



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – Current Progress 2024

RAG rating key							
C	Completed		On track		Slippage		Significantly off track

Completed Actions

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
1	Appoint, on a two-year fixed term contract a dedicated full-time post, to coordinate the Council's work on climate change	Environment & Sustainability Officer in post	March 2020	Head of Place Development	C	
2	Impact of Climate Change addressed in every Council Committee report coming forward	Climate change addressed in committee reports	May 2020	Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer	C	
3	The new Four Year Corporate Plan 2020-2024 to reflect the Council's commitment to Climate Change	Climate change addressed within the themes of the new Four Year Plan	Jan 2020	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources	C	

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
4	Undertake an audit of Council policies to identify their impact on climate change and demonstrate that they are contributing positively to Climate Change	Complete audit of Council policies and plans to identify those that can make the greatest contribution to tackling Climate Change. Develop a programme outlining the timescale and resources for these policies to be reviewed and updated.	March 2022	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources and other relevant Heads of Service	C	
5	Provide information to support funerals that are ecological and environmental	Provide information & material on ecological and environmental interments	March 2022	Head of Housing & Community	C	
6	Move the Council's electricity usage to 100% renewable sources	Review current energy contracts and explore opportunity and timeline to switch to fully renewable sources as early as possible.	Dec 2022	Head of Property & Regeneration	C	
7	Addressing CO2 emissions" to be an explicit priority for action within the Council's new Asset Management Plan	Audit the CO2 emissions of Council buildings.	Sept 2020	Head of Property & Regeneration	C	

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
8	Replace traditional lighting with energy efficient longer lasting LED lighting	Complete an energy survey and develop and deliver a programme based on business cases to switch all lighting to LED.	March 2023	Head of Property & Regeneration	C	
9	Replace traditional lighting with energy efficient longer lasting LED lighting	Develop and deliver a programme based on business cases to switch all Council owned street lighting to LED.	March 2025	Head of Property & Regeneration	C	Council owned Streetlighting replacement with LED programme completed in 2024.
10	Introduce more cycle racks/covers	Increase the number of cycle racks installed in the borough as part of the Plan E programme.	Dec 2020	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources	C	
11	Promote take up of new electric pool car	Encourage more staff from across the Council to make use of the new electric zero emissions vehicle to undertake their travel across the borough	March 2022	Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer	C	

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
12	Fine drivers who leave engine running whilst parked	Implement the #DontBeldle campaign in the borough	April 2022	Head of Operational Services	C	Initial launch and comms campaign was delivered in 2022. Now implemented as part of enforcement officer's duties.
13	Install water drinking fountains & refill stations around the Borough	Install drinking water fountains in the Market Place and the Harrier Centre. Develop a plan to install refill stations	Dec 2020 Dec 2022	Head of Operational Services	C	
14	Understand how the Council can increase the level of carbon capture from Council owned and managed land	Develop base line data on current level of carbon (CO2) capture by using trees on land that the Council owns and manages. Where possible increase the level of carbon capture that can be achieved by managing and enhancing biodiversity on Council owned land	Oct 2021	Head of Operational Services	C	

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
15	Council's Biodiversity Action Plan to reflect commitment to climate change	Update the Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020 to cover period 2021-2031	Dec 2020	Head of Place Development	C	
16	Increase the rollout of recycling bins in key high footfall areas of the town	Install recycling bins in the Town Centre as part of the Plan E scheme and identify other locations after assessment of performance	June 2020	Head of Operational Services	C	
17	Rollout new low energy thin client infrastructure	Install thin client technology reducing power use	Dec 2020	Head of ICT	C	
18	Implement high speed Wi-fi & digital connectivity in Council's main public buildings	To reduce journeys and improve the ease of performing online work from Council buildings improve the speed and reliability of the Wi-fi	March 2022	Head of ICT	C	

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
<u>Current Actions</u>						
	THEME 1- Council Leadership and influencing others					
1 P R I O R I T Y (P)	Develop and deliver a Local Plan and associated policies that contribute positively and demonstrate the Council's commitment to climate change	Bring forward a Local Plan which includes planning design policies which supports the delivery of new homes that are energy efficient with minimal environmental impact.	Aligned to formal published Local Plan timetable	Head of Place Development		<p>Part of the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Commissioned a Climate Change Study & engaged with SCC on their draft Net Zero Viability Toolkit which have both fed into the development of climate policies in the Draft Local Plan.</p> <p>The Regulation 19 consultation for the draft Local Plan was undertaken between December 2024 and February 2025.</p> <p>Due to be submitted on or before 12 March 2025.</p> <p>Draft Local Plan inclusive of a net zero carbon residential development policy and a minimum BREEAM 'excellent' UK New Construction standard for non-residential development.</p>
2	Actively seek opportunities to develop carbon neutral homes in the Borough	Through the Local Plan process identify potential locations and developers to build the borough's carbon neutral homes	Local Plan formally adopted	Head of Place Development		To be addressed through Local Plan policy and for later years.

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
3	Identify how sustainability can be taken into consideration as part of the procurement process	<p>Incorporate sustainability, carbon emissions reduction and single-use-plastic elimination into Procurement Strategy.</p> <p>Work with our contractors through our procurement procedures to implement sustainable practices across our estate</p>	<p>June 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources		<p>The procurement strategy was revised in 2022 to include recognition of the Councils commitment to reducing carbon emission and single use plastics. It now highlights that the impact of climate change should be built into procurements where appropriate.</p> <p>Further opportunity to incorporate sustainability policies will be explored in conjunction with the development of the new procurement strategy in 2025, following the update to the Contract Standing Order's in 2024.</p>
4	Provide information on Council website to promote changes which residents and businesses can make to address impact on climate change	Create a dedicated section on the Council's main website with information and links which enables residents and businesses to contribute to tackling climate change.	Jan 2023	Head of Place Development		<p>The Council has a designated webpage on Climate Change which is kept updated. Includes accessible information on the Councils progress in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and annual operational emissions figures. Information is included on what residents can do at home and links to further advice.</p> <p>Aligned with the Climate Change Comms Plan the webpages are reviewed and updated at a minimum biannually.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
5 P	Increase communications on the impact of Climate Change with the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the requirement for everyone to play their part in making a difference	Use a range of communication channels and signposting on key topics.	Jun 2022 & Ongoing	Head of Place Development & Comms & Engagement Manager		<p>Climate Change Comms Plan was developed in 2022 and has continued to be delivered in 2024. Comms msgs on climate change, including through a social media plan with monthly themed msgs (for example tweak your diet; clean air night/hub; walk this May; planet vs plastics (Earth Day); give nature a home; national tree week)</p> <p>A 'Green Your Home Guide' is in development, which will contain an array of measures that can be implemented by residents at home, including to save or generate energy, reduce water use and encourage and support nature. It's due to be published in early 2025.</p> <p>Energy grant schemes available to residents regularly promoted including fuel poverty grants, Solar Together, Boiler Upgrade Scheme.</p> <p>Promotion of Surrey's Green Careers website with access to free advice & resources and Green skills opportunities for training in green construction/retrofit skills (Green careers - Surrey County Council)</p> <p>Internal comms produced through staff update & intranet (The Hub).</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
6	Provide practical help to vulnerable and disabled people to improve energy efficiency in their homes.	Promote and market the take up of available grants and support through the Council's Home Improvement Agency and provide energy efficiency advice through Action Surrey to vulnerable or disabled people	On-going	Head of Housing & Community		<p>Ongoing through Action Surrey partnership – Surrey's low carbon community.</p> <p>Delivery of Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) scheme, along with ECO funding. 1,322 grant measures implemented in total since 2013 according to latest figures under ECO funding – 85 measures in 2024.</p> <p>An Expression of Interest (EOI) has been submitted by SCC, on behalf of E&E and other Surrey Boroughs, to the Warm Home Local Grant (WHLG) scheme – the Governments new fuel poverty decarbonisation programme which is due to launch in April 2025.</p> <p>In April 2024 we launched a boiler repair and upgrade grant scheme, funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant. Targeted at households with low income and a low EPC rating. Boiler replacements are to higher energy efficiency standard. 12 boiler upgrades have been completed up to Dec 2024, with a further 16 approved for delivery.</p> <p>Supported a second round of the Solar Together scheme, which ran up to March 2024, with 60 household solar installs in Epsom & Ewell (equivalent of a 55tonnes of carbon emissions saving). A third round of the scheme launched in Summer 2024 and 79 households are proceeding with solar installations, with 18 completed up to end of Dec 2024.</p>

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7	Review and share good practice in house building and housing management with local Housing Associations	Contact local Housing Associations to understand about what they are doing through construction of new homes and managing existing homes, to reduce CO2 emissions.	Mar 2023 Ongoing	Head of Housing & Community		<p>SCC, with the support of Surrey Boroughs including Epsom & Ewell, have secured government funding & support through the Local Area Retrofit Accelerator (LARA) Pilot Scheme. The scheme will support bringing together key stakeholders within the area, including housing associations and Borough Councils, to co-develop an area wide retrofit strategy and action plan and then support its delivery. The initial co-development workshops will be taking place in early 2025.</p> <p>A 'One-Stop Shop' Home Retrofit Scheme was launched by SCC in Autumn 2024, in partnership with Furbnow. The scheme is offering support to residents in upgrading homes with energy efficiency measures through a proportion of subsidised whole Home Energy Plans and support in progressing the upgrades to their homes.</p> <p>A Landlords Forum was organised by the Council in September 2024 and included engagement and key talks on energy efficiency standards for rented homes.</p>
8	Promote take-up of the Borough's allotments and the benefits of local food production	Review vacancy levels of allotments and promote take up where required.	March 2023 Ongoing	Head of Operational Services		Focus continues to be on non-cultivations and reducing the waiting list. Allotments remain popular with residents and are promoted through the website and contact centre, but not more proactively, whilst there is limited plot availability.

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9	Increase number of sustainable planting schemes across the borough	Identify opportunities for new sustainable planting in parks, roundabouts, urban bedding etc.	March 2023	Head of Operational Services		Approach to sustainable planting & management included in the tree planting plans in the Tree Management Plan (see action 31) and delivery of Park Management Plans (see action 32).
10	Baseline and then monitor the Councils own operational carbon emissions and report annually	Set in place improved data collection in relation to energy usage from owned and operated Council buildings and fuel usage by the Councils vehicle fleet	Dec 22 Ongoing	Environment & Sustainability Officer		<p>Emissions data for the period 2023/24 collated and reported. Shows a 16% reduction in operational emissions against baseline year.</p> <p>Continuing to work with current energy procurer and sub meter provider to ensure accuracy of data.</p>
THEME 2 Council building and energy use						
11 P	Identify & implement opportunities to reduce energy consumption from Council owned and operated buildings	Incorporate reducing CO2 emissions as a criterion for the Council's capital investment programme	Oct 2022 On-going	Head of Finance		<p>The Capital programme includes CO2 emissions as a criteria.</p> <p>Highest energy consuming sites identified.</p> <p>Feasibility & funding options continue to be developed for sites not under review.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
		<p>Identify the highest energy consuming buildings in estate</p> <p>Develop detailed feasibility studies of our top energy consuming assets to identify viable energy efficiency projects that are funding ready.</p>		<p>Environment & Sustainability Officer</p> <p>Head of Property & Regeneration</p>		<p>A Voltage Optimiser unit was installed in early 2024 at Epsom Playhouse. Expected to reduce electricity consumption and save 2tCO2e.</p> <p>As part of the Town Hall move, a BREEAM (sustainability) Assessment has been conducted at East Street, to assess options for sustainable/energy efficient measures for the new head office. This will inform options for the renovation of the building prior to the move in 2025.</p> <p>Delivery of this action is aligned with measures reported under actions 12, 13, 43 and completed action 9.</p>
12 P	Reduce CO2 emissions caused by gas and other fossil fuel powered heating systems	Undertake a review of our current heating systems and identify options for tackling the highest emission buildings exploring alternative technology such as ground and air source heat pumps. Report back to Strategy and Resources outlining the findings of the review and the proposed next steps.	Dec 2022 On-going	Head of Property & Regeneration		<p>Partial replacement of windows at Longmead Depot with triple glazing, where heat loss was identified as being high from the thermal imaging survey carried out in 2023.</p> <p>The Playhouse cottages have had secondary glazing fitted to the windows and the fan coil heaters were replaced with small Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP).</p> <p>£43k of external funding was secured from the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to develop a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) for Bourne Hall. The draft plan was completed in December 2024 and a finalised version is due to be completed in early 2025.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
						Funding and listed building consent secured to replace all windows at Bourne Hall with double glazing. To be delivered in 2025.
13 P	Investigate the potential for the installation of PV panels and solar storage on Council operated assets and land. Implement where economically and technically viable	Appraise options for installation of solar panels on Council buildings through a feasibility study. then submit business case and planning permission for each building	Dec 2022	Head of Property & Regeneration		<p>A 52kWp Solar PV array installed on Bourne Hall roof in November 2024. Expected to contribute to a quarter of electricity usage on site and reduce carbon emissions by 9tCO2e.</p> <p>Adds to existing arrays on Epsom Playhouse, Operation Depot and Mobile Trailer.</p>
14	Investigate measures to reduce water consumption in Council owned assets	<p>Set in place improved data collection in relation to water consumption from owned and operated Council sites</p> <p>Investigate the installation of water saving fixtures and fittings as part of any upgrade works</p>	<p>Mar 23</p> <p>On-going</p>	Head of Property & Regeneration		<p>Current water metering was reviewed in 2023 and arrangements were made with sub meter supplier to replace/fix faulty equipment, which was undertaken over 2023/24.</p> <p>This has enabled better access to water consumption data via online portal.</p> <p>Focus has remained on energy reduction schemes to date due to limited capacity and higher carbon saving potential, but water saving measures are considered in conjunction with building upgrade works.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
15	Investigate and where appropriate implement opportunities to reduce energy consumption from our leased properties, subject to lease agreement	<p>Compile list of leased sites and lease end/renewal dates</p> <p>Collate data for annual energy consumption at leased sites</p> <p>Undertake feasibility studies to identify energy efficiency measures in leased buildings and implement where economically and technically viable.</p>	<p>Mar 23</p> <p>Oct 23</p> <p>Mar 24</p>	Head of Property & Regeneration		<p>Focus has been on Rainbow Leisure Centre as a high energy user.</p> <p>External funding secured from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund. £139,500 secured to install a 177kWp solar array on the leisure centre roof. Expected annual carbon savings of 29tCO₂e. Installation expected to be completed in early 2025.</p>
16	Build awareness and support opportunities for community energy projects in conjunction with other stakeholders	Promote and link to the support offered by Community Energy South East	On-going	Head of Place Development		<p>The Home Energy Advice Scheme (HEAT) was launched by SCC, with support from Borough Councils, in late 2023. The scheme's aim was to deliver community led home energy surveys for fuel poor and low energy efficient homes. 4 community energy champions have since been trained from Epsom & Ewell and they have conducted 38 home energy surveys and provided 31 referrals to grant schemes to support implementation of measures.</p> <p>Continued promotion of Surrey partnership with Community Energy South. Surrey Community Energy (SCE) has now been set up as a Community Benefit Society seeking opportunities</p>

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						and locations in Surrey for clean energy generation (Surrey Community Energy Home Energy Generation).
17	Lobby government to make retrofit of the existing building stock a national infrastructure priority	Respond in relevant government consultations	On-going	Head of Place Development		<p>As and when opportunities arise.</p> <p>Participated as a stakeholder in a research study, led by E3G on behalf of Central Government, into implementation of energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector. This will feed in to and support future government policy.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
	THEME 3 Transport improvements & switch to lower polluting vehicles					
18 P	Assess the opportunity to transition fleet vehicles to electric or low carbon options	Investigate and understand any potential opportunities to progressively switch to low or zero emission vehicles.	Mar 2023	Head of Operational Services		<p>Transport & Waste Services (TWS) Manager updated the Climate Change & Transport (Fleet) report for 2023, first produced in 2019, providing detail on current fleet situation and assessing low carbon opportunities. Due to review and update in 2025.</p> <p>Most of the fleet are on long leases until 2027, therefore emphasis is towards planning ahead for renewal dates.</p> <p>TWS Manager is part of a Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) Working Group looking at fleet decarbonisation for larger vehicles.</p> <p>The Evolve telemetry system which was installed in 29 smaller fleet vehicles in 2023, collating various data including mileage and usage, was discontinued by the supplier part way into 2024.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
19	Devise a plan for transitioning the fleet to electric or low carbon options	When current fleet contracts next come up for renewal and in the shorter-term, phase out use of all vehicles that do not meet at least the Euro 6 emissions standard.	Mar 2024	Head of Operational Services		The Council's 3 Meals-at-Home vehicles, which were not part of the long lease to 2027 and had reached end-of-life, were replaced in Spring 2024 with electric cars. 3 electric charge points were installed at Longmead Wellbeing Centre for charging the vehicles. This was fully funded by an external grant from the Empty Homes Reallocation Fund.
20	Introduce more cycle racks/covers	Apply for funding to increase the number of cycle racks in more areas – particularly at key transport hubs.	Ongoing	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources		Number of cycle racks were increased in the marketplace as part of Plan E programme (see completed action 10). Further opportunities will be considered in line with potential funding streams.
21	Publish DEFRA Annual Status Report with a plan of action to address areas of concerns	Publish finding and action plan and make available to the public on the council's web site.	Annually	Head of Housing & Community		Air Quality Management Plan published annually on Council website (latest 2024). Gradual improvement of air quality for over a decade in Borough. 2023 is the third year in a row in which levels in the existing AQMA were below the national objective and should this continue, the Council will be in a position to revoke the AQMA in subsequent years.

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22	Implement public electric charging points in Council operated car parks	Explore opportunities to install electric charging points in Council operated car parks.	Oct 22	Head of Operational Services		<p>14 charge points currently installed across 5 Council owned car parks.</p> <p>In 2024 there was consistent usage of all the charge points across the network with 6,821 individual charging events, drawing 188,244kWh of electricity charge.</p> <p>Plans for a charge point at Bourne Hall have not progressed further. Delays due to listed building status and need for additional feeder pillar.</p>
23	Work with Surrey County Council to encourage a network of on-street electric vehicle charging points	Engage with Surrey County Council as the Highways Authority to develop a proposal and plan for a network of public charging points throughout the Borough for electric and hybrid vehicles to encourage the switch to hybrid and fully electric vehicles.	Mar 23	Head of Place Development		<p>SCC agreed a long-term contract with EV charging provider in 2023 to deliver large scale rollout of charge points across Surrey, including in Epsom & Ewell.</p> <p>Ongoing collaboration with SCC on the scheme through Surrey EV Forum.</p> <p>SCC completed EV on-street charge point installations at 2 sites in 2024 - Rosedale Road & Alexandra Road. There are 8 charging sockets across the two sites.</p> <p>A further 8 sites were assessed and have proceeded to consultation. Six have been confirmed to progress to installation in 2025.</p>

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24	Support and enable the public to transition to low emission vehicles	Understand emerging practice to promote behaviour change to driving regarding; differential parking charges and preferential parking spaces and to promote low or zero emissions vehicles.	Ongoing	Head of Operational Services		<p>Links with the delivery of actions 22 & 23.</p> <p>Taxi Emissions Policy now being implemented following its adoption in 2023.</p> <p>The Council offers a small subsidy for licensing electric/hybrid taxis (£70 discount). 97 discounted vehicle applications made in 2024.</p> <p>The Solar Together scheme also offers home EV charge point installation and 17 households have progressed with installs to accompany solar panels through rounds 2 & 3 of the scheme.</p>
25	Facilitate new car club scheme	Explore how to establish a car club within the Borough and promote the greater take up of car clubs and car sharing in the borough.	March 2023	Head of Place Development		<p>Part of planning process for new development.</p> <p>Transport policy (S18) of emerging Local Plan supports the delivery of a sustainable transport network, including that new development in the borough will provide opportunities to establish car clubs and cycle rental schemes or other similar schemes.</p>
26	Investigate measures for incentivising Council employees to walk, cycle or use other lower emission modes of transport for their commute	<p>Review of current incentives for staff.</p> <p>Conduct staff survey on commuting</p> <p>Explore options for incentives to change travel habits</p>	Oct 2023	Head of People & Organisational Development		<p>Currently part of the Gov Cycle to Work scheme. Scheme was further promoted in 2024 with a cycle scheme competition, through the scheme provider, to win a free bicycle.</p> <p>Continue to explore options for additional measures that would support lower emission modes of transport as part of the staff benefits scheme provider contract renewal.</p>

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	THEME 4 – Improvements to the environment					
27	Tackle use of single use plastics at Council operated buildings and venues	Cease council use of single use plastics in all Council operated venues.	Oct 2023	Head of Property & Regeneration		Implemented where possible. Continue to explore options for any remaining SuP use where like-for-like replacement has not been viable.
28	Work with relevant specialist groups in the community to drive up sustainable practice both inside and outside the organisation	<p>Parks friends groups.</p> <p>Tree Advisory Board.</p> <p>Lower Mole Partnership.</p> <p>E&E Local Biodiversity Action Plan Working Group.</p>	On-going	Head of Operational Services & Head of Place Development		<p>Promoting Community Energy South support for community groups.</p> <p>Supported Festival of Arts & Sustainability at Bourne Hall in Spring 2024.</p> <p>Tree Advisory Board led planting schemes delivered at Long Grove Park & Alexandria Recreation Ground (see update for action 31).</p> <p>The Lower Mole Partnership led a planting scheme at The Horton in November 2024 to create a new 200m native hedgerow.</p> <p>The HEAT scheme surveys are being led by trained members of the community – 4 energy champions trained in Epsom & Ewell (see update for action 16).</p> <p>Countryside Team (CT) have active involvement with local partnership groups, e.g. in 2024 local voluntary groups supported scrub clearance and grassland management in Horton Country Park Nature Reserve along with along with tree planting at Lambert's Orchard.</p>

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29	Review implications and potential opportunities of the parliamentary Electricity Bill	Monitor the progress of the new Electricity Bill and identify future actions for the Council	On-going	Head of Place Development		The bill was not progressed through parliament. No longer relevant.
30 P	Explore potential for land in the borough to be used for sustainable energy production	This may include locations for solar panels or wind turbines	March 2023	Head of Place Development		<p>Partially dependent on the Local Plan development and site allocations.</p> <p>Options have been explored on Solar Car Park canopies, due to limited land-based opportunities.</p> <p>New action, as part of the adopted second Climate Change Action Plan, to be progressed in 2025 to set up a working group to assess and identify options for larger scale renewables.</p>
31 P	Increase tree cover in the borough to enhance the Borough's biodiversity and increase carbon capture	Develop a plan to increase tree cover in the borough where appropriate	Jan 2023	Head of Operational Services		<p>Funding bids to the Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF) & Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) in 2024 were successful in securing £100k. This is being used to plant 2,610 new trees on 6 Council owned sites which are due to be planted in early 2025.</p> <p>Two planting schemes in 2024 organised by the Tree Advisory Board have added 100 new trees on Council owned sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ford Copse at Alexandra Recreation Ground • Age Concern Memorial Woodland at Long Grove Park

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						8 new fruit trees were planted at Lambert's Orchard in Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve.
32	Park management plans reflecting climate change priorities	Promoting greater biodiversity. Sustainable planting.; carbon capture.; coping with more extreme weather conditions; sustainable approaches to land management.	Dec 2023	Head of Operational Services		New Management Plans for Nonsuch Park, Epsom & Walton Downs & Epsom Downs Golf Course produced for period 2023-2028. All recognise the need for Sustainable Management and align with the Biodiversity Action Plan. Epsom Common & Horton Country Park LNR MPs are long term plans (2017-2117) which align with goals of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
33	Contractors – removal of the use of single use plastics at Borough buildings and venues by contractors	No single use plastic in use by Council Contractors	Dec 2023	Head of Property & Regeneration		As contracts come up for renewal. The cleaning contract now stipulates no use of single use plastics.
34	In line with current Council Policy, secure National Nature Reserve status on Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve as directed by the 2016-2116 management plan	Work with Natural England and the Epsom Common Association to secure National Nature Reserve status for Epsom Common LNR as directed by the current management Plan	Dec 2025	Head of Place Development		During 2024 Natural England informed that they had decided to scale back their national programme of declaring Super NNR. The consequence is Surrey was a focus on the West Surrey Heaths Super NNR and an indefinite delay to the proposed Thames To Downs NNR. Natural England have been asked if the original proposal of an NNR declaration for Epsom Common would be possible and we continue to await a definitive answer.

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	THEME 5 – Tackling and minimising waste					
35	Increase recycling by private companies in the borough	Through new Business Bins Recycling Service. Targeted business marketing to expand take up of the new service. Provide branding that businesses can use to promote their recycling practice.	Mar 2023	Head of Operational Services		<p>Business Bins has continued to be promoted and level of service maintained. 800 businesses were canvassed on the business bin service and on the incoming legal duty (31 March 2025) which will require all businesses to separate their dry recycling and food waste from their general waste.</p> <p>There has been a limited response to the canvassing. This will be monitored as we move toward the legal duty coming into force.</p>
36	Utilise the new Epsom Market Place to promote sustainable practice	<p>Promote use of sustainable packaging and LED lighting by market traders.</p> <p>Build on the success and embed Vegan Market to promote further behaviours that support and encourage low carbon living.</p>	April 2024	Head of Operational Services		Continue to promote sustainable practices at the Market Place, where feasible, including on eliminating single use plastics, all food waste, cardboard, paper and glass being recycled and no residual landfill waste collection required or provided.

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37	Establish a “Library of Things” in the Borough	Undertake a review to understand what other councils have done in this area, what is required and best practice to operate a “Library of Things”.	Dec 2023	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources		<p>An initial review was conducted in 2023 into other council examples and best practice for setting up and running a LoT.</p> <p>This was followed with an exploration of whether a LoT could be set up in conjunction with the Epsom Repair Café. This has not yet progressed further in 2024.</p> <p>Bourne Hall now hosts a monthly pre-loved clothes market</p>
38	Increase recycling in the borough to 60% by 2025	Increase recycling in the borough to 60% by 2025 through: More public and business communications about the value of recycling publishing information about what happens to recycled materials put into bins.	Dec 2025	Head of Operational Services		<p>Recycling in 2024/25 YTD (December 2024) has fallen by 1.95%, from 52.71% in the same period 2023/24 to 50.75%. Compared to last year we have collected 150 tonnes less mixed recycling and 200 tonnes more refuse. We have also collected approx. 100 tonnes less garden waste than last year, although this may be due to weather conditions.</p> <p>Overall Surrey has seen a stagnation in recycling rates for some time. The National Waste Strategy has yet to kick in, although Extended Producer Responsibility (packaging producers paying councils to collect packaging waste) starts on 1 April 2025. Deposit Return Scheme (affecting can and plastic bottles) does not start until late 2027.</p> <p>We are therefore generating three communications campaigns: a redesigned garden waste leaflet to all houses in March 2025; a full service leaflet and exhortation in May/June 2025, and a ‘No food waste’ refuse bin-lid sticker. These</p>

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						<p>measures aim to remind residents of their recycling options and the need to use them fully.</p> <p>2024 focus has continued to be on reducing contamination in the green recycling bin – comms campaign led by SEP (Surrey Environment Partnership) & on improving food waste recycling for flats.</p> <p>An additional 2,000 flats have been added to the food waste collection in 2024. Levels of contamination in the dry recycling have reduced.</p> <p>Rethink Waste campaign has continued as part of SEP partnership work.</p>
	THEME 6 Use of technology & information systems					
39	Reduce need for staff to travel to meetings	Utilise conference technology to enable staff and partner organisations to meet virtually and reduce journeys	Dec 2020	Head of ICT		<p>Roll out of laptops to better support officers to work flexibly (and reduce need to travel). Rollout to all Town Hall IT users completed in Autumn 2024.</p> <p>There has been a small increase in staff business travel for the period 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. However overall since 2019/20 there has been a reduction of 41%, equivalent to a saving of 3 tonnes of carbon emissions.</p>

	Objective	Outcomes	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (2024)
40	Utilise technology to change working practices, promote digital skills and improve and make the Council more paper free	Utilise electronic systems and change the working practices to significantly reduce our reliance on paper	Dec 2020	Head of ICT		Office 365/Sharepoint roll out has increased functionality for sharing and working on documents digitally, supporting a significant reduction in paper use.
41	Move council service information and transactions on-line	To reduce journeys and postage launch an on-line portal and customer account to enable residents and businesses to complete and track their transactions on-line	By March 2023	Head of ICT		Ongoing project - implementing phase 2. My Council Services - aim to make it as easy as possible for customers to make requests/transaction etc online.
42	Progressively move Council's systems to more energy efficient cloud solutions	Develop and implement a road map for migrating systems to the cloud and ensuring that cloud solutions are using renewable sources of energy	2025/26	Head of ICT		Under the IT Strategy continuing the 'Cloud preference' approach, moving servers on to cloud system. In shorter term some elements of the infrastructure will need to remain on-premise prior to their upgrade or removal and or replacement with alternatives. The electricity consumption for the IT server room at the Town Hall has reduced by 16% in the past year (41% since 2020).

43	Wi-fi in the Town Centre	Identify the mechanism to secure free wi-fi in the Town Centre. Report back on the options and next steps	June 2023	Head of Policy & Corporate Resources		A feasibility study to install Wi-fi capability across the Borough at key identified sites was considered in 2022. Decision taken to not progress at this time.
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Annex – actions outside of direct control of the Council

	Objective	Outcome	Timescale	Lead Officer	Rating	Current Progress (Jan 2023)
1	Encourage more sustainable transport options for visiting the Town Centre and trips to schools	<p>Work with Surrey County Council Highways Authority to explore options to further encourage a switch to more sustainable transport options into the Town Centre.</p> <p>Work with Surrey County Council Highways Authority to discourage the build-up of traffic outside schools such as piloting a “School Streets” type programme.</p>				<p>The Epsom Town Centre Masterplan was approved as an evidence base for the Draft Local Plan in September 2024. The Masterplan aims to support the transition towards zero-carbon transport, prioritising active travel and sustainable transport infrastructure.</p> <p>The Council has promoted cycling and work on Anti Idling outside schools.</p> <p>We continue to promote walks and cycle routes within the Borough. EEBC will comment on consultations from SCC recommending need for a school travel plan.</p> <p>SCC leads on working with schools.</p>

2	Increase number of safe cycle routes throughout the borough	Work with Surrey County Council to identify opportunities to improve cycling routes in the borough and /or introduce new ones reporting on progress to Environment & Safe Communities.				A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was developed by SCC in liaison with EEBC and endorsed in September 2024. This will provide an evidence base to identify walking and cycling improvement schemes which can be incorporated into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, CIL programmes and the emerging Local Plan.
3	Encourage fewer cars per household	Investigate options to improve public transport. This action is also linked to a number of other actions outlined in Theme 3.				LTP4 and parking standards and ongoing in Year 2 and 3.
4	Introduce Electric Buses	Understand recent policy change from Surrey County Council and promote the idea of the borough taking part in any pilot schemes. Contact local bus operators regarding piloting the introduction of low or				This is a SCC policy decision (as are the bus contracts) and therefore outside control of EEBC. Target not being progressed.

		zero emissions electric buses, starting with a smaller hopper bus.				
5	Promote the use of more sustainable materials in packaging	<p>Contact / lobby local supermarkets regarding phasing out single use plastics and reducing food miles.</p> <p>Promote how to reduce waste, by shifting to more sustainable packaging, greater recycling to local businesses (including retailers and restaurants).</p>				Council officers wrote to all major supermarkets regarding sustainable packaging.
6	Devise opportunities to shift away from reliance on cars to travel in the borough	Work with the Surrey County Council as the Highways Authority and other relevant providers to look at local transport infrastructure and develop a plan to				LTP4 and parking standards.

		support moving away from car use. Embed a culture of sustainable travel in new housing developments using sustainable travel locations.				
7	Increase walking as an alternative to car use	a) Installation of new pedestrian signs and street maps to encourage walking as part Plan E. b) Encourage residents to walk through a range of initiatives and events.				<p>A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was developed by SCC in liaison with EEBC and endorsed in September 2024. This will provide an evidence base to identify walking and cycling improvement schemes which can be incorporated into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, CIL programmes and the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>Walking tours/ events in place and part of Health & Wellbeing initiatives</p>
8	Enable more people to switch from car to bus travel	Work with Surrey County Council to complete the rollout of real time bus passenger information displayed on bus shelters to make bus travel an easier option				<p>Realtime passenger displays in bus shelters LTP4, SCC bus policy - outside EEBC direct control although EEBC has commented on LTP4</p>

