

# Climate Change Action Plan



Annual Action Report Year End 2022-23



# Climate Change Action Plan: September 2021 – March 2023






The Action Plan will be a living document and we will revise our plans as the climate and environmental emergency develops, targets are met, funding becomes available and new technologies emerge. Timescales for the actions in the original Climate Action Plan were based on the following:-




Timescale
<b>Short Term</b> – 2021 to 2023
<b>Medium Term</b> – 2021 to 2026
<b>Long Term</b> – 2021 to 2030
<b>Ongoing</b> – Actions that will continue through the life of the strategy





The Council is directly responsible for reducing its own organisational climate impact – Table 1 below details the actions and targets that BDC directly controls.




Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Target/Measurements	2022 /2023	Trend	Comments
The Council will be Carbon Neutral as far as practical by 2030	Annual update on progress made towards target - <b>reported one year in arrears 21/22 3066 tonnes, 22/23 2927 tonnes</b>	2,927	↓	A reduction of 354 tonnes on the Strategy's 2019/2020s baseline figure 3,281 (2020/2021 annual carbon figures was distorted by the pandemic)
Percentage of council energy derived from renewable/green sources	100% by 2030 – Annual update on progress made towards target	6%	↑	6% of the Council's energy is now from non fossil fuel energy sources an increase of 1% in 2022/2023
Reduction in the use of water	Annual update on water usage by BDC – Baseline 2022 and target set for 2023/24	10,759	↔	BDC has baselined its annual water consumption from its entire estate during 2022/2023 which equates to 10,759 cubic meters
Percentage of staff trained on Climate Change	Target 100% by 2024 – Measured and reported annually	0.50%	↑	2 members of staff have undertaken full accreditation via the "Caron Literacy Project" these staff have been supported by ODL to tailor ODL online Training Course due to go live in September 2023 for all staff with target for all staff to complete by 31st March 2024
Percentage of BDC managed public lighting switched to LED	Target 100% - Measured and reported annually	86%	↑	A procurement exercise will be undertaken in 2023/2024 for LED Lamppost replacements for BDC managed lampposts. All other lighting is now LED
No of EV Charging Points in Council Car Parks	Target – all Car Parks to have EV charging facilities – Measured and reported annually	64	↑	All public BDC car parks now have between 4 and 8 EV charging points. Investigations are underway to install rapid charging points.
Percentage of low emissions vehicle in the BDC Fleet	Target 100% by 2030 – Measured and reported annually	0	↔	An external review of options in relation of vehicle replacements has been completed. A procurement for 12 electric vehicles is due to begin in 2023/24
Reduction in cuts to rural verges	(Target – one cut per year *) (*safety cuts will be performed if requested)	1	↓	Project (Trial) completed in Oct 2021. Single cut agreed by JET in April 2022 and will be implemented for the next 3 years whilst ECC complete a long term eco monitor/evaluation.





The Council also aims to support the District to achieve carbon neutrality. Table 2 includes the activity indicators that BDC will use to monitor the impact of the actions in the District category

Overarching Activity Indicators	Activity Indicator Measurements	22/23	Trend	Comments
District Carbon Tonnage	Reported 2 years in arrears Strategy Baseline 576Kt 2021/22 679 Kilo Tonnes	679 Kt		Figures release by DESNZ
Percentage of household waste recycled per annum	Target: 60%* (Reported Annually) (Target is subject to review pending the Secondary legislation from Environment Act)	47.54%		20/21 46.8%, 21/22 49.7% Residual waste was down by approx. 213 tonnes compared to 21/22. We also saw a reduction in the tonnage of Recyclable waste collected which was down by approx 4,000 tonnes. Of this 3,311 tonnes related to the garden waste in the first two quarters of the year due to the weather especially the hot dry spell we encountered over the summer period (second quarter - July to September). There was a further reduction of green waste (298 tonnes) in October and November, again attributable to the season.
KG/HH Residual waste collected per year	Target: 468* (kg/hh/yr) Reported Annually (Target is subject to review pending the Secondary legislation from Environment Act)	431kg/HH		Recycling Rate = 44% Residual Waste collected = 434kg/HH (433.78kg/HH)
No of electric taxis (recommendation for this activity indicator to change to <i>Number of taxis and private hire vehicles that are fuelled by electric or alternative fuels</i> )	Target 100% by 2030	16%		Percentage of Licensed Taxis and Private Hire vehicle fleet currently fuelled by petrol/diesel alternatives). There are currently very limited number of wheelchair accessible vehicles models on the market.
Number of Parish Council owned/managed Street lights switched to LED	Annual update report (Grant funding dependent)	-	-	2022/23 Baseline figure being compiled - pending information from Parish Council's
Number of Household Energy Grants issued	Annual update report (Grant funding dependent)	635		368 ECO, 115 Sustainable Warmth, 124 Groundworks/Green Doctor, and 48 via Handyman Service



No of new Neighbourhood Plans with Climate included	Annual update report (Grant funding dependent)	2		Kelvedon and Feering Neighbourhood Plans were adopted in 2022/3
No of planning permissions granted for new homes in accordance with the new Local Plan	Annual update of number	1088	-	New Local plan adopted in 2022/23
No of contacts made with and advice given to Listed Buildings owners on energy saving measures	Annual update of number	Figure no longer reportable	Figure no longer reportable	Essex Design Guide for listed buildings now hosted on a ECC design guide website. Braintree's website now links directly to ECC's website. ECC website hits cannot provide Braintree Specific figures
No of energy saving measures installed in Social Housing Stock	Annual update of number	300	No baseline figure available	Funded by Social Housing Decarbonisation fund
No of On Street EV chargers installed for electric vehicles (ECC lead project)	Annual update of number	0	-	Essex County Council have successfully secured bids from bid OZEV & LEVI for developing a programme of installations across the county. Public Consultation held 2022/23
Percentage of district with access to superfast broadband	Progress report from the Transport East – Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Tactical Group (Lead Highways Authority is Essex County Council)	97.60%		Braintree district is currently at 97% of premises able to access superfast broadband. Countywide service take-up is 76%. District is currently at 30%.
No of campaigns run to support improved air quality (such as Anti idling, do not burn green wood etc)	Annual progress report	0	-	Funding bid for Lot 1 failed on the basis that BDC had not declared an AQMA. A campaign is scheduled for 23-24
Percentage increase in the use of Public transport	Total number of campaigns	28%		Braintree specific figures unavailable -ECC report Public Transport usage has increased but still remains lower than pre-pandemic percentages. 40.7 m 2019, 12.6 m, 2021 21.8 m, 2022 23.42 m, 23 29.9 million



Number of Water Butts purchased	Progress report from ECC (Primary lead Essex County Council)	89		86 water butts or water butt kits were bought through the subsidised water butt scheme funded by ECC. Three water butts were purchased and installed for BDC cemeteries (one was already in place). Public Consultation anticipated in 2023/24 on non-viable bus routes.
No of SMEs supported by ECC Green Skills/ECC Centre of Excellence/ECC Green Accreditation Scheme	Annual Figures provided by ECC (Primary lead organisation is ECC)	-	-	Accreditation Scheme Launched in 2022/23 - first accreditations will be in 2023/24
No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030	Total number of projects (This will be a combined number from ECC, BDC and other partner organisations.)	18		18 x wilding projects in total stated (excluding the district wide single verge cut in autumn 2022). i. 1 x Hatfield Peverel PC ii. 1 x Castle Hedingham PC iii. 1 x Rivenhall PC (wild seeding to selected rural verges in Rivenhall parish) iv. 15 x wilding areas of POS in the district which includes sites where we have planted bulbs and tree whips.
No of businesses signed up to ECO heating or LoCase	Target: number of Braintree business that have received LOCASE funding (or its successor). (Grant funding dependent)	15		LoCase stats: 91 Braintree district businesses engaged (top 3 in Essex for performance) • 15 grants allocated (top 2) • 81.39 tonnes of CO2 saved (top 4) • 11.5 jobs created (top 3) • £89,911.11 grant funding allocated to businesses (top 3)
No of Business that have supported to develop Green Travel Plans	Target: 10 Business signed up each year	4		promotion of green travel plans at Springwood Drive event with businesses

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
<b>Resources</b>						
<b>Conserve our Natural Resources</b>						
CC/001 Continue with campaigns to raise the profile of local food producers by promoting shop local and seasonal foods including plant based substitutes	<b>Developing the Green Economy</b> Increased awareness of produce that can be sourced locally and the benefits of buying seasonal produce and swapping to plant based produce Increased support for local businesses	Environment	District	Ongoing	<p>The promotion of shop local has been ongoing.</p> <p>Media releases and case studies have promoted specific businesses selling local produce, street market businesses and local growers selling environmentally conscious products.</p> <p>The BDC "Shop Local in Braintree District" Facebook page now has 695 subscribers.</p> <p>A shop local Christmas campaign was run throughout December 2022.</p> <p>Stronger links are being made with local farmers with a view to promoting agricultural food production in the year ahead.</p>	 Action Ongoing/on target
CC/002 Work with partners to offer a subsidised water butt scheme to encourage residents to use rainfall rather than tap water to sustain their plants.	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Reduction in the use of water	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<p>A subsidized water butt scheme is now operational in partnership with ECC and Get composting. Several promotions of the scheme have taken place.</p> <p>A total of 92 water butts and water butt kits were purchased through the scheme over the year.</p> <p>Now established, this project will continue into 2023-24.</p>	 Action Completed
CC/003 Create a learning and development programme for staff and members to increase their awareness on climate change and how they can reduce their own carbon emissions and contribute to those that can be achieved corporately	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase awareness of climate change issues Improved consideration of climate change issues across all services, projects and policies	Environment	BDC	Short Term (target of March 2024)	<p>Two members of staff have undertaken full accreditation via the 'Carbon Literacy Project' and these staff are now developing an in house staff training course which will be differentiated across The Council.</p> <p>A suitable online learning course has been identified for all office based staff to complete and a learning video shall be created for frontline staff. This training will go live in 2023.</p>	 Action Ongoing/on target

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
CC/004 Install water butts in our cemeteries to capture rainfall run off from cemetery chapels and other buildings for use by visitors bringing floral tributes	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in the use of water	Operations	BDC	Short Term	All four BDC Cemeteries now have water butts installed capturing rainwater fun off. A press release promoted this and used the opportunity to encourage residents to install water butts at home.	 Action Completed
CC/005 Review the Councils sustainable Procurement Policy to strengthen the procurement process ensuring environmental considerations are made when procuring goods and services	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Procurement specifications developed that supports carbon reduction and sustainability. Council is more aware of the environmental credentials of the contractors it works with Encourage more businesses to consider climate change credentials	Finance	BDC	Medium Term	The BDC joint Procurement Team is working alongside ECC to develop an approach to Sustainable Procurement which includes Climate impact as part of the social value standards. The Carbon Trust is assisting with this project. Work is ongoing including developing guidance on including Sustainability into specifications and how to evaluate submissions once received. Evaluation of the environmental and climate credibility of suppliers will begin in financial year 2023/2024.	 Action Ongoing/on target
CC/006 Explore the feasibility of re-using waste water from the depot to fill the water tanks on the street sweepers	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in the use of water	Operations	BDC	Medium Term	A feasibility project was undertaken regarding harvesting rainwater from Lakes Road for use in road sweepers. Technical issues identified made the project unviable.  An alternative project is being investigated regarding harvesting and re-using water at Cordon's Farm. A feasibility study is being commissioned via an external consultant.	 Action Ongoing/on target
<b>Reduce Waste, Increase Recycling</b>						
CC/007 Work with the Essex Recycling Forum and the Essex Waste Partnership on Countywide campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to reduce their waste and to maximise recycling	Climate behaviour change influencer Reduction of total waste collected Reduction in tonnage of residual waste and increase in percentage of waste recycled	Operations	District	Ongoing	This work is ongoing. Multiple recycling focused web updates and social media campaigns have been run.  A joint campaign between ECC, 11 Essex Local Authorities, KFC and MacDonaldis targeting reduced waste/littering which involves two outlets at Galleys Corner is underway.	 Action Ongoing/on target








Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
					<p>BDC is currently supporting the ERF with a food waste reducing campaign. Of the 722 residents that have signed the Essex Food Waste Pledge, 161 (22%) are from the Braintree District.</p> <p>School visits, evening talks and multiple events have been attended promoting recycling and waste minimalization. (Further information on the campaigns run in 2022/2023 are documented in the Comms Annual Activity Report 2022/2023)</p>	
OP/21/004 Review the waste management service to identify future working models and respond to the outcomes of the Environment Bill, including impacts on kerbside collections.	<p>New 10 year waste strategy developed. Improved service delivery model implemented providing more sustainable ways of working.</p> <p>Reduce residual waste and increase recycling</p> <p>Ensure outcomes of the Environment Bill are understood and fed into the service review of the waste management service</p>	Operations	BDC	Short Term	<p>The Council commissioned an external consultant (Ricardo AEA) to review its waste collection service including modeling various service delivery options to identify the most cost effective and efficient model in line with the Government's proposed Consistency in Household Waste Collections.</p> <p>Secondary legislation relating to the above under the Environment Act 2021 is still pending and further work cannot progress on this aspect of the review until a formal announcement is made by Defra.</p> <p>Due to the delays in the publication of the secondary legislation and current lack of clarity around the anticipated consistency of collection guidance from central government this project's timescale has been adjusted to Medium Term.</p>	<p> Action delayed (adjusted to Medium Term Action)</p>
<b>Reduce use of non-renewable resources</b>						
CC/009 Develop a District wide campaign to encourage residents to reduce the use of plastics	<p>Climate behaviour change influencer</p> <p>Reduction in waste collected</p>	Operations / Marketing & Comms	District	Short Term	<p>Promotion of plastic recycling has run via social media, The Council's website attended events and BDC Facebook posts.</p> <p>A social media post and e-newsletter campaign is underway to inform residents and businesses about the single use plastic ban for takeaway cutlery/plates/cups, to be introduced nationwide in October 2023 .</p>	<p> Action Completed</p>




Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
CC/010 Consider options to increase public access to drinking water to reduce single use plastics	Climate behaviour change influencer Reduction in the use of single use plastics	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the installation of water fountains has become a less popular option for drinking water. A business case cost and benefit evaluations is being undertaken of working in partnership with City to Sea and Refill.org on a "Refill" campaign in 2023/24.	 Action Ongoing/on target
CC/011 Research opportunities around using waste collected from dog waste bins and other sources as either a fertiliser or fuel source	Carbon Reduction Reduce energy use from non-renewable sources	Operations	BDC	Short Term	Research was undertaken with other Councils in Essex and it was established there are none who recycle dog waste due to the operational impracticalities and costs involved of separating the waste from plastic bags. It was concluded this project was not viable.	 Action Completed





## Energy Conservation





### Reduce energy use an improve energy efficient infrastructure





CC/012 Switch the Councils energy use to non-fossil fuel green energy tariffs	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions	Finance / Operations	BDC	Short Term	6% of the Council's energy is now from non-fossil fuel energy sources.  The Council is currently in a fixed term contract for energy supply.  Cost evaluation is underway regarding switching to a green energy tariff when the contract term expires. (Green Tariffs are currently more expensive than standard tariffs and the cost of switching may be cost prohibitive).	 Action delayed  (adjusted to medium term action)
CC/013 Explore opportunities to purchase batteries to store electricity/ energy to supply back to our buildings or sell back to the National Grid	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Currently BDC does not generate enough overspill energy from alternative sources or off-peak tariffs to make the project financially feasible. It is likely that battery storage will be re-explored in the future. This action has been closed.	 Action Completed
CC/014 Switch all BDC public lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights on a like for like replacement basis and work with parish councils to replace any	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions	Finance / Environment	BDC	Short Term	BDC's Car Park lighting was changed to LED in 2018. ECC's street light LED replacement program is ongoing in Braintree.	 Action Completed

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
parish council owned street lights when they need replacing	Reduced cost of energy consumption				<p>All BDC managed properties now have LED lighting installed. LED lighting is being installed in Fusion managed buildings in 23/24. 3% of BDC managed lampposts have now been exchanged to LED lighting. This project is ongoing with bulbs being exchanged when lampposts fail. A specification for lamppost repair is being written for tender in 23/24 which will include replacing LED Lighting.</p> <p>ECC has offered Parish Councils second hand working LED lanterns on a first come first serve basis. Parish Councils were also signposted to apply for ECC climate change grants of up to £20,000 to support their LED replacement programs and the case study of Feering Parish Council was promoted. (This grant stream has now closed.)</p> <p>The current LED lighting data demonstrates that 76% of public lighting is now LED.</p> <p>This project is closed and a new action has been opened for 2023/2024 relating to the commissioning of the final LED Lamppost replacement program.</p>	
CC/016 Increase energy efficiency and renewable technologies across Council equipment, assets and estates	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Finance / Environment	BDC	Long Term	The Council are securing costings from suppliers to improve the energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities of The Plaza building.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Increase the proportion of energy derived from renewable sources</b>						
OP/20/005 Continue to research and evaluate ultra-low emission alternatives for the Council's fleet of vehicles	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Identify opportunities to reduce the impact of the Council's impact on emissions	Operations	BDC	Short Term (medium term implementation)	<p>An internal Vehicle Replacement Project Board has been established.</p> <p>An external review of the Council's fleet and opportunities to look at alternative fuels and alternative low emissions vehicles has been commissioned and a draft report has been received.</p> <p>This project is linked to the Review of the Waste Management Service and as a result has also been setback by the delay in</p>	 Action ongoing/on target





Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
					publication of the secondary legislation expected from the Environment Act 2021.	
CC/018 Consider use of robust certified carbon credit schemes to offset any residual organisation emissions	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduce Carbon Impact of organisation	Environment	BDC	Long Term	A tree canopy survey has been commissioned which will provide a baseline of data for the district. The report, when finalized, will highlight tree planting opportunities across the district and which will inform future carbon offsetting opportunities.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Improve energy efficiency of existing housing stock</b>						
CC/019 Continue to work with partners to address the complex challenge of fuel poverty through targeted campaigns and signposting to grant funding and areas of support	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> People in fuel poverty have access to affordable, low carbon warmth. Improved energy efficiency in homes and reduced costs for residents Reduction in CO2 emissions	Environment	District	Ongoing	BDC was awarded £1.6 million of energy efficiency grant funding in 2022. 1934 residents have been referred to access grant funding and/or solar panel schemes. 62 BDC residents accessed Sustainable Warmth grants for retrofitted energy efficiency measures to a value of £329K  BDC also supported Eastlight Community Homes in securing funding under phase1 & 2 of the Home Upgrade Grant – these HUG grants have resulted in 450 low-income households accessing energy efficiency upgrades. A Cost of Living partnership group has been established in 2022/2023 which shares and promotes information on grant funding schemes available.  BDC is part of a consortia that will bid for grant funding announced by BEIS in Sept 22 for Homes Upgrade Grant 2 targeting homes in off grid	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/020 Continue with campaigns providing information to residents on saving energy measures to help reduce emissions, including promotion of retrofit schemes for homeowners	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> District emissions reduced. Campaigns successfully delivered. Increase in residents sign posted to grants	Environment	District	Ongoing	This work has been ongoing and has become part of a working stream for the multi-agency Cost of Living Partnership. A “Don’t wait for Winter” and “Winter Warmth” campaign was run, and residents are being directed to the Green Doctor Referral scheme for home energy efficiency audits. ‘Ease the Squeeze’ - information on home insulation and a range of energy saving tips has been promoted and articles on these schemes have been included in BDC’s Contact Magazine	 Action ongoing/on target

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
<b>Built Environment</b>						
<b>Reduce the carbon impact and improve biodiversity of new developments</b>						
CC/2021 Continue to emphasise climate change and the requirements around carbon reduction and renewables in Neighbourhood Plans.	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Increase awareness and consideration of Climate Change issues for those developing Neighbourhood Plans	Planning	BDC	Short Term	BDC is encouraging community groups putting together Neighbourhood Plans to consider whether they wish to add policies on managing the impact of climate change. Both recent plans adopted at Kelvedon and Feering include responding to Climate Change as part of the vision for their villages and include policies encouraging energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation'. This work is now considered standard practice.	 Action Completed
CC/022 Promote sustainable materials for new constructions based on the BREEAM* tool	<b>Developing the Green Economy</b> Reduced environmental impact of new builds Reduced CO2 emissions from new developments	Planning	BDC	Short Term	The Plaza development is an example of BREEAM construction and is being used as a promotional BREEAM case study.  Presentations to Essex wide groups on the success of this building has been undertaken. (The Plaza is 42% more efficient than building regulations and derives 54% of its energy from renewable sources)  This work is now considered standard practice	 Action Completed
CC/023 Review changes in national planning policies that may help shape and enforce energy efficiency improvements in buildings	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Policies implemented and considered for new planning applications Reduced CO2 emissions from new developments	Planning	BDC	Short Term	The Local Plan has been adopted and applying the policies within it is now standard practice.	 Action Completed
CC/024 Create and adopt new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) on sustainability and carbon reduction, including waste management, biodiversity gain, encouraging developers to exceed targets and build sustainable, resilient and efficient new homes	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Supplementary Planning Document adopted and used as a material planning consideration Positive impact on biodiversity from new developments	Planning	BDC	Short Term	The Planning policy team is in the commissioning stage of documents. Consultation on draft SPDs is expected to be undertaken in 2023.	 Action Completed







Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
	Reduced CO2 emissions from new developments					
CC/025 Develop a Planning Sustainability check list for use by officers, members and town/parish councils when reviewing planning applications to ensure climate change is taken into consideration by decision makers of all new planning applications	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Improve framework, ensuring that climate change issues are effectively considered at planning stage	Planning	BDC	Short Term	The Planning Sustainability Checklist is now approved and published.	 Action Completed
CC/026 Develop an environmental assets map to understand the potential locations of positive environmental assets moving forward	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Increase knowledge of environmental assets to better understand opportunities Market the District to build the green economy	Planning	BDC	Short Term	BDC are working in close partnership with ECC through the Local Nature Partnership. Mapping will be needed as part of the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy introduced via the Environment Act 2021 and expected to be rolled out by DEFRA by the end of 2024. A tree canopy study has also been commissioned which should help inform future mapping.	 Action Completed
CC/027 Support the transition to sustainable heating sources in new developments	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduced CO2 emissions from new developments	Planning	District	Medium Term	The adopted Local Plan includes policy support for renewable energy on new developments. ECC guidance on how to install renewable on listed buildings has now been completed as part of the Essex Design Guide and a viability study to confirm the costs of net zero for new homes has been completed and published.  A major site in the District is developing no gas homes on its affordable and build for rent elements. When these begin to complete over the next year it will provide a useful case study.  Building Regulations are due to be updated in 2023/24 setting tighter standards of sustainable heating.	 Action Completed
CC/028 Review and evaluate the potential of an offset fund (106 agreements) or allowable solutions mechanism for developers to pay into when a certain high level of energy efficiency of buildings is not able to be met in the development and use this money for carbon saving projects	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduced CO2 impact from new developments	Environment	BDC	Long Term	We continue to investigate the opportunities for this as part of wider networking.	 Action ongoing/on target

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
<b>Reduce household water consumption and maximise installation of sustainable drainage systems, water reuse and grey water harvesting technologies</b>						
CC/029 Work with ECC to ensure that all new development sites have sufficient "green/blue" infrastructure to mitigate flooding through the Sustainable Urban Drainage System Strategies submitted at Planning	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Reduced risk of flooding in new developments	Planning	District	Medium Term	Local Plan policies were considered sufficient by Inspectors to ensure the required amounts of green and blue infrastructure. These are being applied in new developments.  This work is now considered as standard practice	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Reduce energy use in existing households by retrofitting energy efficiency measures</b>						
CC/030 Continue to signpost owners of traditional or listed buildings to advice and assistance on energy saving measures and improved sustainability that will avoid causing harm to the building and surroundings	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduces CO2 emissions from homes Reduced cost of energy for residents	Planning	District	Ongoing	ECC has completed guidance for those with listed buildings regarding how they might adapt their buildings or their habits to climate change. This is published online in the Essex Design Guide. Proposed changes to the NPPF provide greater weight to the need for things like insulation and double glazing in listed homes but that does not outweigh any historic impact.	 Action Completed
CC/031 Work with registered housing providers and registered landlords to progressively increase the energy efficiency of social housing stock	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduces CO2 emissions from homes Reduced cost of energy for residents	Environment	District	Ongoing	BDC has supported ECH with preparation of funding bids to the Homes Upgrade Grant (Phase 1 & 2). This has resulted in 450 low-income Households accessing energy efficiency upgrades. A joint BDC and registered social landlord forum is being launched as part of the Healthy Housing Strategy and the BDC support offered to ECH will be extended to all RSL with housing stock in BDC in 2023.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Transport</b>						
<b>Grow electric vehicle network and infrastructure areas</b>						
CC/032 Continue with the installation of electric charging points in the Council's car parks	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> All Council owned car parks fitted with EV charging points. Improved infrastructure and accessibility for customers with EV's using our car parks.	Environment	BDC	Short Term	All BDC car parks now have between 4 and 8 EV chargers installed. 12 of the chargers installed have now been upgraded to fast (22Kwh) chargers.	 Action Completed



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
CC/033 Support ECC to continue to build up the on-street charging infrastructure across our District for electric vehicles	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	Medium Term	ECC has submitted a bid (LEVI) to central government for funding to improve the on-street EV charger infrastructure. BDC is supporting ECC by promoting their EV Charger webpage which includes a link for residents to submit suggested locations for on street EV chargers to be installed.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Improve digital connectivity to reduce travel demand</b>						
DC/21/003/C Work with partners to improve the digital connectivity across the District enabling people to work from home more and travel less	Increase coverage across the District and work with digital suppliers to achieve digital connectivity in any gaps.	Economic Growth	District	Short Term	98 % of the district now has access to superfast broadband.	 Action complete
<b>Increase cycling and walking in the District</b>						
CC/035 Continue to work with LiveWell partners to encourage people to get active and walk more	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Housing & Communities	District	Ongoing	“Walk More” promoting has been ongoing. There are now 38 regular monthly walks being held as well as ‘pop up walks’ around the district. A volunteering network is being created to arrange and support these walks in the future. Residents are being signposted from the Provide Weight matters sessions to their local community walking groups.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/036 In partnership with Essex County Council, consider pilot school street schemes to reduce the number of vehicles travelling into school streets during school drop off and pick up times	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Reduce congestion around schools Reduce car journeys to and from school Reduce CO2 emissions from travel Increase cycling and walking opportunities	Planning	BDC	Short Term	A pilot healthy school street scheme has been installed in Braintree along Lancaster Way and Gilcrest Road. The pavement has been resurfaced to make active travel easier. In addition, 20mph signs and thermoplastic road signs (Children Crossing Warning) have been erected, road markings refreshed, and temporary street art painted on the road to change the look and feel of the street.  Any further school street schemes will be reported under a new project reference.	 Action Complete








Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
ED/21/005/C Working in partnership, deliver the actions of our cycling strategy and promote walking and cycling throughout the District	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase cycling across the District	Economic Growth	BDC	Short Term	The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Braintree town and Witham and environs have commenced. BDC are working closely with ECC to implement the ATF cycle scheme in Braintree town. Staged implementation has started with 20mph zones and school streets. Cycling promotional videos have been produced. Cycle Videos promoted via Facebook reached 18,125 residents.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Encourage greener transport choices</b>						
CC/038 Continue with campaigns to reduce engine idling targeting specific high traffic areas	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Improvement in air quality	Marketing & Communications	District	Ongoing	A funding bid to DEFRA for Lot 1 failed in its eligibility on the basis that BDC does not have an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). A targeted anti-idling campaign is included in the comms plan for 2023/24.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/039 Review the Councils Travel Plan to ensure it continues to promote sustainable travel to staff	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduction in fuel costs Reduction in journeys	Environment	BDC	Short Term	BDC has reviewed the Council's Green Travel Plan. As a result of this review ECC has accredited BDC with a Green Travel Accreditation Award.	 Action Completed
CC/040 Consider introducing differential parking charges in council owned car parks for low emission vehicles	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Encourage use of low emission vehicles	Operations	BDC	Short Term	As part of a recent parking charge review differential parking charges were considered for low emission vehicles however standard tariffs were applied for consistency across all users and car parks.	 Action Complete
CC/041 Work with Essex County Council to improve the quality and availability of low carbon public transport	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Increase in use of more sustainable travel options Reduces CO2 emissions from public transport	Environment	District	Medium Term	ECC has launched DigiGo. BDC Comms have been supporting the use of the DigiGo bus service by actively responding to queries regarding this on both direct and indirect social media channels.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/042 Review the Council's Driver and Vehicle Standards and Policies to create a greener fleet of taxis in the District	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions from taxi fleet and pollution Reduction in fuel costs from taxi fleet.	Environment	District	Medium Term	Data has been collated in relation to baselining the current vehicle types across the Taxi and private hire fleet.  Discussions have been held with the industry forum to understand the industry constraints such as the current market limitations on the availability and supply of electric or hybrid wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVS).	 Action delayed  (recommend er review of the KPI and





Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
					<p>A review of the current Taxi Licensing Policy is in progress. <b><i>A recommendation is made that the associated KPI for this action is reviewed to take into account the licensed private hire fleet and to ensure that WAVS are not discouraged – the suggested amended activity indicator is : Number of taxis and private hire vehicles that are fuelled by electric or alternative fuels</i></b></p> <p><b>(Should BDC currently pursue an 100% electric taxi fleet it will reduce the WAVS available in the fleet due to the current lack of electric vehicles capable of accepting wheelchairs available to the industry.)</b></p>	associated timescale)

## Business and the Green Economy

### Developing the Green Economy

ED/21/009/C Work with Essex County Council and other service providers to identify opportunities to develop low carbon skills, education, training and employment opportunities and support ECC Centre of Excellence.	<p>Increase employability of our residents in the green economy and advanced manufacturing to help improve the productivity in the production of goods and services that support the sustainable agenda</p> <p>Attract new business in the green economy and encourage green sector companies to cluster in the North Essex local economy</p> <p>Increase overall awareness of climate change issues and how to tackle them</p>	Economic Growth	BDC	Short Term	<p>A business consultation has been completed to identify the skills gaps in businesses and the current provisions local business are already using to fill these gaps. This will inform what courses and skills are required to provide the greatest impact on local businesses.</p> <p>Promotion of the Essex Retrofit Academy in ongoing. Currently the business uptake of the fully funded courses from within Essex is not as strong as the uptake from business from other areas of the Country.</p>	 Action ongoing  (Adjusted to a medium term project.
ED/21/009C Work with partners to maximise the impact that that I-Construct brings to the construction sector and its	Reduced carbon from construction process and new developments	Planning / Economic Growth	BDC	Long Term	This project has not yet started	



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
supply chain, championing modern design and construction methods	Increased sustainability in design of new buildings Develop our green economy					Action ongoing/on target (deadline for completion if 2030)
CC/045 Work with landowners, DEFRA and ECC to encourage sustainable land stewardship practices on land across the District, including rewilding and tree planting.	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase awareness and consideration of Climate Change issues for those developing Neighbourhood Plans	Environment	District	Long Term	BDC is working with ECC and the newly formed North Essex Farming Cluster to pilot sustainable land stewardship schemes such as Agroforestry in ECC's Climate Focus Area which covers 68% of the district. A trial of rewilding verges has been completed. Several parish councils have expressed an interest to extend rewilding of verges in their parishes in 23/24.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Encourage businesses to reduce waste</b>						
CC/046 Improve engagement and communication with businesses within the District to improve their participation in recycling and waste minimisation, including working with manufacturers to support the reduction of packaging and make products more re-usable and recyclable	<b>Carbon Reduction</b>	Economic Growth	BDC	Short Term	A "green" business feature is now included in the business newsletter. This provides information on business that have successfully adopted environmental and sustainable business practices. These articles also promote LoCASE funding.  In January 2023 Government updated the legislation on "Producer Responsibility" for packaging waste. This is new legislation aimed at reducing packaging waste by making those that package goods more accountable for the amount of packaging waste used in their products. BDC will be promoting guidance to local businesses to ensure those that are involved understand and comply with the new legislation.  This legislates a reduction in packaging and re-usable/recyclable products.	 Action Complete
<b>Encourage businesses to reduce energy use</b>						
CC/048 Continue to encourage businesses to switch to ECO heating and reduce energy use	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Increase in the number of referrals to support and take up of funding.	Economic Growth / Environment	District	Ongoing	BDC is working with the Federation of Small Businesses to provide information on eco heating to businesses. Green Business features have been published promoting light saving measures as well as switching to LED	



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
	Reduction in energy use				lighting. Information on solar energy for businesses has also been issued. The LoCase grant funding was promoted and 91 Braintree district businesses engaged (this was in the top 3 in Essex for performance). 15 grants were allocated which resulted in 81.39 tonnes of CO2 saved; 11.5 jobs created and £89,911.11 grant funding allocated.	Action ongoing/on target
CC/049 Continue to promote carbon footprint tools to businesses	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Improvements identified and implemented by businesses to reduce carbon impact	Economic Growth / Environment	District	Ongoing	The Colchester Business Enterprise Agency (COLBEA) have now received funding via Braintree (through the Shared Prosperity Fund) to provide fully funded Sustainability and Carbon Foot Printing courses to Braintree district businesses. Promotion of these courses began in January 2023.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/050 Provide support to businesses across the District on the development and implementation of green travel plans	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase in number of businesses implementing a green travel plan Reduction in CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Growth	District	Ongoing	A presentation was given by the green travel plan team at ECC to businesses on Springwood Drive at an event in February with follow up email sent to all businesses, making them fully aware of all the services on offer and encouraging them to get in touch to get support.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/051 Introduce a Climate Change/Green Environmental Accreditation Scheme or Business Award scheme to recognise and showcase initiatives that can be adopted as best practice and to encourage businesses to become carbon neutral.	<b>Developing the Green Economy</b> Increase awareness of opportunities to become carbon neutral Increased sharing and recognition of best practice across businesses	Economic Growth / Environment	BDC	Medium Term	ECC is introducing an Environmental Accreditation Scheme. (Good Start Levels 1-3) .Due to the established Business Network and interest of some environmental advanced businesses already case studied in Braintree district ECC working with BDC will be piloting the accreditation scheme in the district.	 Action ongoing/on target
<b>Encourage businesses to build resilience</b>						
CC/052 Collaborate with the voluntary sector and business sector across Essex to share learning, data, best practice and, to look at joint initiatives to tackle climate change	<b>Developing the Green Economy</b> Successfully sharing knowledge and resources to increase our opportunities to collaborate for grant funding	Economic Growth	BDC	Ongoing	Information on the Essex Climate Commission £20k Climate Action fund has been shared with several parties. (This fund has now closed.) A grants list for Climate Change community projects has been created and shared locally. Information on joint initiatives, best practice examples. presentations and best practice visits have been	 Action ongoing/on target




Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
	Reduction in carbon impact of businesses and voluntary organisations				presented to the cross party working group to inform future initiatives and actions.	

## Natural Environment

### Improve biodiversity and green spaces

CC/053 Continue to deliver campaigns to support a reduction in littering and fly-tipping	Reduction in fly-tips Reduction in littering Cleaner District	Operations / Marketing & Communications	District	Ongoing	<p>BDC is one of 11 Essex Authorities that form the “Cleaner Essex Group”. This year’s Love Essex campaign will be targeting road littering with the slogan, <i>“It’s for driving on, not littering on”</i>, and highlights the consequences offenders who are caught throwing litter from a vehicle will face (Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £150 and up to £2,500, plus costs upon Court conviction.) Local business partners will be supporting the campaign, by displaying banners at 23 KFC and 25 McDonald’s drive-through restaurants in Essex with the message “It’s a takeaway not a throwaway”, as well as distributing stickers on packaging and posters in the restaurants.</p> <p>BDC has an on-going social media messages campaign to tackle litter – <i>“bin it or take it home.”</i></p> <p>There are now over 500 Green Heart Champions and their work is celebrated through a dedicated social media channel.</p> <p>Increased social media coverage begins in July onwards for the duration of the school holiday period encouraging school holiday litter picks</p> <p>(Please see Comms Annual Update Report)</p>	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/054 Complete our trial of alternative weed control methods other than the use of chemicals in Council operations that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Trial completed evaluating relevant alternative methods of weed control introduced.	Operations	BDC	Short Term	<p>BDC will continue to use Glyphosate as being the most cost efficient and effective method of weed control however, reliance has significantly reduced in favour of more sustainable methods as part of the Council's Integrated Weed Control Management Programme that includes, mulching, weed scrubber etc.</p>	 Action Complete

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
	Reduce environmental impact of weed control					
CC/055 Develop a Local Nature Recovery Plan to identify actions needed to restore declining species and habitats	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Plan established to address the practical actions needed to restore declining species and habitats and a healthy natural environment where our plants and animals can thrive	Planning	BDC	Short Term	Essex County Council are the responsible authority for delivering a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A local nature partnership has been set up to undertake the work and stakeholders from across Essex are engaged. The strategy has been delayed due to a delay in government guidance but the working group stands ready to produce the plan as quickly as possible	 Action Complete
CC/056 Plant wildflower areas across the District, including mixture of ornamental and native wildflowers and areas which are left with minimal maintenance to increase bio-diversity.	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District	Operations	District	Short Term	<p><b>Scheme 1 – Naturalisation/whip &amp; Bulb planting/drought resistant planting – areas identified by BDC Staff.</b></p> <p>In Halstead BDC have removed 2 bedding areas (Mount Hill and Halstead Cemetery) and the areas have been naturalised.</p> <p>In Halstead Public Gardens BDC have removed bedding in the bed next to the Pond and replaced with a sustainable planting scheme.</p> <p>The next areas for Sustainable Planting are programmed for Autumn 23 and included :</p> <p>Braintree Cemetery removal of the front bedding area, Braintree Leahurst (opposite St Michael's Fountain) the removal of front bedding from 6 beds and replace with Sustainable Planting schemes.</p> <p><b>Scheme 2 – Rewilding of BDC open space as suggested by Town/Parish Councils</b></p> <p>Rivenhall Parish Council have made contact with Essex Wildlife Trust for guidance on rewilding in their area. Castle Hedingham Parish Council are working with Essex Wildlife Trust from January 23. Rivenhall PC, Castle Hedingham PC and Hatfield Peveral PC have all formed working groups to further this action.</p> <p><b>Scheme 3 Wild seeding of ECC rural verges as</b></p>	 Action Complete

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
					<p><b>suggested by Town &amp; Parish Councils.</b></p> <p>BDC have received the license application from Rivenhall Parish Council which will be forwarded to ECC for approval.</p> <p><b>Scheme 4 – Tree Planting/Soil Bunds in BDC owned areas</b></p> <p>A soil bund on Mary Ruch Way/Hadfield Drive Black Notley has been started. BDC are currently awaiting confirmation of approval and funding for tree planting on behalf of Braintree Civic Society.</p>	
CC/057 Reduce the number of cuts to rural verges across the District (Subject to outcome of recent trials)	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District	Operations	BDC	Short Term	A single cut to rural verges was agreed by JET in April 2022 and will be implemented for the next 3 years whilst ECC complete a long term eco monitor/evaluation.	 Action Complete
CC/058 Work with ECC and Housing Associations to increase biodiversity by reviewing maintenance regimes, refine grass cutting, consider more sustainable planting schemes consistent with the highest biodiversity standards and promote rewilding/naturalisation of areas.	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District	Environment	District	Short Term	<p>BDC is in discussion with Eastlight regarding funding community gardens and community orchards on Eastlight managed land.</p> <p>Eastlight have published their Sustainability Strategy 2022-27 which provides for reduced energy and Carbon emissions, improved water efficiency, enhanced biodiversity diversity in their housing stock, and improved waste and recycling from their housing stocks. BDC is working with Eastlight to support their delivery plan for example working in partnership to receive grant funding for energy efficiency measures. A Registered Social Landlord forum is being established in 23/24 to foster better communication with all RSLs working in the district and BDC's support will be extended to all RSLs once the forum is established.</p>	 Action ongoing (Recommendation is to adjust this project to a medium term project as further collaboration work is ongoing)
CC/059 Explore opportunities to use council owned land to develop community orchards and community gardens (to grow veg or fruit)	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase biodiversity Improve attractiveness of District	Environment	BDC	Medium Term	Under the Shared Prosperity Fund Year 1, £15k has been allocated between Bures, Castle Hedingham and Steeple Bumpstead equally for community garden projects. Further community garden projects shall be supported in 2023-24.	 Action ongoing/on target





Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
	Increase opportunities for communities to grow fruit and veg Increase community engagement in enhancement of local areas					
<b>Improve air quality</b>						
CC/060 Review our current air quality monitoring to ensure that it continues to monitor high risk pollutants and locations and take appropriate action	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Ensure continued effectiveness of air quality monitoring	Environment	BDC	Short Term	An external review of the districts Air Quality monitoring Methodology has been commissioned and is in progress. The Annual Air Quality monitoring readings have been submitted to DEFRA – no declaration of an air quality management area is required.  (Recommendations made in the review will be opened as a new Action)	✔ Action Complete
<b>Increase tree and shrub planting</b>						
CC/061 Develop a community tree and bulb planting scheme to support community groups, town and parish councils to increase tree and bulb planting across the District	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Increase the number of trees and shrubs planted across the district Increase engagement from communities in the local area Increase publicly accessible woodland	Environment	District	Short Term	A community whip and bulb planting project was undertaken in 2021-22. Tree whips (18,700) and bulbs (73,000) were offered to residents from October 2021 and were planted over the following six months. Further partnership opportunities for community tree planting are being investigated.	✔ Action Complete
CC/062 Identify opportunities to plant trees on Council owned land	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Increase the number of trees and shrubs planted across the District on Council land Increase publicly accessible woodland	Environment	BDC	Short Term	The tree canopy survey which is underway with consultants Treeconomics shall support BDC with identifying opportunities for further tree planting.  4,500 trees have been planted.	✔ Action Complete
<b>Improve water quality, flood resilience and habitat</b>						
CC/063 Work with the Environment Agency/Anglia/Essex Suffolk on the	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Improve water quality	Environment	District	Medium Term	Partnership links have been strengthened with Anglian Water, Essex & Suffolk Water, Environment Agency, Natural England,	▶




Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
management of watercourses to enhance their flow and storage capacity and deliver wider biodiversity benefits	Improve biodiversity Reduce flooding				Essex Rivers Hub, NFU and local landowners and there is strong appetite to work in collaboration on projects including the engagement of residents with citizen science projects to support these organisations in water quality improvement project work.	Action ongoing/on target




## Adapting to Climate Change





### Support communities to improve resilience

CC/064 Continue to provide advice for residents on how to reduce health risks during severe weather events such as heatwaves/extreme cold	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Increased accessible information available to residents on health risks from climate change Increased resilience of communities to climate change	Environment	District	Ongoing	Advice for residents was provided for Storm Eunice and also the summer heatwave via our 'Beat the Heat' campaign. In preparation for winter "Don't Wait for Winter" and "Dampness in your home" leaflets have been promoted. BDC's "Warm Spaces" map is also available for residents.	 Action ongoing/on target
CC/065 Work with Town and Parish Councils to develop their emergency plans, ensuring the plans reflect the changing risks of their communities	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Increase in number of Parish and Town Council with Emergency plans developed. Successful collaboration on climate emergency related areas of work Increased resilience to climate change impacts in our communities	Environment	District	Ongoing	BDC commenced engaging and supporting Town and Parish Council's with updating and developing their emergency plans October 22. This is enacted annually.  This engagement concluded at the end of February 23 and final plans are in the process of being received by BDC's Corporate Resilience Officer. The information within the plans will be used to update BDC's own emergency response plans with local resilience measures.	 Action ongoing/on target

### Improve flood alleviation for communities that flood

CC/066 Work with Essex County Council and other partners to manage climate change-related flood risks and mitigate the number of homes and businesses across	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Reduction in flood risk	Environment	District	Ongoing	BDC is an active member of the Essex Flood Board and the Essex Resilience Forum. A commitment was received in 22/23 for surface water drainage improvements to be made to	
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Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
the District that are exposed to the risk of flooding	Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change				Halstead Town Centre. Initial improvement work was undertaken in Autumn 2022.	Action ongoing/on target
CC/07 Lobby Government to increase the funding available for flood risk management to meet the growing need for action especially around surface water flooding	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Reduction in flood risk Increased resilience in communities to impacts of climate change	Environment	District	Short Term	BDC are an active member of the Essex Flood Partnership Board which lobbies for funding from government and through Utility Company Funding Grants. BDC has lobbied central government and the insurance industry to extend Floodre to include insurance support for business who are at higher risk of flooding. BDC has promoted the Property Level Flood Grant for those properties that suffer from repeated flooding. It is recommended that this become a long term action.	 Action ongoing (Recommendation is to adjust the timescale from short term to ongoing)
CC/068 Work with partners to open up main rivers and create wetlands, natural flood defences and urban drainage, as supported by the Local Plan and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document	<b>Biodiversity increaser</b> Improve water quality Improve biodiversity Reduce flooding	Planning	District	Short Term	The Hoppit Mead back-channel clearance project on the Brain has been completed to create a nature-based flood management solution. There is ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of this flood system. It is recommended that this become a long term action.	 Action ongoing (Recommendation is to adjust the timescale from short term to ongoing)
<b>Increase drought mitigation for the district</b>						
CC/069 Ensure that planting in open space owned or managed by the council is drought resistant and requires less watering	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Increase sustainability of planting schemes and resilience to climate change impacts Reduce use of water	Operations	BDC	Short Term	Planting that is drought resistant is now considered for all new planting projects.  Drought resistant planting schemes have been installed as part of the cc/056	 Action completed



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
<b>Maintain emergency plans for the district</b>						
CC/070 Update the Councils Climate impact risk assessment and integrate risk mitigation into service business plans	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Climate Risk is included in the Council's strategic risk register. Emergency plans are constantly under review with the Essex Resilience Forum. Emerging climate risks are monitored as part of the work undertaken by the "Risk and Intelligence Group" within the Forum. The Met Office and Environment Agency are part of the ERF and the Risk and Intelligence Group.	 Action completed
CC/071 A Regularly review and test the Council's emergency plans	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks	Environment	BDC	Short Term	The review of The Council's emergency plan has been completed for 2022-23. The next review is due in 2025-26.	 Action Completed
CC/071 Work with Essex Resilience Forum (ERF) and other partners to review and test plans and respond to emergencies	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Effective emergency plan to respond to risks	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Work with ERF is standard practice for The Council and Climate Change risks are now part of standard practice with regards to emergency response. Regular meetings are attended with the ERF.	 Action Completed
<b>Prevent the impacts of climate change disproportionately harming the most vulnerable</b>						
CC/073 Monitor and seek to mitigate emerging risks and their impact on vulnerable people in the community with ERF partners	<b>Climate effect mitigation</b> Increased resilience of communities to climate change impacts	Environment	District	Ongoing	The ERF has a "Risk and Intelligence Group" that meets regularly to review emerging risks and their possible impact on Essex communities. The ERF members have invested in an electronic "Vulnerable Intelligent Person Emergency Response" (VIPER) system that can be accessed in an emergency event to identify vulnerable residents that may need assistance. As part of the annual review of Town and Parish Council emergency plans BDC requests that Town and Parish Council's identify vulnerable locations that may need support in the event of an emergency.	 Action ongoing/on target


Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status

## Delivery and Monitoring

### Support communities to improve resilience

Validate our action plan in respect of current actions and look to strengthen the medium term and longer term actions	Action plan receives external validation on the actions it is taking to achieve net zero and the support it is providing across the District to residents, communities and businesses.	Environment	BDC	Short Term	The actions within this first Climate Action Plan have been investigated for viability and impact. Some actions were closed after investigation as deemed not viable. Other actions have been found to need a longer timescale for completion and recommendations have been made in the action plan progress highlights within this document for this.	 Action Completed
Create a communication plan to promote and raise awareness of the Climate Change strategy and action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication plan developed.</li> <li>• Monitoring and reporting plan developed and timetable for reporting on progress established.</li> </ul>	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<p>A communication plan was completed and quarterly communication and engagement reports have been completed.</p> <p>The Climate Communication Plan will be updated as part of the Annual Business Plan process for 23/24</p>	 Action Completed
Develop a monitoring and reporting plan to track the progress of the action plan	Providing regular updates on progress against our actions	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<p>The Climate Change Action Plan is monitored by The Council's Pentana performance reporting system. Lead services update their reporting on a monthly or quarterly basis dependent on the timescale allocated to their project. Monthly Progress Highlight Reports are generated for every action and a Climate Change Quarterly Report is included for Management Board.</p> <p>(This process was approved by full council)</p>	 Action Completed
Collaborate with other Authorities across Essex to share learning, data, best practice and, increase access to	Successfully sharing knowledge and resources to increase	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Strong links have been developed further with Essex County Council to allow The Council to deliver projects in partnership. Links and working meetings have been	

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
grant funding bids for environmental projects	our opportunities to collaborate • Increase access and opportunities for grant funding				held with other local authorities in Essex as well as nationally (for example through LGA Climate Change events) to share best practice.  BDC is an active member of CORE – the Officer Climate forum for Essex Local Authorities.	Action Completed  (recommended that the timescale is adjusted to Ongoing)
Develop a sustainability and carbon reduction tool to assess the environmental impact on projects undertaken by the Council	Due consideration given of the environmental impacts and/or carbon emissions from projects and how they can be reduced. • Overall Council emissions reduced	Environment	BDC	Short Term	BDC worked with the Carbon Trust to develop an organisation carbon calculation tool. As part of the launch of the LGA Climate Change Hub additional tools are now available for BDC to use.	  Action Completed
Support national campaigns and use these to promote our campaigns and take action where we can to increase engagement	Align to national days of action to reinforce the message of collective action	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean 2022</li> <li>• Love Your Park</li> <li>• National Recycle Week (October 22) comms supporting Recycle Now.</li> <li>• Food Waste Reduction Week (Wrap)</li> <li>• Love Food Hate Waste campaigns including Christmas food planning (Wrap)</li> <li>• Love Food Hate Waste - eating seasonally (May 22)</li> <li>• May 22 - <b>The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday (tree planting (march 22) and sustainable street parties, party waste etc)</b></li> <li>• Compost Awareness Week</li> <li>• COP</li> <li>• The Fields in Trust UK's Favourite Parks 2022</li> <li>• Comms of the Government announcement on single use plastic. (Jan 2023)</li> <li>• Project Blueprint (Five Ways to Use Up Scraps and Leftovers)</li> <li>• National Earth Day</li> <li>• World Environment Day</li> </ul>	  Action Completed

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Progress Made	Status
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of Kitche app.</li> <li>Promotion of Freegle</li> </ul> <p>This work is considered ongoing as part of the Climate Actions Plan's Annual Communication Plan</p>	
Ensure relevant internal strategies and policy documents are reviewed and amended to embed the work of the Council in its commitment to tackling climate change	• All strategies and policies are reviewed and updated to take climate change impacts into account	Environment	BDC	Medium Term	<p>BDC is in the process of developing an internal Sharepoint site that will provide information to Service Unit Managers that are reviewing or writing strategies/policies on how to take climate impact into account.</p> <p>This will be launched in 2023/24</p>	 <p>Action ongoing/on target</p>

### Actions Added to the Climate Action plan in year 2023/2024

#### Revised Timescale definition

**Short Term** – 2023 to 2025

**Medium Term** – 2023 to 2027

**Long Term** – 2023 to 2030

**Ongoing** – Actions that will continue through the life of the strategy

## New actions will be categorised by the existing 7 themes



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
Develop an internal Climate Change SharePoint communication site	<b>Climate Change Behaviour Change Influencer</b> Improved consideration of and collaboration with climate change issues across all services, projects and policies Improved access to partnership opportunities, funding streams and data collection	Environment	BDC	Short Term	Percentage of staff trained on Climate Change  <b>Increased traffic to communication site over period to March 2024</b>
Create and launch revised Climate Change pages to The Council's website	<b>Climate Change Behaviour Change Influencer</b> Increase awareness of climate change issues Improved access to partnership support	ICT	District	Short Term	<b>Activity Indicator: Reduction in carbon emissions for district Climate Change Website pages launched by March 2024</b> Number of visits to site / pages Number of newsfeeds
Identify opportunities across the Council's assets for water reduction	<b>Carbon Reducer</b> Reduction in the use of water	Environment	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in the use of water Reported annually</b>
Investigate opportunities to reduce paper and printing use across internal and external communications	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in the use of carbon used by printing resources	Marketing & Communications	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon</b> <b>Reduction in the number of MFDs across BDC Offices</b>

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
	Biodiversity increaser				
Complete a baseline audit of all meters (water, electric and gas) across the entire BDC property portfolio to investigate opportunities of resource efficiency	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment / Assets	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b>  <b>Meters audited and information logged</b> <b>Target: 100% (All meters audited)</b>
Deliver the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 Scheme in off gas areas to improve energy efficiency	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ Comms	District	Short Term	<b>Number of Household Energy Grants issued</b> <b>Target: 200</b>
Promote The Energy Company Obligation Scheme (ECO4) and ECO Flex scheme offering energy efficiency measures	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	Ongoing	<b>Number of energy efficiency referrals</b> <b>Target: 60</b>
Work in partnership with iChoosr to deliver the Essex Energy Switching Scheme by holding auctions	<b>Climate Change Behaviour Change Influencer (supports Cost of Living Crisis)</b>	Environment	District	Ongoing	<b>Number of Registrations made for each auction</b> <b>Target: 500</b>
In partnership with Groundworks, deliver the extended Green Doctor Service, advising residents on energy efficiency	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ Comms	District	Short Term	
Commission street lighting repair contract to included LED replacement (including Halstead Public Gardens)	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<b>Percentage of BDC managed public lighting switched to LED</b> <b>Target 100%</b> <b>Currently at 76%</b>



Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
Investigate the use of Carbon Neutral laptops, and alternative equipment disposal / recycling schemes	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	ICT	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>Feasibility study conducted</b> The % Increase in the use of carbon neutral equipment at BDC The % Increase in the recycling of ICT equipment
Conduct an energy efficiency audit of all BDC buildings and investigate additional opportunities for renewable energy installations	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment / Assets	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>Number of BDC buildings audited for energy efficiency</b> <b>Target: 100%</b>
Deliver Solar Together scheme to support the installation of solar energy in residential and business premises	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment/ Comms	District	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>Number of registrations</b> <b>Target: 500 per auction</b> <b>Target 20% installation rate</b>
Increase renewable energy and fuel security for the Council and across the district by developing opportunities for renewable energy schemes with public/private sector partners	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	Long Term	<b>Percentage of council energy derived from renewable/green sources</b> <b>Target: 100%</b> <b>Currently at 6%</b>
Offer advice to parish councils and community groups wishing to invest in solar	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	Ongoing	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>Number of town and parish councils contacted</b> <b>Target: 100%</b> <b>Number of town and parish councils supported</b> <b>Target: 3 per year</b>
Investigate introducing solar canopies across the car park at The Plaza	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	BDC	Short Term	<b>Percentage of council energy derived from renewable/green sources</b> <b>Target: 100%</b> <b>Currently at 6%</b>

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
Support registered social landlords in developing a Climate Strategy and delivering Climate Action Plans	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Reduced cost of energy consumption	Environment	District	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b>  <b>Number of registered social landlords approached by March 2024</b> <b>Target: 24</b>
Work with partners to encourage residents and businesses to reduce their water use	<b>Carbon Reducer</b>	Environment & Ec Growth	District	Ongoing	Reduction in the use of water Reported annually No of campaigns, No of enquiries, water consumption audit
Support the Community with grants from community infrastructure projects to reduce carbon emissions funded by the UK SPF	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Reduces CO2 emissions from community buildings Reduced cost of energy for community groups	Environment	District	Medium Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b>  <b>Number of community groups supported with carbon reduction installations</b> <b>Delivered in 2024-25</b> <b>Target: 10 projects supported at £10k each</b>
Install electric <b>rapid</b> charging points in the Council's car parks and continue to install additional chargers in BDC assets	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	BDC	Medium Term	<b>Number of EV charging points in Council owned car parks</b> <b>Target: all BDC public car parks have rapid EV infrastructure</b>
Complete a feasibility study for installing rapid EV charging points in all of the taxi ranks in the district	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	Short Term	<b>Feasibility study completed</b>  <b><i>Potential future project for 24-25 with the KPI:</i></b> <b><i>(Number of taxi ranks with on-street EV chargers</i></b> <b><i>Annual Update on Number</i></b> <b><i>Currently at 0)</i></b>
Explore the opportunities around a EV salary sacrifice leasing scheme for staff.	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicles	Human Resources	BDC	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>Feasibility study completed</b>  <b><i>Potential future project for 24-25 with the KPI:</i></b>

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
					<i>Number of staff BDC have supported via the scheme Currently at 0)</i>
Investigate working in partnership with DigiGo to improve EV charging infrastructure for the electric bus network	<b>Carbon Reduction</b> Improved infrastructure and accessibility for electric vehicle charging	Environment	District	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emission Feasibility study to be completed</b>
Produce an LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) for Witham and environs	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Growth	District	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions  Produce and adopt LCWIP</b>
Engage with ECC on Braintree LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Growth	District	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions  Produce and adopt LCWIP</b>
Partner with ECC on the proposal for a County wide LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys Reduce CO2 emissions from travel	Economic Growth	District	Short Term	<b>Data collected on Braintree district's physical involvement with the county-wide LCWIP</b>
Engage with staff to support the Staff Green Travel Plan	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Increase active travel Reduce car journeys	Environment	BDC		<b>1. Number of staff awareness and engagement sessions Target: 3 2. Publication of results from Staff Green Travel Survey 3. Green Travel Plan Accreditation Award</b>

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
	Reduce CO2 emissions from travel				
Investigate an e-scooter scheme	<b>Climate behaviour change influencer</b> Reduction in CO2 emissions Improvement in air quality	Economic Growth	District	Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b>  Feasibility study to be completed
Introduce the mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain Legislation ( <i>for major applications Nov 23 for minor applications by Apr 24</i> ) newly added as reword suggested from Planning	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b> Increase biodiversity Decrease the impact of construction on local nature sites	Planning	District	Short Term	<b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b>  <b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b>
Use the findings of the tree canopy survey to inform the future Tree Strategy	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b>	Planning	District	Medium term	<b>Tree Canopy Cover Increase</b>  <b>Target: Revised Tree Strategy published and adopted</b>
Use the findings of the tree canopy survey to 1) inform tree planting projects 2) assist ECC with their sustainable stewardship in the Climate Focus Area 3) protect existing tree canopy 4) use the baseline data to support partnership groups such as water companies and the North Essex Farm Cluster with their environmental stewardship projects	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b>	Planning	District	Medium term	<b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b> <b>Total number of projects</b> <b>(This will be a combined number from ECC, BDC and other partner organisations.)</b>
With the support of ECC, produce soil carbon and biodiversity potential maps for the district	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b>	Planning & Environment	District	Medium Term	<b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b> <b>Total number of projects</b> <b>(This will be a combined number from ECC, BDC and other partner organisations.)</b> Soil carbon GIS data sets

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
					Biodiversity GIS data sets
As a supporting authority, support Essex County Council with the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b>	Planning	District	Medium Term	<b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b> <b>Total number of projects</b> <b>(This will be a combined number from ECC, BDC and other partner organisations.)</b>  <b>LNRS published</b>
Work with Partners to support raising the profile of maintenance / caring for waterways bisecting the district with residents	<b>Biodiversity Increaser</b> Species protection Access to baseline data to develop improved water quality Improved public engagement for waterway	Environment Marketing & Comms	District	Ongoing	<b>No of Projects implemented that will improve biodiversity in the District by 2030</b> <b>Total number of projects</b> <b>(This will be a combined number from ECC, BDC and other partner organisations.)</b>
Promote and celebrate actions taken by residents, organisations and businesses in addressing Climate Change	<b>Behaviour change influencer</b>	Marketing & Communications	District	Ongoing	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>No of projects to increase biodiversity</b>  Identify best practice through case studies Target: 6 annually
Work with the members of the new Youth Panel to give a platform for young people in the district on Climate Change matters	<b>Behaviour Change influencer</b>	Housing & Communities		Short Term	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>No of projects to increase biodiversity</b>  Target: 1) Youth Panel established :  2) Priorities for young people recorded  3) Number of young people engaged

Action	Outcome	Lead Service	BDC or District	Timescales	Targets and Performance Indicators / Activity Indicators and how this will be achieved
Work with town and parish councils to advise and support with advising on adapting to Climate Change; declaring a Climate Emergency and writing a Climate Change Action Plan		Environment	BDC	Ongoing	<b>Reduction in carbon emissions</b> <b>No of projects to increase biodiversity</b>  <b>Number of town and parish councils contacted</b> <b>Target: 100%</b> <b>Number of parish and town councils supported: 5 annually</b>