.1**) • Tree planting (**N3.2, N8.1**) • Energy awareness (**E4.1, E5.3**) • Waste (**R3.3, R5.3**)	Event for Area Board Environment Leads, and town and parish councils Autumn 2022 (first in a series of webinars)	Explore	All	Climate Team; Partnership and Engagement Team; Communications; Environment Directorate.
X1.4 Continue to develop the council's communications and engagement with residents and organisations	Social media campaign continues throughout 2022 Library climate displays and book selections – Autumn 2022	Underway	All	Communications; Environment directorate
X1.5 Continue to convene and contribute to working groups as a springboard for collaboration, showcasing, providing leadership and a catalyst for action on climate change e.g. • B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System; • Wiltshire Public Service Board and its Public Sector Climate Working Group **(see C12.1)** • Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership • Retrofit working group for local Registered Providers of social housing (**see B9.1**)	Regular meetings with named working groups.	Underway	Awareness; Collaboration; Leadership	Climate Team
X1.6 Participate in regional and national networks to share learning on Wiltshire Council climate programmes, and learn from other local authorities. Explore collaboration on projects where possible, for example on retrofit, fleet transition, green finance and renewable energy investment mechanisms	South West local authority climate officers monthly meetings	Underway	All	Climate Team, and others as relevant

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
	[South West Net Zero Hub](#) support and regular meetings			
X2. Lobbying and influencing national government and national bodies				
X2.1 Lobby central government and national bodies (such as Ofgem) through national networks such as UK100, ADEPT and APSE. Key priorities: • National government / Ofgem to address grid constraints • Development of waste management policy (**R7.1**)	Regular lobbying activity & consultation responses	Underway	Awareness; Leadership	Environment directorate; Wiltshire Council senior leadership and councillors
X2.2 Respond to government consultations where relevant and input to government funding programmes to make sure they are appropriate for Wiltshire residents and business, and that they are available at the scale required to meet our targets	Ongoing	Underway	Leadership; Influencing	Cross-cutting
X3. Seek and allocate funding for implementation of Climate Strategy Delivery Plan				
X3.1 Develop project ideas to outline business case in order to have 'off the shelf' projects ready to apply for funding as soon as the opportunity arises.	Ongoing	Explore	All	All service areas
X3.2 Identify key areas of the Climate Strategy Delivery Plans that could be supported through the council's own budget and capital funds	2023-24 budget supports delivery of climate strategy	Explore	All	Finance, Service areas
X3.3 Explore new ways of raising finance, such as green community bonds or an Environment Fund.	Council has assessed different ways of raising finance and identified a way forward by Dec 2023	Explore	All	Finance, Climate Team
X4. Offsetting our unavoidable carbon emissions and working towards net zero				
X4.1 Develop a strategy for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced. (See **Carbon Neutral Council Plan C6.5**)	Produce strategy by end of 2023	Explore	Leadership; Biodiversity, Health and Wellbeing	Climate Team; Estate and Development

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
X4.2 Continue to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 while acknowledging the findings of the Wiltshire Pathways report and the government's target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 (on a 1990 baseline). We will work with the evolving evidence base to inform our ongoing delivery.	Local Plan and Local Transport Plan consider the available evidence in their development.	Underway	All	Climate Team; Spatial Planning; Sustainable Transport.
X5. Continue to implement, review and update the Wiltshire Council Climate Change Adaption Plan				
X5.1. Review progress against the Wiltshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan [See X5.1]	Review progress by Summer 2023	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Resilience & adaptation	Climate Team
X5.2. Produce a revised Climate Adaptation Plan, which includes an opportunity to reflect on the latest research in terms of likely global warming scenarios. (see also action **C8, and NE6.1**)	Revise & update the plan by Dec 2023	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Resilience & adaptation	Climate Team
X6. Governance & Monitoring				
X6.1 Report every six months as part of the 6-monthly updates to Cabinet and Council. Use this as an opportunity review and refresh actions and targets.	Delivery Plan progress reported twice a year. Delivery plans refreshed annually.	Underway	All	Climate Team, using information from all service areas
X6.2 Councillors to provide challenge through Overview and Scrutiny structures	Delivery Plans presented to the Climate Emergency Task Group, August 2022	Underway	All	Democratic services - Overview and Scrutiny

Delivery themes

The remainder of this document is based on the Delivery Themes of the Climate Strategy:

- Transport
- Natural Environment, Food and Farming
- Homes and the Built Environment
- Energy
- Green Economy
- Resources and Waste
- Carbon Neutral Council focusses on the emissions of council operations, and has a separate delivery plan – 'Carbon Neutral Council Plan 2022-2024'

Each of the Delivery Theme sections provides context on the objectives, opportunities and challenges and then sets out the actions that the council will undertake during 2022 to 2024.

This delivery framework will enable the council to deliver, monitor and report on its actions towards the county of Wiltshire becoming carbon neutral. We will continue to report twice a year, which will enable us to review and modify the plan as necessary to make sure that we are on track to deliver the objectives.

This framework is based on the 'areas of focus', as set out in the adopted Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy. These are highlighted across the width of the table.

Transport Delivery Theme

The climate strategy objectives for transport are:

- To achieve a transport system in Wiltshire that has zero carbon emissions, acknowledging the different solutions for our towns and city versus rural villages
- Creating the infrastructure for increased walking, cycling, shared and public transport and use of alternative fuels, including electric vehicle charging points
- Achieving high-quality public transport and transport hubs that offer a pleasant and convenient way to get around, and seamless combined journeys
- Locating and designing new developments to reduce the need to travel

National Policy

Meeting the Climate Change Act commitment for the UK to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 will require a transformation of the UK transportation system. The Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) details the UK Government's ambition to decarbonise the transport network. The TDP sets out how vehicles will be decarbonised by the phasing out of all new non-zero emissions road vehicles by 2040 and decarbonising the freight system. This aligns with the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution which includes ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 and the Moving Forward Together strategy which commits bus operators to only purchase ultra-low or zero carbon buses from 2025.

However, the TDP notes that simply decarbonizing vehicles will not be enough. This is supported by research showing that attempting to decarbonise road transport through zero emissions vehicles alone, without reducing road miles, could result in an 11% increase in car traffic by 2050 and a 28% increase in car ownership, worsening congestion and related problems. Recognising this, Government policy seeks to accelerate "modal shift' away from private fossil fuelled vehicles and onto other modes of transport. As well as improving health, safety and community cohesion and reinvigorating the local economy, modal shift can reduce congestion making journeys easier for those who have no options except to travel by private car.

The Net Zero Strategy 2021 commits to increasing average vehicle occupancy by 2030 and increasing journeys by public transport, walking and cycling. The Bus Back Better plan encourages far greater usage of bus services. The Government's Gear Change policy is an ambitious plan for 'active travel' – cycling, wheeling and walking. Active travel is supported by the creation of Active Travel England (ATE) an executive agency responsible for improving the standards of active travel infrastructure in England. ATE will fund ambitious active travel schemes and perform inspections and quality control on existing and proposed active travel provision.

The local context

The national 'Transport Decarbonisation: Local Authority Toolkit' states that *"quantifiable carbon reductions will be a fundamental part of local transport planning and funding"*. This requirement will be met in Wiltshire Council's fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP) which sets the holistic direction for transport in the county. The "Wiltshire Carbon Emissions Baselines and Reduction Pathways: Wiltshire County Report (2022)" gives a sense of the scale of action needed for transport decarbonisation in Wiltshire. The report's High Ambition pathway scenario most closely approaches the council's ambition for the county to be carbon neutral by 2030 and illustrates the scale of change required by 2030:

- A 25% reduction in the average miles travelled per person per day in private cars and taxis
- A 67% increase in active travel mileage from 2020 levels, so that 5% of mileage share is active travel
- An 18% increase in public transport mileage from 2020 levels, so that 20% of mileage share is buses
- 88% of vehicles are electrified, up from 3% in 2020
- 71% reduction in energy used per freight mile by switching freight to zero emissions vehicles

This pathway scenario relies heavily on electrification, based on high-level modelling using national data scaled to Wiltshire. The figures above are not targets, so when local factors are considered through the production of the LTP, the decarbonisation pathway may look different, with emphasis on different measures.

There is some indication that the public is ready for these transformative changes. Our Climate Strategy consultation showed that at least amongst consultation respondents there is a high level of public support for the key measures: public transport; active travel and electric vehicle (EV) charging.

Key challenges and opportunities

- **Electrification:** To achieve the scale and pace of electrification needed, grid capacity needs to improve, and more renewable energy also needs to be delivered, to support a rapid and comprehensive installation programme for zero carbon charging infrastructure. As set out in our interim Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, there are opportunities for the council to be at the heart of this process ensuring all areas of Wiltshire are served.
- **Public transport**: Overall bus ridership has not yet recovered post-Covid, and Covid relief funding for buses ends in October 2022. Buses will face severe revenue shortages, particularly for under-used rural routes relied upon by isolated and elderly residents. However, there is an opportunity to pursue demand responsive transport to meet some of this need.
- **Modal shift:** Achieving modal shift will require consideration of road space to accommodate increased use of public transport, walking and cycling. This will require careful engagement and co-design with residents and communities to ensure that measures are properly designed and implemented but presents the opportunity to realise the co-benefits such as health, wellbeing, and the local economy.

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T1. Better understand our carbon baseline and forecast and the impact of different transport actions				
T1.1. As part of developing the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) a carbon calculator tool will be developed and applied to compare the transport carbon impact of different transport measures.	Completed in Autumn 2022	Underway	Evidence to enable efficient deployment of resources to most effective actions	Sustainable Transport
T2. Develop and implement a new Wiltshire Local Transport Plan, Local Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy in line with our climate objectives that will set out plans and policies to help achieve the vision for sustainable mobility and transport in Wiltshire				
T2.1. Adopt a Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) to grow and level up the economy, improve transport for the user and reduce environmental impacts. The LTP will target and set a course to a quantified carbon reduction, as required for future local transport funding.	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Active lives, wellbeing, air quality, economy, natural environment, stronger communities, lower cost of living and vibrant local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T2.2. Draft Local Plan which includes a user hierarchy and policies that support pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and prioritises sustainable travel.	Publication of draft Local Plan	Underway	Active lives, stronger communities, reduced travel costs, stronger local economy, safety.	Spatial Planning
T3 Produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Wiltshire and the major settlements to unlock further Government funding for measures				
T3.1. Consult on and adopt Wiltshire Framework LCWIP	Consultation in autumn 2022	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T3.2. Develop and adopt local LCWIPs for Salisbury, Devizes, Chippenham, Trowbridge,	LCWIPs adopted in 2022/3	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T3.3. Seek funding to develop LCWIPs for other market towns	Commencement dependent on funding	Explore	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T3.4. LTP to set out detail of car parking charges and management to encourage sustainable transport	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T4. Explore how the council can best support charging infrastructure to encourage the uptake of all types of zero carbon vehicles by Wiltshire residents and businesses, through Wiltshire Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan and other future plans				
T4.1. Second Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to be developed as part of the LTP to scale up EV infrastructure to serve the rapid increase in EVs needed. To include targets, placement and delivery plan for EV charging points (EVCP) and the council's role as landowner. This follows the first Wiltshire Council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan (EVCIP) 2021 -24. Key actions below.	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Clean air	Sustainable Transport
T4.2 EVCIP: Power all council-owned EVCP with renewable energy through the council's green tariff. Further actions below.	2021-24	Underway	Clean air	Highway Operations
T4.3. EVCIP: Every urban community area with a population over 10,000 has at least one Council sponsored public EVCP.	2021-24	Underway	Clean air	Highway Operations
T4.4. EVCIP: Replace the Council's current EVCPs where there is a proven need to ensure all chargers are fit for purpose.	2021-24	Underway	Clean air	Highway Operations
T4.5. EVCIP: Identify suitable sites for EVCP hubs for a range of users including communities, business fleet vehicles, visitors, long-distance travel, taxis, multi-modal transport users, freight, and logistics.	2021-24	Underway	Clean air	Highway Operations
T4.6. Support for Town and Parish Councils to apply for grant funding for electric vehicle charge points with council grants of up to £2,500 per site subject to conditions being met. £70,000 is currently allocated for the £2,500 grants, allowing support for approx. 28 Town and Parish Councils.	Ongoing for duration of grant funding	Underway	Clean air	Highway Operations
T4.7. Identify charging infrastructure needs of the bus and taxi sectors operating within the Wiltshire Council area.	Needs identified (subject to resources)	Exploring	Clean air	Highway Operations
T5. Use planning powers and regeneration programmes to increase accessibility to local services and facilities, creating places that enable local living, and explore the potential for '20 minute neighbourhoods' or similar concepts for Wiltshire.				
T5.1. The Future High Streets Fund grant for Trowbridge will seek to improve footfall through the town centre and enhance pedestrian and public space in the town centre to support greater pedestrian access	Funding ends March 2024 although delivery can continue beyond this	Underway	Local economy, culture, community	Economy and Regeneration
T5.2. The Future High Street Fund in Salisbury will enhance pedestrian access into the city centre to increase footfall. Funding can continue beyond end of funding	Funding ends in March 2024	Underway	Local economy, culture, community	Economy and Regeneration

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T5.3. Wiltshire Design Guide to advise that public realm includes provision for public and active travel e.g., bike racks, bus stops, accessible pavements and EV charging.	Wiltshire Design Guide produced Winter 2022/23	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy. More and better homes.	Natural and Historic Environment
T5.4. Improve the public realm for sustainable travel by adopting and implementing the Active Travel Parking Standards and Active Travel Infrastructure Standards to require that public realm include provision for public and active travel e.g., bike racks and accessible pavements.	Adopted 2022	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T5.5. Residential Road Design Guide to be adopted with protocols for residential road design in new developments, reflecting national guidance for high quality walking, cycling, EV charging and public transport. To be used to evaluate planning applications.	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T5.6. Explore and support investment in sustainable travel infrastructure by Town Councils through development of Town Action Plans which will guide allocation of funding from the Wiltshire Towns Programme and must align with the relevant LCWIP.	Funding until March 2024	Exploring	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Economy and Regeneration
T5.7. Explore investment in local co-working spaces to enable people to work closer to where they live, through the Town Action Plans and Wiltshire Towns Programme.	Wiltshire Towns Programme funds £1m/ year from 2021-2025	Exploring	Stronger communities and local economy.	Economy and Regeneration
T5.8. Explore support for sustainable transport opportunities in the local area as part of the £5.7m Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme.	SPF delivery to commence Winter 2022/23 if Investment Plan approved	Explore	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Economy and Regeneration
T6. Through Wiltshire's ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) we will seek to unlock grant funding for public transport in the government's National Bus Strategy and deliver a high quality, lower fare, higher frequency, and greener public transport network.				
T6.1. Create a bus passenger charter and seek further funding for the measures identified in the BSIP.	BSIP commencing 2022	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T6.2. Adopt a 'Super Bus Network' approach to enhance customer experience and encourage modal shift by improving bus infrastructure, information, marketing and fares on key bus routes.	BSIP commencing 2022	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T6.3. Develop and expand existing multi-operator ticketing schemes, building on the Wiltshire Rover ticket, to improve through ticketing.	BSIP commencing 2022	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T6.4. Explore how to procure zero emission public transport vehicles, and work with operators through the BSIP to support the transition to zero emissions vehicles in preparation for the end of UK sales of petrol and diesel buses in 2030. This will build on the commitment from some operators not to buy new diesel vehicles.	Options explored by Dec 2024	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T6.5. Ensure all Wiltshire buses are able to accept smart ticketing, allowing users to purchase on-demand via app and wireless payments based on their journey	All ticket machines to have capability for smart ticketing by Autumn 2022	Underway	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T6.6. Improve ridership rates, which have fallen during COVID , for example with promotion of concessionary fares in conjunction with the bus operators.	BSIP commencing 2022	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T6.7. Research and investigation to determine transport needs post Covid and adjust services accordingly.	BSIP commencing 2022	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership	Passenger Transport
T7. We will build upon the existing rural transport network, including through more Demand Responsive (DRT) type operations				
T7.1. Use the £1.2m Rural Mobility Fund grant for Demand Responsive Transport expansion in the Vale of Pewsey to develop a larger roll out model.	Soft launch December 2022 for 4 years	Developing	Community	Passenger Transport
T8. Building on lessons learned in the pandemic and new working patterns, revise and implement the Wiltshire Council travel plan for the council's 4,500 staff				
T8.1 Staff commuting Continue to encourage staff to use 'Lift share', use public transport and active travel options when travelling to work.	Renewed promotion of opportunities available to staff,	Underway	Staff awareness Improved air quality.	HR with Climate Team.

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
Promote discounted public transport, salary sacrifice bike purchase scheme and explore green car purchase scheme. Explore ways to monitor emissions from staff commuting and assessing the impact of working from home on carbon emissions. Learn from other LAs and develop messaging for staff on home energy efficiency. Develop capacity and prepare to update Wiltshire Council Travel Plan.	starting Summer 2022.	Explore	Improved health where staff are able to walk or cycle. Reduced costs of staff commuting.	Sustainable Transport
T9. As part of the Local Transport Plan, develop a vision for sustainable mobility and transport in Wiltshire as a basis for the changes needed to achieve zero carbon travel.				
T9.1. To inform the LTP and support the Local Plan, develop a vision for sustainable, decarbonised transport	Summer 2023	Explore	Support for the other actions	Sustainable Transport, Spatial Planning and Climate Team
T.10. Encourage town and parish councils to help develop and deliver infrastructure that links with the wider sustainable transport network, such as Town Cycle Networks as they become updated into Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans				
T10.1. Support provided for town and parish councils to develop Town Cycle Networks and other sustainable transport plans, to inform council transport planning.	Ongoing	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T.11. Community transport				
T11.1. Continue to provide grant funding for community transport in Wiltshire for people who are isolated and unable to get to a bus stop e.g., dial a ride schemes. There are 23 community transport schemes across Wiltshire and 47 link schemes, covering around 99% of the county.	£162,000 per year of grant funding allocated to schemes.	Underway	Health, wellbeing, reducing social isolation	Passenger Transport
T11.2. Provide neighbourhood planning guidance on sustainable transport	Ongoing	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport; Spatial Planning
T12. Work with the rail industry to help enhance train services, deliver required infrastructure, including new stations, and improve rail's inter-connectivity with the wider transport system				

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T12.1. Business case development for a new Gateway station at Devizes including a bus service that serves Devizes and the station.	If bid is successful, construction commencement expected in 2025	Developing	Less congestion and air pollution. More visitors to town centre.	Sustainable Transport
T12.2. Business Case development for new railway station at Corsham, including transport accessibility to the station particularly within Corsham.	Strategic Outline Business Case submitted to DfT in September 2022	Developing	Less congestion and air pollution. More visitors to town centre.	Sustainable Transport
T12.3. Sub-strategy on Rail in the LTP providing a clear picture of what is needed, engaging with rail industry.	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Less congestion and air pollution.	Sustainable Transport
T13. Encourage schools to develop and update nationally accredited green travel plans through the Modeshift STARS scheme. Continue to work with schools to explore and deliver initiatives to support safe walking and cycling				
T13.1. Sign up new schools and work with existing schools to progress through the Modeshift STARS levels	Ongoing	Underway	Childhood obesity, health, air quality	Sustainable Transport (Road Safety)
T14. Develop an active travel network that is inclusive, safe and enjoyable to use, meets the latest design guidance where feasible and embraces new modes such as e-bikes, non-standard cycles, e-scooters and cargo bikes. Routes can coincide with the Rights of Way				
T14.1. Construct Hilperton Road to Melksham via Semington cycle path. Phase 1 has been completed	Spring 2023	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T14.2. Construct Winsley to Bradford on Avon shared use path.	Autumn 2022	Complete	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T14.3. Construct Fugglestone to Wilton Hill cycle path as part of housing development timeframe in the area	Dependent on housing delivery timeframe	Developing	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T14.4. Construct Lower Road to the A3094/A36 junction cycle path, Quidhampton. Funding has been secured, design and land acquisition underway	Dependent on land negotiations	Developing	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T14.5. Design and construct Longhedge to Old Sarum eastern path, Salisbury. Survey work underway.	2024 dependent on survey	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T14.6. Via the Future High Street Fund, Trowbridge; develop and construct improved pedestrian routes into the town centre along 5 key access corridors; Wicker Hill, Church Street, Manvers Street, Castle Street and Roundstone Street and Salisbury Fisherton Gateway	2024	Underway	Active lives, clean air, stronger communities, local economy.	Sustainable Transport
T14.7. As part of LTP, develop a micro-mobility policy for small electric vehicles such as e-bikes and scooters	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Explore	Clean air	Sustainable Transport
T14.8. Continue the expansion of the e-bike hire scheme in Salisbury, Amesbury and Stonehenge beyond the 2 confirmed locations	E-bike hire docks installed at more locations	Underway	Green tourism	Sustainable Transport
T.15. Improve Rights of Way network, canals, green open spaces and wildlife corridors where appropriate				
T15.1. Upgrade and extend Public Rights of Way (PROW) enabling them to be more viable for active travel and more accessible. Currently a £1.1m annual budget for all PROW management.	Ongoing	Underway	Active lives, wellbeing through access to nature.	Highways and Transport
T15.2 Identifying improvements through the Countryside Access Improvement Plan (CAIP), working in partnership with the Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum	Development of CAIP commence 2022, adoption 2023/4	Explore	Active lives, wellbeing through access to nature.	Highways and Transport
T16. Ensure that infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, extreme heat, storms and power outages				
See action **NE5.1** to review Wiltshire Council Adaptation Plan where infrastructure will be considered.				
T16.1 Infrastructure impacts prepared for through the Severe Weather Forum	Ongoing	Underway	Community resilience	Highways Asset Management
T16.2 Work in partnership with Environment agency, Natural England and other partners such as landowners on planning for extreme events such as flooding. Seek further capital funding for more work on land drainage to mitigate climate change since existing infrastructure has not been designed to cope with climate change.	Allocate corporate capital funding to mitigate climate change and land use changes - £500,000 per year for 3 years.	Exploring	Community resilience	Highways Asset Management

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T16.3 Once Highways Term Contractor is appointed, consider a programme of replacement of street signs with new resilient designs to enable them to cope with higher winds.	Commence 2023 when Highways contractor has been appointed.	Exploring	Safety	Highways Asset Management
T17. Make use of available tools, such as government funded initiatives, behaviour change campaigns and community organisations and networks to deliver zero carbon transport in Wiltshire				
T17.1 Bikeability training, for schools, but increasingly for adults and family groups too, plus pedestrian and scooter training for children	Ongoing multi-year programme	Underway	Safety	Sustainable Transport (Road Safety)
T17.2 Operation Close Pass events to encourage safe driving behaviour around cyclists and horse riders	Ongoing multi-year programme	Underway	Safety	Sustainable Transport (Road Safety)
T17.3 Work with Area Board Environment Leads group and Town/Parish Councils to support the delivery of zero carbon transport in Wiltshire	EV webinar delivered Autumn 2022	Underway	Community empowerment	Climate Team; Partnership and Engagement Team
T18. Work to further increase access to high-speed broadband, to enable digital options including home working, and encourage businesses to embrace these options building on the success of the Wiltshire Online broadband project				
T18.1 Project Gigabit aims to deliver 100% 5G broadband throughout the county by 2030, as per the national Future of Telecoms Infrastructure Review. This will include coverage for the c.15% of rural areas nationwide that are not currently serviced by broadband.	Coverage complete by 2030, project scheduled to commence Autumn 2022	Developing	Increased economic output	Economy & Regeneration
T19. Promote local tourism as well as having a 'green travel offer' available for our visitors				
T19.1 Exploring sustainable travel to tourist sites to provide an alternative to visiting by car.	Ongoing	Exploring	Diversified tourism economy	Economy & Regeneration
T20. Work with parish and town councils and community groups to support car clubs, car sharing and community and public transport, making use of zero or low emissions vehicles where viable				
T20.1 Develop a plan for Car clubs, including EV car clubs, and car sharing as part of the LTP.	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Reduced transport costs for residents compared to car ownership, reduced parking pressure. Clean air.	Sustainable Transport

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
T21. Explore the potential for local delivery hubs, and coordinated, low-carbon forms of transport such as cargo bikes for the last mile of deliveries in towns. Support the provision of intermodal and other rail freight terminals in suitable areas				
T21.1 The LTP will have a Freight Strategy which will consider the potential for freight consolidation and last mile delivery	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Air pollution, road safety, congestion.	Sustainable Transport
T22. Work with partners to move to ultralow emissions vehicles for public transport, and to carbon neutral fuels for heavy fleet vehicles				
T22.1 Heavy vehicle decarbonisation is considered in the EV and Freight strategy which will be developed as part of LTP	Draft LTP published 2023/24	Developing	Air quality, Driver health	Sustainable Transport; Passenger Transport
T22.2. Through the Public Sector Climate Working Group and local authority networks encourage knowledge sharing and explore potential for collaboration on heavy vehicles.	Ongoing	Underway	Air quality, Driver health	Climate Team
T22.3. Work with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership (SWLEP) and the Western Gateway to explore hydrogen production and infrastructure.	Strategy produced	Exploring	Air quality, Driver health	SWLEP

Homes and the Built Environment Delivery Theme

The Climate Strategy objectives for Homes and Built environment are:

- New buildings, including homes, to be net zero carbon and adaptable to climate change as soon as possible (including measures such as water efficiency)
- Existing buildings in all sectors to be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and decrease energy demand through low carbon technology
- New and existing buildings to be adapted to climate change for both heating and cooling, and to include measures of benefit to the wider environment where possible

National Context

The Net Zero Strategy 2021 and the Heat and Buildings Strategy give a clear steer from the government on decarbonisation of heating systems. The Clean Growth Strategy targets improvements in energy efficiency and comfort for as many houses as possible by bringing them up to at least EPC level C. The government will bring in the Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standard by 2025 which will mean buildings regulations can require stronger energy efficiency levels. The National Planning Policy Framework is the framework for national planning policy.

Local Context

At the local level the Wiltshire Core Strategy remains the adopted policy to guide new development. A new Local Plan is being produced and the review process is considering how best to include policies for a carbon neutral Wiltshire. Consultation on the Climate Strategy showed that consultees were most interested in our first objective relating to new buildings being net zero. While new development is important to get right, it is a small proportion of the buildings in Wiltshire which need to be made more energy efficient.

Key challenges and opportunities

The Built Environment, including homes, is a significant source of emissions within Wiltshire and interlinks with other delivery themes. Therefore, a wide-ranging set of actions is required to lower emissions. Consultants Anthesis identified three key interventions to reduce emissions in buildings: Improving energy efficiency, reducing gas heating systems, and low carbon and energy efficient cooking, lighting and appliances.

As mentioned above retrofitting existing buildings is our biggest challenge and the council's successful programme to retrofit council homes is an opportunity to learn from this experience, and to communicate benefits to the wider community. The challenge is that while we know that

certain technologies like solar PV and heat pumps are a key part of the solution, every building is different and care must be taken that residents are able to make fully informed choices about changes to their property and end up with a solution that works for them both in terms of comfort as well as cost. While we know we need to retrofit at scale, we need to be mindful of the issue of lack of supply and skills in developing our actions and promotion.

The focus in the short-term will be on encouraging a fabric-first approach, which means getting homes insulated and ready for zero-carbon heating technologies, whilst making sure that ventilation and overheating are considered. This is important during the current energy and cost of living crisis, as cost savings are often a co-benefit of these measures.

Wiltshire Council are currently considered to be at the forefront of the Government agenda to explore modern methods of construction (MMC), zero carbon homes and delivering at speed. By aggregating our demand, Wiltshire Council can seek greater efficiencies and stimulate the growth of skills and businesses in this sector.

Actions in this section are based on the objectives and actions as set out in the adopted Wiltshire Climate Strategy and recommendations of the County Wide Emission Reduction Pathways report by consultants Anthesis. Actions that relate to buildings in the Wiltshire Council estate are not included here but are in the Carbon Neutral Council Plan.

It should be noted that the Anthesis Pathways report has a section for Industry but other business emissions sit largely within Built Environment, whereas this delivery plan has a Green Economy delivery theme where many business-related interventions will be found, rather than in this section. Low carbon heating measures, such as air source heat pumps or district heating, sit within Buildings in the Pathways report, but will be found within the Homes and Built Environment and the Energy sections of this delivery plan, depending on the action.

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
B1. Continue to implement the ten-year programme to retrofit all council homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B standard. This looks at whole house retrofit and includes both energy saving measures such as insulation and technologies like air source heat pumps (Links to 5.1 Buildings, 1.1 and 1.2 and to some of 1.3, though there is an element of user ability to impact this, Anthesis)				
B1.1. Retrofit all the council homes to EPC B by 2030 (Home Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP), ensuring all fossil fuel appliances used as the primary heating and hot water provision are removed where feasible.	10 year programme to retrofit all council homes to EPC B by 2030. Retrofit 500 homes per year.	Underway	Warmer and healthier homes, reduced energy consumption for tenants.	Strategic Assets and FM

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
	Reduce CO$_2$ from council homes by 12,000 tonnes			
B2. Aspire for net zero carbon development by the council where viable and possible. Starting with the council's own new build development programme; a pilot project to manufacture 19 zero carbon homes (in use) off-site. Using a fabric-first approach, the homes will be all-electric with PV panels				
B2.1. Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) new build development programme. Starting with the council's own new build development programme; a pilot project to manufacture 19 zero carbon homes (in use) off-site. Using a fabric-first approach, the homes will likely be all-electric with PV panels	10 years overall programme; Pilot programme due to be completed by March 2023 (19 homes) Further 1000 homes ordered.	Underway	Warmer and healthier homes, reduced energy bills for tenants, lower embodied carbon. Reduced waste & pollution from construction.	Estates and Development (Residential Development Team)
B3. Use the Local Plan review as an opportunity for zero carbon standards in new builds; stronger policy on adaptation and mitigation; and improved policies on other aspects such as water use and well-considered site layouts				
B3.1. Develop evidence-led new policy as part of Local Plan review, to include consideration of new build zero carbon development, adaptation to the effects of climate change, sustainable design, construction and resource use.	Publication of draft Local Plan	Underway	All	Spatial Planning; Climate Team
B3.2. Investigate development of a method to better understand the climate and energy impacts of the Local Plan policies.	Methodology investigated. End of 2024	Explore		Spatial Planning; Climate Team
B4. Look at the council estate to find an opportunity for a case study on retrofitting a historic building				
B4.1. Publish initial case study to show the challenges and opportunities relating to retrofitting a historic building.	Initial case study published by Spring 2023	Underway		Climate Team
B5. Help residents to understand and engage in retrofitting their homes by information provision and active promotion				
B5.1. Desktop research and 30 retrofit inspections across different housing archetypes to identify real life experiences and challenges to retrofitting existing private sector housing stock.	Case studies available by end 2022	Underway	Comfortable homes; cost savings; health	Public Health; With Centre for Sustainable Energy
B5.2. Provide information on retrofit for various audiences via the council website.	Information created 2022	Completed	All	Climate Team

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
B5.3. Continue to explore the best way for the local authority to provide advice on retrofit and support residents in improving energy efficiency and taking up new technology as appropriate for their property.	Webinar for Area Board Environment Leads & town and parish councils. Spring 2023.	Explore	All	Climate Team
B6. Continue to help fuel-poor households improve the efficiency of their homes by targeted support				
B6.1. Continue to provide support via the Warm and Safe Wiltshire service. Including training to front-facing health services on energy saving.	Programme funded to end of March 2023 Case worker recruited to provide energy saving and energy debt advice.	Underway	Cost savings; comfortable homes; Health	Public Health
B6.2. Develop Wiltshire based case studies that show the benefits of Warm and Safe activities. Use learning from Warm and Safe implementation to look at expanding the learning, knowledge share and uptake throughout Wiltshire communities.	Case studies and analysis informs development of wider community retrofit programme. Jan 2023	Explore	Cost savings; comfortable homes; Health; Scaling up	Public Health with Climate Team
B7. Work in partnership to bid for retrofit funding				
B7.1. Wiltshire Council are a marketing partner for the current Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUGS) and Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) **[See also X3.1]**	Starting in June 2022, Finalisation in March 2023 or possible extension to June 2023	Underway	Cost savings; independence from oil	Public Health
B7.2. Develop and collate data across council service areas to help support funding bids, and enable targeted promotion of grants and comms for retrofit. **[See also X3.1]**	Assess different data sources and needs for collated resource; by Spring 2023	Explore	Cost savings; effective bidding	Business intelligence

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
B7.3 Develop capacity to bid for government funding for residential retrofits	Corporate review of bidding capacity complete by end 2022	Underway	Cost savings; effective bidding	To be determined following review
B8 Disseminate learning from our own programmes to partners locally and nationally. This includes via case studies				
B8.1. Continue to raise awareness of council actions through local newsletters, press articles and website e.g. regular updates on the Housing Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP) and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) of new council homes.	Press release related to progress update to Cabinet Oct 2022	Underway	All	Estates and Development; Communication
Share learning with other local authorities and explore collaboration on retrofit (See X1.6)				
B9 Work in partnership to raise standards in both housing and the wider built environment, such as business and schools, utilising existing and new communication channels. This includes with social housing providers through existing partnerships.				
B9.1 Continue to hold quarterly meetings with Registered Providers to share knowledge of retrofit (this also relates to **B8**) and identify opportunities for partnership bids	Quarterly meetings held	Underway	All	Climate Team to convene
B9.2. Work with developers to encourage higher standards from new builds, ahead of new Local Plan policy and Future Homes Standard. Continue to provide responses from the climate perspective into pre-applications; renewable energy planning applications and council own planning applications	Explore engagement based on Wiltshire Design Guide. Summer 2023 Develop criteria to encourage developers to use. Dec 2022	Explore	All	Climate Team; Development Management; Natural and Historic Environment.
B9.3. Continue the quarterly meetings with Housing Enablement and Registered Providers to help promote more new affordable housing, and continue discussion on zero carbon in new builds and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).	Quarterly meetings held	Underway	All	Estates and Development.
B9.4. Continue to work with private sector landlords to ensure compliance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) regulations.	Non-compliant properties are improved	Underway	Cost savings; thermal comfort	Housing – People Services

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
B9.5. School emissions Explore the potential to work with a cohort of schools to identify specific potential for carbon savings in buildings, and invest in the necessary works and equipment. Identify appropriate funding.	Initial cohort identified and using Energy Sparks Summer 2023	Explore	Cost savings; thermal comfort; education & awareness	Strategic Assets and Facilities Management; Schools; School Place Commissioning; Climate Team
B9.6. Aim for the mobile pre-school replacement programme to be using as high as possible environmental standards as viable.	10 year replacement programme. Early years capital programme policy agreed by March 2023	Underway	Cost savings; thermal comfort; education & awareness	Families & Children Commissioning. Climate Team
B9.7. School knowledge sharing - Continue to share information via the council's communication channels such as Headteachers newsletter and Early Years newsletter.	Ongoing	Underway	All	Climate Team with Communications
B9.8 Work with community groups and partners (such as Community First), Town and Parish Councils, and community area board environment leads (ABELs) to encourage knowledge sharing and projects on retrofit. **[See also X1.3]**	Initial engagement in Winter 2022/23 for Town and Parish Councils and ABELs to launch the delivery plan.	Explore	Awareness; cost savings; thermal comfort	Partnership and Engagement Team; Climate Team

Natural Environment, Food and Farming Delivery Theme

Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan – the "Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy" is a key council strategy for this delivery theme. It establishes shared goals and aspirations for climate, biodiversity and health and wellbeing.

The council is involved in a wide range of actions to deliver these shared goals. In this delivery plan we focus on the actions to reduce carbon dioxide through nature-based solutions, i.e. absorption by trees, vegetation and soils as well as using nature benefits to help mitigate the effects of climate change i.e. through increasing urban tree and vegetation cover to reduce temperatures in built areas and natural flood management so slow the flow of storm waters and allow it time to be absorbed into the ground. Finally, we need to act to make sure the natural environment is protected and biodiversity loss is reversed, which among other benefits makes it more resilient to the effects of climate change.

The Climate Strategy objectives for the Natural Environment, Food and Farming are:

- Efficient and environmentally sensitive use of land, providing for the needs of an increasing population and nature: food production, renewable energy generation, housing and transport, alongside woodland creation and nature recovery
- Absorbing carbon, by plants and well-managed soils
- Sustainable, low-carbon food and farming systems
- Protect and extend our network of green spaces and land and water habitats. Make best use of this network of green and blue spaces for biodiversity, active travel, recreation, cooling, shade and absorbing carbon
- Natural water management – improving climate resilience by reducing flood risk and summer droughts, and reducing water use

National context

The national policy context includes Defra's "25 year Environment Plan", and the Environment Act which sets out directives on biodiversity net gain, and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 sets out plans for Environmental Land Management Schemes for rewarding environmental benefits in farming. The Government Food Strategy (June 2022), England Trees Action Plan and the Committee on Climate Change "Land Use: Policies for Net Zero" (2020) are also key parts of the evidence base.

Local context

As well as its framework 'Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy' (GBI Strategy) the council has a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Nutrient Management Plan and is developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

Key challenges and opportunities

The "Wiltshire Carbon Emissions Baselines and Reduction Pathways: Wiltshire County Report" (2022)" recommended that the council increase tree and woodland coverage, consider changes to land management and consider changes to numbers of livestock.

Wiltshire Council is not necessarily the main point for support and advice for landowners and farmers, so much of this work requires strong partnership work. Existing relationships with County Farm tenants, Environmental Farmers Networks, NFU and other local and regional networks, town and parish councils and community groups can be strengthened and there are opportunities around tree and woodland planting as well as working on sustainable farming practices and looking at Wiltshire's food systems.

Key partners working with the council in this area include the Natural England, Environment Agency, DEFRA, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, AONBs, National Parks, Countryside Landowners Association, Farmers Wildlife Advisory Group, NFU, Canal and River Trusts, Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission.

The Local Plan review is an opportunity to consider policies to protect and bolster green and blue infrastructure, and ensure that assessment of carbon impacts are incorporated into land use changes. Another immediate focus will be on nature recovery including, tree and woodland planting, improving the health of rivers and streams, creating wetlands and supporting pollinators.

Focus on trees

While the Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy is still being developed, this plan is an opportunity to set out some interim targets and principles, to guide planting by the council as well as community partners who are ready to start projects.

Current position

Wiltshire's current tree cover is estimated at a total of 14%, made up of 9% in woodlands ([Woodland Trust](#) (2019)) and 5% outside woodlands (estimated from the figures for the South West from [National Forest Inventory: tree cover outside woodland in GB](#)). This compares with an average for England of 14.5% (10% woodlands and 4.5% trees outside woodland).

Based on the [government's recent consultation on a tree target for England](#), the CCC Land Use: Policies for Net Zero report, the Anthesis pathways report and Woodland Trust guidance, **tree and woodland cover will need to increase from the current 14% to between 17% and 20.5%** in order to make a significant contribution to the county carbon neutral goal.

An increase to 20.5% tree and woodland cover would follow our 'high ambition pathway' as set out in the Anthesis pathways, and broadly aligns with the CCC recommendations. This would mean planting 962 ha, or approx. 1.5 million trees per year. In contrast, aiming for a 'medium ambition pathway' would mean increasing our tree cover to 17% by 2045 (17.5% coverage by 2050) and this would mean planting 422ha or approx. 675,000 trees per year. This aligns with the proposed tree target for England.

In order to agree the longer-term target to 2045 we will await the publication of the government's targets for England and work on our own analysis of what is possible in each community area in Wiltshire. In the short term we will aim for the planting targets in the box below, which are approximately 25% and 50% of the medium-ambition yearly target. Whilst only a fraction of the aspirational government targets these are still ambitious, requiring landowners to engage and allowing time to set up the necessary support and networks. Planting needs to be in suitable locations that do not compromise food security or lead to the loss of other critically important habitat. In short, planting will need to be in the right place to ensure the carbon benefits don't outweigh biodiversity benefits. Resources will be a huge challenge, and we will seek funding as well as relying on partnerships with community groups, volunteers and other organisations to help deliver. The Great Western Community Forest is partly in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough Council is a key partner for our delivery.

Winter Season 23/24	Winter Season 24/25
Wiltshire Council: 106Ha	Wiltshire Council: 212Ha

We urge anyone wishing to plant anything from individual trees in gardens or parks, up to large woodlands, to follow guidance such as that published by Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust and the AONBs[1] as it is vital to plant the right trees in the right place. Optimal planting is based on having regard for existing heritage, ecological and landscape features, and getting the best out of the project in terms of wildlife and habitat restoration as well as carbon sequestration. Tree species and maintenance need to be suited to soil type and be resilient to pests, diseases and climate changes and have sufficient space to grow without risk to buildings and structures.

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
Wiltshire Council will:				
NE1. Use the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire as our framework for partnership working to extend and improve Wiltshire's green and blue infrastructure network, with its key goals of 'adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change', 'halting loss of and improving biodiversity', and 'contributing to health and wellbeing'.				
NE1.1. Develop implementation plans associated with the Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. – • Local Nature Recovery Strategy (awaiting government guidance) • GBI Settlement Frameworks • Tree and woodland planting strategy • Guidance for neighbourhood plans	Local Nature Recovery Strategy by end of 2023 Guidance for Neighbourhood Plans by Spring 2023	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity gains; health and wellbeing; mitigating the effects of climate change through nature-based solutions	Natural and Historic Environment; Spatial Planning

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[1] Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty tree and woodland guidance : Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB; North Wessex Downs AONB; Cotswolds AONB

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
NE1.2. Ensure that principles of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy are incorporated into the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, and associated plans (e.g. Design Guide).	Local Transport Plan – 2023/24; Publication of draft Local Plan	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity net gains; health and wellbeing; active travel	Natural and Historic Environment; Spatial Planning; Sustainable Transport
NE1.3. Engage the community to work on GBI & Local Nature Recovery Strategy. To look at developing Local Nature Recovery Strategy, roll out the strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure to create local level frameworks for project planning and implementation, and offer training on Community Environmental Toolkit. - Initially 4 workshops with pilot towns	Building on 4 pilot workshops from Spring 2022 to look at Green and Blue Infrastructure at the local settlement level, roll out wider programme to all towns, Summer 2023	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity net gains; health and wellbeing; active travel awareness & engagement	Natural and Historic Environment
NE1.4. Develop our mapping and monitoring system to track local nature recovery projects, measure impact, including measuring carbon reduction and sequestration	Investigate creating a platform for sharing information by June 2023	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement	Natural and Historic Environment ; Climate Team.
NE2. Support the roll out of the Community Environmental Toolkit				
NE2.1. Information & training to communities via community area board environment leads (ABELs) & town & parish councils, and local environment groups. (Supports **X1.3**)	Training to all main settlements by May 2023	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity gain; health and wellbeing; awareness & engagement	Natural and Historic Environment; Partnership and Engagement Team;
NE3. Plant trees and create other suitable habitats on council land where appropriate				
NE3.1. Carry out a Strategic Land Review to identify council land for biodiversity net gain / climate adaptation and carbon emissions offsetting / nutrient mitigation	Report on pilot areas – Spring 2023	Underway	Collaborative projects for multiple outcomes – biodiversity, fuel, air pollution; forestry; energy, offsetting	Estates and Development; Natural and Historic Environment;
NE3.2. Seek financial resources to set up a tree planting programme, with volunteer support to help implement it.	Recruit tree officers (by Winter 2022/23	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health and	Natural and Historic Environment; Climate

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
Including recruiting tree officer and developing tree volunteer network.	dependent on bid for Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund		wellbeing; awareness & engagement; Offsetting	Team; Communications
NE3.3. Increase species diversity, reduce soil disturbance and increase carbon sequestration of verges and urban grassland. Agree Wiltshire Council policy for planting and maintaining council green spaces including areas with potential to increase biodiversity through changing the maintenance regime.	Agree policy by Spring 2023	Underway	Biodiversity, carbon sequestration / Offsetting	Highways Asset Management
NE4. Develop a Wiltshire Council Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy to establish targets and advice on planting the right tree in the right place				
NE4.1. Establish baseline for tree cover and develop tree cover and planting targets (see above)	Baseline and targets established Winter 2022/23	Underway (See Appendix)	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting	Natural and Historic Environment; Climate Team
NE4.2. Produce guidance and strategy for Tree and Woodland Planting	Produce short guidance note to follow publication of England tree targets 2022; Full strategy by Summer 2023 dependent on funding	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; heritage; landscapes; Offsetting	Natural and Historic Environment; Climate Team
NE5. Continue to implement, review and update the Wiltshire Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan				
Review and update the Wiltshire Council Climate Adaptation Plan **[See X5.1 and X5.2]**				
NE6. Improve information on the effects of climate change in Wiltshire and show what residents, business, landowners, farmers and decision-makers can do to be prepared for and resilient to climate change				
NE6.1. Develop Climate Risk Assessment for Wiltshire, based on the latest science of global warming and likely effects in Wiltshire. Explore delivery in partnership with Local Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group, Met Office, university partner and Local Nature Recovery Strategy partnership network	December 2023	Explore	Awareness & engagement; Resilience & adaptation	Climate Team
Using our influence and partnerships we will:				

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
NE7. Work with Wiltshire stakeholders, communities and farmers on ways to reduce emissions from food and farming. Encourage and support landowners and farmers in improving soil health, water quality, woodland and other habitat creation, renewable energy and regenerative practices, including through Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the council's work with farmers on phosphate reduction				
NE7.1. Engage with County Farm tenants to help increase sustainable farming initiatives and understand how Wiltshire Council can support further change to incorporate measures that deliver cost savings / cost of living / energy saving / renewable energy generation and catchment sensitive farming.	Initial engagement with farming networks Winter 2022/23	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting; Local economy; Food	Natural and Historic Environment; Estate and Development; Economy and Regeneration
NE7.2. Investigate carbon impact and opportunity assessment of farms and engage with farmers and farm networks to understand how to support on carbon assessment, alongside the use of other metrics relating to nutrients and biodiversity. (Signposting to resources; potential work with research partner on carbon assessment)	Start engaging with farmer networks Winter 2022/23.	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting; Local economy; Food	Natural and Historic Environment; Climate Team; Estate and Development
NE7.3 Engage with land agents and rural support agencies to find out about projects currently underway, and support farmers in sharing knowledge and scaling up impacts.	Initial engagement Summer 2022	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting; Local economy; Food	Economy and Regeneration
NE7.4. Investigate project to capture methane from slurry for potential use as a fuel	Fact finding	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting; Local economy; Food	Estate and Development; Economy and Regeneration; Climate Team;
NE7.5. Explore initiatives around food production, e.g. A Local food mark or standard - making sure this incorporates seasonal, local, welfare and environmental standards.	Exploratory paper by Dec 2023	Explore	Soil health, animal welfare. Supports local farmers and local economy.	Economy and Regeneration ; Communications
NE7.6. Investigate the carbon emissions from different food production systems in Wiltshire.	Literature review of carbon emissions from food. By Spring 2023.	Explore	Soil health, animal welfare. Supports local farmers and local economy.	Climate Team
NE8. Support landowners and community groups to enhance their green infrastructure, for example by bidding for funding				

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
NE8.1. Support and encourage tree planting as well as better land management initiatives and identification of sites through work with community partners, e.g. Avon Needs Trees, town and parish councils, community groups, landowners and developers (in conjunction with action **NE3.2** above)	Recruitment of tree officer Autumn 2022 dependent on funding	Underway	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; improving urban environments; Offsetting	Natural and Historic Environment; Communications
NE9. Use our communications and networks and work with town and parish councils to support sustainable, local food growing and buying				
Engage with community groups and town and parish councils to help showcase and build on work being done by local food growing and buying initiatives. (**See X1.3**)				
NE10. Be informed by Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's research to measure natural capital and use it to inform decision-making				
NE10.1. Investigate how we can measure and monitor Wiltshire's natural capital and incorporate it into council projects and decision-making.	Investigate impact assessment tools – Spring 2023	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Offsetting; Local economy; Food	Natural and Historic Environment; Climate Team
NE11. Recognise the role canal and river trusts play in natural flood management of our river catchments and biodiversity, and explore the potential of the canals for active travel and renewable energy generation				
NE11.1. Engage with canal and river trusts to find out their ongoing and planned initiatives and how Wiltshire Council might support or be involved.	Exploratory meeting Spring 2023	Explore	Nature recovery; biodiversity; health; awareness & engagement; Renewables; Local economy	Climate Team

Energy Delivery Theme

The climate strategy objectives for energy are:

- Existing energy use within Wiltshire to be reduced to allow for decarbonisation
- Heat and electricity to be decarbonised (moving from fossil fuels to alternatives)

Policy context

Renewable electricity has been one of the great successes of the UK's drive towards the net zero 2050 target, with around 40% of electricity now coming from renewables. The UK National Energy and Climate Plan sets out integrated climate and energy objectives, targets, policies and measures for the period 2021-2030. The Energy White Paper outlines the latest plans on decarbonising the UK's energy system and the Net Zero Strategy 2021 contains commitments to supply all of the UK's electricity from low carbon sources by 2035 and deliver 40GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Key challenges and opportunities

- **Public support:** The type and scale of renewable installation set out in the High Ambition Pathway will change the landscape. Whilst this can be mitigated with good location and design, it is important that the people who are impacted by the changes benefit from the renewable energy. For example, there is an opportunity to achieve this by supporting community-owned renewable energy delivered by local organisations. Residents then benefit from a share of the profits in the form of a local community benefit fund and by investing in the project. The community funds create a long-term ring-fenced resource for further carbon reduction projects.
- **Planning:** The National Planning Policy Framework requires that wind energy development must be on land allocated in local policy. The Local Plan Review provides the chance for the council to propose areas for wind and ground mounted solar, using a landscape sensitivity study to identify areas with lower landscape impact.
- **Electricity Grid:** Grid capacity will need to be improved to install this scale of renewables. There is an opportunity to work with Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) to inform their investment and mitigate grid constraints.

The "Wiltshire Carbon Emissions Baselines and Reduction Pathways: Wiltshire County Report" (2022) outlines an approach to Wiltshire's county-wide carbon neutral 2030 target. The 'High Ambition Pathway", which best supports the 2030 target, relies on electrification as well as demand reduction. This includes the electrification of transport. In 2020, there were 9,659 EVs in Wiltshire, by 2030 the High Ambition Pathway suggests 339,511 by 2030. For electrification to achieve the carbon reductions required, the electricity must be largely renewable.

The High Ambition Pathway includes a large amount of Wiltshire-generated renewable energy, 560 megawatts (MW) of wind energy capacity and 590MW of solar by 2030 in order to meet our needs and be carbon neutral. Solar capacity in Wiltshire is already at 548MW. Wind energy is needed to provide power at different times. To illustrate the significance of local renewables, the Pathways study modelled a 'Low-capacity pathway' (see Appendix 6, p94 of the Report) which only delivered a 44% carbon reduction by 2030 if all the High Ambition Pathway measures except local renewable energy were delivered. Therefore our focus will be to investigate ways to support local energy generation, starting with a study on the potential for renewable energy as part of the Local Plan Review.

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
E1. Continue multi-million-pound programme to install renewable electricity and heat on council operational property and council homes where feasible				
E1.1. Explore opportunities to install more solar PV on the commercial estate and farms, selling the renewable electricity to building occupants. **[See Carbon Neutral Council Plan: C4]**	Ongoing multiyear programme	Exploring	Renewable energy for building occupant at competitive price	Strategic Assets and Facilities Management
E2. Carry out a Wiltshire-wide assessment of the technical potential for renewable energy production, using a range of technologies, to inform renewable energy policies				
E2.1. Produce a study to inform the Local Plan of the technical potential for renewable energy generation and storage from a range of technologies across Wiltshire including within new development, on rooftops and as stand-alone facilities. Alongside this undertake a landscape sensitivity assessment for various scales of wind and solar energy generation.	Publication of draft Local Plan	Underway	Support overall approach to renewable energy	Spatial Planning
E3. Promote the benefits of green energy tariffs to residents and partners while also encouraging energy reduction				
E3.1. 128 local schools are currently purchasing green energy through the council's energy contract.	Ongoing	Underway	Lower cost green power for schools	Strategic Assets and Facilities Management
E4. Raise awareness of the need to start with energy reduction, and the role of flexibility and the smart-grid, to guide changes in behaviour				
E4.1. Community Carbon Literacy course launched to enable residents to learn more about climate change causes and solutions.	Launch of course in 2023	Explore	Employability of Wiltshire residents	Operational Development Delivery
E4.2. Promote the free Energy Sparks programme to schools to encourage them to take control of their energy bills and educate their pupils about energy and carbon.	Ongoing	Underway	Schools save money, pupil and staff energy awareness	Climate team

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
E5. Increase renewable electricity generation including microgeneration (and associated technologies such as storage) in Wiltshire by working in partnership with others. The need for energy generation must be balanced against other land uses and this will be reviewed.				
E5.1. Draft Local Plan policies to support freestanding renewable technologies (informed by study into potential for renewable energy in Wiltshire **E2.1**).	Publication of draft Local Plan	Explore	Energy security	Spatial Planning
E5.2. Draft Local Plan review to consider how best to encourage renewable and storage-based plant to help balance the grid, in preference to fossil-fuelled peaking plant.	Publication of draft Local Plan	Explore	Avoid localised air pollution	Spatial Planning
E5.3. Undertake a feasibility study for using council land to produce biomass for biomass boilers in council buildings where heat pumps are not feasible.	TBC (subject to resources)	Explore	Biodiversity	Strategic Assets and Facilities Management
E5.4. Wiltshire Council Strategic Land Review to consider renewable energy delivery alongside other options for council land assets	Spring 2023	Developing	Revenues from council assets	Estates and Development
Lobbying – See Action X2.1 Lobby central government/Ofgem to address grid constraints				
E6. Continue to work with partners including grid operators to address grid constraints and enable alternative, new and emerging technologies. (A)				
E6.1. Building on the renewable energy resource study (**E2.1**), co-develop local energy plans with Swindon, SSEN, SW Net Zero Hub and other key services and partners	TBD	Explore	Cost efficiency of grid upgrades for council projects	Climate Team Strategic Assets and Facilities Management; Economy and Regeneration; Spatial Planning
E6.2. Explore council-led or coordinated trials with SSEN for grid flexibility and smart energy capability development to help accelerate progress on grid constraints.	TBD	Explore		Climate Team Strategic Assets and Facilities Management
E7. Explore supporting community energy groups to increase local engagement in the development of renewable energy and retain economic benefits in the area				

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
E7.1. Explore ways of working with community energy cooperatives	TBD	Explore	Community fund. Local involvement and economic benefit.	Climate Team
E7.2. Support community energy cooperatives to engage with SSEN	TBD	Explore	Community fund. Local involvement and economic benefit.	Climate Team
E7.3. Draft Local Plan to consider how best to support community-energy projects and community involvement in renewable energy projects	Publication of draft Local Plan	Explore	Community fund. Local involvement and economic benefit.	Spatial planning
E8. Encourage the installation of solar energy on existing buildings for example through planning policy, partnership working and bulk buy schemes				
E8.1. Participate in the Solar Together collective purchasing scheme to enable residents of Wiltshire to get high quality solar panels, energy storage batteries and electric vehicle chargers at a lower cost.	Installations complete Summer 2023	Underway	Energy security for residents	Climate Team

Green Economy Delivery Theme

The green economy section of the climate strategy has two main objectives:

- **Green businesses grow in size and number** - To grow the green economy in Wiltshire, increasing capacity and skills in key sectors to meet demand and delivery targets
- **Wiltshire businesses take action to become carbon neutral and climate resilient**

Policy context

Since the Climate Strategy was written, many strategies relevant to this section have been published by central government and have been considered in the development of this deliver plan. These include the Levelling Up white paper, Net Zero strategy, Build Back Better: our plan for growth, Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems and the Green Jobs Taskforce report.

Key challenges and opportunities

The challenges with this theme of work are the stop-start nature of funding in the past, the current unproven demand, and the chicken and egg nature of demand and supply for training providers, requiring the impetus from government policy and funding. For Wiltshire particularly there is currently more demand than supply of skilled engineers and other STEM qualified workers. There are opportunities to increase skills, inspire and retain young people and innovate in this theme and green skills and knowledge are important to making sure that the changes necessary from the other themes can be implemented. In relation to Wiltshire's business and industry the low carbon and renewables sectors and green skills are an important part of future-proofing and diversifying our economy and workforce. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a key opportunity to support this agenda.

Our immediate focus will be on stimulating local supply chains through investments in housing and renewable technologies, as well as developing a requirement for our suppliers to measure and reduce their environmental impact.

The table below gives an overview of all the 'areas of focus', showing what the council is currently doing and planning to do in the short term. The actions reflect the work being done or planned by teams across the council, working with bodies such as the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP and the Careers Hub, and encompassing their influence on employers, schools, colleges and town centres.

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
G1. Stimulate the green and circular economy and local supply chains by delivering programmes in key sectors such as housing retrofit and investment in renewables				
G1.1. Explore an indicator for uplift in demand and supply chains through our retrofit and new build programmes **(in conjunction with B1.1, B2.1)**	Explore metric for next phase of HEEP and MMC programmes	Underway	Workforce ready for future	Strategic Assets and Facilities Management (Council housing team)
G1.2. Assess the increase in demand on regional installers as a result of the Solar Together scheme and communicate the demonstrable demand to businesses **[in conjunction with E8.1]**	Report from Solar Together March 2023	Underway	Stimulation of demand	Climate Team
G2. Develop a requirement for suppliers to measure and reduce their environmental impact				
Adopt a **Socially Responsible Procurement Policy,** to include objectives on climate and carbon reduction **[Carbon Neutral Council Plan 7.2]**				
G2.1 **Scope 3 emissions from major suppliers** Work with the council's top ten suppliers (by carbon emissions) to develop our requirement to assess, monitor and reduce carbon emissions through the contracting process. **(See also Carbon Neutral Council Plan - area of focus C7)**	Engage and establish baseline with top 10 suppliers where possible by Autumn 2023 (or as contracts are renewed)	Explore	Better understanding of scope three emissions for Wiltshire Council	Strategic Procurement; Climate Team; contract managers
G3. Support the growth of businesses focused on sustainability and zero carbon innovation and attract new ones to invest in the county				
G3.1. Work to understand and reduce barriers to the growth and inward movement of green businesses	Ongoing	Underway	Stronger local economy	Economy and Regeneration

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
G3.2 Signpost, support, and advise businesses looking to create innovative green solutions. See also **NE7.5** re developing a Wiltshire Marque that identifies locally produced products.	Ongoing	Underway	Stronger local economy	Economy and Regeneration Communications
G3.3 Celebrate success and share knowledge between businesses on practical and meaningful steps they could undertake	Case studies shared	Underway	Networking between businesses	Economy and Regeneration; Communications
G3.4 Use business e-newsletter to provide exemplars to businesses	Regular 'Green' items in business e-news	Underway	Networking between businesses	Communications
G4. Showcase what leading businesses are doing on this agenda in Wiltshire				
G4.1. Work with business awards providers to facilitate greener business categories through provision of advice, and promote these awards and their winners.	Ongoing	Responsive to requests	Networking between businesses	Climate Team
G5. Promote green skills opportunities to young people through the Wiltshire and Swindon Careers Hub and encourage engagement with green jobs and apprenticeships through Wiltshire Council Employment and Skills programmes				
G5.1. Apply for funding for green training – Net Zero Skills bootcamp funding	2022	Underway	Improved prospects for young people	Employment and Skills
G5.2. Raise awareness among career advisors and job centre workers of green jobs and skills	Ongoing	Underway	Improved prospects for young people	Employment and Skills
G6. Continue to support the social and economic vibrancy of our towns and city, and continue to promote "shop local"				
G6.1. Use UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 3 areas: • Community and Place • Supporting Local Business • People and Skills	Delivery scheduled to commence Winter 2022/23 subject to approval of Investment Plan	TBC following DLUHC guidance (July 22)	Warmer and healthier homes, lower energy bills	Economy and Regeneration

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
G6.2. Through the Wiltshire Towns Programme create vibrant town centres that retains local spend and economic activity.	2022-24	Underway	Increased resilience and long-term sustainability of High Streets	Economy and Regeneration
G6.3. Deliver business support programmes and communication of government strategy and implementation including Net Zero	Ongoing	Underway	Stronger local economy	Economy and Regeneration
G6.4. Solidify evidence base, setting firm strategic direction for future interventions	Ongoing	Underway	Evidence led plan	Economy and Regeneration
Work to further increase access to high-speed broadband, to enable digital options including home working, and encourage businesses to embrace these options building on the success of the Wiltshire Online broadband project **[See Action T18.1]**				
G6.6. Identify employment land for further economic growth and inward investment	2022-24	Underway	Stronger local economy	Economy and Regeneration; Spatial Planning
G6.7 Identify town centre and wider planning policies that support local economy and vibrancy, and make best use of town centre spaces for multi-functional use.	Publication of draft Local Plan	Underway	Stronger local economy and businesses	Spatial Planning; Economy and Regeneration
G7. Work with training providers and employers to increase training for green skills. (This depends on generating sufficient demand which our own council programmes will help with)				
G7.1. Facilitate employers to liaise with colleges to strengthen green skills in courses relevant to local employers	Regular meetings with Employment Education and Skills Action Group	Underway	Colleges run employment relevant courses	Employment and Skills; with Skills and Talent sub group of SWLEP

Action	Milestone	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
G7.2. Work with employers and training providers to increase the supply of training opportunities	Regular meetings with Employment Education and Skills Action Group	Underway	Improved prospects for young people	Employment and Skills
G7.3. Raise awareness among career advisors and job centre workers of green jobs and skills	Regular meetings with Employment Education and Skills Action Group	Underway	Improved prospects for young people	Employment and Skills
G7.4. Create a Green Skills Task and Finish group to raise awareness and promote green jobs in Wiltshire	Green skills action plan developed By September 2022	Underway	Stronger links between colleges, Council and SWLEP	Employment and Skills
G8. Work with local networks to support small organisations, from SMEs to local charities, to become climate resilient and sustainable				
G8.1. SWLEP - Support SMEs to calculate and reduce their carbon footprint	Ongoing	Underway	SMEs save money SMEs show others their success	SWLEP
G8.2 Support local organisations to engage and support small businesses to become climate resilient and sustainable	Launch of green business initiative in Salisbury	Underway	Mutual understanding Business engagement	Economy and Regeneration
G9. Input to government policy and funding programmes, to make sure they are appropriate for Wiltshire residents and businesses				
Through our interactions with wider bodies, advocate for climate action and appropriate funding schemes **[See Action X2.2]**				

Resources and Waste Delivery Theme

The Resources and Waste section of the climate strategy has three main objectives:

- Work towards a circular economy
- Work towards zero avoidable waste in Wiltshire and decarbonising the waste management process
- Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, increase the amount and quality of waste recycled and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

Policy context

Since the Climate Strategy was written, many strategies relevant to this section have been published by central government and have been considered in the planning for delivery. These include the Environment Act, Net Zero Strategy, Resources and Waste Strategy for England Waste Prevention Programme for England and the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy.

Key challenges and opportunities

The challenges with this theme of work are the large volumes of waste involved, the lack of staff capacity to encourage widescale behaviour change, as well as inclusion of items in recycling collections such as small electronic items causing hazards at the recycling plant. The opportunities within this theme are the high profile of the council's role in waste management in the county, the new legislation coming in to help prevent waste, and high awareness of communities around plastic packaging.

Within the resources and waste theme the Anthesis pathways report recommended focussing efforts on reducing the quantity of waste and wastewater across domestic, commercial and industrial sectors, and increasing recycling rates, which aligns with the waste hierarchy. Our immediate actions focus on maintaining and improving our recycling services, looking at expanding the range of items collected at the kerbside and at household recycling centres, as well as finding ways to reduce the carbon emissions from both our collection and disposal services. More widely we will work with the community and businesses to prevent waste and to reuse items.

Carbon emissions associated with waste management collection and processing of household waste are covered in the Carbon Neutral Council Plan, however there are many links with the actions in this section.

Abbreviations: **HRCs** = Household Recycling Centres; **22-23 AAP** = Household Waste Management Strategy: Forward Thinking Towards Zero Avoidable Waste 2017 – 2027 Annual Action Plan 2022-23

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
R1. Continue to provide efficient recycling services, maximise the efficiency of collections wherever possible, review the potential for expanding the range of items collected				
R1.1. Priority 3 Action A 22-23 AAP Monitor the participation and performance of the kerbside co-mingled recycling collection service. Communicate how to use the service.	Ongoing	Underway	Council reputation	Waste Management; Communications
R1.2. Priority 3 Action B 22-23 AAP Assess efficiency of the Materials Recovery Facility. Communicate about non contamination of recycling	Assessment complete by end of March 2023	Explore	Less contamination	Waste Management; Communications
R1.3. Priority 3 Action C 22-23 AAP Review and make efficiencies in garden waste service. Communicate these.	Review complete by end of March 2023	Underway	Reduced costs	Waste Management; Communications
R1.4. Priority 3 Action D 22-23 AAP Investigate kerbside collection of batteries and small household electrical items	Investigate battery collection by end of March 2023	Underway	Fire health & safety improved Reduced chemical leaching	Waste Management
R2. Keep our household waste management strategy under review, including carbon assessment of options, review impact of processing locally or abroad, review in light of the Environment Act, for instance regarding collecting food waste				
R2.1. Priority 3 Action O – 22-23 AAP Understand and assess the impact of new waste policy and legislation from the Environment Act 2021 to inform next action plan	Impact assessed by end of March 2023	Underway	Council reputation	Waste Management
R2.2. Priority 3 Action L – 22-23 AAP Analyse and report the Carbon impact of waste and recycling services	Carbon reporting by March 2023	Underway	Council reputation Targeting of service redesign	Waste Management
R2.3 Review and update Waste Development Plan Documents based on needs for waste management to align with carbon neutral aspiration and Environment Act.	Identify resources and timescales for review of plan	Explore	Improved air quality;	Spatial Planning; Waste Management

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
R3. Prevent waste - provide advice and information to help reduce the amount of waste generated by householders				
R3.1. Priority 1 Action B 22-23 AAP Waste prevention refresher training for waste and climate teams	Training delivered by end of March 2023	Underway	Better teamwork and information sharing	Waste Management
R3.2. Priority 1 Action D 22-23 AAP Waste team engage with Climate and Environment forum to develop waste prevention messages (in conjunction with X1.3 and X1.4)	Waste themed Climate and Environment Forum, by end of March 2023	Underway	Waste reduction Carbon reduction Awareness and education	Waste Management; Communications
R3.3. Priority 1 Action E and F 22-23 AAP Work with Area Boards who have identified waste and recycling as a top priority to support delivery of the waste prevention and recycling communications plan through sharing key messages (in conjunction with X1.3)	Develop plan by end of March 2023	Underway	Community engagement	Waste Management; Communications
R3.4. Priority 1 Action G 22-23 AAP Promotion of subsidised food waste compost bins	Increased promotion of compost bins by end of March 2023	Underway	Compost created	Waste Management; Communications
R4. Repair and re-use - work with local organisations and contractors to maximise opportunity for items to be repaired and reused				
R4.1. Priority 2 Action A 22-23 AAP Work with partners to increase reuse opportunities at Household Recycling Centres	Get agreement with operators by end of March 2023	Underway	Higher profile of reuse	Waste Management
R4.2. Priority 2 Action B 22-23 AAP Trial separating good quality items collected on the bulky household waste collection service for reuse.	Trial completed by end of March 2023	Underway	Council reputation	Waste Management
R4.3. Priority 2 Action C 22-23 AAP Provide refresher training to customer services, community engagement managers and housing team to actively promote the use of community reuse groups rather than bulky household waste collection or HRC.	Refresher training given by end of March 2023	Underway	Council reputation Reduced costs to residents	Waste Management

Action	Milestones	Status	Co-benefits	Responsible Service
R4.4. Priority 2 Action D 22-23 AAP Repair and reuse campaigns with Area Boards leading to sharing libraries and repair cafes (in conjunction with X1.3)	Engage with Area Boards by end of March 2023	Underway	Reduced costs to residents	Waste Management
R4.5. Priority 2 Action E 22-23 AAP Pilot the introduction of pop-up reuse shops in prominent locations across the county to sell reusable items as well as promote the reuse of items through charity partners and council services.	Pilot started by end of March 2023	Underway	Reduced costs to residents	Waste Management
R4.6. Priority 2 Action F 22-23 AAP Assess the outcome of the trial paint reuse scheme with a view to expanding the scheme to all household recycling centres.	Outcome assessed by end of October 2022	Underway	Reduced costs to residents Reduced landfill costs	Waste Management
R5. Prevent waste – provide advice and information to help reduce the amount of commercial waste				
R5.1. Priority 1 Action A 22-23 AAP Redevelop the HRC van and trailer permit system to reduce the amount of commercial and industrial waste which is disposed of illegally at the recycling centres.	Review system by end of March 2023	Underway	Waste reduction	Waste Management
R6. Work with businesses and partners to reduce commercial waste and to conserve resources such as energy, water and timber				
R6.1. Circular economy - work with businesses in Wiltshire to promote and facilitate the circular economy **[GE4]**	Ongoing	Explore	Business costs and waste reduced	Climate Team
R7. Lobby government in support of the most sustainable options for future national waste management strategy				
R7.1. Priority 2 Action F 2022-23 AAP Actively engage with government in the development of waste management policy changes, including contributing to consultations and participating in national & regional forums. **[See also X2]**	Ongoing	Underway	More favourable policy context	Waste Management

Monitoring and key performance indicators

This delivery framework will enable the council to monitor and report on its actions towards a carbon neutral county. We will report on progress twice a year to Cabinet and Council, and review and modify the plan as necessary to make sure that we are on track to deliver the objectives. Our reporting will combine updates on projects and initiatives with key performance data. While a few of the measures are largely within the control of Wiltshire Council (marked with an asterisk), most depend mainly on others. These will therefore be helpful to monitor how the county as a whole is progressing towards net zero.

The initial key performance indicators which will enable us to monitor progress against this plan are set out below. This list will be kept under review and developed over time.

Ref	Indicator	Data source
X1	Total territorial carbon dioxide emissions for Wiltshire in CO_2e	BEIS
X2	Total transport carbon dioxide emissions for Wiltshire in CO_2e	BEIS
X3	Total homes carbon dioxide emissions for Wiltshire in CO_2e	BEIS
X4	Total Industry, commercial and agriculture carbon dioxide emissions for Wiltshire in CO_2e	BEIS
X5	*Number of funding bids submitted in support of Climate Strategy objectives	Wiltshire Council
X6	Number of funding bids in support of Climate Strategy objectives successful	Wiltshire Council
X7	Amount of external funding secured in support of Climate Strategy objectives	Wiltshire Council
X8	Website and social media hits in response to climate campaigns	Wiltshire Council
T1	Public Transport: Number of passenger trips on both the commercial and supported bus network	Wiltshire Council
T2	Air quality: Percentage of diffusion tubes showing NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide) under 40ug/m3 in AQMAs	Wiltshire Council
T3	Total number of EV charge point locations in Wiltshire (all publicly available charging points including those owned by the council)	National Chargepoint Registry
T4	*Cycle training: Number of children and adults trained through Bikeability	Wiltshire Council
T5	*Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans delivered	Wiltshire Council
B1	Number of households contacting the Warm and Safe service	Wiltshire Council
B2	*Council homes retrofitted for energy efficiency/renewable energy	Wiltshire Council
B3	*Number of new zero carbon council homes delivered	Wiltshire Council
B4	EPC certificates rated A to C / all EPCs registered that year (rolling 3 year average) for all dwellings in Wiltshire.	DLUHC and MHCLG

B5	Energy efficiency of new dwellings: EPC B and above in Wiltshire. Space heating demand for new homes in Wiltshire in kWh/m2/year.	DLUHC and MHCLG
B6	Energy efficiency of existing dwellings: EPC C and above in Wiltshire. Space heating demand for existing homes in Wiltshire in kWh/m2/year.	DLUHC and MHCLG
NE1	Tree canopy cover as a percentage of total land area of Wiltshire, split by 'trees within woodland' and 'trees outside woodland'.	Woodland Trust; National Forest Inventory
E1	Renewable energy capacity in Wiltshire split by: installed capacity; capacity with planning permission awaiting or under construction; capacity waiting planning determination, in MW.	BEIS
E2	Annual renewable energy generation in Wiltshire in MWh.	BEIS
E3	Number of solar panel, battery and EV charger installations through the Solar Together scheme.	Wiltshire Council
G1	Emissions from Wiltshire Council's key suppliers in CO_2e	Wiltshire Council
R1	Amount of household waste in kg of waste produced per household.	Wiltshire Council
R2	Proportion of household waste managed, by destination: composted; recycled; landfill diversion (energy recovery) or; landfill	Wiltshire Council
R3	Impact of waste management services on climate objectives (carbon dioxide and methane emissions)	Wiltshire Council

Risks to delivery

Key risk	Mitigation
Lack of engagement by Wiltshire residents and resistance to change	Prioritise engagement in delivery through a communications campaign, the Climate and Environment Forum and Area Board Environment Leads
National policy does not facilitate delivery locally/keeps changing	Lobby national government; keep strategy and delivery plans flexible; review regularly; prioritise 'no regrets' measures which will yield benefits in a range of scenarios
Lack of political support	Ensure cross-party support; regular briefings/updates
Delays to timeline for delivery	Update on progress and any issues with delivery twice a year
Difficulties embedding climate objectives in all council decisions	Develop new decision-making tools and processes
Market lacks capacity to deliver large scale programmes	Work with employers and training providers to develop capacity and skills; fund programmes to stimulate the market
Lack of resources to deliver programme	Identify adequate officer resources and support; access training / best practice networks; access grants and 0% loans; leverage private sector investment; develop capital invest to save bids; work with volunteers for delivery on the ground.

List of Abbreviations and units of measurement

22-23 AAP – Household Waste Management Strategy: Forward Thinking Towards Zero Avoidable Waste 2017-2027 Annual Action Plan 2022-23

ABEL – Area Board Environment Leads

ADEPT – Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

APSE – Association for Public Sector Excellence

AONBs – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

ATE – Active Travel England

B&NES – Bath and North East Somerset Council

BEIS – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

BSIP – Bus Service Improvement Plan

CAIP – Countryside Access Improvement Plan

CCC – Climate Change Committee

CO_2 – carbon dioxide

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

DfT – Department for Transport

DLUHC – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

DRT – Demand Responsive Transport

EPC – Energy Performance Certificate

EV – Electric Vehicle

EVCP – Electric Vehicle Charging Point

EVCPIP – Electric Vehicle Charging Point Infrastructure Plan

FM – Facilities Management

GB – Great Britain

GBI – Green Blue Infrastructure

HEEP – Home Energy Efficiency Programme

HR – Human Resources

HRCs – Household Recycling Centres

HUGS – Home Upgrade Grant Scheme

kW – kilowatt

kWh – kilowatt hour

KPI – Key Performance Indicator

LADS – Local Authority Delivery Scheme

LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership

Local Plan – Wiltshire Local Plan Review

LTP / LTP4 – Wiltshire Council's fourth Local Transport Plan

MEES – Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

MMC – Modern Methods of Construction

MW – Megawatt

MWh – Megawatt hour

NFU – National Farmers Union

OFGEM – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

PROW – Public Right of Way

PV – Solar Photovoltaic

SMEs – Small to Medium-sized Enterprise

SPF – Shared Prosperity Fund

SSEN – Scottish and Southern Electricity Network

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

SWLEP - Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership

UK – United Kingdom