



**REPORT TITLE: GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2ND ANNUAL
REPORT & ACTION PLAN 2022/23 – 2026/27**

Cabinet Date	22 December 2021
Cabinet Member	Cllr David Gray, Environment and Planning
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose of Report	To provide an annual update of progress with the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy and to seek approval of the action plan 2022-2027
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes the overall emissions for the county council and for Gloucestershire outlined in the report and in Annex 1;• Notes the progress and planned key actions outlined in the report and in Annex 2, 3 and 4; and• Approves the outline five year Action Plan (Annex 4), to be reported to Leadership Gloucestershire's Countywide Climate Leadership Group.
Reasons for recommendations	When Cabinet endorsed the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy in 2019 it agreed that an outline action plan is developed for Cabinet approval each November, developed into a detailed plan in agreement with Leadership Gloucestershire for the following year by March, implemented from April.
Resource Implications	<p>The resourcing of actions outlined in this report will be met in the near term from a combination of existing resources and/or with external grant funding as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Delivery of some actions including Community Grants, investment in greener vehicles and decarbonising heat use in council properties will be subject to the Medium Term Financial Strategy which forms part of the December Cabinet Paper under agenda item 5, and external grants including third party resources as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Whilst core funding is now in place for a small team of staff and a £1m Action Plan evidence increasingly highlights the need for a significant scaling up of activity over the next five years if we are to meet our climate change targets therefore further funding bids will need to be secured either internally or from external grant sources in the forthcoming years. Should additional funding not be agreed in the council's budget, or secured from third parties, then actions may need to be delayed or scaled down, savings made or funding used from elsewhere in the council's overall budget.</p>

Background Documents	Cabinet (December 2020), Item 8: 'Leading the response to the Climate Emergency: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy Annual Report & action plan, 2021/02 – 2026/27' , Gloucestershire County Council
Statutory Authority	Overarching statutory powers in relation to Education, Environment, Highways, Lead Local Flood, Public Health, Strategic Planning, Transport, Waste Disposal and section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011.
Divisional Councillor(s)	All
Officer	Name: Philip Williams, Lead Commissioner - Community Infrastructure, Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Tel. no: 01452 328482 Email: philip.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Timeline	Ongoing

Background

1. Cabinet approved the council's current Climate Change Strategy and action plan in December 2019 and committed to reporting annually on progress. In December 2020, Cabinet approved the first annual progress report and 5-year action plan. This report considers the progress that has been made in the past year, what has gone well, what has been more difficult, and how we intend to take matters forward over the next year. Given the importance of everyone being able to make a contribution to tackling climate change it is our intention to review the format of our reporting in 2022 and for the third annual report to be in a more publicly accessible format.
2. Our Vision for Gloucestershire is that:
By 2045¹ we will create a carbon neutral county that provides quality of life now and for future generations, having improved the quality of our natural environment. By 2030 we will have reduced our carbon emissions by 80%.
3. The key targets for Gloucestershire County Council are:
 - **to reduce our carbon emissions** (buildings, street lighting, fleet, business travel) **by 80% by 2030** on 2006/07; and
 - **to aim for 100% ('Net Zero') by 2030** through carbon offsettingThese targets are deliverable directly by the council in respect of its own operations. We are on target, having achieved a 77% gross (83% net) reduction with 8 years to go.
4. The key target for the geographical area of Gloucestershire is for:
 - **Gloucestershire to be Net Zero by 2045**, with a **reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2030** on 2005.This target cannot be achieved by any single organisation and will require extensive partnership working not only with districts, businesses and other organisations (Health, Police) but also everyone who lives, works and visits the county.
5. In March 2020 the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic took hold in England. In response, councils had to stop and wind down service delivery in non-critical areas. This has slowed progress in implementing the action plan. The UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 was hosted by the UK in Glasgow from 1-12 November this year, postponed from 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This was also an opportunity for us to highlight progress we are making in Gloucestershire, by councils, by businesses and by communities.

Carbon Emissions Performance

6. Gloucestershire, 2019
 - UK emissions are published by government annually, by district, 2 years in arrears. These are illustrated in [Annex 1](#). This shows that Gloucestershire's total emissions have reduced in line with both England and the South West, as have per capita (per resident) emissions and emissions by sector, suggesting reductions continue to be largely due to national and/or international factors.

¹ Originally 2050. Cabinet brought this forward to 2045 on joining the UK:100 local authorities initiative.

7. County Council emissions, 2020/21

- Good progress continues in reducing carbon emissions under the Council's direct control, as shown in Annex 2. Gross emissions to 2020/21 fell by 77% on the 2006/07 baseline and look set to reach Net Zero ahead of target. Investment in renewable generation has enabled the Council to be a net generator of electricity.

Action Plan Progress

8. Significant progress in delivering the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan is detailed in Annex 3. A few key successes are summarised below:

9. Tree planting

- We have secured almost £600k of external funding this year and are on target to meet commitments under the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission grants to plant over 41,000 trees this season. Our Highways team has exceeded its target for replacing ash dieback on a 2 for 1 basis, planting over 10,000 trees this year and with a further 20,000 trees being planted this season.

10. School buildings

- We are investing £1 million to make new school buildings carbon neutral, such as the High School, Leckhampton in Cheltenham.

11. Staff recruitment

- We have appointed a Climate Change & Air Quality Officer and two Sustainability & Engagement Officers for local engagement on climate change and waste management.
- The recruitment of a dedicated Tree Project Officer is underway, to be appointed before the end of 2021 on an initial 2-year fixed term.
- Through these appointments we have more than doubled the Council's capacity to develop, manage, support and track initiatives under the Strategy, and our ability to effect wider change.

What has proven more challenging

12. The impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic have meant that some initiatives have not progressed as quickly as planned. These are highlighted red in Annex 3.

13. The planned Action Fund allocation of £250k for Community Grants was not progressed following feedback that many groups and small businesses would be unable to develop funding bids during the pandemic. More recently Cabinet has agreed additional grant funding to help communities recover from the impacts of Covid. We will review the need for climate change community grants over the next year and consider this as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget setting process (Medium Term Finance Strategy – MTFs).

Proposed Priority Actions

14. Tackling climate change is a key theme and priority in our Council Strategy. Proposed actions and timeline for delivery are shown in [Annex 4](#). These include:

(1) Putting Climate Change at the heart of decision making

- Developing carbon emission reduction pathways for all the main sectors to reach Net Zero by 2045
- Transport decarbonisation

- Developing a Council-wide adaptation plan, linked to the Council's Business Continuity Management process
- Developing and supporting the Youth Climate Panel

(2) Buildings – the Council, residents, businesses and partners

- Incorporating appropriate carbon reduction and renewable energy generation measures into new and existing developments

(3) Transport – carbon busting options for all

- Rolling out electric vehicle (EV) onstreet charging infrastructure
- Switching the Council's fleet over to ultralow emission alternatives
- Creating high quality public transport and cycle networks

(4) Power – helping everyone convert to green power

- Exploring scope for decarbonising heating including district heating opportunities

(5) Waste – reducing and dealing with

- Ongoing waste reduction campaigns

(6) Influencing others – getting everyone to do their bit

- Develop the Greener Gloucestershire campaign
- Grow the number of subscribers to our Climate Change newsletter
- Increase social media posts and reach

(7) Land use

- Putting strategic housing allocations in sustainable locations
- Delivering flood risk management schemes
- Million Trees Challenge
- Development of a Gloucestershire carbon offsetting scheme

(8) Campaigning

- Develop and implement with partners to encourage low carbon behaviours.

Options

15. Do nothing – the UK government is a signatory to international climate change agreements and there is a clear expectation that local government will play a key role in community leadership and delivery to help us reach net zero. Increasingly this is underpinned by regulations and supported by government funding. Having declared a Climate Emergency and committed to refresh the action plan annually doing nothing would be a change of policy that would attract considerable negative publicity for the council as the climate change challenge remains and the need for action is more pressing now than it was a year ago
16. Implement the proposed Action Plan (**recommended**) – doing the best we possibly can within the resources available to bring about the required changes, working with others to secure additional resources, delivering the strategy and an ongoing five-year rolling programme.

Risks

17. Some actions are dependent on securing grant funding. Should these be unsuccessful, alternative funds and/or actions will need to be developed.
18. It can be seen from the emissions graphs that where the Council has direct control, progress is ahead or on target. However, 'Local authorities are directly responsible for between 2 - 5% of their area's emissions but have direct powers or influence over more than 30%.' As such, the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy target of being Net Zero by 2050 with an 80% reduction by 2030 remains extremely challenging to achieve. Success will be dependent on effective partnership working, prioritisation, support from government and a step change in the scale of capacity and resources to deliver.
19. To date this challenge has been recognised with the appointment of the Countywide Climate Coordinator and the first meeting of the Gloucestershire Climate Leadership group which agreed the need for strategic coordination across an initial set of priority themes. As the local transport authority and highway authority for Gloucestershire the County Council will lead on bringing together relevant partners in the sector to discuss Transport decarbonisation early in 2022.
20. A recent public survey² by the Local Government Association (LGA) found 40 per cent of residents trusted their council most to address the climate emergency, followed by the Government (28 per cent) and world leaders (15 per cent).
21. However, local authorities do not have the resources and powers to deliver this change, requiring action by the wider Gloucestershire community and by government to make the required changes and resources available. The Council continues to seek to secure from government more powers and resources for councils to take action on climate change and nature restoration, and to build back better and greener from Covid-19.

Financial implications

22. The strategy is expected to have significant resource implications in the short, medium and long term. The £1m Climate Change & Air Quality 'Action Fund' is being used to begin delivering against the objectives set out in the climate change strategy. This will help us determine how much it will cost to do things differently, to then bid for resources to do so through the Council's annual budget setting process and through applications to appropriate grant funding opportunities as they arise. Should additional funding not be agreed in the council's budget, or secured from third parties, then actions may need to be delayed or scaled down, savings made or funding used from elsewhere in the council's overall budget.
23. The council will continue to lobby government for appropriate resources to respond to the challenge of climate change, including through our membership of the LGA and UK100 Countryside Climate Network.

² [The LGA polled 1,000 people as part of its latest Residents Satisfaction Polling](#). It asked: Thinking specifically about the environment, who do you trust most to take action on climate change, such as on transport, housing and education, and make a difference in your local area? 403 (40 per cent) said their local council, 275 (28 per cent) said the Government, 151 (15 per cent) said world leaders, 154 (15 per cent) said none of above, 17 (2 per cent) said don't know.

Climate change implications

24. This report sets out positive progress and actions to reduce the council's and Gloucestershire's contribution to climate change and their vulnerability to its impacts.

Equality implications

25. Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed? No

26. In developing and taking forward actions under the Climate Change Strategy, officers across the Council have sought to pay due regard to the impact on protected groups.

27. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report. However, climate change has the potential for significant negative implications for people's health, wellbeing and safety; its impact is expected to be more negative for those on low incomes, vulnerable people especially the young and the elderly, and people with additional learning, physical and mental needs. It follows that whilst delivering the strategy will therefore have an overall positive impact consideration needs to be given to ensure that the distributional impacts of policies and actions on disadvantaged groups (who may be more exposed to increased costs of heating, transport and housing) are carefully managed. This highlights the importance of our engagement activity with communities and engaging across all demographic groups.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

28. A DPIA is not required for this decision.

Social value implications

29. The actions outlined in this report seek to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits to the local area by reducing our collective contribution to climate change and improving our resilience to its impacts.

Consultation feedback

30. Environment Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting 29 November 2021, received a report in response to agenda item 4:

- Climate Change – *To understand whether Gloucestershire is on track to meet its commitments and if the plans are ambitious enough to address the crisis at hand.*

31. As part of this, the Countywide Climate Coordinator presented feedback on the first Climate Leadership group meeting and sought feedback from members of the Committee on:

- i. Are there any key gaps in the initial themes?
- ii. What areas should the County Council be involved in?

32. Scrutiny Committee members made the following points:

- Members noted the good progress by the council in reducing its own corporate emissions which are on track to achieve its target of net zero by 2030. Other councils could learn from us showing how and where we have made the reductions. Consider PAS2060 accreditation to demonstrate our carbon neutrality.
- Concern was raised about the trajectory for reducing emissions across the whole county, indicating a high risk of not achieving the Gloucestershire wide target of an 80% reduction by 2030. Members acknowledged that the council

has much less direct influence over this and that the scale of change may not be achievable without significant changes beyond the adoption of low carbon technologies, affecting the way we live, the way councils plan new developments and the resources allocated at every level of government.

- Interim targets need to be developed to help us reach our long term targets; reducing emissions from transport, which accounts for 32% of emissions, will be challenging for a rural county however rural communities can deliver carbon offsetting initiatives and support renewable energy generation.
- COP26 has highlighted the urgent need to act in the first half of this decade and the importance of managing the harmful impacts of climate change on biodiversity. The natural environment is one of Gloucestershire's main assets and there are opportunities to work with our farmers to keep it this way.

Officer recommendations

33. That the updated action plan (Annex 3) is approved for implementation and reported to the Climate Leadership Group to inform the countywide approach.

Performance management/follow-up

34. The Council will ensure delivery of the action plan by ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress that will provide the detail as to how we will continually measure and improve progress to achieving our objectives.
35. The action plan will continue to be developed for Cabinet approval each year and be considered by Leadership Gloucestershire's Climate Leadership group, alongside other partners' plans, to inform and reflect the countywide approach. The format of our progress reports will be refreshed in 2022/23 to raise awareness of this important issue and the work of the council and its partners.

Figure 1 shows the overall emissions for Gloucestershire as a whole and for each of the districts, all of which follow a similar trajectory. Cotswold having the highest emissions is likely to be a combination of its rurality, the availability of alternative transport modes and the proportion of older, solid-walled housing. Conversely Cheltenham having the lowest emissions is likely to be a combination of it being urban and so more compact, the associated availability of alternative transport modes, and having less solid-walled housing.

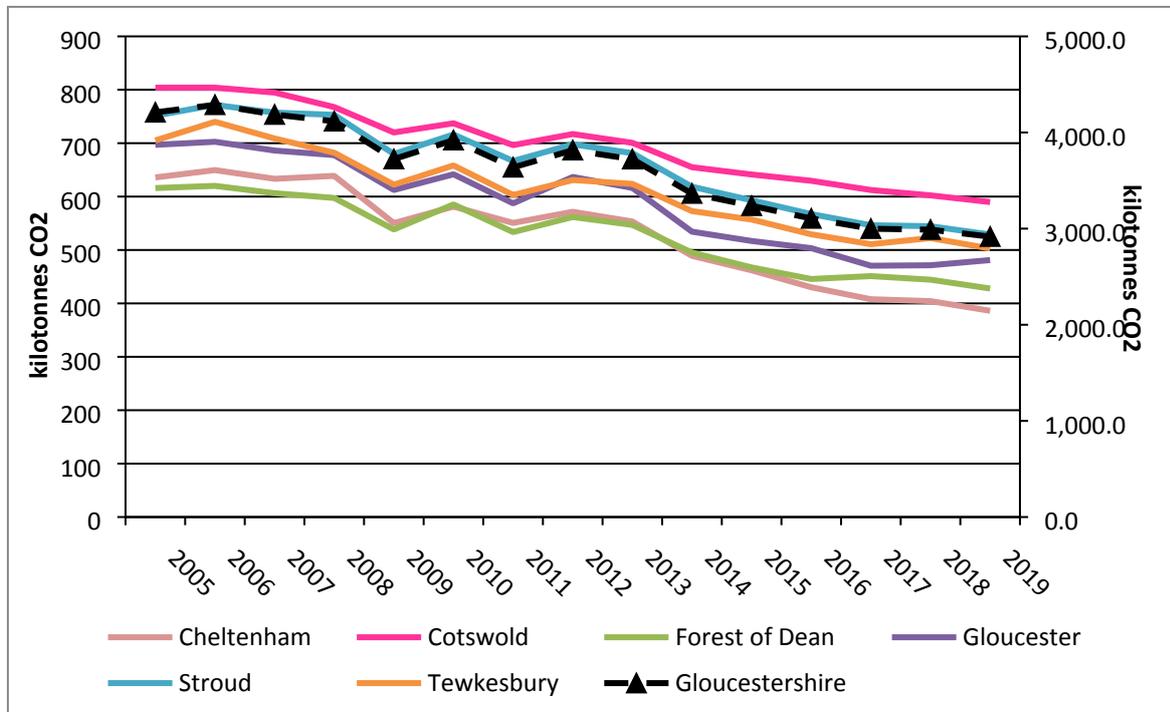


Figure 1: Total emissions, Gloucestershire and districts (source: BEIS)

Figure 2 compares Gloucestershire’s overall emissions with the South West, both showing a similar trajectory suggesting that reduction is a result of national/ international factors.

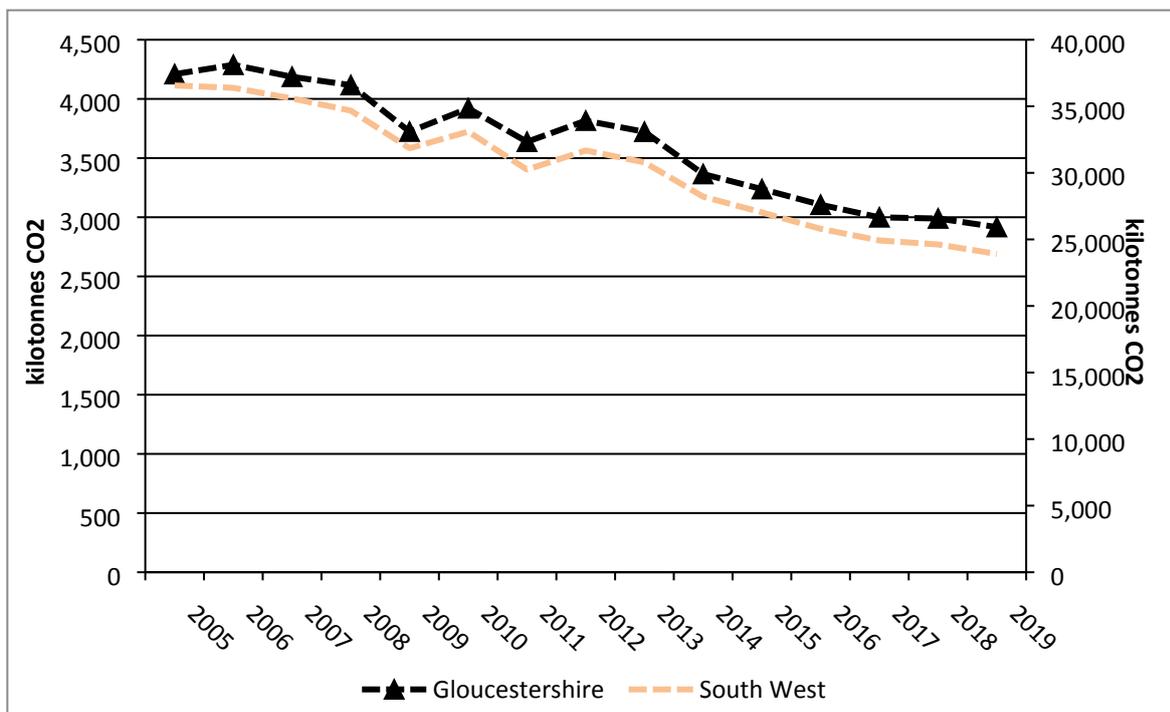


Figure 2: Total emissions, Gloucestershire and the South West (source: BEIS)

Figure 3 compares Gloucestershire’s overall emissions with England, again both showing a similar trajectory suggesting that reduction is a result of national/ international factors.

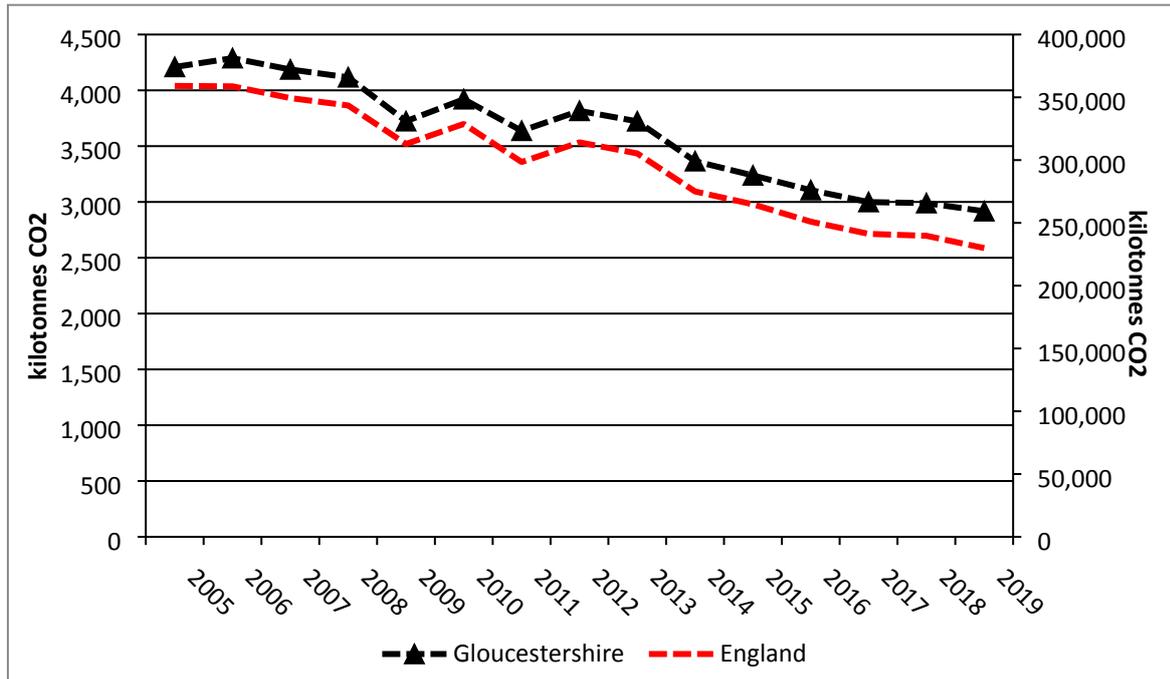


Figure 3: Total emissions, Gloucestershire and England (source: BEIS)

Figure 4 compares Gloucestershire’s per capita (resident) emissions with each of the districts, the South West and England. These again all show a similar trajectory, suggesting that reduction is a result of national/ international factors. Cotswold having the highest and Cheltenham the lowest per capita emissions will likely be for the same reasons as for Figure 1, together with Cheltenham having a higher population than Cotswold (estimated 2019 population 116,300 and 89,900 respectively). Gloucestershire 2019 per capita emissions fell by 2.1% on 2018 (from 4.7 to 4.6 kgCO₂ per capita); this is as a result of a 0.6% increase in estimated population combined with the 2.4% decrease in total emissions.

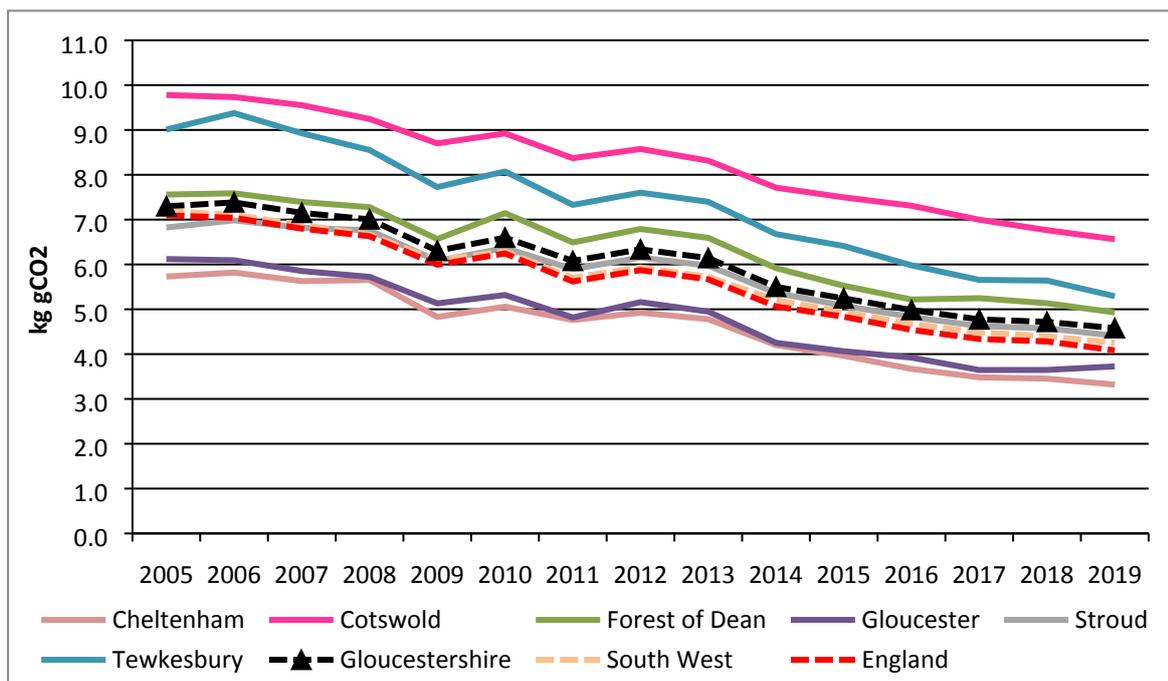
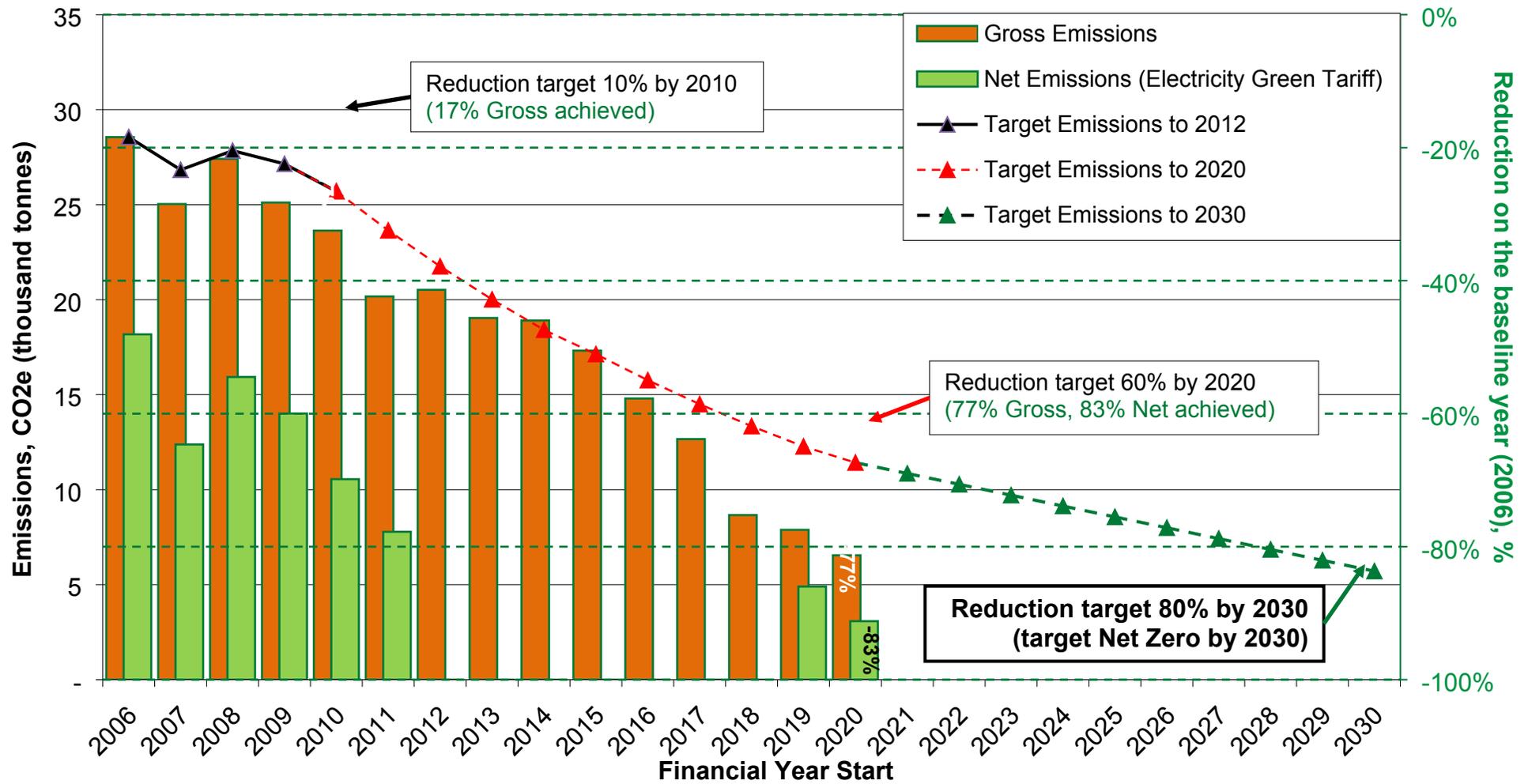


Figure 4: Per capita emissions for Gloucestershire, districts, South West and England



† Emissions Scope: GCC premises; Street Lighting, Signs, Signals, Bollards; Fleet; Staff & Member Business Travel

Key: **Green** complete; **Amber** in progress; **Red** not yet underway

1. Putting Climate Change at the heart of decision making

Seek to agree with Leadership Gloucestershire and other partners how we will work together to bring about a co-ordinated approach and action plan in response to the climate emergency.

Countywide Climate Change Coordinator in post, hosted by Gloucester City. Climate Leadership Group established to coordinate the countywide approach across all partners. First meeting Nov 2021, partner organisations agreed to lead on themes, Council to lead Transport.

Establish a £1m 'Action Fund', in 2020/21 to develop and incentivise the adoption of low carbon initiatives and improved resilience to climate change.

£1 million committed. Further funding bids will need to be developed in 2022 to maintain momentum in future

£1m energy efficiency invest to save fund ('Salix Fund') extend to all Gloucestershire public sector organisations to reduce their corporate carbon footprints, committing at least £250k.

Complete, although projects have yet to come forward for funding.

Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel, ongoing commitment to work with to develop a plan to challenge and influence actions taken by individuals, communities, organisations and business.

The Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel is currently being revived in the wake of the disruption experienced with the Pandemic. A coordinator and new panel members are being recruited.

Recruit staff to develop/ monitor a five-year rolling action plan to ensure ongoing delivery of the Strategy.

Climate Change & Air Quality Officer and 2 Sustainability & Engagement Officers (1.5 FTE) now in post. Tree Project Officer recruitment in progress, expect to appoint in December.

Stress test public sector assets and services against climate change

Business Continuity Management plans are being updated; annual testing and evaluation to start Summer 2022, inc climate change scenarios. Ongoing membership of Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' (Defra) Local Adaptation Advisory Panel; a conduit between councils/ government, inc best practice. Council adaptation action plan to be developed in 2022/23.

Establish an Expert Advisory Panel and Climate Emergency Response Group

Governance arrangements and countywide stakeholder engagement now lies with the Climate Leadership Group; the Council will continue to support and seek agreement to address this.

Establish baseline carbon emissions for Gloucestershire

Transport – work is underway to develop the baseline and outline potential to deliver, by summer 2022; UK:100 bid submitted for engagement resource to support this in 2022. The Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Board is also looking into transport carbon reduction pathways.

Implement climate change impact assessments into the Council's decision-making process

Cabinet reports are required to set out climate change implications of the proposed decision; the Sustainability Team advises authors on areas to consider. The Strategic risk register includes climate change, with performance reported quarterly to the Corporate Leadership Team.

2. Buildings – the Council, residents, businesses and partners

Work with our partners to ensure that all new public buildings and residential and commercial developments support the move to zero carbon and improve resilience

The Council aims to reduce its carbon footprint when commissioning new buildings; 2 examples:

- Quayside, foundations from the old building were reused, meaning less construction waste, quarrying and lorry trips. Environmental features include solar panels and electric vehicle (EV) charging points.
- Shire Hall solar panels and highly insulated cladding significantly reduce its carbon footprint and heating bills, meaning it will be self-sufficient for electricity over the summer months.

Work with our partners to aim for all new development sites to deliver high quality green infrastructure in line with the 'Building with Nature' (BWN) standards, developed by Glos Wildlife Trust.

'Manual for Gloucestershire Streets' updated in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan; and developed wildflower meadow specification and maintenance schedule for some of the new highway schemes. Action plan to incorporate BWN, 2022/23

Look to be an early adopter of innovative commercial energy recovery technology

Work to secure this innovative approach had to be put on hold and will be revisited in 2022.

Key: **Green** complete; **Amber** in progress; **Red** not yet underway

3. Transport – carbon busting options for all

Review the **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** in view of the climate change emergency and consult on the revised LTP in January 2020. This will include policies for all transport modes.

Refreshed LTP adopted with a target of zero per capita transport carbon emissions by 2045.

Tender a contract to install over 200 new electric vehicle charging points by 2023, as part of a county-wide **Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy**.

Contract to install 1,000 onstreet charge points expected to be awarded Dec 2021. Bid planned to government for funding towards eligible installations. Phase 1, Gloucester and Cheltenham residential areas with little or no off-street parking, starts April 2022. We continue to work with districts to coordinate our overall approach, with contract prices available to all public sector organisations in Gloucestershire.

Identify ways to reduce carbon emissions in our highways investment

- **M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme** – includes package of measures, in keeping with the local environment, to deliver biodiversity net gain, improve air quality and safety, and meet climate change requirements, applying a carbon reduction hierarchy of avoid/prevent, reduce and remediate. The Arle Court Transport Hub development works to improve connectivity within, to and from the area by non-car modes, including 100 EV charging spaces.
- **Cycling** – £3m GCC funding secured and phase 1 of the B4063 Gloucester to Cheltenham Cycle Route is under construction; A key element of our £12.8m Levelling Up funding is to extend this through Gloucester city centre to the Docks and build segregated cycling provision within the Llanthony Road Gloucester SW Bypass scheme.
- Thinktravel is an official consultee for all new travel plans across Residential, Commercial and Schools. Use Dept for Transport's 'Modeshifts Stars' to develop school travel plans with relevant and meaningful targets.
- Cycling infrastructure – A419 Highway Improvements, Stroud to M5 J13, with improved provision for pedestrians/ cyclists. West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme – UK Cyber Business Park includes walking/ cycling improvements from Arle Court to Benhall Roundabouts; and linking the A40 and Cheltenham Station with the first section completed between the M5 and Arle Court.

Agree targets and funding for cleaner public and school transport services

Public transport strategy – Glos Bus Service Improvement Plan published, which will lead to Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the Council and operators with 3-year implementation programme

Expand Green Staff Travel Plan and develop Clean Fleet Replacement Plan

Green Staff Travel Plan – Thinktravel leading on the walking and cycling aspects; Liftshare working with staff teams, particularly on parking. An analysis of travel patterns is planned as staff transition back to offices. Two new staff e-bikes also available.

Clean Fleet Replacement Plan – 2 EV pilots with frontline services; EV being procured for first; second pilot is ongoing. A fleet review is underway, due to conclude in early 2022.

4. Power – helping everyone convert to green power

Buy only 100 per cent renewable electricity for our buildings, street lighting and council schools

Cabinet approval being sought to procure new energy consumption and selling contracts (Dec 2021), which includes for 100% renewable energy. Existing contract runs to Sep 2022.

Identify the potential for renewable energy generation on public sector land in Glos and set 2025 target

A bid to government's Low Carbon Skills Fund was unsuccessful, which included to assess sites for renewable energy generation opportunities. The Council has since funded the assessment of 12 council buildings and communal utility blocks across 4 Gypsy & Traveller sites for heat decarbonisation measures, to develop bids in 2022/23, when new funding is expected to be announced.

Investigate the feasibility of District Heating Networks, (Gloucestershire Royal Hospital; The Docks; Javelin Park), to deliver at least one by 2025

The bid to government's Heat Network Delivery Unit had to be postponed due to the pandemic, which will be revisited in 2022/23, when new funding is expected to be announced.

5. Waste – reducing and dealing with

Generate electricity from the Javelin Park Energy from Waste facility to power around 25,000 homes a year.

The facility continues to generate 50% renewable electricity, meaning the council continues to be a net generator of renewable energy. For Council emissions reporting 2021/22 it is intended to include carbon emissions from the processing of Glos residual household waste arisings (Council 'Scope 3' emissions).

Joint Waste Partnership ongoing campaigns and initiatives

Quarterly campaigns, with Christmas, repair and recycle campaigns underway. Real Nappies Project visits and packs distributed. Community Composting talks and volunteers trained.

6. Influencing others – getting everyone to do their bit

Libraries Green Zones

Action Fund allocated for new stock focused on climate change and sustainability, and to run green events and drop-in Q&A sessions during COP26. Staff Green Champions network promoting sustainable activities and events, including investigating ways to make corporate activities more sustainable.

7. Land use

Launch the Million Trees Challenge, working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust, public and private landowners to plant a million additional trees across the county by 2030.

Grants secured from the Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund £300k; and Forestry Commission Treescape £282k; together with allocation from the council's Action Fund. To fund tree planting and maintenance, coordination of land and partnerships, and Tree Project Officer post (recruitment underway)

Look into developing a Gloucestershire carbon offsetting scheme

Glos Nature & Climate Fund body established to direct funds from developers for Biodiversity Net Gain and donors wanting to offset their carbon emissions in the county, enabling nature recovery through carbon sequestration (removing and locking it away). Project Manager appointed and Fund governance being put in place. Biodiversity Off-site Scheme being developed first in line with the new Environment Act, delivering schemes by March 2023, with the carbon offsetting scheme close developed by then. £100k bid to Environment Agency planned to help progress these, for submission early 2022.

8. Campaigning

Launch a targeted communications (culture change) campaign

Greener Gloucestershire was launched with public sector partners in September 2021 in the run up to COP26. This launch gave us the opportunity to gather case studies, launch our newsletter and jointly share an array of positive messages in traditional and social media.

In the run up to COP 26 62 social media posts were issued; the reach was 1.2 million unique individuals, with 306 likes, 141 shares/retweets and 570 clicks to further information. We also grew our newsletter subscribers to 1,477 with an average opening rate of 33%, well above the average opening rate of 27% for the government sector. The average click through rate of 6% is also higher than the national average of 3.9%. The launch of this newsletter helps to showcase the combined action against climate change from services across the council, as well as providing information to residents encouraging sustainable choices.

Brand new climate change web pages were developed to create a 'hub' of easily digestible information, pulling together the achievements and ambitions from across the council as well as information for residents. 'Greener Gloucestershire' pages were also created to showcase joint working with partners and district councils. Together, these new pages have had 5,918 unique page views.

Greener Gloucestershire is now the overarching campaign that links together all of the work we're doing both corporately and in the community.

Actions Progress 2020/21 and 2021/22 to date

ANNEX 3

Key: **Green** complete; **Amber** in progress; **Red** not yet underway

The campaign improves cross promotion of services work to fight climate change, including enhanced joint working with the waste and recycling team, resulting in greater influence and exposure for important messages. The next stage of this has been the 'Greener Christmas' waste campaign is running to 9 January which not only incorporates waste reduction messages, but also informs people how to make sustainable choices during the festive season and beyond. Greener Christmas social media posts have already reached over 157,000 people.

Launch an **awards programme** for projects tackling climate change

We will explore with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire partners holding an awards ceremony to promote good practice in communities and businesses across the county. Given the importance of other elements of the Action Plan and significant resourcing implications this work is unlikely to take place until 2023. In the near term greater focus will be given to the Greener Gloucestershire campaign including the climate change newsletter, email subscription information updates via GovDelivery, social media posts and the Greener Gloucestershire web site.

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
1. Putting Climate Change at the heart of decision making							
1.1	Countywide coordinated approach & action plan	1.1.1 Climate Leadership Group membership - Seek agreement to securing independent expert advice and countywide stakeholder engagement					
		1.1.2 County to host 'transport workshop' in early 2022 to consider transport theme and decarbonisation					
		1.1.3 CN2030 Officers Group membership					
			1.1.4 Review countywide approach				
1.2	£1m Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund	1.2.1 Allocate funds	1.2.3 Investment 2022/23	1.2.4 Investment 2023/24	1.2.5 Investment 2024/25		
		1.2.2 Investment 2021/22					
1.3	£1m energy efficiency invest to save 'Salix Fund'	1.3.1 Projects development 2021/22	1.3.2 Projects 2022/23	1.3.3 Projects 2023/24	1.3.4 Projects 2024/25	1.3.5 Projects 2025/26	1.3.6 Projects 2026/27
1.4	Recruit staff	1.4.1 Tree Project Officer					
1.5	Pathways to Net Zero	1.5.1 Assessment of routes to Net Zero					
1.6	Carbon reduction & reporting through contracts	1.6.1 Catering contracts, school meals and Shire Hall tender and award					
		1.6.2 Youth Service Support contract tender and award					
		1.6.3 Highways investigating methods to improve carbon reporting from associated works, inc through contracts					
1.7	Stress test public sector services and assets for climate resilience	1.7.1 Update Business Continuity Management (BCM) plans					
			1.7.2 BCM testing and evaluation				
				1.7.3 BCM refresh and annual testing and evaluation			
			1.7.4 Develop Council-wide Adaptation action				
		1.7.5 Council ongoing membership of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' (Defra) Local Adaptation Advisory Panel					
1.8	ROBUST 'circular economy' project, with the University of Gloucestershire and EU partners	1.8.1 Seek to progress through the Climate Leadership Group					
		1.8.2 Catering contracts, school meals and Shire Hall - increase the use of fresh, seasonal and local products via a robust dynamic purchasing system. The Service Provider to report progress annually.					
1.9	Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel	1.9.1 Recruit Panel Coordinator	1.9.3 Develop procurement to provide longer-term external support to further develop the role of the Panel and its members				
		1.9.2 Recruit Panel members					
2. Buildings – the Council, residents, businesses and partners							
2.1	All new developments support the move to zero carbon and improve resilience		2.1.1 Develop action plan to incorporate Building With Nature in Council development work				
2.2	New Primary School for Bishops Cleeve	2.2.1 The scheme is in the very early stages of design but sustainability will be at the core of the design					

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
2. Buildings – the Council, residents, businesses and partners (continued)							
2.3	New Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) School, Brockworth	2.3.1 Upgrade roof, wall & wall Insulation, Hybrid air source heat pump (ASHP) & Gas, solar Photo Voltaic (PV) panels to achieve 100% betterment on current building regulations, subject to planning. Estimated cost £274k.					
2.4	Replacement of Warden Hill Primary School	2.4.1 PV, ASHP, natural ventilation, energy efficiency improvements, external walls & roof areas will be considered as part of the design process to deliver a sustainable school in line with the Council's pledge. Installation of ASHP, and 500m ² of PV will achieve 100% betterment of current building regulations. During the design further carbon reduction features will be looked at and will add further costs. Estimated cost £225k.					
2.5	Belmont Special School classroom extension	2.5.1 Fabric first approach to provide around a 30% improvement over current building regulations. Cost £15,000.					
2.6	High School, Leckhampton (new secondary)	2.6.1 718 photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof to provide 100% reduction in CO ₂ emissions, Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP), green wall – cost £600,000.					
2.7	Wyatt House, Stroud	2.7.1 Tender to lease to a registered provider to remodel the current building into supported living.	2.7.2 Refurbishment, including for energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and renewable energy generation opportunities				
2.8	Decarbonisation of buildings	2.8.1 Bid to government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Wave 4 (Council buildings) expected Spring 2022. 2.8.1 Bid to government Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Gypsy & Traveller sites) expected Spring 2022.					
2.9	Heat Decarbonisation Programme, subject to bid outcome	2.9.1 Heat decarbonisation bid development	2.9.2 Heat decarbonisation plan Implementation				
2.10	Look to be an early adopter of innovative commercial energy recovery technology	2.10.1 This will be revisited in early 2022.					
3. Transport – carbon busting options for all							
3.1	Council Fleet Review	3.1.1 Business case for switching to electric vehicles 3.1.2 Pool cars - agree procurement strategy and implement follow on service to replace existing contract.	3.1.3 Phase 1: proof of concept, Edge of Care team				
3.2	Green fuels for non-EV vehicles	3.2.1 Investigate the use of alternative low carbon fuel sources for non-EV fleet					

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
3. Transport – carbon busting options for all (continued)								
3.3	Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy	3.3.1 Procure, award and mobilise EV charger contract						
			3.3.2 Install 1,000 on-street EV charging points					
3.4	Local Transport Plan	3.4.1 Develop the baseline and outline potential to deliver zero tonnes per capita from transport by 2045						
3.5	Schools Streets Programme, multi-partnership and countywide	3.5.1 Introduce and expand pilot schemes. Roll out 'Modeshift Stars' travel planning trial with schools	3.5.2 Extend Modeshift Stars approach to other schools					
3.6	Leckhampton, proposed new secondary school	3.6.1 Work with partners to alleviate congestion, improve air quality and promote active travel						
3.7	Health/travel place apps	3.7.1 Research apps and work place initiatives inc partnering with Active Gloucestershire	3.7.2 Assess changing travel patterns on transition back to the workplace.					
			3.7.3 Offer travel advice, cycle training and Active Travel business grants					
3.8	Community Infrastructure Levy for Active Travel	3.8.1 Investigate how this could be applied in Gloucestershire						
3.9	School & Workplace Travel Champions	3.9.1 Aim to have a travel champion in schools and workplaces						
3.10	Expand Council Travel Plan	3.10.1 Develop staff survey to understand travel patterns as staff start return to office						
3.11	30% modal shift by 2030	3.11.1 30% Modal Shift across all sustainable modes in 10 years						
3.12	West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme (WCTIS)	3.12.1 Phase 3 &4, £1.6m for cycling and walking, A40 corridor Arle Ct to Cheltenham Station, inc areas of Benhall and St Marks wider cycle infrastructure improvements, together with 2 for 1 tree replacement.						
3.13	M5 J10 Improvements Scheme	3.13.1 Statutory public consultation	3.13.2 Planning application (Development Consent Order)					
			3.13.3 Development works					
3.14	B4063 Cycle Route Gloucester to Cheltenham	3.14.1 Completion of 7 miles of new cycle infrastructure between Gloucester Docks and Arle Court Cheltenham.						
3.15	A435 Cycle Route	3.15.1 Route new designated cycle facility between the Honeybourne Line in Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve along A435, subject to DfT funding approval. Route extents increased and to be designed in 2021/2022 and built in 2022/23.						
3.16	Arle Court Transport Hub	3.16.1 Provide opportunities to switch to more sustainable transport modes to central Cheltenham, railway station and hospital						
3.17	Public Transport Strategy	3.17.1 Enhanced Partnership Agreement (EPA), Council and bus operators	3.17.2 EPA implementation programme					

3. Transport – carbon busting options for all (continued)

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
3.18	Public & school transport	3.18.1 Develop pathway for transitioning to lower emission public transport and contracted school transport	3.18.2 Emissions reduction programme, contracted public and schools transport services				
3.19	Air Quality Management Areas (Subject to funding)		3.19.1 Project implementation of £131k bid to government (subject to funding) – last mile e-cargo deliveries; air quality website; awareness campaign; roadside monitoring and signage; sustainable transport education/engagement officer				
3.20	Air Quality Monitoring, Reporting & Actions	3.20.1 Investigate improved air quality monitoring techniques, equipment, coverage and reporting.					
3.21	Develop pathways to zero tonnes per capita from transport by 2045	3.21.1 Develop the baseline and outline the potential required actions to deliver.		3.21.2 Develop detailed action plan using Department for Transport Transportation Decarbonisation Tool (in development).			

4. Power – helping everyone convert to green power

4.1	Domestic rooftop PV scheme	4.1.1 Develop business case for domestic rooftop PV in fuel poor areas					
4.2	100% renewable electricity supply	4.2.1 Tender and award energy supply contract for Council and on-contract schools					
4.3	Energy from Waste Facility – heat offtake		4.3.1 Review potential for use of heat				
4.4	District Heating		4.4.1 Develop funding bids for Gloucester sites				
4.5	Fosse Cross HRC, 1MW PV array and battery storage		4.5.1 Review financial case				

5. Waste – reducing and dealing with

5.1	Quarterly behaviour change campaigns	5.1.1 Christmas, repair and recycle campaign	5.1.2 Quarterly Waste Campaigns planned with Joint Waste partnership				
5.2	Real Nappies Project	5.2.1 Visits and packs distributed					
5.3	Master Composters Project	Community Composting volunteer training and talks					

6. Influencing others – getting everyone to do their bit

6.1	Climate Change Award Scheme	6.1.1 Develop and promote, with annual awards					
6.2	Libraries Green Zones	6.2.1 New book stock focused on climate change and sustainability and programme of green events. Staff Green Champions network promoting sustainable activities and events and investigating ways to make corporate activities more sustainable.					

7. Land use

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
7.1	Pitville Flood Risk Management Scheme		7.1.1 Improve drainage infrastructure, potential attenuation area and install Sustainable Draining features (SuDS).				
7.2	Nailsworth Flood Risk Management Scheme		7.2.1 Installation of new and improved drainage network and flood storage in the upper catchment				
7.3	Coleford Flood Risk Management Scheme	7.3.1 Flood storage areas, SuDS and highway drainage improvements.					
7.4	Stroud Rural Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SuDS)	7.4.1 Various natural flood management interventions and monitoring / modelling £121k (Council £90k)					
7.5	Gloucestershire Tree Strategy - increase tree canopy cover to 20% by 2030	7.5.1 Establish Glos tree gains/ losses recording system					
		7.5.2 Phase 2 delivery of Woodland Trust bid – get significant numbers of trees planted and lay the foundations for a longer-term relationship with landholders/tenants					
		7.5.3 Phase 3 delivery of Woodland Trust bid – scaling up the approach by securing land and significant funding for tree planting, woodland creation and ongoing maintenance and support					
		7.5.4 Severn Treescapes (was 'Forest Without Frontiers'), Stage 1; linking Forest of Dean to Wyre Forest, Herefordshire & Worcestershire and Wye Valley, estimated 160,000 new trees. Wildlife Trust bid to Defra 'Call to action tree fund', to support linking 2 big blocks of ancient forest woodland through a 3-counties woodland creation partnership (inc Glos County Council).					
7.6	Million Trees Challenge	7.6.1 Recruit Tree Project Officer	7.6.2 Tree Project Officer in post, 2 years fixed				
			7.6.3 Develop proposals for extending Tree Officer Post				
		7.6.4 Call for land for trees	7.6.5 Develop annual campaign linked to Greener Gloucestershire	7.6.6 Develop annual campaign			
							7 . 6 . 1 0 D e v e l o p a n n u a

No.	Action	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
7.7	Look into developing a Gloucestershire carbon offsetting scheme		7.7.1 £100k bid to Environment Agency Investment Readiness Fund for Biodiversity Off-site & Carbon Offsetting schemes.				
			7.7.2 Establish Biodiversity Off-site Scheme and start delivering offsetting.	7.7.4 Deliver offsetting schemes			
			7.7.3 Establish Carbon Offsetting Scheme and start delivering offsetting				
8. Campaigning							
8.1	Communications strategy	8.1.1 Further develop the Greener Gloucestershire communications strategy in collaboration with partners					
		8.1.2 Develop and implement internal staff engagement					

I
c
a
m
p
a
i
g
n