

Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy Progress Tracker - 26th August 2025

Colour Codes					
Funding Status	Red - £ required (<50% of Totex secured)	Yellow - Partly funded (>50% of Totex secured)	Green - Deliverable (No £ required, £ fully secured or already budgeted for)	Blue - Action completed	Note: Totex = Capex + Opex
Progress Status	Red - Action not started	Yellow - Action in progress, not on track	Green - Action in progress, on track	Blue - Action completed	

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP (GL) ACTION PLAN			PROGRESS TRACKER			
Overarching Actions (By 2030)	Actions (2024 - 2027)	SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	2024/25 - Progress Notes	
Council - Corporate Scope	GL-1: Ensure all Council plans, strategies and decisions articulate how they will support the corporate emissions reduction commitment, help to deliver the Strategy, support biodiversity and promote climate resilience.	GL-1.1: Ensure that all emerging and refreshed strategies take account of, reference and support the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy and actions.	Emerging and refreshed strategies (as appropriate) to take account of, reference and support the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy and actions. Emerging strategies to be identified through the Sustainability Impact Assessment process (CL) and by SLT (CW).	G	G	CW Aug 2025 Climate challenge is a key priority in the 2025-30 Council Plan. Air Quality consultation, Tree Strategy, Parking Review are all related. Local Plan has this as its key driver.
		GL-1.2: Develop a more robust process for assessing the sustainability impact of decisions and capital-funded projects. This can include conducting Carbon Impact Assessments and calculating Scope 3 emissions where feasible to maximise the climate benefit of Council investments and limit new sources of corporate emissions.	Update Council Investment Strategy with a requirement to assess sustainability of investments, during next update (Nov 2025)  Review the use of Donut Economics Framework for assessing impacts of Council decisions used by Watford (Oct 2025)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - The current SIA process is working well, providing a simple and effective way to ensure Council policy is applied to new projects. In early 2025 I reviewed other Council approaches and updated the SIA form to provide more guidance to staff as they complete the form eliminating th e need for separate guidance - The Capital Projects Protocol has been updated to ensure that Carbon Impact Assessments are considered for all new capital developments. - Awaiting feedback on North Herts and Watfords pilot use of the Donut Economics Assessment Process due towards the end of this year.
		GL-1.3: Assess all relevant potential climate risks and impacts on Council services to produce an up-to-date Climate Risk Register. Begin identifying strategies and actions as part of this work to ensure responsibility and next steps are taken towards ensuring climate resiliency and risk mitigation.	Reiew and update Climate Change and Sustainability Risk Register (annual, October 2025).  Monitor implementation of mitigating actions (annual, October 2026)  Contribute to Herts-wide adaptation reporting (2026).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Climate Risk Register has been produced and is reviewed annually. The risks have been integrated within the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers to ensure that everyone is aware of, and addressing climate risks. There are 3 risks in the Corporate Register and 2 in each Directorate register. - We have reviewed the risks and mitigating measures covered by other Herts authorities to ensure we have taken all possible risks into account that are within our control to mitigate. The updated risk registers will be reviewed by SLT in July 2025. - SADC are taking part in a HCCSP trial to voluntarily report under the Adaptation Reporting Powers in advance of it becoming mandatory for Councils in future. The first report is due next year.
		GL-1.4: Finalise and implement the sustainability policies for all Council events to reduce environmental impacts.	Explore innovative approaches to waste reduction at events (Dec 2025).  Review sustainable event policies (2028).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Overarching Sustainable Markets and Events Policy has been finalised and published along with 2 seperate branches for event hosts and traders. Online guidance has produced and is available: <a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/making-your-event-sustainable-possible">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/making-your-event-sustainable-possible</a> - We are exploring possible options of encouraging better waste separation at events, potentially through the development of recycling hubs. - The Spring Festival embedded sustainability across all elements of the event.
GL-2: Embed positive behaviour change to reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions in all service areas and assets.		GL-2.1: Deliver an appropriate level of climate literacy style training for all decision-makers, managers, elected members, staff in key service areas and committee chairs.	Deliver climate change training to Councillors (Oct 2025).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Climate Change eLearning module has been updated to ensure it covers the core concepts of carbon literacy. This has been launched to all staff as a mandatory training for all staff and new starters to complete once. The previous module was voluntary and had only been completed by a handful of people. - Councillors do not have access to the eLearning system and will receive the presentation via an in-person training, though at least 3 CLrs already have a carbon literacy certificate. - Explored the possibility of providing certified in-person carbon literacy training for staff in Nov 2024 but feedback from staff indicated that very few would be able to miss a whole day from work. It also proved expensive. - Herts Growth Board funded Climate Change training for Planners in Jan 2025 and 13 attendees from the Planning Team or managers attended.
		GL-2.2: Provide an appropriate level of climate literacy style training as part of the induction process for all new staff and councillors.	Review and update training (Oct 2025)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Climate Change eLearning module has been updated to ensure it covers the core concepts of carbon literacy. This has been launched to all staff as a mandatory training for all staff and new starters to complete once. The previous module was voluntary and had only been completed by a handful of people. - Councillors do not have access to the eLearning system and will receive the presentation via an in-person training, though we know of at least 3 CLrs who already have a carbon literacy certificate.
		GL-2.3: Encourage staff to set appropriate performance goals/objectives relating to their contribution to the delivery of the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy. Evidence of how this has been achieved can be assessed during the annual review process by managers.	Monitoring to be undertaken to see if this process is being used by staff (summer 2025)	G	G	JP / CW Aug 2025 New iTrent system has been implemented and Corporate objective related to Sustainability and Climate Change is now available to select. Guidance provided for use during annual review conversations 2025. Report to monitor who has used the corporate action around sustainability to be run end of summer 2025. Smart targets from the SCCS have now been incorporated into Manager Service plans.
		GL-2.4: Make the Council's commitment to deliver the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy clear throughout the recruitment process.	Include guidance and training for staff/managers (Spring 2025).	G	G	JP Aug 2025 Recruitment guidance updated and tips/suggested questions added to the guidance provided for recruiting managers. Managers can then include a sustainability related interview question in selection assessment form and example interview questions provided in Recruitment Guidance. Recruitment Guidance and associated documents being updated regularly.
		GL-2.5: Make it an ongoing business requirement that each service area regularly reviews and seeks to identify ways in which Council services and processes can be more efficient and reduce emissions e.g. reducing waste, paperless working and reducing work mileage.	Sustainability Champion meetings held (6 per year).  Sustainability Champions to invite suggestions from their own service areas (annual).  Ideas sought from staff throughout the year via Staff briefing (annual) and Team Brief (3 times per year).	G	G	CW/CL Aug 2025 - Council's Productivity Plan outlines overall efficiency measures: <a href="http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Productivity%20Plan%20-%20St%20Albans%20City%20and%20District%20Council%2C%20July%202024.pdf">www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Productivity%20Plan%20-%20St%20Albans%20City%20and%20District%20Council%2C%20July%202024.pdf</a> - Making green changes at work is the subject of a new Staff Award (implemented January 2025). - Discussions to identify areas for improvement take place via the Working Groups, Performance Conversations (sustainability targets are included as specific objectives), Directorate briefings, and delivery is updated through the tracker. - Sustainability Champion meetings held bimonthly allow staff from different areas of the Council, opportunitiws to dicuss areas of improvement, share progress and identify actions to be taken. - Staff invited to make suggestions via Chief Exec and Directorate Briefings. - Efficiency is discussed as part of the annual Budget Challenge Process (Autumn). - Governance and Leadership Working Group Lead initiated discussions with various teams to encourage the development of smart targets. - Digital Services Team now report monthly on paper consumption. - Museums Team attending Champion Meetings and making ongoing improvements e.g. testing the use of cardboard exhibition boards, reducing mileage to collect exhibitions and reusing set materials.

	GL-2.6: Include progress, opportunities and expectations to deliver the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy in staff briefings to ensure it is recognised as a corporate objective.	To be included in every other staff briefing (March & September 2025).	G	G	CW Aug 2025 - Progress, opportunities and expectations were included in the Dec 2024 Staff Briefing. - Recent highlights were included in the Staff Briefing on 6 March 2025.
	GL-2.7: Work with leaders to deliver ongoing engagement and awareness raising to staff, contractors and service providers on sustainability issues and solutions through the staff portal, weekly Team Brief, staff emails and direct training. Leaders to lead by example, regularly demonstrating their own engagement and relevant actions.	Provide engagement to staff on sustainability related topics and initiatives (every month).  Contribute to all Directorate Staff Briefings (twice annually).  Contract managers to ensure key contractors (SLM, Veolia and John O'Conner) are engaged on sustainability and climate interventions. Guidance to be developed (Sept 2025).	G	G	CW/CL Aug 2025 - Sustainability included within Directorate Briefings (July/Nov 2024) and Staff Briefing (Dec 2024, Feb 2025). - Senior managers leading Officer Working Groups on the sustainability action plan. - Staff sustainability news distributed monthly since May 2025 via email and Viva Engage. - Team Brief used to notify staff of new initiatives and projects. - Guidance is being developed to support contract managers in discussing sustainability within contract meetings. This will be promoted by the Procurement Team.
GL-3: Ensure our commitment to reduce corporate emissions to net zero by 2030 is reflected in the Council's procurement process.	GL-3.1: Monitor which contracts are due for renewal over the forthcoming year to assess current sustainability impacts and methods of making improvements at the next contract upgrade.	Contract register reviewed annually (January 2026)	G	G	NB/CL Aug 25 - Procurement Team require Procurement Briefing Notes to include a completed SIA where applicable prior to it being signed off by the Director. - Sustainability Officer involvement on new contracts and contract renewals directly and via Sustainability Impact Assessments. Whilst Procurement are not involved in every contract, we do speak to contract owners frequently and attend DMT's to remind stakeholders to update the contract register.
	GL-3.2: Require all proposed contractors to set out their own sustainability measures and conditions and how they intend to carry out works on behalf of the Council in a way that contributes to the delivery of the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy. This should be taken into account when awarding contracts.	<del>Insert standard sustainability requirements into SADC contracts that captures the minimum expectations from suppliers and facilitates conversations with the suppliers on their own initiatives (July 2025).</del>  Sustainability Procurement Policy reviewed, updated and incorporated into Procurement Strategy (Oct 2026).  Review other Council guidance on Request for Quote (March 2026)	G	G	NP Aug 2025 - New Procurement Act measuring Most Advantageous tender rather than Most Economical tender requires the evaluation of environmental, social aspects in tenders rather than just price. - New Procurement Strategy will be produced in 2026 to align with the new legislation. Sustainable Procurement Strategy will be incorporated at the same time. - A sustainability section has been incorporated to the SADC ITT Template worth 5%. This requires suppliers submitting tenders to provide information as to how they will contribute to the delivery of the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy. There are general overarching clauses as well as more specific clauses on each environmental impact. - SIA process captures requirements for contractors on projects costing £25,000 and above. - Exploring possibility of producing Request for Quote guidance which will detail how to obtain 3 quotes in a way that allows fair comparison. Sustainability will be incorporated as a section to the guidance.
	GL-3.3: Require Council contractors over a certain size to regularly report their greenhouse gas emissions and the measures that have been, and will be taken to reduce these emissions and promote sustainable work practices. This information should be used to challenge contractors to make ongoing emissions reductions.	Energy and transport submissions gathered from largest contractors (June 2025).  Additional contractor informed of reporting process April 2026.	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Annual energy and fuel use data is currently collected from Green Spaces, Leisure and Recycling contractors. - Data has been requested from contractors deadline end of May 2025. - Review has been undertaken to identify threshold above which long-term service contractors to the Council should be included to the annual greenhouse gas analysis. The Housing contractor has been identified to be above this threshold and will be required to submit emissions for the 2025/26 analysis. They have been notified.
	GL-3.4: Develop standard green clauses to ensure new tenants and leaseholders have Net Zero requirements in their leasehold agreements where possible, including annual reporting on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.	<del>Green clauses will be incorporated to the terms of new commercial leases (from May 2025).</del>  Monitor results (April 2026)	G	G	TH Aug 2025: The Council's property and asset management team have looked at where green clauses could reasonably be incorporated into the terms of new commercial leases and this has been adopted within the team. In effect this means that for future property negotiations, at Heads of Terms stage, the Council will include requirements for tenants to consider sustainability (where appropriate to do so). It is not feasible for annual reporting on energy consumption to be mandated nor does the Council have the resources to monitor this, though we will encourage tenants to report.
GL-4: Manage, monitor and report progress on meeting our commitment to reduce corporate emissions to net zero by 2030.	GL-4.1: Report progress on actions to the senior management team and members in full annually, with an informal update on the progress of projects selected by the sustainability officer quarterly.	SLT and PP&C Committee to receive summary updates (bi-annually).  Full progress report prepared for SLT, SCAF and PPCC (annual, Jan 2026).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Sustainability Tracker to SLT July 2024 and Jan 2025 - Brief progress report to SCAF September 2024 - Full annual reports to PPCC (by email) and SCAF, Feb 2025. - Updates provided to staff at CEX briefings. Upcoming: - Brief progress update to SCAF Sept 2025. - Full progress Report due to go to PPCC and SCAF at the end of the financial year 2025/26.
	GL-4.2: Explore the potential to capture additional elements within the corporate emissions analysis and publish the Council and District greenhouse gas reports annually on the Council website.	Corporate GHG emissions published annually with annual SCCS progress report (annual, Jan 2026).  Assess the possibility of including water consumption or additional contractors (June 2025).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - 2023/24 report published. - Data has been collated for the 2024/25 analysis and the report is underway. - A significant amount of off-contract energy use has been identified from Temporary Housing. This has been incorporated by estimating consumption from spend. - Homeworking emissions have been included since 2023/24. We aim to collate more specific data for the next calculation. - We do not have access to SADC waste data; it would be inaccurate to attempt to calculate the emissions of procured goods. - Net year, when water bills are centrally available, we will assess the impact of including them to the corporate analysis. - Review of contract value has been undertaken and we will be including the Councils Housing contractor from 2025/26.
	GL-4.3 Take steps to support the sustainability officer and team with the necessary resourcing to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan and gather progress updates. Responsibility for the delivery of specific actions should be assigned to the relevant service areas.	Business case for new staff resourcing to be developed (Dec 2025).  Application to be made to Climate Action Fund for staff resourcing (Sept 2025)	G	Y	CL/TH Aug 2025 - Lead Officer for Sustainability is 3 days per week. - Management Trainee provided support in 2024 but has now moved to a different role. - Two new P/T posts were created in 2023 to deliver St Albans Greener Together. These posts ended in July 2025. - The Assistant Director is currently going through the recruitment process for a new Estates and Sustainability Manager role. - Job Evaluation is being produced for a new Energy Management Officer. - The plan moving forward is to increase resource within the sustainability team by end of 2025/26. - The allocation of actions to officers has been done in conjunction with the Wider Leadership Team to ensure responsibility for delivering the actions sits at the right level and is spread across the organisation. However, some actions have insufficient resource to complete, and this is a risk, hence the current RAG rating.
	GL-4.4: Require the officers responsible for delivering actions to update the sustainability officer / team on progress via the action plan tracker quarterly. Updates on specific projects should also be given to the relevant manager and / or committee as appropriate.	Project Leads to complete Tracker (Quarterly).  SLT and SCAF to receive summary reports (biannually).  Full report on progress to be received by SCAF. PPCC and SLT (annually).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Officers are requested to complete the tracker on a quarterly basis and are invited to Working Group meetings where we discuss and drive forward progress. - Senior Management Team review progress every 6 months.

		<p>GL-4.5:</p> <p>Review the financing mechanisms available to fund the actions in this plan and ensure they match or a plan is developed to identify additional sources. This should include a clear policy of financing Invest to Save proposals based on specific emission and cost-saving criteria.</p>	<p>Research how other Councils have managed their Invest to Save budgets to incorporate carbon reduction (end of financial year 2024/25).</p> <p><b>Complete costing exercise (July 2025)</b></p>	Y	Y	<p>CL/LP Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Through St Albans Greener Together Project, the Council has secured some consultancy support to help cost certain areas of this action plan and help provide a range of options for funding them. A model has been produced which will now be used to calculate the cost of decarbonisation projects.</li><li>- Invest to Save Budget is available. Projects must be able to show recoup on investment within 5 year and show a sustainability requirement.</li><li>- Decarbonisation plans are currently being procured for specific buildings and then once we have a clearer idea of exactly what investment is required we will explore how to obtain it.</li><li>- Workshop attended on community energy exploring how community funding can be raised to fund local decarbonisation projects. Project to engage the community is underway.</li><li>- Grants are applied for as available by different teams (e.g. Warm Homes Local Grant, Fast Followers Funding from Innovate UK).</li></ul>
<p>GL-5:</p> <p><b>Communicate effectively with the local community to raise awareness, facilitate behaviour change, reduce District greenhouse gas emissions, improve the resilience of the District to climate change and support biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>GL-5.1:</p> <p>Deliver strong and consistent messages to the public about sustainability, the environment and climate change through the Council's publicity channels, which include the Community News publication, <a href="http://www.stalbans.gov.uk">www.stalbans.gov.uk</a>, MyStAlbans District account, press releases, social media, events, Sustainability News and the Building Futures website.</p>		<p>News coverage of newsworthy environmental initiatives throughout 2025/26 - PR/Community News/Social Media as appropriate - plus internal channels. (At least one sustainability related article monthly each for both external and internal audiences.)</p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAGT has delivered extensive communications on sustainability and climate change on social media. The communications plan included a monthly schedule of topics supported by direct contact, social media posts and webinar events. Over 100 members are now signed up to SAGT.</li><li>- Promotion of sustainability-related matters is included to every community news and to regular social media. Articles include Retrofit Guide, Solar Together, The Week, Your Tree Our Future, Tree Strategy/Wardens, Community Right to Grow and the Car Club.</li></ul>
	<p>GL-5.2:</p> <p>Lead St Albans Greener Together by working in partnership with local groups, organisations, businesses and local citizens to develop solutions to overcome barriers to actions. This will include ensuring the delivery of the Communications and Behaviour Change Plan along with the administration of the St Albans Greener Together fund.</p>		<p><b>Forward plan for SAGT identified beyond July (June 2025).</b></p> <p>Funding bid to Climate Action Fund (Nov 2025).</p> <p>Delivery of all remaining events (Sept 2025).</p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAGT has delivering regular comms and engagement via social media, quarterly newsletters, direct engagement, webinars and discussions.</li><li>- 143 Members have signed up to SAGT (74 orgs, 69 individuals).</li><li>- In 2024 SAGT established its digital presence and continually posted education content, promoted community actions and highlighted events, coordinated and filmed a promotional video with local stakeholders, engaged Parish Councils and Schools, attended the Community Showcase, Sustainability Festival Expo, Harpenden Sustainability Markets and Christmas Cracker events.</li><li>- In 2024 SAGT hosted a Heat Pump talk, Sustainable Transport Panel. CPD Lecture: Sustainable retrofitting: Lessons learnt from design, off-site construction and performance analysis of deep energy retrofit of residential buildings and a Wider Community Discussion with SAGT members.</li><li>- In 2025 we worked with external organisations to deliver events including - Practical Guide to Low Carbon Construction Retrofit Course - Forum For the Future Greener Together Workshop - Sustainable Business Webinars with The Carbon Trust - a climate change discussion event: Greener Together Presents The Week - Wilding Our District Panel (collaborating with several local Wildlife and Wilding Groups, SADC, HCC) - Recycling: Your Questions Answered Webinar (collaborating with SADC, Veolia, Soil Squad) and Community Energy in St Albans District Webinar (with Community Energy Pathways).</li><li>- One more event will be held in September with Climate Outreach UK.</li><li>- Net Zero funding was awarded to 6 local community projects focused on climate, energy and transport. Projects results are available online with videos by the grant recipients.</li><li>- One Action Together campaign used District level calculation to highlight the collective impact of individual action.</li><li>- We are currently applying for Lottery funding (Our Shared Future) to support the continuation of SAGT. We are exploring the possibility of recruiting temporary cover to lead on digital communications and have made some improvements to the website.</li></ul>
	<p>GL-5.3:</p> <p>Keep the Council website up to date with relevant Action Plan and greenhouse gas report progress.</p>		<p>Review website (annual)</p> <p>Update information (as necessary)</p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sustainability and Climate section of the website has been restructured (Jan 2024) with new pages on Our Progress, Nature and Wildlife, Sustainable Transport, Climate Change Targets and St Albans Greener Together.</li><li>- Progress information is updated following each sustainability tracker update (quarterly).</li><li>- Website recently updated with Biodiversity Net Gain, HCC Retrofit Guide, Solar Together and Warm Homes: Local Grant.</li></ul>
<p>GL-6:</p> <p><b>Work with partners, including the County Council, to deliver, support and promote opportunities and projects for communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, support biodiversity and promote sustainability across the District.</b></p>	<p>GL-6.1:</p> <p>Amplify communications related to partnership projects including those of Hertfordshire County Council and Town or Parish Councils.</p>		<p>Make partnership work in this area a regular feature of the Communications Team's work throughout 2025/26.</p>	G	G	<p>CW Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Social and traditional media messaging on range of projects e.g., Ver Lake project, tree strategy, parking related comms.</li><li>- Community News/Team Brief May 2025 - HCCSP's Retrofit Guide was described as being 'factually brilliant' in a Times article. The article addresses the challenges of the UK retrofit system and spotlights the HCCSP Guide as being 'just the sort of information everyone should be aware of'.</li><li>- HCC initiatives are promoted and circulated to our wider networks including community groups and schools (e.g. Air quality monitors for schools).</li></ul>
	<p>GL-6.2:</p> <p>Encourage communities and businesses to develop and implement their own greenhouse gas emission reduction plans and initiatives.</p>		<p><b>Continue to work with partners and Sustainable St Albans to encourage businesses to create action plans (August 2025).</b></p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAGT has 63 businesses as members of the network.</li><li>- SAGT is encouraging members to develop their own action plan. Blog article and email was sent to all members inviting them to seek the support of the SADC Sustainability Officer to develop their own plan (April 2025). No responses were received.</li><li>- Support was offered to Parish Councils to develop their own sustainability plans. 2 Parishes accepted offer.</li><li>- SAGT was promoted in Business News.</li><li>- Set of Business briefings were held (May 2025) by the Carbon Trust to support businesses on their sustainability journey.</li><li>- Sustainability was a key theme of the Annual Business Summit (Feb 2025) and all speakers were briefed to reference sustainability. SAGT was promoted.</li><li>- Local community groups and organisations have been invited to an event in September, being held by SAGT and Climate Outreach UK, to help local organisations (especially sports and arts) develop their own sustainability plans, and better communicate to their networks on climate change.</li></ul>
	<p>GL-6.3:</p> <p>Seek to influence the Government to introduce more stringent sustainability policy in areas such as building, housing, renewable technologies, energy, water, waste and habitat protection, through responding to consultations and working with organisations such as the Local Government Association.</p>		<p>Council responses to relevant consultations (as appropriate, and as they arise) during 2025/26</p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Spatial planning team responded to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation in Sept 2024.</li><li>- We have inputted to HCCSP responses to consultations on Statutory Reporting for sustainability (April 2025) as well as to the Climate Resilience Roadmap (2024) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data (2025).</li></ul>
	<p>GL-6.4:</p> <p>Work with the Business Improvement District and other business networks, to develop and deliver city-wide environmental schemes and improvements. This might include Greening Business Support Schemes or Business sponsored renewable projects.</p>		<p>Report on results of Net Zero Fund Projects and promote widely (July 2025)</p>	G	G	<p>CL Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAGT Net Zero Grant was launched to encourage the design and implementation of city-wide environmental schemes. These projects have now come to the end of the funding period and the end of project reports have been produced. Achievement summaries are available at <a href="http://www.stalbansgreenertogether.org/community-fund">www.stalbansgreenertogether.org/community-fund</a> and the YouTube channel Page.</li><li>- SAGT items are a regular item in Council's newsletter to businesses encouraging innovation around sustainability.</li><li>- SAGT promoted to local businesses in Nov 2024.</li><li>- Net Zero &amp; Decarbonising Your Business Webinars held to support local businesses. Webinars available on SAGT YouTube Channel. These were promoted via the SADC business newsletter and local business networks.</li></ul>
	<p>GL-6.5:</p> <p>Work with existing or new strategic partnerships to help promote and deliver the action plan.</p>		<p>include short sustainability update each Strategic Partnership meeting (every 6-8 weeks)</p> <p>Sustainability added as update to all future SP meetings</p>	G	G	<p>CW Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Actively involved in two Community Rail Partnerships (Abbey Line and St Albans/Bedford Line) last meetings were in Spring 2025</li><li>- Allocating one Strategic Partnership meeting per year entirely to Sustainability.</li></ul>
	<p>GL-6.6:</p> <p>Our Economic Development work will promote sustainability and circular economy principles such as low carbon skills development and use of local products and workforce. We will network with organisations that can support businesses with emissions reduction.</p>		<p>Economic Development work to promote sustainability and circular economy principles in 2025.</p>	G	G	<p>CW Aug 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Delivered through the Greener Together programme during first half of 2025.</li><li>- Net Zero &amp; Decarbonising Your Business Webinars held to support local businesses. Webinars available on SAGT Youtube Channel. These were promoted via the SADC business newsletter and local business networks.</li></ul>

<div></div> <div>GL-7: Ensure the Local Plan fully addresses climate change, promotes sustainability, supports biodiversity and helps to deliver the strategy.</div>	<div>GL-7.1: Prepare a robust evidence base to explore potential opportunities for the Local Plan to incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation policies including sustainable building practices, renewable energy allocations, transport, sustainable drainage, biodiversity and the natural environment.</div>	<div>Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)</div> <div>Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)</div>	<div>G</div> <div>G</div>	<div>CB May 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy &amp; Climate Committee and Local Plan Submitted to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April/May 2025.</div>
	<div>GL-7.2: Ensure the Local Plan growth strategy takes account of the Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy.</div>	<div>Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)</div> <div>Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)</div>	<div>G</div> <div>G</div>	<div>CB May 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy &amp; Climate Committee and Local Plan Submitted to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April/May 2025.</div>
	<div>GL-7.3: Encourage Neighbourhood Plans to include climate change considerations and policies.</div>	<div>Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)</div> <div>Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)</div>	<div>G</div> <div>G</div>	<div>CB May 2025 Neighbourhood Plans are written by Parish Councils and SADC's role is to support them in their process. In its support role, SADC encourages Parish Councils in writing their Neighbourhood Plans to consider Climate Change.</div>
	<div>GL-7.4: Use planning and regulatory powers as appropriate to ensure all new developments are built to high sustainability standards, support active and sustainable travel, promote circular economy principles, conserve and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity, promote water efficiency and reduce the risk of flooding.</div>	<div>Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)</div> <div>Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)</div>	<div>G</div> <div>G</div>	<div>CB August 2025 Local Plan, once adopted, will underpin this work. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.</div>

ENERGY & BUILDINGS (EB) ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS TRACKER

Council - Corporate Scope

Overarching Actions (By 2030)		Actions (2024 - 2027)		SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	2024/25 & 2025/26 - Progress Notes Keep records of all progress made
EB-1: Decarbonise all Council-operated built assets.		EB-1.1: Undertake detailed energy audits for all outstanding Council-operated corporate assets. Review existing energy audits and ensure that any out-of-date or insufficient assessments are re-commissioned.		All operational buildings (>1000 sqm) to have energy audits as a minimum (Jan 2026).	G	R	MP Aug 2025 - Please see update for EB-1.2 - Obtaining heating decarbonisation plans will also cover the production of energy audits
		EB-1.2: Review the findings of the Council-operated corporate building energy audits and use these as the basis for creating full decarbonisation plans. Develop a decarbonisation roadmap, prioritising worst-performing assets and incorporating recommendations from completed energy audits where possible.		Decarbonation Plans for all buildings (>1000 sqm) with existing audits to be complete (Jan 2026)	Y	R	MP Aug 2025 - We have been unsuccessful in previous applications to Salix funding to undertake heating decarbonisations plans for operational buildings (>1000 spm) due to the funding being oversubscribed or the proposed project not meeting the revised carbon savings necessary. - Heating decarbonisation plans funded internally have been obtained for Civic Centre and Verulamium Museum. These identify energy efficiency measure opportunities and provide data to support future funding applications for heating decarbonisation works. - Quotes for heat decarbonisation plans for 7 further commercial properties have been obtained. Funding has been identified to progress with 2 sites and we are investigating funding routes to proceed with the remaining sites. - We are working on a tracker to input all of the results from the produced heating decarbonisation plans to map the decarbonisation journey to net zero and associated costs
		E.B. 1.3a Ensure the Councils internal energy management process is effective in achieving value for money, monitoring energy consumption and capturing the required data for monitoring energy consumption		Move all corporate energy supplies to the new energy contract where viable (Jan 2026)  Recruit Compliance Officer (Oct 2025) who will introduce a process for consolidating all temp Housing assets to a single supplier (Mar 2026)  Review options for internal management of energy bills (end 2025).  Ensure there is a process in place for new accounts to be created during Capital projects and added to the Councils central energy contract (as and when completed).	Y	Y	SD/MP Aug 2025 Work continues to ensure all meter details and site consumption data is correct and accurate - All operational sites have been added to parent contracts through CCS and either sit with EDF (Electricity), Total Gas (Gas) and Business Stream (Water). - The project team is working on verifying Housing sites and meters to ensure all data is accurate prior to adding them to the Council parent contract for each utility - The team have been reviewing third party involvement in the Council's energy management process to ensure activities are efficient and cover the Council's needs. Part of this consideration is the LGR, for which all authorities will need one approach to the energy management.  JG Aug 2025 - Continuing to investigate which supplies are not on the main contract and a process for managing utility billing in a more robust manner within the HRA portfolio. - Approval has been granted for a new Compliance Manager and Safety Housing Manager who would take responsibility for management of the utility billing.
		EB-1.3: Develop decarbonisation plans for Council-operated housing assets to achieve retrofits consistent with net-zero carbon and in line with requirements to improve Energy Performance ratings.		Apply for public sector decarbonisation funding every time the fund becomes available (Annual)	G	G	JG May 2025 - (2022) Awarded Green Homes Deal Local Authority Delivery 1B funding to carry out works to 45 properties to achieve a carbon-neutral output and an EPC C rating. Lessons learnt from this will inform the Energy Strategy developed by the Housing Service to achieve the 2030/32 Council target. - (2022) Awarded funding for (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) SDHF Wave 1 of £1.5m, with £850k from the Council's Housing Investment Programme, to improve the EPC performance of 136 properties. Works began Sept 2022 and was completed August 2023. - (2023) Successful bid for SHDF Wave 2.1 scheme to deliver whole house EPC improvements between April 2023 to March 2026. SADC received £8.5m Government funding and contributed £9.7M from the HRA. Total works package of £18.2m. Estimated outturn in terms of number of properties is circa. 600. - (2025) Awarded £2.45m Warm Homes Wave 3 funding to improve heating systems and energy efficiency in circa 350 properties over three years, commencing April 2025 - Sept 2028. This funding also addresses flats for the first time and will cover non-gas heating replacements. Work commences in September. £9m HRA co-funding has been added from SADC.
		EB-1.4: Embed sustainable business principles throughout the procurement and commissioning cycle so that new contracts ensure that energy is sourced from renewable sources and suppliers are clear about their roles and encouraged to make improvements.		To include green energy in Sustainable Procurement Policy when updated (Dec 2025).  <del>Sustainability and Procurement to meet to establish a way forward (June 2025).</del>	G	G	NB Aug 2025 - Green clauses have been added to ITT. - Wording agreed for future tender opportunities whereby procurement run an open procedure or a mini competition off a framework. Sustainability quality question has been made mandatory. - This then ensures the contract will be sustainably focused and that suppliers are clear about their roles and encouraged to make improvements. - Procurement will monitor this and make tweaks if necessary once we see examples from tenders. - Sustainable Procurement Policy to be reviewed when Procurement Strategy is reviewed.
		EB-1.5: Ensure all new Council-led developments aim to meet the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge targets as a minimum and take account of both operational and embodied carbon.		All new Council-led developments are assessed for viability to achieve a minimum of RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge targets (Mar 2026).	G	G	TL August 2025 - The Abbots Avenue West(HRA) project is designed to achieve EPC 'A' rating, implementing sustainable design features such as ASHPs, solar panels and increased insulation. - Other developments under construction prior to FY2526 will not achieve RIBA 2030 targets (e.g. The Hedges - completed April 2025; King Offa - due to complete Sept 2025), but will incorporate several sustainable design features; - Other projects at feasibility and concept design stage will consider the requirements and budget implications to achieve RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge and related enhancements to sustainable design (eg. 'abric first' improvements and sustainable heating solutions). - Several smaller projects in progress (eg. Toilet refurbishment and Museums Repairs Programme) will aim to improve the sustainability of the existing assets. - The Harpenden Leisure Solar Panels project was completed in Spring 2025, providing 174 new solar panels installed to reduce operational carbon emissions by around 18 tonnes a year.
EB-2: Identify, invest in and deliver energy infrastructure to decarbonise Council operations and heating, increase the renewable energy mix, generate income and embed resiliency.		EB-2.1: Identify Council-operated assets with renewable energy opportunities and develop associated renewable energy schemes.		Identification of potential sites for renewable energy opportunities and feasibility calculations (Annual rolling programme).	Y	Y	JG Aug 2025, - The Council has been successful in obtaining Warm Homes wave 3 funding, this will tackle circa 350 assets over three years with the possibility to include some renewable technology. Planning has commenced to carry out retrofit measures to 15 blocks of flats in Cotlandswick - measures include, External Wall Insulation, replacement windows internal ventilation and heating for communal areas. Planning permission is required and is currently being formulated to enable the planning request submission. MP Aug 2025 - Heating decarbonisation plans being produced as part of action EB-1.2 will also cover PV analysis for the buildings (Civic Centre and Verulamium Museum plans have now been complete) - Net Zero Hub have offered to provide desktop surveys of our buildings for the potential of further sites - Planning Permission provided for Westminster Lodge Solar PV but works cannot commence until roof repair works are completed. - Installation of PV panels on Harpenden Leisure Centre has been completed with over 170 panels installed, estimated to produce 93 MW of electricity per year. - Roof works are complete on Verulamium Museum and the Council are progressing the tender for the installation of PV panels at the site.
		EB-2.2: Investigate the possibility of supporting the development of large-scale energy generation via Local Plan allocated sites to decarbonise the Council's operations, generate income and embed energy resiliency.		Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)  Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)	G	G	CB August 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PP&C - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025. - Includes large-scale energy generation at East Hemel Central Broad Location.



EB-3: Support and promote sustainable building practices and sustainable development that is consistent with net zero operational carbon and minimises embodied emissions.	EB-3.1: Develop Planning Policy that encourages new developments to be built to high sustainability standards and consider embodied carbon. Prioritise retrofitting over demolition and implement on-site renewable and /or low-emission energy generation when appropriate.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)  Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)	G	G	CB August 2025 - Included in Local Plan. To note the Government has significantly limited the ability of councils to implement policies in this area. Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PPCC - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.  CL Aug 2025 Council teams attended a workshop on Local Area Energy Planning to learn more about whats invovled in developing LAEP.
	EB-3.2: Ensure the Development Management Team is equipped with expertise in sustainable construction methods and low-carbon technology to better understand the solutions available and require appropriate improvements.	Ensure teams keep up to date with changing policy and practices through CPD training (annual)	G	G	SM Aug 2025 These are a minimum requirement which a developer must build to but they can exceed that if they so wish. Neither SADC or WBC can insist on development exceeding the requirement under the provisions of Part L of the Building regulations. The Building Control service is provided by WBC under a shared services arrangement
	EB-3.3: Explore financial and other means of securing carbon offsetting measures in major developments.	Adopt Local Plan (March 2026)	G	Y	CB Aug 2025. - Policies included in Local Plan. Note the Government has significantly limited the ability of Council's to implement policies in this area. - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PP&C - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
EB-4: Support residents and businesses in championing the reduction of their own energy use, community emisions and costs in existing developments.	EB-4.1: Support households by providing information and access to funding for the installation of energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and renewable energy measures.	Launch Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme - Aug 2025	G	G	JF/CL Aug 2025 - HUG2 Home Upgrade Grant (now closed) offered energy efficiency grants for off-gas grid private properties. - Warm Homes: Local Grant: Awarded £1.5M in 2025 for 3 year project to deliver home energy efficiency to fuel poor homes. Contracts have now been signed and publicity materials are being prepared and released. - Herts Home Retrofitting guide produced and promoted via media channels. - Planning consulted Resident Associations to facilitate development of guidance for solar PV within the conservation area. Most applications will be dealt with on a case by case basis but project helped to support and encourage those keen to install solar PV. Guidance is easily accessible on SADC website. - Superhomes Project (now closed): NEF delivered Home Energy Retrofit Option plans to 71 local households. 13 went on to install retrofit measures. - 134 residents given advice through St Albans Home Energy Support Service in 2024 and 7 in 2025. - 432 Solar PV, 386 batteries and 19 EV chargers installed locally via Solar Together 2022 & 2023, bulk buying solar pv scheme. Across the county, Solar Together Herts 2022 & 2023 delivered 1,665 installations, resulting in 6.2 MW installed capacity and over £17M in private investment in renewables. iChoosr are now trialing an ASHP programme. - Solar Together 2025 is currently in progress with wide promotion accross the District. 194 solar panels and 17 batteries have been ordered and paid for.
	EB-4.2: Encourage and provide guidance to businesses on the installation of energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation and renewable energy measures. Signpost and promote retrofit and funding opportunities for businesses.	Promote initiatives and schemes to businesses as and when they arise (ongoing)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Information on any available grants is promoted via our website, business newsletter and forwarded onto our business networks. - Working with Herts LEP to support skills development in the area. Some of this work is undertaken by the Employment and Skills Partnership which we attend and support. - Through SAGT UoH delivered a CPD Seminar for local professionals on a new method for deep retrofit. Carbon Trust have provided a series of webinars for businesses on sustainability.Recordings are all available on the SAGT Youtube Channel.
	EB-4.3: Develop and disseminate a programme educating tenants and landlords (in New Capital Developments or social homes) on how new technologies installed in households should be operated in order to maximise potential energy savings. Notably, if the mode of operation differs from the conventional gas central heating system.	Materials to be drafted and reviewed (March 2026)  New materials to be prepared for Hedges housing development (April 2025)  Feedback from new residents to be monitored (March 2026)	G	G	JG Aug 2025 - In conjunction with the SHDF works on Council homes, the team (both contractor and Council) proactively work with residents on energy saving advice and guidance. - Trial for Mixergy hot water tanks to be carried out to a void property. Tenants to be engaged as to best practise with plans to extend the installation of the water tanks to other properties with solar if trial is successful. TL Aug 2025 - For new HRA schemes, the following are proposed to address extreme weather (over-heating/cold), which seem applicable here: - i) Home User Guides for new builds will include suitable user-friendly information for tenants to control heating, cooling and/or ventilation systems. - ii) Handover information from contractors will be reviewed by the Capital Projects/Housing surveyor teams to ensure appropriate maintenance can be achieved. - Individual teams to collaborate to develop additional information for tenants and gather input from heating system installer. - Materials based on the above were provided with handover materials to new residents at The Hedges housing development in April 2025, which will be monitored during the year.
	EB-4.5: Attend Landlord Forums and work with lettings agents and private landl ords when appropriate to disseminate information and raise awareness of Landlords' duties to meet minimum standards and to provide advice on the assistance available.	Next Landlord Forum to be held in November 2025	G	G	JF Aug 2025 Next forum scheduled provisionally scheduled for 25th November 2025. Last two Landlord Forums Held in December 24 and May 6th May 2025. Presentations delivered by Private Sector Housing Team, NRLA and HSPN. Updates provided on Renters Rights Bill, Homelessness, forthcoming Warm Homes Local Grant and eligibility of PRS properties, promotion of St Albans Home Energy Support Service and landlord responsibilities.
EB-5: Implement low-emission energy generation and storage capabilities in the District.	EB-5.1: Review the sites allocated for renewable infrastructure development within the Local Plan and consider any relevant opportunities for renewable, low-carbon energy and heat generation and/or on-site storage.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)  Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)	G	Y	CB August 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PPCC - Local Plan submitted to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.  CL May 2025 Council Officers attended a workshop on Local Area Energy Planning to learn more about the benefits and needs to develop a LAEP.
	EB-5.2: Support and enable the large-scale solar power generation proposal at East Hemel Central Broad Location as identified in the Local Plan.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)  Adopt Local Plan (Mar 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PPCC - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
EB-6: Support energy efficiency measures in low income households to tackle fuel poverty and raise living standards.	EB-6.1: Work with partners to improve the identification of vulnerable energy consumers and ensure that they are aware of the support available to them.	Warm Homes Local Grant added to initiatives list once launched (July 2025)  Ensure energy efficiency initiatives and grants are promoted to groups (quarterly).	G	Y	CL Aug 2025 - Summary of initiatives has been prepared for distribution with local groups so they know who may be eligible and how to refer people (Nov 2024). Equalities Officer to promote to local groups. Warm Homes Local Grant has now been added. - Citizens Advice Bureau SLA includes delivery of energy efficiency advice.
	EB-6.2: Improve the promotion and delivery of advice, schemes and grants that provide support for managing bills and improving the energy efficiency and warmth of low-income and vulnerable households.	Launch and Deliver Warm Homes Local Grant Scheme from August 2025	G	G	JF/CL - Aug 2025 (as EB4.1) St Albans Council have successfully bid for the Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) scheme and £1,500,000 earmarked for private homes in the district. Targetting low income homes. Contract with NEF as delivery agent has been signed and programme is now being launched ot the public.

TRANSPORT & AIR QUALITY (TAQ) ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS TRACKER

Council - Corporate Scope

Overarching Actions (By 2030)	Actions (2024 - 2027)	SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	Progress Notes 2024/25 & 2025/26 Keep records of all progress made
TAQ-1: Decarbonise the Council fleet.	TAQ-1.1: Develop a low-carbon Fleet Replacement Plan.	Housing Van to be replaced at end of life (By 2028)  Museum Van to be replaced at end of life (expect by 2030)  Establish if decarbonisation of all fleet could be approved as a Council Policy (by end of 2025)	R	G	SF/RR Aug 2025 - New Waste & Recycling vehicles have been delivered (2024). These are mainly diesel as alternative fuelled vehicles, and required infrastructure, are beyond the Council's available budget. The new diesel vehicles are the most efficient available keeping emissions as low as possible. All Vehicles are Euro 6 or above. Working with Veolia, the Council is currently undertaking a feasibility study to determine if Sandridge Gate Depot can support the infrastructure, and space, to maintain a future fully electric fleet. - Initial discussions with procurement completed and in principle the requirement of a green fleet could be added into procurement strategy but requires further development which is dependent on resources.
	TAQ-1.2: Install sufficient infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles for users of Council sites.				
TAQ-2: Decarbonise corporate travel emissions.	TAQ-2.1: Promote and encourage the use of the Council's electric vehicle pool cars.	Replace EV Charger or move Car Club (Oct 2025)  Promote car club through Council channels (Quarterly).  Explore opportunities for expansion (Annual March)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Car Club Charging post is out of order and requires replacement. We are exploring alternative locations with improved visibility. - Charging post serving the car club vehicles was intermittently working due to software issues, affecting car availability early 2024. - Various promotions undertaken in July 2024 as part of EV & Sustainable Transport themes of SAGT. May 2025 promoted in community news and businessnewsletter. - EV Myth busting guide circulated to staff - 2024 Average utilisation 25%, total mileage 11,347 miles - 2025 data: Jan - 1,197 miles, 39% utilisation Feb - 907 miles, 27% utilisation Mar - 121 miles, 8% utilisation Apr - 955 miles, 16.5% utilisation May - 978 miles. 16.5% utilisation June - 1003 miles. 12.5% utilisation
	TAQ-2.2: Develop a Workplace Travel Plan to support staff and Councillors in reducing unnecessary travel and increasing sustainable modes of travel. This includes exploring options for incentivising lower-emission travel such as a salary sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles.	Green Travel Document signed off (June 2025)	Y	G	JP/AO/CL Aug 2025 - Green Travel document to be signed off for use from Q3 2025/26 - Will consider launch of salary sacrifice scheme for electric vehicles in 2025/26 if Finance team considers the financial arrangements to be sufficiently robust to reduce any risk to the council. - Bike storage now installed for use by District Offices staff. - Councillors are encouraged to share lifts and use public transport where possible, in line with the Constitution's Members' Allowances Scheme. - Staff Cycling Competition being held in August to encourage and reward those cycling (withier for leisure or work).

District - Community Scope

TAQ-3: Promote active and sustainable travel and reduce the need for people to travel.	TAQ-3.1: Implement the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the District.	Continue implementation of Victoria Street Scheme (timescales depending on funding - 2026)	G	G	RR May 2025 - St Albans LCWIP adopted by SADC and HCC in 2023. - HCC as Highways Authority is the lead and SADC supports through co-ordinating delivery of individual schemes and collective approach through Transport Impact Assessments (TIA). - 2024/25 Supported the Marlborough Road cycle lane. - Continuing to work on Victoria Road scheme.
	TAQ-3.2: Work with Hertfordshire County Council to deliver joint projects to support active and sustainable travel.	Confirm approval for Harpenden Cycle Parking (Sept 2025)	G	G	SD / CL May 25 - 4 cycle maintenance stands provided by HCC have now been installed and are operational. - HCC leads on Transport measures affecting the highway and Rights of Way networks. SADC is consulted at scheme conception and feasibility, through to detailed design and implementation. Timescales and projects depend on funding. - Currently no Officer is designated to lead on sustainable transport. Projects are shared amongst different teams. - HCCSP has explored options to support the roll out of the HomeRun app to schools but determined not feasible due to costs (2024). - HCC has provided 4 cycle maintenance stands and 3 of these have been installed across the district. - Supporting the provision of cycle parking at Harpenden Train Station. Awaiting approvals.
	TAQ-3.3: Support community engagement to promote sustainable and active travel including working with schools, businesses and community groups.	Determine continuation strategy for SAGT after grant funding ends (Aug 2025)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - SAGT has been delivering extensive engagement, education and promotion to local individuals and groups. - Online Travel Panel was held (July 24) to promote discussion around sustainable transport. Stakeholders invited to share their experiences and host events relating to travel. The recordings have been published on the SAGT YouTube channel. - Posts have been shared to social media on sustainable travel and electric vehicles throughout summer 2024 on social media. - Net Zero Fund has been awarded to a number of organisations to support their sustainable travel initiatives. This includes a project to improve cycle proficiency and access to bikes in schools and pilot the use of eCargo bikes at a Parish Council. - SAGT ran One Action Together campaign highlighting the District wide impact sustainable transport and other sustainability initiatives could have. Materials were shared in Newsletters of local sustainability and cycling groups.
	TAQ-3.4: Develop active and sustainable travel policies within the Local Plan that include new routes, design standards and cycle infrastructure and storage.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	Y	CB Aug 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee and Local Plan Submittd to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.

TAQ-4:  
Reduce transport emissions and support the transition to low-carbon vehicles.

TAQ-4.1: Implement low-emission development policies within the Local Plan that encourage new public transport solutions and electric car charging points.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee and Local Plan Submittd to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
TAQ-4.2: Support the delivery of EV charging infrastructure across the District.	Sign off paperwork with Legal (June 2025)  Participate in HCC Procurement sproach (September 2025)  Review Annual Fees and Charges (April 2026)	Y	Y	RR Aug 2025 - Collaboration agreement finalised and signed off, now with county to commence procurement exercise (which districts will assist with) as part of LEVI - LEVI statement of principles agreed and approved. - LEVI New ToR and Partnership Agreement is with Legal for comment. - No funding currently allocated to cover the District responsibility for implementing LEVI. - Any news on EV installations is expected to come through LEVI scheme, initial site identification work completed, draft heads of terms for partnership agreement with districts to consider, lots for procurement agreed. - Traffic Regulation Orders allow charging for 3 hours. We are seeking to review this at the next opportunity to open up more usage of the EV Chargers.
TAQ-4.3: Work with local taxi firms to encourage the switch to lower-emission vehicles.	Review Policy (2026)	G	G	RR Aug 2025 - New policy approved with higher emissions standards. - We are cautious about promoting EV to taxi drivers without there being sufficient charging infrastructure available.
TAQ-4.4: Work with community rail partnerships to encourage travel by rail as an alternative to the car, including improving connections to and from railway stations.	Annual funding contribution to Community Rail Partnership to both CRPs (annual).	G	G	CB Aug 2025 - Council is an active partner and supports both CRPs

		TAQ-4.5: Work with businesses to encourage and facilitate low carbon travel through advice, good practice and funding.	Promotion of car club in Business Newsletter (every other edition in 2025).	G	G	CL Aug 2024 - Connected Enterprise Car Club with the BID in the hope of more extensive business engagement. - Website is updated as/when initiatives or funds arise for businesses. - Carbon Trust delivered a series of workshops for businesses via SAGT covering sustainable transport as well as energy. - SAGT One Action Together campaign highlighted the District wide impact sustainable transport and other sustainability initiatives could have.
		TAQ-4.6: Ensure regular engagement with transport stakeholders and local forums.	Continue to be stakeholder in both community rail partnerships. Attend HCC Passenger Transport's Intalink meetings with rail & bus operators (in 2025).	G	G	CW Aug 2025 - Economic Development team is regularly attending and contributing at Community Rail Partnership meetings (held usually quarterly), and others as they arise. Meeting with both occurred in Spring 2025. - Attending high level Thameslink Govia meeting at least once per year. Dec 2024 Council (MC) attended Intalink Enhanced Bus Partnership Annual Conference in Nov 2014 - Currently no resources available to manage a Bus Users Forum. The Council is not a transport authority so this would site outside our specific area of work. - Attending Public Transport Unit meetings at County Council focusing on public transport improvements.
TAQ-5: Work with partners and the local community to improve air quality across the District.	TAQ-5.1: Update and implement the measures outlined in the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).	ASR to be submitted to DEFRA June 2026		G	G	TM Aug 2025 - Annual Status Report (ASR)submitted June 2025, Awaiting DEFRA Appraisal. - AQAP Published July 2025.
	TAQ-5.2: Support Hertfordshire County Council initiatives to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.	Support HCC Campaigns as they are launched (at least 2 per year)		G	G	TM Aug 2025 - Clean Air Day & Night is promoted annually using HCC materials. Clean Air Night 2025 will have a protecting public health and wood burning focus. - SADC & HCC promoted both the St Albans AQ Action Plan and the HCC AQ Strategy Consultation on Market Day 25th Sept 2024. - 19th June 2025 Clean Air Day was promoted. - HCC to attend SCAF Meeting in September 2025 to discuss travel initiatives

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY (NEB) ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS TRACKER

	Overarching Actions (By 2030)	Actions (2024 - 2027)	SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	2024/25 & 2025/26 - Progress Notes
Council - Corporate Scope	NEB-1: Manage Council land to promote climate resiliency, support biodiversity and maximise carbon sequestration.	NEB-2.1: Ensure rewilding principles that enhance biodiversity are incorporated into new developments and existing assets where possible.	Review all new construction or refurbishment projects (commenced after 1 April 2024) for compliance with 'rewilding' principles (eg. biodiversity enhancements) where appropriate (Jul 2025)  Explore potential for rewilding existing assets (Aug 2025)	G	G	TL May 2025 - Abbots Avenue West (HRA) project was assessed for rewilding and enhanced biodiversity. The design achieves good ecology and biodiversity improvements, including bird nesting (eg. review with Herts Swift Group) but was not deemed appropriate for rewilding, due to the limited space available for communal soft landscaping. - All new projects will be assessed for appropriate incorporation of rewilding and biodiversity enhancements during feasibility/pre-planning stage of development. - Refurbishment or fitout of existing assets (eg. Jubilee Square CAT A fitout and St Museum Repair Programme) generally present fewer opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. - Biodiversity is considered on all Housing project design and incorporated where possible, an example of this is the inclusion of swift boxes on the SHDF External Wall Insulation projects where applicable. - Swift boxes installed to District Offices
		NEB-2.2: Ensure parks, green spaces and recreational facilities are managed to increase biodiversity value, rewild and create new habitats.	Consider opportunities for rewilding at all Council managed green spaces (annually).	Y	G	NS Aug 2025 Officer's continually identify locations to reduce mowing areas especially on Highway land. Officers are identifying areas of meadow enhancement, tree planting and hedgerow planting. CMS volunteers are visiting areas that were planted in the last couple of years for aftercare. winter 24/25 11,000 tree given to residents in the tree giveaway. 110 standrard trees planted as replacemnets to felled trees, 2055 whips for hedgrow planting. Hertsand Middlesex Butterfly Conservation truct has undertaken a report on wilding sites and highway verge vegetation management changes - 4 Green Flag Awards achieved onlocal green spaces - CMS have completed the Biodiversity Audit Review and the report has been finalised and available on request
		NEB-2.3: Ensure new Council planting schemes include plants and trees that are tolerant to pests and climate change.	Report to SCAF on outcomes of the Tree Strategy including species planted (annually).  Tree strategy commits to this outcome.	G	G	NS Aug 25 The Tree Strategy highlights the importance of selecting resilient plants and trees. Planting schemes are designed with a mix of perennial plants including drought resistant varieties. We are identifying roundabouts for improved planting opportunities. - We only use plants with plant passports to maintain biosecurity - In line with the Tree Strategy, the annual planting scheme includes only plants and trees that are tolerant to climate change and pollinator friendly. - Tree Strategy actions updated
District - Community Scope	NEB-2: Work with communities, landowners, partners and local groups to make the natural environment more resilient to climate change.	NEB-3.1: Work with Hertfordshire County Council and local communities to retain existing street trees and vegetation that provide important cooling effects and develop projects for new planting.	Provide information to HCC on suitable planting sites (annually). Annual survey identifies tree work rather than felling if suitable and identifies possible planting locations	G	G	DF Aug 2025 HCC carried out tree planting in winter 2024/25 and planting location information sent to HCC followup survey and tree works. officers will provide HCC locations from 2025 works
		NEB-3.2: Set out guidance on greening within public realm schemes to help enhance carbon sinks and provide climate resilience benefits as well as biodiversity co-benefits.	Produce guidance (or adopt HCC Healthy Places Framework) on things like SuDS, greening streets, depaving and greening buildings with living roofs and walls (Mar 2026)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Blog produced highlighting the benefits of producing an environmental strategy for SAGT website. This was sent out to all members with an offer of support from Council Sustainability Officer. No requestss received. - Awaiting the development of the Herts Healthy Places Framework which will be used as a basis for this action.
		NEB-3.3: Ensure new developments include climate resiliency measures that support the natural environment including drought-resistant planting and connected green infrastructure through Local Plan policy.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee and Local Plan Submittdd to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
		NEB-4.1: Work with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMTWT) to implement the environmental actions of the Green Spaces Management Plan.	Deliver actions of the GSAPs (dates according to action plans)	G	G	NS Aug 2025 - 560m of hedgerow planted across the 7 sites, and our CMS volunteers are provisionally booked to carry out the planting over 6 or 7 sessions in December and January as required. - Over the last year, CMS mid-week practical conservation volunteer teams have been working across a number of sites in the district - CMS volunteers number of hours 1377 - Friends Groups in the District- number of hours -1496 - HMTWT- successful watervole reintroduction programme on river ver. water voles activity has been seen Verulamium Park and Sopwell Nunnery Green Space
		NEB-4.2: Work with partners and/or officers to engage and educate the public on the value of conservation and habitat management including the use of pesticides and pollution control.	Update information on website (as required).  Provide advice and promote rewilding to the public via forums, allotment managemnt groups and other communitiy groups (as per individual group cycle-usually quarterly).	G	G	NS Aug 2025 - PBG works with Joint Allotment Management Group to educate allotment holders to reduce use of pesticides. - Local engagement on LNRS <a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/herts-nature-recovery-partnership/hertfordshire-nature-recovery-partnership.aspx">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/herts-nature-recovery-partnership/hertfordshire-nature-recovery-partnership.aspx</a> . - Officers working with newly formed Friends of Verulamium Park on what practical work can be carried out - St Albans Greener Together held a Rewilding panel in June 2025 which is recorded and available on the SAGT YouTube Channel. - Biodiversity Page added to the Council website detailing local links, initiatives and volunteer opportunities.
		NEB-4.3: Develop Planning Policy within the Local Plan to mandate developments support biodiversity, tree planting and encourage the creation of wildlife habitats and corridors.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee and Local Plan Submittdd to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
		NEB-4.4: Implement the actions and objectives set out in the updated Tree Strategy.	Deliver actions of the Tree Strategy (dates according to action plan)	G	G	SF Aug 2025 Tree Strategy along with new Policies and Action Plan. The Strategy was approved by PP&C in August. Officers are now working to deliver the actions and update working practices. Officers and local community are currently working on Tree warden scheme



NEB-3: Work with partners and communities to identify areas with opportunities to improve biodiversity and create new habitats.	NEB-4.5: Work with Hertfordshire County Council to manage grass verges and trees along highways, and to reduce the use of glyphosate.	Consider opportunities for rewilding at all grass verges managed on behalf of HCC (annually).	G	G	NS Aug 2025 Alternative Verge Management sites agreed by SADC/HCC with reduced mowing across (around 30 streets). HCC are taking ownership of the process of identifying suitable verges. working with wildhoodWatch group Hertfordshire Butterfly Conservation Trust are monitoring/ surveying low mow areas.
	NEB-4.6: Work with the Local Nature Partnership to help deliver the Nature Recovery Strategy.	Assist in the creation and delivery of the Hertfordshire local Nature recovery strategy (In line with strategy timescales).	Y	G	NS Aug 2025. public consultation for the Hertfordshire LNRS draft launched in July 2025. Since the last round of engagement, HCC have been using the feedback received from environmental and ecological experts, land managers, district and borough councils and other organisations and communities, to improve the draft LNRS. they are now calling on the public to give their feedback on the improved Local Nature Recovery Strategy draft.
	NEB-4.7: Progress the 'Revitalise the River Ver' project to transform and naturalise the River Ver and improve it's biodiversity.	To provide a cost effective solution to improve the river ver and access (in line with emerging timescales agreed through Public Realm Committee.)	Y	G	NS Aug 2025 Significant progress has been made on the River Ver and associated lakes enhancement project, with a focus on ecological restoration, access improvements, and long-term water management. Key Activities to Date: - Wetland Creation: New wetland areas have been established to improve biodiversity, enhance water quality, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. There have been unforeseen challenges in connecting the wetland to the river, primarily due to level discrepancies. Working with trhe EA, SADC have identified a viable solution and have instructed a contractor to resolve the issue within the next couple of months. - Tree Works and Light Access: Selective tree works have been carried out to open up light corridors along the river, supporting aquatic vegetation and improving river health. - Bell Meadow Access: Temporary boardwalk has been installed to maintain public access through Bell Meadow during the works, ensuring minimal disruption to visitors. - Sluice Assessment: Condition report on existing sluices has been completed, identifying key areas for repair or replacement to support future water level management. - Reach Three Access Improvements: Access improvements in Reach 3 are nearing completion, with final designs agreed and access arrangements secured in partnership with Affinity Water. Next Steps: - Site Visits and Learning: Officers have undertaken visits to other lake improvement projects facing similar challenges. These have provided valuable insights into best practices and innovative solutions. - Early Contractor Involvement (ECI): SADC are exploring the commissioning of a specialist company to develop an ECI document. This will support Detailed design development, Accurate cost estimation, Tendering of a final design-and-build contract. This approach aims to ensure a well-informed, cost-effective, and sustainable delivery of the next phase of the project.
	NEB-4.8: Remain open to requests to review the opportunity for creating pocket gardens, promoting tree planting and / or food growing on Council or third-party land.	Prmote CR2G in Community News and in social media (May 2025).  Accept applications to cultivate the specified areas of land (to 2030).	G	G	CL Aug 2025: - Community Right to Grow pilot is now live and has been widly publicised: <a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-right-to-grow#:~:text=The%20Community%20Right%20to%20Grow%20scheme%20encourages%20community%20groups%20to,th e%20purpose%20of%20community%20cultivation.">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-right-to-grow#:~:text=The%20Community%20Right%20to%20Grow%20scheme%20encourages%20community%20groups%20to,th e%20purpose%20of%20community%20cultivation.</a> - Licence to Cultivate has been granted adjacent to Sopwell Allotments (Leeanna's Wish)
	NEB-4.9: Work with the Joint Allotment Group to implement and uphold the allotment rules concerning pesticide use.	Inform and communicate non-pesticide forms of vegetation and pest control on allotment sites during 2025/26 and remind sites annually.	G	G	NS Aug 2025 Communicated through the allotment rules. Officers discuss with Allotment aAssociations and Joint Allotment Management Group which meets on a 1/4 basis.
	NEB-4.10: In line with the strengthened biodiversity duties introduced by the Environment Act 2021, we will review the actions we can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity and periodically publish a report detailing progress.	Monitor planning applications for biodiversity gain plans and produce next statutory report in 2030.	B	B	CL May 2025 BNG report has been published on our website. The next report will be required before April 2030.
CIRCULAR ECONOMY, WASTE & FOOD (CEWF) ACTION PLAN			PROGRESS TRACKER		

Overarching Actions (By 2030)		Actions (2024 - 2027)	SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	2024/25 & 2025/26 Progress Notes
Council - Corporate Scope	CEWF-1: Reduce the levels of waste from Council assets and events.	CEWF-1.1: Explore the feasibility and introduction of food waste recycling at Council events and markets.	Engage traders to encourage use of recycling / food waste bin (by Dec 2025).	G	G	KC/ SF Aug 2025 - Recycling Bins, including Food Waste, provided at Spring Festival and emptied by Veolia throughout the day. - There are only two Council events in 2025 and this service will also be provided at the Christmas Cracker in November. - Soil squad at Spring Festival in May 2025 promoting bokashi composting. Food waste recycling bins were also provided. - As part of Simpler Recycling Legislation (SRL), Food Waste Recycling is now provided at the Council's Markets. Additional work will be done to engage traders in using the bins. - Options for encouraging better waste separation by attendees at Council events are being considered alongside the requirements from the SRL. - Review for food waste has started with a trial at a previous street festival using Cllrs to stand by the bins and to direct visitors to the correct bin for their rubbish (thus ensuring food waste was disposed of correctly). This was very effective and Veolia reported that the waste was much less contaminated. However, this requires a lot of staff resource to monitor each set of bins. Review of other options continuing.
		CEWF-1.2: Review and update the Council's Plastic Free Action Plan to ensure ongoing progress in reducing plastic waste.	Review progress towards actions in new Plastic Free Action Plan (March 2026)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 Plastic Free Action Plan has been approved and launched to staff. Monitoring to take place at the end of the year.
		CEWF-1.3: Appoint a contractor responsible for a cost-neutral, profit or externally funded pallet and crate takeback scheme.	Explore opportunities for a contractor (by end 2024).	B	B	SF Aug 2025 - Pallet numbers are too low for collection by a separate collection. - Any wood, including pallets, left at the market is taken by Veolia to Sandridge Gate and added to the Wood Recycling skip.
		CEWF-1.4: Review the current Market waste recycling facilities with a view to developing a strategy to significantly improve the % of Market waste that is recycled.	Engage traders to utilise facilities (Dec 2025)	G	G	SF Aug 2025 As part of Simpler Recycling Legislation, Recycling, including Food Waste, is now provided at the Council's Markets. Recyclign facilities are present and now we plan to engage traders to utilise the facilities
		CEWF-1.5: Improve the recycling of waste produced from the operation of Council assets to a minimum of 60%.	Spot checks to be undertaken on District Offices waste store (monthly).  Monitor paper consumption (monthly)	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Currently no way to measure waste and recycling from the District Offices so it would be impossible currently to set a specific percent reduction. - Conversations with cleaners have been undertaken to ensure that recycling is correctly placed into the main bins to reduce rejections due to contamination. - Monthly spot checks will be undertaken to check recycling at District Offices. - The cleaning contract has been extended and will not be retendered until 2027. - Food waste bin introduced at Verulamium Museum - Digital Services is reporting and monitoring the paper used byt he Council and has set a target for a 10% reduction per annum.
	CEWF-2: Ensure Circular Economy principles are embedded into all Council processes, procurement and projects.	CEWF-2.1: Aim for Council-led developments to integrate circular economy and whole life-cycle principles of eliminating waste and pollution, retaining material value and utilising local supply chains when practical.	All developments will require an appropriate Waste Management Plan, to assess their elimination of waste and pollution and incorporation of the 'circular economy' where practical (Mar 2026).  All new developments will be assessed for whole life cycle/impact (inc. waste)(March 2026).	G	G	TL Aug 2025 During the feasibility design stage, existing buildings on the site are reviewed to determine if there is any benefit in retaining them or repurposing their materials for the new development;  We request and monitor Waste Management Plans from contractors on all current new-build projects to assess existing or proposed incorporation of 'circular economy' principles;  New schemes in development will be assessed for whole life cycle/impact, for example, the Abbots Avenue West and other future HRA schemes.

	CEWF-3: Provide and promote sustainable and inclusive food options at Council sites and events.	CEWF-3.1: Provide a range of sustainable food options at Council-operated sites and events prioritising local producers and suppliers.	Provide a range of sustainable food options at Council-operated sites and events prioritising local producers and suppliers by 2025	G	G	SF / LM / FB Aug 2025 - We invite event and market vendors to detail their sustainable food options and look favourably on sustainable food options. The Event Guidance stipulates that vendors should provide one vegan option where possible. - Applications for a stall at Charter Market from locally based and from sustainable traders are prioritised. We always give consideration to traders offerign primarily vegan food. - Cafe contractor at St Albans Museum + Gallery are committed to sustainability, and adheres to KPI to offer sustainable menu and source as much produce from local organisations as possible to minimise food miles. New sustainability KPIs developed for new catering contract due to commence in Aug 2025 - Both SLM and Gusto are working on providing sustainable menus within their cafes.
District - Community Scope	CEWF-4: Work with partners and communities to reduce waste and increase recycling across the District.	CEWF-4.1: Develop and deliver a comprehensive Litter Strategy and continue to support community litter picks.  CEWF-4.2: Continue to explore options for maximising recycling across the public realm.  CEWF-4.3: Develop and implement a Flats Recycling Strategy to increase recycling collection from all flats.  CEWF-4.4: Work with other Councils, landowners and the Police to reduce fly-tipping.  CEWF-4.5: Widely promote local recycling facilities and the waste hierarchy to reduce waste and overcome barriers to participation.  CEWF-4.6: Support the work of the HCC Education Officer in promoting positive waste management behaviours within school curriculums and ensure as many schools as possible have access to recycling infrastructure.	Support community litter picks and report annually in SCCS progress update and Public Real Committee on number bags collected (annual).  Introduction of plastic film recycling and Tetrapak to kerbside recycling inline with Simple Recycling Legislation (March 2026).  Introduction of plastic film recycling and Tetrapak to Flats recycling inline with Simple Recycling Legislation (March 2026).  Review Developer Guidance upon introduction of Simpler Recycling Legislation (March 2026).  Work with Police on joint operations to target waste carriers licences (July - Sept 2025). Promote the Police Commissioners fly tipping on Private land fund for land owners who become victims of fly tipping (annually).  Produce at least 6 news, articles and social media posts on waste reduction per year (annually).  HCC Education officer to visit at least 4 district schools (quarterly).	G	G	JP Aug 2025 We continue to promote and assist with community litter picks and have helped man. We ensure that required equipment is made available or delivered in a timely manner. Litter Strategy can be found on the website along with the litter bins strategy. <a href="https://www.stalbins.gov.uk/street-cleaning">https://www.stalbins.gov.uk/street-cleaning</a> (about your street cleansing) Web pages built around litter picking groups and how we can help. The leaf clearing programme was very successful 2024. We will be collecting data on number of bags of waste collected or people picking up waste and report annually. During August, we are reviewing the website information.  JP Aug 2025 Encouraging managing agents to engage with their residents to recycle and reduce landfill - Continue to explore options for maximising recycling across the public realm and monitor progress annually. - Contaminated communal bins to be cleared by managing agents. - Using the Litter Bin Strategy on all new requests. Undertaking rationalisation exercise across the district. - Investigated the use of solar compaction litter bins to save resource for emptying however initial conversations showed costly outlay so not pursuing. - Introduction of Simpler Recycling will see other materials being introduced to the kerbside mix. DRS will encourage recycling but away from kerbside collections. - met with a Tetra Pak processing company to gain insight of their service.  JP Aug 2025 - Visits have been undertaken at a number of communal sites and ensuring the correct number of bins for both recycling and landfilled waste are available to use. - Reviewing a list of flats that have been highlighted as not having a food collection facility - this is 90% completed end date September. - Attended three Housing Estate days to engage with residents and answer their questions. - Continue to work with Management Agents and encourage more engagement from them with their residents to promote recycling. - Working with the Housing team and a number of the Housing Associations have engaged too. - All households have received recycling leaflet. - Working with HCC Wasteware on a flats recycling project sharing best practices. - Commenting on planning apps. - Crews are not collecting waste which is on the floor of bin stores which is leading to more action from managing agents to address the problem.  DW May 2025 - We have been in contact with local farmers and will have perminant CCTV/flytipping signs installed each end of Kennel Lane, Harpenden. - Installed perminant signs on the A1081 layby. - We continue to work with Police Rural Crime team and agreed the use of the Police logo in our letters and undertake joint operations to check for waste carriers licences.  JP Aug 2025 Continuing to use media outlets to promote and remind. Regular input from waste contractor. Working with the managing agents with leaflets and signage. All collection fleet have the county wide food waste signage on display. Recycling guide goes out with Cuntill Tax information to all new residents.  JP Aug 2025 - HCC education officer advised of topics to promote in school talks and activities. Officers will provide feedback and take action where required. In this academic year 4 schools in the district: St Albans, Harpenden, London Colney have been visited and there are 2 more before end of school year. Talk given to Sustainable Schools network offering additional recycling. - Continue to contact schools to establish what they are recycling & who with (SADC or other) and promote our services particularly food waste.
	CEWF-5: Promote Circular Economy principles across the District.	CEWF-5.1: Reflect Circular Economy and whole life-cycle principles in the Local Plan.  CEWF-5.2: Update the Local Plan to include stronger requirements for new developments including prioritising circular economy statements.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)  Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	Y	CB Aug 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PP&C - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.  CB Aug 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at PP&C - Local Plan submittd to Secretary of State Nov 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
	CEWF-6: Work with partners and communities to promote sustainable food.	CEWF-6.1: Actively promote sustainable food choices through working with communities, providing advice and signposting to good practice.	At least 4 articles or news initiatives to be released on sustainable food across our communications channels and through SAGT (quarterly).	G	G	CL Aug 2025 - Information shared on staff forum about rising meat intake amongst young men and how to encourage healthier eating. - Policies incorporated to the Sustainable Markets and Events Policy that encourage traders and hosts to provide vegan, plant based food and ask them to provide at least one complete vegan meal. - Sustainable Food page on our website provides links and resources.
WATER RESOURCES & FLOODING (WF) ACTION PLAN						PROGRESS TRACKER
	Overarching Actions (By 2030)	Actions (2024 - 2027)	SMART Targets	Funding Status	Progress Status	2024/25 & 2025/26 Progress Notes
Council - Corporate Scope	WF-1: Achieve high levels of water efficiency in Council assets.	WF-1.1: Re-procure the Council's water supply to enable better consumption monitoring.  WF-1.2: Make physical infrastructure changes within Council buildings to reduce water usage, e.g. low flow and sensor/push taps and review the feasibility of installing rainwater and greywater harvesting to new and existing assets.	To have the commercial water supplies added to the contract (Dec 2025)  Installation of rainwater harvesting to District Offices (July 2025)  Conside rainwater harvesting in all new assets (all projects)	G	G	SD Aug 25 The Council is now in Contract with Scottish Water Businees Stream for the supply of water to its commercial and operational buildings. Whilst some communal Housing assets may be migrated on to the contract, single dwelling may require an alternative approach. Currently adding all commercial water supplies to the contract.  JG/CL Aug 2025 - From a maintenance perspective in terms of water saving measures, we fit low usage showers and dual flush toilet cisterns as standard. Water harvesting is being considered in future phases of decarbonisation related works on flats, however is difficult and expensive to install retrospectively. - Rainwater harvesting has been installed to the Civic Offices to serve the management needs of the adjacent park.
	WF-2: Reduce the flood risk of Council assets.	WF-2.1: Implement appropriate measures to address the risk H3a of the 2022 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 'Risks to people, communities and buildings from river and surface flooding' in the Flood Response Operational Plan.  WF-2.2: Implement appropriate measures to address the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) through the Winter Treatment Operation Plan.	Review Emergency Plan again formally in 2029  Review the Winter Operation Plan annually with partners (October)	B	B	CW Aug 2025 - The Environment Agency is the responsible agency for flooding mitigation. The Council's role here is to have an appropriate Emergency Plan in place to respond as a Category 1 responder should the need to arise. - To have in place appropriate Emergency Planning arrangements to be able to respond to flooding incidents in it's role as a category 1 responder alongside other blue light services. - Emergency Plan was agreed by SLT in 2024. This equips the Council to deal with emergency incidents (as defined under the Civil Contingencies Act) and to call upon help as required through the Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum. - Plan will be reviewed formally again in 2029 or before then if circumstances change.  SF Aug 2025 The Winter Operations Plan is reviewed, and agreed, annually by Officers and Partners to ensure it is fit for purpose. The implementation costs are covered in existing Council Contracts. Last review was undertaken in October 2024.

		WF-2.3: Ensure parks and recreational facilities are resilient to projected extreme weather, including increased rainfall and dehydrated / saturated ground conditions.	Review potential climate resilience improvements (e.g. vegetation changes and through landscape design) annually at Council green spaces (annually).	G	G	NS Aug 2025 Continue work to increase meadow areas, reducing mowing. source and select trees that are native/local, and that are more resilient to pest and disease. Increase meadow area - contractor has rotavated and reseeded 50,000sqm in last 2 years. Annual seeding of flower beds are now planted with perennial seed mix to reduce need for replanting each year and excess watering. working with local community groups to encourage volunteering. River ver project highlights areas susceptible to flooding events. We are working to reconnect and formalise these areas within our parks. See also NEB 4.7.
District - Community Scope	WF-3: <b>Work with partners and the community to deliver projects that manage water resources more efficiently.</b>	WF-3.1: Develop Planning Policy within the Local Plan to set water consumption targets for new developments.	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies which include optional lower target (110 liters per day) for water consumption, agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee - Local Plan Submitted to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.
	WF-4: <b>Work with partners and the community to reduce the risk of all types of flooding.</b>	WF-4.1: Assist the Hertfordshire County Council Flood Management Team and the Environmental Agency to deliver natural flood management projects.	Focus for 2025/26 is for the River Ver project which will aid the management of flood water.	Y	G	DF May 2025 - River ver project highlights areas susceptible to flooding events. reconnect and formalise these areas within our parks. - Promoted through our Comms channels HCCs invitation for expressions of interest in a Property Flood Resilience Scheme which could see eligible properties receive a grant of up to £6000 for flood resilience measures. - Public Realm Committee approved Officer to investigate options further and develop detailed designs to improve lake and River Ver in Reach 1. The outcome will not reduce the risk of the flooding in the flood plain (the park) but will ensure that paths can still be used when flooding occurs. The temporary raised path has been installed.
		WF-4.2: Work with our community to provide advice and aid during instances of flooding through the emergency planning function and in partnership with other organisations.	Review Emergency Plan formally in 2029	B	B	NK Aug 2024 - The Environment Agency is the responsible agency for flooding mitigation. The Council's role here is to have an appropriate Emergency Plan in place to respond as a Category 1 responder should the need to arise. - To have in place appropriate Emergency Planning arrangements to be able to respond to flooding incidents in our role as a category 1 responder alongside other blue light services. - Emergency Plan was agreed by SLT in 2024. It will be reviewed formally again in 2029 or before then if circumstances change. - Work was underway for Community Engagement work in London Colney in conjunction with the Environment Agency. Jan 2025 - no further progress with the EA. If there is a flooding incident that requires the EP to be activated, advice and assistance will be provided in accordance with the EP and Statutory duties.
		WF-4.3: Develop Planning Policy within the Local Plan that requires all new developments to reduce the risk of flooding and incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).	Complete Local Plan Examination (Feb 2026)	G	G	CB Aug 2025 - Local Plan Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee - Local Plan Submitted to the Secretary of State 29 November 2024. - Local Plan Hearings Stage 1 commenced April 2025.