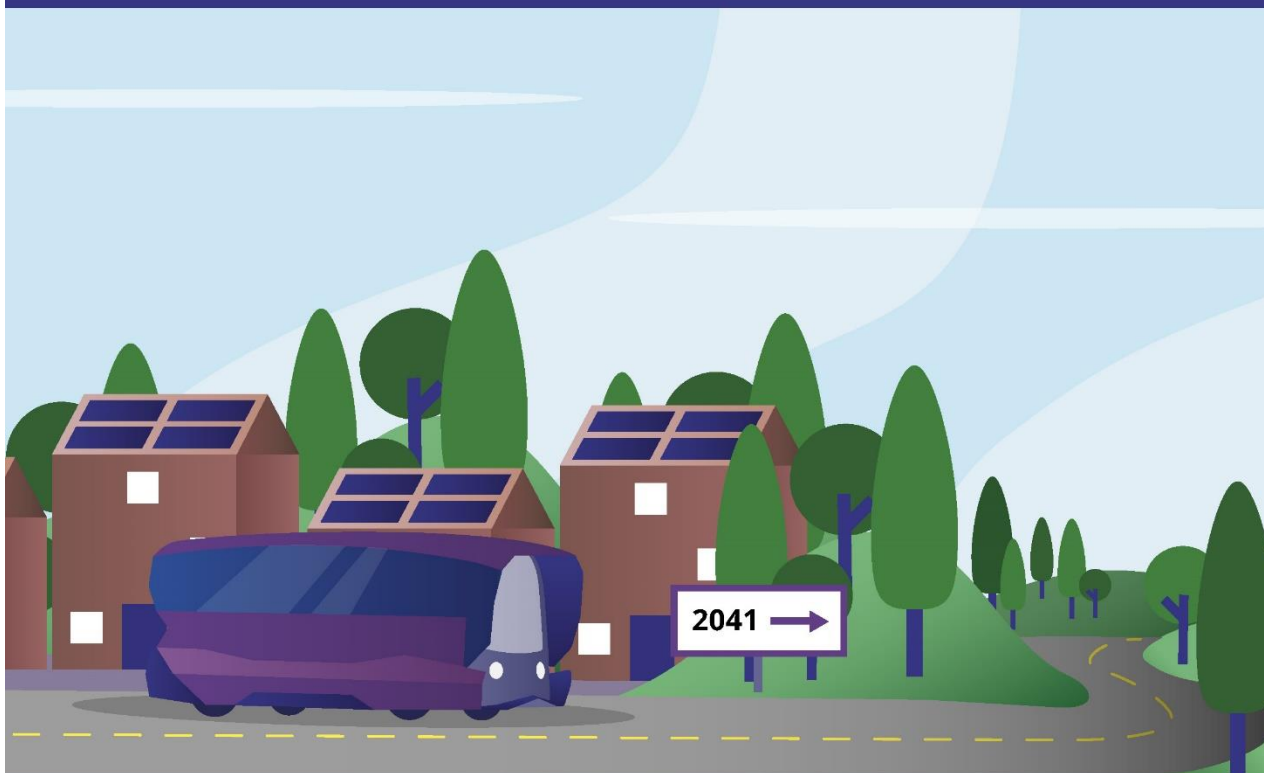


Net Zero Action Plan: Annual Report 2023



**YOUR
FUTURE
SOLIHULL**



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report 2022/2023

Executive Summary

In 2019, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council declared a climate emergency. In response we developed our Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), which was agreed in November 2021. The NZAP outlines actions that the Council can take to support Solihull becoming a net zero borough by 2041. This is our second year of reporting against the plan, which covers the 2022/2023 financial year.

The borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions data is reported 2 years in arrears, with the most up to date data covering 2021. Between 2020 and 2021 we saw a 7% increase in emissions, compared to a 15% decrease in emissions seen in the previous year (which was heavily influenced by COVID restrictions). This increase in emissions is consistent with other local authority areas; 96% of Local Authorities saw an increase in emissions.

Borough-wide CO₂ levels have been compared to the Tyndall Centre pathway for carbon reduction. CO₂ levels in 2021 were 21% higher than the Tyndall pathway. Emissions reductions are not currently in line with the Borough's carbon budget, and we are not seeing the speed of reductions needed to bring the borough in line with the pathway. More national and local action is required, as Council action alone will not get us there.

Whilst we saw an increase in emissions across the borough in 2021, we have made good progress against the actions in the NZAP. In 2022/2023, over 70% of actions are already underway. As the NZAP was agreed at the end of 2021, we would not expect this to be reflected in the 2021 CO₂ data.

The Council acknowledges how important it is to lead by example and reduce our own emissions. Since 2017/2018, the Council's own emissions have reduced by 60%. We have done this through a range of actions, for example in 2023 our refuse vehicles switched from diesel to biofuel.

The NZAP seeks to reduce emissions in all sectors, including challenging and high emitting sectors such as transport and domestic buildings. The Council is acting in these areas, such as delivering a place-based retrofit scheme in Alston Road and are ramping up our EV charging installations using Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.

Another example of significant progress is the Town Centre Energy Network. The full business case for the energy network was approved in 2023 and, once completed, the scheme will bring low carbon energy to Solihull Town Centre.

As a Council we know it is important for us to support residents in reducing their carbon emissions. A great example of this is the “Big Energy Switch”, which was offered to all residents and taken up by 3000 households who now benefit by saving money on their energy bills from a 100% renewable tariff.

The Council is backing up our action with plans and policies. In 2022/2023, we approved the Solihull Connected Transport Strategy and the Economic Strategy, which highlighted a sustainable economy as a key theme. Each of these strategies support the decarbonisation of the Borough.

We have also created new roles within the council including a Green Homes Lead, Net Zero Co-ordinator and a Sustainability Engagement Lead further demonstrating the Council’s commitment to the sustainability agenda.

There have also been significant challenges in delivering the NZAP in 2022/2023. These include changes in national policy, the national bounce back in greenhouse gas emissions post COVID, low uptake of renewable energy and the continued impact of cost-of-living and inflation – which has had a significant impact on construction projects such as retrofit.

There is a lot of activity underway in the 2023/2024 financial year including a ramping up of decarbonisation surveys for our Council buildings, accelerating our installation of EV charging stations and delivering net zero properties in Council-led developments such as Kingshurst Village Centre.

In 2024 we will start our refresh of the Net Zero Action Plan to ensure that the plan remains focused on the right priorities.

Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report: Progress in Numbers

This section sets out our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for the Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP). These KPI's were chosen to help us understand Solihull's emissions, data trends and to demonstrate the impact of our collective action on climate change. This is our second year of reporting; the 2021/2022 financial year provided us with a baseline for comparison with this and future years data.

Please Note:

CO₂e refers to carbon dioxide equivalent and measures carbon dioxide (CO₂) in addition to the other greenhouse gases including methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

We have used the most up to date data available. For borough wide emissions the latest data available is for 2021. The rest of the data is from the 2022/2023 financial year unless stated otherwise.

Information on data sources is included in Appendix 2.

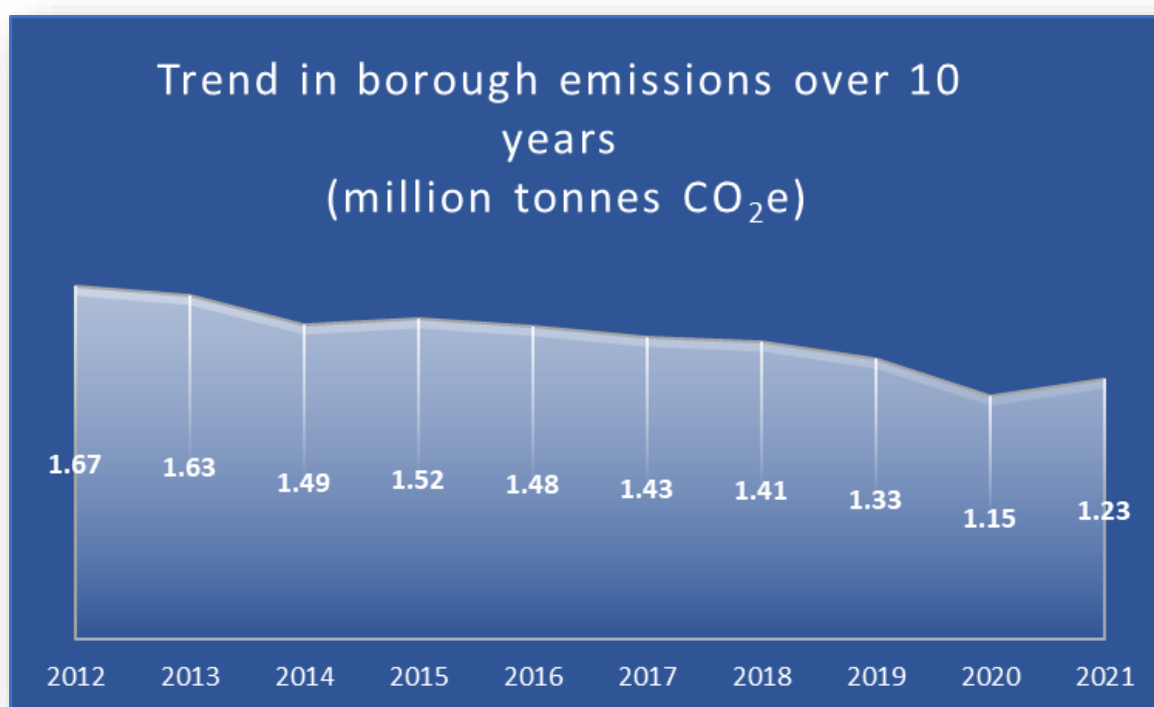


Figure 1: Borough emissions from 2012-2021.

The graph above shows the trends in borough-wide emissions over a 10-year period. Emissions have decreased year on year, with 2021 being the exception. The main reason for these decreases is the decarbonisation of grid electricity, which means the electricity that we all use causes lower emissions per kWh.

There was a steep decline in emissions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the lockdown changed the way we worked and lived, with significant reductions in travel and commercial emissions.

As we emerged from lockdown, 2021 saw a bounce back in emissions with an increase of 7%. Some COVID restrictions were still in place in 2021 so we may see a further bounce back in 2022 as restrictions were eased.

Although emissions are gradually decreasing over time, we will need to move faster to reach our goal of being a net zero borough by 2041. For Solihull to stay within our science-based carbon budget we require a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of around 13.6% year on year.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (CO₂e)

- Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2021): **1.226 million tonnes CO₂e**.¹ This is an increase from 2020 of 7% which reflects a post-covid bounce back in emissions.
- Total borough wide CO₂ emissions per year: **1.15 million tonnes CO₂**¹(MtCO₂) (2021)
- **5.7 tonnes CO₂e** per person in Solihull (2021)¹. This is a 6% increase per capita compared to 2020. This is lower than the national average of 6 tonnes CO₂e and equal to the West Midlands average of 5.7 tonnes CO₂e.¹
- 143 tonnes² of CO₂e per million pounds of gross value added (2018). This is a measure of the carbon intensity of Solihull's economy and compares favourably to 269 tonnes of CO₂e for each million-pound of gross value added across the West Midlands. No new data for 2022/2023.

Non-Domestic Buildings

¹ [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021)

²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedlocalauthoritiesbynuts1region/ukwestmidlands/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedbyindustrylocalauthoritiesukwestmidlands.xlsx>

- Proportion of non-domestic buildings in the borough reaching Display Energy Certificate rating of 'C' or equivalent: **32.9%**³. Similar to the national average of 33.3%. An increase of 2% across the borough since 2021/2022.
- **143 (kWh/m2)** Energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings, this is an increase of 0.09% from 2021/2022 but a decrease of 15% since 2019/2020.
- **126 (kWh/ m2)** Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council-maintained schools (excluding academies). This is a decrease of 14% from 2021/2022 and an overall decrease of 9% since 2019/2020.
- **52** schools engaged in sustainability. This is compared to 39 in 2021/2022, which is an increase of 33%.

Domestic Buildings

- **33%** of Domestic Buildings in the borough had an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C and above. This is a 3% increase in EPC's rating C or above since 2021/2022.
- Total number of EPC's logged across the borough in the 22/23 financial year was **4586**. **48.6%** of which were rated EPC C and above.
- **73%** of Solihull Community Housing properties at EPC C or above.
- **943** households submitted an Expression of Interest to Act on Energy for energy efficiency funding.

Transport

- **6.4%** of vehicles licenced in Solihull were Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles as a percentage of the total.⁴ This compares to 5% last year.
- **67.4** Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points per 100,000 people in Solihull. This compares to 56.6 per 100,000 last year, 65.7 per 100,000 nationally and 59.0 per 100,000 in the West Midlands.
- Number of Council installed EV charge points is **62** - an increase of 6 this year.

Waste

³ <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/>

⁴

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896238/veh0132.ods

- **35.2%** household waste was recycled in 2022/2023. This is below the English average of 42.5% and the West Midlands average of 38.1%.

Natural Environment

- **16.3%** canopy cover across Solihull, this compares with about 16% nationally.⁵
- **75,000** trees planted in the first three years of the Planting our Future programme. Which means we are on track for our commitment of 250,000 over ten years.
- **1,302** individuals engaged through local environmental initiative Love Solihull.
- **62/130** local wildlife sites in positive management compared to 55 last year. These sites are being managed to conserve and increase their nature conservation interest and value (Natural Capital).

Energy Supply

- **10.6** Mega Watts⁶ (MW) of installed renewable energy capacity (2022); 98% photovoltaics and 2% sewage gas. This is an increase of over 11% since 2021/2022.
- **8442** Mega Watt hours⁸ (MWh) Total renewable generation in MWh in 2022. That is enough to power around 3100 homes (around 3% of the homes in Solihull).⁷

Council Strategy and Engagement

- **74** Members of Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group compared to 77 in 2021/2022.
- **£568,288** of Social Value generated on Council's procurement contracts - an increase of around £1000 since 2021/2022.
- Council's operational emissions - **4470** tonnes CO₂(net emissions). This is a reduction of 20% from 2021/2022 and a total reduction of 60% since 2017/2018.

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>

⁷ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/average-gas-and-electricity-usage>

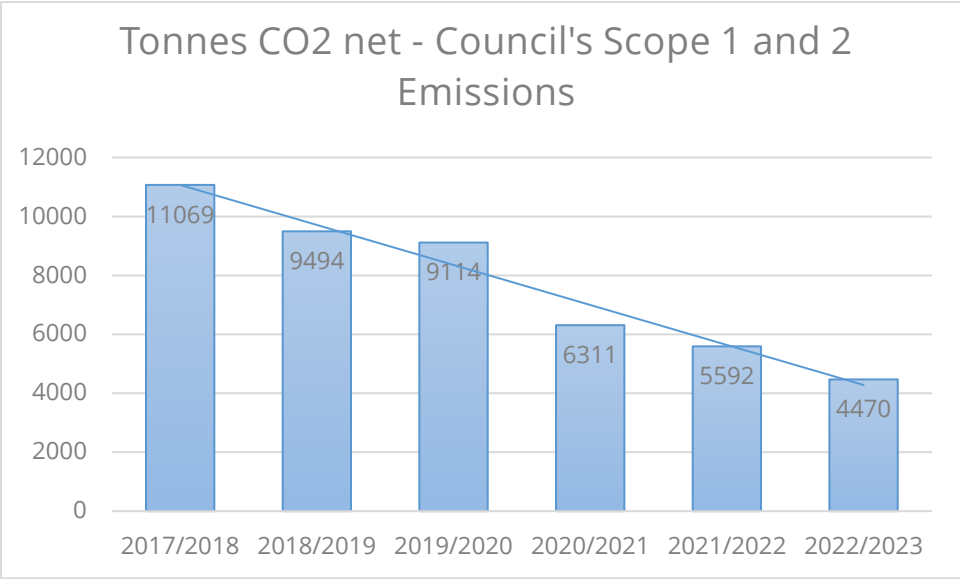


Figure 2: Council's own Scope 1 & 2 emissions 2017-2023

Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report 2021/22

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

In November 2021 Solihull Council adopted our Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), which sets out the actions we can take to reach our ambition to be a net zero borough by 2041. This is the second annual report detailing our progress against the plan.

This report provides a narrative on Solihull's progress in delivering the NZAP, it highlights what the data is telling us from our KPI's and how we are performing against the actions in the plan. It also identifies some of our key challenges and our focus areas for the coming months.



1.2 How this report is structured

Section 1:	Introduction and Overview
Section 2:	Greenhouse Gas Emissions, focus on the key emissions data
Sections 3 to 9:	Profiles of progress by emissions sources including data and action highlights
Section 10:	Communication and Engagement
Section 11:	Challenges: looks at the challenges in delivery of the NZAP
Section 12:	Priorities for 2023-2024
Section 13:	Conclusions

1.3 How are we doing against our plan?

We have made good progress against our plan and we have started progressing $\frac{3}{4}$ of all actions. This year we edited some actions after discussions with officers. We have also removed actions that were completed or were done by the council as business as usual. We have added some new actions this year to keep the action plan relevant. The total number of actions is now 201 actions.

- 6 are complete.
- 38 have seen significant progress.
- 101 have scoping in progress.
- 56 are not yet started.

1.4 Data guide

Unless stated, the data is from 2022/2023 financial year.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for Solihull's journey to net zero have been chosen because they:

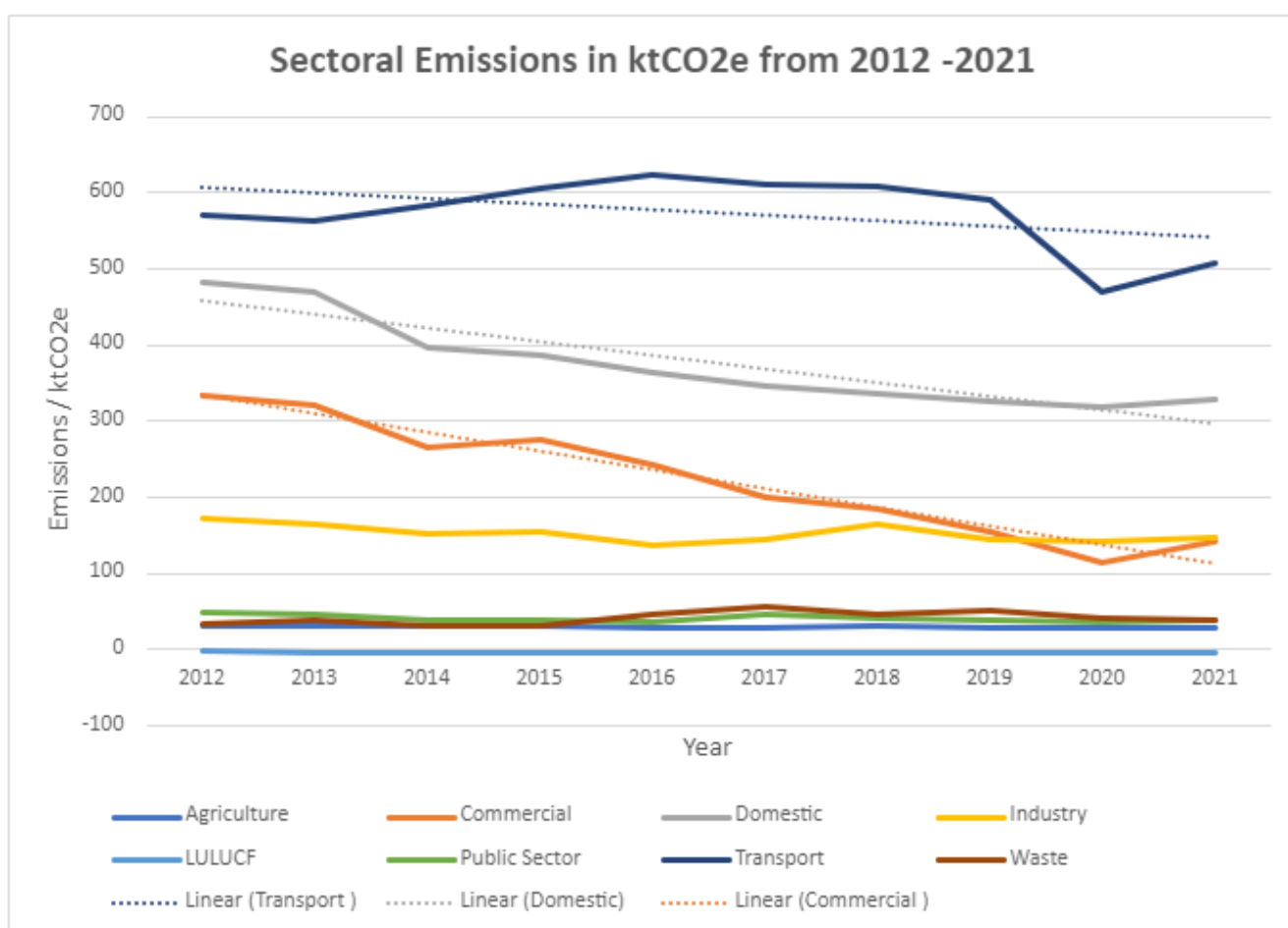
- Demonstrate performance over time.
- Are justifiable - they demonstrate performance that links to decarbonisation.
- Are based on available data.
- Include a combination of leading and lagging indicators. Leading indicators look at proactive action taken by the Council or other organisations. Lagging indicators look at past data to demonstrate performance.



Section 2: Solihull's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

2.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Total borough wide GHG emissions per year: 1.226 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent (MtCO_{2e})⁸ (2021)
- Total borough wide CO₂ emissions per year: 1.15 million tonnes CO₂ (MtCO₂) (2021)⁸
- Greenhouse gas emissions per capita: 5.7 tCO_{2e} per person (2021)
- Carbon intensity per unit of Gross Value Added: 143 tonnes⁹ of CO_{2e} per £GVA (2018)
- Sectoral breakdown of GHG emissions (tCO_{2e})¹⁰ (2021) (Table 1 below)



⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

⁹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedlocalauthoritiesbynuts1region/ukgwestmidlands/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedbyindustrylocalauthoritiesukgwestmidlands.xlsx>

Figure 3: Emissions by sector 2012-2021. *LULUCF stands for Land use, land use change and forestry.

The sectors with the highest emissions are transport, domestic, commercial and industry. This is evidenced by the pie chart below which shows the percentage contribution to borough emissions by each sector in 2021. The transport sector is responsible for 41%, domestic for 27% and industry and commercial for 12% respectively.

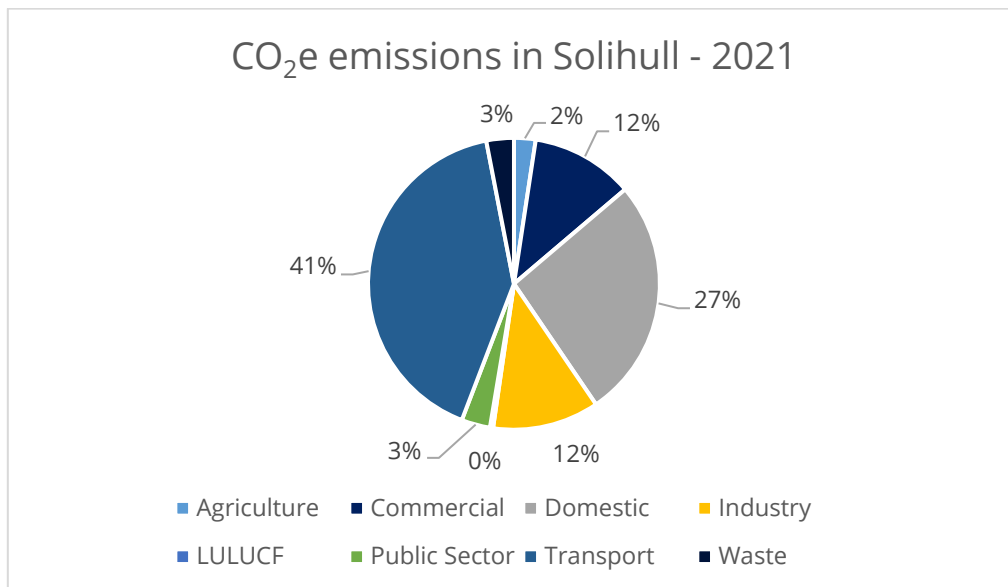


Figure 4: Percentage contribution to borough emissions by sector 2021.

*LULUCF stands for Land use, land use change and forestry.

Emissions are decreasing in all sectors, which is primarily due to the decarbonisation of electricity supply. However, emission levels are higher than the Tyndall Centre pathway (as discussed in section 2.2) which means we are not on target for reaching our net zero target by 2041. As the transport and domestic sectors are the largest contributors to emissions, actions to reduce emissions in these sectors should be the highest priority moving forward.

2.2 How we are performing against the Paris Agreement

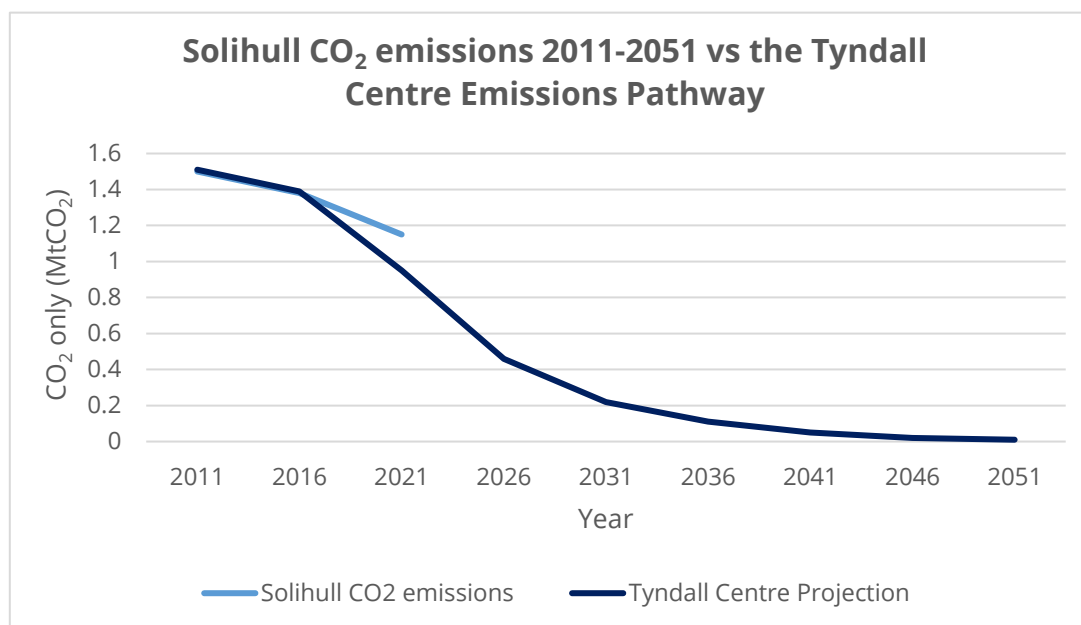
The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research have produced carbon budgets for each local authority based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement. Based on the work of the Tyndall Centre, for Solihull to

make a 'fair contribution' towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement the following recommendations need to be met.¹⁰

1. Solihull must stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of **8 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100.**

Year	Solihull CO ₂ Emissions (MtCO ₂)	Amount remaining in Carbon budget (MtCO ₂)
2020	1.06	6.94
2021	1.15	5.79

2. At 2021 CO₂ emission levels, Solihull would use the entire carbon budget within 5 years from 2021.
3. Solihull should aim to reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041.



*Aviation and shipping emissions remain within the UK national carbon budget and are not split per local authority area.

¹⁰ [Local and Regional Implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change \(manchester.ac.uk\)](http://manchester.ac.uk)

*Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and non-CO₂ emissions are considered separately to the CO₂ budget.

The above graph demonstrates how Solihull performed against the indicative Tyndall Centre pathway from 2011-2021. The line stops at 2021 as this is the latest emissions data available. In 2021 CO₂ levels in Solihull were 1.15 (MtCO₂) which is 21% higher than the Tyndall projection of 0.95 (MtCO₂).

Therefore, Solihull is not currently in track with the Tyndall Centre carbon indicative pathway, which suggests the Borough will need to accelerate carbon reduction to meet our target to be a net zero borough by 2041.

2.3 Why is this data important?

Tracking Solihull's greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint is fundamental to achieving decarbonisation in the borough. We track reductions across sectors to help us understand trends in these sectors and where we need to focus our action. Understanding the carbon intensity of the borough (using per capita or GVA) allows us to compare our performance with other areas.

2.4 What does the data tell us?



In 2021, borough wide greenhouse gas emissions were at 1.226 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e), this is a 7% increase on the previous year.

We were anticipating a bounce back in emissions from 2020, as emissions in 2020 were heavily impacted by behaviour change associated with the COVID pandemic. Emissions in 2021 were still subject to restrictions so we are yet to see the long-term impacts of the COVID pandemic and living in the 'new normal'.

Sectoral Breakdown of Emissions (ktCO ₂ e)	2020	2021
Agriculture	27.691	29.566
Commercial	114.511	140.769
Domestic	319.57	329.599
Industry	141.38	145.765
LULUCF	-4.224	-4.258
Public Sector	36.523	39.247
Transport	470.36	507.78
Waste	39.87	37.714

The largest bounce backs occurred in the transport sector (which increased by 37.4k tonnes), commercial sector (which increased by 26.3k tonnes) and domestic emissions also rose (by 10k tonnes). We were anticipating the increase in both transport and commercial sectors in 2021 as people started to return to work in commercial buildings and travel more after COVID restrictions were lifted. Comparing 2021's data to pre-COVID levels (2019) we see a 14% reduction in transport

emissions, an 8% reduction in commercial emissions and an 11% reduction in domestic emissions.

Table 1: Sector emissions in (ktCO₂e) 2021 vs 2020.

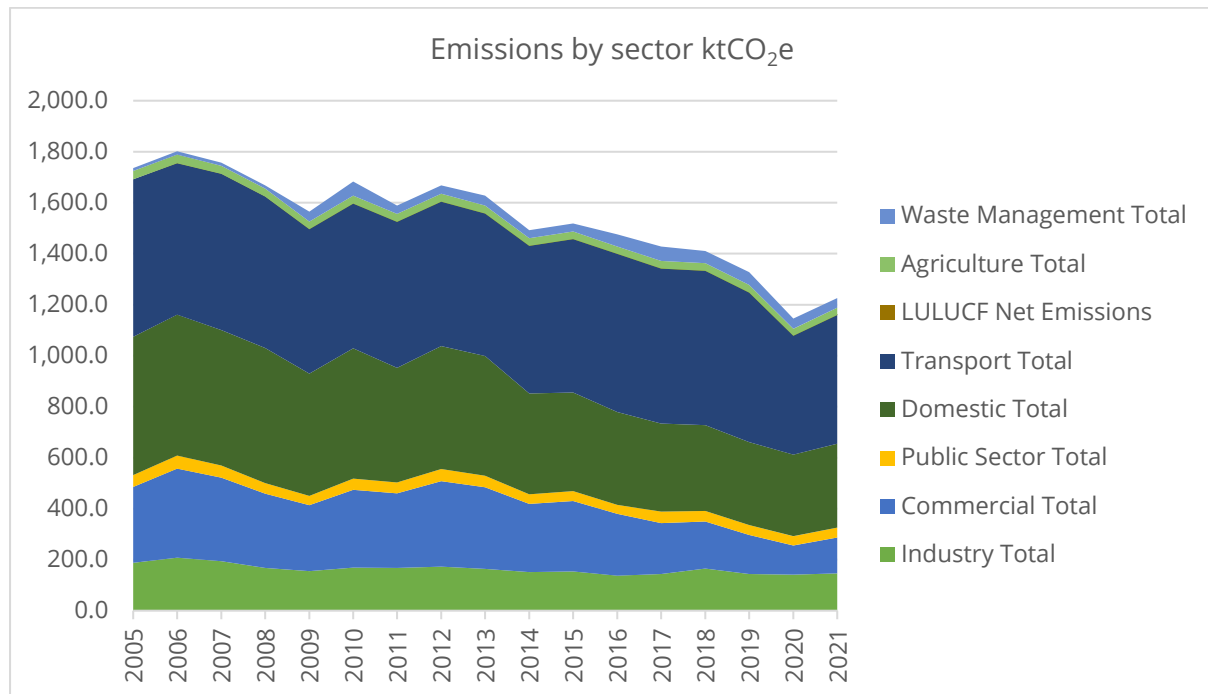


Figure 5: Trend in emissions by sector 2005-2021

Solihull's per capita emissions increased by 6% from 2020 to 2021 to 5.7 tonnes CO₂e. This is higher than the national average of 5.5 tonnes CO₂e and equal to the West Midlands average of 5.7 tonnes CO₂e.¹

We have not been able to update the CO₂ per pound of gross value added (GVA) as no further data was released this year.

The sections that follow focus on the specific emissions source types, look at what the data is telling us and provide an update of actions.

Section 3: Non-Domestic Buildings

3.1 Overview

- Proportion of non-domestic buildings in the borough reaching Display Energy Certificate rating of 'C' or equivalent: 32.9%¹¹. Similar to the national average of 33.3%.
- Energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings: 143 kWh/m²
- Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council-maintained schools (excluding academies): 126 kWh/ m²
- 52 schools engaged on sustainability.

3.2 Why is this data important?

Display Energy Certificate data shows the levels of energy efficiency of non-domestic buildings using a regularly updated national data source, so it is comparable with other areas. Council buildings and schools' data will help us track results from Council initiatives on energy efficiency. The number of schools engaged on sustainability demonstrates the Council's role in engaging with schools as a key stakeholder in climate action.

3.3 What does the data tell us?



The proportion of Solihull's non-domestic buildings with a DEC rating between A-C is 32.9%. This is similar to the national average of 33.3%. DEC A-C ratings have increased by 2% across the borough since 2021/2022.

In 2022/2023 there was 143 (kWh/m²) energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings, this is an increase of 0.09% from 2021/2022 but a decrease of 15% since 2019/2020. Whilst there was a small increase in energy intensity in the corporate buildings since the previous year there is still good progress with an overall reduction of 15% in 3 years.

126 (kWh/ m²) Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council-maintained schools (excluding academies) this is a decrease of 14% from 2021/2022 financial year and an overall decrease of 9% since 2019/2020. The reduction in energy used in schools can be attributed to energy saved and the removal of some schools from the data, as they became academies.

¹¹ <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/>

52 schools engaged with Council officers on sustainability this is an increase of 3 since the previous year and demonstrates the continued success of the Council's sustainable schools offering.

3.4 Highlights from 2022/2023

There are two aspects to the non-domestic actions in the NZAP, these are:

- Engagement and Influence - working with businesses and organisations within the borough, and;
- Acting to reduce the Council's carbon footprint in our buildings and activities.

The first point is largely picked up in [Section 9: Council Strategy and Engagement](#).

3.4.1 Planning

The draft Local Plan has not yet been adopted; however the submitted plan supports our decarbonisation objectives by introducing a requirement for all non-domestic buildings to be BREEAM "very good" (for minor developments) or "excellent" (for major developments). This will be supported by a new Supplementary Planning Document which is currently being drafted.

3.4.2 Council Buildings



A 'Corporate Assets – Approach to Net Zero' strategy has been developed which includes the goal of having a heat decarbonisation plan for each Council building.

In 2022/2023 the Council applied for funds from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) to deliver heat decarbonisation plans for all corporate buildings and maintained schools.

Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful. Decarbonisation plans for the whole of the Council's corporate estate and maintained schools are required to enable a well thought out and planned approach to decarbonisation. Considering the above the Council committed to the funding of a small number of decarbonisation plans for some key buildings in the 2023/2024 financial year.

3.4.3 Schools

Some of the key actions carried out in the 2022/2023 financial year were:

Model COP Climate Conference:

At the annual Climate Conference in November 2022, students from 10 secondary schools participated in a model COP27 summit in the Council Chamber. In partnership with InterClimate Network, the conference allowed students to discuss the impact of climate change and assess international progress. Students also took part in a Q&A with the Leader of Solihull Council asking questions on a range of environmental issues.



Figure 6: Grace Academy students representing the European Union at the Solihull Schools Climate Conference, in the council chamber.

Sustainable Schools Conference:

The Sustainable Schools Conference took place online in November 2022. The sessions were targeted for school stakeholders and covered a variety of topics including communicating climate action, the new DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, practical advice on reducing energy usage including Heat Decarbonisation Plans, wider Council sustainability projects and Climate awareness training.

Greener Solihull Schools Awards:

In 2022, Greener Solihull Schools Awards were achieved by 13 schools. The awarded schools showed exceptional commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation. The following businesses championed the award and rewarded schools for their effort: Solihull Chamber of Commerce, Touchwood, John Lewis, Birmingham Business Park, Prologis and Fieldfisher.

Winter Nature Workshops:

During the winter months outdoor learning coordinators from the Canal and River Trust visited 4 Solihull schools to deliver hands-on nature conservation activities, including creating bug hotels to attract wildlife. The workshops were part of the Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing project, delivered in partnership with the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) and funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.



Figure 7: Wooden plaques created by Newland Bishop Farm woodwork group

Zero Carbon Schools Programme:

Students at Monkspath Junior and Infant School took part in the Zero Carbon Schools Programme, organised by the Green Schools Project. The programme helps pupils learn about the causes of climate change, the effect it's having on the natural world and what action can be taken to mitigate its impacts. Monkspath pupils measured the carbon footprint of the school and came up with several eco initiatives within their school to reduce their footprint. This included a focus on food waste, where the students sold their vegetable plants grown from seeds and their vegetarian recipe book at the school summer fair. Some of their plants were also featured at BBC Gardeners World Live at the NEC as part of the 'Pollinators Palace Wheelbarrow Garden'.



Figure 8: A Monkspath pupil tending to the vegetable plants they have planted from seeds.

Your Future Solihull Primary event:

The first Your Future Solihull Primary School event took place in June 2023 to celebrate the sustainable practices going on in primary schools. Pupils were commended for their dedication to tackling climate change and helping their school become more sustainable.

The event included a sustainable themed performance from an award-winning local theatre group. The pupils were challenged to write poems on what they were doing at school to take care of the environment. With the Mayor of Solihull, the Leader of the Council and the cabinet member in attendance, the children then received Your Future Solihull certificates to mark their achievements.

For information on sustainable travel for schools and young people see [Section 5](#).

Section 4: Domestic Buildings

4.1 Overview

- 33% of domestic buildings across the borough reached EPC level C and above.
- Total number of EPC's logged across the borough in the 22/23 financial year was 4586, 48.6% of which reached EPC C and above.
- 73% of Solihull Community Housing properties achieved EPC level C or above.
- 943 households submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to Act on Energy in 2022/2023.

4.2 Why is this data important?

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data demonstrates the levels of energy efficiency of domestic buildings using a regularly updated national data source. The overall number of EPC's logged can act as an indicator of homes undergoing energy efficiency improvements and overall improved understanding of energy efficiency. EPCs are generated for all new build properties and properties that are put on the market. Solihull Community Housing (SCH) EPC data is an indication of energy efficiency in the social housing stock across the borough.

The number of expressions of interest to Act on Energy is an indication of engagement with households on opportunities for energy efficiency and reducing energy demand in homes. It provides an indication of households that may be seeking to reduce their energy consumption and improve efficiency.

4.3 What does the data tell us?

It is vital that we improve the energy efficiency of Solihull's homes. The percentage of homes with an EPC rating of C or above (33%) is higher than last year's figure of 32% and higher than the regional average of 31%. Therefore, there has been a small improvement in energy efficiency of the borough's housing stock in the last year.

Solihull Community Housing (SCH) is performing well, with 73% of homes rated at EPC C or above. SCH have identified 35 properties that are EPC E, F or G rated and are aiming to get these properties up to EPC D by 2024, using heating improvements. By 2030 SCH are aiming for all properties to be EPC C or above.

The Council provides energy efficiency advice and access to retrofit programmes, via the Charity “Act on Energy”. The number of expressions of interest submitted to Act on Energy reflects the number of households interested in improving the energy efficiency of their home with Council support. During the 21/22 financial year there were 181 EOI’s submitted. This figure has increased dramatically with 943 EOI’s submitted in the 22/23 financial year. This sharp increase is likely due to the energy crisis and increase in fuel costs that the UK has been experiencing.

In 2022, 13.4% of households in England (3.26 million households) were classed as fuel poor, an increase of 0.3% (95,000 households) from 2021. At the time of writing the latest fuel poverty data at a borough level was unavailable, however we anticipate an increase in fuel poverty in the borough similar to England as a whole. Ultimately, prioritising energy efficiency action and advice is critical to reducing emissions whilst ensuring a just transition to net zero.

4.4 Highlights from 2022/2023

4.4.1 Existing Homes - Retrofit

Retrofitting is the process of making existing buildings more energy efficient. This might range from small activities such as fitting energy-efficient light bulbs to installing cavity wall insulation or heat pumps. Retrofitting our domestic housing stock is key to reducing emissions as the domestic sector was responsible for 26.9% of borough emissions in 2021.

This year Solihull Council completed its first place-based approach to retrofit on Alston Road, where 54 homes received energy efficiency improvements. The houses were of mixed tenure with 43 SCH properties and 11 privately owned. The scheme was funded by Sustainable Warmth Competition (SWC) funding and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.



The scheme was a success, however there were challenges due to inflation and large increases in the cost of retrofitting measures. In addition, council officers also found securing the involvement of residents another challenge.

This year, the Citizens Advice Bureau carried out a study looking at homeowners’ attitudes to retrofit measures. Barriers to uptake include low interest in retrofit measures, a lack of personalised advice and being unsure if a measure is suitable for their home. Financial concerns and unwillingness to borrow money to pay for

the measures are also key barriers.¹² Moving forward, engagement and behaviour change are key to addressing these barriers. In the upcoming year the Council is seeking to use public engagement methods to increase awareness of retrofit measures and the financial benefits of having an energy efficient home.

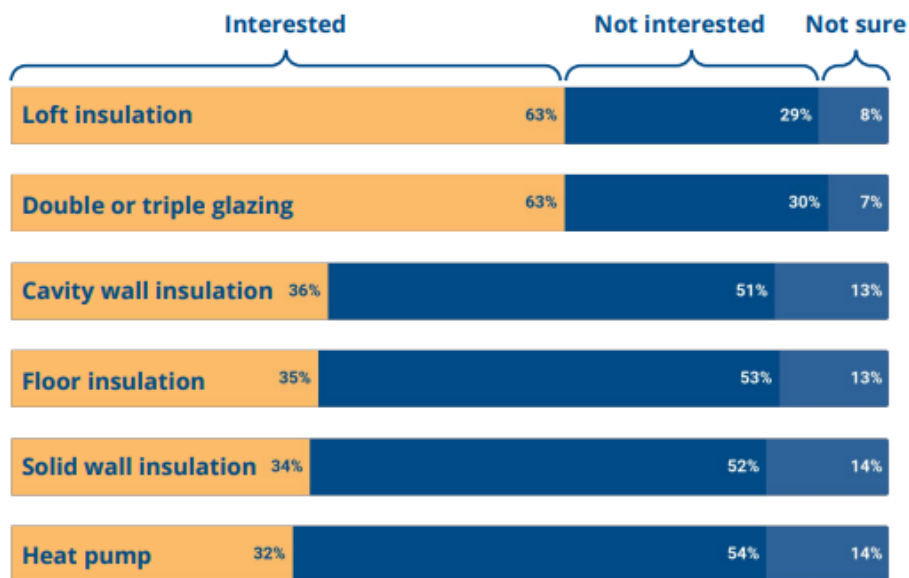


Figure 10: Diagram demonstrating homeowner interest in retrofit measures.

4.4.2 New Homes

Solihull’s Draft Local Plan supports the Council’s path to net zero and sets out requirements for new homes. It states that all new developments must apply the ‘energy hierarchy’ to reduce energy demand for heating, lighting, and cooling and minimise carbon dioxide emissions. Policy P9 sets out that all new dwellings will be net zero from 2025.

4.4.3 The Big Energy Switch

In the 22/23 financial year, 3000 Solihull residents saved money on their energy bills by taking part in collective energy switching. Collective energy switching allowed the residents to experience the bargaining power of a large group, which helped them achieve an average reduction of £50 on their energy bills. The new tariffs are for 100% renewable energy therefore switching provides environmental benefits as well as financial ones.

For more information see: [Collective Energy Switch | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council \(bigcommunityswitch.co.uk\)](https://www.bigcommunityswitch.co.uk)

¹² [Demand_Net Zero CAB.pdf](#)

Section 5: Transport

5.1 Overview

- Number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles as a proportion of all vehicles: 6.4%¹³
- Number of EV Charging points per 100,000 population: 67.4 per 100,000¹⁴
- Number of Council installed EV charging points: 62

5.2 Why is this data important?

The data on EV licencing demonstrates the shift to low emissions vehicles in the borough with a regularly updated national data set. The number of EV charge points demonstrates improved infrastructure to support increased EV uptake and reduce barriers. EV charge points installed by the Council is a leading indicator as it demonstrates Council action that enables and supports EV use.

5.3 What does the data tell us?

The transport sector was responsible for 41.4% of borough wide emissions in 2021.¹⁵ In 2021 there was an increase in transport emissions of approximately 38,000 tonnes as lockdown restrictions eased. When the 2022 data is published, we may see another increase in emissions to reflect further increased travel.

6.4% of vehicles licenced in Solihull were Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) compared to 5% last year.¹³ This demonstrates that there has been a steady increase in the number of ULEV vehicles in the borough.

Solihull has 67.4 EV Charging Points per 100,000 population compared to the national average of 65.7 and the West Midlands average of 59.¹⁴ The figure has also increased compared to last year's figure for Solihull of 56.56. Solihull is performing well in terms of EV infrastructure, and this is set to continue as the UK's largest EV-charging hub has just opened in Solihull in Sept 2023. The NEC's new 'Gigahub' includes more than 30 DC charging points that can fully charge a car in under 30 minutes, alongside a further 150 AC charging stations.¹⁶

¹³ [veh0132.ods \(live.com\)](https://veh0132.ods.live.com)

¹⁴ [electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-july-2023.ods \(live.com\)](https://electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-july-2023.ods.live.com)

¹⁵ [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2021)

¹⁶ [Solihull leading the charge on electric vehicles infrastructure | solihull.gov.uk](https://solihull.gov.uk/news/solihull-leading-the-charge-on-electric-vehicles-infrastructure)

The Council has installed 6 EV Charging Points in the last year taking the figure up to 62 from 56. This is a small increase however we expect to see large increases in EV charging in the next year as the Council has secured Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. LEVI funding is discussed further in section [5.4.1](#).

5.4 Highlights from 2022/2023

5.4.1 EV Infrastructure

Since 2021, Council owned public EV chargers have provided drivers with over 200,000 kWh of electricity across approximately 10,000 charging sessions. This is enough to power 600,000 electric miles, supporting the borough's net zero commitments and helping improve local air quality.

This year the government expanded the LEVI pilot project to more Councils and the West Midlands Combined Authorities (WMCA's) proposal was successful. Private investment, in addition to £800,000 worth of funding from the LEVI Pilot Project, will enable the Council to install over 200 new EV charging spaces in Council car parks and local centres, to facilitate destination charging. Once the contract has been awarded, the project will deliver the chargers before 2026. In addition to destination charging the Council also seeks to install public chargers in residential areas. These chargers will support residents who do not have access to off-street parking.

5.4.2 Dickens Heath Work Hub

The Council worked alongside Third Space Solutions to deliver a 6-month trial of a work hub based in Dickens Heath. The first floor of Dickens Heath Library was converted into a professional and flexible community workplace with all the required facilities for video conferencing.



Figure 11: Dickens Heath Work Hub including enclosed soundproof area for video conferencing and private calls.

The location for the Council's first work hub trial was chosen using data mapping of traffic patterns, as it identified Dickens Heath as one of the key sources for short

car trips made within the borough. Therefore, by moving people's work closer to them the work hub aimed to reduce commuter related car journeys and respond to the huge increase in hybrid working.

Overall, the work hub was well used by approximately 10-15 core users. However, the usage by residents was too low to maintain operations and the work hub was closed. The lessons learnt from this experimental trial will be applied to other relevant projects that may be implemented across the borough.

5.4.3 Cycling and Walking

In 2021, as part of the transport strategy Solihull Connected, a cycling and walking strategy was developed in addition to a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The strategy seeks to improve cycling and walking infrastructure and embed initiatives into local policy, thereby increasing the amount of active travel carried out by residents.

Within 2022/2023 the preliminary design of Dickens Heath and improved Knowle routes took place and option development for these LCWIP routes is on-going. Design development of the Castle Bromwich to UKC Hub LCWIP route has begun and feasibility work has also started on cycle links from:

- UKC Hub to Solihull (via Catherine de Barnes)
- UKC Hub to Balsall Common
- UKC Hub to Sheldon (along the A45, Birmingham City Council are carrying out feasibility works looking at the section of the A45 from Sheldon to central Birmingham).



5.4.4 Behavioural Change

The Council has been very successful in gaining funding from a variety of external sources to deliver sustainable travel programmes - with over £2.8 million going to promote sustainable travel in the borough between 2017/2018 and 2022/2023. In 2022/2023 some of the highlights included:

- **Cycle Training:** Children in 59 of the borough's schools participated in varying levels of Bikeability training in the 22/23 school year. Our successful cycle training programme attracted £217,000 from our funder, The Bikeability Trust. A programme of child holiday courses and adult training

included confidence training, health checks and accredited bike maintenance training.

- **Sustainable Travel Education:** including 'New Roads', which is a transition programme for children starting secondary school, scooter training for younger children and a programme of initiatives to encourage walking for example Walk to School week, Walking Buses and Park and Stride schemes.
- **Clean Air Campaign:** 'Engines Off – Young Lungs at Work' is an initiative that aims to educate parents on the potential pollution that leaving a car's engine idling whilst parked outside school causes. The scheme has now been extended to non-educational sites.
- **'Breathe Easy'** is a clean air awareness campaign that is delivered in primary schools and includes an informative whole school assembly and a Year 5 lesson to make children aware of the importance of clean air and the consequences of their actions.
- **School Streets:** prohibits cars from moving into, out of or around roads surrounding a school for 40 minutes in the morning and an hour at home time. There are currently nine school sites operating school streets and a further two sites to be introduced early in 2024.
- **Independent Travel Training (ITT):** The Independent Travel Training team enable SEN children and young adults to travel more sustainably via public transport and on foot across the borough.
- **Personalised Travel Plans:** Personalised Travel Planning has taken place at 2 developments within Solihull (Dickens Heath and Cheswick Green) where residents have been encouraged to try out active sustainable travel through incentives such as bus taster tickets, cycle training and Fitbit style watches as well as having bespoke sustainable journey plans created for their usual car commuting journeys.
- **S106 Travel Plans** – The Council has approved a Travel Planning SPD for new or extended developments will extend the requirement for a travel plan to include implementation funds.
- **DEFRA Air Quality Project** – following a ministerial directive the Council has begun the delivery of a project funded by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to address air quality around the A45 in North Solihull. The project is engaging large businesses and SMEs in the

area to provide support for commuters to travel more sustainably and reduce single occupancy car journeys. Commuters have been offered a range of incentives to travel more sustainably including free public transport, use of Council owned e-bikes, journey planning advice, cycle training and cycle maintenance sessions. Businesses have been offered financial support in the form of grants to install electric vehicle charging stations and to improve facilities for cyclists.

- **Capability Fund-** Following funding of £1,9m from the Department of Transport, the Council were able to deliver several projects, centred around behaviour change to schools, business and communities. This included E-bikes try outs, bike security marking and a mini bike health check. Additionally, the public could also sign up for cycle maintenance classes.

5.4.5 Green Apple Awards

The Council's Highway Infrastructure team and partners Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) were presented with the prestigious Green Champion Award for Carbon Reduction in recognition of their work on improving and creating walking and cycling routes throughout the borough. During the Council's £16.8 million Wildlife Ways project – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund – the team improved 69 km of existing paths and cycle routes and created 23 km of new footways.

Section 5: Waste

6.1 Overview

- 35.2% of household waste was recycled 2022/ 2023.

6.2 Why is this data important?

This is a key waste metric demonstrating overall recycling of household waste.

6.3 What does the data tell us?

35.2% of household waste was recycled in 2022/2023. This is below the English average of 42.5% and the West Midlands average of 38.1¹⁷%. It should be noted that this is before the transition to the new environmental services contract – we are anticipating a



¹⁷ [ENV18 - Local authority collected waste: annual results tables 2021/22 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables-2021-22)

recycling rate of 41.5% for 2023/2024, however this is still below our current strategy target of 50%.¹⁸

The carbon intensity of the Council's waste service has decreased, with a 66% reduction in 2022/2023 based on the previous year and a 75% reduction from the baseline year of 2011/2012, this is due to the change from diesel to HVO – see highlights section below.

6.4 Highlights of Actions 2022/2023



Figure 12:

In 2022/2023 the Council rolled out its new environmental services contract with Veolia and Idverde, which includes the Council's household waste and recycling collections, street cleansing, the operation of Bickenhill household waste recycling centre, grounds maintenance, and forestry services. The ten-year contract began in April 2022. The contract will see a much greater use of technology to help

support the Council's sustainability agenda including the aim to be a net zero Borough by 2041.

In the first year of the contract waste collection vehicles were switched from diesel fuel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). HVO is a carbon net zero fuel and is a key step in reducing the Council's net carbon emissions.

¹⁸ Current Waste Strategy covers the period 2010-2020 and set a household waste recycling target of 50% by 2020.

Section 6: Natural Environment

7.1 Overview

- Canopy cover across Solihull is 16.3%¹⁹
- Number of trees and hedgerows planted by Council schemes across Solihull: 75,000 over 3 years.
- Number of people and businesses engaged through local environmental initiatives e.g., Love Solihull: 1,302 residents interacted with Love Solihull.
- Number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in positive management: 62/130

7.2 Why is this data important?

Canopy Cover is important as it shows the overall tree canopy coverage, accounting for trees felled, not just those planted. The trees and hedgerows planted demonstrates progress from the Planting our Future project and Arden Free Tree Scheme.

Engagement with Love Solihull demonstrates public involvement on environmental issues (predominantly litter removal) and provides an estimate of the number of people reached by those initiatives.

Finally, the Number of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management demonstrates maintenance and improvements in biodiversity across the borough, supporting natural carbon storage such as carbon stocks in soils and vegetation. Assessing the extent of positive management can also help to identify sites where positive management is lacking and can help to focus future efforts in ensuring Local Sites are managed and their nature conservation value is maintained or enhanced.

7.3 What does the data tell us?

In 2023 there is 16.3% Canopy Cover across Solihull compared with 16% nationally. However, canopy cover in the borough has reduced from 17.1% in 2016. The Council are taking action to mitigate this by planting 75,000 trees in the last 3 years as part of the Planting Our Future programme, meeting the commitment of 250,000 over ten years.

47.7% of Solihull's local wildlife sites are in positive management which is an increase from 46% in the previous year.

63 Community volunteers spent a total of 85 hours planting trees and hedgerows to support POF. 70 Business volunteers spent a total of 260 hours planting trees and hedgerows.

¹⁹ [National Tree Map | Bluesky International Limited \(bluesky-world.com\)](https://www.bluesky-world.com/national-tree-map)

7.4 Highlights from 2022 / 2023

7.4.1 Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS)

The Council Created the Draft NCIS delivery plan in September 2023. Natural assets such as ecosystems, habitats, water, soil, trees, air, etc., have both intrinsic and economic value. The Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) seeks to quantify the value of natural capital in the borough and develop a framework to embed natural capital in all actions the Council takes. This action will help mitigate the effects of both the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis.

As a starting point the NCIS will aim to create a baseline of the borough's natural capital, this will then be used to look for opportunities to enhance, protect and increase it. In the coming year a delivery plan to accompany the NCIS will be developed and a working group to deliver these actions, will be established.



Figure 13: Example of the borough's natural capital from the draft NCIS strategy.

Increasing natural capital such as trees, hedgerows and wetlands helps to remove carbon from the atmosphere which is known as carbon sequestration. This is currently being achieved through programs such as the Arden Free Tree Scheme and Planting Our Future scheme. The NCIS seeks to increase the amount of carbon sequestration and further investigate carbon banking and carbon offsetting. The plan also aims to identify and create areas in the borough which can act as carbon sinks e.g., wetlands.

The full strategy can be found here: [Draft NCIS September 2023.docx](#)

7.4.2 Arden Free Tree Scheme (AFTS)

The Arden Free Tree Scheme (AFTS) is funded by an annual contribution from Birmingham Airport as part of its obligation to offset its carbon. Individuals or groups can apply to this scheme for funding to create hedgerows or small woodlands on their own land. The AFTS has supported 52 individual tree planting projects across Solihull and the wider Arden landscape with a total of 6,877 native trees and shrubs planted to create hedgerows and small woodlands.

For more information on the scheme and how to apply see: [Arden Free Tree Scheme | solihull.gov.uk](#)



Figure 14: Leader of the Council Cllr Ian Courts joins staff from Watertight and Birmingham Dogs Home.

7.4.3 Planting Our Future (POF)

The success of the Council's Planting Our Future (POF) scheme continued this year with a further 25,000 trees planted across the borough. With 75,000 trees planted in the last 3 years the scheme is on track to meet its target of 250,000 trees planted in 10 years. This year the scheme had support from a number of businesses and landowners across the borough, for example local company Watertight and Birmingham Dogs Home joined forces to plant 372 trees on Birmingham Dogs Home's land in

February 2023. Businesses and landowners with ½ an acre of land or more can help to support the scheme by offering their land. In return the Council will pay for the upfront cost and maintenance of the scheme.

For more information see: [Free Tree f \(lovesolihull.org\)](#)

To apply see: [Free Trees for Landowners \(office.com\)](#)

7.4.4 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) outputs

The Council's programme of environmental improvements and habitat restoration schemes, part funded by the ERDF came to an end in Spring 2023.

Between 22-23, 67 practical conservation volunteers delivered 2404 hours of volunteer time of which 882 hours were on sites to support European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects.

During 2022-23 the following projects were delivered:

- **Bees & Trees:** Urban tree planting including A34 Stratford Road, Shirley where large tree pits were constructed to ensure future healthy growth for the trees. Additional tree planting was delivered in Elmdon Park, Streetsbrook POS and other areas.
- **Frogs and Logs:** Pond & brook enhancement (Tudor Grange Park); Woodland infrastructure enhancements at Alcott Wood LNR and Chelmsley Wood LNR (Meriden Park); and Urban tree planting included tree planting in specially designed tree pits within hard surfaced areas in the Kingshurst area, along with locations in grass verges here and in Chelmsley Wood.
- **Newts and Shoots:** Pond creation and enhancement at Palmers Rough LNR, Bridge Meadow Drive POS, Elmdon Nature Park and Jobs Close LNR.
- **Hedges & Sedges:** (Hillfield Park): grassland enhancement, pond & brook enhancements, tree & hedgerow planting.

7.4.4 Green Apple Awards

The prestigious Green Apple Environment Awards recognise, reward, and promote environmental best practice around the world. The Planting Our Future team was given an International Green Apple Environment Award in recognition of its tree planting successes and community engagement, education and environmental awareness work.

Section 7: Energy Supply

8.1 Overview

- 10.6 Mega Watts total installed capacity of all renewable technology. (2022)
- Installed capacity of renewable energy by type is 98% photovoltaics and 2% sewage gas. (2022)
- 8442 total renewable generation in Mega Watt hours (MWh) (2022) 100% photovoltaic generation.²⁰

8.2 Why is this data important?

The data provides us with a picture of renewable energy both in terms of installed capacity and generation. We will be able to track this over time to understand if actions we are taking are encouraging the installation and operation of renewable energy within the borough. Installed capacity is the maximum theoretical generating output of the renewable energy installations within the borough. Whereas renewable generation shows the amount of energy produced by those installations over the year.

8.3 What does the data tell us?

The Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) highlights the importance of decarbonising the borough's heat and power supply. The Council has several ongoing projects to increase the amount of low carbon heat and renewable generation available in the borough. The aim of the projects and their progress over the last financial year is outlined in section 8.4 below.

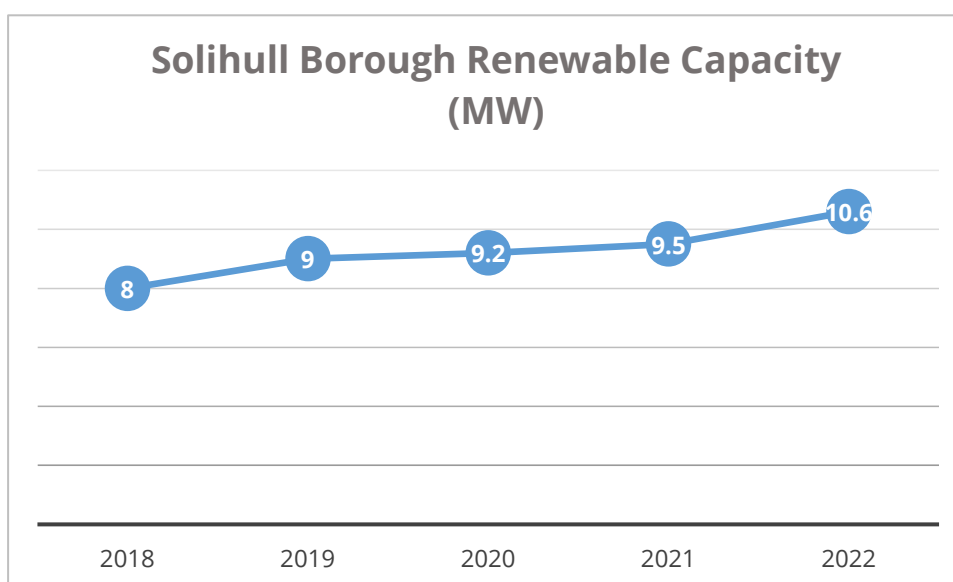


Figure 15: Renewable Capacity from 2018 - 2022.

²⁰ [Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 2022.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

Between 2021 and 2022 renewable capacity increased by 11.6% and the number of sites of solar PV increased by 220 over the year. This is encouraging and demonstrates that progress is being made to increase renewable generation in the borough. Within the borough there was 8448 MWh of renewable energy generated in 2022 which is enough to power around 3100 homes, which is equivalent to just 3% of the total homes in the borough.

We know that uptake for renewable energy in the borough is relatively low. In comparison to the other local authorities in the West Midlands, Solihull has the third lowest installed renewable energy capacity in 2022 and the lowest installed capacity by unit area at 59.19 kW/km². We know that more needs to be done in this area to encourage renewable uptake and the Council is working to address this using our Renewable Energy Feasibility Project (see 8.4.3).

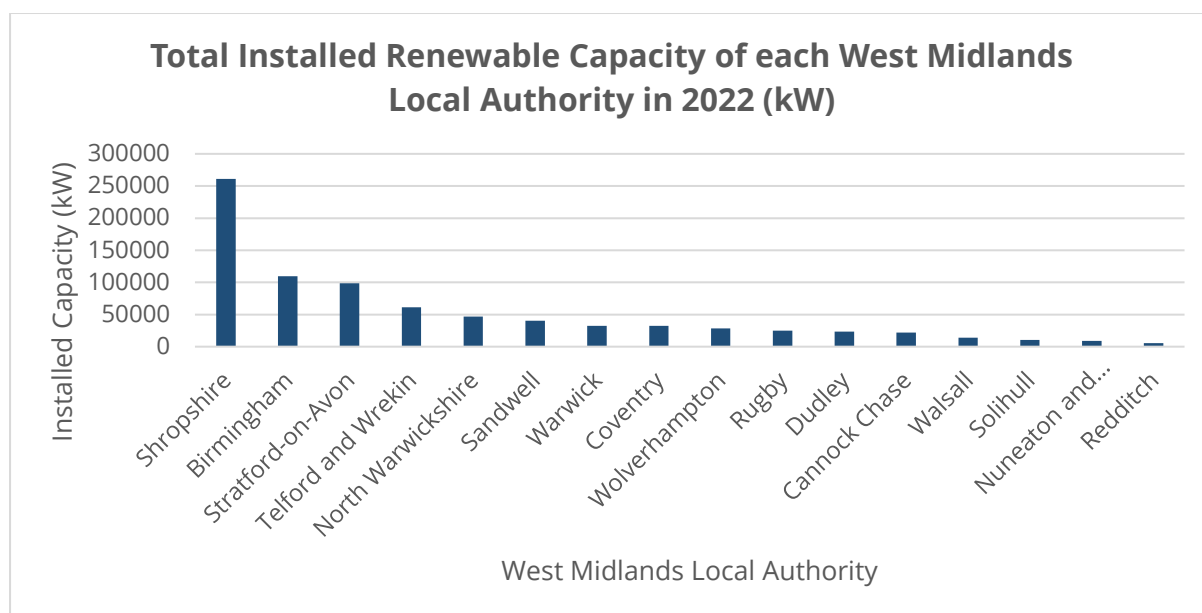


Figure 16: Total Installed Capacity (kW) of each local authority in the West Midlands.

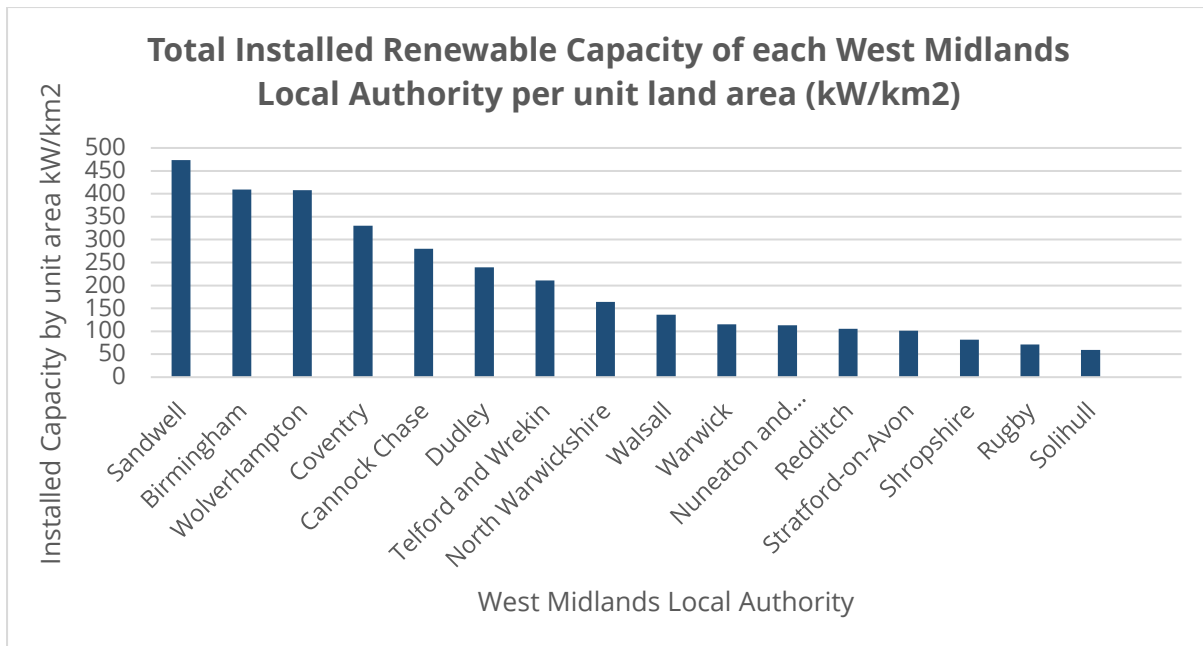


Figure 17: Total Installed Capacity per unit land area (kW/km²) of each local authority in the West Midlands.

8.4 Highlights from 2022 / 2023

8.4.1 Town Centre Energy Network

The planned Solihull Town Centre Energy Network will provide a low carbon heat and power network from a single energy centre based on land next to Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. The energy centre will provide a range of renewable and low carbon energy solutions including Air Source Heat Pumps and gas Combined Heat and Power. The energy network will be able to provide heat and power to public and private sector customers, including Council owned buildings, education campuses and commercial offices.

Despite the complex picture in the current construction and energy markets the full business case was successfully concluded in 2022/2023, strengthened by emerging National Policy and the Council's own net zero ambitions.

The project draws on funding from the Heat Networks Investment Programme (HNIP), previously secured funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Council's own investment.

8.4.2 UK Central (UKC) Hub Energy Network

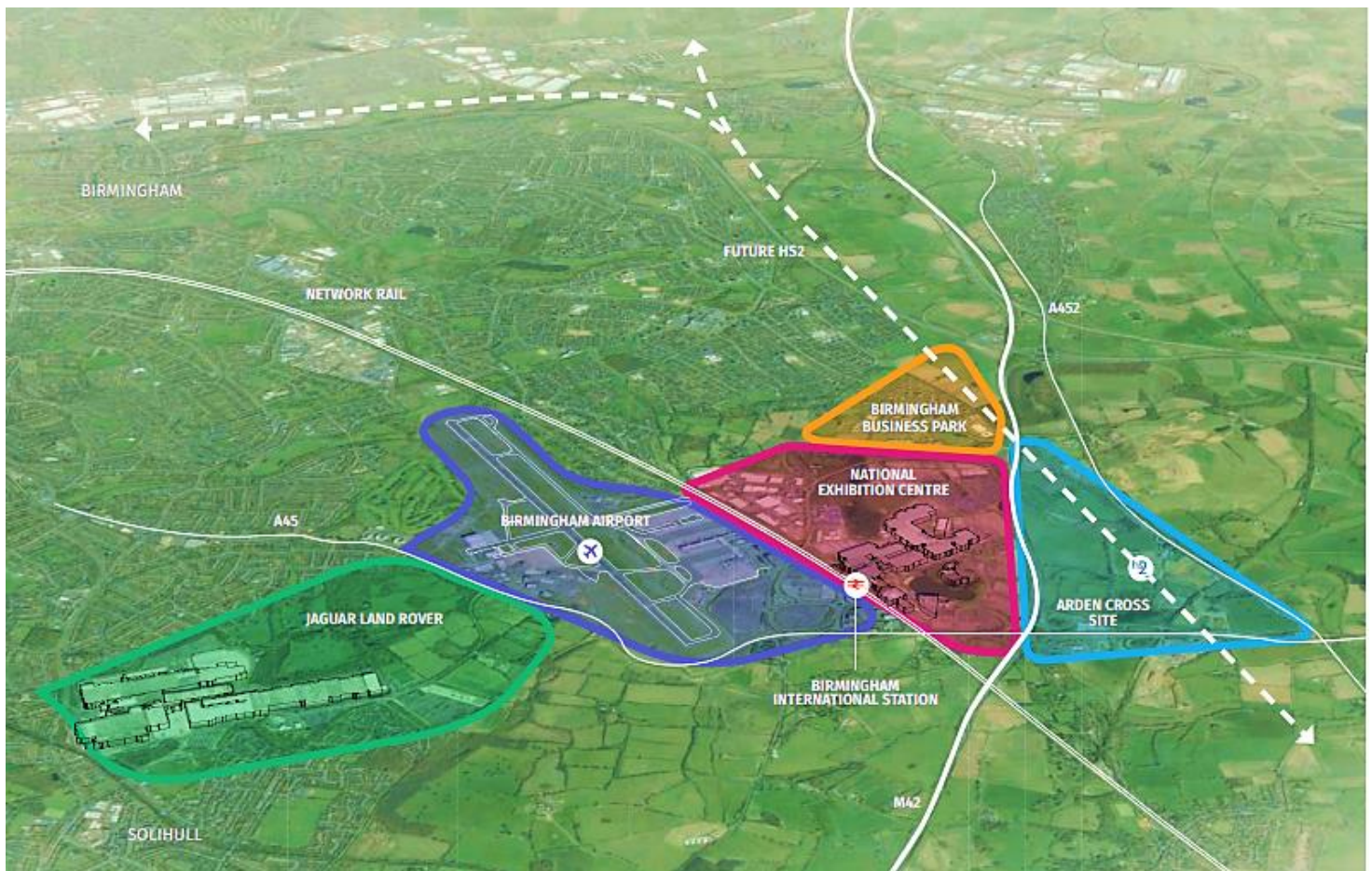


Figure 18: Map depicting the UKC Hub area and key stakeholders.

The objective behind the UKC Hub Energy network project is to investigate a heat and power network around the UK central area that will support decarbonisation, ensure security of supply and to ensure that grid capacity restrictions do not hinder economic growth. The project takes a whole system approach to energy and aims to unlock synergy between energy users in the area. Over the past year the project team carried out a soft market testing exercise with energy companies and investors and received a large amount of interest in the scheme and positive feedback. The project also received funding from the Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) for detailed project development (DPD phase) of the energy network.

8.4.3 Renewable Energy Feasibility Study - Phase 2

Phase 1 of the Council's renewable energy feasibility project assessed all renewable generation options and identified Solar Photovoltaic (PV) as the most viable option for the borough. Building on this, the second phase focussed on how to increase the uptake of solar on the Council's own estate and how the Council could act as an enabler to increase uptake across the wider borough. The study

identified commercial and financial models for both areas and produced many insightful recommendations. The recommendations from the study are being analysed before a targeted plan will be put in place to increase uptake in the wider borough.

Section 9: Council Strategy and Engagement

9.1 Overview

- 74 Members of Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG)
- £568,288 Social Value generated on Council's procurement contracts
- Council's operational emissions 4470 tonnes CO₂

9.2 Why is this data important?

SSVG membership demonstrates the Council supporting businesses on sustainability and net zero, allowing us to track numbers of businesses engaged over time. The Social Value data demonstrates additional environmental value brought to the borough through Social Value commitments of SMBC contractors.

Finally, the Council's own emissions data is vital in tracking our own performance towards our target of being net zero in our own operations by 2030.

9.3 What does the data tell us?

The SSVG has maintained good membership levels this year and has resumed meeting in person.

The committed Social Value of Council contracts since measurement started is £568,288 this is additional benefit to the Borough as a result of the Council's contracts.

We have made excellent progress in reducing the Council's operational emissions. In 2022/2023, the Council net emissions were 4470 tonnes CO₂, this is a reduction of 60.8% from 2017/2018.

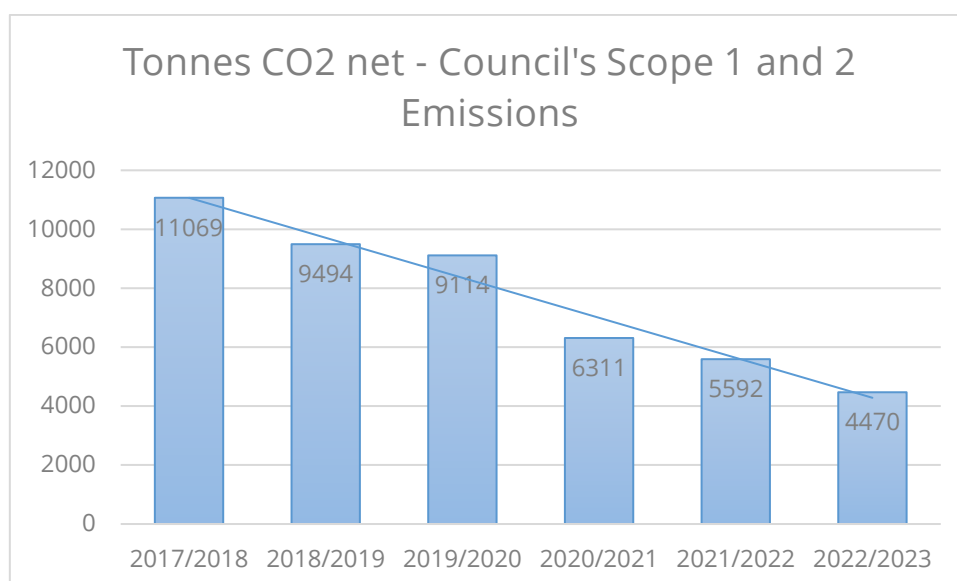


Figure 19: Graph showing Councils Scope 1&2 emissions from 2017-2023.

9.4 Highlights from 2022/ 2023

9.4.1 Business Support

Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG) has 74 active members from a wide range of organisations.

The SSVG is open to any business or organisation across the Borough and discussions cover a range of topics including:

- **Best practice and innovation from members**
- **Highlighting Council activity**
- **Sharing innovation**
- **Highlighting funding and support programmes**
- **Presentations from support organisations**

**Solihull
Sustainability
Visioning
Group**

The SSVG meetings cover a broad range of topics and allow members to learn from one another, two examples of the SSVG meetings are below to show the sort of subjects covered:

Autumn 2022 – ZF Site Visit

The Autumn 2022 session included a site visit to ZF Friedrichshafen AG, an automotive parts manufacturer based in Blythe Valley Business Park in Solihull. The session included a tour of their new 220,000 sq. ft state of the art technical centre with a focus on how the sustainable the building was including a tour of their plant room and solar installation. The meeting also included a presentation on sustainable IT, and a test ride of e-mopeds (Silence UK) and SMBC's E-cargo bikes.

Spring 2023 – Online Birmingham Airport Special

This session provided a deep dive into the airport's sustainability strategy and how it is tackling emissions head on. The session covered a range of topics including how to incorporate sustainability into your corporate strategy, reducing airside emissions, and improving biodiversity on site. The session was well attended by SSVG members with high level of engagement throughout.

If you are interested in joining SSVG please email: business@solihull.gov.uk

9.4.2 Council Emissions and Behaviour

The Council has continued to reduce our operational emissions, the current net reduction outstrips our existing carbon budget. However more effort needs to be made on our gross emissions.

Currently, public reporting of carbon includes the big four emitters; corporate properties, leisure services, street lighting and the Strategic Environment Contract (SEC - domestic waste collected, environmental maintenance and street cleansing). The Council also includes these SEC vehicles, Council owned vehicles and the School Transport Service in the annual carbon budget that is included within the Mid Term Financial Statement.

The biggest reduction this year is the transition of our waste collection vehicles from diesel fuel to HVO, which is a net zero fuel source.

The Council is developing a Climate Change Investment Plan, which will set out actions to reduce net zero emissions by 2030, including costing, prioritising and financing the necessary actions. The plan will be informed by Corporate Properties Decarbonisation Plans and working with partners and suppliers.

9.4.3 Plans and strategies

In 2022/2023 two key strategies were developed that contribute to future reductions of carbon emissions within the borough:

Economic Strategy and Action Plan

The Council developed and consulted on Solihull's Economic Strategy in 2022/2023. This key strategy looks to deliver further and better economic growth within Solihull, whilst ensuring:

- All communities within Solihull can participate and benefit.
- We achieve our net-zero aspirations for the borough.
- We create thriving places which become centres of our communities and support local people.

The inclusion of net-zero within the Borough's economic strategy is innovative and demonstrates the importance of decarbonisation to the economy in Solihull and beyond.

Please read the full strategy here: [Solihull Economic Strategy 2022-32](#)

Solihull Connected Transport Strategy

In March 2023 Solihull Council adopted the Solihull Connected Transport Strategy. This updated strategy repositions the Council's approach to transport over the next decade, setting out our vision for a multi-modal transport system that accesses all parts of the borough, supports the economy, is safe to use and makes the borough healthier and fairer for communities, businesses, and visitors.

Please read the full strategy here: [Solihull Connected Transport Strategy](#)

9.4.4 Improving Reporting and Benchmarking

The Council has actively participated in benchmarking activities, including Sustainability West Midlands' (SWM) regional benchmarking exercise. SWM carried out benchmarking across 21 Local Authorities in the West Midlands that participated. Solihull ranked 5th overall out of 21 authorities.

Climate Emergency UK are a not-for-profit organisation who assess all the UK's local councils and their climate change initiatives. The latest result was published in Oct 2023 and this round of scorecards focused on the actions councils have taken towards achieving net zero emissions so far. Although scores were down across the board, Solihull Council achieved a higher-than-average score compared to other UK local authorities. The Council has also been ranked as the second highest performing council when compared to the constituent authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority. Solihull Council scored particularly well in the categories of 'collaboration and engagement' and 'biodiversity'.

The Council submitted our first disclosure to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP): CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to manage their environmental impacts.

This year we also took part in the Global Destination Sustainability Management (GDSM) benchmarking and we have received further funding from the West Midlands Growth Company for another year. This is to help businesses within the visitor economy/hospitality and tourism sectors become more sustainable. This will make Solihull a green tourism destination and attract new visitors as well as support our supply chain.

The Council acknowledges the importance of these benchmarking and reporting exercises to identify gaps in our sustainability action and we will use the outputs of these to tailor our future action.

Section 8: Engagement and Behaviour Change

10.1 Overview

Engagement and Behaviour Change underpins all areas of the action plan and 78 out of the original 203 actions have a communications element to them. As a Council we have direct control on just a small percentage of the borough's emissions. Most emissions are borough-wide and stem from residents and businesses in the borough. Therefore, a lot of our work focuses on encouraging residents and businesses in the borough to reduce their emissions and act more sustainably.

10.1 Your Future Solihull

The 'Your Future Solihull' (YFS) website was launched in June 2022 as a one-stop shop for climate change and sustainability related activity in Solihull. The YFS branding has a strong behavioural change focus that seeks to help residents and businesses understand the environmental and financial benefits of a low carbon society.

Between June 2022 and April 2023, the YFS website had 9878 visits in total. 'Energy Efficiency Grants' and 'Retrofit' pages received most visits. This can be attributed to the energy crisis and residents seeking advice to increase the energy efficiency of their house to lower their energy bills. The 'low carbon future' and 'NZAP' pages performed well, reflecting that residents have an interest in the Council's response to climate change and reducing emissions in the borough. Moving forward there needs to be greater engagement with the 'How Can I Help' page for residents to take ownership of their emissions and experience a call to action to reduce their own impact on the environment.



10.2 Press Releases & social media

Since the NZAP was adopted, a wide range of climate change and sustainability focused press releases have been issued, focusing on topics such as electric vehicles, energy grants and engagement with schools.

A suite of professional graphics has also been developed to accompany the Your Future Solihull brand which are regularly used on social media. The assets are designed to cut through the noise and be as engaging as possible. Examples include an exemplar 3D retrofit house model, highlighting key measures residents can take to improve the energy efficiency in their homes, such as external wall insulation.



A selection of high-profile press releases in the 2022-23 financial year include:

- [Over 50 properties in Solihull set to benefit from energy saving insulation](#)
- [Zeroing in – Solihull’s Annual Report tracks net zero progress](#)
- [Solihull Council’s natural environmental work rated best in the West Midlands](#)

- [COP27 podcast special with the Leader of Solihull Council](#)
- [‘Your Future Solihull’ campaign launches](#)

10.3 Consultation and Engagement

The Council has continued to engage with residents on a variety of proposals and policies which have a strong sustainability focus. In 2022-23 the following consultation’s took place:

Solihull Travel Survey – The Council is investigating the opportunity for non-car-based travel options around the Solihull area and is interested in understanding car use habits and views on non-car-based travel options from people who live in or regularly travel through the Solihull area. So far, over 250 responses have been received.

EV Car Clubs Survey – The Council is engaging with residents to help them support a move to electric vehicles, gaining valuable information about EV car club demand. Over 55 responses have been received to date.

E-Moped Trial - Solihull Council partnered with Silence Urban Technology to provide access to a state-of-the-art e-moped on a free-of-charge extended trial period. A survey was carried out to gauge interest from residents and check their eligibility for the scheme. Over 50 responses were received.

Energy in School – Feedback has continued to be gathered from schools on their energy saving techniques and how the Council can further support them.

E-Cargo Bike Engagement Survey - Engagement took place with groups to understand the level of interest in trialling the Council’s range of electric cargo bikes free of charge, before deciding whether to invest in the low carbon method of transport for their own business. Various businesses and community groups took part in these trials, including Clean and Green Litter Picking Group in North Solihull.

10.4 Podcasts



To coincide with COP 27 in November 2022, the Council released 2 new 'Courts on Climate Change' podcasts, these were an update on the previous year's series and reflected on priorities and progress of Solihull's climate change agenda. To date there have been over 1000 downloads of podcast series.

10.5 Awards & Accolades

Award / Accreditation	Summary	Year
Cycle Training / Bikeability	During a record-breaking year for the Bikeability Trust cycle training programme, Solihull has come second in the country with 84% of all pupils taking part in Level 1 and 2 Bikeability cycling training by Year 6.	2023
APSE Awards	Shortlisted for Best Climate Action or Decarbonisation Initiative	2023
WMCA Natural Environment Awards	Solihull Council, alongside the Royal British Legion won the Community Award for the Armed Forces Community Garden at the inaugural WMCA Natural Environment Awards, presented by Mayor Andy Street. CLAUDE also received a commendation in the same category.	2023
The Municipal Journal Awards	The Blossomfield Road cycle route has been shortlisted for the Best Transport Decarbonisation Project award.	2023
IHE Mercia Branch Awards	Blossomfield Road shortlisted for the Sustainable Transport Award .	2023
CIHT West Midlands	Berkswell Project (Better Streets) shortlisted for the Collaboration Award.	2023
Green Apple Awards	Green World Awards 2023 Carbon Reduction Global Gold Winner – Wildlife Ways	2023
Green Flag Park Awards	16 parks and green spaces have been awarded Green Flag status.	2022
Sustainability West Midlands	Council's environment work ranked best in West Midlands. Also, overall sustainability work ranked 5 th out of 21 local authorities.	2022

ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport)	Picked up award for the CAV trials in the Delivering Clean Growth category.	2022
National Highway Awards	The new segregated route on Blossomfield Road into Solihull town centre which protects pedestrians, joggers and cyclists was shortlisted for the Active Travel Scheme of the Year Award at the National Highways Awards.	2022
Green Apple Awards	The Planting our Future team and the Highways Infrastructure team picked up the awards which recognise environmental best practice.	2022
CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)	Solihull's Habitat and Nature Improvements Project, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, picked up the Best Practice – Large-Scale Nature Conservation Award.	2022
WMNP Awards	Three teams at Solihull Council have scooped THREE of twelve awards at the West Midlands National Park Awards. The teams involved were Public Realm, Planting Our Future and Conservation of the Historic Environment, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design and Ecology (CLAUDE)	2022

10.6 Internal Communications

Alongside the external climate change campaign, there has been significant momentum in communicating the breadth of climate action internally. Environmental topics regularly feature in the Council's internal staff magazine, 'Our Solihull'.

The Sustainable Travel team also offer a variety of services and incentives to staff such as the cycle2work scheme and cycling training sessions. Internal engagement also took place in the form of well attended 'Lunch & Learn' webinars, including a session on 'Top Tips for a Sustainable Summer'.

Section 9: Challenges in Delivering the NZAP

Local government plays an essential role in combatting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In June 2023²¹ the UK Government identified some of the wide-ranging policy areas where local government's involvement is needed to support climate action. These include:

- Enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards for new builds.
- Delivering funding to retrofit existing homes and improve their energy efficiency.
- Shaping housing, infrastructure and renewable energy development in their area in their role as local planning authorities.
- Developing and delivering heat network connections.
- Encouraging active travel, decarbonising public transport, and installing public charge points for electric vehicles.

These are all areas where Solihull are acting, yet there are still significant challenges. The "Skidmore review²²" (the review of net zero) was released in September 2022 and outlined some of the challenges Local Authorities are facing in delivering net zero these included:

- Lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities that local government should play in the delivery of net zero (as there are no strategic targets).
- Fragmented funding and the prevalence of competitive bidding, for example for retrofitting schemes, which can make it "difficult for local authorities to plan for the long term"²¹.
- Lack of consistency in local authorities' reporting of plans and progress on net zero, which can make "difficult to get an overall picture of what local authorities have achieved"²¹.
- Lack of skills and capacity in local government to tackle climate change.

Some of the ways these challenges play out in Solihull is detailed below, many of these are similar to last year's report as they are long term challenges.

11.1 Strategy, Policy and Funding.

The strategy, policy and funding frameworks around net zero are challenging as funding for net zero related action tends to be short term in nature, with limited scope and time to deliver. A key area where this uncertainty can cause an issue is

²¹ [The role of local government in reaching net zero - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](#)

²² [Review of Net Zero - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

in the retrofit supply chain, where the funding is driving the supply chain development. As highlighted in the Skidmore review there is a lack of targets and resources for Local Authorities to deliver net zero – meaning that there are differences in how local authorities have approached net zero.

Given the challenges of the funding landscape, we need to investigate alternative approaches to funding and financing sustainability action, with financing being drawn from other areas than public funding. This is a challenging area as approaches are still developing, in addition to this it is vital to ensure that actions delivered in this way have a “just transition” to net zero at their core.

11.2 Council Control

The Council has limited control over the majority of emissions within Solihull. We need to work with partners across the Borough and beyond to ensure delivery of our net zero aims. Local Authorities also have limited powers to enforce net zero change outside of their own operations. As such, our approach is to work in partnership with organisations and communities across the borough to help deliver our net zero aims – in 2023/2024 we will be developing a plan for engagement and behaviour change that is tailored to the residents and organisations within Solihull.

11.3 Cost of Living Increase and Volatility in the Energy Market

The cost-of-living increase is having an impact on the amount of energy we use. This has created an opportunity for energy efficiency promotion and implementation of measures, however inflation in the construction sector is making implementation of many measures more expensive – as we have seen in our own retrofit projects. In addition, uncertainty over future energy costs can have a considerable impact on likely budgets for existing operations and future projects.

The cost-of-living crisis and the fact that many people and organisations are acting on their net zero aims has led to some supply issues. For example, there are issues with the retrofit supply chain with supplier capacity and an increase in material costs.

Whilst it is generally good that people are thinking about their energy use and saving energy by making positive energy efficiency changes, it is concerning if energy is being reduced because of cost issues.

The cost-of-living crisis emphasizes the need for a just transition to net zero to ensure that the benefits of decarbonisation measures are available to all within the borough.

11.4 Barriers to behaviour change

This is a key area of focus for the Council. There are barriers to some of the measures we will need to put in place to decarbonise the borough, for example understanding the desire for retrofit or convenience and perception of different transport modes.

It is vital that moving forwards we have a robust plan of meaningful engagement that moves beyond traditional communications into a more tailored and focussed approach. We will be creating a climate change and sustainability engagement plan which will ensure a targeted approach that meets the needs of residents and organisations within the borough.

11.5 Resource

As mentioned previously, one of the biggest challenges for net zero delivery for Councils can often be related to skills and resource.

We have recruited / are recruiting to several posts that link to net zero, including a refreshed climate change and sustainability team with three new or refreshed posts. In addition to this the Council's housing team has created a new post to support retrofit across the borough.

11.6 Cost and Complexity of Net Zero Action

Whilst many decarbonisation actions will save money in the long term, there is often an initial capital cost which can be a challenge in delivering net zero especially for businesses or homeowners feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

Net zero actions can be complex. This can lead to a barrier in uptake of actions as there may be a lack of understanding or desire to carry out the actions.

Section 10: Priorities for 2023-2026

Whilst we have made great progress in many areas of the NZAP, we need to continue to refine our approach to ensure we meet our net zero aims.

Many of the areas of focus remain very similar from our last report as they are long term actions, some key areas for the next 3 years including:

12.1 Behaviour Change Approach and Communications Focus

In the coming months we will be working on our Climate Change and Sustainability Behaviour Change and Engagement Plan – this plan will be tailored to the borough’s residents, community groups and businesses to support delivery and will highlight meaningful action that will aid our transition to being a more sustainable borough. A new post of Sustainability Engagement Lead has been created to support this activity.

12.2 Funding and financing of net zero

This is a developing area, and we are currently developing a Climate Change Investment Plan which will seek to quantify the cost and opportunities for meeting the Council’s aim to be net zero in the Council’s own operations by 2030, this plan will start to consider funding and financing options.

We will also look for funding and financing of sustainability actions that help us meet our wider aims for the borough in doing so we will work with regional and national bodies, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority.

12.3 Strategy and Plans

One of the core themes of the NZAP throughout its development was “acting whilst planning”, meaning that we continued to take net zero action whilst we developed the plan. This is true for other enabling strategies and plans. Development and implementation of the following will aid our net zero delivery across the borough:

- Economic strategy and action plan: this will add specific actions aligned to the NZAP (adopted in July 2023)
- Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Plan
- Climate Change Prospectus Refresh
- Climate Change and Sustainability Engagement and Behaviour Change Plan

12.4 Focus Actions

Whilst there are many actions that the Council will carry out over the coming months, there are some highlight actions below:

12.4.1 Strategic Opportunities

We will capitalise on emerging strategic opportunities to help us deliver our net zero aims – these include the proposed East Birmingham and North Solihull Levelling Up Zone and West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

12.4.2 Non- Domestic Buildings

The roll out of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund will see support offered to businesses in Solihull on sustainability, this may include support on energy efficiency improvements, circular economy and supply chain sustainability.

A key area for the Council's own transition to net zero is to deliver Heat Decarbonisation Plans for the Council properties, which will enable a costed plan for net zero and inform prioritisation of actions.

12.4.3 Domestic Buildings

A continued focus for domestic retrofit is essential if we are to move towards net zero as a borough. The Council will continue to work on retrofit programmes for those residents that are eligible for grants. A new role of green homes lead will start to develop a plan for those residents not eligible for grant schemes.

12.4.5 Transport

Many actions are continuing around transport including continued focus on behaviour change, active travel infrastructure and the roll out of LEVI funding to deliver 200 new EV charging stations by 2026. The Council will continue to work on the proposals in the Walking & Cycling Strategy and the schemes identified through the Solihull Connected transport strategy delivery plan to improve travel and transport conditions across the Borough. Solihull Council also works closely with Transport for West Midlands and the West Midlands Rail Executive to influence and improve the public transport network in the Borough.

12.4.6 Waste and Circular Economy

One of the core aspects of the new environmental services contract is increasing recycling and reducing waste and subsequent carbon emissions from the Council's waste services. We will review our Strategy and develop plans to achieve this aim.

Part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund award will provide support to businesses on circular economy.

12.4.7 Natural Environment

Continued partnerships with the private sector to deliver Planting Our Future and Arden free tree scheme along with roll out of the Natural Capital Investment Strategy will provide continued progress around the natural environment.

12.4.8 Energy Supply

The flagship Solihull Town Centre Energy Network is a core area of action and paves the way for lower carbon energy in the town centre.

The Council is also working to develop an approach to energy at the UK Central Hub, where we want to work with the key stakeholders in the energy system at the hub to deliver a decarbonised energy system that meets the needs of stakeholders.

As highlighted in the report it is vital for the decarbonisation of the borough that we increase uptake of renewable energy technologies, we will be using our renewable energy feasibility study to inform our action in this area.

12.5 Case study of action in 2023/2024

Building work has commenced on 25 net-zero homes in Kingshurst. The build is predicted to take 12 months and be completed in Sept 2024. The housing development will include a mixture of single occupancy maisonettes and 3 and 4-bedroom family homes to meet the specific needs of the Kingshurst community. Each individual dwelling will have an air source heat pump, EV charging, solar panels and high levels of insulation. The high energy efficiency homes are predicted to reduce carbon emissions, provide comfortable, well insulated and ventilated living space, and ease cost of living



Figure - Councillor Ian Courts (Leader of Solihull Council) and Fiona Hughes (Chief Executive of Solihull Community Housing) at the Montfort site as building works began 27th September 2023.

pressures on energy bills for social housing tenants. Once completed the homes will be managed by Solihull Community Housing (SCH) on behalf of the Council.

Section 11: Conclusions

Whilst we have made good progress in the delivery of the NZAP, we know that we still have a long way to go in the Borough's decarbonisation journey. In 2022/2023 we experienced significant challenges in delivery against our net zero objectives and we know that we will need to continue to ramp up our efforts.

In the 2023/2024 financial year we will see the progression of several key projects for the borough, including the Town Centre Energy Network. We know that to reach our net zero aims we will need to increase our work with our stakeholders, partners and residents.



**YOUR
FUTURE
SOLIHULL**

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
BREEAM	BREEAM stands for Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method it is a method for establishing the environmental performance of a building.
Canopy Cover	The area of land covered by branches, leaves and stems of trees as viewed from above.
Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO ₂ e)	A measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based on their global-warming potential, by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.
Display Energy Certificate (DEC)	A measure of the energy performance of a building, ranging from A – G with A being the best performing buildings.
Energy Intensity - buildings	The amount of energy used by a building divided by it's floor area ensuring that the date is comparable with other buildings
Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)	A measure of the energy efficiency of a building. Ratings range from A-G with A being the best performing buildings.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	Gross value added is an economic productivity metric that measures the economic output of an area. In the case of the NZAP this is in million pounds.
Heat Decarbonisation Plan	Sets a plan to move away from fossil fuel heating
Kilowatt hour (kWh) or Megawatt hour (MWh)	kWh or MWh is a measure of how much energy is being used.
Renewable Energy Capacity	Maximum net generating capacity of all renewable energy installations.
Retrofit	Retrofit relates to improving the energy performance of an existing building to make it more energy efficient – it can include a variety of measures such as insulation and double glazing
Scoping in progress	Planning or feasibility of action underway
Significant progress	Delivery of action underway
Social Value	Social value in procurement is about ensuring that procurement creates additional benefits for society. Solihull requires contractors to add social value – the impact of this is monitored.
Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV)	Any vehicle that uses low carbon technologies and emits less than 75g CO ₂ / km from the tailpipe.

Appendix 2: KPI Data Source

KPI	Sector	NZAP Intervention Area	KPI	NZAP ref	Data source	Notes
1	Overarching metrics	All intervention areas	Total borough-wide GHG emissions per year and per capita (tCO ₂ e)	All	BEIS LA GHG Data	Taken from most recent years data reported
2	Overarching metrics	All intervention areas	Sectoral breakdown of GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)	All	BEIS LA GHG Data	Taken from most recent years data reported
3	Overarching metrics	All intervention areas	Total Councils-own Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions (tCO ₂)	All	Council's annual carbon report	Council's annual carbon report
4	Overarching metrics	All intervention areas	Carbon intensity per unit of Gross Value Added (CO ₂ /£ GVA)	All	Gross Value Added Data	Total CO ₂ e (KPI1) divided by Million £ GVA
5	Non-Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Proportion of non-domestic buildings in the borough reaching Display Energy Certificate rating of 'C' or equivalent (%)	1.1	DEC data	Calculated by - DEC Certificates A,B or C divided by Total DEC certificates (%). All DEC data taken up to end of financial year of reporting
6	Non-Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings	1.7	From Council's own data	Energy data taken from Council owned buildings (excluding schools) in kWh divided by floor area of the same buildings to give an intensity figure in kWh/ m ²
7	Non-Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council owned schools (excluding academies)	1.7d	From Council's own data	Energy data taken from schools (excluding academies) in kWh divided by floor area of the same buildings to give an intensity figure in kWh/ m ²
8	Non-Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Number of schools engaged on sustainability	1.7	Need to ask SMBC - internal	Total number of schools engaging with the sustainability team - this could include greener schools award, sustainable schools conference and model COP

9	Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Proportion of domestic buildings in the borough reaching Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'C' or above (%) and overall number of domestic EPCs logged	2.1	EPC Data	Calculated by -EPC Certificates A,B or C divided by Total EPC certificates registered reported as a %. All EPC data taken up to end of financial year of reporting
10	Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Proportion of Solihull Community Housing homes in the borough reaching Energy Performance Certificate rating 'C' or above (%)	2.4	Data Provided by SCH	Calculated by -EPC Certificates A,B or C divided by Total EPC certificates registered reported as a %.
11	Domestic Buildings	Improve energy efficiency	Number of households who have submitted an Expression of Interest to Act On Energy	2.2a	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
12	Transport	Switching to EV	Number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles as a proportion of all vehicles	3.3	ULEV data	Licensed ULEV vehicles as a % of total licences.
13	Transport	Switching to EV	Number of EV Charging points per 100,000 population	3.2	EV Chargepoints	
14	Transport	Switching to EV	Number of Council installed EV charging points	3.2d	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
15	Waste	Reduce the quantity of waste	Proportion of municipal waste diverted from landfill (%)	4.1 and 4.2	Annual waste data	Data taken from last available year of data
16	Natural Environments	Increase tree coverage & tree planting	Canopy cover across Solihull (%)	6.1 and 6.2	Data taken from Bluesky national tree map	Data taken from Bluesky national tree map https://bluesky-world.com/
17	Natural Environments	Increase tree coverage & tree planting	Number of trees and hedgerows planted by Council schemes across Solihull	6.2a	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
18	Natural Environments	Increase tree coverage & tree planting	Number of people and businesses engaged through local environmental initiatives e.g. Love Solihull	6.2d	From Council's own data	From Council's own data

19	Natural Environments	Land management	Number of local wildlife sites in positive management	6.4	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
20	Energy Supply	Increase the capacity of renewable technologies	Total installed capacity of all renewable technology by type (MW)	7.6	Renewable Energy Data	
21	Energy Supply	Increase the capacity of renewable technologies	Total renewable electricity generation from all renewable technology types (MWh)	7.6	Renewable Energy Data	
22	Council Strategy & Engagement	Council Procurement & Commissioning	Amount of Environmental Social Value generated through Council procurement contracts (£)	8.1 and 8.2	From Council's own data	Committed spend social value on sustainability TOMs
23	Council Strategy & Engagement	Council External Engagement	Number of businesses engaging with SMBC on sustainability	8.6	From Council's own data	Numbers SSVG membership

Appendix 3: NZAP Actions with 22/23 Updated Narrative

Sector	Intervention area	Overall goal	Action	Status	Timing	Notes/Progress 2022/2023 Report
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing non-domestic buildings	1.1a Encourage the use of standardised performance measurements aligning with the Local Plan for all existing commercial buildings	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing non-domestic buildings	1.1b Encourage annual energy reporting across the Borough's non-domestic buildings	Scoping in Progress	Medium	New building regulations necessitate an "as built" energy report, reporting of annual energy can form part of future comms campaigns.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing non-domestic buildings	1.1c Provide guidance on how low carbon practices and embodied carbon in supply chains can be embedded into business procurement activities, drawing on Social Value and the Council's own procurement activities.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Promoted GBSLEP's Clean Growth Grant & GBSLEP Growth Hub. The Your Future Solihull website has a dedicated section for businesses, how they can reduce their carbon footprint and save money on energy bills. Also, promotion of circular economy and other supporting resources through SSVG.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing non-domestic buildings	1.1d Ensure that retrofit measures are prioritised in all redevelopment projects and promote the benefits of retaining and repairing older buildings, such as Solihull Town Centre	Not Started	Long	This is not mentioned directly in the draft local plan however what is mentioned is 'conserve and enhance the qualities of the built, natural and historic environment that contribute to character and local distinctiveness and the attractiveness of the mature residential suburbs and the rural area.'
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments	1.2a Encourage the use of recycled or low-carbon materials and modern methods of construction in new development as a means of reducing the embodied carbon of new-builds through the SPD	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	The Draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document was presented to the Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board on 17th January 2023. Officers have taken the Councillors comments on board and the policy team await the Inspectors report on the Plan's proposed policies to integrate any changes before formal consultation can be carried out.

<p>1. Non-Domestic Buildings</p>	<p>Private sector non-domestic buildings</p>	<p>1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments</p>	<p>1.2b Encourage the use of standardised measuring framework to ensure compliance with planning policies for improved energy efficiency in all new build properties and train Building Council Officers on low-carbon and net-zero technologies</p>	<p>Scoping in Progress</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>There has been limited progress on the energy booklet due to competing demands and the building control team having to focus on new building safety regulations.</p>
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1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments	1.2c All new build developments have a requirement in association with part L to provide an As Built energy assessment (known as a design emission rate calculation) and an associated EPC together with an air pressure test prior to completion.	Significant Progress	Short	All new build developments have a requirement in association with part L to provide an As Built energy assessment (known as a design emission rate calculation) and an associated EPC together with an air pressure test. All of these are provided prior to completion and by proxy occupation however there is no requirement to test these thereafter.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments	1.2d Ensure new private sector non-domestic developments connect to low carbon district heating schemes where schemes exist, or in areas where planned but not yet built, ensure buildings are futureproofed for connection, through Draft Local Plan	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Full achievement of a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused. As more information comes out regarding heat network zoning - this information will be shared with the planning team to ensure it is incorporated moving forward.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments	1.2e Investigate using Section 106 developer contributions to deliver net zero projects as part of a Net Zero Action Plan Fund	Not Started	Long	S106 funds are already used for some actions which support a net zero borough including some sustainable transport actions, however, no investigation has started as to how this could be extended.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.3 Guidance and support to improve energy efficiency made available to private sector	1.3a Set up a mechanism through which stakeholders can achieve sustained collaboration and showcase leading examples of decarbonisation.	Significant Progress	Short	SSVG and Net Zero business pledge. There are 74 people now on the mailing list for SSVG. Several businesses and organisations sponsored the Greener Solihull School Awards in November 2022. This includes Touchwood, John Lewis, Birmingham Airport, Prologis, Fieldfisher, Solihull Chamber of Commerce and Birmingham Business Park.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.3 Guidance and support to improve energy efficiency made available to private sector	1.3b Signpost and promote carbon reduction measures (i.e. energy efficiency measures) within Council's existing business support programme, initially targeting sectors with the most need	Significant Progress	Immediate	Solihull will be supporting the continuation of the GBS Growth Hub service, with a dedicated Sustainability account manager who can offer specialist advice and links to relevant funding. Regional business support – Decarbonation programme – live July/August 23 - will provide information, expert advice and support to businesses enabling them to make significant decarbonization and money saving changes to their business. This will be supported through energy audits, Knowledge Transfer (carbon accountancy and sustainability software) and Net Zero grants, available to SMEs to decarbonise their activities. The YFS website has a section about 'opportunities for businesses' which has advice on measuring their carbon footprint, funding opportunities, joining the SSVG, signposting to the GBSLEP Sustainability Hub and how to get in touch with the Council's Sustainable Travel Team.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.3 Guidance and support to improve energy efficiency made available to private sector	1.3c Support businesses in accessing green finance by providing staff resources for guidance and advice via business networks and WMCA	Significant Progress	Immediate	<p>The growth hub offers finance support and advice on how businesses can obtain energy efficiency grants from the government. https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk/sustainability</p> <p>The YFS website has a section about funding opportunities, directing prospective businesses to Sustainability West Midlands regularly updated funding feed.</p>
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.4 Maximise the number of non-domestic buildings connected to Solihull's Town Centre Energy Network	1.4a Develop Town Centre Energy Network to fulfil its maximum viability to connecting supply to non-domestic buildings in the Town Centre, ensuring as it expands, it continues to decarbonise heat production and supply.	Significant Progress	Medium	<p>Despite the complex picture in the current construction and energy markets the full business case was successfully concluded in 2022/2023, strengthened by emerging National Policy and the Council's own net zero ambitions.</p>

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.4 Maximise the number of non-domestic buildings connected to Solihull's Town Centre Energy Network	1.4b Explore options to deliver an additional low-carbon energy network for the Hub area	Significant Progress	Immediate	This year the Hub Energy project has moved on considerably. The council received funding from HNDU to progress to the DPD phase. We have also carried out a procurement exercise and awarded consultants to complete the DPD phase of the project.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.4 Maximise the number of non-domestic buildings connected to Solihull's Town Centre Energy Network	1.4c Conduct feasibility studies for additional low-carbon heat networks and other micro-networks across Solihull	Scoping in Progress	Medium	This action is closely linked to heat network zoning policy. We are in regular contact with HNDU regarding this and are waiting on advice on which areas will be classed as heat network zone.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.4 Maximise the number of non-domestic buildings connected to Solihull's Town Centre Energy Network	1.4d Where district heating opportunities are not available, encourage alternative low carbon solutions through guidance and information	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Full achievement on a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Public sector non-domestic buildings (including hospitals, academies, leisure centres & libraries)	1.5 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	1.5a Ensure that new public sector developments are built to the highest energy efficiency standards e.g. BREEAM outstanding	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Council lead developments are promoting a net zero future, examples include Kingshurst Village Centre, which has net zero ambitions and Simon Digby where key assessment criteria includes net zero.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Public sector non-domestic buildings (including hospitals, academies, leisure centres & libraries)	1.6 Opportunities to improve energy efficiency in cooking, lighting and other appliances are maximised	1.6a Provide guidance and support for businesses on how they can make their buildings more energy efficient.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	The upcoming decarbonisation programme will support businesses by providing energy audits. There will be more of a focus on building related energy saving measures rather than related to appliances. There is also help available on the 'Here to Help' section of the YFS website.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Public sector non-domestic buildings (including hospitals, academies, leisure centres & libraries)	1.6 Opportunities to improve energy efficiency in cooking, lighting and other appliances are maximised	1.6b Understand opportunities and build business cases to deliver energy efficiency improvements to lighting and appliances in Council buildings	Scoping in Progress	Medium	In the 22/23 financial year LED lighting was installed at Moat Lane Depot. Officers have carried out in depth audits of several council buildings and are aware of the lighting improvements that are required. Examples of buildings that need lighting improvements include Parkview, San Souci and Chelmsley Wood library.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7a Update policy to ensure any new properties built in the Council's portfolio (new offices/commercial property) are built to the highest energy efficiency standards in line with Solihull's net zero ambition e.g. BREEAM excellent	Not Started	Long	Building Design Services have stated that all new builds are certified as BREEAM excellent. However, this does not necessarily mean the buildings are Net Zero. This needs to be chased up with building services.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7b Explore options for installing living roofs (brown and green), facades and cool roofs to improve local air quality on Council owned buildings	Not Started	Medium	Nothing to report.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7c Develop a decarbonisation plan for all Council owned buildings to identify the most viable solutions to achieving net zero by 2030/2041 in line with the corporate building energy strategy	Significant Progress	Immediate	Officers applied for PSDS low carbon skills funding in the 22/23 financial year however they were unsuccessful. This highlights the impractical aspects of funding as it is awarded on a first come first serve basis. If successful, this funding would have been used for heat decarbonisation plans for all council buildings.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7d Carry out remaining energy audits on schools as part of the Ashden Low Carbon Schools Programme and set up a mechanism for schools to share good practice or initiatives	Completed	Immediate	This action is closed.

1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7e Implement energy efficiency measures at all leisure centres	Significant Progress	Short	North Solihull Leisure Centre was included in the Renewable Energy Feasibility Study and an initial feasibility assessment was carried out for building mount solar and a car park canopy. Initial findings indicate that putting solar on the leisure centre would be a low-risk option for the council, as there is huge generation potential and a short payback period. Pool covers are also being considered as they have a very short payback period of 2-3 years.
1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Council-owned non-domestic buildings (including SMBC buildings, schools, leisure centres)	1.7 Improve energy efficiency in Council-owned buildings	1.7g Review the opportunities for low-carbon heat within the Council's own buildings in light of Borough-wide heat decarbonisation assessment to ensure investment decisions match most suitable decarbonisation opportunity.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Officers applied for PSDS low carbon skills funding in the 22/23 financial year however they were unsuccessful. This highlights the impractical aspects of funding as it is awarded on a first come first serve basis. If successful this funding would have been used for heat decarbonisation plans for all council buildings.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	2.1a 2.1a Use planning policy to encourage standardised performance measurements with standards beyond Part L for all existing buildings such as Future Homes Standard (between 20-31% depending on specific standards chosen)	Scoping in Progress	Long	Full achievement on a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	2.1b Encourage building technologies such as living roofs (green and brown), facades and cool roofs to improve local air quality within domestic planning policy	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Full achievement on a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	2.1c Support tenants in private rented sector properties with energy efficiency concerns and seek to engage landlords where properties do not meet MEES or EPC standards.	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Council officers previously worked on offering a grants process to POS landlords but there was hardly any uptake. They have temporarily paused the scheme and will start it again when there is a bigger incentive available for landlords.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	2.1d Encourage higher energy efficiency standards (MEES) from the current D where appropriate for private rented properties and improve its enforcement to capture non-compliance, providing support to tenants and landlords where needed	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Council officers previously worked on offering a grants process to POS landlords but there was hardly any uptake. They have temporarily paused the scheme and will start it again when there is a bigger incentive available for landlords.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	2.1e Develop a co-ordinated programme plan for retrofitting Solihull's homes which focuses on communication and partnership for private housing retrofit, and includes trusted suppliers/ contractors	Significant Progress	Immediate	In the 22/23 financial year there was some notable success with HUG 2 delivery on Alston Road. There has been a significant communication plan alongside HUG 2 with the total number of households contacted / EOIs received: 630.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2a Support households in accessing finance for installation of heat decarbonisation measures linked to heat opportunities assessment and personalised home energy advice through existing channels e.g. Act on Energy, Energy Savings Trust. This may include maintaining a list of advisory sources on the Council website and should include provision of an updated Energy Performance Certificate	Scoping in Progress	Medium	The YFS website has a webpage on 'Energy Efficient Grants'. In 22/23, the Sustainable Warmth Grants were available for residents until early 2023, which offered grants of up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of homes. However due to supply side issues and not having an agreed installer, the communications on this scheme was limited as to manage expectations. Comms planning for the upcoming Home Upgrade Grant (for off gas properties) took place in March 2023.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2b Set up a mechanism for residents to collaborate and showcase leading examples of decarbonisation e.g. Bristol Green Doors Open Home Events	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Following the completion of the Alston Road scheme there needs to be a case study produced to showcase the work.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2c Publicise opportunities associated with improving energy efficiency standards and provide communications to owner-occupied homes	Significant Progress	Immediate	Press release in March 2023 about the commencement of external wall insulation improvements to properties in Alston Road. The Retrofit page on the YFS website has information for the able to pay market and how to find an accredited retrofit coordinator via Trustmark.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2d Consider green accreditation schemes for private landlords including access to finance, suppliers, installers and discounted EPC surveys as an incentive to the private rental sector to improve the energy efficiency of their stock	Not Started	Long	There has been no progress on this action to date.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2e Target properties/areas of high need and high opportunity using household fuel poverty data to identify 'hotspots' of low energy efficiency properties with high energy bills.	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Hot spots were identified in Elmdon (Sustainable Warmth WMCA led project), Lyndon and Olton. There has been no progress in Lyndon and Olton due to issues around funding. Elmdon is WMCA led – closing in September for sustainable warmth. SCH have identified their worst performing properties – only 30 which are EPC E/F/G rated. There is a target to retrofit these properties and increase their EPC rating to D by March 2024 using heating upgrades.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2f Provide guidance and support to residents on low carbon energy efficiency cooking and lighting improvements, including switching from gas.	Significant Progress	Immediate	The progress of this action has continued through the 'Here to Help' page on your future Solihull. The council has supported residents by providing warm hubs and warm buses. Collaborated with Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) and Cadent in August 2022 to promote their Mobile Warm Hub Service which visited Shirley every Tuesday for several weeks. Residents were invited to op down for a friendly chat, free refreshments and get information and advice on energy savings, home safety and access to more community support. Promotion included a press release, outreach by the Community Development Team and regular scheduled social media.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2g Support households and vulnerable groups e.g. the elderly in accessing energy supplier sourced funding by providing guidance and advice. Utilise powers under ECO3 Local Authority Flexible Eligibility to enable the Council to qualify private sector residents as eligible for funding	Scoping in Progress	Long	ECO failed to launch in 22/23 due to oversubscription by energy suppliers.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home	2.2h Provide guidance and advice on energy efficiency benefits of low energy appliance selection at end of life, including example savings calculations. Potential to link with energy suppliers providing tailored advice via smart meter data.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Work on this action continues as this is Act on Energy's business as usual approach. Energy efficiency advice offered via Act on Energy. Guidance provided on the YFS website in the 'how can I help section?'

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.3 Drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	2.3a Encourage the use of low carbon materials and modern methods of construction in new development as a means of reducing the embodied carbon of new-build properties	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Full achievement on a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.3 Drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	2.3b Encourage standardised measuring framework to ensure compliance with planning policies for improved energy efficiency in all new build properties	Not Started	Medium	The building control team cannot enforce builders to build in a certain way e.g. net zero – this needs to come from planning policy, and particularly the local plan. Therefore, this action is also dependent on the local plan.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.3 Drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	2.3c Encourage the accurate reporting of the operational carbon of new developments following building completion, use smart systems to enable operational energy use	Not Started	Long	The building control team cannot enforce builders to report the operational carbon of new builds – this needs to come from planning policy, and particularly the local plan. Therefore, this action is also dependent on the local plan.

2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.3 Drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	2.3d Encourage new developments to be to highest energy efficiency standards, e.g. Passivhaus for domestic buildings, driving early adoption of Future Homes Standard levels of new build and discourage non-zero carbon buildings to be built	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Full achievement on a number of the action points is dependent upon progress of the Local Plan and feedback from the Inspectors on specific policies. The Council continues to positively engage with the examination process with a view to having the plan adopted as soon as possible. However continued uncertainty about national planning policy has caused the examination to be paused.
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.3 Drive higher energy efficiency standards in new developments	2.3e Develop a Climate Change Construction Supplementary Planning Document to dispel cost misconceptions, promote whole life cost models and support higher development standards	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Included in the draft SPD on climate change
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.4 Facilitate district heating opportunities for new developments	2.4a Publish evidence base for low or zero carbon district heating viability, including sources of heat (renewable and waste heat opportunity) and locations of existing, planned or potential district heating schemes.	Not Started	Medium	Initial research indicates that the housing sites being developed are unlikely to be density or mix of use, being investigated in town centre & UKC hub. More action can be taken when clarity on heat network zoning is available
2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.4 Facilitate district heating opportunities for new developments	2.4b Consider requirement for district heating where type and scale of new development triggers viability, plus natural or waste heat resources are present.	Not Started	Long	Initial research indicates that the housing sites being developed are unlikely to be density or mix of use, being investigated in town centre & UKC hub. More action can be taken when clarity on heat network zoning is available

2. Domestic	Solihull Community Housing	2.4 Improve energy efficiency in existing Council-owned residential properties	2.5a Prioritise energy efficiency improvements and maximise funding for the worst-performing social housing properties, i.e. those with EPC rating D-G	Scoping in Progress	Medium	SCH have identified all their worst performing properties – only 30 - which are E/F/G rated. There is a target to get them all up to EPC D by March 2024 using heating upgrades. Some of the properties on Alston Road were SCH properties which have received retrofit measures. SCH have committed to a net zero approach for all new builds moving forward (e.g., the Faulkner Road model). There is an upcoming project of 25 new properties for low carbon high energy efficiency standards in Kings Hurst.
2. Domestic	Solihull Community Housing	2.4 Improve energy efficiency in existing Council-owned residential properties	2.5b Utilise existing fuel poverty data to develop a segmented approach to improvements, initially targeting areas of high need and high opportunity	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	This action is ongoing and aided by online tools such as the local area energy planning tool which allows us to map fuel poverty data across the borough. The Council have invested in more resource in this area in the form of a new council officer - green homes lead.

2. Domestic	Solihull Community Housing	2.4 Improve energy efficiency in existing Council-owned residential properties	2.5c Implement the decarbonisation recommendations of the SCH net zero strategy commission, with reference to the area-based opportunities identified for e.g. heat networks, building level heat pumps etc.	Scoping in Progress	Short	This action is ongoing, SCH taking a fabric first approach and focussing initially on the worst performing properties.
2. Domestic	Solihull Community Housing	2.6 Maximise energy efficiency in new build Council-owned residential properties	2.6a Require all new homes led by the Council to be built to beyond Building Regulation standards (e.g. Passivhaus or net zero)	Not Started	Medium	No requirements in place currently but new developments are championing net zero for example Kingshurst village centre redevelopment has net zero targets.
2. Domestic	Solihull Community Housing	2.4 Improve energy efficiency in existing Council-owned residential properties	2.5d Carry out lighting improvements to Solihull Community Housing stock. Advise and support residents on appliance choices for improved efficiency and run educational campaigns highlighting the benefits of improvements	Scoping in Progress	Short	Some energy efficiency advice provided to residents this includes lighting improvements.

3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1a Deliver the Solihull Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to identify a long term Cycling Network Plan and key core walking zones (CWZs), considering street space allocation in favour of active travel. Ensure connectivity and capacity of network is suitable for growth in use e.g. size of lanes, towpaths.	Significant Progress	Long	Continued work for funding for the Knowle and Castle Bromwich cycle routes.
3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1b Include recommendations in building and planning policy which further incentivise active travel, such as the provision of secure storage and drying rooms	Scoping in Progress	Medium	No update

3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1c Further encourage cycling through accelerating strategic high-quality walking and cycle routes across the Borough that are safe and offer secure storage.	Significant Progress	Short	There are no significant updates – we seek opportunities wherever possible. There is cycle parking to be included in public realm design – there is also a cycle parking scheme if the station comes forward which is a fully funded opp.
3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1d Identify sites of high levels of cycling/walking and introduce Low and Slow Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs & STNs), time restricted street closures or speed limits at these sites. This should include prioritising pedestrians and cyclists at traffic lights and junctions to enable safer, more available and improved active travel infrastructure.	Significant Progress	Short	In the 22/23 financial year there were no additional LTN's. There were 3 school streets added in May/June 23 which were Cranmore Infants, Olton Primary and Windy Arbor.

3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1e Continuous delivery of a behaviour change program on cycling and walking to encourage long-term uptake	Significant Progress	<p>Long</p> <p>Full programme continuing for behaviour change focussing on schools, businesses, and targeted residents. Signposting on Your Future Solihull website pages, promoting the four cycling hubs. Issued social media on World Car Free Day. Working closely with the comms officer for Solihull Active. Engagement using Commonplace on new cycling and walking routes e.g. Blythe Valley Park to Knowle and Blossomfield Road.</p> <p>Cycle Training programme delivered in 55 schools and during school holidays, including supporting Holiday and Food programmes with free cycling activities. We trained circa 8000 children in 2022/3 funding year</p> <p>Regular adult cycle training or all levels offered through the summer months. Frequent PR about walking / cycling behavioural change. Examples include:</p> <p>Blossomfield Road being nominated for Active Travel Scheme of the Year Award at the national Highways Awards in October 2022. Behavioural change themes on walking / cycling weaved into COP27 podcast in November 2022. The Council's Highway Infrastructure team were also presented with the prestigious Green Champion Award for Carbon Reduction in recognition of their work on improving and creating walking and cycling routes throughout the borough (November 2022).</p> <p>In February 2023, there was PR about the Council's e-cargo bike which is available free of charge to organisations / businesses. This included a video with Paul Pablo Sultana of Clean & Green Local Community Group.</p> <p>In September 2022, there was social media</p>
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						<p>about free bike health checks in Dorridge Park. During the 2022 Commonwealth Games, social media promoted free WM Cycle Hire during the games, encouraging people to cycle rather than drive to events.</p> <p>In May 2022 students at St Peter's Catholic School ran a competition to design a banner about the dangers of idling, and promoted cycling and walking to work.</p> <p>In addition, there is a healthy amount of information on cycling and walking on the YFS website.</p> <p>Internally there has been promotion of the Cycle2WorkScheme, with case studies of staff members who have taken it up.</p>
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3. Transport	Active travel	3.1 Infrastructure and policy are designed to facilitate walking and cycling	3.1f Work with all schools to increase active travel journeys to school.	Significant Progress	Immediate	<p>Ongoing promotion of sustainable travel including all forms of walking, cycling, scooting and public transport. This includes training, lessons and publicity aimed at the whole school community including pupils, parents, staff and local residents. Promotion of walking busses and running cycling workshops with schools. Supported cycling workshop activities with social media (e.g. Shirley Park). Bikeability led by the sustainable travel team. Your Future Solihull website links through to Solihull Active page. Dedicated comms officer who works on active travel.</p> <p>On road Cycle Training delivered in all primary schools, Commuter training has had take up from 2 secondary schools. In September 2022, there was social media about free bike health checks in Dorridge Park.</p>
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.10 Reducing Council journeys	3.10.c Support and require large fleets operating in the Borough, such as waste services, to practice journey optimisation	Not Started	Medium	Go electric starts to deliver that but we haven't focused on it yet. Midlands connect are doing a project around the hub area for this. Officers established the workplace and depot charging group – looks at suitability of vehicles and assessment of the fleet. We are looking at getting telematics implemented in vehicles that don't have it.

3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.10 Reducing Council journeys	3.10.d Offer organisations with large fleets eco-driver training and link private hire licensing/ qualifications to vehicle emissions with incentives for Solihull licensed drivers	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Officers struggle to get uptake on this initiative, and it is not in the current program we have.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.11 Use local suppliers to reduce miles travelled	3.11.a Encourage residents to consider miles travelled in their purchasing decisions and buy locally where possible	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Fairtrade fortnight. Rethink how we word this action.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.11 Use local suppliers to reduce miles travelled	3.11.b Encourage businesses across the Borough to use procurement policies to favour local suppliers e.g. local produce if providing food	Not Started	Short	Rethink how we word this action. Economic growth team will be approaching this action by looking at the social value that will be created by using local supply chains. SMBC teams are collaborating to support the development of a CSR programme for local businesses, targeting support to key areas of priority around sustainability, volunteering and community development and employment and skills. They are going to be looking at CSR for larger businesses in the future and it is mentioned in the SPF.

3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.11 Use local suppliers to reduce miles travelled	3.11.c Develop an e-cargo bike scheme for local deliveries	Significant Progress	Short	No update.
3. Transport	Aviation	3.12 Reduce unnecessary flights	3.12.a Undertake more refined baselining to understand which groups contribute most significantly to aviation emissions and target actions to reduce flight use	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3. Transport	Aviation	3.12 Reduce unnecessary flights	3.12.b Promote reduction of flights (targeted more at frequent fliers) and promote alternative means of transport (rail)	Not Started	Medium	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3. Transport	Aviation	3.12 Reduce unnecessary flights	3.12.c Work with WMCA, Members and local businesses to share examples of reducing reliance on business air travel and innovations in alternatives	Not Started	Medium	There has been no progress on this action to date.

3. Transport	Aviation	3.13 Improve efficiency of flights	3.13.a When other technologies become more widely available, lobby for electric or hydrogen to be a standard for the aviation and shipping sectors.	Not Started	Long	Nothing has been carried out on this action however we are monitoring the situation with hydrogen closely and taking the lead from the WMCA on their strategy to hydrogen.
3. Transport	Aviation	3.13 Improve efficiency of flights	3.13.b Work with aviation, government and R&D partners to foster opportunities for innovation in zero emissions flights and 'first mover' advantage on low-carbon hydrogen applications.	Scoping in Progress	Long	Birmingham Airport are working with Zero avia on hydrogen production and hydrogen plane trials

3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.2 EV infrastructure improved	3.2a Identify sites for EV infrastructure (rapid and slower charging) through consultation and a strategic assessment, such as car parks, filling stations and taxi ranks through delivery of the EV Charging Strategy	Significant Progress	Immediate	Progress has been completed – the sites have been identified but not delivered yet. Delivery of the contracts is behind schedule – procurement takes long and delay in government funding. We are mid scoring exercise for the procurement for those. Delivery period for that contract runs till the end of March 2026.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.2 EV infrastructure improved	3.2b Implement EV-ready building codes and establish preferred EV parking policy in through the Local Plan	Significant Progress	Medium	No update.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.2 EV infrastructure improved	3.2c Install EV infrastructure in identified strategic sites across the Borough	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Currently scoring suppliers in a procurement exercise for a ChargePoint installer.

3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.2 EV infrastructure improved	3.2d Review opportunities for the installation of EV charging points on Council premises.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Nothing to report.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3a Consult with businesses and other fleet operating services e.g. emergency services on the barriers to the uptake of EV within their fleets and consult with residents on potential ultra low emission streets	Scoping in Progress	Short	There were 2 public consultations carried out. Once the contracts get up and running there will be further public consultations to help identify correct areas for chargepoints.

3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3b Incentivise and support taxi drivers in switching to EV through interest-free loans or other mechanisms such as test drive opportunities	Scoping in Progress	Medium	News release about a taxi driver swapping to EV. There are 3 fully electric private hire vehicles in the borough now.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3c Implement strategic plan to introduce low emissions vehicles into the LGV/HGV fleet (including waste and highways)	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Nothing to report on this action as the refuse collection vehicles have only just been updated and will not be replaced again until 2030.

3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3d Review and update Council's fleet management plan. Specify that for certain vehicles, only Ultra-Low-Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) are permitted and enable the switch to ULEV	Scoping in Progress	Medium	The Council operates a fleet of around 65 vehicles, with Solihull Community Housing (SCH) operating around 75 in addition. By the middle of 2022 8 Council vehicles were full battery electric. 20% of the Council fleet vehicle are set to be full battery electric by the middle of 2023. All Council and SCH vehicles are scheduled to be switched to battery electric by the end of 2025, and all Council contractors will be required to operate only zero tailpipe emission vehicle by the end of 2030.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3e Collaborate and support key partners, such as JLR, to develop low carbon transport technologies	Not Started	Long	Unsure if this action is relevant, as a council we have limited control over the actions of private companies .

3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.4 Reduce distances for essential services	3.4a Implement planning policy / supporting developers to build development that reduce the need for travel, making sure people can access amenities without a car e.g. walkable neighbourhoods	Scoping in Progress	Long	No update.
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3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.4 Reduce distances for essential services	3.4b Consider car parking strategies and provision of car parking for new developments to make local centres more attractive	Scoping in Progress	Long	There is a draft parking strategy for the town centre – it is still at draft and still being worked on with strategic land colleagues. We are planning on putting EV chargers in the town centre car parks at the start of next year.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5a Active campaign to limit short trips to discourage driving for commute or school run e.g. e.g., School Streets car exclusion areas, 'Walk to School' week and similar business initiative. .	Significant Progress	Immediate	School Streets prohibit vehicles from entering a zone around a school. Walk to school week, clean air and transition lessons and other campaigns run throughout the year. Work has also been done with businesses through the Defra and capability programmes. This included work placed challenges where participants were incentivised to change their travel for 1 month where a car journey is replaced by walking, cycling, ebike or public transport - this will give an understanding of barriers and decision making when choosing commuting. ITT actively encourage those who have been travel-trained to walk or use public transport.

3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5b Assess viability of imposing a surcharge/congestion charge for the worst-performing/most polluting vehicles whilst avoiding penalising lower-income households, aligning with other local schemes.	Not Started	Long	Nothing to report.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5c Organise a scheme offering mobility credits for alternative transport for the able-to-pay market to scrap cars	Not Started	Medium	Nothing to report - projects like this need to be initiated by TFWM.

3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5d Enforce restrictions on idling through ongoing anti-idling campaigns, introduce parking zones and road closures near schools during peak hours	Significant Progress	Immediate	<p>Schools and colleges are encouraged to promote the anti-idling campaign 'Engines Off-Young Lungs at work'. The campaign has now been extended to non-educational sites. In May 2022 students at St Peter's Catholic School ran a competition to design a banner about the dangers of idling and promoted cycling and walking to work. There was a press release and quote from Cllr Mackiewicz "Idling outside schools is particularly harmful to children and teenagers as their lungs are young and still developing, so are at greater risk from the harmful chemicals emitted from vehicles. The air they breathe now can affect them for life." There was also social media for Clean Air Day in June 2022.</p>
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3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5e Set up a car sharing/car club scheme in the Borough where feasible to reduce number of journeys and expand user choice without requiring personal ownership e.g. EV car clubs run by commercial operators. The Council could have their own group for employees.	Scoping in Progress	Short	Shared transport is one of the key focus areas within the going electric action plan.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.5 Reduce private vehicle use	3.5f Conduct regular surveys of Council staff commuting and business travel to target actions and develop guidance on sustainable travel.	Significant Progress	Long	Staff travel plan survey was carried out in July 2022. A new travel plan has been drafted in Modeshift for Business, a list of actions and targets are currently being developed to encourage council staff to travel to work sustainably.
3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.5g Organise EV leasing opportunities and funding schemes to enable lower-income communities to access EVs	Scoping in Progress	Short	We are going to deliver the try before you by scheme through the car club – becomes the same thing – we will look at subsidising certain user types.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.6 Accessibility of public transport improved to increase uptake	3.6a Work with TfWM to identify gaps in public transport connectivity for key areas of the Borough through the delivery of Solihull Connected strategy, including rail and road. Work with public transport providers and local larger employers to introduce demand responsive transport.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	We have got version 2 of Solihull Connected - it is a continuous process.

3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.6 Accessibility of public transport improved to increase uptake	3.6b Communications campaign with case studies illustrating how journeys across the Borough can be taken on public transport (rail, bus) and active travel rather than private car. Illustrative map with journey times.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Internal promotion via Our Solihull and the Intranet on discounted bus passes. Lots of promotion of active travel schemes & the WM Cycle Hire Scheme.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.6 Accessibility of public transport improved to increase uptake	3.6c Research and consider the opportunities for school bus collection services to reduce morning school commutes. Develop trial initiatives with local primary and secondary schools and members of public.	Not Started	Short	This action isn't as relevant for Solihull. We have been running buses as part of independent travel training - we have 2 bespoke buses that act like buses for children with SEN.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.7 Switch public transport to electric vehicles	3.7a Enable the rapid shift to electric vehicles through bus fleet	Scoping in Progress	Long	We are still committed to providing electric bus services to Coventry as part of their electric bus strategy. The electric buses are number 6 and Bham airport.
3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.7 Switch public transport to electric vehicles	3.7b Encourage and support the use of electric buses to schools in the Borough through financial mechanisms such as funding and opportunities to trial EV	Not Started	Medium	Nothing to report.

3. Transport	Carbon intensive private vehicles	3.7 Switch public transport to electric vehicles	3.7c Work with TfWM to accelerate the switch to electric buses and low-carbon trains in Solihull	Not Started	Medium	Nothing to report.
3. Transport	Connectivity	3.8 Support remote working	3.8a Develop a Digital Infrastructure Strategy	Not Started	Short	As part of the WMCA's Digital Devices Project, Solihull council can assist local partner organisations by providing them with laptops, tablets, and mobile phones. This will help residents improve their digital skills and therefore improve their employment chances. Hybrid working has now become normal practice for most employers and 98.9% of Solihull has broadband available with speeds over 24Mbps (thinkbroadband.com) which aids remote working. Officers implemented a work hub to allow remote workers to work from a public environment. The work hub is closed now - officers are going to provide a case study. It was well used by 14/15 people, but the usage was insufficient to maintain operations. Officers advised the work hub may be more successful in a different location e.g. the town centre.

3. Transport	Connectivity	3.8 Support remote working	3.8c Provide support for businesses to adopt technology to enable hybrid remote and office working patterns, particularly for teleworking and service digitalisation businesses across the Borough, sharing best practice on co-benefits of remote working. Develop strategies following a review of the likely impact on office space in Solihull of increased remote working	Scoping in Progress	Short	The work hub is closed now – officers to provide a case study. It was well used by a number of people but was insufficient to maintain operations. 14/15 people using it. Funding we could apply the lessons learnt on a different location e.g. the town centre.
3. Transport	Connectivity	3.8 Support remote working	3.8d Use the Digital Infrastructure Strategy to facilitate the provision of widespread Wi-Fi and high-speed internet to less-well connected areas across the Borough to facilitate agile/teleworking and use CSW Broadband to engage and promote broadband services available for low-income households	Not Started	Medium	As part of the WMCA's Digital Devices Project, Solihull council can assist local partner organisations by providing them with laptops, tablets and mobile phones. This will help residents improve their digital skills and therefore improve their employment chances. Hybrid working has now become normal practice for most employers and 98.9% of Solihull has broadband available with speeds over 24Mbps (thinkbroadband.com) which aids remote working.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9a Council should opt where possible for local suppliers e.g. local produce if providing food	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	This should be included as part of the new sustainable procurement strategy expected this financial year.

3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9b Equip any drivers of Council vehicles with the necessary knowledge to more appropriately plan journeys in order to minimise disruption and maximise carbon savings.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Comes in through vehicle telematics - the benefit of the telematics is how they tell us about driver behaviour and how we can drive more efficiently. We are looking at 10 devices in our own vehicles.
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3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9c Assess the feasibility of local distribution hubs for home deliveries in Solihull town centre which utilise low-carbon "Last Mile" deliveries.	Significant Progress	Short	This action is being picked up by tfwm now and they are running with it on a big scale. They are going to market in the next couple of months. That is around parcel lockers.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9d Encourage local stakeholders to consider the sustainability of their supply chains.	Scoping in Progress	Short	This action is being carried out via supply chain work with SSVG.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9e Create business Sustainable Travel resource pack to encourage businesses to support employees in alternative travel to private car use, including advice on amenities businesses should provide.	Significant Progress	Immediate	The DEFRA 2 project has commenced, marketing materials have been updated and a baseline survey has been developed. Currently engaged with 8 businesses including Airport, Solihull Hospital, Jaguar Landrover and NEC, Events have been delivered at the Airport and Hospital, six Champions have been recruited to take up cycle loans and public transport incentives. Cargo bikes have also been loaned to NEC, Airport and potentially Skanska. There has been internal promotion of the Cycle2Work Scheme and discounted bus passes, both in Our Solihull and the intranet.
3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.9 Reducing business journeys	3.9f Work with logistics companies to improve the efficiency of journeys and reduce their frequency e.g. through route optimisation	Scoping in Progress	Short	Reuse hubs WMCA circular economy hubs. All electric rail freight link.

4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1a Support community groups to develop sharing/circular economy e.g. repair café, library of things, community fridge, food redistribution centres. Provide community groups with access to advice, resources via Council's Social Value commitments from contractors.	Not Started	Medium	Needs more work to be done alongside WMCA. Need funding to support this project. Officers advised that reducing wastewater should be pulled out as a separate action otherwise she believes it will just be forgotten about.
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1b Signpost zero waste cafes and plastic free business and work with WMCA to highlight sustainable alternative to plastics.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Zero wasters shut down, so we lost the momentum. Monkspath program to reduce waste.
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1c Consider decreasing the number of general waste collections and increasing recycling collections, if appropriate, and ensure suitable waste storage is provided.	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Waste strategy - development in 2023/2024 which will look at frequency of collections
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1d Consider opportunities through Love Solihull schools partnerships to develop waste reduction programs with schools	Scoping in Progress	Short	Students at Monkspath Junior and Infant School have taken part in the Zero Carbon Schools Programme, organised by the Green Schools Project. Monkspath pupils investigated and measured the carbon footprint of the school and came up with several eco initiatives within their school including a focus on food waste.
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1e Organise a food waste campaign using community growing projects and education in schools	Not Started	Short	Ongoing actions with schools through the eco schools programme including waste minimisation and growing initiatives. Information and signposting available on food waste and composting on YFS website.

4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1f Ensure where feasible households across Solihull have access to recycling bins and a food waste bin	Not Started	Medium	Environment Act 21 - sets the mandatory requirement for local authorities to provide a separate collection of food waste to households. The provision of a food waste collection will be considered as part of the Waste Strategy. The Strategy will be developed in 2023/24. We are also waiting for Guidance and further Statutory Instruments from Government on this and other waste collection related matters (collection consistency).
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1g Once all suitable households have food waste bins, consider setting targets for food waste and ensure infrastructure and engagement supports this.	Not Started	Medium	This will form part of waste collection strategy - targets area anticipated to come from central government. Current target is 50% recycling by 2020 and 60% as an aspiration. There are targets in the 2015-2020 Waste strategy which are still applicable, these will be reviewed as part of the development of the new Strategy. (Recycling and reuse target of 50% recycling by 2020 with an aspiration to reach 60% - these have not been met)
4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1h Provide information on minimising waste of water to residents	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Lunch and Learn - saving water has been promoted internally. Love solihull have some info on this.
4. Waste	Residents	4.2 Increasing recycling	4.2a Develop further education campaigns for residents to raise awareness of what can be recycled	Significant Progress	Short	To coincide with the new Strategic Environment Contract a leaflet was sent to households with information on the waste service, promoting what and how to recycle. We will continue to engage with residents to promote new services and reinforce what and how to recycle. Further promotion will be undertaken in 2023/2024 to reflect the increased range of material that is recyclable. In the autumn bookable waste collections for WEEE will be available.

4. Waste	Residents	4.2 Increasing recycling	4.2b Use information on levels of recycling in different areas of the Borough to launch targeted communication/educational campaign on recycling with support of community leaders.	Scoping in Progress	Short	Working with Veolia to collate and use data obtained from collection crews and waste treatment date to develop a targeted approach to support future communications and projects
4. Waste	Residents	4.2 Increasing recycling	4.2c Consider and identify opportunities for local community composting centres to support local food waste collection - could also link to urban farming locations.	Not Started	Medium	As discussed, I think this should be removed as setting up community composting sites does not link to supporting food waste collections as you cannot compost food waste in 'open community compost' sites this would need to be an in-vessel system or AD which is unlikely to lend itself to urban environments - not sure that this is deliverable or practical. As such we won't progress this. Home composting is promoted through our website and social media.
4. Waste	Residents	4.2 Increasing recycling	4.2d Identify what recycling facilities exist in schools and other public sector locations in the borough and coordinate access to Council facilities through joint waste management procurement and recycling provision.	Scoping in Progress	Short	Recycling is being rolled out to other council facilities, local authority-maintained schools can opt into framework contract. Changed ownership from waste to procurement as they manage the schools element of the framework contract.
4. Waste	Residents	4.2 Increasing recycling	4.2e Review the operations of the Household Waste Recycling Facility and consider options for reuse, increasing recycling and practical operations	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Solihull is a growing borough and the current Household Waste Recycling Centre has limited capacity and no scope for expansion in the current location. Separate project underway to look at developing a new HWRC and Depot to accommodate future growth in the borough

4. Waste	Businesses	4.3 Encourage businesses to reduce waste	4.3a Support construction waste reduction innovation through new materials specification in planning policy	Scoping in Progress	Short	Point 315 of the draft local plan mentions 'efficient use of natural resources contributes to reducing our carbon and ecological footprint. Buildings and their surrounding landscape should be designed to make efficient use of natural resources during construction, operation and maintenance.' Point 354 addresses the need for waste to be managed on site or if not possible in a facility nearby to reduce the number of 'miles' attributed to recycling waste. Local Plan Policy P13 - Point 4 promotes the use of alternative materials, such as secondary and recycled aggregates in all new developments within the Borough. Local Plan Policy P12 promotes the reduction of waste and circular economy practices in construction.
4. Waste	Businesses	4.3 Encourage businesses to reduce waste	4.3b Provide better incentives to commercial sites and workplaces to adopt improved waste management measures.	Not Started	Short	As part of the GBSLEP Growth Hub there is now a sustainability service on offer. A dedicated sustainability account manager has been hired to offer specialist advice to businesses in all areas of sustainability and links to relevant funding. https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk/sustainability
4. Waste	Businesses	4.3 Encourage businesses to reduce waste	4.3c Consider policies to reduce or repurpose waste in construction, demolition and excavation of buildings through circular economy models	Not Started	Short	Local Plan Policy P12 promotes the reduction of waste and circular economy practices in construction.
4. Waste	Businesses	4.3 Encourage businesses to reduce waste	4.3d Expand networks facilitating the donation of edible surplus food, such as food banks	Scoping in Progress	Short	Information re foodbanks can be found on our website: https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Here2help/Help-with-food

4. Waste	Businesses	4.3 Encourage businesses to reduce waste	4.3e Provide start up support to organisations that seek to offer members of the public refilling services e.g. cereals, rice for household goods and therefore reducing food packaging waste.	Not Started	Medium	Marks and Spencer's have one. There is one in Knowle which we should research and signpost to on the website.
4. Waste	Businesses	4.4 Increasing recycling and promoting circular economy benefits	4.4a Work with WMCA to share case studies from businesses on circular economy practices to maximise environmental and economic opportunities	Scoping in Progress	Short	Have reached out to the WMCA lead on circular economy. The WMCA's circular economy route map focuses on 3 key areas, circular construction, circular manufacturing, and circular food. WMCA is currently focusing on some initial projects and has not yet asked for involvement from Solihull Council.
4. Waste	Businesses	4.4 Increasing recycling and promoting circular economy benefits	4.4b Encourage businesses to segregate their waste including their commercial organic waste to reduce food waste through incentives and sharing best practice	Not Started	Medium	Worked extensively with WRAP on a communications campaign to inform businesses on the incoming recycling regulations. Included two press releases, organic social media, business networking events and paid social media on LinkedIn.
4. Waste	Businesses	4.4 Increasing recycling and promoting circular economy benefits	4.4c Identify sectors/businesses which require support to improve waste reporting	Not Started	Medium	No progress on this action to date.
4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.5 Council demonstrates circular economy leadership	4.5a Develop a circular economy roadmap for the Borough in line with WMCA Circular Economy, mapping material flows within area to identify opportunities for circularity and co-location	Not Started	Medium	The WMCA's circular economy route map focuses on 3 key areas, circular construction, circular manufacturing, and circular food. As a constituent authority our route map should complement this and follow a similar theme. There has been limited progress on this action to date due to lack of resources, however it will be prioritised in the coming year.

4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.5 Council demonstrate s circular economy leadership	4.5b Encourage suppliers to adopt circular economy principles through procurement policies	Not Started	Short	This will feed into the Sustainable procurement policy: Council are engaging an external consultant to help us develop a sustainable procurement policy, strategy and measuring tool. Action on hold owing to resources within procurement team restart in 2023/2024 financial year.
4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.5 Council demonstrate s circular economy leadership	4.5c Explore opportunities to install recycling bins and facilities in public spaces alongside general waste bins and support the development of deposit return schemes (DRS)	Not Started	Short	
4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.6 Improve Council's waste collection and management	4.6a Lead by example and report publicly on the council's waste. Ensure emissions reduction and waste reduction is a key priority in the Council's waste strategy, decisions and investments.	Scoping in Progress	Short	No update.
4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.6 Improve Council's waste collection and management	4.6b Building on the Council's Plastic Free Strategy, consider banning single use plastics within the Council's buildings and events and develop a Plastic free campaign	Not Started	Short	No update.
4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.6 Improve Council's waste collection and management	4.6c Explore options for smart bins in public areas to improve the efficiency of waste collections	Scoping in Progress	Medium	No update.

5. Industry	Innovative technologies	5.1 Clean growth and low-carbon technology are advanced in the Borough	5.1a Work collaboratively with WMCA and GBSLEP to deliver the industrial strategy, particularly focusing on the clean growth challenge	Scoping in Progress	Medium	There is regular interaction between Solihull and WMCA and GBSLEP. The GBSLEP has recently opened a sustainability service with a dedicated account manager to provide sustainability support to businesses including industrial businesses. The WMCA have received £15m of pilot funding through DESNZ to provide revenue funding for energy assessment audits and roadmaps for SMEs in both the industrial and commercial sectors. Linked to this project, funding through our trailblazer devolution deal from DLUHC is expected to provide a further £10.5m of capital funding to be used for grants for energy efficient processes, decarbonisation, and fuel switching.
5. Industry	Innovative technologies	5.1 Clean growth and low-carbon technology are advanced in the Borough	5.1b Develop refresh of the Borough's Economic Growth Vision and Strategy to put Solihull and the region on the map for investors and investment in low carbon technologies and industries.	Completed	Short	The Economic Strategy has been adopted with 1 of the key pillars being net zero, meaning that net zero is a key part of the borough's future economy.

5. Industry	Industrial sector support	5.2 Industrial sector is supported to decarbonise and develop low-carbon infrastructure	5.2a Support setting up of a forum through which industry can achieve sustained collaboration and showcase leading examples of industrial decarbonisation, building on successful engagement forums such as the Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	SSVG highlights and number of attendees.
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5. Industry	Industrial sector support	5.2 Industrial sector is supported to decarbonise and develop low-carbon infrastructure	5.2b Encourage local industry to measure and understand emissions, develop a carbon reduction strategy and share best practice by providing support and guidance in collaboration with regional approaches	Scoping in Progress	Short	Regional business support – Decarbonation programme – live July/August - will provide information, expert advice and support to businesses enabling them to make significant decarbonization and money saving changes to their business. This will be supported through energy audits, Knowledge Transfer (carbon accountancy and sustainability software) and Net Zero grants, available to SMEs to decarbonise their activities. Additionally, £15m of pilot funding through DESNZ to provide revenue funding for energy assessment audits and roadmaps for SMEs in both the industrial and commercial sectors. Worked extensively with WRAP on a communications campaign to inform businesses on the incoming recycling regulations. Included two press releases, organic social media, business networking events and paid social media on LinkedIn.
5. Industry	Industrial sector support	5.2 Industrial sector is supported to decarbonise and develop low-carbon infrastructure	5.2c Set guidance and provide training for promoting zero and low-carbon infrastructure when assessing industrial/commercial planning applications	Scoping in Progress	Short	Highlighted within Policy P9 of the draft local plan. It promotes designs that enhance the transition to a net zero economy. Minor non-residential development will conform to at least BREEAM Very Good and major non-residential development will conform to at least BREEAM Excellent

5. Industry	Industrial sector support	5.2 Industrial sector is supported to decarbonise and develop low-carbon infrastructure	5.2d Signpost carbon reduction support for relevant industrial sectors which offers support to decarbonise	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Flagged and promoting of regional programmes through your future Solihull. The YFS website links through to the GBSLEP Sustainability Hub, which provides guidance for SMEs that are looking to receive support to achieve their decarbonisation and clean growth innovation objectives.
6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.1 Maintain existing tree & hedgerow coverage	6.1a Review Solihull's Urban Tree Strategy and Woodland Strategy and collate actions into a holistic strategy on biodiversity and natural capital, including long term plans to protect, manage and expand existing trees and woodland.	Significant Progress	Short	The woodland strategy now sits with forestry colleagues – we need to refresh it – and seek advice from planning. The natural capital investment strategy would be the holistic strategy that encompasses the others. We have just completed the urban tree strategy which we are taking to cabinet in the new year.
6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.1 Maintain existing tree & hedgerow coverage	6.1b Carry out ongoing inventory and report on tree & hedgerow abundance, diversity and cover statistics through the Planting our future initiative	Significant Progress	Short	Tree plotter is ongoing – includes public and both private land.
6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.1 Maintain existing tree & hedgerow coverage	6.1c Engage with community groups (e.g. friends of parks groups) to participate in tree planting, monitoring and inventories	Significant Progress	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 Community volunteers spent a total of 85 hours planting trees and hedgerows to support POF. 70 Business volunteers spent a total of 260 hours planting trees and hedgerows to support POF. POF (& internal/ external projects such as 'Bees & Trees' etc) planted 25K trees for the 2022/23 season The YFS website links through to 'friends of' groups, Solihull Conservation volunteers and how to register to be a litter picker.

6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.2 Increase tree & hedgerow coverage	6.2a Plant trees, woodland or hedgerows on Council owned land (where appropriate) - including strategic land, agricultural tenancies, SCH and along grass verges or highways	Significant Progress	Immediate	POF (& internal/ external projects such as 'Bees & Trees' etc) planted 25K trees for the 2022/23 season. They are running out of council land available to plant trees and now majority of trees being planted are on private land.
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6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.2 Increase tree & hedgerow coverage	6.2b Engage with private land owners to identify opportunities for tree and hedge planting through Planting our Future or Arden Free Tree Scheme	Significant Progress	Immediate	60% of trees now planted are on private land – mainly agricultural land – frog lane – holly lane etc. There are some on the Pakington estate. Further private land could be acquired after engagement activities with businesses e.g., through SSVG. Arden Free Tree Scheme information kept up to date on the YFS website.
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6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.2 Increase tree & hedgerow coverage	6.2c Carry out a opportunity mapping to assess areas of the Borough which could be converted to woodland in line with Solihull's Urban Forestry Strategy. Assess viable land for smaller plots of available land for tree planting in line with the Council's 250,000 tree planting target.	Significant Progress	Short	We can map where highway trees need to go, and we take guidance from the parks team on trees in parks. Officers Green and Blue infrastructure map should be able to map where trees need to go like a climate risk and vulnerability map. We are also looking at HS2 land that we can buy back. The council is running out of land for tree planting and now a lot of trees are planted on private land for planting our future.
6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.2 Increase tree & hedgerow coverage	6.2d Engage with community groups (e.g. friends of parks groups) and schools to carry out tree planting through WMCA Virtual forest	Significant Progress	Immediate	In the 22/23 financial year 63 community volunteers spent a total of 85 hours planting trees and hedgerows to support POF. The community groups involved were 5th Solihull Scouts Group, 11th Solihull Scouts Group, Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, Solihull Soroptimist, Solihull Tree Wardens, Friends of Willow Park / Balsall Common PC, Berkswell Parish Council.
6. Natural Environments	Tree & Hedgerow Coverage	6.2 Increase tree & hedgerow coverage	6.2e Ensure tree cover is considered for all new developments through the Local Plan and ensure explore incentives for developers to retain trees	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Backland SPD has got comments on tree cover - check when that was adopted.

6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	<p>6.2c Carry out a mapping exercise to assess which areas of the Borough could be designated, protected and enhanced as green space ensuring equitable access for communities across Solihull. This should include the role of soils and grasslands, wetlands and scrublands in Solihull as carbon sinks.</p>	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	<p>We can map where highway trees need to go, and we take guidance from the parks team on trees in parks. Officers Green and Blue infrastructure map should be able to map where trees need to go like a climate risk and vulnerability map.</p>
6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	<p>6.3b Clarify green space requirements for development in Local Plan, including the protection of existing landscapes. Ensure that carbon benefit is factored into the decision-making process on land use.</p>	Scoping in Progress	Short	<p>BNG is mandatory anyway.</p>

6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	6.3c Restore, retain and protect existing land uses which store CO2 on Council owned land	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Natural Capital Investment Strategy.
6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	6.3d Refresh mapping of green infrastructure assets across Solihull and develop a sustainable garden template for social housing tenants.	Not Started	Short	Green and blue infrastructure map. We work on SCH with their tree stock – we take direction from them on where we can plant new trees. There are pockets of open space in North Solihull that we want to utilise – there are issues with trees being vandalised etc.
6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.4 Improve biodiversity	6.4a Review Solihull's Biodiversity Strategy to encourage reducing pesticides and herbicides use on Council owned land in the Borough, including engagement with Pesticide Action Network UK on the development of a framework to transition to non-chemical alternatives.	Scoping in Progress	Short	This is going to be picked up in the working groups.

6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.4 Improve biodiversity	6.4b Engage with residents on the value of habitats and biodiversity in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Significant Progress	Immediate	4 water north Solihull part of the Thame valley wetland partnership worked with princes trust around jobs and the green economy. Are there any case studies? Home Tame Valley Wetlands We are recruiting a love Solihull community engagement officer – sitting with street care but is also going to work with the friends of parks groups.
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6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.4 Improve biodiversity	6.4c Run a campaign/training on Biodiversity Net Gain and develop communications to residents of the multiple benefits that green space and biodiversity have	Not Started	Medium	Mandatory net gain comes into effect in November of this year. Planning policies are developing a BNG supplementary planning document – develop a communications and engagement subgroup to look at those aspects. All in progress in the moment.
6. Natural Environments	Land Use Management	6.4 Improve biodiversity	6.4d Work with Wildlife Ways and rewild verges and plant and sensitively manage hedgerows to connect and enhance wider ecological network	Completed	Short	This project has now been successfully completed. As it has now been a few years the plants have bedded in and there has been positive feedback from the public on how the verges look.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.5 Support farmers and land owners to reduce carbon emissions	6.5a Work with WMCA to facilitate a forum to support local farmers across Solihull to discuss carbon reduction opportunities and share best practice on livestock productivity and feeds to reduce methane.	Not Started	Short	This needs changing - needs changing from WMCA to NFU. Move this to longer term. Through the local nature partnership – pick up with them
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.5 Support farmers and land owners to reduce carbon emissions	6.5b Work with key agriculture stakeholders such as NFU and Environment Agency to encourage local land owners to uptake sustainable livestock management practices . Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Local Nature Partnerships	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6a Commit to a target or pledge for more climate-friendly diets across the district, such as the WRI Cool Food Pledge	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Same as previous year.

6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6b Identify key partners/stakeholders in the borough to increase the sustainability of local diets, e.g. more local products for shorter supply chains	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Lunch and Learn session held by the CC&S team in May 2023 which promoted the benefits of buying food locally.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6c Set up a campaign to shift to local and sustainable produce in local diets, e.g. local food markets and events	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Kids at Monkspath made vegetarian recipe books that they are selling at a fair.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6d Set up a campaign to encourage residents to eat less meat and dairy and more locally sourced food	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Lunch and Learn session held by the CC&S team in May 2023 which promoted the benefits of buying food locally. There has been limited progress on promoting less meat as it can be seen as a controversial topic locally. On the YFS website there is some information on the benefits of eating less meat and recipe ideas.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6e Provide locally sourced, vegetarian or vegan meals in Council offices and Council led events	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6f Set up procurement contracts with local producers or Meat Free Mondays in schools across the district	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.
6. Natural Environments	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food consumption	6.6g Explore opportunities for urban farming, providing local community opportunities as well as improving sustainable food choices and reducing food miles e.g. District Eating.	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.

6. Natural Environments	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7a Develop an inseting strategy to address residual emissions not tackled by direct actions in the Borough with a validated inseting method, including a variety of natural sequestration options such as wetlands	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	<p>There has been some more work done this year on offsetting - by attending workshops with the WMCA on attracting funding from outcome buyers who could offset by investing in projects with the council. There has been no further work done on inseting.</p>
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6. Natural Environments	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7b Encourage businesses to support Borough-wide insetting initiatives where possible, keeping the benefits within the Borough, through Authority Based Insetting	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Nothing to report.
6. Natural Environments	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7c Engage with local farmers and land owners to distribute information on improving and maintaining soil health for carbon storage	Scoping in Progress	Medium	This work is carried out through local nature partnerships.
6. Natural Environments	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7d Assess the carbon sequestration of current Council land and identify opportunities to increase sequestration, looking into different natural carbon capture options	Not Started	Short	There has been no progress on this action to date.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.4 Residents and organisations are supported to maximise renewable energy installations	7.4b Identify existing power producers in the Borough and explore a Power Purchase Agreement with other organisations. If this is not possible, ensure any excess demand not met by Council owned renewables is from (3rd party) purchased renewables.	Not Started	Medium	Nothing to report.
7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1b Provide a solar map for businesses and residents to indicate how appropriate their building is for rooftop solar panels	Not Started	Medium	This action needs further consideration to align with the current housing strategy as there is an emphasis on fabric first measures prior to solar. Solar is a good option for houses with an EPC rating of C or higher. Timing needs changing from immediate to medium/long.

7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1c Coordinate with UK Power Network/WPD (the DNO) to improve understanding of energy profiles across the Borough to highlight what the grid connection and/or reinforcement needs are and ensure alignment of available energy with growth	Significant Progress	Medium	Change the wording from WPD to NGED. Regular interaction with NGED and participation in the DFES where we gave our projections of future energy demands. After discussions this year with National Grid RE the Hub project it seems as though there may be a lack of capacity in the future. This lack of capacity is increased further due to an increase in battery storage applications within the borough.
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1d Use the findings from the Renewable Energy Feasibility Study to increase solar installation on council's own buildings.	Scoping in Progress	short	New action added this year.
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1e Use the findings from the Renewable Energy Feasibility Study to develop a communication and engagement plan that leads an increase in solar uptake within the borough	Scoping in Progress	Short	New action added this year.
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1f Use the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP+) tool to identify energy hotspots within the borough and develop business cases that support renewable energy installation and battery storage.	Scoping in Progress	Short	New action added this year.
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1.g Coordinate with HNDU to understand developments relating to heat network zoning and the role of the council as a potential zoning coordinator.	Scoping in Progress	Short	New action added this year.
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.2 Improve local energy storage infrastructure	7.2a Explore ways to expand on or develop opportunities around large-scale energy storage solutions	Not Started	Medium	<p>This action has not been started but battery storage could be considered alongside solar for some council owned properties. There has been a large increase in planning applications for battery storage within the borough which may reduce capacity for future projects.</p>
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.3 Improve Council owned energy infrastructure	7.3a Install Solar PV on suitable Solihull Community Housing	Scoping in Progress	Medium	<p>As part of the renewable energy feasibility study - a case study was completed on a block of SCH low rise flats. There are financial/commercial options that the council needs to consider to increase PV installation. More than likely SCH flats will require battery storage aswell as the generation/consumption patterns do not always align.</p>
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7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.3 Improve Council owned energy infrastructure	7.3b Investigate suitable opportunities for installing solar panels on Council owned buildings or ground mounted on Council owned land where feasible	Completed	Medium	The renewable energy feasibility study phase 2 focused on building mount solar for council buildings and ground mount solar in the form of a car park canopy. 5 case studies were incorporated into the study, including the council house and civic suite, north Solihull sports centre, a school, a block of SCH flats and a car park canopy. Other ground mount options could not be considered as the council has a very limited amount of council owned brownfield land. In addition, a lot of the land in Solihull is greenbelt land which has its own planning restrictions.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.4 Residents and organisations are supported to maximise renewable energy installations	7.4a Consult with residents on the benefits of installing solar panels and the potential opportunities from initiatives like solar streets	Scoping in Progress	Short	No work done 22/23 financial year with regards to speaking to residents directly about solar. In the next financial year there are plans to incorporate solar as part of the behaviour change strategy and potentially have some drop in events for solar similar to the warm home drop in events.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.4 Residents and organisations are supported to maximise renewable energy installations	7.4c Support community energy projects and provide guidance to local residents and schools through an awareness raising program	Scoping in Progress	Short	Renewable Energy Feasibility highlighted commercial and financial options for both schools and the wider community including Solar for Schools and Solar together. These findings need to be thoroughly examined before recommendations can be made to the community.

7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.4 Residents and organisations are supported to maximise renewable energy installations	7.4d Provide support for SMEs to access funding and skills for energy projects. Facilitate better access to finance, such as the Carbon Offset Fund.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Regional business support – Decarbonation programme – live July/August - will provide information, expert advice and support to businesses enabling them to make significant decarbonization and money saving changes to their business. This will be supported through energy audits, Knowledge Transfer (carbon accountancy and sustainability software) and Net Zero grants, available to SMEs to decarbonise their activities. There needs to be more of a focus on renewables for this action to progress. The YFS website links through to the GBSLEP Sustainability Hub, which provides guidance for SMEs that are looking to receive support to achieve their decarbonisation and clean growth innovation objectives.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.5 Economies of scale are leveraged in order that businesses maximise the uptake of renewable energy	7.5b Facilitate coordinated investment in energy infrastructure at key locations such as the Hub, to enable developers to benefit from infrastructure required to achieve net zero buildings.	Significant Progress	Medium	There was significant progress for the Hub energy project in the 22/23 financial year. We carried out an in-depth soft market testing exercise with investors and energy companies to gauge the interest of the market. The project also received HNDU funding which allowed the project to move to the detailed project development phase. As part of the funding, we were able to hire a dedicated project manager.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.5 Economies of scale are leveraged in order that businesses maximise the uptake of renewable energy	7.5c Review the role of low carbon hydrogen in the net zero transition as appropriate to Solihull and working alongside partners to foster commercial opportunities and borough wide applications.	Not Started	Long	No progress was made on this action during 2023. In the upcoming year we will be reviewing the WMCA's Hydrogen strategy and ensuring we align ourselves with their strategy.

7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.6 Increase renewable energy installations	7.6a Review heritage building planning policy to allow for more buildings to be retrofit with renewable energy solutions in line with the Local Plan	Scoping in Progress	Short	Signposting in the SPD to historic England.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.6 Increase renewable energy installations	7.6b Ensure the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) includes recommendations for the provision for renewable technologies, such as solar PV, on new-build development where relevant	Scoping in Progress	Medium	Yes it does - it's in the local plan and SPD.

7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.6 Increase renewable energy installations	7.6c Explore options to improve anaerobic digestion / biogas plant capacity in the area.	Not Started	Medium	No update.
7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.6 Increase renewable energy installations	7.6d. Develop an investment scheme to provide funding to residents to install renewable technologies with payback as dividends	Scoping in Progress	Medium	This was one of the financial/commercial options identified in the renewable energy feasibility study. This approach needs investigating further before it can be implemented.
8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.1 Reduce direct carbon impact of existing procurement contracts	8.1a Establish standards of effective carbon management in contracts	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	We currently don't ask for this information from suppliers. It may be relevant for some contracts but is unworkable for many contracts.
8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.1 Reduce direct carbon impact of existing procurement contracts	8.1b Deliver training to contract managers on sustainable procurement and how it relates to the Borough's strategy	Scoping in Progress	Short	Contract managers are not part of the procurement team and sit in various teams. Procurement will be trained on sustainability once the new strategy has been developed.
8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.1 Reduce direct carbon impact of existing procurement contracts	8.1c Define and weight Social Value outcome (TOMS) which incentivises Council contractors to support the creation of new apprenticeships in net zero skills.	Scoping in Progress	Short	The TOMs have been aligned to the council plan and environmental sustainability is one of the TOMs. TOMs can support the generation of jobs/apprenticeships in general but not specific to net zero apprenticeships. This action may be more relevant sitting with the inclusive growth team.

8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.2 Net zero aligned future procurement contracts	8.2a Ensure the importance of carbon reduction and environmental sustainability is clearly stated in procurement activities by increasing the weighting of carbon-focused TOMS for relevant procurement activities	Significant Progress	Immediate	The TOMS have been aligned to the council plan, therefore reduced no. of TOMS. Focussed on Council priorities and environmental sustainability is one of them. TOMs are more aligned to social value which is hard to quantify and for the reduction of emissions there should be more clear-cut targets we ask of suppliers within the net zero procurement policy.
8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.2 Net zero aligned future procurement contracts	8.2b Introduce a net zero aligned procurement policy	Scoping in Progress	Medium	A new officer has been appointed to deliver a policy covering CCS/Net Zero ambitions
8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.2 Net zero aligned future procurement contracts	8.2c Require suppliers to set Science Based Targets (SBTs) or at the very least have a climate strategy or target in line with the Borough	Scoping in Progress	Medium	SBT's are unrealistic for all suppliers - only the biggest suppliers will have these targets and a strategy. The net zero policy needs to come first, then a criteria can be set for carbon standards/climate policies.

8. Council Influence	National policy	8.3 Lobby national government to deliver national policy changes	8.3a Encourage more ambitious national action and funding opportunities in key areas relating to Solihull, working with WMCA to identify the local powers needed to support implementation of the net zero actions and working with national bodies to lobby for adequate resourcing and staffing of local authorities	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Devolution deal.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.4 Internal behaviour change	8.4a Deliver Carbon Literacy Training, or a similar educational programme, to all Council staff & members and incorporate this training into the onboarding process.	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	Team are considering offering carbon literacy training to staff and councillors.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.4 Internal behaviour change	8.4b Monitor and track progress to implement actions in the Net Zero Action Plan, ensuring annual reporting and regular scheduled review of the action plan and implementation planning	Significant Progress	Long	Programme of reporting in 22/23 was similar to 21/22 with officer interviews being held to run through the actions and get an update and narrative. Moving forward we may carry out more frequent catch-up meetings with teams to stay on top of progress - rather than once per year.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.4 Internal behaviour change	8.4c Develop a strategy for reducing staff and Council's own emissions alongside ambitions for the Borough.	Significant Progress	Immediate	No update.

8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.4 Internal behaviour change	8.4d Ensure a complete council's own emissions inventory is calculated annually and reported publicly following recognised standards	Scoping in Progress	Short	No update.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.5 Decision making supports net zero	8.5a Consider requirement for all Council decisions of a specific value to undertake an environmental impact assessment, including contribution to net zero commitments.	Not Started	Short	No update.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6b Consider the use of incentives to encourage business behaviour or choices that support net zero goals, for example EV charging points, solar PV. Business Improvement District opportunity. Link to EPC rating?	Not Started	Short	SSVG and signposting of the growth hub.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6c Consider the use of incentivise personal behaviour or choices that support net zero goals, for example heat pump over gas boiler replacement, EV charging point. Link to EPC rating?	Not Started	Short	No update.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6d Develop a communications campaign to provide regular, clear and simple net zero 'calls to action' to all in the Solihull community.	Significant Progress	Immediate	Messages such as 'help us reach net zero by 2041' are regularly woven into communications, including press releases, newsletters, website copy, social media and podcasts. In March 2023 there was a press release on the 2021/22 Net Zero Annual Report. Cllr Courts' quote states "Action on climate change is critical for everyone and we need to see what action is being taken. This is our first Net Zero Annual Report, allowing residents to find out how Solihull is doing when it comes to tackling climate emissions."

8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6e Link calls to action to projects, resources or funding that can enable people to take action.	Scoping in Progress	Short	No update.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6f Investigate the ESG rating of the Council's investments and explore decarbonising the council's pension schemes from fossil fuel investments	Not Started	Long	No update.
8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.7 Support skills development to support net zero	8.7a Collaborate with local training colleges and educational centres to ensure sufficient, relevant skills capacity exists within the local workforce	Scoping in Progress	Short	No update.

8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.7 Support skills development to support net zero	8.7b Work with WMCA and GBSLEP to support businesses in identifying and quantifying what skills are required to take forward the net zero actions	Scoping in Progress	Immediate	<p>The YFS website links through to the GBSLEP Sustainability Hub, which provides guidance for SMEs that are looking to receive support to achieve their decarbonisation and clean growth innovation objectives.</p>
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8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.5 Decision making supports net zero	8.5b Ensure strategic decision making is aligned with theme C of the economic strategy, A Sustainable Economy	Scoping in Progress	Long	New action added this year.



2041 →



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