

Climate Emergency Action Plan - Action Monitoring (by Theme)

[Updates are in blue and italic text]

Corporate Action

Action	Update
Throughout timeline	
<p>Ensure the implications of the climate emergency are taken into account in all Council strategic and policy documents, as well as in service planning and decision making processes</p>	<p>Forward planning by Council Services includes consideration of climate change, with committee report templates also incorporating a section on sustainability and climate change. Processes for the internal monitoring of progress in Service project delivery include consideration of sustainability and climate change.</p> <p><i>The climate emergency has been considered in a number of reports to committees including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>update of the Asset Management Plan (December 2021),</i> - <i>the approval of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (October 2021),</i> - <i>the adoption of the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy (May 2021).</i> <p>For all new projects by the Property & Asset Management Service, as part of the tendering process marks are given for any sustainable solutions and improvements for the works required. Contractors are also encouraged to work sustainably.</p>
<p>Take opportunities to lobby the government to encourage action on the transition towards carbon neutrality</p>	<p>In responding to relevant consultations by the Government, climate change considerations have been highlighted.</p>
<p>Work closely with partners to share best practice and work jointly on initiatives</p>	<p>Council officers are part of the Hampshire Climate Change Officers Group which enables information sharing with other authorities in the county. There are further specific working groups that allow the exchange of information between authorities. Such groups can also have a role in supporting project development and delivery.</p> <p>Work undertaken and information shared by the Local Government Association (LGA) is also used.</p>

Action	Update
	There are also wider opportunities for joint working and sharing best practice through a number of partnerships this includes Romsey Future, Andover Vision and Test Valley Partnership.
Identify and learn from leading carbon neutral employers	Officers have attended various webinars to learn from others, including through sharing information on projects and strategies.
Facilitate behaviour change of staff and members to put reducing carbon emissions at the centre of our approach, reducing our carbon footprint both at work and in wider life.	Carbon Literacy pilot will be trialled with CEAP Project Team to help officers understand the scale of the climate emergency challenge, what they need to do, and which actions will have the greatest impact in helping the Council reach carbon neutrality target as soon as possible. The outputs of the trial will inform our next steps. <i>The staff sustainability intranet page is regularly updated with relevant information and resources. We have communicated relevant information to staff and members via internal bulletins.</i>
Update the Procurement Strategy in the context of the Climate Emergency and build ethical, sustainable criteria into the procurement process	<i>Officers are in process of reviewing and updating the Procurement Strategy to ensure that the climate emergency and sustainable procurement is included as part of a wider review of the Procurement Strategy and the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs).</i>

Property & Energy

Action	Update
Throughout timeline	
Review and reduce energy loss associated with windows, including through draft proofing and, where relevant, assessing the feasibility of the installation of new double glazed windows or secondary glazing	A condition survey template has been prepared and is ready to roll out, however the review has yet to commence. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted this programme. <i>Yet to commence.</i>
Short term	
Review and improve energy data collection and monitoring	Officers are working with our electricity supplier to review the availability and access to data including through automatic meter readings for Council buildings and online energy monitoring. At present there is access to data for

Action	Update
	<p>5 meters, with the programme of installation of additional meters paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>Carry out an audit of the office waste produced in Council owned and occupied buildings</p>	<p>Details of the existing arrangements for management of specific waste streams at different sites has been collated as a first step in this process.</p> <p><i>With working patterns changing intermittently due to Covid-19, it is not possible to carry out an audit at this moment in time. Waste has at times been higher, but paper usage lower. This is mainly due to moving towards a “paperless” working environment and clearing old paper documents.</i></p>
<p>Review energy purchasing and procurement</p>	<p>Review has been completed. As at 1 October 2020, electricity for all Council sites, where we are responsible for energy usage, is purchased from a REGO¹ backed tariff.</p>
<p>Deliver measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce our energy consumption, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review lighting within and external to the Council’s buildings • Replace boilers at Beech Hurst • Investigate heating controls and optimum start controls to the heating system at Beech Hurst • Review and install pipework insulation • Assess the feasibility of installing more energy efficient water heaters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of lighting, the Chantry Centre car park lights were upgraded to energy efficient LED units with movement sensors to reduce power consumption. <i>Early analysis of data shows approximately 30% savings in electricity.</i> • The replacement of boilers at Beech Hurst has been completed. <i>Post install data is yet to be analysed</i> • Optimised heating controls have also been installed at Beech Hurst. <i>Post install data is yet to be analysed</i> • High level pipework insulation is yet to proceed. <i>No change.</i> • The survey in relation to usage of point of use water heaters is yet to commence as there is little usage at present. <i>No change.</i>
<p>Undertake a general review of buildings and removal of redundant equipment</p>	<p>Work on this action is yet to commence. It will form part of condition surveys and be an ongoing activity.</p>

¹ Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (more information at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/rego/about-rego-scheme>)

Action	Update
	<i>No change from above. This action will also tie into activities associated with the transition to more agile approaches to working.</i>
To consider an integrated waste collection contract across all sites that maximises the range of materials that can be separated and recycled	Work on this action is yet to commence.
To develop an office based system that 'dovetails' with the range of materials that can be collected	Work on this action is yet to commence.
Establish a network of staff champions, looking at energy and recycling	This action has not yet progressed.
Medium term	
Review the estate energy strategy	Work on this action is yet to commence. <i>No change</i>
Assess the feasibility of the use of voltage optimisation in all buildings	Voltage optimisation is already installed at Beech Hurst. Initial investigations show no discernible energy reduction but full energy analysis is yet to be carried out. <i>No change</i>
Investigate opportunities to reduce the unnecessary use of disposable / single use materials	This is yet to be investigated. For information, Council agendas and papers are now supplied to Councillors without the single use plastic covers previously provided.
Assess the feasibility of the collection of rainwater from our buildings for reuse	Work on this action is yet to commence. <i>No change</i>
Assess the feasibility of installing living walls and green roofs	Work on this action is yet to commence. <i>No change</i>
Long term	
Review the need for and install new boilers or suitable alternatives, and assess the feasibility of heating control, anti-dry cycling and optimum start control to the heating system in our buildings	Work on this action is yet to commence. It will form part of condition survey activity. <i>No change</i>
Re-assess the feasibility of installing solar panels at	Work on this action is yet to commence.

Action	Update
Beech Hurst, Bourne House, the FMC and the Chantry Centre car park. Include a review of battery storage options	<i>No change</i>

Smarter working and use of technology

Action	Update
Short term	
Install video conferencing facilities at Beech Hurst and other Council offices to facilitate meetings and appointments, where there is a business need	<p>Video conferencing facilities are available within Beech Hurst, with Conference Room 1 available and used for Council meetings.</p> <p><i>For smaller meetings, we have deployed Bluetooth speakers to all services which can be used in conjunction with laptops or tablets to run hybrid meetings.</i></p>
Investigate the digital casting of meetings	<p>This is linked to the item above and is being included as an option to take forward a hybrid meeting solution. Options and costings are currently being investigated.</p> <p><i>A response was submitted to the Government's 2021 call for evidence in relation to local authority remote meetings – the outputs of this call for evidence are not yet available.</i></p>
Seek to minimise travel except where there is a specific business or training need	<p>Increase in the use of virtual meetings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has resulted in a reduction in the vehicle travel by those participating remotely.</p> <p>As part of its modernisation agenda, the Council is looking at smarter and more agile working, including the use of technology. The climate emergency has been identified as a strategic influence for this.</p> <p><i>The update is the same whereby we are continuing to encourage teams to hold meetings online where there is no clear need to meet in person to minimise business / staff travel.</i></p>
Reduce the unnecessary use of paper including through:	In September 2019 printers were replaced in Council buildings, these came with improved reporting and management tools.

Action	Update
<p>Reducing internal printing of documents and agenda papers</p> <p>Reducing internal forms and roll out payroll / HR self-service to all employees and members</p> <p>Challenging the Government around any statutory requirements for hard copy papers</p> <p>Analysing and reduce paper coming into the Council</p> <p>Enabling digital signing</p>	<p><i>In terms of printing statistics, the number of pages printed averaged at around 99,000 pages from November 2020 to November 2021 inclusive. (The lowest monthly figure being about 77,000 pages, with the highest at just over 158,000 pages. The higher figure was in September 2021 and related to Traveller injunction printing).</i></p> <p><i>The Council will be looking at initiatives through the new ways of working agenda around digitisation of paper records and encouraging a clear desk policy as we move towards potential shared desk arrangements which will lead to a reduction in paper and printing.</i></p> <p>E-billing through Revenues reduces the proportion of bills that use paper and require less resourcing requirements. <i>As at 1 January 2022, 22% of Council Tax and 39% of Non-Domestic Rates bills are issued via E-billing, with both figures higher than the previously reported position for September 2020 (which were 17% and 32% respectively).</i></p> <p>There was an increase in printing for democratic meetings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to enable tablets to be used for the video conference calls for the meeting so cannot also be used for accessing agenda and papers at the same time.</p> <p><i>Councillors are able to choose whether they wish to receive hard copy agendas or documents or not.</i></p> <p><i>A review of Members' IT will be undertake in 2022 to consider whether the current iPads are the best device to meet the needs of Councillors in their role. This review will take into account the views of Councillors in relation to the provision of technology and the need for paper copy agendas.</i></p> <p><i>Spare agendas for meetings have been reduced and since the return to physical meetings very little if any documentation has been printed for</i></p>

Action	Update
	<i>Members.</i>
Review of future IT equipment and what is available in the market to enable the Council to equip people with the right tools and kit to enable flexible and sustainable working. Evaluate further roll out of mobile devices/tablets within the wider business.	This action is being taken forward as part of the wider modernisation agenda and included when considering the organisation's new ways of working.
Medium term	
Expedite the focus on channel shift, moving residents to digital communication channels, reducing printing and postage and increasing self-service.	<p>Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic we have seen an increase in the number of customer contacts via our online, self-serve method. Since March 2020, we have seen a 10-15% increase compared to the previous year. <i>The self-serve numbers remain around 50%, with the pre-pandemic position being around 35%.</i></p> <p><i>We launched a new email marketing tool (GovDelivery) at the end of November 2021, which enables the public to sign up for email updates on particular topics. So far, we have in the order of 5,500 – 6,000 sign ups, split between latest news and events. We plan to expand the number of topics, one of which will cover the climate emergency, as well as information on how residents can reduce their carbon footprint.</i></p>

Housing, Development & Infrastructure

Action	Update
Short term	
Promote and raise awareness of grants available to residents to improve their homes, including in terms of energy performance	<p>Information is shared via the Council's website and Test Valley News publication. Some details have also been shared using the Council's social media platforms.</p> <p>It is intended that the stock condition database will be used to target contact on grant promotion to those identified as low energy efficiency properties, with low income and owner occupiers. This has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>

Action	Update
	<p>In some cases we are able to direct those who contact the Council to others (such as the Environment Centre) who can assist with other grants.</p> <p>October 2021 update - The Council has been working with the Greater South East Energy Hub (GSSEH) to deliver measures funded under the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 2 scheme of the Green Homes Grant.</p> <p>Through the updating of the Private Sector Housing renewal policy, the maximum amount of available grants and loans available for owner occupiers on low incomes to carry out essential repairs and energy efficiency improvements has increased which should allow eligible householders to access funding for more extensive measures than previously.</p> <p><i>The Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 2 project for delivery of energy efficiency measures has a new managing agent, Warmworks. The funds available for spend in Test Valley are in the region of £315k and can support up to approximately 30 households, subject to eligibility. This is for households in fuel poverty and in properties with EPC rating of E or lower. The managing agent is responsible for sourcing the data and identifying eligible properties, and the Council will be supporting that work by promoting the scheme to local residents and stakeholders. All work identified under the LAD2 project must be completed by the end of June 2022.</i></p> <p><i>The Council was successful with its Sustainable Warmth bid (LAD3 and Home Upgrade) of £1.161 million and anticipate that this will take over when the LAD2 funding expires.</i></p>
Complete the review of the potential for renewable and low carbon energy sources in the Borough and use to inform the next Local Plan	A renewable and low carbon energy study was completed by consultants to help inform the next Local Plan. A Member briefing session on this work was held on 8 February 2021 and the study is available on the Council's website ² .

² Available from: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-environment>

Action	Update
	This study was referred to as a case study in a Royal Town Planning Institute and Town and Country Planning Association guide for local authorities on planning for climate change.
Continue to support Government's proposals to increase energy performance requirements for new development through national Building Regulations	The Council responded to Government's consultation on The Future Building Standards on behalf of the Council and briefed Members on the proposed Standards and associated uplift in Building Regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new buildings. <i>The interim uplift in Building Regulations is to be implemented in 2022 ahead of the implementation of the Future Homes and Future Buildings Standards in 2025.</i>
Medium term	
Target action on enhancing energy performance of existing private rented homes in the Borough	<p>There are obligations on landlords to comply with minimum energy efficiency standards which the Council has a role in enforcing.</p> <p><i>The Council received grant funding for this project, to develop processes and templates and encourage compliance, and will be delivering this by the end of March 2022 with a view to making contact with relevant landlords from April 2022 onwards.</i></p> <p>Where relevant, information and advice can be shared via the Private Landlords Forum – meetings are currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic but information has been sent out via the email mailing list.</p>
In relation to historic buildings, share available advice on how to reduce energy consumption whilst conserving the heritage assets	<p><i>There is continual liaison between the Conservation team and Building Control team, with technical solutions discussed to ensure, where possible, appropriate upgrading is incorporated to improve energy efficiency in historic buildings.</i></p> <p><i>As previous – advice is site-specific and dependent on a number of factors, taking account of whether works would affect the asset's special interest and weighing the public benefits against any potential harm to that significance. It is important to look for a holistic approach to the building, and seek alternative solutions. Pre-application enquiries are encouraged. There is also a suite of guidance on the Historic England website which is continually expanded and updated – a link to this is provided on the Council's website.</i></p>

Action	Update
<p>Through the preparation of the next Local Plan, ensure policies are written to facilitate the move towards carbon neutrality, in the context of national legislation and policy</p>	<p>Consultation on the Refined Issues and Options stage of local plan in the summer of 2020 highlighted that climate change will be a key theme running throughout the Local Plan, as well as identifying some of the policy options available.</p> <p><i>The Local Plan, Regulation 18 Stage 1 consultation document includes a strategic policy on Countering Climate Change setting out at a high level the measures development will need to take to deliver net zero carbon development. Climate change runs throughout the Local Plan as it is identified as a strategic priority through the objectives which will feed through to the strategic policies. More detailed policies will be developed at the next stage of the Local Plan (Regulation 18 Stage 2).</i></p>
<p>Raise awareness of best practice examples within the Borough to share insight</p>	<p>Work on this action has not yet started.</p>
<p>Long term</p>	
<p>Develop promotion scheme to provide advice to owners on energy efficiency improvements and trusted installers</p>	<p>Work on this action has not yet started. Processes for the Government's Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme may assist with this and the Council is exploring with local partner organisations how we may be able to deliver this.</p> <p><i>The Council promoted a range of energy efficiency grants, available to residents, in the Autumn 2021 edition of Test Valley News.</i></p>

Transport, Travel and Plant

Action	Update
<p>Throughout the timeline</p>	
<p>For refuse vehicles, before 2025 undertake an assessment and trial of the practicalities of introducing electric or alternative fuel vehicles. This assessment would ensure that such vehicles would meet the service needs. From 2025 there will be a phased programme of replacing current fleet</p>	<p>In relation to the Council's fleet, electric vans have been ordered to replace existing diesel versions where possible, and this will bring the total number of full electric vehicles to 11. At present, 9 of our 19 small vans are electric (i.e. about 47% of the small vans).</p> <p><i>Work is ongoing to replace existing diesel vehicles with electric vans.</i></p>

Action	Update
<p>with electric or alternative fuel vehicles with the intention that this will be completed by 2035.</p>	<p><i>Currently supply chain issues, due to pandemic and world situation, have impacted the fulfilment of orders and the Council's ability to source electric vehicles. Alternative options and supplies are already being considered.</i></p> <p>The transition to electrically operated hand plant (e.g. hedge trimmers, strimmers) is continuing as part of an ongoing replacement programme, as machines come to end of use / beyond economic repair.</p>
<p>Short term</p>	
<p>In conjunction with relevant partners, continue to support the delivery of infrastructure to support the use of sustainable modes of travel. This will include the preparation of a Walking and Cycling Strategy and promoting the availability of sustainable modes of travel.</p>	<p>There has been involvement in a range of projects relating to sustainable travel, including supporting Hampshire County Council, community groups and other partners.</p> <p>Officers have been working with colleagues at Hampshire County Council on the production of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for Andover and the south of Test Valley (area around Romsey and links to Southampton).</p> <p>Work has continued with Hampshire County Council to implement highway improvements in the Borough that have been secured through legal agreements linked to planning permissions. This has a focus on sustainable transport.</p> <p>Officers have been continuing to work with the Romsey Future Cycling and Walking work stream looking at the implementation of cycling and walking routes in Romsey. The Council has supported a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bid that seeks to deliver improvements to a cycling / walking route to make it more accessible.</p> <p><i>The Local Plan Regulation 18 Stage 1 consultation document identifies transport as a strategic priority through the objectives which will feed through to the strategic policies. It highlights the importance of encouraging the move away from private car use through the provision of appropriate infrastructure in conjunction with sustainably located development. More detailed policies</i></p>

Action	Update
	<i>setting out strategic and site specific transport infrastructure, technologies that support low-carbon modes of travel and detailed design requirements will be developed in Regulation 18 Stage 2 of the Local Plan.</i>
In conjunction with relevant partners, continue to support the delivery of infrastructure to support the use of Electric Vehicles including the installation of EV charging points at public car parks and council offices.	<p>During 2019/20, 18 22kW fast chargers were installed in the Council's public car parks, comprising 6 in Romsey and 12 in Andover³. The charge points were part funded by a grant from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles, on the basis of providing public charge points in locations where residents do not have off street parking on which to provide their own charge points, which is a potential barrier to electric car ownership. The Council's car parks are well located for this purpose in town centre locations where the properties often do not have off street parking.</p> <p><i>We are currently working with our supplier (JoJu) who have reviewed market data and expressed an interest in installing a supplier funded 50kW rapid charging unit in an Andover car park.</i></p> <p><i>The Property and Asset Management (P&AM) Service continue to share best practice with other local authorities in the Electric Vehicle Charge Points District Council Liaison group.</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Services and Property and Asset Management Service are considering installation of charging units for hand held equipment batteries</i></p>
Consider viability of electrically operated bin lifts for refuse collection vehicles by the end of 2020	3 refuse collection vehicles with electrically operated bin lifts were delivered in January 2021. These are in operation.
Medium term	
To investigate the infrastructure required for a fleet that may become increasingly reliant on electricity as its source of power by the end of 2022	Work commenced in early 2020, with a preliminary survey having been carried out to consider feasibility. There have been some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic but work is ongoing.

³ An interactive map showing the location of electric vehicle charge points, including those in the Council's car parks, is available at: <https://www.zap-map.com/live/>

Action	Update
	<i>Ongoing</i>
To transition to electrically operated hand plant by the end of 2023	Some trials / demonstrations have been undertaken to identify particular makes that meet necessary criteria for the hand plant we use. In light of these trials for certain hand plant, including long pole hedge trimmers, and loop handle strimmers, we are moving from petrol to electric products when replacing end of life machines. <i>No change.</i>
To ensure that end of life vehicles and plant are disposed of in an environmentally friendly way	Vehicles and plant are part exchanged where possible. When it is required to send equipment to auction, they are sent to the nearest municipal specialist. Items are generally collected in multiples on a low loader to reduce individual vehicle journeys. <i>No changes to the process being followed, as per last update.</i>

Supporting Communities and Businesses

Action	Update
Short term	
Identify and support climate change initiatives that emerge through communities undertaking local action planning, for example through Andover Vision and Romsey Future, or through rural action planning in the Parishes.	There are actions proposed through the Green Space Strategy that support this action, including exploring opportunities for a tree planting grant, as well as wilder Andover / Romsey projects. The Council is also working alongside partners to contribute to the Andover Climate Day of Action referred to below. <i>Wilder Romsey was launched last year, they have been engaging with the local community, giving trees to local residents and groups, held multiple volunteer days maintaining the canal banks in Romsey, rewilding has taken place in the Great Woodley Estate and they are currently exploring further areas and funding for rewilding.</i>
Contribute to the Andover Vision-led Day of Action including high profile involvement on the day.	Working with partners from Andover Vision, officers supported the delivery of Andover's Climate Day of Action on 25 June 2021. The day was a great success and saw schools, businesses and community groups from across the

Action	Update
	<p>town take action to raise awareness and help combat climate change. As part of this event, a climate marketplace was held on Andover High Street with local community groups showcasing their great environmental work and encouraging others to take part. This was the first Climate Day of Action, the lessons learnt are anticipated to be used to improve the event for next year.</p> <p><i>Andover's Climate Day of Action will be taking place again in 2022. The Council, as a stakeholder of Andover Vision, will be working with partners to bring the day to fruition and plan the Council's contribution to it. A fuller update will be available in the coming months.</i></p>
<p>Specialist learning event for Parish and Town Councils and community organisations who have well developed local climate activities (what worked and what didn't, how could we share to all)</p>	<p>A survey was sent out to parish councils in January 2021 to request information on climate change and sustainability activities that are underway. The feedback from this survey will help us to formulate this event.</p> <p>In June 2021, a parish and town council (virtual) climate change and sustainability event was held, which focused on planting and wilding. The theme was identified having regard to the above mentioned survey responses. The event was attended by approximately 30 parish councillors and other representatives. The event shared insights from the Council's Countryside Team, along with the Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust and the Greener Villages group. The post event pack that was circulated also provided information on resources that may be of interest and grants / funding that are available. The event was well received. The TVAPTC/TVBC Annual Conference included a workshop session on local action on climate emergency.</p> <p><i>The Council ran a pilot thermal imaging workshop in October 2021 for local residents, community groups and parish & town councils. The workshop provided attendees with information on how to use the camera so that they can use it to survey their properties to identify heat loss. This was well attended by residents and representatives from Ampfield Parish Council, Mottisfont Parish Council, Upper Clatford Parish Council, and Shipton Bellinger Parish Council. Feedback from the course was very positive and a</i></p>

Action	Update
	<i>number of attendees have since booked out the camera available through the Schools Energy Project. The Thermal imaging video guides are available and accessible on the Council's website⁴.</i>
All Parish / Town Council event, following on from learning event, to celebrate and share best practice, inspiring other Councils and groups to follow suit. Also highlighting resources available (officer support and grants).	This event will follow on from the specialist learning event for Parish and Town Councils. Through the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils (TVAPTC), there has already been some discussion and sharing of information regarding projects being undertaken between Parish and Town Councils (for example at the TVAPTC/TVBC Annual Conference in 2020 <i>and 2021</i>). <i>See above for update.</i>
Work with partners to deliver a business event to offer best practice, networking and promote access to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainable Business Partnership support for businesses.	Completed through a virtual event with the Sustainable Business Partnership in April 2020. <i>The Council is one of four Hampshire district councils that is taking part in LoCASE⁵, which launched in September. This scheme is scheduled to run for two years and is intended to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, through a combination of support and grants (up to 40% grants). To date 9 applications from SMEs in Test Valley have been submitted, work is ongoing to promote this programme to local businesses and communities.</i> <i>For Test Valley Business Awards 2021, the Council introduced a 'Cutting your Carbon Footprint' Award. We received 8 applications for this category all of which were a very high standard. Correct Contract Services Ltd based in Andover won the award; they specialise in retrofitting and low carbon technologies including solar PV and heat pumps.</i>
Business event at University of Southampton Science Park to highlight innovative carbon reduction	<i>The Council delivered an online pilot event for businesses interested in cutting carbon in partnership with the Enterprise M3 LEP and Greentech South. This</i>

⁴ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/energyefficiency/would-you-like-to-reduce-your-heating-bills-this-winter>

⁵ EU funded programme, being co-ordinated by Kent County Council. More information at: <https://locase.co.uk/>

Action	Update
techniques in business and industry	<i>was attended by approximately 25 local businesses and provided them with an overview of the type of funding and support that is available to them to help them reduce their carbon emissions. It was an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate leadership and provide impartial advice and support to our local businesses.</i>
Recycling Behaviour Change Project – working in two specific areas to explore best ways to improve recycling behaviour	Background research was undertaken including an online survey and workshops. The project was scheduled to take place between March and July 2020 but was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are now working with Solent University to develop the project. A number of work packages have been identified which will be used to apply for appropriate funding calls when they become available. <i>No change.</i>

Natural Environment

Action	Update
Throughout the timeline	
Continue to explore opportunities for land acquisition for small scale woodland creation.	There is an action in the Green Space Strategy that supports this. Opportunities for land acquisition, including in relation to potential for tree planting, continue to be explored. <i>Additional 2 hectares of new woodland will be planted at land purchased south of Bury Hill. This planting is planned for winter 2022/23.</i>
Short term	
Work with Hampshire County Council to review the management of roadside verges which will positively contribute to carbon capture and/or reduce cutting frequency, operational carbon emissions and increase wildlife value. A network of connected verges will be prioritised	The Covid-19 pandemic has slowed progresses on this project. Officers have discussed plans with Hampshire County Council in the context of this action. This involves reduced mowing frequency in such locations and looking at reseeding to help establish biologically rich roadside verges. October 2021 update - Officers continue to engage with a range of local groups, including Andover Trees United, TARCA, and Wilder Romsey. In addition, discussions are continuing with colleagues at Hampshire County

Action	Update
	<p>Council in relation to reviewing the management of roadside verges (including reducing mowing frequency) in certain locations.</p> <p><i>Maps of further areas have been produced for sharing with Hampshire County Council in order to seek to implement changes to the management of the identified areas.</i></p> <p><i>Areas from this year have been reviewed and the majority will continue. Some small sites have been removed due to not being practical or caused significant complaint. Changes will come into effect from April 2022.</i></p>
<p>Through management of green spaces, continue to develop ways to reduce operational carbon emissions across our green spaces whilst improving value of wildlife. A network of linked wild meadow / pollinator corridors will be prioritised.</p>	<p>October 2021 update - Implemented changes to the mowing regimes for some of the Council's green spaces to reduce operational emissions and improve wildlife value. This is the first phase of a three year plan, with about 7 hectares of land within our open spaces managed as urban meadows⁶. Initial surveys have been completed (with support from volunteers). The final cut of the urban meadows was in September / October.</p> <p><i>Further work has been completed to look to increase the area of urban meadow during 2022 mowing season. Additional sites were suggested by communities through the nomowinfo@testvalley.gov.uk email address and these have been evaluated for inclusion. A further push for additional sites suggested by the community was made during February.</i></p> <p><i>12 hectares of restoration of species rich grassland will be completed on land purchase south of Bury Hill. This will take the area out of agricultural production and add a significant area of new meadow.</i></p>
<p>Develop a Tree Management Strategy which will detail overarching management principles and replacement planting across Council property</p>	<p>This is scheduled to be prepared in 2021.</p> <p><i>The strategy has been delayed due to the absence of an Arboriculture Officer in the Community and Leisure Service. The post has now been filled and a</i></p>

⁶ See: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/parksandgreenspaces/urban-meadow-creation>

Action	Update
<p>Develop a Tree Planting Strategy to provide a basis for planting in appropriate places across the borough</p>	<p><i>new target for the first draft of the strategy is May 2022.</i></p> <p>This is scheduled to be prepared in 2021.</p> <p><i>October 2021 update - This autumn and winter, we are planning to plant around 10,000 trees, including a range of species such as hazel, beech, oak, alder and lime. These will be planted at a number of locations across the Borough, including Valley Park woodlands, Hunts Farm, Anton Lakes, and Picket Twenty urban park⁷</i></p> <p><i>The planting of 10,000 trees is underway and will be completed by March 2022.</i></p> <p><i>The strategy has been delayed due to the absence of an Arboriculture Officer in the Community and Leisure Service. The post has now been filled and a new target for the first draft of the strategy is May 2022.</i></p>
Medium term	
<p>Work with partners to secure appropriate large scale opportunities for wilding and nutrient mitigation which will contribute to carbon sequestration</p>	<p>Work on this action is ongoing, with no such opportunities having yet been secured.</p> <p><i>Medium term action ongoing.</i></p>
Long term	
<p>Explore the inclusion of policies for woodland creation to increase urban canopy cover within the next Local Plan</p>	<p>Consultation on the refined Issues and Options stage of next Local Plan in the summer of 2020 highlighted this option. This will be further explored as the preparation of the next Local Plan progresses.</p> <p><i>The Climate Emergency section in the Local Plan, Regulation 18 Stage 1 identifies the potential for more detailed policies around tree retention and tree canopy cover. This will be explored at the next stage of the Local Plan (Regulation 18 Stage 2).</i></p>

⁷ For more information see: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/tree-planting-in-test-valley>