



.....
: **Green**
: **City**
: **Action Plan**

Green City Action Plan 2021



This document sets out the actions that will be delivered under the Council's first year of work towards becoming a 'Green City'. It is the Council's intention to replace this document with specific Action Plans that are based on a series of new strategies that the Council will be launching in early 2021 (including strategies on achieving net zero carbon; climate resilience and urban greening; waste and recycling; transport; and the new Local Plan).

This Green City Action Plan sets out the initial steps that the Council will undertake to become a Green City and fulfil its obligations after declaring a Climate Emergency in Autumn 2019. Our progress towards achieving the actions set out in this document will be reported via the Council's annual Sustainability Report in 2021 and covers a 12-month period from January 2021 onwards. Actions that will be undertaken by the Council are split into the following five focus areas:

Focus Area One	Focus Area Two	Focus Area Three	Focus Area Four	Focus Area Five
Leadership and Strategic Approach	Establishing a Pathway to Net Zero Carbon	Building Climate Resilience across Southend	Future Generations	Building Partnerships

Focus Area Overview: Green City Action Plan

Focus Area One: Leadership and Strategic Approach

To create the necessary leadership framework across the Council that will enable Southend to be recognised as a ‘Green City’. This will include the delivery of new strategies; leadership training; reporting mechanisms; and regular communication around our progress. Our overriding objective across this focus area is to ensure that we are transparent with our progress and to demonstrate that we are on track to become a ‘Green City’. This approach will also help us identify the areas where we need to take further action in the future.

Focus Area Two: Establishing a Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

To ensure that we create a clear pathway for our borough to achieve and support national net zero carbon targets. Our work will focus on the actions we can take to improve the energy performance of our own estate (including South Essex Homes properties) and how we can influence others (including local communities, residents and businesses) to support our ambition to become a net zero borough.

Focus Area Three: Building Climate Resilience across Southend

To build and increase the climate resilience of Southend’s urban landscape and coastline. We will identify how a proactive approach to climate resilience and urban greening can result in avoided costs from the future impacts of climate change (e.g. flood damage). We will prioritise action on enhancing and improving our green and open spaces in Southend, so that we can benefit from associated impacts around health and well-being, air and water quality for our communities.

Focus Area Four: Future Generations

To ensure that future generations in Southend are actively engaged throughout the process to see the borough recognised as a ‘Green City’. This will include supporting schools and colleges to become centres for environmental excellence, while creating a greener, healthier and climate resilient borough that future generations can be proud of.

Focus Area Five: Building Partnerships

To ensure that we build solid partnerships with a range of organisations who are actively engaged with us in moving forward to fulfilling our Climate Change commitments and moving forward as a ‘Green City’. This will include working with local charities, interest groups and other citizen-led organisations to co-create and deliver solutions that will see Southend prioritise work on climate action and sustainability.

Key considerations that help to shape this Green City Action Plan

- 1. Local authorities play an important role in supporting the delivery of net zero carbon targets.** We are able to drive and influence emissions reductions in the wider borough through the services we deliver, our role as community leaders and a major employer, and via our regulatory and strategic functions. We must develop a net-zero carbon plan that focuses on emissions that we control and influence (buildings, transport, waste and renewable power generation). We must lead by example and reduce emissions across our own estate, complete our street lighting programme and identify how we can target emission reductions via transport and procurement.
- 2. Prioritising action on climate change delivers many local benefits.** As well as contributing to national net zero targets, carbon reduction programmes can bring a large range of benefits. These include lowering energy bills, driving economic regeneration, creating new jobs, improved health and opportunities to tackle social inequalities. Increasing the borough's resilience to climate change can result in avoided costs from flood damage (buildings, infrastructure and services), enhancement of green and open spaces and have positive impacts on health and well-being.
- 3. Planning and Construction:** Our planning functions are one of the key enablers for an urban landscape to reduce its carbon emissions and build a local areas resilience to the future impacts of climate change. We must ensure that our strategic plan-making and development management/building control functions are used to: enforce energy efficiency targets in new builds (and extensions); deliver air quality improvements (especially with particulate matter) support new regulations around net-gain for biodiversity; work with developers to increase the uptake of renewable energy schemes; plan for green infrastructure and sustainable drainage; and identify how we can reduce transport emissions.
- 4. Improving energy efficiency in buildings is a priority action area:** One of the most important roles that we can undertake is to provide support to the residential sector to implement and benefit from energy saving measures. This could be through helping residents to insulate their homes or encourage the uptake in renewables (e.g. solar PV). Initial work will be prioritised around district heating and local energy grids that can be used to support households to increase their use of sustainable energy and support net zero targets. Improvements to indoor air quality will also be integrated into the net zero programme.
- 5. Transport.** Reducing transport emissions in the borough through implementing sustainable travel programmes (e.g. encouraging 'Smarter Choices' through car clubs, travel plans, cycling infrastructure etc). Promoting low-carbon vehicles by rolling out electric vehicle charging infrastructure, is another priority action for the Council. These considerations will play a major role in delivering our new Local Transport Plan. Work will need to align with the Air Quality Action Plan and Low Emission Strategy.
- 6. Waste.** This is another key focus area, where we have an important role in waste prevention and sustainable waste management through awareness-raising campaigns, providing separate collection for recycling and food waste, and implementing waste-to-energy schemes that link back into the net zero agenda. One essential action will be identifying how the Council can adopt circular economy principles into its decision-making framework, identifying how waste across the borough can be minimised.
- 7. Climate Adaptation:** We have a crucial role in increasing the resilience of buildings and infrastructure in their localities, managing and extending natural resources to promote biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding, as well as protecting their populations from the health impacts of a changing climate. This is particularly relevant for our borough due to our coastline and the extra vulnerability we face to rising sea levels and storm surges in the future.

Focus Area One: Climate Leadership and Strategic Approach



Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
1.1. Deploying the Strategic Framework for Southend to become a Green City.	1.1.1. Deliver the borough's first 'Net Zero Carbon Strategy' that details the actions that are required to support Southend to become a net zero carbon borough.	New Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan adopted. Cost: Low (Staff Costs) supported with consultancy input.	Adopted Strategy and Action Plan.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021
	1.1.2. Deliver the borough's first Climate Resilience and Urban Greening Strategy.	New Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan adopted. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Adopted Strategy and Action Plan.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.1.3. Ensure that net zero carbon and 'climate positive' will feature as major considerations in the Council's new Local Plan (adoption in 2023).	Continued development of new Local Plan. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Increased awareness across the Strategic Planning Team regarding net zero carbon programmes.	Strategic Planning.	Ongoing.
	1.1.4. Deliver a new Waste and Recycling Strategy that considers measures to reduce associated carbon emissions by helping to accelerate the	New Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan adopted. Cost: Low (Consultants to draft the Strategy)	Adopted Strategy and Action Plan.	Waste Team.	Q3. 2021

	uptake of the circular economy.				
	1.1.5. Ensure that net zero carbon and ‘climate positive’ will feature as major considerations in the Council’s new Local Transport Plan (adoption in 2022).	Continued development of new Local Transport Plan. Cost: Low (Consultants to draft the Local Transport Plan)	Increased awareness across the Transport Team regarding net zero carbon programmes and adoption on Interim Transport Plan.	Transport Team.	Ongoing.
	1.1.6. Develop a Funding Plan that maximises opportunities to secure private sector finance and grants to deliver our Green City programme (identify how green bonds, policy performance bonds, green loans, commercial debt and equity etc can support the delivery of our work).	New Private Sector Funding Plan for our Green City Programme. Cost: est. £15,000. New Grant Funding Plan for our Green City Programme. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	An increased understanding of how the Council will finance its Green City programme and aspirations.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.1.7. Ensure that the Council’s pension investments are directed towards clean growth and sustainable energy (divert from fossil fuels).	Policy that prevents investment in fossil fuels and ensuring that we lobby the Essex Pension Fund to ensure our goals are met. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	Pension funds investment that only supports clean growth and renewable energy portfolios.	TBC.	Q3. 2021
	1.1.8. Embed the new National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	Ensure that the new national strategy is considered in the Local Flood Risk	Increased future resilience to coastal flooding in the borough.	Coastal Defence Team	Q4. 2021

	Strategy for England into key strategic policies, strategies and work in relation to coastal defence and flood risk management.	Management Strategy; Surface Water Management Plan; Southend Shoreline Strategy; Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment / Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Combined Essex) Cost: Low (Staff Time)			
	1.1.9. Deliver a new Health and Well-Being Strategy for the borough that links green spaces to the positive impacts on our resident's health and well-being.	New Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan adopted. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Adopted Strategy and Action Plan.	Culture Team.	Q4. 2021
	1.1.10. Rename the Energy & Sustainability Team to Environment and Climate Team to accurately reflect the direction of work that the Council will be delivering under this Green City Action Plan.	Environment and Climate Team established. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Environment and Climate Team recognised across the Council.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.1.11. Ensure the alignment of the Council's net zero programme with the existing Air Quality Action Plan and Low Emission Strategy.	Strategic alignment between net zero and air quality. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Adopt and review Air Quality Action Plan and Low Emission Strategy to ensure it embeds net zero considerations.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Air Quality Specialist.	Ongoing

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
1.2. Ensuring that there is a robust monitoring and evaluation process to measure our progress.	1.2.1 Continue to publish an Annual Sustainability Report that details our progress against this (and future) Green City Action Plan.	Publication of Annual Sustainability Report. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	Publication on the Council's website and associated media coverage.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021 (published every Spring)
	1.2.2. Commit to making an annual submission under the Carbon Disclosure Project that will report the borough's progress on climate action (mitigation and adaptation).	Annual submission of the Council's work via the Carbon Disclosure Project website. Cost: Low (staff time)	Completion of the online return via https://www.cdp.net/en	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q3. 2021 (every August)
	1.2.3. Provide a bi-monthly update on progress to the leads on the Safe & Well, Southend 2050 work stream.	Publication of a bi-monthly report. Cost: Low (staff time)	Increased awareness across the Council with regards to progress made on the 2050 workstream to become a Green City.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Bi-monthly
	1.2.4. Publish a bi-monthly media release that provides an update on our work to become a Green City (intention to keep public aware of our work).	A bi-monthly press release that is issued by the Council's Media Team. Cost: Low	6 press releases issued.	Comms Team (supported by Energy & Sustainability Team).	Bi-monthly
	1.2.5. Agree a new approval process for ALL major/key decisions that are being undertaken by the Council, which must detail how that	An agreement by senior management around how this will be embedded into the Council's decision-making framework.	New decision-making criteria that ensures that the Council assesses the climate, environmental and	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021

	decision will impact upon and/or support work around the Green City agenda.	Cost: Low	social impact of the decisions that it makes.		
	1.2.6 Review of all procurement procedures for external services to ensure that the Green City principles are applied in respect of the Council's outsourcing of services and contracts.	A modern progressive view of procurement within the relevant guidelines. Cost: Low	New procurement criteria that includes consideration around the Green City Agenda.	Energy and Sustainability Team in conjunction with the Procurement Team.	Q3. 2021
	1.2.7. Appoint a representative of the Energy & Sustainability Team on decision-making boards e.g. Commissioning Board so that they can advise on the environmental/carbon considerations of the proposal.	Appointment of representative to the Commissioning Board; Transforming Together Programme and Service Ideas Lab. Cost: Low	Attendance at various board and committee meetings.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.2.8. Provide updates on air quality performance via the Air Quality Steering Group.	Continue to update the Air Quality Steering Group on progress that is being made to improve air quality within the borough. Cost: Low (staff costs).	Clear and transparent process to update the Council on progress being made on air quality projects.	Air Quality Specialist.	Ongoing.
	1.2.9. Ensure that coastal management and schemes that build climate resilience to flood risks (coastal, fluvial	Appointment of representative to the Commissioning Board; Transforming Together	Attendance at various board and committee meetings.	Planning Team.	Ongoing.

	and groundwater) are monitored and progress reported regularly.	Programme and Service Ideas Lab. Cost: Low			
--	---	--	--	--	--

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
1.3. Delivery of a new Climate Leadership / Green City Training Programme.	1.3.1. Provide mandatory training on climate change (and other environmental issues) to senior leadership and Members at the Council.	<p>An increased understanding from senior management and Members at the Council on how they can help facilitate and enable progress around the Green City agenda through their ward work.</p> <p>Cost: Budget available from EU project programme and will include specific training on flood and coastal management.</p>	Number of senior managers and Councillors completing the training programme.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.3.2. Deliver a new training/awareness programme for staff at the Council that focuses upon climate and carbon literacy, to include information in the induction for new staff.	<p>New training programme that can be uploaded to the intranet and content to be added in the induction for new staff.</p> <p>Cost: Budget available from existing projects.</p>	Number of staff that utilise the programme and complete the staff induction scheme.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	1.3.3. Continue to provide opportunities for a Staff Climate & Sustainability Forum to identify further opportunities for engagement and enable staff to help take climate action within the Council.	<p>Staff Climate & Sustainability Forum.</p> <p>Cost: Low</p>	A total of 12 meetings per annum that will take place virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic.	Green Staff Forum.	Monthly

	1.3.4. Provide net zero and climate training capacity building to members of the Energy & Sustainability Team to reduce reliance on consultancies to deliver work on the Green City workstream.	Staff completing training courses e.g. LED lighting and solar PV training. Cost: Low	Increase in staff capacity and understanding of how to deliver net zero carbon projects and build climate resilience across the borough.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Ongoing
	1.3.5. Establish a Green City Working Group for Council Officers.	To create a Green City Working Group, consisting of a cross-representation of officers from different departments across the Council to support the delivery of the council's Green City Action Plan. Cost: Low (staff time and Councillor time)	6 meetings per annum (bi-monthly basis).	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Bi-monthly
	1.3.6. Establish a Climate Positive (+) Commission (Senior Management and Councillors).	The Climate Positive (+) Commission will consist of senior management and Councillors. Cost: Low (staff time and Councillor time)	Raised awareness of progress on the Green City Action Plan at senior management and Member level. Meetings to be held every 4 months.	Energy & Sustainability Team / with input from ALL relevant departments across the Council.	February – June – October 2021.

Focus Area Two: Creating a Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.1. Building Energy Efficiency Measures across our own Property Estate.	2.1.1. Undertake a review and audit of energy efficiency opportunities across the Council's property estate (to include civic buildings, leisure centres and theatres, South Essex Homes etc) – this will include identifying opportunities to improve indoor air quality.	Recommendation Report for the energy review / audit that aims to ensure that ALL of the Council's property estate has an energy rating of between A-C (DEC). Cost: £20k (est.)	Clear pathway to invest in energy saving measures across the council's property estate. Establish a baseline for carbon reduction targets. Understand opportunities to improve air quality.	Energy and Sustainability Team, Property and Asset Management Team, and Air Quality Specialist.	Q4. 2021
	2.1.2. Develop a priority investment plan to reduce carbon emissions across the borough's educational estate (to include academy schools).	Engage with Salix Finance to deliver an Investment Plan to reduce energy emissions across the borough's educational estate. This will link to the Council's carbon budget at 2.1.9. Cost: Low	Approved Investment Plan for School Energy Projects.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	2.1.3. Deliver a minimum of four energy investments across primary schools in Southend (Chalkwell Hall Infants; Chalkwell Hall Junior; St Mary's Primary;	New LED lighting and solar PV schemes delivered across four schools. Cost: £50k per school, all secured through Salix	Reduction in energy consumption and carbon emissions at four schools, together with a replicable template that can be rolled	Energy & Sustainability Team and Property Team.	Q2. 2021

	Earl's Hall). The focus will be on accessing Salix Finance, an interest free loan scheme that is designed to encourage energy efficiency measures across the public sector.	Finance interest free loans and supported by the EMPOWER 2.0 Interreg North Sea funding project.	out across ALL primary schools in the borough.		
	2.1.4. Deliver an energy saving investment project at the Civic Centre, including a LED light replacement programme.	Delivery of the energy saving investment at the Civic Centre. Cost: Covered via a Salix Finance interest free loan.	Improvements in terms of energy efficiency at the Civic Centre, which will include new LED lighting.	Property Team.	Q3. 2021
	2.1.5. Ensure that all energy tariffs are 'green' tariffs across the Council's property estate.	Review of energy supplies and tariffs. Cost: Low	100% of energy used by the Council is to be from renewable sources.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	2.1.6. Create an energy efficiency investment programme that will detail how the Council can achieve net zero carbon targets across its property estate over a 5-10 year period. To include feasibility work on establishing a revolving fund to finance energy efficiency work on our estate.	New Funding Plan for our Green City Programme (include private sector finance and potential revolving fund for energy efficiency projects). Cost: est. £15,000. New Grant Funding Plan for our Green City Programme. Cost: Low (staff time)	An increased understanding of how the Council will finance its Green City programme and aspirations.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q3. 2021

	2.1.7. Ensure that the Better Queensway Regeneration Programme is delivered as an exemplar net zero programme, which supports the aspirations of this Green City Action Plan.	Review of energy supplies and tariffs. Cost: Low	100% of energy used by the Council is to be from renewable sources.	Energy & Sustainability Team and Better Queensway Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.1.8. Deliver an exemplar new build at Launchpad (Airport Business Park) that prioritises net zero targets.	An exemplar new build that demonstrates how energy efficiency and renewable generation can be built into all future buildings that the Council has ownership of. Cost: High (covered within building costs)	BREEAM Rating.	Property Team.	Q3. 2021
	2.1.9. Establish carbon budgets for departments within the Council to ensure that there is collective responsibility for taking action to deliver net zero.	The identification and establishment of carbon budgets across all of the Council's departments. Cost: Low.	Council-wide understanding of the actions that are required to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the Council's net zero targets.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.2. Building Energy Efficiency Measures across Households in the Borough.	2.2.1 Continue to deliver an awareness raising campaign on energy efficiency throughout the borough to households (to include internal air quality improvements).	Delivery of public information campaign on the climate crisis, focusing on how households can reduce their carbon footprint. Cost: Low	Increased awareness of the climate crisis and energy efficiency measures across households in Southend.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Air Quality Specialist.	Ongoing
	2.2.2. Identify opportunities to join the Essex Energy Switch and Solar Together schemes.	Approval to join the Essex Energy Switch and Solar Together schemes. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	To encourage residents to get better prices for their energy suppliers by changing their energy tariff and benefit from most cost-effective solar PV panels.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q1. 2021
	2.2.3. Purchase the Energy Saving Trust Home Analytics software to provide data to develop an investment plan to improve the energy efficiency of Council's housing stock e.g. a retrofit programme.	A new investment plan for social housing in Southend-on-Sea. Cost: Low	Agreement to deliver a retrofit scheme to support targets around the net zero carbon agenda from 2021/2022.	Housing Team and South Essex Homes.	Q1. 2021
	2.2.4. Complete a feasibility study to install a large-scale solar project on housing estates. Subject to feasibility, deliver the project in 2021 and extend beyond.	Completed feasibility study with investment proposal. Cost: Budgeted	Understanding of the business case for investing in solar PV across the Council's housing stock.	Housing Team, South Essex Homes and Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021

	<p>2.2.5. Undertake feasibility work to identify how the Council's large sites e.g. leisure centres, theatres, schools can be used to create local energy projects that link to nearby households.</p>	<p>Study on Council buildings and review of DNO (Distribution Networks Operator) constraints to deliver projects.</p> <p>Cost: Covered by EMPOWER 2.0 budget.</p>	<p>Increased understanding of how the Council can deliver net zero programmes to support local communities.</p>	<p>Energy and Sustainability Team (EMPOWER 2.0 project).</p>	<p>Q4. 2021</p>
	<p>2.2.6 Deliver a series of solar PV trial schemes to identify how the Council can best incentivise residents to install solar PV on their homes.</p>	<p>Trials based around Chalkwell Junior and Infant Schools; Earl's Hall Primary School and St Mary's Primary School.</p> <p>Cost: Budget in Capital Programme.</p>	<p>Installation of solar PV projects and development of proposition for residents.</p>	<p>Energy and Sustainability Team (EMPOWER 2.0 project).</p>	<p>Q2. 2021</p>
	<p>2.2.7. Identify how the current planning policies can be adapted to require all new dwellings to be built to zero carbon standards.</p>	<p>Zero Carbon Standards adopted into the new Local Plan.</p> <p>Cost: Low</p>	<p>Implemented into new Local Plan and Planning Guidance.</p>	<p>Planning Team.</p>	<p>Q2. 2021</p>

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.3. Building Energy Efficiency Measures across Local Businesses	2.3.1. Continue supporting local businesses throughout the borough to improve their energy efficiency performance and reduce associated carbon emissions (link to improvements in indoor air quality).	More energy efficiency businesses in the borough. Cost: LoCASE Grant Funding	Successful uptake of the LoCASE (Low Carbon across the South East) grant programme by businesses in Southend.	Economic Development Team and Energy and Sustainability Team.	Ongoing.
	2.3.2. Ensure that ‘Green City’ considerations are integrated into business engagement programmes delivered by the Council – including regular updates at the Southend Business Partnership.	Green City is added to the agenda for future meetings of the Southend Business Partnership. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Increased business awareness of climate change and sustainability; and number of Climate + Briefings.	Economic Development Team.	Q1. 2021
	2.3.3. Support and encourage local businesses in becoming more environmentally and socially responsible, for example, by encouraging business to switch to renewable energy tariffs and use green suppliers and sign a ‘Green City’ Charter.	Guidance notes for businesses produced on how they can become more energy efficient and green their supply chain. Extend the Council’s climate action training programme to benefit local businesses. Cost: Low	Increased business awareness around how to operate in a more environmentally and socially responsible manner; number of businesses in Southend that sign the ‘Green City’ Charter.	Energy and Sustainability Team & Economic Development Team.	Q4. 2021

	<p>2.3.4. Actively engage with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) to identify further opportunities to support local businesses in Southend improve energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency for businesses to be considered a key priority for SELEP.</p> <p>Cost: Low (Staff Costs)</p>	<p>Active role in placing sustainability and climate change higher on the agenda within SELEP.</p>	<p>Economic Development Team.</p>	<p>Q4. 2021</p>
--	---	--	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.4. Enabling Sustainable Transport in the Borough.	2.4.1 Continue to provide real-time bus information within the borough to encourage people to use	To encourage sustainable transport modes within the borough. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Increase bus patronage post Covid-19.	Transport Team	Ongoing.
	2.4.2. Liaise with bus operators within the borough to promote ‘Green City’ considerations in providing green transport.	Green City is added to the agenda for future meetings with bus operators. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Increased business awareness of the Council’s work around the Green City agenda.	Transport Team and Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q1. 2021
	2.4.3. Continue to deliver sustainable travel behaviour change messaging through online digital content and targeted engagement opportunities.	Behaviour change messaging delivered throughout the borough. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Increased use of sustainable / active travel modes for journeys around the borough.	ForwardMotion	Q3. 2021
	2.4.4. Complete a total of five ‘School Street’ pilot projects that promote sustainable travel options around selected school sites.	Five pilot School Street projects and the identification of future sites for additional projects. Cost: Covered through Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2).	Number of pilots delivered.	Planning Team and Transport Team.	Q2. 2021

	2.4.5. Undertake a consultation that reviews the holistic network wide cycle audit and master planning of the A13 active travel corridor.	Completed consultation. Cost: Covered through Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2).	Increased understanding of the options to increase active travel.	Planning Team and Transport Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.4.6. Undertake a consultation that identifies the lighting and connectivity improvements that can be undertaken along Prittle Brook Greenway.	Completed consultation. Cost: Covered through Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2).	Increased understanding of the options and costs to improve the lighting and connectivity at Prittle Brook Greenway.	Planning Team and Transport Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.4.7. Undertake a review to identify cycling improvements to the public realm, which would include sites to deploy secure green cycling parking and electric bike charging stations.	Completed consultation. Cost: Covered through Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2).	Increased understanding of the options and costs to improve the lighting and connectivity at Prittle Brook Greenway.	Planning Team and Transport Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.4.8. Assess the feasibility and then demonstrate the opportunity to build EV charging network for on-street residential parking.	Continued involvement as a project partner in the VPACH project. Cost: Covered through the Innovate UK project VPACH.	Increased understanding of the opportunities to deploy a charging network for on-street residential parking.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Transport Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.4.9. Support the delivery of the Innovate UK funded project NetX that seeks to test	Continued involvement as a project partner in the NetX project.	Increased understanding of the opportunities to deploy	Energy and Sustainability	Q4. 2021

	a new EV charger extension device that allows three cars to charge from a single EV charger.	Cost: Covered through the Innovate UK project NetX.	electric vehicle charging points in the borough.	Team and Transport Team.	
--	--	--	--	--------------------------	--

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.5. Renewable Energy Generation	2.5.1. Undertake a comprehensive feasibility study to determine opportunities for the Council to generate energy from renewable sources.	Feasibility study and high-level investment plan for renewable energy in the borough. Cost: £20k (est.)	Approval to conduct a comprehensive costing of the renewable energy projects to determine their economic viability / return on investment.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Ongoing.
	2.5.2. Create a public database of all renewable energy installations in Southend.	New database that highlights where renewable energy installations have been delivered. Cost: Low	Greater understanding of where renewable energy installations have taken place in Southend and where future projects could be delivered e.g. to understand where grid constraints could materialise.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.5.3. Assess the different delivery vehicles that are available to the Council to deliver net zero projects on our own estate, community assets and local businesses.	Strategic recommendation and costing of establishing the different delivery vehicles that can be used to deliver net zero projects. Cost: Low	Full understanding of the most effective means to deliver net zero projects across our own estate, community assets and local businesses.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.5.4. Assess the potential for district heating scheme developments across the borough, which will be linked to the government's Decarbonisation Fund.	Strategic recommendation and costing of delivering district heating schemes in Southend. Cost: Decarbonisation Fund	Approval for feasibility studies to determine economic viability of district heating schemes (including biomass).	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
2.6. Reduce waste (and associated carbon emissions) by promotion of the circular economy within the Council's own estate and services.	2.6.1. Developing an Action Plan to reduce waste arising and increasing reuse and recycling within the Council's estate and own operations. Identify opportunities to implement the circular economy within the Council's own estate and services.	New Circular Economy Action Plan. Cost: Low (Staff Costs)	Adopted Action Plan.	Facilities Management and Waste Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.6.2. Build an understanding of the scale of 'lost plastics' throughout the borough and identify solutions that can help reduce the volume of plastic waste.	Report that details the scale of plastic waste in the borough and recommendations on how this waste can be reduced. Cost: Low (covered by PlastiCity).	Enhanced understanding of how the Council can tackle 'lost' plastic across the borough.	Waste Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.6.3. Implement a new policy to eliminate single-use plastics in Council premises.	New single-use plastic policy. Cost: Low (Staff Costs) linked to PlastiCity.	The elimination of single-use plastic across the Council's property estate, with priority action within the Civic Centre.	Waste Team (linking to activities in 1.3.3. and 1.3.5. above).	Q2. 2021
	2.6.4. Undertake a feasibility study for a sustainable waste disposal solution.	Feasibility Study. Cost: Low	Identification of the most appropriate waste disposal solutions that support the Council's net zero targets.	Waste Team.	Q3. 2021

	2.6.5. Trial a plastic waste collection scheme across schools in Southend.	<p>New plastic waste collection scheme at schools undertaken.</p> <p>Cost: Low (Staff Costs) linked to PlastiCity.</p>	Improved plastic waste collection for schools.	Waste Team.	Q4. 2021
	2.6.6. Review carbon saving opportunities for waste and recycling services within the borough.	<p>A report on how the Council can save carbon emissions via its waste services.</p> <p>Cost: Undertaken by Waste Contractors.</p>	Future carbon savings for the Council through the waste and recycling services that it provides.	Waste Team.	Q1. 2021

Focus Area Three: Building Climate Resilience across Southend



Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
3.1. To build and increase the climate resilience of Southend's urban landscape and coastline.	3.1.1 Identify opportunities to 'green' the Council's property estate, looking to find appropriate sites to deploy green infrastructure (e.g. green walls and roofs).	Assessment of the Council's building stock to deploy new green infrastructure. Cost: Low	Understanding of the most appropriate locations for green infrastructure across the Council's property estate. Link to the net zero carbon investment programme.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	3.1.2. Review opportunities to extend the greening programme of lampposts in the borough, identifying how programmes like this can also support targets to improve air quality and enhance biodiversity.	Recommendation report to the Climate Commission about the greening lampposts programme and suggestions for future roll-out in the borough. Cost: Low	Increased understanding of where green infrastructure can best be deployed in the borough.	Parks Team and Transport Team.	Q2. 2021/2022
	3.1.3. Deliver a series of green infrastructure programmes across high profile locations in the borough e.g. Southend's main High Street, Airport Business Park and the Pier, and coastline.	Undertake a series of green infrastructure pilot programmes in the borough to demonstrate the positive impact that greening has for urban landscapes. Cost: Covered through budget in EU co-financed projects Cool Towns.	A minimum of 4 new green infrastructure pilots of buildings owned by the Council.	Energy and Sustainability Team (supported by various teams involved in the investments).	Q4. 2025/2026

		Nature Smart Cities and SARCC.			
	3.1.4. Undertake a review of how nature-based solutions can be integrated into the borough's coastal defences and be built into schemes to reduce local flood risk.	<p>A study of the borough's shoreline that identifies where nature-based solutions can be added to coastal defences to reduce the future impact(s) of rising sea levels and increased risk of storm surges.</p> <p>Cost: Covered by the Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Communities project.</p>	Increased understanding of flood risks along the borough's shoreline and throughout the borough.	Coastal Defence Team, Energy and Sustainability Team and Planning Team.	Q2. 2021
	3.1.5. Review impact of climate change across the Council's services and operations.	<p>A Local Climate Risks Assessment for the borough.</p> <p>Cost: Low (staff time)</p>	A thorough understanding of how climate change could impact the borough in the future.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	3.1.6. Complete first draft of a business model to support local authorities to make the case for investing in green infrastructure solutions, over more traditional grey approaches.	<p>A Business Model framework that can be used to make a business case for new green infrastructure projects and concepts. At its heart will be a multi-criteria analysis that enables a local authority to select priority climate resilience benefits. The accompanying guidance manual will support local authorities to identify funding options.</p>	The Business Model is taken up and used across departments at the Council for all future green infrastructure projects / or projects with a green infrastructure component to demonstrate their climate resilience value in a clear and precise manner to aid the decision-making process.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q3. 2021

		Cost: Covered by the Nature Smart Cities project.			
--	--	--	--	--	--

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
3.2. To ensure that Southend's natural environment is protected, and local biodiversity enhanced.	3.2.1. Commence work to create a green infrastructure focus map and greenness index for the borough.	Initial work to commence with a view to complete in Year 2 of the Green City Programme. Cost: Funded through the Interreg FCE CIRCLE project.	Increased understanding of where current green infrastructure is in the borough and where targeted action can be delivered to increase green infrastructure in the future.	Parks Team and Planning Team.	Q4. 2021
	3.2.2. Undertake work that supports the idea behind 'Bee Friendly Cities' that helps to enhance habitats for key pollinators in the borough.	Five pilot projects that have helped to improve the habitat for bees and other pollinators. Cost: Low	Number of greening projects delivered across grant-maintained schools in the borough. Co-benefit – air quality improvement around school grounds. This will also link into a project around roadside diversity planting that is set to encourage populations of pollinators.	Parks Team.	Ongoing.
	3.2.3. Identify funding opportunities e.g. Veolia Trust to secure funding for local communities and charities to enhance the borough's natural environment.	Submission of funding applications in partnership with local communities and charities. Cost: Low (Staff Cost)	Development of a strong working relationship with local communities and charities to enhance the borough's natural environment.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q1. 2021

	<p>3.2.4. Encourage local communities, businesses, schools etc to create better habitats for local wildlife across their sites e.g. the introduction of swift boxes and bug hotels at schools.</p>	<p>20 examples of organisations taking action to improve local wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Cost: Low (Staff Cost) and budget available through the Interreg FCE CIRCLE project.</p>	<p>Increased awareness across organisations in the borough to support local biodiversity and wildlife.</p>	<p>Parks Team.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
	<p>3.2.5. Work with Trees for Cities to identify suitable locations on Council owned land to deliver a carbon offsetting programme to support the delivery of net zero carbon targets for use by local developments, businesses and residents.</p>	<p>Development of a robust carbon offset strategy, including analysing the markets for offsets, developing a management / assessment / certification process.</p> <p>Cost: Low (£10k est.)</p>	<p>An increased understanding of how offsetting can support the Council achieve its net zero aspirations; and identify appropriate sites within the borough to deploy future offsetting programmes.</p>	<p>Energy and Sustainability Team / Parks Team.</p>	<p>Q2. 2021</p>
	<p>3.2.6. Implement a carbon offset trial for new developments, with funds going to deliver energy saving projects in other parts of the borough.</p>	<p>To test a small-scale carbon offsetting trial in the borough, demonstrating how offsetting would work to support net zero aspirations.</p> <p>Cost: Low</p>	<p>Identifying developments where the carbon offset trial can be implemented.</p> <p>All projects will be delivered in Southend.</p>	<p>Energy and Sustainability Team.</p>	<p>Q4. 2021</p>

Priority Four: Future Generations



Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
4.1. Prioritising action to enable schools in the borough to support net zero and climate positive aspirations.	4.1.1. Promote the benefits of net zero and climate positive initiatives to ALL schools in the borough e.g. via Street Schools and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods initiatives.	The delivery of a series of guides made available to schools outlining the benefits of greening programmes and how they can undertake work to ensure that the school building (external and internal) and grounds are greener. Cost: Low	Increased awareness amongst school decision-makers around the benefits of net zero and climate positive programmes.	Energy and Sustainability Team / Education Team.	Ongoing.
	4.1.2. Install a green wall pilot project at a primary school.	A new green wall pilot project at Earl's Hall Primary School has already been installed and a second green wall is proposed at St Mary's Primary School Cost: Low.	Understanding of how the Council can install green walls across the school estate (maintained). Co-benefit – air quality, health improvement around school grounds.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q1. 2021
	4.1.3. Identify appropriate sources of finance to expand the greening programme for schools.	New fund that provides schools with the opportunity to benefit from greening programmes.	To explore opportunities to link with S106 Agreements, Social Value (procurement) and Net Biodiversity Gain	Energy and Sustainability Team (coordinate work with Planning	Q2. 2021

		Cost: Low	(planning), link into existing net zero projects (e.g. energy paybacks to help finance green walls, roofs, pocket parks in schools).	re S106 and Net Biodiversity Gain).	
	4.1.4. Link to 2.1.3 to deliver a minimum of four energy investments across the Council's maintained schools.	See 2.1.3. above.	See 2.1.3. above.	See 2.1.3. above.	See 2.1.3. above.
	4.1.5. Undertake a feasibility study on a school that establishes the concept of a 'healthy building' programme that combines energy efficiency projects with other benefits e.g. air quality, ventilation.	Feasibility study on 'healthy buildings' and linking to energy investments in school buildings. Cost: Low	Increased understanding of how other considerations around air quality, ventilation, thermal health, safety etc can be integrated into energy efficiency and carbon reduction programmes.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q4. 2021
	4.1.6. Become a founding member of Better Planet Schools to provide primary schools in the borough with free educational materials and resources on climate change and continue to deliver education to primary schools on environmental topics.	Delivering Better Planet Schools to a minimum of 20 primary schools in the borough at no cost to the schools. Cost: approx.. £150 per primary school taking part.	A minimum of 20 primary schools participating in Better Planet Schools each year, with pupils benefitting from increased knowledge on environmental issues (incl. climate change, carbon reduction and plastic waste).	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q1. 2021
	4.1.7. Sign up secondary schools to a new campaign called Let's Go Zero (https://letsgozero.org) that	Work with the NGO Ashden to sign up schools in Southend to join the Let's Go Zero campaign. This	An increased understanding of what schools in the borough would like to take part in net zero projects and	Energy and Sustainability Team and Property Team.	Q4. 2021

	promotes action in schools to cut their carbon emissions and support net zero targets by 2030.	will include a focus on both maintained and academy schools. Cost: Low	active engagement in supporting work to identify investments.		
--	--	--	---	--	--

Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
4.2. Ensuring that young people in the borough are involved in the Decision-Making process on net zero and climate positive action.	4.2.1 Work with the Southend Youth Council to ensure that they are able to engage with leaders from the Council, businesses and other organisations (academia and third sector) about climate change.	To have representatives from the Southend Youth Council to attend the Climate Commission (see 1.3.6). Cost: Low	Increased awareness amongst school decision-makers around the benefits of greening programmes for their school and pupils.	Consultation and Engagement Team.	Ongoing.
	4.2.2. Create a Green Youth Charter for students/pupils and schools to sign and demonstrate their commitment to positively tackling climate change (mitigation and adaptation).	The Southend Youth Council will create a Green Youth Charter that will link to Southend becoming a 'Green City', aiming to secure young people to sign up and commit to taking positive action on climate change. It will act as a forum for young people to put forward their ideas into net zero and climate positive projects. Cost: Low	Number of young people signing the Green Youth Charter; and the number of schools that make the commitment.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Consultation and Engagement Team.	Q2. 2021
	4.2.3. Provide training on climate change (and other environmental issues, including air quality) to representatives of the Southend Youth Council.	A training programme will be provided to members of the Southend Youth Council via video link that provides an overview on climate change and the action that can be taken.	Number of members of the Southend Youth Council benefitting from the climate change training programme on an annual basis.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Consultation and Engagement Team.	Ongoing.

		Cost: Low			
	4.2.4. Arrange an annual digital conference/ symposium for secondary schools on climate change.	To host a digital conference for secondary schools on climate change to help raise awareness on the subject across maintained and academy schools. Cost: Medium (£5-7k per annum estimated cost).	The delivery of the borough's first Climate Positive Digital Conference / Symposium for Schools; number of students that benefit from the event.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q3. 2021
	4.2.5. Run a social media campaign that engages young people on climate change in Southend. This will be developed by the Southend Youth Council.	To deliver a structured social media engagement project that raises awareness about the impacts of climate change in the borough. Cost: Covered by the Interreg 2 Seas co-financed project Cool Towns.	An increased understanding in young people (and citizens) in the borough about the impacts of climate change and what can be done to combat the issues.	Energy and Sustainability Team and Consultation and Engagement Team.	Q2. 2021

Priority Five:
Building Partnerships to Establish a Green City



Sub-Priority	Action	Output	Measure of Success / Outcome	Owner	Delivery Date
5.1. Building a Network of Green City Champions and Partnerships.	5.1.1 Develop a network of UK local authorities that are committed to working together to create, share and develop best practice around net zero and climate positive programmes.	<p>To have a network of at least 8 local authorities that agree to work together in order to find solutions to common challenges around net zero and climate change.</p> <p>(Please note that the local authorities will be similar in terms of urban environment and population, with a focus on those based in the South-East of England).</p> <p>Cost: Low (Staff Time)</p>	Closer working relationship with other local authorities; access to best practice and knowledge around net zero and climate change.	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	5.1.2. Sign up to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.	A public declaration of the Council's commitment to take action on climate and energy by joining a growing network of cities that have signed up to the Global Covenant of Mayors programme.	<p>Confirmed membership of the programme. More information about the programme can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org</p>	Energy & Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021

		Cost: Low (Staff Time)			
	5.1.3. Establish a Climate Commission in Southend that brings together leaders from the public, private, third and academic sectors to help steer work on making Southend greener, healthier and climate resilient.	To invite representatives from some of Southend's leading organisations to join a Climate Commission that will advise and support work to become a Green City. See 1.3.6. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	See 1.3.6.	See 1.3.6.	See 1.3.6.
	5.1.4. Develop a series of strategic partnerships with leading charities, NGOs and academic institutions that specialise in working on delivering net zero and climate positive programmes.	Strategic partnerships are already established with Trees for Cities, Young People's Trust for the Environment, Imperial College London, University of Portsmouth and University of Greenwich. Additional strategic partnerships are set to be delivered. Cost: Low (Staff Time)	A total of 10 strategic partnerships to be completed within the first six months of this Action Plan.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021
	5.1.5. Act as host and facilitator for Southend's work to join the National Park City family.	To run a series of workshops with National Park City Foundation that connects community members, Youth Council and organisations that would like to support the work around Green City	Deliver a series of community engagement sessions and develop a group of organisations that would be prepared to lead community outreach work around the Green City programme.	Energy and Sustainability Team.	Q2. 2021

		<p>via the National Park City charter.</p> <p>Cost: £10,000</p>			
	<p>5.1.6 Develop stronger relationships with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and central government with regards to net zero and climate change work.</p>	<p>To have a more active role in shaping funding opportunities and priority programmes for the SELEP area and lobby government to continue to financially support local authorities to achieve net zero and climate change investment programmes.</p> <p>Cost: Low (Staff Time)</p>	<p>At least two funding applications made to SELEP that support net zero growth and climate positive projects. To make central government aware of the Council's ambitions to drive forward its net zero and climate positive investment programmes.</p>	<p>Energy and Sustainability Team, Economic Development Team.</p>	<p>Q2. 2021</p>