

THEME 1: ADAPTATION	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucester City Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>Since the most recent update, the following work has been conducted under the CLG Adaptation theme and related Adaptation work in the City of Gloucester, which is informing the CLG work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 07.06.23 – Meeting with Climate Emergency Manager at South Gloucestershire Council to discuss cross-county collaboration on Adaptation. 3. 13.06.23 – Gloucester Climate Risk Workshop with WSP. 4. 24.07.23 – Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Adaptation Working Group, at which terms of reference were agreed. 5. 03.08.23 – Meeting with Gloucestershire CC’s Sustainability and Engagement Officer to discuss Adaptation engagement. 	
6. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<p>Next step required is to finalise the Invitation to Tender for the county-wide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, before going out to market.</p>	
7. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
N/A	
8. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
N/A	
9. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
N/A	
10. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
<p>There are clear linkages with the Biodiversity, Behaviour Change, Food & Farming, Retrofit, and Planning themes.</p>	

THEME 2A: Behaviour Change – internal	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire Police and NHS
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>Further work has been carried out to gauge the level of uptake of the theme’s previous recommendations across partner organisations. Unfortunately, uptake does not appear to be comprehensive at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some usage of the Cheltenham Borough Council sustainability impact assessment tool, and rollout out across Publica councils. Limited usage beyond that. • We believe only Stroud are currently pursuing the ISO 14001 standard, in addition to Glos Constabulary who have already achieved this. • We remain unsure as to the level of adoption of the green champions & green council initiative. • There is no comprehensive inclusion of climate change/sustainability within job descriptions or wider policies across the county. 	
1. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<p>Given the mixed engagement on the recommendations previously made, the theme will consider narrowing the focus of the recommendations to make concerted effort to see progress across all partners. It’s suggested these focus areas could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of sustainability / climate change commitment statement in all job descriptions and subsequent induction processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This would extend the work of the NHS working group already exploring this. • Development of sustainable procurement policies which maximise social value • Explore possibility of councils achieving ISO 14001 standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilising rationale and experience from Stroud District Council • Confirm and expand the level of uptake of green champions & green council initiatives 	
2. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
N/A	
3. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Communication on progress of recommendations from organisations represented at CLG	
4. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	

It's requested that CLG consider whether the focus areas currently under consideration are the most preferable, and a view is given on the feasibility of achieving these across all partner organisations.

5. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

Behaviour change links across all themes.

THEME 2B: Behaviour Change (external)

LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire County Council

1. Work undertaken since last report:

- Terms of reference for the engagement subgroup created – sign off from all partners pending. Monthly meetings in place, attendance to be addressed.
- Behaviour change campaigns on electricals recycling, biodiversity and composting have been carried out.
- Training for the public carried out - 230 people signed up for composting training and many more carried out self-led composting modules online. Free bike repair workshops sold out in Tewkesbury and Gloucester, bookings being taken in Stroud and Forest for September.

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:

- A campaign on repair has been commissioned and is due to be launched in September 2023. Including bike repair workshops for the public.
- Submitting an EOI to support a community fund and extend existing action on changing behaviours in the community.
- Behaviour change campaigns on repair, energy and plastics to be launched before December, planning for food waste campaigns to be launched in January in progress.

2. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

Policies are needed to back up behaviour change e.g. Low emissions zones, low carbon energy measures, widespread smaller residual bins and disincentivise high emissions practices and undesirable behaviours that create emissions e.g. parking charges, cups charges, low emission zone charge.

3. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

As above, need buy in for measures that can influence behaviours more effectively.

Additional staff resources would allow more work to be done with communities to facilitate change. See the attached spreadsheet for further info.

4. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:

Setting one priority behaviour to tackle would be beneficial and it would make sense for this to be transport or waste based as GCC and the officers involved are already integrated with these teams.

5. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

External behaviour change links to all themes and actions in each theme will impact on the effectiveness of behaviour change initiatives.

THEME 3: BIODIVERSITY

LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

1. Work undertaken since last report:

- Gloucestershire County Council and Local Nature Partnership working together on Local Nature Recovery Strategy – with a Nature Recovery working group of partners.
- Of known actions on declaring ecological emergency :
 - In May 2023 Tewkesbury Borough Council declared ecological emergency and widened the scope of the climate emergency to include the whole borough.
 - In July 2023 Stroud District Council passed a motion on Championing Nature with a range of actions around ecological emergency.
- Four district councils (so far) have contributed £5,000 from biodiversity net gain New Burdens funding to help the set up of Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund, alongside the investment from Gloucestershire County Council.
- Interim strategic significance guidance to target biodiversity net gain developed with LNP partners.
- All Gloucestershire local authorities are working together to prepare for the introduction of biodiversity net gain and to develop Gloucestershire-wide interim planning guidance on biodiversity net gain, drafted by Stroud District Council on behalf of all local authorities and including the LNP strategic significance guidance (soon to be finalised and published). This is an interim position for approx. 18 months until there is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund has run biodiversity net gain training for planners and local authority ecologists.

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer and landowner engagement sessions on Local Nature Recovery Strategy are planned for autumn 2023, working with Gloucestershire County Council, NFU, FWAG and CLA. Plus more Nature Recovery working group sessions and a whole Local Nature Partnership meeting to be convened. Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund is arranging new training sessions on biodiversity net gain for planners and for local authority legal teams. Looking into trainings/briefings for elected members. 	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
n/a	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Despite good work by local authorities on preparation, they are all facing a range of different levels of staff capacity and expertise challenge around dealing with Biodiversity Net Gain – preparing for significant extra hours on each planning application to assess and challenge BNG proposals and having enough ecological expertise in house/ on hand to fully cover this.	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
Thinking of sequestering carbon or reducing carbon through land use decisions, GLNP is interested in the views and appetite of the CLG partners to explore the potential of Land Use Frameworks as a tool for planning for and improving potential for nature based solutions for carbon sequestration and nature’s recovery. What are your thoughts on how we could or should proceed on this?	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Strong linkages to Adaptation/Food and Farming (land management, nature recovery) and Planning (biodiversity net gain)	

THEME 4: Economy – Business and Skills	LEAD ORGANISATION: GFirst LEP
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
Business	

The Net Zero business support programme is progressing well with 68 business engagements since April 2024. Support is being provided to businesses of all sizes and across all sectors. From September six events are planned in collaboration with the Growth Hub Network, including another conference which will take place on 29th November, 2023 at Oxstalls Campus.

	Recommendations/actions	Update
1.	Develop and secure funding for a medium term (2-3 year) programme to support 'green-growth' with short, medium and long term actions. Revise current KPIs for business engagement to those that reflect sustainable growth such as-	GFirst LEP secured funding from Gloucestershire County to support Net Zero business support for this current financial year. Funding options for a longer-term programme are now in the priority short list of recommendations.
2.	Develop a green economy supplier-to-consumer matching platform and provide support to grow the green economy sector by raising demand for its services.	There are a total of 169 companies identified in Gloucestershire, with an additional 51 that crossed over with other sectors. An EOI has been submitted to climate action fund with aim of developing a supplier platform for Gloucestershire.
3.	Build a forum of local 'sustainable' business leaders to help to develop business support activities and act as role models and mentors.	Appetite for this forum will be tested with participants at the November Net Zero conference.
4.	Build a forum of business support providers and business membership organisations to maximise benefit from available resources.	GFirst LEP hosts bi-monthly business support provider meetings and is looking to engage with more 'sustainability focused' organisations as part of this group initially.
5.	Align with the 'Anchor Institutions' work in the public sector and pilot project in the private sector to support business adoption and employee behaviour change.	Private sector businesses participating in the pilot project could form part of the forum of local 'sustainable' business leaders.

Following the January CLG workshop theme leads were asked to review recommendations and develop a minimum number of clear targeted actions by September. Having undertaken this review, we are suggesting two key recommendations are the focus of the Economy - Business theme. Funding to support a longer-term business support programme and a green economy supplier-consumer matching platform.

Skills

Gloucestershire colleges have successfully delivered the £2.8 million Strategic Development fund, resulting in capital investments across the county to support upskilling in Retrofit, EV, and sustainable agriculture.

The Business West Local Skills Improvement Plan has produced its first report which focuses on four sectors, advanced manufacturing, construction, agriculture and agri-tech, and the digital

industries and explores the alignment of skills development in these sectors to the UK's Net Zero Strategy, decarbonisation, sustainability and climate change.

	Recommendations/actions	Update
1.	A green skills forum should be established to develop a strategy for Gloucestershire and maximise opportunities from funds such as the Lifetime Skills Guarantee	The Strategic Development fund (point 7) secured by SGS college has led to strong collaboration amongst the FE colleges and provides an opportunity to build on the existing steering group. Updated recommendation is that this will form part of the Green Skills Lead responsibilities.
2.	A green skills lead should be appointed to co-ordinate activity and oversee the implementation of the strategy.	This role is considered key to supporting the countywide green skills agenda. It is recommended in the short term the role focuses on retrofit skills delivery and developing a 3-5 year green skills strategy for Gloucestershire.
3.	GFirst LEP's refresh of the Local Industrial Strategy and associated evidence base should be used to prioritise activity, sector demand and opportunities to attract further investment in areas such as net zero aviation.	The Gloucestershire Five-Year Economic Strategy and associated evidence base, once published, will be better placed to identify priority areas.
4.	Climate Leadership Gloucestershire will need to define its role in enabling the development and delivery of the skills theme.	Role is to review recommendations and agree next steps to help progress delivery.
5.	Lack of a significant 'energy' infrastructure project provides the county with an opportunity to take a lead in developing retrofit expertise and supporting green skills in construction, advanced engineering and manufacturing and Agri-tech.	Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and GFirst LEP's Low Carbon Skills report provide additional evidence with regards to demand for retrofit skills in the county.
6.	The Business West LSIP project provides a great opportunity to gain industry insights into the next three years of workforce development needs around digitalisation, Net Zero and Climate Change.	As above
7.	Newly launched projects such as the SGS College retrofit project, Cirencester Digital Skills Centre and AccXel provide valuable assets that can support skills development, how do we ensure that the outcomes and learning from these are maximised and built upon?	See point 1. SDF project has been very successful and closed March 31 st – legacy is capital investment in retrofit, EV charging, Agricultural machinery simulators, drones, 'tiny house', and upskilled staff to deliver courses. Local Skills Improvement Plan funding (LSIF) is aligned to the LSIP and will be available Oct 2023 to March 2025 with revenue funding available in YR1 and capital funding in both YR1 and YR2.

		<p>Active Building Centre (ABC) have left assets at Berkeley for SGS to use as part of their retrofit activity.</p> <p>SGS have applied for Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF) for additional equipment to support retrofit skills development such as 'mobile training rigs'.</p> <p>SGS have also applied to run Skills Boot Camps for air source heat pumps and solar PV (50 places). View of the colleges is that a 'green skills lead' would be highly beneficial to drive collaboration in retrofit activity in the county. There is no funding available to them to support this role.</p>
8.	GFirst LEP, via the Growth Hub, should provide business insights that inform the provision of softer green skills.	<p>Feedback from businesses is that they want to do more but many lack the inhouse skills to measure, report and then act on reducing their emissions. The GFirst LEP Net Zero business support programme can help inform this work and will work closely with the green skills lead to ensure that future development of these 'softer green skills' form part of the green skills strategy.</p>
9.	Climate Leadership Gloucestershire organisations should continue to improve staff climate literacy and identification of green skills gaps in organisational workforces	In progress no action required.
10.	Knowledge and experience from the SDF project should be used to inform and secure future funding opportunities for the education sector.	Covered point 1 and 7.
11.	A 'green-skills' careers' advice platform should be added to the Skills Portal to support uptake of sustainable skills, student recruitment, retention, and upskilling of the existing workforce.	<p>IEMA have launched a green skills platform that will be useful in a careers' advice setting and is informative about green economy jobs and training.</p> <p>https://www.greencareershub.com/</p>
12.	CLG Members need to consider how UKSPF funding under People & Skills should be used to develop or support countywide green skills delivery.	<p>Through the people and skills investment priority, places can use their funding to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.</p>

Following the January CLG workshop theme leads were asked to review recommendations and develop a minimum number of clear targeted actions by September. Having undertaken this review against the background of local and national developments, we are suggesting one key recommendation as the focus of the Economy - skills theme, a Green Skills Lead.

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:

Business

Develop a detailed proposal for longer-term funding of the business support programme and associated costs. Secure funding to deliver the programme across the county from April 2024. Submit an EOI to secure funding for a green economy supplier – consumer matching platform, to support growth in the green economy sector and confidence for consumers to accelerate decarbonisation activities.

Skills

Secure funding for a Green Skills lead to develop a Green Skills Strategy for Gloucestershire. The availability of data with regards to retrofit requirements suggests that this should be the priority focus of the role but that broader skills requirements will be developed alongside this and covered in the strategy.

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

Business support programme - will continue to until March 2024 but will require further funding. Green Economy platform – requires funding to develop the platform and business engagement to populate the platform and develop relationships with suppliers. Green Skills lead – this is a pivotal role to the development and delivery of solutions to meet the green skills requirements of the county.

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

The three activities set out in section 3 are complimentary and would provide a fundamental change to the resources and capabilities required to move this theme forwards. Without them it is challenging to see how progress can be accelerated with this theme.

5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:

CLG to help identify potential sources of funding for a long-term business support programme.

It would be beneficial to understand the current net zero business support offer in each district and plans for the continuation or development of these. This would ensure that the proposed countywide offer can be shaped around existing services and provide a level of consistency across the county.

It would be useful to understand from the districts where year 3 UKSPF funding for people and skills is being prioritised, and whether net zero/retrofit skills are part of the plans for this funding.

6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

Business – linkages to Adaptation, Energy, Built Environment, Behaviour Change
Skills - linkages to Adaptation, Energy, Built Environment, Biodiversity, Retrofit

THEME 5: ENERGY

LEAD ORGANISATION: FOREST OF DEAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. Work undertaken since last report:

- Confirmation of the theme's foci, proposed as:
 - **Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)**: exploration of a potential countywide approach to area energy planning which baselines current activities and capacity across county; and develops a cost-effective process that effectively engages both the DNO/DSO and community stakeholders;
 - A countywide **Community Energy Network**: Development of a county community energy network that harnesses the potential of community groups and residents to directly invest in and support local renewables. This would also explore council support for such an initiative, and the associated planning policies that could assist development;
 - Expansion of **Rooftop Solar** (and battery storage) – collaboration and sharing of best practice sharing on what councils are doing on own buildings and by way of schemes for residents and businesses.
 - Development of **Renewable Heat/ Heat Networks** – exploring common approaches to the promotion of heat pumps and development of district heat networks/ community heat projects, and sharing opportunities cross-county.
- Development of the baselining work (including initial questionnaire survey) to be carried out with authorities as first step to local area energy planning development.
- Engagement with key stakeholders, including:
 - National Grid Electricity Distribution (distribution division of National Grid);
 - South West Net Zero Hub on possible support for Local Area Energy Planning;
 - Inter-Authority Climate Change Officers (IACCO) South West forum on other authorities' approaches to LAEP;
 - Cornwall Council on [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Area Energy Plan](#)
 - Regen on strategic approach to transitioning to decentralised/ decarbonised grid;
 - Community Energy South on the potential for a county wide community energy network.

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:

- Questionnaire to all CLG member leads to establish baselines parameters and current/ planned energy related investment/ programmes/ projects/ initiatives to go out imminently.

- Use baseline information to determine common challenges and potential collaborative ways forward.
- Explore the potential for a countywide approach to local area energy planning with a possible consultancy contract to develop a strategy for LAEP (submitted as an EOI to the CLG Fund).
- Continue to engage South West Net Zero Hub on new LAEP models, and promote Gloucestershire as an ideal pilot area for this.
- Explore options for the development of a countywide community energy network with organisations such as Community Energy South, Gloucestershire Community Energy Coop., Big Solar Coop and others.
- Re-establish/reconvene wider Energy Theme Stakeholder Group

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

- It's unlikely we can currently pursue a conventional countywide LAEP as it stands given the high cost of such an exercise.
- Alternatives to be explored (see below).

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

- Resource capacity amongst the Climate Lead Officers and their teams (significant constraint).
- Organisation/ coordination/ agreement required across multiple authorities.
- The cost of LAEPs and the capacity needed for the process under the current Energy Systems Catapult model - work is underway with the South West Net Zero Hub to explore alternative less resource-intensive models and we shall push for Glos to be a pilot for such a model.
- Transition of District Network Operators (DNOs) into District System Operators (DSOs) with expanded remit to work with local authorities and roll out of this.
- Lack of existing community capacity/ experience for energy project development- beyond the relatively small scale projects facilitated by Community Energy organisations thus far.

5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:

Not as yet but expectation is that more resource will be needed to collaboratively take this theme forward in terms of achieving any objectives agreed around local area energy planning (for example). This is likely to require CLG going back to member councils.

6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

- Key linkage with Retrofit theme, most directly in relation to rooftop solar and heat pumps installation, and appropriate alignment of retrofit to energy source (I.e., properties connected to district heat network may require lighter retrofit).
- Key linkage with Planning theme in placing and funding energy infrastructure - Planning theme will need to support this theme in allocation sites for renewables and seeking developer contributions for infrastructure where possible.
- Connection to Transport theme in regard to EV infrastructure - this theme will need to consider the grid demand and capacity to accommodate increased EV infrastructure need.

THEME 6: Food and Farming	LEAD ORGANISATION: Cotswold District Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>1) Creation and launch of Cotswold Food Network in June 2023. This is a collaboration between Feeding Gloucestershire and Cotswold District Council, and aims to join up themes of supporting local economic value, supporting people in food poverty, reducing waste, and tackling the climate emergency. Feeding Gloucestershire will be looking for other districts to help create similar initiatives in their area.</p> <p>2) Creation of Cotswold Climathon. This is led by the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) of the University of Gloucestershire. The Climathon methodology is established, and the Cotswold roll-out is part of a programme to further develop the methodology. The Cotswold Climathon is focused on tackling the climate emergency through food, farming and land use. Climathons are an innovative, creative approach to help communities engage with local climate issues and collectively develop locally appropriate solutions. In addition to food and farming, the wider CCRI project will look at three other themes: Energy and Power, Services and Transport, and Nature and Ecosystems. The intention is to evaluate success and present the results to other members of CLG.</p>	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running Cotswold Climathon at Royal Agricultural University, 27 and 28 September. 	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of countywide food and farming strategy to tackle the climate emergency. Progress would require convening a large group of stakeholders, and accessing funding to support the strategy development process over a period of a year or so. 	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	

Resources (human and financial) at district council level are insufficient to run a strategy development process at sufficient depth.
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:
Further consideration of where the food and farming theme sits in the hierarchy of activity and focus areas which CLG has, and how we can bring more resources to bear on the topic.
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:
Obvious link with renewable energy production in the context of land use choices.

THEME 7: PLANNING	LEAD ORGANISATION: Cheltenham Borough Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>CLG agreed the following initial recommendations that the Local Planning Authority members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively collaborate in aligning and coordinating evidence gathering across the county. 2. Consider opportunities to prepare guidance notes, toolkits and checklists to enhance interpretation of extant policies and strengthen the outcomes in the Development Management process. 3. Secure additional county-wide climate/building specialist resource to support the review of local plans and major applications. 	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<p><u>Recommendation 1 & 2</u></p> <p>Owing to the different stages of the four local plans (Cotswold, Forest of Dean, The joint SLP and Stroud) it is difficult to align evidence gathering and policy formulation. However, work has collectively progressed on preparing Renewable Energy Strategies, with very near coverage expected in the next 12 months. Authorities are also progressing transport decarbonisation strategies which will provide policy direction and justification to promote and deliver modal shift. This will support recent UK100 commitments and GCC's forthcoming Local Transport Plan update.</p> <p>Authority updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotswold District Council has recently commissioned consultants to prepare a suite of net zero carbon construction policies, retrofit and energy policies, which will seek to bring through successes secured in the Cornwall and B&NES plans. This should provide a useful 	

test case for authorities in Gloucestershire. Given the overarching nature of planning it has numerous links most of the themes. For example, Cotswold is preparing retrofit policies in its update local plan and design code. Cotswold has commissioned a consultant to update its Design Code which will provide another mechanism to enshrine climate and ecological action.

- Forest of Dean District Council is continuing with its replacement Local Plan and developing supporting design and other material partially in house. This will cover construction and “use “ of buildings as well as general design principles such as orientation. They have been working with net zero specialist, Bioregional, which although still in development can be used to assess the carbon performance of various development options and this is accompanied by a toolkit that allows various assumptions to be tested.
- Stroud are at the last stage of the local plan making process – public examination.

Recommendation 3

Officers have engaged with counterparts at Essex County Council to understand their resources, which includes a planning lead on climate action that helps to co-ordinate planning policy and evidence across the county. A job description and person specification has been shared with the Countywide Climate Change Coordinator to aid the preparation of a Gloucestershire proposal.

There is support amongst planning leads to submit an EOI to the CLG fund, which will request funding for additional resources as per recommendation 3 to create a shared planning resource, or role to do this.

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

None

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

Staff capacity

5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:

None

6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

Given the overarching nature of planning it has numerous links most of the themes. For example, Cotswold is preparing retrofit policies in its update local plan and design code.

THEME 8: RETROFIT

LEAD ORGANISATION: Stroud District Council

1. Work undertaken since last report:

1) Domestic Sector

1.1 Innovate to Renovate Partnership 'The Retrofit Centre' and Coordination Resource

The partnership continues to collaborate to identify forward plans and has in the last period pursued 1 more bid to support further capacity and practical action: (i) UKRI – Fast Followers led by SDC in partnership with UK Green Building Council and Local Partnerships'.

Participatory Research Project conducted with LSBU and Ashden to further refine knowledge and understanding as the Innovate to Renovate partnership continue plans for a knowledge Hub aimed at the self-financing market.

The 'Low Carbon Communities' project, providing 125 free retrofit assessments to those interested in financing retrofit in their homes is now progressing. This project is an initiative between Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough who have made provision in their UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plans. The project is now contracted out to Severn Wye Energy Agency to progress.

1.2 Affordable Warmth

1.2.1 Social Housing Decarbonisation Funds

- SHDF Wave 1 (Consortium, SDC; Chelt Boro. Homes 2 Rivers Housing and Glos. City Homes) Works have commenced and continue through a project extension of six months, taking the project completion until 30 September 2023. Between Stroud and Cheltenham there is around 230 properties are having building fabric measures and ventilation upgrades.
- SHDF Wave 2 – Plans are now progressing for the successful bid for the third round of funding from BEIS. This is again a Consortium bid, made up of the same members from Wave 1 – SDC, CBH, 2RH and GCH. This wave of funding covers two years, so the project will run until March 2025. It will cover around 400 properties over 2 years and mainly deliver building fabric measures and upgrading ventilation. Cheltenham will mostly focus on hard to treat system build properties.

An informal process of knowledge and best practice sharing is developing throughout this consortium process and CLG will look to harness this further to increase influence market demand and increase shared purchasing power.

1.2.2 Warm and Well

- This service is under high pressure at the moment as cost of living crisis creates a growing demand.
- The partnership were successful in the second round of Home Upgrade Grants.
- The partnership will continue to be featured on the Retrofit Centre platform.

1.3 Public Estates

Partners continue to utilise Public Sector Decarbonisation Funds. A more detailed update will be provided on this at the next retrofit theme focus.

1.4 Business Support

European funds were expected to continue to support Target 2030 service for SME's until end of financial year when this funding ends. This will then move to a 'paid for' service, interested SME's will fund themselves an update on these plans will follow in future reports.

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:

- We will look to progress the Retrofit Centre public-facing website as a matter of agency and resource with information and links that will be useful countywide, including the purchased Parity data- within next 3 months.
- Working in tandem with the Economy theme to develop the retrofit skills market via the Green Skills Coordinator EOI- over the next 12 months.
- Develop learnings from the Low Carbon Communities project and explore proposal from Severn Wye Energy Agency for an expanded free retrofit assessment programme for residents- within next 3 months.
- Align all of the above with individual district delivery offers- over the next 12 months.

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

1. 'The Retrofit Centre' Services offer is likely to require a further financing request from partners to enable it to be sustained and further developed for longer term delivery.
2. Further consideration should be given for pursuing a Retrofit Academy training network - they are leading the way in shaping and rolling out PAS 2035 and quality assurance mechanisms and have a range of support available to their members.
3. Ensure that support services are taking account of the need to use bespoke approaches for buildings that are steered by qualified technical experts such as the home and business energy surveyors and advisors working on Warm and Well and Target 2030.
4. Existing partners (Warm and Well) should continue current investment levels and other bodies (not LA's) should consider the wider socio-economic/environmental benefits that can be achieved by improving quality of life and lowering carbon as a basis for their own buy-in as further capacity is needed and follow NHS CG example.

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

Developing a holistic retrofit system with require significant funding. All efforts should be made to identify and secure funds to deliver across all strands of the retrofit picture.

There is clearly an urgency on the part of housing authorities to address energy efficiency/retrofit in their communities. We need to ensure we maintain some general principles and a cohesive approach to maximise the potential of Gloucestershire as a retrofit trailblazer.

5. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

Adaptation: Needs to include consideration to supporting the environment being built right now to be retrofit ready; needs to encourage building design that takes account of water & energy saving and passive heating/cooling

Behaviour Change: How do we generate demand for retrofit and encourage 'private' investment in this? How can we support the reduction in energy demand that needs to come first ideally in a retrofit approach?

Economy: Retrofit skills and growth so that there is more capacity in the installer supply chain (links are in place with GFirst LEP). This sector needs to see rapid and at scale expansion and we need to localise its supply chain of materials and talent.

Energy: Keeping efficiency high on the agenda and not losing site of this in the pursuit of renewables to reduce the potential for grid top-ups to renewable systems.
 Planning – supplementary planning docs, increasing the number of neighbourhood plans; building with nature standards, signposting for advice and support, planning policy issues.

THEME 9: TRANSPORT	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire County Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ((LSH) Commissioned Phase 4 work of Carbon Reduction Pathway • (LSH) UK100 Statement of Shared Intent • (LSH) Reducing Transport Carbon Emissions Public Engagement Survey Report (draft) 	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (LSH) Phase 4 work of Carbon Reduction Pathway is ongoing to develop a Draft Gloucestershire Transport Decarbonisation Strategy (close of 2023). • (LSH) GCC in partnership with UK100 held a Decarbonising Transport Political Roundtable on 13th January 2023 - a groundbreaking agreement to work together on a county-wide project to tackle transport decarbonisation and achieve net zero emissions by 2030. The agreement was signed by all 7 councils. The statement was agreed under the proviso that districts would aim to undertake the intentions set out in the accompanying Annex, which required further agreement separately in each district, following which it would come to CLG for final sign off and publication by CLG. • Publish the Reducing Transport Carbon Emissions Public Engagement Survey Report 	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary, but which cannot be progressed:	
n/a	

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:
1) Government have again delayed release of Department for Transport (DfT) on LTP guidance and quantifiable carbon reduction (QCR) target guidance for consultation, this is unlikely to be released within this parliament. Work is progressing in the meantime but will need to be reviewed to ensure it is in line with DfT guidance, once that is released.
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on reaching consensus from key stakeholder for decarbonising transport, as a follow on from the Decarbonising Transport Forum and future engagement strategy. • Cross-sector carbon pathway approach necessary. • Review options for next stage in measuring the intentions set out in the UK100 Statement of Shared Intent.
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are close links between transport and planning, with land use planning a major contributing factor in influencing carbon emissions from transport. The UK100 Statement of Shared Intent and the measures set out in the Annex is a step in the closer to agreement on the principles to land use planning and decarbonising transport, setting out the commitment to 80% reduction in emissions by 2030 by all 7 councils. Further work is required to develop options for measuring the success of the UK100 Statement of Shared Intent and will need be presented to CLG and discussed at October's meeting.

THEME 10: WASTE	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>A number of very productive workshops have been held involving all senior waste officers and climate change officers from all districts and county councils also supported by both Countywide Climate Change Coordinators and Ubico</p> <p>Updates, outcomes and proposals have also been shared and discussed by the county-wide Resources and Waste Partnership which also involves officers and councillors from all districts and county councils.</p> <p>Areas of work in progress include: Adoption of a new (short term) waste & resources strategy is in the process of being adopted by all districts and GCC including a commitment by all councils (with the exception of Stroud who already use small 140l bins) to consider moving to a smaller bin size (most currently use 180l or</p>	

larger) in order to decrease the amount of waste in the waste stream and increasing recycling. There is a need to balance this with any potential move to reduced frequency residual waste collections.

Full detail of the revised recommendations can be found in the Waste Item Paper included for this meeting (September 2023).

2. Work planned for the next reporting period:

The working group will take forward the recommendations on driver training, improved routes, vehicle retrofit, and further consideration of electric vehicles. The theme shall also submit a CLG fund EOI to contribute towards a countywide food waste campaign. Details on this can also be found in the paper for this month.

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:

Hydrogen

Hydrogen power is one of the greenest options for vehicles, with the only tailpipe emission being heated water vapour. Unfortunately, a lot of hydrogen is produced by fossil fuels; however, the increased use of renewable energy within the production process can make this a more well-rounded low carbon emission option in the future.

In the current climate, it is expected that hydrogen-powered HGVs will cost more to purchase and lease compared to the current diesel option. This is due to the costs of hydrogen fuel and the development of new technologies needed for the production of fuel cells. However, the cost of fuel cell technology is starting to decrease. Although there is no timeline for when this alternative HGV will become price comparable, there will become a point when choosing between a diesel and fuel cell-powered vehicle will come down to preference rather than cost.

Next steps on hydrogen are twofold:

1. To progress conversation with consultants working with the growth hub on hydrogen pilot within the region. This will need other partners from the private sector to come on-board. Ubico are progressing this conversation with partners and districts CLG secretariat also working to engage the western gateway working group and need to
2. To actively engage in the Western Gateway subgroup on Hydrogen. This is currently being taken forward by Afriqnmun Lovejoy.

Ensuring that the hydrogen fuel conversation remains linked to the future depot's conversation is imperative for consideration of onsite generation of green hydrogen for use as a fuel.

Depots

Although not an area we can action immediately as any new depot facilities will take between 5-10 years to plan and deliver. Future depot siting and early consideration of onsite electricity generation and hydrogen generation for vehicles is an important issue which needs to stay at the forefront of the agenda.

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:

Some of the issues identified above are big, long-term aspirations which involve a number of partners and will take time to come to fruition e.g. cross boundary working, decarbonising fleet

etc. GRWP would like to reassure CLG that they are working on these and will ask CLG to champion those issues at the appropriate time.

5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:

An ask to CLG is currently being developed to support a proactive and targeted campaign as outlined in 2 above. This will come through as an EOI, to be considered by CLG in November's meeting.

6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:

There are clearly linkages with the transport theme particularly if we are to progress any Hydrogen trial as this will need a number of partners to come on board. More detail will be available once the initial meeting has taken place with the leading consultants on this area of work.

There is also a clear linkage with the behaviour change theme, and the county's work on waste within that, and the support they shall give to the food waste campaign.