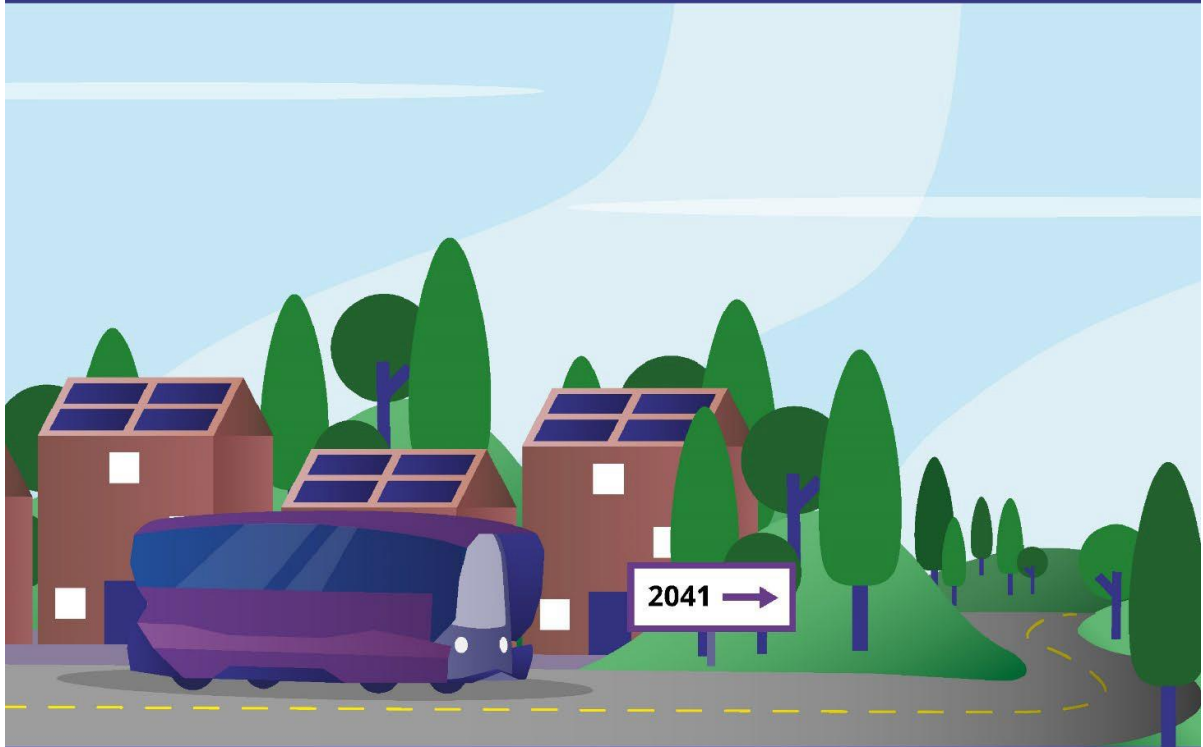


# Net Zero Action Plan: Annual Report 2023/24



**YOUR  
FUTURE  
SOLIHULL**



**Solihull**  
METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# **Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report 2023/2024**

## **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 2021. The NZAP outlines actions that the Council can take to support Solihull becoming a net zero borough by 2041. This is our third year of reporting against the plan, which covers the 2023/24 financial year.

The borough-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data is reported 2 years in arrears, with the most up to date data covering 2022. Between 2021 and 2022 we saw a 2.1% decrease in emissions, compared to a 5.5% increase seen in the previous year, (which was heavily influenced by the ending of COVID restrictions). 96% of Local Authority areas saw a decrease in emissions in 2022, with an overall 5% decrease in UK emissions.

Solihull's GHG emissions in 2022 were 2.7% higher than its net zero trajectory. This report also compares borough-wide CO<sub>2</sub> levels with the Tyndall Centre pathway and its recommended budget for carbon reduction, (in line with that required to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C). In 2022 the borough's CO<sub>2</sub> levels were 33% higher than the Tyndall pathway. As is the case across the UK, we are not seeing the speed of reductions needed to bring the borough on track with this pathway. More national and local action is required, as council action alone will not achieve the reductions needed.

While we saw a small decrease in emissions across the borough in 2022, we have made significant progress against the actions in the NZAP. In 2023/24, nearly three quarters of the 202 actions were underway.

The Council acknowledges how important it is to lead by example and reduce our own emissions. Since 2017/18, the Council's own emissions have reduced by 55%. We have done this through a range of actions, including energy efficiency improvements and switching to low and net zero carbon energy, (for street lighting and waste collection vehicles).

The NZAP seeks to reduce emissions in all sectors, including challenging and high emitting sectors such as transport and domestic buildings. The Council is focusing significant action in these areas, such as building new zero carbon homes in Kingshurst and increasing our EV charging installations using Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.

Another example of significant progress is the Council's Town Centre Energy Network, for which enabling works have now begun. Once completed, the scheme will bring low carbon energy to a number of local authority buildings, schools and businesses within Solihull Town Centre.

As a Council we know it is important for us to support residents in reducing their carbon emissions. Solihull's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) programme is enabling homeowners to heat and power their homes using low and zero carbon energy systems, such as air source heat pumps and solar panels.

The Council has limited direct influence on many emission sources in the borough. Achieving the net zero target therefore requires the Council to work closely and engage with all stakeholders in the borough including businesses and community groups. This year the council has been able to offer local businesses and community groups support in reducing their carbon emissions through grant funded programmes such as the Net Zero business programme.

This year the Council approved Solihull's Air Quality Strategy and Natural Capital Investment Strategy, with sustainability at their heart. Both strategies support the decarbonisation of the borough.

There have been significant challenges in delivering the NZAP in 2023/24. These include changes in national policy, low uptake of renewable energy and the continued impact of high energy costs and inflation, which has had a significant impact on construction projects such as retrofit.

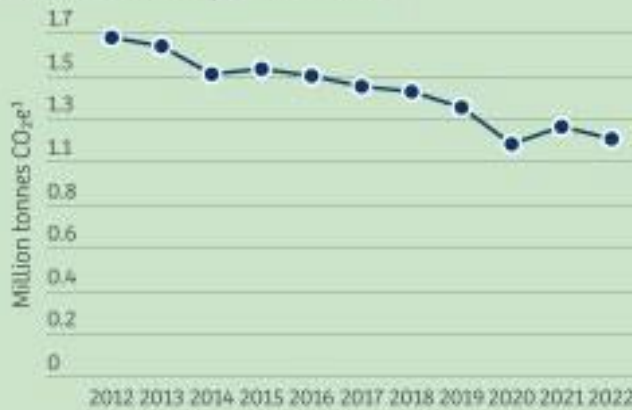
There is a lot of activity underway in the 2024/25 financial year including accelerating our installation of EV charging stations and delivering further net zero properties in Council-led developments, such as Kingshurst Village Centre and the Simon Digby housing development.

In 2025 we will refresh the Net Zero Action Plan to ensure that the plan remains focused on the right priorities.

## Performance Information

The summary below includes outlines our progress so far and is the latest data available. The borough-wide emissions shown are for 2022. Unless otherwise stated, all other data relates to the 2023-24 financial year.

### Trend in borough emissions



Overall borough-wide emissions<sup>2</sup> are gradually decreasing year-on-year which is primarily due to the decarbonisation of electricity generation. There was a steep decline in emissions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a post-lockdown bounce-back in emissions in 2021, the gradual decline has continued.

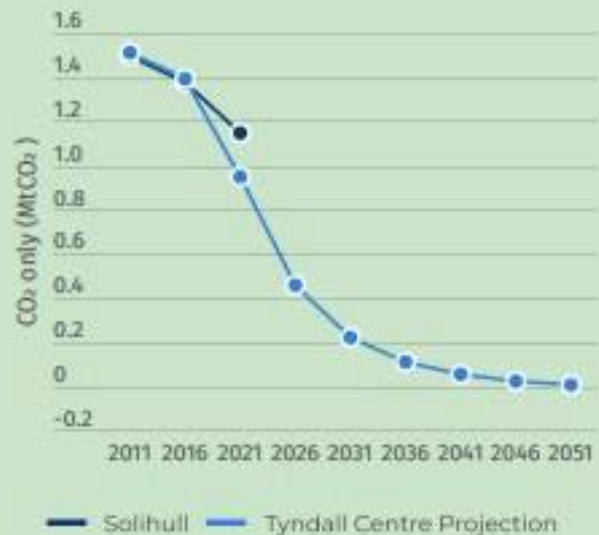
<sup>1</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>e refers to carbon dioxide equivalent and measures carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in addition to the other greenhouse gases; methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

<sup>2</sup>2022 is the most recent data set available for borough emissions

### How are we performing against the Paris agreement?

#### Solihull CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2011-2051:





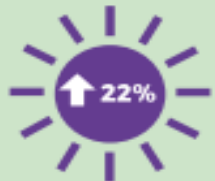
The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research have produced carbon budgets for each local authority based on translating the "well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C" global temperature target and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement. In 2022 CO<sub>2</sub> levels in Solihull were 1.09 (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) which is 33% higher than the Tyndall projection of 0.82 (MtCO<sub>2</sub>). Therefore, Solihull is not currently aligned with our carbon reduction trajectory and a significant increase of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation is required across the borough to get closer to the borough aim to be net zero by 2041.

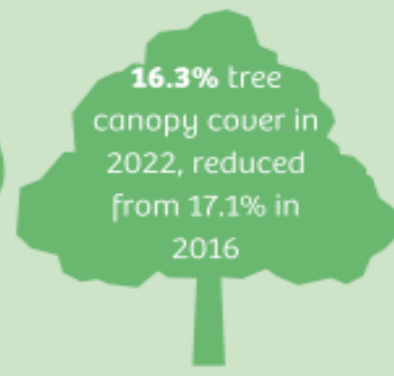


## Energy Performance Certificate ratings 2023/2024

Domestic buildings	Non-domestic buildings	Total
56% rated EPC C or above. National average = 60%	48% rated EPC C or above. National average = 33%	5,087 EPCs logged across the borough. 55% rated C or above





### Borough-wide stats

 <p>Households in fuel poverty rose across the borough in 2022 - up from 12.7% of households in 2021. National average = 13.1% West Midlands average = 19.6%</p>	 <p>8.1% of all vehicles are ultra-low emissions – up from 6.5% from previous year</p>
<p>Electric vehicle charging points per 1,000 population, up from 67.4 the previous year. National average = 89</p> 	
<p>Installed capacity of renewable energy by type is 98.4% photovoltaics and 1.6% sewage gas</p> 	<p>Total installed capacity of all renewable technology from 10.6MW to 12.9MW</p> 





## Solihull's Low Carbon & Environmental Economic Sector (19/20 data)

<p>Annual gross value added (GVA) in Solihull</p>	<p><b>£776m</b></p> 	<p>More than 460 companies in the sector across the borough</p> 
	<p>More than 8,300 employees working in the sector across the borough</p>	 <p>Annual growth rate in Solihull</p>

### Council-own emissions



Energy use in kWh per floor area



Owned and operated Council buildings



Schools (excluding academies)

**73%**

Solihull Community Housing homes EPC rating of C or above (2021)



**42**

schools engaged with sustainability activity



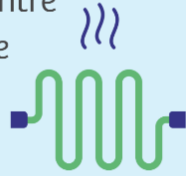
**£787,839**

Environmental Social Value committed through council procurement contracts



## 2023/24 NZAP Highlights

Solihull Town Centre Heat Network site works began.



Solihull's first net zero advice & grant programme for local businesses began.



25 new zero carbon energy efficient Council houses completed in Kingshurst.



Carbon reduction surveys completed for Solihull Council corporate buildings.



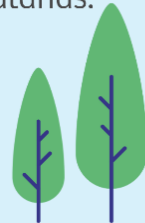
14 local community buildings with carbon reduction plans in place.



7,000 children & families took part in Walk to School Week.



17 Green Flag parks achieved - the most in the Midlands.



18,480 page views across the Your Future Solihull website.



Solihull announced as finalist in the 2024 Global Destination Sustainability Awards

# Net Zero Action Plan Annual Report 2023/24

## 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 third annual report detailing our progress against the plan.

This report provides an update 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 next year.



### 1.2 How are we doing against our plan?

We have made significant progress against our plan and have started progressing nearly three quarters of all actions. This year some actions have been edited and others removed that were completed or are carried out by the council as business as usual. Some new actions have been added to keep the action plan relevant. The plan currently has 202 actions in total.

### Status of Actions

Not Started	Scoping In Progress/Work Begun	Significant Progress	Completed
53	87	58	4

While not all actions have started, it is encouraging that the majority, (86%), of actions that are assessed as key priorities (owing to higher carbon reduction potential as well as multiple benefits) are under way.

Some actions have not started because of lack of resource, or because the Council has no or very limited control over them, or because circumstances have changed, and the action is no longer relevant. This is something that will be considered as part of the refresh of the action plan in 2025, where there will be a continued focus on actions with the highest carbon reduction potential.

The withdrawal of Solihull's draft Local Plan in October 24 following recommendation by the Inspectors, may have a significant impact on progress of 23 of the actions in the plan that are linked to enabling net zero local development, in particular in the built environment sections where reliance on an adopted policy is crucial to delivery. The Council is already starting work on a new Local Plan and remains committed to addressing climate change within it. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan, such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies.

### 1.3 Data guide

This report includes 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 third year of reporting.

**Please Note:** CO<sub>2</sub>e refers to carbon dioxide equivalent and measures carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in addition to the other greenhouse gases including methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

We have used the most up to date data available. For borough wide emissions the latest data available is for 2022. The rest of the data is from the 2023/24 financial year unless stated otherwise. The baseline year is 2019/20 unless otherwise noted.

Information on data sources is included in Appendix 2.

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.



National and local data sources are regularly reviewed and as such data from previous years can change owing to new information and/or improved modelling.

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

### 2.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Total borough wide GHG emissions per year: 1.173 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)<sup>1</sup> (2022) (*1.198 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 2021*)
- Total borough wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year: 1.09 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) (2022)<sup>1</sup> (*1.11 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 2021*)
- Greenhouse gas emissions per capita: 5.39 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person (2022) (*5.53MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 2021*)
- Carbon intensity per unit of Gross Value Added: 121 tonnes<sup>2</sup> of CO<sub>2</sub>e per £GVA (2022) (*136 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/£GVA 2021*)
- Sectoral breakdown of GHG emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)<sup>1</sup> (2022) (Figures 1 & 2 below)

### 2.2 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.

### 2.3 What does the data tell us?



In 2022, borough wide greenhouse gas emissions were 1.173 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This was a 2.1% decrease on the previous year, which was a lower rate of decrease than for the West Midlands and UK (West Midlands 4.7%, UK 5%). Borough emissions were 11.3% lower than in 2019, which was a greater rate of reduction than for the West Midlands (8.9% decrease) and the UK (9.9% decrease).

Solihull's per capita emissions were 5.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. This is similar to the national average of 5.6 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e and equal to the West Midlands average of 5.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.<sup>1</sup>

Solihull continues to perform well on tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per pound of gross value added (GVA), with 121 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per million-pound GVA (136 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/£m GVA 2021) in comparison to 201 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per million-pound GVA across the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedbyindustrylocalauthoritiesbyitl1region>

West Midlands and 167 across the UK in 2022. This is a measure of the carbon intensity of our economy and is an important metric as we seek to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

The borough’s carbon emission data is explored in more detail below.

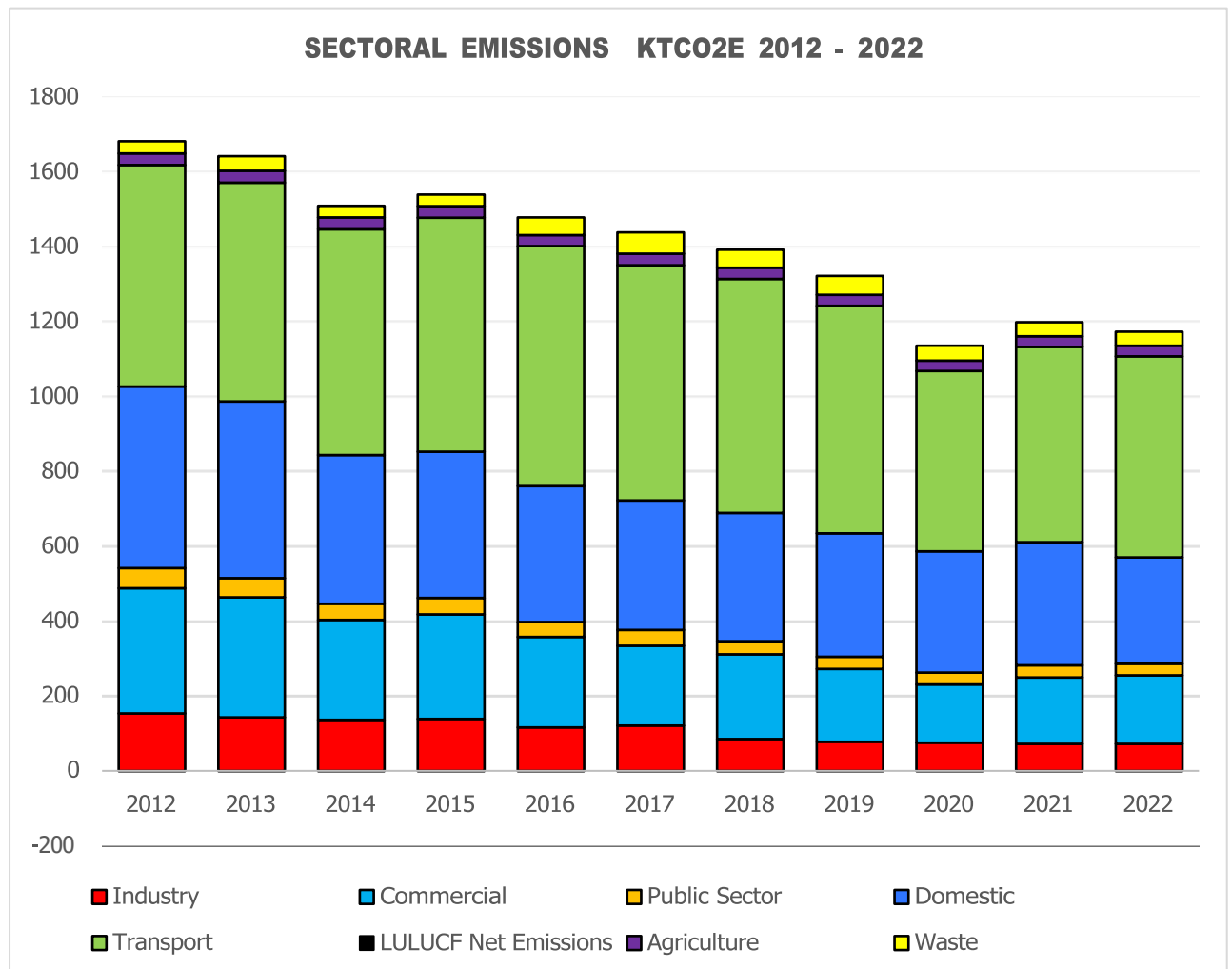


Figure 1: Borough CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by sector 2012-2022.  
 \*LULUCF stands for Land use, land use change and forestry

The graph above shows the trend in borough-wide emissions since 2012. Emissions have decreased year on year, with 2015 and 2021 being the exceptions. The main reason for the decreasing trend is the decarbonisation of grid electricity, which means the electricity that we all use causes lower emissions per kWh.

There was a step 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 5.5%. We did not see further bounce back in 2022, instead a similar rate of decline to pre-Covid took place.

Solihull's sectors with the highest emissions are transport, domestic and commercial. The domestic and commercial sectors have shown significant reduction over time (41% and 46% reduction since 2012), however emissions from the transport sector have fallen much more slowly (9%) over that time.

The pie chart below, shows percentage contribution to borough emissions in 2022. The transport sector was responsible for 46% of emissions, domestic 24%, commercial 16% and industry 6%.

This reflects the nature of the borough, with major road and motorways running through it and significant commercial activity in areas such as the UK Central (UKC) Hub (e.g. NEC, Birmingham Airport) and Solihull Town Centre and compares with the UK local authority area average of 31% for transport, 22% domestic sector, 15% industry, 13% agricultural and 9% commercial.

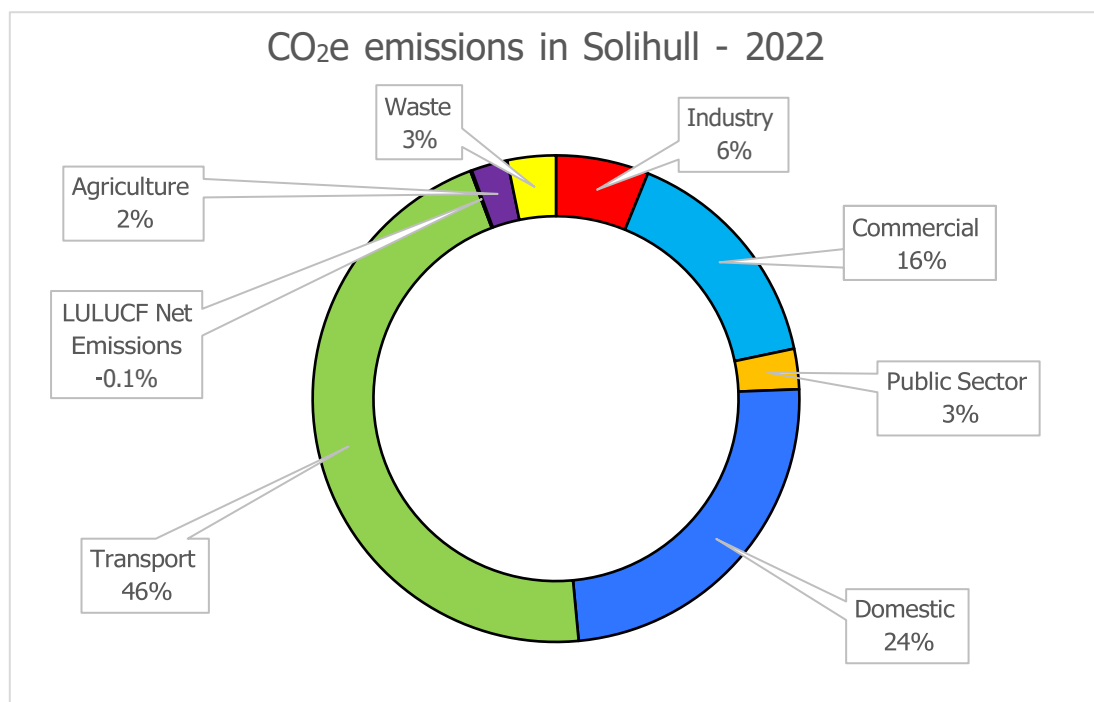


Figure 2: Percentage contribution to borough emissions by sector 2022  
\*LULUCF stands for Land use, land use change and forestry.

The main reason for 2022's reduction in carbon emissions, both nationally and locally, was a very significant decrease in carbon emissions from the domestic sector. For Solihull this reduction was 14%, reflecting, not just a warmer than usual winter, but the impact of much higher energy prices.

There was a 3% increase in emissions from the borough’s transport and commercial sectors, which, while not going back to pre-Covid levels, appears to reflect increased activity in these sectors following Lockdown. Solihull’s commercial sector increase goes against the regional and national trend, (West Midlands 6% decrease, UK 5% decrease). This appears to be due to a post lockdown bounce back in activity in this sector; (during lockdown Solihull’s commercial sector showed a much greater drop in emissions than regionally and nationally).

Although Solihull’s emissions are gradually decreasing over time, we will need to increase our efforts to reach our goal of being a net zero borough by 2041.

As transport, and domestic and commercial gas and electricity use are Solihull’s largest contributors to emissions, (nearly 80% of locally influenceable emissions), actions to reduce emissions in these sectors will continue to be priorities when the Net Zero Action Plan is refreshed in 2025.

## 2.4 How we are performing against our Net Zero target

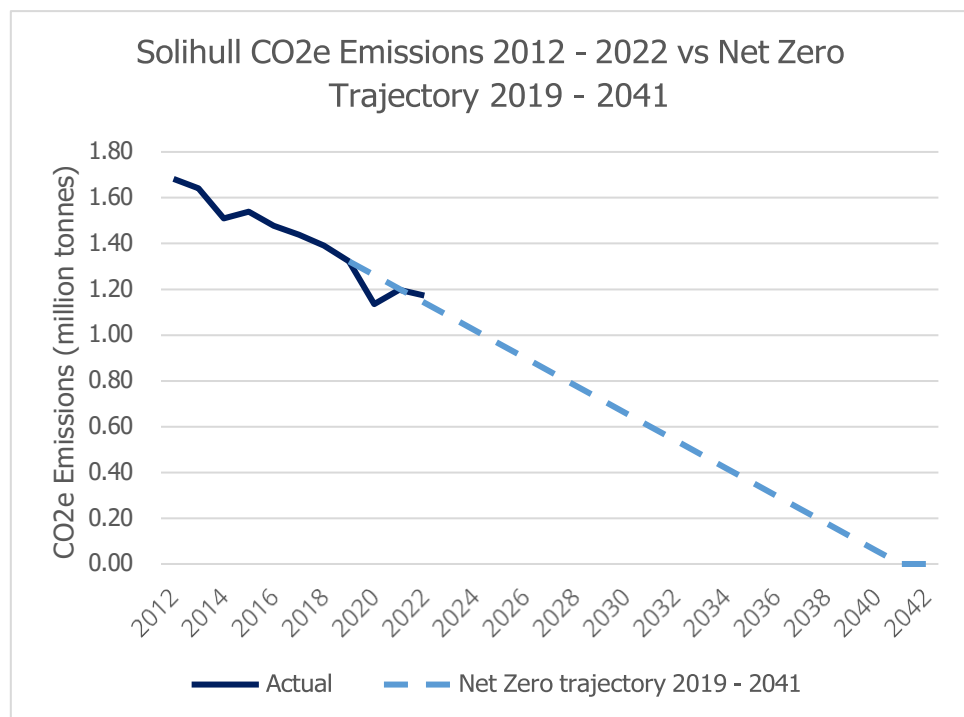


Figure 3: Solihull \*CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions 2012 – 2050 vs 2019-2041 Net Zero trajectory

\*CO<sub>2</sub>e includes the greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide as well as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

The borough’s CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2022 were 1.173 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, which is 2.7 % above the net zero trajectory figure for 2022 of 1.142 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.



## 2.5 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 would need to be met.<sup>3</sup>

1. Solihull must stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of **8 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) for the period of 2020 to 2100.**

Year	Solihull CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (MtCO <sub>2</sub> )	Amount remaining in Carbon budget (MtCO <sub>2</sub> )
2020	1.05	6.95
2021	1.11	5.84
2022	1.09	4.75

At 2022 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, Solihull would use the entire carbon budget by 2027.

2. For Solihull to stay within the Tyndall emissions pathway, a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of around 17.5% year on year would be required.
3. Solihull should aim to reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041.

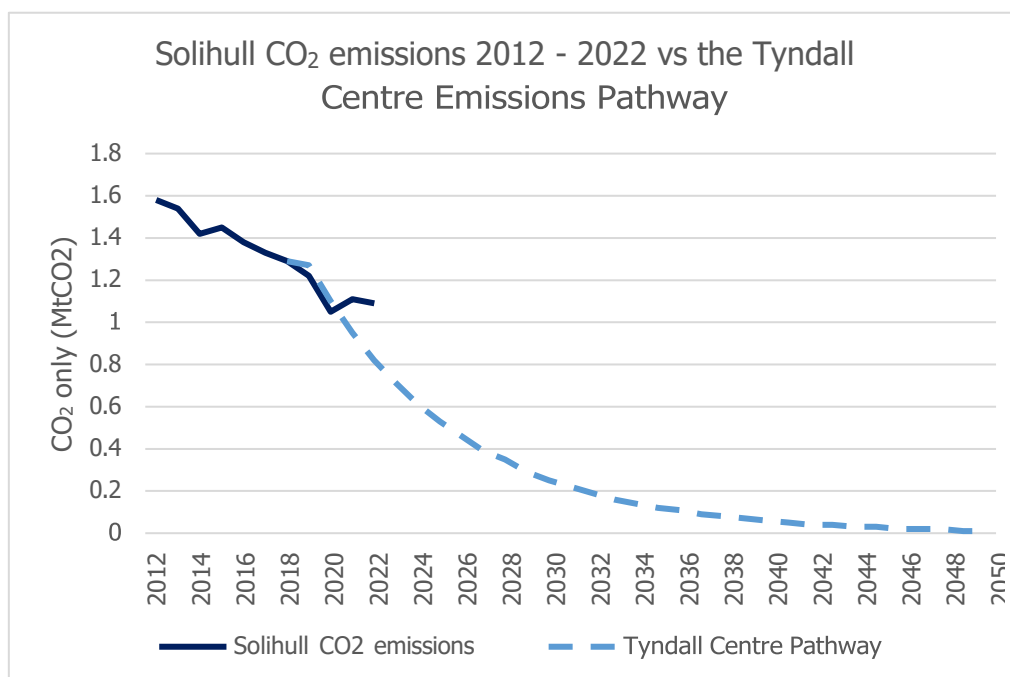


Figure 4: Solihull CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2012 – 2050 vs the Tyndall Centre Emissions Pathway

*\*Aviation and shipping emissions remain within the UK national carbon budget and are not split per local authority area. \*\*Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are considered separately to the CO<sub>2</sub> budget.*

<sup>3</sup> [Local and Regional Implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change \(manchester.ac.uk\)](http://manchester.ac.uk)

The above graph demonstrates how Solihull performed against the indicative Tyndall Centre pathway. The line stops at 2022, as this is the latest emissions data available. In 2022, CO<sub>2</sub> levels in Solihull were 1.09 (MtCO<sub>2</sub>), which is 33% higher than the Tyndall projection of 0.82 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.

Despite an overall trend in reduction of carbon emissions, the borough would need to significantly accelerate carbon reduction to remain in step with the Tyndall Pathway for reaching net zero by 2041. This is the case across the UK.

NB The Tyndall Centre pathway has been calculated using CO<sub>2</sub> emission data only and therefore excludes methane and nitrous oxide emissions.

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

- 24% of the borough's GHG emissions were from non-domestic\* buildings in 2022<sup>4</sup>
- There was a 2% increase in emissions from 2021 to 2022<sup>4</sup>
- There was a 6% reduction in emissions from 2019 to 2022<sup>4</sup>
- Proportion of non-domestic buildings assessed in the borough reaching Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C or above: 47.8%. <sup>5</sup>
- Proportion of public buildings assessed in the borough reaching Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating of 'C' or above: 45% in 2023/24<sup>5</sup>.
- Energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings: 137 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>
- Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council-maintained schools (excluding academies): 120 kWh/ m<sup>2</sup>
- 42 schools engaged on sustainability

### 3.2 Why is this data important?

Emissions from non-domestic buildings are nearly a quarter of Solihull's emissions, which means tackling energy consumption in this sector is a priority for Solihull.

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. Display Energy Certificates are for public buildings only.

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 commercial sector is responsible for the majority (64%) of emissions from this sector.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>

<sup>5</sup> <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/>

*\*Non-Domestic building carbon emissions are comprised of emissions from the commercial, industry and public sectors. These emissions are from the electricity, gas and other fossil fuels used in these buildings.*

The proportion of Solihull's non-domestic buildings assessed with an EPC rating of C or above was 48.7% in 2023/24. This is higher than the West Midlands (34.2%) and England averages (38.1%) and is c.16% improvement from the previous year.



The proportion of Solihull's public buildings assessed with a DEC rating between A-C was 45% in 2023/24. This is less than the national and regional average of 50%. The proportion of DEC A-C ratings has decreased by 8% in the borough since 2022/2023, however there has been an overall increase of 11% since 2019/20.

In 2022/2023 there was 137 (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) energy use in kWh per floor area from owned and operated Council buildings, this is a decrease of 5% from 2022/2023 and a decrease of 18% since 2019/2020. The reduction is attributed to energy efficiency measures and the closure of some buildings.

120 (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) Energy use in kWh per floor area from Council-maintained schools (excluding academies) is a decrease of 4% from 2022/2023 financial year and an overall decrease of 13% since 2019/2020. The reduction can be attributed to energy saved and the removal of some schools from the data, as they became academies.

42 schools engaged with the council on sustainability. This is a decrease of 10 from the previous year and is a reflection of a change from the annual Sustainable Schools online conference to the face-to-face STEAMChallenge event and the holding of the Fairtrade event later in the year than usual.

### **3.4 Highlights from 2023/2024**

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 Council Buildings



While Council emissions make up just 1.3% of the borough’s non-domestic building emissions, it is important the Council leads by example, with the aim, not just of cutting carbon, but of also making energy and cost savings.

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.

Decarbonisation surveys have been carried out at 36 of the Council’s operational properties and also at Leisure Centres to identify what steps could be taken to reduce their carbon footprint and support the Council’s ambition of achieving net zero emissions by 2030. These have been conducted independently by Dodd Group on behalf of the Property Services and Maintenance Partnership (PSMP) and have identified more than 320 opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, ranging from improvement of building insulation and fabric performance to replacement heating systems. While this presents opportunities for the Council to make the buildings more energy efficient and contribute to its ambitious net zero goal, the Council also faces the challenge of funding the work. In some cases, payback times are not currently favourable and funding solutions, such as grant funding, will need to be sought.

In 2023, the Council was successful in an application to the Swimming Pool Support Fund, receiving £457,000 for pool covers and building mounted solar PV at North Solihull leisure centre. An initial design identified that up to 86% of the site’s electricity consumption could be met through solar PV, giving the sports centre significant yearly energy bill savings.

In 2024 site works began for the Council’s Solihull Town Centre Heat Network project (see [Section 8](#)), which will enable Council and other organisations’ buildings to benefit from low carbon heat. The Council obtained funding from Central Government and WMCA to support its own investment in this scheme.

The Council is hoping to obtain further support for decarbonisation of its buildings through the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation grant scheme (PSDS).

### 3.4.2 Schools

Some of the key actions carried out in the 2023/2024 financial year were:

#### **Model COP Climate Conference:**

In December 2023, students from 10 Solihull secondary schools participated in a model COP28 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.

### **‘Low Carbon Schools Solihull’ STEAMChallenge:**

This face-to-face event took place in March 24. 10 Solihull schools were brought together with innovators, academics and council officers to explore how they can reduce their own emissions and play their part in tackling climate change in their own communities.

### **Greener Solihull Schools Awards:**

In 2023, the Council’s Greener Solihull Schools Awards were achieved by 7 schools. The awarded schools showed exceptional commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation. The awards were sponsored by local businesses.

### **Let’s Go Zero Campaign:**

10 Solihull schools are receiving bespoke support from Climate Action Advisors to help them to green their buildings, transport, menus and more.

### **National Nature Education Park:**

4 Solihull schools signed up to this DfE funded initiative working together to improve their sites for nature.

For information on waste education see [Section 6](#), for sustainable travel for schools and young people see [Section 5](#).

### **3.4.3 Community buildings**

The Council has utilised the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity funding to provide surveys, and decarbonisation plans for 14 buildings owned by local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations to set out how they can improve their energy efficiency to make cost and carbon savings. Options identified range from low-cost options, such as draught proofing, to major capital projects, such as heating upgrades. The programme, which included in-person workshops, saw strong engagement from organisations and led some to apply for external funding to initiate projects. While this is a just a small proportion of community buildings in Solihull, the project has demonstrated

interest by the sector to assess their buildings, both for the benefit of the climate and to lower their fuel bills, leading the Council to look at how this programme could be extended to further VCFSE organisations across the borough.

### 3.4.4 Commercial and Industry

#### Net zero business support and grants

Solihull Council is now promoting business support and grants to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to improve their sustainability and reduce their environmental impact. This has been achieved through a series of sessions delivered to suppliers as part of the [Sustainable Supply Chain Support](#) initiative with further events with large supply chain organisations planned at the end of 2024.

To date, 16 SMEs have also been supported through the [Circular Economy](#) programme ([see Section 6](#)), while eight SMEs have applied for a match-funded grant from the [Net Zero Grant Programme](#) to make their premises more energy efficient, with a strong pipeline of future applications on the horizon. As the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded programmes continue to build momentum, the goal is to drive deeper collaboration within the Solihull's supply chain to foster sustainable practices and innovation, supporting our commitment to helping SMEs transition towards more circular, low-carbon business models.



*Photo 1: Solihull Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Business and Economy Cllr Ian Courts at Solihull Indoor Bowls Club. The Club has been upgraded thanks to a £61,837 grant from the Net Zero Grant Programme (NZGP). The building has been modernised with carbon and cost cutting measures including almost 100 solar panels, an insulated suspended ceiling in the bowling hall, and LED lighting designed specifically to reduce glare.*

## Section 4: Domestic Buildings

### 4.1 Overview

- 24% of the borough's GHG emissions were from households in 2022<sup>6</sup>
- There was a 13.7% reduction in domestic emissions\* from 2021 to 2022<sup>6</sup>
- There was a 14% reduction in domestic emissions from 2019 to 2022<sup>6</sup>
- 55.6% of domestic buildings assessed across the borough reached EPC level C and above.<sup>7</sup>
- Total number of domestic EPC's logged across the borough in the 2023/24 financial year was 4700; (13% lower than 2022/23).<sup>7</sup>
- 73% of Solihull Community Housing properties achieved EPC level C or above.
- 14.1% households in fuel poverty (up from 12.7% in 2022/23)<sup>8</sup>

### 4.2 Why is this data important?

Nearly a quarter of Solihull's emissions are from the use of energy for heating and powering domestic buildings. This is the borough's joint second largest source of emissions and a priority for action by the Council.

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, properties that are sold or rented and those undergoing Government or Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded retrofit. Solihull Community Housing (SCH) EPC data is an indication of energy efficiency in the social housing stock across the borough.

### 4.3 What does the data tell us?

The percentage of homes assessed with an EPC rating of C or above (55.6%) is similar to last year's figure of 56.4% and the regional average of 55.3%. An overall steady increase in energy efficiency of the borough's homes is indicated with an 8.6% increase in homes at EPC C or above since 2019/20, however with the continuation of high energy costs and the need to cut carbon emissions, it is increasingly important to improve the energy efficiency of Solihull's homes.

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\*-Domestic building carbon emissions are comprised of emissions from the use of electricity, gas and other fossil fuels in homes.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>

<sup>7</sup> <https://epc.opendatacommunities.org/>

<sup>8</sup> [2024 Sub-Regional Tables Final.xlsx](#)



Solihull Community Housing (SCH) is performing well, with 73% of homes rated at EPC C or above (latest data 2021). By 2030 all SCH properties will need to be EPC C or above. SCH aim for all new homes to be net zero carbon by 2025.

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 has previously been used as an indicator reflecting the number of households interested in improving the energy efficiency of their home with Council support. In 2022/23 this figure had increased dramatically and was attributed to the rapid increase in fuel costs that the UK had experienced.

Act on Energy do not currently operate the same expression of interest process so were unable to provide comparable data for 2023/24. They did however report that, while numbers of residents contacting them is significantly lower than last year, it is still much higher than before the energy crisis and there are significant levels of energy debt within the community. This is associated with the fact that while energy prices have fallen, they are still much higher than before the energy crisis.

In 2022 (latest data available), 14.1% of households in Solihull were classed as fuel poor, an increase from 8.2% of households in 2020. This was higher than the National average (13.1%). Whilst lower than the West Midlands average of 19.6%, this still meant that more than 13,000 households were living with fuel poverty and is a key area of concern. Ultimately, prioritising energy efficiency action and advice is critical to reducing emissions whilst ensuring a just transition to net zero.

## 4.4 Highlights from 2023/2024

### 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 the borough’s housing stock is key to reducing emissions.

The Council is currently leading the **Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2)** retrofit programme.

More than 50 homes across Solihull have so far benefitted from free energy-efficiency measures, ranging from insulation, solar panels, to air-source heat pumps thanks to the Government-funded [HUG2](#). The scheme is helping to decarbonise homes in the borough whilst lowering residents’ fuel bills, reducing their carbon footprint,



and making their homes more comfortable. Solihull Council secured £1.2m for Year 2 of this scheme and, while there have been challenges, largely due to the criteria to apply and cost caps on individual installs, Solihull is performing well as part of the Midlands Net Zero Hub consortia, placing 5th out of 51 local authorities based on the number of home upgrades.



*Photo 2: Homes in Collister Close that had upgrades including air source heat pumps, photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, and radiators. The measures were funded through the HUG2 programme.*

#### **4.4.2 New Homes**

##### **Kingshurst low-carbon energy efficient homes**

The first phase of a [sustainable new housing development](#) on the site of the former Mountford pub in Kingshurst has been successfully completed, providing much-needed affordable homes for the community. The 25 new ultra-low-carbon energy efficient homes will be managed by Solihull Community Housing and have been built using sustainable prefabricated timber frames to allow for airtight insulation and maximum thermal efficiency, with each property equipped with low carbon and renewable heating solutions including air source heat pumps and solar PV panels, ensuring they are both energy efficient and economical to heat. The properties are designed to be net zero in operation, which mean residents will benefit from significantly reduced running costs. Each new property is also equipped with EV charging.



*Photo 3: An aerial view of the Kingshurst development.*

## Section 5: Transport

### 5.1 Overview

- 46% of the borough's GHG emissions were from Transport in 2022<sup>11</sup>
- There was a 3% increase in emissions from 2021 to 2022<sup>11</sup>
- There was a 12% reduction in emissions from 2019 to 2022<sup>11</sup>
- Number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles as a proportion of all vehicles: 8.1% (6.5% 2022/23)<sup>9</sup>
- Number of EV Charging points per 100,000 population: 157.6 per 100,000<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Council installed EV charging points: 62

### 5.2 Why is this data important?

Transport makes up the largest proportion of Solihull's emissions profile. Whilst the Council has limited influence on emissions from the motorways which run through the borough, tackling transport emissions and active travel is a priority for Solihull for many reasons, including public health and carbon reduction.

The data on electric vehicle (EV) licencing demonstrates the shift to low emissions vehicles in the borough. The number of EV charge points demonstrates improved infrastructure to support increased EV uptake. 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 46% of borough wide emissions in 2022.<sup>11</sup> In 2022 there was a 3% increase in transport emissions (approximately 15,600 tonnes) from 2021, as lockdown restrictions finished in early 2022. In 2022 transport emissions were, however, 12% lower than pre-Covid, reflecting a shift to increased remote working and online shopping as well as increased take up of lower carbon vehicles.

There has been a significant increase in the number of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) in the borough, with 8.1% of all vehicles now ULEV compared to

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<sup>9</sup> Licensed ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) at the end of quarter 1 2024 by fuel type, keepership (private and company) and upper and lower tier local authority. Access via link: [veh0132.ods](#)

<sup>10</sup> Electric vehicle charging devices by local authority (July 2024). Access via link: [Markdown map LocalAuthority publication template.knit](#)

<sup>11</sup> [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Transport emissions total is comprised of emissions from road transport (including A roads, motorways and minor roads) diesel railways and other transport emissions. It does not include aviation emissions.

6.5% last year.<sup>9</sup> This is a significantly higher proportion than nationally (4.4%) and regionally (2.8%).

Solihull is performing well in terms of EV infrastructure. It has 157.6 EV Charging Points per 100,000 population compared to the national average of 89 and the West Midlands average of 81.<sup>10</sup> The number of charging points per 100,000 population has more than doubled since 2022/23. This increase is due to UK's largest EV-charging hub opening in Solihull in September 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.<sup>12</sup> Over the last few years the Council has also installed 62 charging points across the borough.

We expect to see further large increases in EV charging in the next couple of years as the Council has secured funding for more charging points. This is discussed further in section [5.4.1](#).

## **5.4 Highlights from 2023/2024**

### **5.4.1 EV Infrastructure**

Solihull Council has awarded a new contract to pan-European charge point operator Qwello to roll out up to 500 state-of-the-art electric vehicle charging (EV) points within Council car parks and on-street destinations by 2026. Delivery of the contract has already begun, with the first chargers installed in September 2024. The scheme is supported by an £800,000 grant from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot project – awarded by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and Department for Transport (DfT) – and will more than double the borough's existing [EV charging](#) capacity, helping to encourage wider adoption of electric vehicles and increase accessibility to EV infrastructure, whilst contributing to the Council's targets for reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

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<sup>12</sup> [Solihull leading the charge on electric vehicles infrastructure | solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/solihull-leading-the-charge-on-electric-vehicles-infrastructure)





*Photo 4: Cllr Andy Mackiewicz, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Planning at Solihull Council with Qwello (UK) Ltd and InstaVolt demonstrating an example of how one of Qwello's charging points may look.*

### **5.4.2 Cycling and Walking**

Solihull Council has developed a cycling and walking strategy 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. Currently there are 102km of cycle and walking lanes in the borough.

In 2023/2024 design work for new cycle routes linking Solihull Town Centre with Dickens Heath and Knowle took place.

Design development of the Castle Bromwich to UKC Hub LCWIP route continued, as did feasibility work 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).



### **5.4.3 Behavioural Change**

The Council has been successful in gaining funding from a variety of external sources to deliver sustainable travel programmes. In 2023/2024 some of the highlights included:

- **SMBC e-Cargo bikes trial:** The Council has 6 e-Cargo bikes that are available for local businesses to trial for free as an alternative to a car or small van. Trials have been carried out by the NEC, BHX and the National Highways team working on Catherine De Barnes Lane. Solihull Hospital are seeking an appropriate vehicle route to trial using e-Cargo. SMBC cycling team have developed accredited e-Cargo training which can be offered to businesses.
- **Cycle Training:** Children in the borough's schools participated in varying levels of Bikeability training in the 2023/24 school year, (c9000 cycle training outcomes). A programme of children's holiday courses and training for 400 adults 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, delivered to c.900 children in 2023/24, scooter training for c. 3000 younger children and a programme of initiatives to encourage walking for example Walk to School week (c.7000 children & families took part), Walking Buses and Park and Stride schemes.
- **'Breathe Easy':** Approx 4000 children have taken part in this clean air awareness campaign 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.
- **'Engines Off':** 24 schools have run this anti-idling campaign by displaying banners and posters and distributing information leaflets to parents. Lamppost signs are displayed on three roads away from the school gate
- **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 eleven school sites operating school streets. Two of these sites: Shirley Heath Junior and Valley Infant were introduced in 2023/24.
- **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.
- **DEFRA Air Quality Project:** The Council Is delivering 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.



## Section 6: Waste

### 6.1 Overview

- 3.2% of the borough's GHG emissions were from waste in 2022<sup>13</sup>
- There was no significant change in emissions from 2021 to 2022<sup>13</sup>
- There was a 25% reduction in emissions from 2019 to 2022<sup>13</sup>
- 41.5% of SMBC collected household waste was recycled in 2022/23<sup>14</sup>

### 6.2 Why is this data important?

At 3% of total emissions, Waste represents a much smaller proportion of Solihull's emissions than previous sectors and while actions in this section are not highlighted as priorities in the Net Zero Action Plan, due to the relatively low emissions impact of the sector, it is recognised that there are still significant opportunities and there is significant interest from the public in this area.

Household waste recycling is a key waste metric demonstrating overall public participation. It is also an important aspect of the Council's contribution to the circular economy.

### 6.3 What does the data tell us?

41.5% of household waste was recycled, composted or reused in 2022/2023, (latest data available). This is similar to the English average of 41.7% and higher than the West Midlands average of 39.1%<sup>14</sup>.

It should be noted that this is below our current strategy target of 50%.<sup>15</sup>



The 25% reduction in waste emissions from 2019 to 2022 is due to a 36% reduction in emissions from landfilled waste over that time.

### 6.4 Highlights from 2023/2024

The carbon intensity of the Council's waste collection service has decreased, with a 57% reduction in 2023/24 based on the previous year and a 90% reduction from

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<sup>13</sup> [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Waste emissions total is comprised of emissions from landfill and other waste.

<sup>14</sup>Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics. Access via link: [LA and Regional Spreadsheet 2022-23 for Web revised.ods](#)

<sup>15</sup> Current Waste Strategy covers the period 2010-2020 and set a household waste recycling target of 50% by 2020.

the baseline year of 2011/12. This is in part due to increased energy efficiency and route optimisation of collection vehicles and partly due to a change from diesel to HVO in 2022/23. Waste collection vehicles now use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). HVO is a carbon net zero fuel and is helping to reduce the Council's net carbon emissions.

### **Waste Education**

Solihull Council's waste contractor, Veolia is providing waste education support to the borough's schools, offering school assemblies and workshops. Nine waste workshops were held in schools in 2023/24.

### **Businesses**

The Council is promoting the Circular Economy for Birmingham and Solihull ([CEBAS](#)) Project, which offers free advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them improve their resource efficiency & save money. To date 16 eligible SMEs have been supported by the programme, which helps businesses identify by-products and wastes that can be used by other organisations either in the same condition or after reprocessing. SMEs are introduced to potential partner companies and supported to realise these new business opportunities. Businesses also benefit from free workshops and training events. CEBAS is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

### **Planned Changes in Household Waste Collection**

To comply with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Reforms, a separate weekly collection of food waste will be introduced to all households in 2026. To encourage participation in the food waste collection service and to optimise use of the recycling service, collections of refuse will also move from weekly to fortnightly when food waste collections are introduced.

## Section 7: Natural Environment

### 7.1 Overview

- Canopy cover across Solihull was 16.3% in 2022<sup>16</sup>
- Number of trees and hedgerows planted by Council schemes across Solihull: 100,000 over 4 years.
- Number of people and businesses engaged through local environmental initiatives: 2155 residents interacted with Love Solihull/Planting Our Future.
- Number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in positive management: 54/128 (55/120 2017/18)

### 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 tree planting) 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 2022 (latest figures) there was 16.3% canopy cover across Solihull compared with 16% nationally. However, canopy cover in the borough had reduced from 17.1% in 2016. The Council are taking action to mitigate this by planting 100,000 trees in the last 4 years as part of the Planting Our Future programme, meeting the commitment of 250,000 over ten years.

42% of Solihull's local wildlife sites are in positive management, which is a decrease from 46% in 2017/18. The number of nature conservation sites in positive management has decreased from 55 to 54 due to threats associated with development (e.g. HS2) and lack of management (e.g. sites in private ownership, where the type and extent of active management cannot be confirmed). The total

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<sup>16</sup> [National Tree Map | Bluesky International Limited \(bluesky-world.com\)](#)

number of sites has increased from 120 to 128 due to the implementation and ongoing management of biodiversity improvements on some SMBC owned sites facilitated through grant funding and s106 contributions.

In 2023/24 2155 volunteers were engaged in SMBC environmental initiatives: 820 Community volunteers helped to plant trees and hedgerows to support Planting our Future. 1300 volunteers took part in Love Solihull litter picking and 35 volunteers took part in Love Solihull's parks groups.

## 7.4 Highlights from 2023 / 2024

### 7.4.1 Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS)

The Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) was adopted by the Council in July 2024. The NCIS is the Council's strategy for responding to the biodiversity crisis, by protecting, restoring and enhancing nature, and the natural processes that support our wellbeing, (known as natural capital). It summarises the Council's activity in terms of the natural environment and sets out a delivery plan of actions to increase opportunities for investment in natural capital.



As a public authority with responsibilities to all our residents, visitors and businesses, natural capital is of key importance for all directorates within Solihull Council and we already have ambitious and exciting plans to increase opportunities for investment in natural capital. The NCIS details how we will increase our understanding of natural capital, embed its value across all aspects of our work and identify opportunities to increase its value.

### 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. In 2023/24, the AFTS supported 20 schemes planting a total of 8,869 native trees and shrubs. Nine of these schemes were delivered through the partnership developed with Warwickshire Wildlife Trusts' Arden Farm Wildlife Network.

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

### 7.4.3 Planting Our Future (POF)

Solihull Council set up the [Planting Our Future](#) campaign in 2020 as part of its commitment to plant 250,000 trees by 2030, helping to tackle climate change and reach net carbon zero emissions as a borough by 2041. During the 2023/24 planting season, (November 2023 - March 2024), 25,000 trees were planted, 10 community planting events were held, and 820 volunteers were engaged, with the campaign resulting in recognition after winning the public sector prize at The Natural Environment Awards (NEA) and Solihull then obtaining Tree City of the World status for a third consecutive year. So far, 100,000 trees have been planted in the local community, with the annual target of 25,000 trees once again programmed for planting in 2024/25.



*Photo 5: Volunteers from Lloyds Bank, planting at Dorridge Cricket Club.*

Please click here for more information on how you can help: [Love Solihull | Environment | Community | Volunteer](#)

## Section 8: Energy Supply

### 8.1 Overview

- 12.7 Mega Watts total installed capacity of all renewable technology.<sup>17</sup> (2023)
- Installed capacity of renewable energy by type is 98.4% photovoltaics and 1.6% sewage gas.<sup>17</sup> (2023)
- 10,712 total renewable generation in Mega Watt hours (MWh) (2023) 100% photovoltaic generation.<sup>17</sup>

### 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?

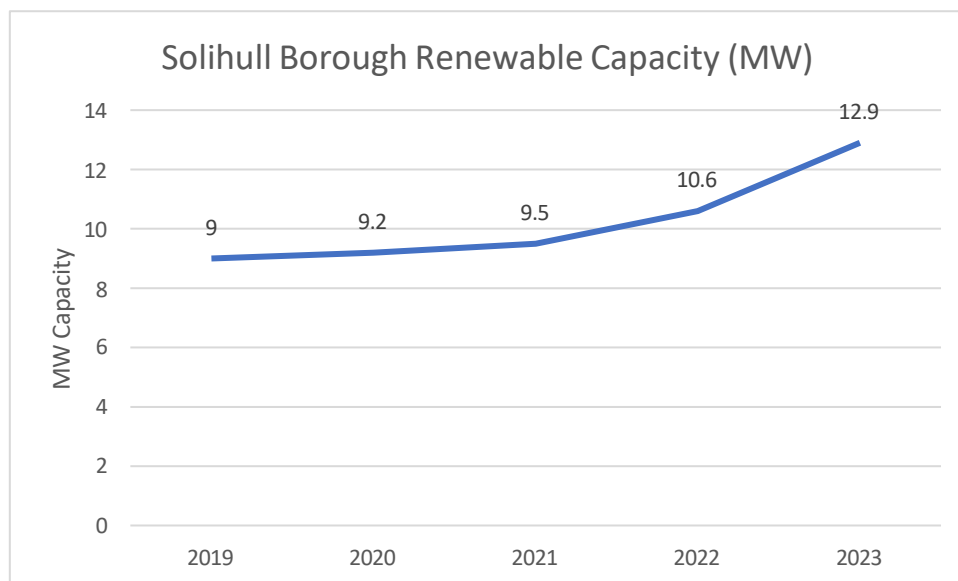


Figure 5: Solihull Borough Renewable Energy Capacity 2019 - 2023.<sup>17</sup>

Between 2022 and 2023 renewable capacity increased by 22% and the number of sites of solar PV increased by 472 over the year. This is encouraging and demonstrates that progress is being made to increase renewable electricity

<sup>17</sup> [Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2023.xlsx](#)

generation in the borough. Within the borough there was 10,712 MWh of renewable electricity generated in 2023, which is enough to power around 4000 homes, (equivalent to just 4.4% of the total homes in the borough).

We know, however, that uptake for renewable energy in the borough is still low. In comparison to the other local authorities in the West Midlands, Solihull had the seventh lowest installed renewable energy capacity in 2023 and the seventh lowest capacity by area at 72 kW/km<sup>2</sup>. We know that more needs to be done in this area to encourage uptake and the Council has worked to address this undertaking a Renewable Energy Feasibility Project to assess the potential for a range of renewable energy projects in the borough and the Council.

## **8.4 Highlights from 2023 / 2024**

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 below.

### **8.4.1 Solihull Town Centre Energy Network**

Plans to bring an affordable new source of low-carbon heating to the town centre have made significant progress after Solihull Council selected Vital Energi to deliver its exciting [Low Carbon Energy Network](#) – the first scheme of its kind in Solihull. The scheme will generate low carbon heat and power (electricity) from the new Energy Centre adjacent to Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and distribute it to individual town centre buildings via a system of underground pipes and cables. Enabling work to connect phase one customers, including Solihull College & University Centre, Tudor Grange Academy, The Core Library and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, is already underway, with the programme currently on target for a scheduled handover in April 2026. The project draws on funding from the Government's Heat Network Investment Programme (HNIP), West Midlands Combined Authority and the Council's own investment





*Photo 6: Councillor Andy Mackiewicz, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Planning at Solihull Council with SEL and Vital Energi at the Heat Network Energy Centre site by Tudor Grange Leisure Centre Image Source: Vital Energi*

#### **8.4.2 UK Central (UKC) Hub Energy Network**

The objective behind the UKC Hub Energy Network project is to investigate a heat and power network for the UK Central area, (which surrounds Birmingham Airport), that will support decarbonisation, ensure security of supply and ensure energy 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. Following the receipt of funding from the Government's Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU), the Council has begun the detailed project development phase of the project. The collaboration between Solihull Council, UKC Hub Stakeholders and National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED), through a Council-led steering group, led NGED to recognise future capacity constraints in the area. As a result, they have increased their investment in the area by £15M, including infrastructure improvements to both primary and secondary networks.

#### **8.4.3 Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)**

Local area energy planning is a relatively new process designed to help deliver effective local action to cut carbon from buildings and transport. Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP's) can enable an area wide approach to decarbonisation by mapping local needs and conditions and identifying options to enable a transition to net zero. A LAEP could investigate place specific technology interventions and their potential costs, key assets that exist in the area and how they can be utilised, changing demand and any planned infrastructure changes, including those to the electricity grid. Solihull Council has recently been given access to a local area



energy planning tool ([LAEP+](#)) developed by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) in collaboration with Advanced Infrastructure and National Grid Energy Distribution (NGED). The Council seeks to use the tool in a number of ways, including to develop business cases for net zero projects, such as renewable energy, in the future.

## Section 9: Council Influence

### Strategy and Engagement

#### 9.1 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- 78 Members of Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG)
- £787,839 Social Value generated on Council's procurement contracts
- Council's operational emissions 5322 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

#### 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 increased membership levels this year.

The committed Social Value of Council contracts since measurement started is £787,839. This is additional environmental benefit to the borough as a result of the Council's contracts.

We have made progress in reducing the Council's operational emissions. In 2023/24, the Council net emissions were 5532 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. This is a reduction of 55% from 2017/18.

#### 9.4 Highlights from 2023/ 2024

##### 9.4.1 Business Support

Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG) now has 78 active members from a wide range of organisations. The SSVG is open to any business or organisation across the borough.

SSVG meetings cover a broad range of topics on improving business performance in terms of environmental sustainability and carbon reduction, and allow members to learn from one another. If you are interested in joining SSVG please email:

[business@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:business@solihull.gov.uk)

**Solihull  
Sustainability  
Visioning  
Group**

## 9.4.2 Council Emissions

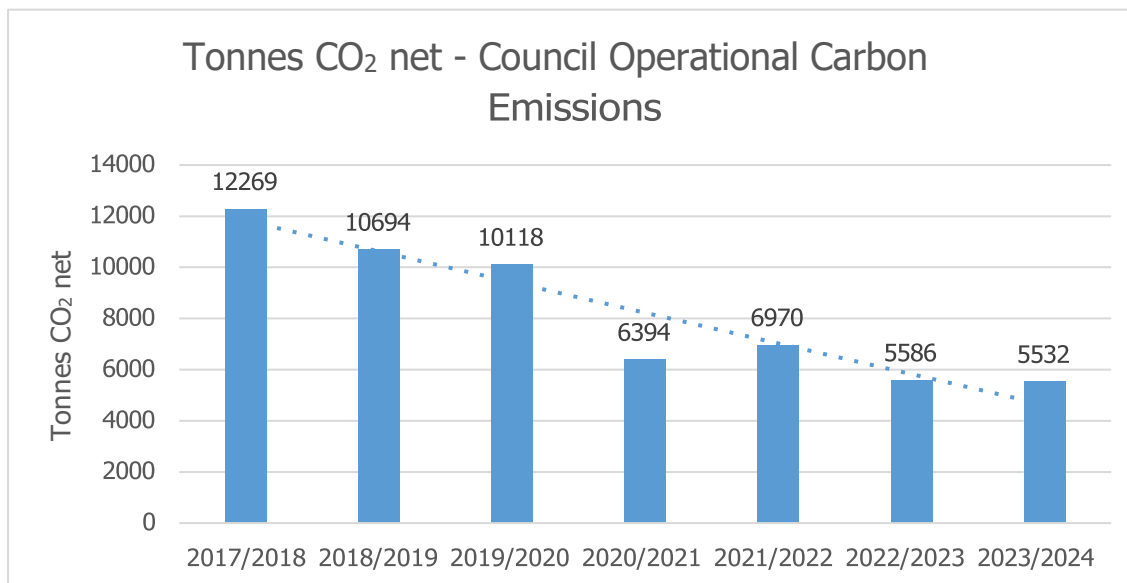


Figure 6: Council's Operational Emissions 2017/18-2023/24

Emissions from corporate & leisure buildings (excl. schools), streetlighting, waste & grounds maintenance vehicles, school transport (estimated) & SMBC fleet.

The Council has continued to reduce our operational emissions, the current 55% net reduction since 2017/18 outstrips our existing carbon budget. However, much more action will be required to ensure the continuation of the pace required to meet our net zero by 2030 target.

In previous NZAP reports, reporting of the Council's carbon included four emitters: corporate properties, leisure services, street lighting and the Strategic Environment Contract. This time emissions from Council fleet vehicles and estimated emissions from the School Transport service were included, as they form part of the carbon budget reported in the Council's Mid Term Financial Statement. The overall reduction in emissions is therefore just 1% from 2022/23 to 2023/24. This is due to a 40% increase in estimated emissions from school transport, (in line with increase in numbers of pupils requiring transport). Excluding school transport, the council's operational emissions have fallen 9% since 2023/23 and 62% since 2017/18. The council intends to further develop its carbon reporting.

The biggest carbon reductions this year were from the transition of our waste collection vehicles from diesel fuel to HVO, which is a net zero fuel source and from a reduction in our corporate properties' gas consumption.

The Council has developed a Climate Change Investment Plan, which starts to quantify the cost of meeting the Council's aim to be net zero by 2030. The plan is informed by the Council's property decarbonisation plans and working with partners and suppliers.

### **9.4.3 Plans and strategies**

In 2023/24 two key strategies were developed that contribute to future reductions of carbon emissions within the borough:

**Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS)** (see [Section 7](#))

Please read the full strategy [here](#):

### **Solihull Air Quality Strategy**

Solihull Council has adopted the Solihull Air Quality Strategy. This updated strategy outlines the steps that will be taken over the next four years to improve air quality across the borough. The strategy supports carbon reduction through steps that include promoting sustainable travel, enabling greater use of electric vehicles and seeking to ensure new developments minimise and mitigate air pollution, for example by using low carbon energy and protecting and enhancing Solihull's natural environment.

Please read the full strategy [here](#):

### **9.4.4 Reporting and Benchmarking**

The Council has actively participated in benchmarking activities, including Sustainability West Midlands' (SWM) [2023/24 regional Local Authority Sustainability benchmarking exercise](#). Solihull ranked 3rd overall out of 20 authorities that participated.

We await the results of our 2023/24 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.

We took part in the Global Destination Sustainability Management (GDSM) benchmarking for our second year and have been shortlisted for the Most Improved Destination Award. This is recognition of how SMBC is helping businesses within the hospitality and tourism sectors to become more sustainable, with the aim of making Solihull a green tourism destination, attracting new visitors and supporting 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 10: 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.

### **10.2 Highlights from 2023/24**

#### **10.2.1 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 April 2023 and March 2024, the YFS website had 18,480 views in total. Aside from the homepage, the 'Energy Efficiency Grants' page received most visits. This can be attributed to the energy crisis and residents seeking advice to increase the energy efficiency of their home to lower energy bills. The 'Net Zero Action Plan' page was well-viewed, reflecting that residents have an interest in the Council's response to climate change and reducing emissions in the borough. The 'Arden Free Tree Scheme' and 'Retrofit' pages also performed well, highlighting users' interest in pages which outline steps they can take to engage in climate change action. Moving forward, this will be the focus of a refreshed YFS website to take into account the user experience and what pages are performing well.

This increased engagement has continued in 24/25 with 19,702 YFS website views from April 24 to October 24.

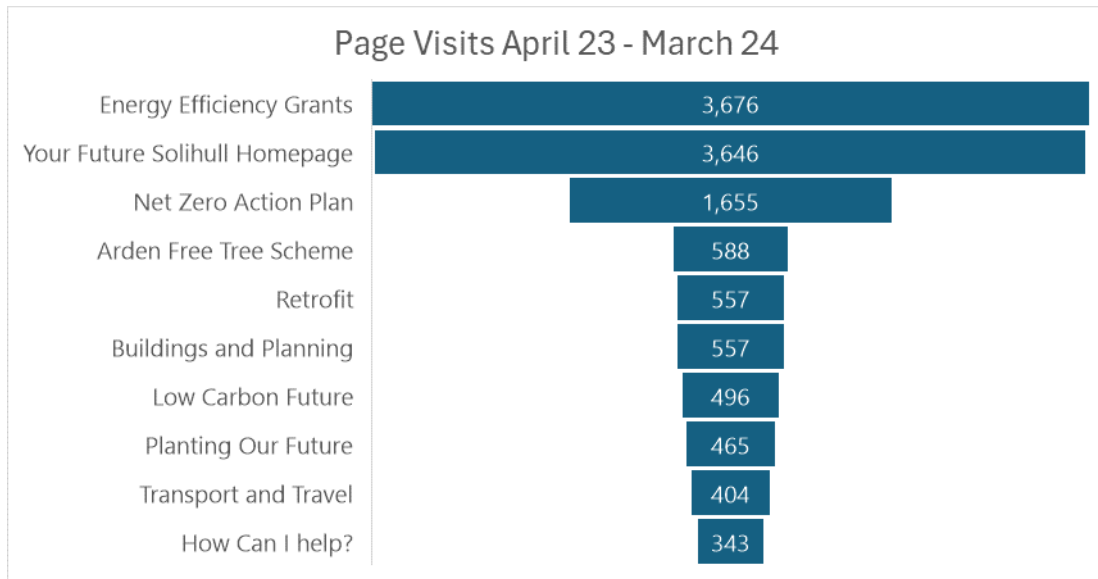


Figure 7: Your Future Solihull Page Visits April 23 – March 24

### 10.2.2 Press Releases & Social Media

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

A selection of press releases in the 2023-24 financial year include:

- [EV drivers in Solihull set to benefit from up to 500 new charging points](#)
- [Solihull holds its annual Greener Schools Awards](#)
- [Solihull Council welcomes schools for model COP28 summit](#)
- [Solihull street to be transformed with energy saving home improvements](#)
- [Council team scoops top international award for carbon reduction project](#)

### 10.2.3 Consultation and Engagement

The Council has continued to engage with residents on a variety of proposals, plans and policies which have a strong sustainability focus. Consultations and public engagement activity over the last year include:

- Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy
- Solihull Air Quality Strategy
- Lydon & Olton ECO4 scheme
- Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme
- Active travel route Knowle to Solihull Town Centre

## Section 11: Challenges in Delivering the NZAP

Local Government plays an essential role in combatting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At the time of writing, the policies of the new Government on the role of local government in this area are still emerging, however the following previously identified policy areas<sup>18</sup> where local government's role is key, appear to be ongoing:

- Enforcing minimum energy efficiency standards for new buildings and rented properties.
- 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, including those detailed below. Many of these are similar to last year's report as they are long term challenges.

### 11.1 Strategy, Policy and Funding

In July 2024, the UK's [Climate Change Committee](#) (which is a statutory body) asserted that current national policy does not go far enough for the Country to meet its net zero aims<sup>19</sup>. The commission acknowledged good progress had been made in some areas, including the decarbonisation of grid electricity, however it highlighted policy reversals and delays hindering progress and a need for rapid policy change in important areas such as buildings, transport, agriculture and land. It asserted that policies supporting much faster roll out of low carbon technologies, (including EVs and Air Source Heat pumps), tree planting and peatland restoration were required.

Strategy, policy and funding frameworks around net zero remain challenging, as funding for net zero related action still 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 in the retrofit supply chain, where the funding is driving the supply chain development.

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<sup>18</sup> [The role of local government in reaching net zero - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Progress in reducing emissions 2024 Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee](#)



The Council is awaiting further information on the WMCA Single Settlement, which is expected to include funding for retrofit. It is understood that one of the motivations behind the Single Settlement is to bring about greater certainty of public funding.

Given the challenges of the funding landscape, we also 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<sup>20</sup>” to net zero at their core.

Solihull’s draft Local Plan was withdrawn in October 24 following recommendation by the Inspectors. This may have had a significant impact on progress of a significant number of actions in the NZAP, especially in the built environment sections, where reliance on an adopted policy is crucial to delivery. The Council is starting work on a new Local Plan and remains committed to addressing climate change within it. This will include policies such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies that will help deliver the NZAP and is an opportunity to build further on the work previously undertaken.

## **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 2023/24 we began developing a plan for engagement and behaviour change 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 has had a significant impact on the amount of energy we use. This created opportunity for energy efficiency promotion and implementation of measures, however inflation in construction sector costs made implementation of many measures more expensive. In addition, uncertainty over future energy costs can have a considerable impact on likely budgets for existing operations and future projects.

The energy 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

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<sup>20</sup> A “Just transition” “ensures the benefits of climate change action are shared widely, while the costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly at risk as the economy shifts and changes” UK Gov Committee on Climate Change

within the retrofit supply chain with supplier capacity and an increase in material costs.

Some sectors of the retrofit supply chain are still underdeveloped e.g. there is a lack of availability of retrofit assessors and the air source heat pump market has yet to mature, meaning prices and therefore payback times can be prohibitively high in the absence of sufficient grant funding.

Whilst it is good that people are thinking about energy use and saving energy by making positive energy efficiency changes, the increase in fuel poverty in the borough is of great concern and 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 forward we have a robust plan of meaningful engagement that moves beyond traditional communications into a more tailored and focussed approach. We are currently 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 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, homeowners and public sector organisations with limited resources.

Net zero actions can be complex, and 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.

#### **11.6 Grid Capacity & Land Availability**

In some areas of the Borough, there is a lack of available power grid capacity and residents and businesses can experience delay in getting connections for new renewable energy systems, development or increased energy needs. As Solihull progresses to net zero by 2041, a significant increase in renewable energy generation and use of electricity for heat and transport will be required across the borough.

Stakeholders who seek to install renewable generation are currently facing long lead times (in some cases many years) before receiving a grid connection. This is a historic issue across the UK and NGED are currently undertaking a connections reform process to speed up the process and ensure the right types of generation are located in the right areas to enable the UK's net zero target.

Another factor contributing to the low levels of renewable generation in Solihull is the availability of land and competing demand for this land. Over two thirds of Solihull's land is located within the greenbelt and subject to strict planning restrictions.

## **Section 12: Priorities for 2024-2027**

Whilst we have made good progress in many areas of the NZAP, we need to continue to refine our approach to focus on where we can have most impact and work closely with regional and central Government to ensure we meet our net zero aims.

Many of the areas of focus remain similar to our last report as they are long term actions. Some key areas for the next three years include:

### **12.1 Behaviour Change Approach and Communications Focus**

We will finalise 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.

### **12.2 Funding and Financing of Net Zero**

We will further develop our Climate Change Investment Plan, which quantifies 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 consider further funding and financing options.

We will also continue to 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**

A refresh of the Council's Net Zero action plan is planned for early 2025. As well as streamlining the plan to remove similar actions and develop shared data resources, it is intended to sharpen the focus of the plan on those areas where the Council can have most influence on key carbon emitting sectors (e.g. transport, and domestic and commercial gas consumption).

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:

- Solihull Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Plan
- Solihull Climate Change Prospectus refresh
- Solihull Climate Change and Sustainability Engagement and Behaviour Change Plan

- Solihull Electric Vehicle Strategy revision
- A new Solihull Local Plan - The Council is starting work on a new plan and remains committed to addressing climate change within it. This is an opportunity to build further on the work previously undertaken

## 12.4 Focus Actions

Whilst there are many actions that the Council will carry out over the next year, 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 East Birmingham and North Solihull Investment Zone and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Single Settlement. We are developing the Solihull Place Based Strategy, which links to the WMCA Single Settlement 'pillars' that include Net Zero.

### 12.4.2 Non-Domestic Buildings

The roll out of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will continue to see support offered to businesses in Solihull on sustainability, including 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 the recommendations of heat decarbonisation plans for Council properties and seek funding for their implementation, for example through the WMCA single settlement.

We will be monitoring the Government's emerging **Heat Network Zoning** regulations to understand the impact for Solihull and the Council.

### 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. The Green Homes Lead officer will continue to develop a plan for those residents not eligible for grant schemes. We will seek further funding for retrofit, for example through the WMCA single settlement.

We will take forward the **Chelmsley Wood Net Zero Neighbourhood** project, for which the Council has been awarded just over £500,000 to develop a plan to help the area reduce carbon emissions and act on climate change. Funding is from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), from the Government's Net Zero Accelerator Programme. The [pioneering scheme](#) is one of six taking place across

the West Midlands and aims to design a plan to create a low-carbon community, introducing measures which will benefit both residents and businesses. The project could involve home energy retrofit assessments to identify ways residents can improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel costs, through measures such as insulation, solar panels and low-carbon heating; alongside planning for neighbourhood improvements to boost the natural environment and enhance active travel opportunities.

The Council will progress further the net zero housing developments at Simon Digby and Kingshurst.

#### **12.4.4 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 500 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.

#### **12.4.5 Waste and Circular Economy**

One of the core aspects of the 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 including the plans to implement planned change in household waste collection to include food waste by 2026.

Provision of support to businesses on circular economy will continue under the UK Shared Prosperity funded scheme.

As part of the delivery of Solihull's economic strategy, with its focus on sustainable economy, the Council will continue to track progress of the borough's **low carbon and environmental goods and services sector**<sup>21</sup> in order to help understand how best to further support and grow this sector

#### **12.4.6 Natural Environment**

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

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<sup>21</sup> [LCEGS Greater Birmingham Solihull LEP Final Report.pdf](#)

### **12.4.7 Energy Supply**

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

The Council will also continue to take forward the collaborative approach to energy at the UK Central Hub, where we are working with the key stakeholders in the Hub's energy system to deliver a decarbonised system that meets their needs.

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



## **Section 13: Conclusions**

Whilst we have made significant progress in the delivery of the NZAP, it is clear we still have a long way to go in the borough's decarbonisation journey. In 2023/24 we experienced significant challenges in delivery against our net zero objectives and we know that we will need to continue to increase our efforts.

In the 2024/25 financial year we will see the progression of several key projects for the borough, including the Town Centre Energy Network and large increase in EV charging points. We will also refresh our plan in the knowledge that to reach our net zero aims we will need to increase our work with our stakeholders, partners and residents and work closely with regional and central government.



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## 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 <sub>2</sub> 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 <sub>2</sub> / km from the tailpipe.

## Appendix 2: KPI Data Sources

KPI	Sector	NZAP Intervention Area	KPI	NZAP ref	Data source	Notes
1	<b>Overarching metrics</b>	All intervention areas	Total borough-wide GHG emissions per year and per capita (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	All	<a href="#">Local Authority GHG Data</a>	Taken from most recent years data reported (usually 2 years behind)
2	<b>Overarching metrics</b>	All intervention areas	Sectoral breakdown of GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	All		Taken from most recent years data reported (usually 2 years behind)
3	<b>Overarching metrics</b>	All intervention areas	Total councils-own Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) It appears that this is emissions from corporate buildings, street lighting & SEC	All	Council's annual carbon report	Council's annual carbon report
4	<b>Overarching metrics</b>	All intervention areas	Carbon intensity per unit of Gross Value Added (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/£ GVA)	All	<a href="#">Gross Value Added Data</a>	Total CO <sub>2</sub> e (KPI1) divided by Million £ GVA

5	<b>Non-Domestic Buildings</b>	Improve energy efficiency	Proportion of non-domestic buildings in the borough reaching Display Energy Certificate rating of 'C' or equivalent (%)	1.1	<a href="#">DEC data</a>	Calculated by - DEC Certificates A, B or C divided by Total DEC certificates (%). All DEC data for the financial year of reporting
6	<b>Non-Domestic Buildings</b>	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/m2
7	<b>Non-Domestic Buildings</b>	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/m2
8	<b>Non-Domestic Buildings</b>	Improve energy efficiency	Number of schools engaged on sustainability	1.7	From Council's own data	Total number of schools engaging with the sustainability team - this could include greener schools award, sustainable schools conference and Model COP
9	<b>Domestic Buildings</b>	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	<a href="#">EPC Data</a>	Calculated by EPC Certificates A, B or C divided by total EPC certificates registered, reported as a %. All EPC data for financial year of reporting

10	<b>Domestic Buildings</b>	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	<b>Domestic Buildings</b>	Improve energy efficiency	% households in fuel poverty		<a href="#">Fuel Poverty Data</a>	2022 data
12	<b>Transport</b>	Switching to EV	Number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles as a proportion of all vehicles	3.3	<a href="#">ULEV data Licensed Vehicles</a>	Licensed ULEV vehicles as a % of total licences.
13	<b>Transport</b>	Switching to EV	Number of EV Charging points per 100,000 population	3.2	<a href="#">EV Charging points</a>	Source DfT/ZapMap
14	<b>Transport</b>	Switching to EV	Number of council installed EV charging points	3.2d	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
15	<b>Waste</b>	Reduce the quantity of waste	Proportion of household waste that is recycled/composted (%)	4.1 and 4.2	<a href="#">Annual waste data</a>	Data taken from last available year of data 2022/23
16	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Increase tree coverage & tree planting	Canopy cover across Solihull (%)	6.1 and 6.2	Data taken from BlueSky national tree map <a href="https://bluesky-world.com/">https://bluesky-world.com/</a>	Latest Data 2022 Next due to be updated in 2025

17	<b>Natural Environment</b>	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	<b>Natural Environment</b>	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	<b>Natural Environment</b>	Land management	Number of local wildlife sites in positive management	6.4	From Council's own data	From Council's own data
20	<b>Energy Supply</b>	Increase the capacity of renewable technologies	Total installed capacity of all renewable technology by type (MW)	7.6	<a href="#">Renewable Energy Data</a>	Latest data 2023
21	<b>Energy Supply</b>	Increase the capacity of renewable technologies	Total renewable electricity generation from all renewable technology types (MWh)	7.6	<a href="#">Renewable Energy Data</a>	Latest data 2023
22	<b>Council Strategy &amp; Engagement</b>	Council Procurement & Commissioning	Amount of Environmental Social Value generated through council	8.1 and 8.2	From Council's own data	Committed spend on sustainability TOMs



			procurement contracts (£)			
23	<b>Council Strategy &amp; Engagement</b>	Council External Engagement	Number of businesses engaging with SMBC on sustainability	8.6	From Council's own data	Number of Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG) members
24	<b>Industry</b> (Waste & Circular Economy)	Industry (Waste & Circular Economy)	Low Carbon and Environmental Goods & Services Sector - £GVA, Number of Employees, Number of Companies, % annual growth	4.4	<a href="#">Midlands Net Zero Hub</a>	Data from 17/18 - 19/20. Due to be updated by Midlads Net Zero Hub Nov/Dec 2024

### Appendix 3 – NZAP Actions with 2023/24 Updated Narrative

Action number	Sector	Interventi on area	Overall goal	Action	Status	Notes/Progress 2023/2024 Report	
	Overall emissions sector, aligning with SCATTER inventory sectors	Group by type	Overall goal	What specific actions will deliver the goal described. Numerous actions may sit against one goal.	Current status of this action (not started, scoping in progress, significant progress, completed)	RAG Rating	Meaning
						Red	There has been little/no work on this action to date/there are significant blockers to this action being completed.
						Amber	There has been some initial work, but more work is needed on this action.
						Green	This action is progressing well/completed/ done as business as usual.
1.1.a	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	This action is relevant for permitted development on retrofitting commercial buildings. Renovations/extensions or permitted development on existing buildings needs to be done in accordance with building regulations Part L1B. If a thermal element, roof/wall/floor is being replaced it needs to be done to Part L standard. For some developments there is limited amount of retrofit work that can be influenced by planning, however a point about retrofitting of existing buildings could be included in the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). NB Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero	

						Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies.
1.1.b	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	Not Started	No work has been done on this action to date.
1.1.c	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	General sustainability and energy efficiency advice is given to businesses through the sustainability account manager at the GBS growth hub. This can be encouraged in suppliers who work with the Council through the social value environmental TOMs for example reducing carbon emissions within their own operations and through their own supply chain. SMBC procurement team are undertaking a sustainable procurement project.
1.1.d	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 in Solihull Town Centre	Not Started	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. This action was not mentioned directly in the withdrawn draft local plan however what was mentioned was to '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.' Building Control Officers enforce the energy efficiency requirements of current building regulations. The new revision of Part L in 2022 significantly increased energy efficiency requirements and emphasised fabric first and renewable technologies. Part L is due to be further revised in 2025.
1.2.a	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. Use of low carbon materials was not mentioned directly in the draft local plan however what was mentioned was '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.'

1.2.b	1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.2 Policy used to drive higher energy efficiency standards in new builds & developments	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	Scoping in Progress	This was mentioned in policy P9 of the draft local plan before it was withdrawn 'At a site level, development must apply the 'energy hierarchy' to reduce energy demand for heating, lighting and cooling and minimise carbon dioxide emissions as follows: Source low carbon and sustainably sourced building materials wherever possible, e.g. secondary aggregates, recycled products and FSC certified timber.' This was also referenced in the climate change SPD. Building Control Officers enforce the energy efficiency requirements of current building regulations. The new revision of Part L in 2022 significantly increased energy efficiency requirements and emphasised fabric first and renewable technologies. Part L is due to be further revised in 2025 in line with the Future Homes & Building standard.
1.2.c	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	New buildings are built to Approved Document Part L building regulations. Part L recently changed in 2022 to enforce that new nondomestic buildings produce 27% less carbon emissions. For new builds there is a new SAP calculation called SAP10 with increased insulation requirements and a new target primary energy rating. It is expected that Part L regulations will progress towards net zero in the coming years but before they do - building control officers do not have the authority to enforce standards beyond Part L.

1.2.d	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	This is going to be enforceable when heat network zoning legislation comes into force by the end of 2025. In areas where heat network zones are identified private sector non-domestic developments will be mandated to connect if their total energy use is over 100MW.
1.2.e	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	Scoping in Progress	<p>Some investigation on S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding was carried out in the latest renewable energy feasibility paper that went to CPH on the 25th September 2024. Section 106 (S106) - Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen because of a new development taking place. New homes and other buildings create extra demand on local facilities. Where it's not possible to address a development's impact on site, councils can seek off-site contributions from developers via agreements known as Section 106's.</p> <p>These payments can be used to mitigate impacts of the new development, by funding new facilities, or to expand and improve current amenities in the local area. An example of this is South Oxfordshire District Council. They have enabled funds from Section 106 developer contributions to be used as a grant given to local housing developers, to build affordable homes that are energy efficient.</p>

						Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Policy P21 of Solihull's Draft Local Plan, states that CIL contributions from developers will be collected by the Council and apportioned to the neighbourhood affected. Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL) provides funding for local communities to improve their local infrastructure, to meet the demands of any new development in the area. In Solihull, the approach for apportioning is based either on a ward or parish area. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, parishes or neighbourhood forums will receive 25% of all funds collected from development in an area. Where no Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, areas will receive 15% of all funds collected (capped at £100 per Council Tax dwelling). Therefore, if a community building/leisure centre can demonstrate that installing solar PV is vital to keeping the building open, then it could be suitable for Neighbourhood CIL.
1.3.a	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	There are currently 78 companies signed up to the Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG).
1.3.b	1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.3 Guidance and support to improve energy	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	Officers work in collaboration with the Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub - who have a dedicated sustainability account manager who can offer specialist advice to businesses. Officers have been working to promote the Net Zero Grant Programme which is a UK Shared

			efficiency made available to private sector			Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded scheme. The Net Zero Grant Programme seeks to enable SMEs to make carbon savings by introducing energy efficiency measures, renewable energy measures or resource efficiency measures. See press release for where this grant programme has been a success: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities</a>
1.3.c	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	Officers work in collaboration with the Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub - who have a dedicated sustainability account manager who can offer specialist advice to businesses. Officers have been working to promote the Net Zero Grant Programme which is a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded scheme. The Net Zero Grant Programme seeks to enable SMEs to make carbon savings by introducing energy efficiency measures, renewable energy measures or resource efficiency measures. See press release for where this grant programme has been a success: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities</a>
1.4.a	1. Non-Domestic Buildings	Private sector non-domestic buildings	1.4 Maximise the number of non-domestic buildings connected to Solihull's Town Centre	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	Announced in July 2024 the Council has awarded Vital Energi Ltd the contract of building, operating and maintaining the network and enabling works have begun. A number of town centre buildings are due to connect to the first phase of the network with others already being communicated with regarding the second phase of the network.



			Energy Network			
1.4.b	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	The UKC Hub Energy Network Project is currently at detailed project development phase and the Council are working with technical and commercial consultants and Hub stakeholders to determine the viability of a heat network at the hub.
1.4.c	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	Significant Progress	This work has begun as part of the UKC Hub Energy Network project aligned with national heat network zoning legislation. Heat network zones have been identified in Solihull and consultants are currently assessing the viability of the zones and identifying heat sources.

1.4.d	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	Not Started	This work will be aligned with heat network zoning legislation. Where heat network zones do not present the best option, individual decarbonisation methods such as Air Source Heat Pumps will be encouraged by the Council through tailored communications.
1.5.a	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	There have been no new public sector developments completed other than small expansions to schools and although BREEAM accreditation is not followed, there is a focus on a highly performing building envelope to improve energy efficiency.
1.6.a	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 to public sector buildings on how they can make their buildings more energy efficient.	Scoping in Progress	The Property Services team liaises with the leisure centre team regarding their buildings. Property Services also have an Energy Manager who looks after the maintained schools. Further work is needed to establish how the Council works with other public sector businesses e.g hospitals.

1.6.b	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	Significant Progress	The majority of Council owned buildings have had a decarbonisation plan carried out in 2024. These plans include estimated costs and payback periods, energy savings and carbon savings. Switching to energy efficient lighting has been included in these plans. The output of these plans are currently being prioritised in the 'Approach to Net Zero' document which is being developed by the Property Services team.
1.7.a	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	Scoping in Progress	There has been no commercial development this year, although the Westgate proposal may still come to fruition and is targeting BREEAM Excellent, EPC A and Well-being Platinum
1.7.b	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	There have been no buildings suitable for green/brown roofs, but the proposed Mell Square development does offer numerous possibilities to install green/brown roofs and the potential of green walls. Even though these will be private developments, we are involved and help guide this approach, which assists with Sustainable Drainage solutions, air quality and the general quality of the public realm, all of which form part of the objectives we set for the Joint Venture Partner as a target.

1.7.c	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	This is in process and this document is the 'Approach to Net Zero' document.
1.7.d	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	Significant Progress	This Ashden scheme is finished. However, energy audits/decarb plans are still outstanding on some of the schools. A new specific action should be included in the NZAP refresh on carrying out decarb surveys on maintained schools within a short-term time scale.
1.7.e	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	Corporate properties maintain the structure of the building and the plant in the building. Everyone Active is the building operator. Approximately £500k worth of funding was received from Sport England and the Swimming Pool Support Fund to pay for Solar PV and pool covers. These should be installed in the 24-25 financial year. There has also been progress at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre as it prepares for connection to the Town Centre Heat Network. The leisure centres have also had decarbonisation surveys carried out and these measures will be prioritised in the Approach to Net Zero document.

1.7.g	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.	Significant Progress	The decarbonisation of heating systems by converting to Air Source Heat Pumps was considered in all decarbonisation surveys. Some Council Owned buildings in the town centre will also be connecting to the Town Centre Heat Network. Other heat network zones have been identified in Solihull and work is currently being undertaken to determine the viability of those areas for heat networks.
2.1.a	2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy efficiency standards in existing buildings	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. Building Control Officers cannot encourage standards beyond Part L. In June 2022, building regulations were updated and in 2025 they are due to be updated to the Future Homes Standard. The 2022 changes to Part L were put in place to reduce carbon emissions from new homes by 31%. The latest Part L document includes new U-values for walls, windows, roof lights, and doors, the introduction of primary energy as a metric, and a revision of the SAP methodology (SAP 10.2).

2.1.b	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. Policy P9 of the withdrawn Draft Local Plan stated that 'In order that development proposals are adaptive and resilient to climate change, measures will include integrated green infrastructure, such as SUDs, green spaces and corridors, retaining and planting trees, green roofs & walls, landscaping and rain gardens'.
2.1.c	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.	Significant Progress	The energy efficiency grants available at the moment are not available to landlords. Act on Energy can provide energy efficiency advice to landlord and tenants. In the future grants applicable to this sector might become available. This action has progressed as MEES regulations are now enforceable. There is also a pathfinder project checking through private landlords and finding any that do not meet MEES.
2.1.d	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	Council officers are currently waiting to see if Government go ahead with an increase in MEES ratings to C by 2030 or sooner. Lack of carrot or stick currently available to move landlords to improve energy ratings. A discussion with landlords is needed to address barriers and use Pathfinder to enforce MEES.
2.1.e	2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.1 Improve energy	2.1e Develop a co-ordinated programme plan for retrofitting Solihull's homes which focuses on communication and	Significant Progress	In the 23/24 financial year the Council completed 40 private homes as part of Sustainable Warmth. From April 2024 onwards,

			efficiency standards in existing buildings	partnership for private housing retrofit, and includes trusted suppliers/contractors		HUG 2 has now completed 17 installs to Trustmark, with 600 total households contacted and 83 EOIs. Solihull is currently developing a Place Based Strategy which outlines where investment in the borough is required. The plan for retrofitting the Borough's homes includes following SCH properties and retrofitting areas street by street, targeting areas of need first including areas of fuel poverty and IMD 1-3.
2.2.a	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	Significant Progress	The Act on Energy website lists grants available to help decarbonise heat. HUG 2 has now completed 17 installs to TrustMark, with 600 total households contacted and 83 EOIs. Investigation underway to work with other organisations to unlock/facilitate new or improved finance options.
2.2.b	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	Case studies are starting to be produced for some of the outcomes but are reliant on householders being willing to engage with a project. Project investigation needed to seek residents willing to be part of a 'Green Doors' programme.

2.2.c	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	Scoping in Progress	Officers are working on a Health and Housing Project to increase knowledge of retrofit to health professionals and delivery teams for referral purposes via media, presentations and GP Surgery TVs. The Council took part in Great Big Green Week and Retrofit Action Weeks in 2024. The approach to engaging residents on retrofit to be aligned with the behaviour change and engagement plan. Further engagement work around Retrofit planned as part of Chelmsley Wood Net Zero Neighbourhood.
2.2.d	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	Biggest drivers are MEES and EPC's - no accreditation schemes have been looked at yet.
2.2.e	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.	Significant Progress	This is being done by Council officers as business as usual where they first consider fuel poor homes and IMD Data. Areas of high fuel poverty have been identified however cannot currently be targeted due to funding. Chelmsley Wood was chosen as the Council's Net Zero Neighbourhood as it has high levels of fuel poverty.
2.2.f	2. Domestic	Existing private housing	2.2 Enable changes to resident attitudes and	2.2f Provide guidance and support to residents on low carbon energy efficiency cooking and lighting improvements, including switching from gas.	Scoping in Progress	General energy efficiency advice is given by Act On Energy however there has been limited work done on this area specifically to date.



			behaviours concerning energy efficiency in the home			
2.2.g	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	Significant Progress	ECO is externally funded, collected and managed through the utilities as part of their obligation, it is also supported and applications managed (in part) by Act On Energy on behalf of the Council. Solihull Council have not delivered any direct ECO funded schemes in Solihull borough.
2.2.h	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	Continued work with Act on Energy and Age UK. Increased comms and social media under development.

2.3.a	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. This was mentioned in policy P9 of the withdrawn Draft Local Plan 'At a site level, development must apply the 'energy hierarchy' to reduce energy demand for heating, lighting and cooling and minimise carbon dioxide emissions as follows: Source low carbon and sustainably sourced building materials wherever possible, e.g. secondary aggregates, recycled products and FSC certified timber.' This was also referenced in the climate change SPD.
2.3.b	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	Scoping in Progress	The 2022 revision of Part L includes increasing minimum energy efficiency standards. The update introduces new U-values for walls, windows, roof lights, and doors. These standards require increased thickness and glazing to minimize energy consumption and carbon emissions.
2.3.c	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	Building Control Officers have advised that this action is not likely to be a priority for developers and would only be carried out if it was made part of building regulations and therefore enforceable. Sustainable construction and lowering the carbon emissions of materials used was discussed in the draft climate change spd and policy p9 and p15 of the withdrawn draft local plan.

2.3.d	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. The withdrawn Draft Local Plan stated that all new dwellings from April 2025 should be Net Zero. Even though planning policy can encourage this - it is not enforceable on developers unless stated in the building regulations. Building regulations part L 2022 states a reduction in emissions from new dwellings of 31% - in 2025 this is due to change to Future Homes Standard.
2.3.e	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	Sustainable construction is included as a chapter in the draft climate change SPD. The SPD being adopted is dependent on the Draft Local Plan being adopted. Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies.

2.4.a	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.	Scoping in Progress	Heat Network Zones have been identified in Solihull and work is currently underway with technical consultants to determine the viability of these zones and understand potential heat sources. Officers keep up to date and attend regular meetings with WMCA regarding the upcoming heat network zoning legislation.
2.4.b	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	This is dependent on national heat network zoning legislation. This is currently under consultation.
2.5.a	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	Significant Progress	Funding received through SHDF 1 and 2 - was used to prioritise properties that are EPC D and below. Properties below D need heating replacements - some residents did not want to engage with the team. The target is to get all SCH housing stock to EPC C by 2030. Whether the target will be achieved depends on access to funds.
2.5.b	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	Fuel poverty data and IMD data is used when making decisions however other factors such as the requirements for the grant come into play. E.g. the Home Upgrade Grant scheme required properties to be off gas and therefore this was the first requirement looked at.

2.5.c	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	Up to 2030 the approach to net zero for SCH is based on the performance of the stock as SCH are aiming for all properties to reach EPC C by 2030. The strategy prioritises fabric first measures and then low carbon heating. Area based approach will be tested during Chelmsley Wood net zero neighbourhood project.
2.6.a	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)	Significant Progress	Commitment through the net zero strategy for all new homes to be net zero - no fossil fuel heated systems - new homes in Kingshurst are close to net zero and have Solar PV, ASHP's and very high levels of insulation.
2.6.c	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	There is some advice given in the tenant's newsletter. The advice is in the new home user guide for new build properties.

3.1.a	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	The Solihull Cycling & Walking infrastructure plan was adopted in 2021 and includes sections on cycle networks and key walking zones. Design work is underway for new cycle routes linking Solihull Town Centre with Knowle and Dickens Heath. Currently there is 102km of cycle and walking lanes in the borough.
3.1.b	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	Significant Progress	A new travel plan SPD was adopted in 2023. <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Other-planning-policy-documents">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Other-planning-policy-documents</a> In the withdrawn Draft Local Plan Policy P7 'Accessibility and Ease of Access' stated that priority should be given first to pedestrian and cycle movements for access to all development. New developments should therefore make cycling and walking more convenient and attractive than using a car, providing safe and convenient access to walking and cycling routes, linking to existing cycling and walking provision where possible. There is a section on cycle parking in the climate change SPD and which encourages states all new developments will need to consider appropriate amounts of cycle parking. The Council is updating its Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance and context for developers and applicants.

3.1.c	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	A new Travel Plan SPD was adopted in 2023. Local Plan Policy P7 'Accessibility and Ease of Access' states that priority should be given first to pedestrian and cycle movements for access to all development. New developments should therefore make cycling and walking more convenient and attractive than using a car, providing safe and convenient access to walking and cycling routes, linking to existing cycling and walking provision where possible. There is a section on cycle parking in the draft climate change spd and which encourages states all new developments will need to consider appropriate amounts of cycle parking.
3.1.d	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	Within the Solihull Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan there are areas identified as Core Walking Zones, and it also details the Solihull cycle network plan and how these routes were chosen. Two further school streets sites at Shirley Heath Junior and Valley infant site were introduced in January 2024. The total number of schools with School Streets is now 11.

3.1.e	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>The DEFRA 2 project is offering sustainable travel support to businesses within a 3-mile radius of the A45 corridor. Businesses can access support with staff travel surveys and development of sustainable travel plans, enhancing their own net zero policies, CSR and staff engagement. Engaged businesses can also apply for grant funding to improve cycling facilities and install EV charging points. Employees at engaged businesses are able to apply for incentives to encourage a car free commute including a free 1-month travel pass, the use of an e-bike for a month and equipment to enable active travel. They can also undertake free walk leader training from Living Streets, enabling them to safely plan and deliver led walks for their workplace or elsewhere. To July '24 149 commuters have taken up the offers. Pop up events at business sites are being carried out offering cycle maintenance (Dr Bike), journey planning advice and e-bike try outs. The sustainable travel team have partnered with Love To Ride to deliver "Love To Ride Solihull" – a national cycling challenge programme which enables cyclists to log their rides and participate in seasonal challenges to win prizes. 6 challenges will be delivered up to September '25; the first challenge in May '24 saw 149 people riding a total of 26278 miles, saving over 1000kg of carbon.</p>
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3.1.f	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	<p>The Sustainable Travel Team have delivered an extensive programme to encourage mode shift away from car use including: 16 education establishments with current Travel Plans, influencing the travel choices of approx. 20,000 students and their families. We have a programme of School Streets and anti-idling campaigns (see 3.5d for further details). Walk to School weeks in May and October with approx. 7,000 children and their families participating. 110 scooter training sessions encouraging approx. 3,000 children to scoot to school. We support schools to run Walking Buses and promote Park&amp;Stride schemes. The Kingshurst Walking Bus has been successfully operating for over 13 years. Approx 4,000 children have been informed of the damaging effects of traffic on air quality with our Breathe Easy campaign. 30 New Roads clean air lessons to approx. 900 year 6 pupils to influence their journey to their new secondary school. 4 secondary schools participating in Active Travel Ambassadors where pupils are empowered to run their own active travel campaigns to change travel behaviour amongst their peers. The Solihull Council Cycle Training service supported pupils in our schools delivering circa 9000 Bikeability training outcomes. This gives children the skill to make more sustainable travel choice when commuting to school and in the future. We also offer regular popular school holiday sessions.</p>
3.10.a	3. Transport	Commercial journeys	3.10 Reducing Council journeys	3.10.a Create forums & groups for businesses to explore consolidating journeys, e.g. restaurants based near each other could utilise the same supplier	Not Started	<p>There has been no progress on this action to date.</p>

3.10.c	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	Scoping in Progress	There is a project ongoing with Midlands Connect who are looking at assessing access to the UK Central Hub area and assessing freight and logistics movement across the UK Central Hub site. The second part of the project is looking at the viability of priority infrastructure projects required to support the delivery of the net zero objectives for UK Central Hub whilst taking into consideration the freight and logistic sector needs.
3.10.d	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	Fleet training and accreditation not included in the DEFRA 2 business support package due to low uptake on previous project
3.11.a	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	Not Started	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.11.b	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	Significant Progress	Businesses in contract with the Council are encouraged to use the local supply chain on their contracts and this is measured using the Council's social value policy. One of the Social Value TOMs which can be chosen by companies is the number of local people employed directly or through the supply chain as a result of the companies' procurement requirements on the contract for a minimum of one year. Subsequently this favours local suppliers.

3.11.c	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	SMBC have 6 small e-Cargo bikes that are available for local businesses to trial for free as an alternative to a car or small van. Trials have been carried out by the NEC, BHX and the National Highways team working on Catherine De Barnes Lane. Solihull Hospital are seeking an appropriate vehicle route to trial using e-Cargo. Trials at large grocers have been discounted as not financially viable; despite being offered a free cargo bike, deliveries by Uber Eats and Deliveroo undercut own employee costs considerably. SMBC cycling team have developed accredited e-Cargo training which can be offered to businesses to fulfil their duty of care to employees the bikes.
3.12.a	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.12.b	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.12.c	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.13.a	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	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.

3.13.b	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.	Not Started	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.
3.2.a	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	Demand modelling is used to help identify sites. The Council signed a contract with Qwello and will install 500 chargepoints by 2026 predominantly in Council Car Parks. The Council are also working with WMCA on residential charging and could install another ~1000 chargepoints by 2031.
3.2.b	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	Scoping in Progress	National Government has introduced national standards for electric vehicle charging points in England. Technical guidance regarding the installation and charge point requirements is set out in Part S to the Building Regulations. This approved document took effect on 15 June 2022 for use in England and applies to new residential and non-residential buildings; buildings undergoing a material change of use to dwellings; residential and non-residential buildings undergoing major renovation; and mixed-use buildings that are either new or undergoing major renovation. All new homes and workplaces built will need to have charging points as standard. However, there are some caveats where a charging point would not be required under Part S of the Building Regulations. In these circumstances, the Council will request that an equivalent contribution will be made as a commuted sum to the local authority, as part of the Electric Charging vehicle strategy. Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with

						immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies.
3.2.c	3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.2 EV infrastructure improved	3.2c Install EV infrastructure in identified strategic sites across the Borough	Significant Progress	The Council signed a contract with Qwello and will install 500 chargepoints by 2026 predominantly in Council Car Parks. The Council are also working with WMCA on residential charging and could install another ~1000 chargepoints by 2031. . Council officers use Zap Map to check for private installations of chargepoints. Council officers have set a target of reaching 275 EV Chargepoints per 100k population by 2025.
3.2.d	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	Through the Qwello contract charge points will be installed in Council car parks. There is also an action to develop a workplace and depot charging strategy.
3.3.a	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	Officers have carried out two consultations aimed at businesses, however there was a poor response rate. Officers do not believe that there is a viable low emission zone that would work in Solihull.

3.3.b	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	Officers have been engaging with taxi drivers in the area and showcased a converted taxi - as this is cheaper to buy than buying a new ULEV taxi. Officers are engaging with taxi drivers over summer 2024 via a questionnaire with Atkins. Updated policy re taxi's should go into effect in 2025.
3.3.c	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	Refuse collection vehicles will not be replaced until they next need to be which will be in 2031. The refuse collection vehicles were switched to running off Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which has reduced emissions from this area dramatically. Some commercial vehicles are already electric, and some are due to be moving to electric. Some are stored in locations where it is difficult to install charging infrastructure.
3.3.d	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	Refuse collection vehicles will not be replaced until they next need to be, which will be in 2031. The refuse collection vehicles were switched to running off Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which has reduced emissions from this area dramatically. Some commercial vehicles are already electric, and some are due to be moving to electric. Some are stored in locations where it is difficult to install charging infrastructure.

3.3.e	3. Transport	Electric vehicles	3.3 EV Uptake	3.3e Collaborate and support key partners, such as JLR, to develop low carbon transport technologies	Scoping in Progress	Collaboration happens with key stakeholders via various Council forums including the Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group (SSVG) and the UKC Hub Energy Network Steering Group. The Council has an advisory role in these groups however recognises that it has limited influence. The Solihull and Coventry Automated Links Evolution (SCALE) project is a collaborative initiative, aimed at better understanding the role self-driving vehicles might one day play within our future transport system. As part of an exciting pilot, SCALE will see a fleet of three self-driving shuttles ferry passengers along a new 7km route linking up Birmingham International rail station, the NEC and Birmingham Business Park.
3.4.a	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	Completed	Already in the adopted local plan. This action is already done as business as usual.
3.4.b	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	The Council is updating its Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance and context for developers and applicants.
3.5.a	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	Two further school streets sites at Shirley Heath Junior and Valley infant site were introduced in January 2024. The total number of schools with School Streets is now 11. The Sustainable Travel Team have delivered an extensive programme to encourage mode shift away from car use including: 16 education establishments with current Travel Plans, influencing the travel choices of approx. 20,000 students and their families. We have a programme of School

						Streets and anti-idling campaigns (see 3.5d for further details). Walk to School weeks in May and October with approx. 7,000 children and their families participating. 110 scooter training sessions encouraging approx. 3,000 children to scoot to school. We support schools to run Walking Buses and promote Park&Stride schemes. The Kingshurst Walking Bus has been successfully operating for over 13 years. Approx 4,000 children have been informed of the damaging effects of traffic on air quality with our Breathe Easy campaign. 30 New Roads clean air lessons to approx. 900 year 6 pupils to influence their journey to their new secondary school. 4 secondary schools participating in Active Travel Ambassadors where pupils are empowered to run their own active travel campaigns to change travel behaviour amongst their peers. In 2022 and 2024 over 400 free adult cycle training places were offered from the 4 cycle hubs at Tudor Grange, Babbs Mill, Elmdon park & Shirley Park, these were complemented with regular cycle maintenance training sessions teaching basic repair skills
3.5.b	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.5.c	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.



3.5.d	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	Two further school streets sites at Shirley Heath Junior and Valley infant site were introduced in January 2024. The total number of schools with School Streets is now 11. The scheme is generally popular with schools, parents and residents although issues with enforcement continue. We are hoping to introduce camera enforcement in the future. 24 schools have run the Engines Off anti-idling campaign by displaying banners and posters and distributing information leaflets to parents. Lamppost signs are displayed on three roads away from the school gates, where parental idling of engines is also an issue. Engines Off signs are also situated by the Dorridge level crossing site.
3.5.e	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	Car clubs work well in locations where there are high population densities and low parking. There is a ceiling to the number of locations in Solihull where a car club would work. Council officers plan to start a car club for Council officers first and then if successful encourage more employers in Solihull to do so. Council officers have a strong idea of the places/demographics where car clubs would work and the way it could be communicated to residents for example focusing on depreciation of cars aspect.

3.5.f	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.	Scoping in Progress	Staff travel plan survey was carried out in July 2022 and a new travel plan has been drafted. Discussions ongoing with Sustainable Engagement team regarding wider behaviour change plan. Staff have been offered led rides through the summer months using the council's own e-bikes. Blackhawk, the new cycle to work scheme provider will be delivering promotional events in September / October '24 in partnership with the sustainable travel team. Current car users will also be able to apply for free and discounted bus travel as part of TfWM's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).
3.5.g	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	Car clubs work well in locations where there are high population densities and low parking. There is a ceiling to the number of locations in Solihull where a car club would work. Council officers plan to start a car club for Council officers first and then if successful encourage more employers in Solihull to do so. Council officers have a strong idea of the places/demographics where car clubs would work and the way it could be communicated to residents for example focusing on depreciation of cars aspect.
3.6.a	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	TfWM Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is being delivered locally by National Express West Midlands and is being promoted to businesses by the sustainable travel team. DRT scheme in place on fringe of Coventry. The main gap in public transport in Solihull is between where residents live in the north of the borough and where they work in the south of the borough. Council officers are working on a business case proposal for a project to address this north-south connection.

3.6.b	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.	Not Started	No work has been done on specific case studies such as this to date, however TfWM do operate an online journey planner and run promotions.
3.6.c	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	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.
3.7.a	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	There are electric buses at the airport and in Shirley which charge at Coventry or Yardley Wood. This action is under control of TfWM who have said they are not buying anymore diesel buses - only ULEV buses but have not said last date for operation of diesel buses.
3.7.b	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
3.7.c	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	Scoping in Progress	There are electric buses at the airport and in Shirley which charge at Coventry or Yardley Wood. This action is under control of TfWM who have said they are not buying anymore diesel buses - only ULEV buses but have not said last date for operation of diesel buses.

3.8.a	3. Transport	Connectivity	3.8 Support remote working	3.8a Develop a Digital Infrastructure Strategy	Not Started	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.
3.8.c	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	Completed	This action refers to the new normal and therefore is no longer required.
3.8.d	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	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.

3.9.a	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	Not Started	Local suppliers do not necessarily mean lower carbon. Solihull catering services do not offer hospitality for Council events as this is done by a separate catering company and not necessarily sourced locally.
3.9.b	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	This is monitored through vehicle telematics – the benefit of the telematics is they also monitor driving style and can give drivers advice on more efficient driving technique. Veolia operate route optimisation software for SMBC waste vehicles.
3.9.c	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	Parcel lockers projects are happening with WMCA and TFWM however the Council is not taking a lead role on this.
3.9.d	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	These topics are discussed with stakeholders via SSVG. Also, the business growth hub have a dedicated sustainability officer who can offer advice sustainability and supply chains.

3.9.e	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	<p>The DEFRA 2 project is offering sustainable travel support to businesses within a 3-mile radius of the A45 corridor. Businesses can access support with staff travel surveys and development of sustainable travel plans, enhancing their own net zero policies, CSR and staff engagement. Engaged businesses can also apply for grant funding to improve cycling facilities and install EV charging points. Employees at engaged businesses are able to apply for incentives to encourage a car free commute including a free 1-month travel pass, the use of an e-bike for a month and equipment to enable active travel. They can also undertake free walk leader training from Living Streets, enabling them to safely plan and deliver led walks for their workplace or elsewhere. To July '24 149 commuters have taken up the offers. Pop up events at business sites are being carried out offering cycle maintenance (Dr Bike), journey planning advice and e-bike try outs. The sustainable travel team have partnered with Love To Ride to deliver "Love To Ride Solihull" – a national cycling challenge programme which enables cyclists to log their rides and participate in seasonal challenges to win prizes. 6 challenges will be delivered up to September '25; the first challenge in May '24 saw 149 people riding a total of 26278 miles, saving over 1000kg of carbon.</p>
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3.9.f	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	There is a project ongoing with Midlands Connect who are looking at assessing access to the UK Central Hub area and assessing freight and logistics movement across the UK Central Hub site. The second part of the project is looking at the viability of priority infrastructure projects required to support the delivery of the net zero objectives for UK Central Hub whilst taking into consideration the freight and logistic sector needs.
4.1.a	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	Waste prevention and reduction initiatives will be considered as part of the revised Waste Strategy once introduced. Liaison with community groups continues via Love Solihull and through Veolia.
4.1.b	4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1b Signpost zero waste cafes and plastic free businesses and work with WMCA to highlight sustainable alternative to plastics.	Scoping in Progress	There is a dedicated sustainability account manager at Business Growth West Midlands who can offer advice to local businesses on reducing their waste and plastic usage. The Council are promoting the Circular Economy for Birmingham and Solihull (CEBAS) Project, which offers free advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them improve their resource efficiency and save money. Council officers are on the Circular Economy group hosted by the WMCA.
4.1.c	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.	Significant Progress	To comply with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Reforms, a separate weekly collection of food waste will be introduced to all households in 2026. To encourage participation in the food waste collection service and to optimise use of the recycling service, collections of refuse will also move from weekly to fortnightly when food waste collections are introduced.

4.1.d	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	Significant Progress	Veolia is one of the Council's partners and as part of their own initiatives, they go into schools and educate children on recycling. The Greener Schools Award includes a focus on waste and recycling as a standard criteria.
4.1.e	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	Scoping in Progress	Reducing food waste is promoted via Love Solihull - using resources from Love Food Hate Waste. Community growing projects and focus in schools not currently in place. 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.
4.1.f	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	Significant Progress	To comply with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Reforms, a separate weekly collection of food waste will be introduced to all households in 2026. To encourage participation in the food waste collection service and to optimise use of the recycling service, collections of refuse will also move from weekly to fortnightly when food waste collections are introduced. Collections of required recyclables is already available to all households except for properties where practical issues mean the service cannot be provided
4.1.g	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.	Scoping in Progress	To comply with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Reforms, a separate weekly collection of food waste will be introduced to all households in 2026.  The introduction of food waste collections will increase levels of recycling and contribute to Solihull moving closer to 50% recycling rate.



4.1.h	4. Waste	Residents	4.1 Encourage citizens to reduce waste and recycle more	4.1h Provide information on minimising waste of water to residents	Not Started	The Council promotes saving water to residents as and where relevant for example during a period of drought. The Council could consider more targeted comms on this subject in cooperation with Severn Trent for example.
4.2.a	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	In progress - this is done regularly via the website and social media channels including twitter. A leaflet about recycling was included in the 2024/25 Council tax bill which had extensive reach. For properties receiving an electronic bill, an electronic link to the leaflet was provided.
4.2.b	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.	Significant Progress	In progress – data from Veolia’s management information system is used to identify areas for targeted communications e.g. targeted messages for some high-rise flats.
4.2.c	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	Consideration should be given to this action being removed or revised 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 enclosed system which is unlikely to lend itself to urban environments - not sure that this is deliverable or practical. Home composting is promoted through our website and social media.
4.2.d	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	Recycling is being rolled out to other council facilities, local authority maintained schools can opt into framework contract.

4.2.e	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	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.
4.3.a	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	'Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. Point 315 of the withdrawn Draft Local Plan mentioned the '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 addressed 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 promoted the use of alternative materials, such as secondary and recycled aggregates in all new developments within the Borough. Local Plan Policy P12 promoted the reduction of waste and circular economy practices in construction.

4.3.b	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	It is up to businesses themselves to improve their waste management systems in accordance with their own sustainability policies. The growth hub can offer sustainability advice to businesses around waste and circular economy however cannot provide incentives. The word incentive should be removed from this action.
4.3.c	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. Withdrawn Draft Local Plan Policy P12 promoted the reduction of waste and circular economy practices in construction.
4.3.d	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	There are currently 2 foodbanks located in Solihull. North Solihull and Around Again foodbanks. There are additional food delivery services available from the Council and other organisations. For more details see: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Here2help/Help-with-food">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Here2help/Help-with-food</a>
4.3.e	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	We have commissioned start up business support through UK Shared prosperity Fund, although not specifically targeted at this sector. Businesses that are active can also be promoted on the Visit Solihull website.
4.4.a	4. Waste	Businesses	4.4 Increasing recycling and promoting	4.4a Work with WMCA to share case studies from businesses on circular economy practices to maximise environmental and economic opportunities	Scoping in Progress	Officers are promoting the Circular Economy for Birmingham and Solihull (CEBAS) Project, which offers free advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them improve their resource efficiency and save money. Eligible

			circular economy benefits			SMEs will be supported to identify how they can reduce waste, energy, and operational costs, while they can also benefit from free workshops and training events. SMEs must be located within Solihull, employ fewer than 250 full-time equivalent personnel, and have either an annual turnover of under £43.5 million or an annual balance sheet total of under £37 million. CEBAS is funded by the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is administered by International Synergies Ltd.
4.4.b	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	Scoping in Progress	Businesses will have to separate food waste and recyclables to meet the requirements of the Simpler Recycling reforms - this comes into force for businesses in 2025 and microbusinesses in 2027. Business will be encouraged to segregate their waste if they apply to the CEBAS project. The CEBAS Project offers free advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them improve their resource efficiency and save money.
4.4.c	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	Data collected through the CEBAS project could then be used to identify which sectors of businesses particularly struggle with waste reporting. Compile a few case studies to start sharing best practice.

4.5.a	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	The WMCA's circular economy routemap focuses on 3 key areas, circular construction, circular manufacturing and circular food. As a constituent authority our routemap should complement this and follow a similar theme. There has been limited progress on this action to date due to lack of resources. Officers are promoting the Circular Economy for Birmingham and Solihull (CEBAS) Project, which offers free advice to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them improve their resource efficiency and save money. Eligible SMEs will be supported to identify how they can reduce waste, energy, and operational costs, while they can also benefit from free workshops and training events.
4.5.b	4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.5 Council demonstrates circular economy leadership	4.5b Encourage suppliers to adopt circular economy principles through procurement policies	Scoping in Progress	This action is achieved through the social value contribution that suppliers must deliver. One of the environmental TOMs for social value is to promote sustainable procurement including the 'Percentage of procurement contracts that includes sustainable procurement commitments or other relevant requirements and certifications (e.g. to use local produce, reduce food waste, and keep resources in circulation longer.)'
4.5.c	4. Waste	Council's own waste	4.5 Council demonstrates 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	Deposit return schemes are not as effective when you have a good kerbside recycling scheme and regular collections. This action would be a combined action between the waste and public realm teams. There should be a separate action on installing recycling bins alongside litter bins.

4.6.a	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	Provision of recycling facilities is being extended to satellite council locations. Generally, the Council deals with small quantities of waste relative to the size of the organisation and seeks to reduce its waste whenever possible. For waste collection there are currently no systems in place to collect this data.
4.6.b	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	A review of the council's SUP waste was put on hold following changes in how the council works and puts on events. There is anecdotal evidence that operations within the council building don't create a lot of waste, and not much SUP waste. Much of any SUP waste is that that is brought in by occupants. Sustainability Action Plans for directorates are in place and have actions to reduce waste. Officers will be revisiting the approach to SUP in the Engagement and BC Plan that is in development.
4.6.c	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	Trialling options to improve efficiency, including reporting full bins via QR code. It is in the current contract to look at smart bins, however limited work has been done on this action to date.

5.1.a	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	The WMCA are working on a new Growth Strategy for the region to support the new national Industrial Strategy – officers will feed in, based upon objectives and target sectors within Solihull Economic Strategy focused on low carbon technology.
5.1.b	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.	Significant Progress	The economic strategy was refreshed in 2023 and now contains the theme of a sustainable economy. Reword the action to deliver the priorities outlined in Solihull's Economic Strategy under the theme of A Sustainable Economy. Solihull low carbon and environmental economic sector in 2019/2020 had £776M annual gross value added. 460 companies in the sector employing more than 8,300 people. The annual growth rate for the 2019/2020 period was 6.1%.
5.2.a	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.	Not Started	There has been no work done on this action to date.

5.2.b	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	Significant Progress	Officers have been working to promote the Net Zero Grant Programme which is a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded scheme. The Net Zero Grant Programme seeks to enable SMEs to make carbon savings by introducing energy efficiency measures, renewable energy measures or resource efficiency measures. See press release for where this grant programme has been a success: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities</a>
5.2.c	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	Not Started	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. There has been no work on this action to date as it is dependent on the local plan and will be enforced when local plan is adopted.
5.2.d	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	Significant Progress	Officers have been working to promote the Net Zero Grant Programme which is a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded scheme. The Net Zero Grant Programme seeks to enable SMEs to make carbon savings by introducing energy efficiency measures, renewable energy measures or resource efficiency measures. See press release for where this grant programme has been a success: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities</a>



6.1.a	6. Natural Environment s	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	The Urban Tree Strategy has already been updated but as part of this the woodland strategy was not included or updated. The woodland strategy does therefore still need updating however it makes sense to wait for the new local plan to be adopted before updating it. Urban forestry strategy has been reviewed and adopted and this lasts until 2029 - the woodland strategy should be separate. Reviewing it is BAU - to review every 5 years. An additional strategy 'The Natural Capital Investment' strategy was adopted at the CPH Climate Change & Planning Decision Session on Monday 29 July 2024. The Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) is the Council's delivery mechanism for responding to the biodiversity crisis, by protecting, restoring and enhancing nature, natural capital and the natural processes that support our wellbeing. The NCIS is a strategic document, which is referenced in the most recent Council Plan, that summarises the Council's activity in terms of the natural environment and sets out a Delivery Plan of actions to increase opportunities for investment in natural capital. It will therefore sit alongside and not replace existing initiatives, strategies and policies and fully integrated with our social and economic agendas.
6.1.b	6. Natural Environment s	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	This information is collected by Council officers.

6.1.c	6. Natural Environment s	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	<p>The CLAUDE team work with two conservation volunteer groups in the borough: Birmingham &amp; Solihull Midweek Conservation Volunteers (BSMCV) and Solihull Conservation Volunteers (SCV). The latter is a registered charity and has a chairman, secretary, treasurer etc and completes an annual AGM.</p> <p>SCV work on alternate Sundays 10:30am – 4pm and use mechanised tools. The group work on a set programme of tasks which are set 6 months in advance and published on the Solihull Conservation Volunteers website <a href="https://solihullcv.org.uk/">https://solihullcv.org.uk/</a> .</p> <p>BSMCV work every Thursday 11am – 4pm and use solely hand tools. Tasks are normally set on an ad-hoc basis, and the group often attend sites either prior to or after SCV to facilitate or complete tasks (as necessary).</p> <p>For 2023 SCV held 19 practical conservation tasks with an average attendance of 13 volunteers per task. There are approximately 30 volunteers actively engaged with the group.</p> <p>For 2023 BSMCV held 50 practical conservation tasks with an average attendance of 5 volunteers per task. There are 6 volunteers actively engaged with the group.</p> <p>820 volunteers engaged in 23-24 financial year for tree planting - monitoring and inventories is done by Council officers.</p>
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6.2.a	6. Natural Environment s	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	This is done as business as usual, however there is not much Council owned land left to plant on. POF Stats - 25,000 trees in 23-24 financial year. Have met the 100k tree target.
6.2.b	6. Natural Environment s	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	This is done as business as usual. As there is little council land left to plant on in the future most of the planting our future trees will need to be planted on private land. - in the last financial year, a number of trees have been planted on private land. Arden Free Tree Scheme: For 2023 the Arden Free Tree Scheme supported 20 schemes planting a total of 8,869 native trees and shrubs. Nine of these schemes were delivered through the partnership developed with Warwickshire Wildlife Trusts' Arden Farm Wildlife Network. For 2024, 23 applications have been received and nurseries are currently being approached for prices to see how many of the schemes can be delivered within this year's budget.

6.2.c	6. Natural Environment s	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	<p>This was carried out during when creating the Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Map.</p> <p>The NCIS seeks to coordinate efforts across the council, but we will also need to work with neighbouring authorities, businesses, communities, statutory agencies and third sector organisations if we are to achieve our aims.</p> <p>Using existing datasets and partnerships we will ensure that the right places are identified for tree and hedgerow planting, and then plant appropriate species. In rural areas, species characteristic of the Arden Landscape will be prioritised, however in urban areas other species and cultivars will be considered. It will also be important to consider changing climate, plant pests and diseases and how this impacts species selection, as we try to build resilience into our natural environment.</p> <p>See also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West Midlands Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the West Midlands (wmca.org.uk)</li> <li>• Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>• The Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy</li> </ul>
6.2.d	6. Natural Environment s	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	Scoping in Progress	<p>A key action within the NCIS Delivery Plan is to 'Support the actions within the WMCA Natural Environment Plan including the Virtual Forest'. Therefore The WMCA virtual forest Is still relevant and provides important regional data in response to the climate emergency and our natural capital.</p>

6.2.e	6. Natural Environment s	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	Completed	This is business as usual and a statutory planning function which was strengthened through the Environment Act and the Councils enhanced biodiversity duty delivering mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
6.3.a	6. Natural Environment s	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	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.	Scoping in Progress	Increasing grasslands, wetlands is part of the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies. To deliver ` more, bigger, better and connected areas of habitat, both within, and across LA boundaries. CLAUDE continue to contribute towards the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in partnership with West Midlands Combined Authority. We also contribute to the development of the LNRS led by Warwickshire County Council and support the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership. Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened `biodiversity duty` that the Environment Act 2021 introduces. It also sets out that a local authority must have regard to any relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and any relevant species conservation strategy, including mandatory biodiversity net gain through development management and the statutory planning process. Enhance refers to increasing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in our current green space which is being worked on.

6.3.b	6. Natural Environment s	Land Use Management	6.3 Maintain and enhance green space	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.	Not Started	The first part of this action is done already as business as usual through the Local Plan. The carbon benefit of land is not considered in current decision making and needs to be considered in the future.
6.3.c	6. Natural Environment s	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	This is work in progress through the NCIS Delivery Plan and CC & S WORKING GROUP.
6.3.d	6. Natural Environment s	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	The NCIS and Delivery Plan aims to deliver the following outcomes: Fully assess the natural capital baseline of all relevant council assets, especially parks and open spaces, to identify the current state and value of our natural capital. Review of all assets outside council ownership/control to assess natural capital opportunities. Produce a natural capital database (to include a green and blue infrastructure assets map), combining all existing data currently in different formats/spreadsheets (e.g. ArcGIS, TreePlotter, Solmaps), to support the establishment of the borough's baseline position and be regularly and easily updated. Produce a delivery plan with key actions that are monitored by the CC&S Working Group. Continue to work in partnership with other organisations, key partners and stakeholders, local communities and businesses to protect, restore, enhance and create new areas of habitat across Solihull.
6.4.a	6. Natural Environment s	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	Scoping in Progress	Reducing pesticide use is done by the Council as business as usual. Solihull does not have a Biodiversity Strategy however the Council's

				the Borough, including engagement with Pesticide Action Network UK on the development of a framework to transition to non-chemical alternatives.		recently adopted Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) and Delivery Plan (CPH Climate Change & Planning Decision Session Monday 29th July 2024 is the Council's delivery mechanism for responding to the biodiversity crisis, by protecting, restoring and enhancing nature, natural capital, and the natural processes that support our wellbeing. There is not a biodiversity strategy currently however the team are working on a Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document, its creation will be dependent on the Local Plan being approved. The Council uses the bare minimum of chemicals e.g. spot spray applicators for weeds. However, there is a balance as the Council also needs to ensure that the weeds do not degrade the highway infrastructure.
6.4.b	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	<p>Solihull Council represented by CLAUDE is a member of the Tame Valley Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership (TVWLP) set up by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in 2005 with the vision of working in the Tame Valley Wetlands Living Landscape area (and now designated as a Nature Improvement Area) to 'create a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all'.</p> <p>The TVWLP currently consists of 23 partner organisations (as of October 2021). It includes local and national organisations, across the public, private and charity sectors. Partner organisations include local groups and wildlife charities, Parish, Borough and County Councils and Defra agencies.</p> <p><a href="http://www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/">http://www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/</a></p>

6.4.c	6. Natural Environment s	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	Scoping in Progress	<p>The Government has introduced an enhanced duty for public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. It also sets out that a local authority must have regard to any relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and any relevant species conservation strategy.</p> <p>Whilst this is a new requirement, the Council in addition to the recently adopted NCIS does have several existing initiatives, strategies and policies that show how we are, and will continue to, meet the biodiversity duty.</p> <p>This should form part of a wider action on communicating the multiple benefits of natural capital green space and biodiversity to residents.</p> <p>Solihull's NCIS the sets out a delivery plan of actions including communications and engagement including workforce development to ensure that there is a sound understanding of biodiversity across the Council, using available guidance and resources. Integrating biodiversity into staff briefings and, where necessary, providing specific training on BNG.</p> <p>For example, all staff and Members to complete e-training such as the biodiversity e-learning for Councils Local Government Association. Biodiversity e-learning for councils   Local Government Association.</p>
6.4.d	6. Natural Environment s	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	<p>Wildlife ways has finished now - this action has been completed the maintenance has been subsumed into BAU of the council.</p> <p>Wildlife Ways Highly was highly commended at the annual 2024 CIEEM Awards for Best Practice Large Scale Conservation Project</p>



6.5.a	6. Natural Environment s	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.5 Support farmers and landowners 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	The Council has limited influence over this action. There may be some actions we can influence through the Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership however no work has been done on this to date.
6.5.b	6. Natural Environment s	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.5 Support farmers and landowners to reduce carbon emissions	6.5b Work with key agriculture stakeholders such as NFU and Environment Agency to encourage local landowners to uptake sustainable livestock management practices. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Local Nature Partnerships	Not Started	No work has been done on this action to date. See above.
6.6.a	6. Natural Environment s	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	Not Started	No work has been done on this action to date.
6.6.b	6. Natural Environment s	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	Not Started	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.
6.6.c	6. Natural Environment s	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	Not Started	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.
6.6.d	6. Natural Environment s	Livestock and Agriculture Management	6.6 Switch to sustainable food	6.6d Set up a campaign to encourage residents to eat less meat and dairy and more locally sourced food	Not Started	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.

			consumption			
6.6.e	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	Scoping in Progress	The Council use RJS Catering for the provision of pre-meeting meals and civic functions. As a company they are committed to reducing their environmental impact and continually improving their environmental performance as an integral and fundamental part of their business strategy and operating methods. Meal bookings with RJS are designed to cater for a range of dietary requirements so will include vegan and vegetarian options.
6.6.f	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	Scoping in Progress	Officers found that whilst trying "Meat free Mondays" the take up of meals on days where there was not a meat option is significantly lower. Thereby increasing the carbon emissions due to the additional packaging associated with a packed lunch. The emissions for the content of both a packed lunch and a cooked lunch are broadly similar, but the cooked lunch has a much better balance of nutrition. As a service we are following a "Plant forward" strategy where the recipes we use contain a significant amount of vegetable protein (30% in some cases) and a 7-vegetable blended sauce in others. This approach increases the take up of meals as well as the percentage of vegetables without dictating to parents.
6.6.g	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	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.

6.7.a	6. Natural Environment s	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	<p>While 100k trees have been planted through Planting our Future scheme, minimal work has been done on this action to date.</p> <p>The Arden Free Tree Scheme coordinated by CLAUDE in partnership with Birmingham Airport continues to deliver part of their carbon management plan  <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/Arden%20Free%20Tree%20Scheme%202024%20v2.pdf">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/Arden%20Free%20Tree%20Scheme%202024%20v2.pdf</a></p> <p>For 2023 the Arden Free Tree Scheme supported 20 schemes planting a total of 8,869 native trees and shrubs. Nine of these schemes were delivered through the partnership developed with Warwickshire Wildlife Trusts' Arden Farm Wildlife Network.</p>
6.7.b	6. Natural Environment s	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7b Encourage businesses to support Borough-wide inseting initiatives where possible, keeping the benefits within the Borough, through Authority Based Inseting	Scoping in Progress	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.
6.7.c	6. Natural Environment s	Natural carbon sequestration	6.7 Residual emissions are addressed through offsetting	6.7c Engage with local farmers and landowners to distribute information on improving and maintaining soil health for carbon storage	Not Started	Minimal work has been done on this action to date.

6.7.d	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	A key goal of tree planting and increasing biodiversity are for carbon sequestration however the levels of carbon sequestered are difficult to calculate. More work needs to be done on identifying and increasing carbon sinks in the Borough.
7.4.b	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.	Scoping in Progress	<p>The Council plans to purchase CHP generated electricity and CHP &amp; air source heat pump generated heat from its own ESCo from 26/27 for a number of SMBC town centre properties.</p> <p>The council purchases renewable electricity for all SMBC street lighting.</p> <p>Council currently not purchasing renewable energy from power producers within the Borough.</p>
7.1.b	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	Scoping in Progress	This information is available on the Local Area Energy Planning plus LAEP+ tool. Officers have not yet decided if this is something they want to progress with as alternative messages around solar could prove more effective e.g. the costs benefit to energy bills after installing solar.

7.1.c	7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of feasibility is improved	7.1c Coordinate with National Grid Energy Distribution (NGED) 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	There has been significant progress on this action to date, with officers working closely with NGED via the UKC Hub Energy Network Steering group. NGED have invested money into reinforcement requirements at the Elmdon substation located in the UKC Hub area. Council Officers have a strong understanding of the connection and reinforcement requirements needed in the area however have limited influence on this and the situation should be closely monitored.
7.2.a	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	There is already a high uptake in the market for battery storage and there are a number of planning applications for batteries in the Solihull area. The Council should consider battery storage alongside any renewable generation they install.
7.3.a	7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.3 Improve Council owned energy infrastructure	7.3a Install Solar PV on suitable Solihull Community Housing	Significant Progress	New SCH homes are built to a net zero standard for example the new Kingshurst development where each home had an Air Source Heat Pump, Solar Panels and very high levels of insulation. To date, 12 low rise blocks and 37 high rise blocks currently have solar PV installed, to support the electricity load in the communal areas. In addition, 59 installations have taken place on individual properties.

7.3.b	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	Significant Progress	Building Mounted Solar PV on Council owned buildings was considered in each decarbonisation survey. These surveys are currently being reviewed by the Property Services team and will be prioritised in their Approach to Net Zero document. Ground Mounted Solar PV on Council Owned Land was considered in the Renewable Energy Feasibility reports and a recommendation was made in the latest report that went to CPH decision session on the 25/09/24 to investigate the opportunity again in the next 3-5 years as planning policy changes.
7.4.a	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	The benefits of installing solar panels for residents was investigated in the latest Renewable Energy Feasibility Report - Borough Wide Building Mounted Solar PV Potential that went to Cabinet Portfolio Holders Decision Session on the 25th Sept 2024. These benefits will be communicated to residents via a communications campaign. Residents were not consulted on this.
7.4.c	7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.4 Residents and organisations are supported to	7.4c Support community energy projects and provide guidance to local residents and schools through an awareness raising program	Scoping in Progress	Decarbonisation surveys undertaken for 14 Community Buildings. Workshops held for local community groups.

			maximise renewable energy installations			
7.4.d	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.	Significant Progress	The business support team have been promoting the Net Zero Grant programme. A case study can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/green-grant-helps-solihull-bowls-club-cut-costs-and-modernise-facilities</a> In addition the growth hub has a sustainability officer who can offer support to businesses.
7.5.b	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.	Scoping in Progress	This work is being carried out via the UKC Hub Energy Network project. The project is currently at Detailed Project Development (DPD) phase and the Council are working with consultants Ramboll and Asteros on this project.
7.5.c	7. Energy Supply	Green energy for businesses and residents	7.5 Economies of scale are leveraged in order that businesses maximise	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	No progress was made on this action during 2023/2024 financial year. The Council seeks to follow the WMCA's Hydrogen strategy and ensure we align ourselves with their strategy.

			the uptake of renewable energy			
7.6.a	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	<p>This was discussed in the draft climate change SPD. The climate change SPD is dependent on a new local plan being adopted. 'When choosing renewable/low carbon technologies, impacts on the historic environment must be considered and then avoided or adequately mitigated. The impacts to the historic environment include not only heritage assets such as listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, Conservation Areas and buried archaeology, but also their settings. In the first instance harm should be avoided by choosing sites, designs and layouts that avoid adverse impact upon heritage assets. An example would be avoiding the siting of a solar array where the glint and glare effect of the panels in sunlight detract from the setting of a listed building country house, with surrounding parkland, that was a key element of the designer's intent. If harmful visual impacts on the setting of heritage assets cannot be avoided, their effect might be reduced through the further refinement of design and layout, and by using mitigation measures such as planting trees and hedgerows to screen development. It is important to consider how new planting will impact on heritage asset settings and landscape character because it can bring its own adverse impacts, for example interrupting important views to or from a listed building. These impacts will alter over time as plants grow and mature. Mitigation reduces the impacts but does not prevent the harm from occurring, any mitigation for residual</p>



						<p>harm to significances of assets would need to be convincingly justified. The greater the asset's significance, the greater the presumption to avoid harm will be.</p>
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7.6.b	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	Following the recommendation by the Inspectors, the Council will formally withdraw the draft Local Plan in October 2024. The Council will start work on a new plan with immediate effect and remain committed to addressing the climate change emergency within the Local Plan. This will include policies that help deliver the Net Zero Action Plan such as net zero development and low/zero carbon technologies. Policy p9 of the withdrawn draft local plan stated that 'At a site level, development must apply the 'energy hierarchy' to reduce energy demand for heating, lighting and cooling and minimise carbon dioxide emissions as follows: Provide at least 15% of energy from renewable and/or low carbon sources for all major housing developments and non-residential developments of 1000sqm or more.'
7.6.c	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
7.6.d	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	There has been initial work investigating options such as Council revolving loans and Climate bonds in the Renewable Energy Feasibility - Borough Wide Building Mounted Solar PV Potential Report that went to Cabinet Portfolio Holders Decision Session on the 25th of Sept 2024. Further work is needed on this action.
New action added last year	7. Energy Supply	Energy Infrastructure	7.1 Local understanding of	7.1e Use the findings from the Renewable Energy Feasibility Study to develop a communication and engagement plan that	Scoping in Progress	The benefits of installing solar panels for residents was investigated in the latest Renewable Energy Feasibility Report - Borough Wide Building Mounted Solar PV Potential that

			feasibility is improved	leads an increase in solar uptake within the borough		went to Cabinet Portfolio Holders Decision Session on the 25th Sept 2024. These benefits will be communicated to residents via a communications campaign.
New action added last year	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	Officers are working closely with colleagues at WMCA to understand updates regarding heat network zoning legislation and the role of zoning coordinators. Officers have responded to consultations by HNDU on the topic to ensure the Council's best interests are considered moving forward.
New action added last year	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.	Not Started	There has been limited work on this action to date. WMCA have received further funding to progress with the LAEP+ tool and officers are involved in relevant meetings and trainings on the tool.
New action added last year	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 the Council's own buildings.	Scoping in Progress	Solar Panels were considered in the heat decarbonisation surveys carried out in the last year on each of the Council's own buildings. Officers within the Council's Property Services team are currently working on their 'Approach To Net Zero' document which will prioritise the actions identified in the heat decarbonisation surveys. Officers have been advised on potential benefits to installing Solar such as reduction on energy bills.
8.1.a	8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.1 Reduce direct carbon impact of existing procurement contracts	8.1a Establish standards of effective carbon management in contracts	Not Started	This is very difficult to do for existing contracts – and could only happen when contract is renewed as part of the contract management policy.

8.1.b	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	Not Started	Training has been given to the procurement team but not to individual contract managers. Individual contract managers will be given training during wider sustainability training offered by the Council.
8.1.c	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	There is a TOM which relates to apprenticeships however it has not been specified by the Council that it needs to be green apprenticeships. When the TOMs are next refreshed, officers could include the wording that the apprenticeships should be in green skills where relevant. Through the Solihull Town Centre Heat Network project green apprenticeships are going to be delivered through the social value of the contract in collaboration educational facilities located in Solihull town centre.
8.2.a	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	Not Started	The number of TOMs was reduced to 24 and these were aligned to the Council Plan. Each TOM is given the same weighting. The carbon-focused TOMs were removed as they were thought to be difficult to calculate. The carbon TOM might be considered again when the TOMs are next refreshed. The environmental TOMs in place currently include reforestation and biodiversity focused TOMs and single use plastic reduction and circular economy TOMs.
8.2.b	8. Council Influence	Procurement	8.2 Net zero aligned future procurement contracts	8.2b Introduce a net zero aligned procurement policy	Scoping in Progress	The Council's Responsible Procurement Policy Framework 'RPPF' is a framework of Council policies that are underpinned by legislation, global and national policy commitments. The RPPF supports delivery of the Solihull Council Plan and enables the Council to commission and procure in a manner that is legally

						compliant and considerate of the impact, both positive and negative, that the Council may have on the environment, the economy, and society in general. The RPPF consists of six Solihull Council policies: · Social Value Policy · Sustainable Procurement Policy · Solihull MBC Modern Slavery Statement · SME/VCSE Policy Statement · Corporate Health and Safety Policy · Risk Management Policy. The Council are currently working on their sustainable procurement policy.
8.2.c	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	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.
8.3.a	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	Officers and Councillors represent the Council on WMCA boards & groups relating to environment and climate change. SMBC member of DESNZ supported Midlands Net Zero Hub Board. The issue of and provision of businesses cases for more ambitious national action and funding is frequently made by SMBC at these forums. SMBC also collaborates with other Councils on issues such as WMids Net Zero Devolution Deal.
8.4.a	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	This is now part of the actions of the Engagement and BC Plan that is being developed. Some work has been done on delivery. The council has training available on Learning Pool. Training opportunities have been publicised including the WMCA CL and AQ Literacy programmes.

8.4.b	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	It has been 3 years since the NZAP was implemented in 2021. Each year an annual report has been created and progress on actions has been checked with relevant Council officers. Council officers plan to refresh the NZAP in early 2025 to streamline and prioritise action according to carbon benefit, cost savings and co-benefits. Officers plan to streamline action to simplify the reporting process.
8.4.c	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	Sustainability Action Plans are in place for each Directorate which seek to reduce emissions in that area, including travel.  The Council has a Carbon reduction plan and annual Carbon Budget setting occurs to seek to reduce Council emissions in line with the 2030 net zero target. Accounted emissions from Council operations were reduced this year by 1% from 22/23 - 23/24. This was due to a 40% increase in estimated emissions from School Transport owing to increased SEN needs. There has been a 55% reduction since 17/18.
8.4.d	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	An annual Council Carbon Report is publicly available online. It is intended the scope of the reporting is widened to report on Council emissions not currently reported and follow recognised standards.
8.5.a	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.	Significant Progress	All Council reports must state how proposals contribute to the Council's Environment priority: Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions. All Council contracts above £50k must include social value commitments, which may include environmental commitments

8.6.b	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	There has been no progress on this action to date.
8.6.c	8. Council Influence	Council Influence	8.6 Encourage net zero behaviours	8.6c Consider the use of incentives to change personal behaviour or choices that support net zero goals, for example heat pump over gas boiler replacement, EV charging point. Link to EPC rating?	Scoping in Progress	A plan is being developed to consider how behaviour can be influenced through a number of ways, including the use of incentives. Funding for retrofit for example HUG 2, is both changing behaviour and installation choices. The engagement and behaviour change plan will cover a wider range of levers including incentives.
8.6.d	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	Solihull Council has developed Your Future Solihull to act as the Council's climate change and sustainability campaign and engage with the Solihull community. An officer steering group meets to co-ordinate the campaign. Regular calls to action are included in the Council's external communications across the website, newsletters, media releases, social media and podcast, as well as internally in the Our Solihull staff magazine. Messages such as 'help us reach net zero by 2041' are woven into communications, alongside call to actions which include messaging that highlights net zero action is something 'all' in the community can engage in to help incentivise behavioural change. Your Future Solihull's webpages had 18,480 page views across 23/24 – a figure which was surpassed figure for the new financial year in October, signifying significantly increased engagement to the website.

8.6.e	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.	Significant Progress	Calls to action are weaved into all communications, linking to Your Future Solihull webpages to ensure brand consistency as well as relevant project/resource/funding. Recent examples include the case study on HUG2 in July 2024 and NZGP in October 2024. Calls to action are also promoted during national/global days/weeks of action across our communications, helping to signpost the community to local projects they can get involved in.
8.6.f	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	Scoping in Progress	We are part of the West Midlands Pension Fund and there aims are to provide sustainable futures for all – engaging our customers in retirement planning, ensuring efficient pension administration and return on contributions through responsible investment and influence for positive environmental and social benefit, all of which deliver long term benefit promises.
8.7.a	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	This could be achieved by the social value contribution from suppliers in contract with the Council. There is a TOM which relates to apprenticeships however it has not been specified by the Council that it needs to be green apprenticeships. When the TOMs are next refreshed, officers could include the wording that the apprenticeships should be in green skills where relevant. Through the Solihull Town Centre Heat Network project green apprenticeships are going to be delivered through the social value of the contract in collaboration educational facilities located in Solihull town centre.



8.7.b	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	Supporting the local industry by using a local supply chain is encouraged using the Council's Social Value TOMs. Social value commitments are also used to increase apprenticeships locally. The next time the TOMs are renewed we want to edit the wording to encourage apprenticeships in green and net zero industries.
	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	We will accelerate the collective transition to net zero by supporting businesses, particularly SMEs, through various Growth Hub initiatives and programmes. These efforts include the Net Zero Energy Assessment for buildings, which helps improve energy efficiency, and the Circular Economy programme, which promotes sustainable business practices by encouraging resource efficiency and waste reduction. These initiatives will provide businesses with the tools and guidance needed to align with net zero goals, fostering a more sustainable and resilient economy.