

Sustainability and Climate Crisis Action Plan - 29th August 2023

The me	No.	Net Zero Plan	Priority	Committed Action	Directorate	LEAD OFFICER	Involved Officers	Start date	New Target date (Darken blue if deadline extended)	Overall progress	Last Progress Update	Progress update Format: Initial - update on all progress relevant to task. There is no need for repetition or multiple dated updates unless relevant
Governance Leadership	1.010	Yes		Increase staff resourcing to co-ordinate and deliver the actions in this strategy. It is anticipated that we need up to 2 Sustainability Officers and 1 Energy Manager.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Tom Hardy	Tom Hardy Candice Luper	Nov-20	Dec-23	A	01/08/2023	TH: Additional resource is in place to cover immediate infrastructure and electric vehicle charging need. Business case being developed to recruit an officer to lead of energy/utilities. New approach being developed for officer working groups on key themes, to reinforce the message that all officers are responsible for helping the Council meet its carbon reduction and sustainability targets.
Governance Leadership	1.020	Yes		Review financing mechanisms available to fund the actions in this plan. This should include a clear policy of financing Invest to Save proposals based on specific carbon and cost saving criteria. We will also explore options to engage with the local community with a view of encouraging sponsorship and donations if appropriate.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Linda Parker		Jan-21	Dec-23	A	23/08/2023	LP - The invest to save capital budget (£1m) is available to fund actions in this plan subject to generating savings/efficiencies that pay back the borrowing requirement over 5 years. Proposers of schemes are encouraged to seek other funding opportunities (grants etc). Finance consulted our Treasury Management brokers re green bonds. Their advice is that the Council is able to access loans at lower rates of interest than the green bonds on offer. Sustainable projects will therefore be assessed against the rate of return. CL 03/23 - Consultations with the Green Finance Institute and other local authorities have now taken place and confirmed the viability of using a Climate Bonds as a way to enable the local community to invest in local projects, whilst reducing the interest rate payable by the Council.
Governance Leadership	1.080	Yes		Deliver ongoing engagement and awareness raising to staff, contractors and service providers on sustainability issues and solutions through the 'STAN' staff portal, weekly Team Brief, staff emails and direct training. Particular teams will require specialised training (e.g. Building Service).	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Candice Luper		Dec-20	Continuing	G	29/08/2023	CL - Communications are released to staff via STAN, Team Brief and emails. Emails and Team Brief notes have been sent on how to keep energy bills down at home whilst working at home, home heating, recycling and energy grants and a padlett has been created as a one-stop reference point for all staff sustainability initiatives, policies and tips. We have created an energy saving page for staff with lots of advice on reducing bills and ran a session with Citizens Advice on how to save money on bills and save energy. We regularly prompt discussions on STAN around choosing plant-based diet, recycling and more recently introduced a way of helping staff to reduce food waste in the Council Offices. Sustainability Office Champions meet every 6 weeks to discuss ways of engaging staff more widely. Most recently they have implemented some comms and initiatives to reduce food waste from the office fridges. Further staff communications will take place as part of Greener Together and once new staff are in place. Staff travel survey currently being undertaken to review greener travel facilities for staff.
Governance Leadership	1.090	Yes		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, www.stalbans.gov.uk , MyStAlbans District account , press releases, social media, events, Sustainability News and the Building Futures website .	Amanda Foley - Strategy, Policy and Transformation	Claire Wainright	Candice Luper	Nov-20	Continuing	G	29/08/2023	CW/CL - New e-newsletter functionality (Granicus/Gov Delivery) has gone live. - Sustainability News published 3-4 times per year (Candice Luper). - Website is updated and social media posts released regularly (mainly sharing content from Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership and that emanating from govt, plus relevant St Albans Council news). - Year-long study completed with the University of Hertfordshire to explore methods of changing behaviour. - Comms plan to be developed as part of St Albans Greener together once recruitment is complete. - The Council has featured in the 'Local urgency on the Climate Emergency?' report highlighting our good public engagement around sustainability and climate change. - Webpages is to be restructured to better communicate to public and partners on what we are doing and how they can do their bit. - Climate Emergency UK scorecard assessment process replied to in full - awaiting results.

Governance Leadership	1.100	Yes	YES	Encourage and support community engagement through groups, forums, events and partnerships that focus on local environmental action. This includes where appropriate, using Council resources to leverage the impact that groups or organisation can have where this is the most effective way to raise awareness. Encourage organisations to network, share experiences, and identify opportunities to play their part. This includes for example the Climate Advisory Group, Strategic Partnership (SP), Town and Parish Council groups, Sustainable St Albans events, Hertfordshire Community Energy Group and Herts Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership. Partners will be encouraged to develop action plans and report back about progress.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Stuart Fitzsimmons Maria Cutler	Nov-20	Continuing	G	15/08/2023	<p>MC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This involves a range of local partnerships, both with business community and wider community. - Herts EDOs held a sustainability business conference on 11 Feb. - Sustainable St Albans has given annual update to the Strategic Partnership highlighting initiatives such as Count Me In. - We promote funding and initiatives available to businesses such as the Low Carbon Workspaces grant, Eastern New Energy Programme, Herts IQ (which gives a roundup of the latest funding for businesses looking to innovate in green tech, collaborate with research institutes or adapt their operations to improve efficiency), Low Carbon Innovation Fund and Clean Growth Fund. <p>CL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to attend regular meetings with other Districts, HCCSP and subgroups to implement cross-County action on sustainability and climate change. This has included the development of Action Plans to tackle Water, Carbon Reduction, Behaviour Change, Biodiversity, Transport and Adaptation sub-groups. Annual HCCSP conference to involve businesses and the community will be held in November. - St Albans Greener Together project, funded by Innovate UK, is now in the preparation stage and will involve extensive community engagement, communications and facilitation. It will also enable the establishment of a community-centre called the Green House, which will provide a central location for sustainability initiatives, gatherings and workshops. - Individuals and groups are welcome to attend the Councils Climate Advisory Group meetings. - Council has established a partnership arrangement with Sustainable St Albans to deliver a community engagement programme to include workshops, training and support to develop their own Climate Action Plans. So far 8 volunteer climate champions have been trained and have delivered engagement for over 200 people. Lead Officer is exploring how we can expand and continue the scheme beyond the initial trial year. Parishes were engaged in 2021. -- Working with Oaklands College to incorporate sustainability themes across all the curriculums in 2022/23 to produce outputs that can be used for ongoing community engagement across the District. - Working to re-establish the St Albans Sustainability Market and supporting other local environmental events - The Council promoted and supported SustFest 2023 and discussions are underway for SustFest 24
Governance Leadership	1.110	Yes	YES	Work in partnership with local groups to deliver a climate change and sustainability public engagement programme to empower local citizens, organisations and businesses and help overcome barriers to action. This may include a Citizens Assembly should we have a specific idea or project to explore. (Corporate Plan) Establish a Citizens' Assembly to drive forward the climate emergency policies of this Council	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Candice Luper	Katherine Chafer	Oct-21	Continuing	G	29/08/2023	<p>CL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience from other Councils with Citizens Assemblies shows it is a resource heavy and expensive process and therefore we do not feel this is an appropriate way forward at the moment, preferring to use our limited resources on decarbonisation and engagement. - Sustainable St Albans are delivering a 2 day per week programme (since Sept 2021) on our behalf to engage the community and train a network of volunteers to engage the community. The project has provided training and engagement to 22 groups/businesses, trained 9 Climate Champions who have engaged a further 192 people, delivered 4 pop-up events in Batchwood, Sopwell and Cinningham Wards and have encouraged 58 people to pledge 99 steps as part of St Albans Count Us In / St Albans Climate Action Network. - St Albans Greener Together, funded by Innovate UK, will provide a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy to connect with the community and encourage involvement at all levels.
Governance Leadership	1.120	Yes		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.	Amanda Foley - Strategy, Policy and Transformation	Maria Cutler	Stuart Fitzsimmons Candice Luper	Jan-21	Continuing	G	29/08/2023	<p>CW - Waiting on a Gov consultation on single use plastic due in Autumn. Still in discussion how best to do this with business community and post Covid recovery. Investigating scheme that could be linked to Charter Market.</p> <p>SF - Discussions have been had with the BID about introducing business recycling scheme.</p> <p>JP - Graduate intern spent the summer months in 2022 delivering a project to engage local businesses to help reduce the amount of litter dropped in and around retail premises.</p> <p>CL - Discussions with BID around introducing a campaign to encourage retailers to close doors in winter and turn lights off during the night. Many are already now doing this. Exploring the possibility of running a reusable cup scheme for the District. This could be self-sustaining but requires someone to manage the scheme and so far no-one has volunteered to take the project on.</p>

Governance Leadership	1.130	Yes		Influence 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.	Amanda Foley - Strategy, Policy and Transformation	Maria Cutler	Candice Luper	Oct-21	Continuing	G	29/08/2023	CW/CL - Will respond to Government consultations when appropriate and encourage other organisations to do so. The Council has responded to the Statutory Consultation on Luton Airport Expansion (2022); HCC South Central Growth and Transport Plan Consultation (2022), HCC Rail Strategy(2022) and Planning for the Future Consultation (2020); Consultation on proposals to ban commonly littered single-use plastic items in England (2021); LGA Climate Change Survey (2021), Governments Net Zero Strategy (2022 via HCCSP), NPPF (2023) and various others relating to transport, waste and green space. (2023) National Air Quality Strategy responded to as part of regional air quality group. Council recently (July 2023) responded to rail industry's ticket office closures.
Energy use	2.010			Analyse and report on our annual corporate greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards our targets via the website and the Council's Performance Report. As part of this we will also undertake an annual review of the community-wide CO2 emissions published by the <u>Department of Business and Industrial Energy</u> . As part of this we will explore the options and costs to obtain a more accurate measurement of corporate and community-wide emissions.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Candice Luper		May-22	Oct-23	G	29/08/2023	CL - 2021/22 GHG analysis is complete and gathering of data for 2022/23 is underway with a goal to complete the exercise by October. Future greenhouse gas emissions data will be once again reported within the Councils Performance Reporting Framework. We have signed up to UK100 and Race to Zero.
Energy use	2.020	Yes		Explore approaches to allocate greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to individual departments and services.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper		Jun-22	Oct-23	A	29/08/2023	CL - There are inherent difficulties with allocating emissions to Departments as some Departments hold the majority of the emissions (e.g. Leisure and Building Management) whilst others (e.g. HR) hold few. Over the next few months we will explore with AECOM whether this is an approach they advise us to take.
Energy use	2.030	Yes	YES	Develop a structured plan of action to undertake energy and renewable technology audits (CORPORATE, OPERATIONAL, MUSEUMS, LEISURE) to identify the most cost-effective means to decarbonise our property portfolio. It should also include works to ensure that all Council buildings have an Energy Performance Certificate of B or above by 2030. Low carbon heat sources such as heat pumps or heat networks <u>will need to replace gas fired boilers</u> . The study should explore means to obtain cost neutral improvements through Energy Services Company schemes such as Re:FIT or interest-free programmes such as Salix. Implementation is expected to begin by Nov 2020. (Corporate Plan) Ensure that the Council's office buildings and Council-sponsored developments are more energy efficient, including renewable energy schemes & Develop a plan for greater use of solar panels on Council-owned property and support businesses looking to develop solar or other renewable assets	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Tom Hardy	Candice Luper Stuart Foster Nick Sherriff Matthew Pearce	Nov-20	Ongoing	G	21/05/2023	TH/MP: • Installation of energy efficiency measures in the Civic Offices, Sandridge Gate and Verulamium Museum progressing as per the energy audit action tracker. • EPC and DEC project established, leisure buildings being surveyed in October 2022 ahead of new contract. DEC's complete for St Albans Museum and Gallery and Verulamium Museum and Civic Centre. • Energy efficiency measures written into new leisure management contract to progress decarbonisation of leisure buildings. • Bid submitted to start chamber in September for Photovoltaic (PV) panel (Design Phase) for Sandridge Gate Business Centre and Verulamium Museum, this will take place in 2023. The car parks are to be considered at a later date. • Successful bid to start chamber in September for Renewable Heating (Design Phase) for Sandridge Gate Business Centre and Verulamium Museum, this will take place in 2023 but in the meantime ECO3 audits have been commissioned for both sites to gather the information required for the design phase. • Successful bid submitted to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for funding to undertake a decarbonisation strategy for the Council's corporate and operational buildings. - Recently went out to around 10-12 contractors for an expression of interest for each of the pieces of work however I was very disappointed to only receive back 1 response in total. Therefore I have now started approaching frameworks to establish the most suitable for the work and ensure the procurement processes comply with the Council's procurement rules. • Verulamium Museum lighting upgrade (Phase 2) has been scoped and is moving forward to implementation.
Energy use	2.040	Yes		Undertake a high-level analysis of our emissions, realistic trajectory towards becoming a net zero Council and District and the costs and options for decarbonisation.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper		Jan-21	Oct-23	G	29/08/2023	CL - This will be included in the next iteration for the sustainability and climate crisis action plan.
Energy use	2.050	Yes		Corporate and Commercial Buildings- Ensure that all lights are replaced with LED (preferably sensor operated) as and when they reach the end of their life. Payback periods depend on the type of lighting replaced and the operating hours but tend to lie between 2-6 years and can often be funded by Salix.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Tom Hardy	Helen Ramsay	Nov-20	Mar-23	G	21/05/2023	The target date set for completing this work is 31 March 2023. This is a rolling programme of replacement, when old bulbs/fittings reach end of life, replacement with LED takes place. There have been recent instances of this taking place and we are currently undertaking a large-scale upgrade at Verulamium Museum.

Energy use	2.060	Yes		Upgrade our energy supply contract to ensure that any electricity purchased by the Council is sourced from renewable energy. Any energy purchased which is not supplied from renewable energy (e.g. gas) will be offset through an appropriately certified offsetting scheme by 2023.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	John Patrick	Candice Luper	Oct-20	Oct-23	R	23/08/2023	CL/JP/LP - Electricity and Gas supply to the majority of Council buildings was sourced from renewable energy in 2021/22. There have been issues with the supplier not meeting our contractual requirement to provide EDIs which has led to unexpected costs to the Council as we have to pay someone to enter the bills. The contract was based on fixed term prices which protected the Council from the significant increase in costs over the past 18 months. However, the supplier refused to accept new sites and therefore individual arrangements were entered into for these sites until the contract was relet in 2022. The gas supply contract was let in 2022 but the market has changed significantly since 2021/22. An additional premium is payable to the supplier if the Council wants to guarantee the supply is from renewable sources. Our energy advisors also confirmed that this premium is not ringfenced by the energy company for renewable projects. The estimated cost of the premium to the Council was £40k per annum and due to the additional costs and advice that the premium is not directed to renewable projects, the REGO (renewable energy guarantees of origin) were not purchased. Over the past few months officers have worked to ensure that all sites for gas have been moved to the new supplier. The fixed term electricity contract terminates 1/10/23 and a procurement process is underway to move to different supplier using the CCS Framework. We will investigate the option of purchasing REGOs but they arent guaranteed to be available and are likely to be at an additional premium.
Energy use	2.080	Yes		Work with our energy suppliers to encourage them to more rapidly install Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology to the remainder of Council-owned Housing properties, to allow for more accurate monitoring of energy consumption	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Simon Smith		Jan-21	Mar-24	A	23/08/2023	SS - Housing Asset Team will work with energy suppliers to communal areas to install this technology
Energy use	2.090	Yes	YES	Develop a Council-wide construction standard for Council new builds and refurbishments to ensure that high standards of energy efficiency and sustainability are incorporated to building design and construction to achieve appropriate zero carbon buildings standard. Government have provided Planning Authorities with the green light to go above and beyond Building Regulations. This policy should also address material sourcing requirements to reduce carbon impacts of product transport. Government aspirations include the Future Homes Standard, the commitment to phase out fossil fuel heating installations off the gas grid, and aspirations and initiatives around home retrofits (EPC band C by 2035) and low-carbon heating. The Future Homes Standard for example, will ensure new build homes have low-carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency by 2025. The World Green Building Council also provide frameworks as does Passivhaus. Ultra-high energy efficiency standards, installed alongside an air source heat pump, represent a 1-4% uplift on build costs relative to a home built to current regulations. Passivhaus is estimated to lift costs for the developer by 7% but could come down to 3% in future. Taking into account whole life costs, high efficiency buildings are cheaper in the long-run. It costs a 1/3 of the price to incorporate efficiency measures such as low carbon heat to a new build, than to retrofit them to existing buildings.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Robbie Hazlehurst	Simon Smith Tom Hardy Candice Luper	Apr-20	Mar-23	G	23/08/2023	RH - The Capital Projects team are working with their clients, whether it be Housing, Estate Services or Green Spaces, to establish a specification for new build and refurbishment developments that will maximise sustainability features. All Capital Projects meet the RIBA 2023 standard for sustainable construction. SS - Housing are included on the new build schemes for HRA stock and specifications for the developments are designed to maximise carbon reduction and achieve a high level of energy efficiency based on the feasibility of these measures available at the time of planning. All HRA refurbishment/Capital replacement works are to be incorporated into the HRA Energy Strategy. CL - Discussions underway with University around whether they can help us to develop a construction standard/policy and also need to investigate whether the Future Homes Standard will meet the needs for efficient buildings without us writing our own policy.
Energy use	2.110			Formally communicate with HCC to investigate options for divesting from fossil fuel pension scheme.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Suzanne Jones		Oct-21	Dec-24	A	23/12/2022	CL - Monitoring investment in fossil fuels. Herts Pension Fund have reduced investments significantly over the last 2 years however is still in the region of £5M. Received an update from HPF outlining their plans to decarbonise investments by 2050. We are exploring if there is anything we can do to encourage a more rapid decarbonisation. SCJ - this remains with the pension fund which is outside of our direct control.

Energy use	2.130	Yes	YES	Undertake an ongoing programme to improve energy efficiency of Council-owned housing incorporating the advice in the energy audits. Currently this includes work to install A-rated boilers, insulate lofts and cavity walls, install double glazing and energy efficient lighting to interior and exteriors. The government has set a target of all homes being improved to Energy Performance Certificate C by 2035. Our aim is that all Council Housing meet EPC B by 2030. This will require the conversion of gas boilers to low carbon heat sources, renewable technology, and improvements to insulation. We will explore the potential for whole house refurbishments such as the Dutch 'Energiesprong' (energy leap). This achieves an 86% reduction in emissions and currently costs around £70k per average home. Costs are forecast to come down to £35k per property in the near future. Annual savings can be obtained from reduced maintenance and income generated from energy savings made by the residents, and potentially the Renewable Heat Incentive. Upgrading a home to EPC C costs on average £4,385 per home and reduces emissions by around 30%. (Corporate Plan) Develop a plan for improved home insulation for both Council-owned and other properties	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Simon Smith		Nov-20	Sep-23	G	26/07/2023	SS: - The Council has been awarded funding on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1 of £1.5m to improve the EPC performance of 136 properties. The works began in September 2022 and be complete by 31st August 2023. - The Council was 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 rating of C to these properties. The lessons learnt from these pilots will inform the Energy Strategy developed by the Housing Service to achieve the Council's target of 2030/31. This programme was completed in 30/06/2022. - The Council have been successful in a bid for funding under the SHDF Wave 2.1 scheme for works on 914 properties, the programme delivery dates are from April 2023 until July 2025. The Council will receive £8.78m from Government funding and contribute £9.7m from the HRA for a total works package of £18.78m
Energy use	2.140	Yes	YES	Investigate the possibility of using land or developments for a large-scale energy generation to enable us to produce our own energy and decarbonise our operations, and as a means of income generation and energy resilience.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Chris Briggs		Nov-20	Mar-22	G	15/08/2023	CB - As set out in the Site Allocation in the new Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan sets out for site H3 - East Hemel Hempstead (Central) the requirement: 17. Use of the exceptional environmental opportunities provided by this scale of employment development for large scale solar power generation; including on all rooftops and as appropriate on car parking, lorry parking etc. This can be seen in the Site Allocations document as at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/new-local-plan
Energy use	2.150	Yes	YES	Develop Planning Policy requiring high standards of sustainable construction, resource efficiency, on-site renewable or low carbon energy generation.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs		Jan-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee 10.6.23 for Local Plan Reg 18 consultation 12 July - 25 September 2023.
Energy use	2.160	Yes		Ensure that the Planning Department are equipped with expertise in sustainable construction methods and low carbon technology to be able to understand the best solutions available and demand appropriate improvements.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Sarah Ashton	Candice Luper	Jan-21	Jun-25	A	10/05/2023	CL - Have identified training options for Planners with Apse, TCPA and others. Extended deadline as Planning and Building Control would prefer training after Local Plan has been finalised. HCCSP are likely to deliver training for Planners via TCPA
Energy use	2.170	Yes	YES	Explore financial and other ways to secure carbon offsetting measures in major developments. This can incentivise the construction of energy efficient buildings and finance the transition to a low carbon district. Similar measures have been introduced in London and Milton Keynes.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs		Jan-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee 10.6.23 for Local Plan Reg 18 consultation 12 July - 25 September 2023.
Energy use	2.180	Yes		In the next review of the new Local Plan, seek to allocate suitable areas of land within the District following paragraph 151 of the NPPF for renewable and low carbon energy and heat. Increasing renewable energy capacity requires finding suitable sites. 1MW wind requires 25-54 acres of land, 1MW solar requires 4 acres (though wind has 3 times more capacity to generate energy per MW than solar). The average town in UK has 32MW of renewable energy whereas in St Albans we have just 4.7MW. Enfield has installed several solar farms and now generates 58.4MW.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs		Feb-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee 10.6.23 for Local Plan Reg 18 consultation 12 July - 25 September 2023. Includes allocation of land for large scale PV at East Hemel Central Broad Location.

Energy use	2.200			Undertake further studies to explore possible locations for district-heating schemes.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs	Robbie Hazelhurst		Jul-23	A	15/08/2023	CB - 'Call for sites' consultation concluded. Circa 200 sites submitted in total for all uses - will take some time to work through. No current known sites put forward for District Heating schemes.
Energy use	2.210	Yes		Deliver a scheme to support vulnerable and low-income households by making use of Energy Company Obligation funding to improve the energy efficiency and warmth of their homes and reduce excess winter deaths. As part of this we will ensure that we make best possible use of the 'Flexibility Eligibility' so that local householder who need it, are able to access support.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	John Frost	Sep-20	Ongoing	G	15/08/2023	CL: - St Albans Warmer Homes scheme was set up to provide residents with a clear way to access Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. YES Energy managed the scheme and installed 17 boilers, 9 Cavity, Room in roof or Loft insulation, 1 new heating and 1 remedial heating during the programme. Scheme was widely promoted with press releases, social media, Council newsletters and direct mailings to low EPC households. - Working in partnership with Older People's Trust who agreed to provide top-up funding to those over 60 in need of boiler replacements and repair who were not able to obtain 100% funding from ECO via St Albans Warmer Homes - We permitted the installers on the National Energy Foundation (NEF) installer network to use the Councils ECO Flex criteria. This made it easier for more contractors to help local households obtain ECO funding. (Previously only Yes Energy had access through the St Albans Warmer Homes scheme). Since NEF came on board their installers have provided 9 boiler replacements, 48 cavity wall insulation, 9 loft insulation and 19 first time heating systems. - Warmworks scheme was launched Aug/Sept 2022, allocating £1,362,000 Green Homes Grant funding to deliver wall, loft and hot water tank insulation, Air Source, ground source or hybrid heat pumps, Biomass boilers, Double / triple glazing to replace single glazing, energy efficient doors, thermostats and heating controls, to low-income households. This has been promoted on social media and is on our website but wider launch will take place once all elements have been finalised. - ECO closed in spring 2022 and ECO4 opened some time later. We have published our ECO4 Flex SOI which allows us to take part in the scheme and for residents to continue applying for certain measures. Any contractor registered as an NEF Installer can access our ECO Flex SOI and thus identify eligible households in our area. - Work is underway with EON who will target a specific area of the District for whole-house improvements under an ECO4 funded scheme to mostly private, and some social, housing. - St Albans Home Energy Support Service is now live. This replaces St Albans Warmer Homes, and provides a central port of call for residents to obtain information on how to reduce their energy bills, how to improve home energy efficiency and guide residents to funding if they are eligible. The service is being provided for free thanks to funding from the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme, however the Council have paid additional fee to ensure that 75 middle and high income households are also able to access advice on home energy efficiency. As of 15th August, 54 able-to-pay households have taken up advice through this service as well as 176 low income households. JF: HUG 2 Grant of £576,000 allocated to St Albans District following successful bid. Will target off-gas properties for energy efficiency measures. Will be formally launched once managing agents have been appointed.
Energy use	2.220	Yes		Collaborate with the Parish Councils and local groups to actively promote advice and information on reducing energy consumption, managing their energy bills, renewable technology and tackling fuel poverty. We will promote national grants, subsidies and initiatives as they become available.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Liz Marcy	Candice Luper	Apr-21	ONGOING	G	29/08/2023	CL - - See previous cells which outline our comms and engagement activities. - All Parishes have been offered one-to-one support at the Parish Roundtable and also at APC meeting in 2021. One on one meetings commenced with 3 Parishes. SADC Climate Change training will be used at one Parish. Also provided links to the online Youtube training in July 2022. - Solar Together scheme launched in September, a Herts-wide solar panel (and battery and/or EV charger) bulk purchase scheme via iChoosr. Over 3300 households registered for the scheme in St Albans District (thi is sthe most in Hertfordshire). 239 households have committed to progress with installations. The initiative was promoted by letter, social media and radio. We are now awaiting details for the number of people who will progress with assessments. - Solar Together 2 has been launched as off 29th August 2023 - Older Persons Events include information on energy efficiency. - Information on local scheme,s energy efficiency advice etc, sent to local voluntery groups and parish Councils. Gradually collating a mailing list of local contacts. - Risk of increasing poverty in the District as a result of rising fuel prices has been added to the Council's Risk Register. Mitigating measures are being developed and promoted. These include warm spaces and the delivery of energy efficiency talks and workshops. - HEAT App was launched to show users how they can simply save energy at home.
Energy use	2.230	Yes		Improve promotion of the <u>Home Repairs Assistance Grant</u> , providing support for improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households, by improving visibility on the website and through a specific leaflet.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	John Frost		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	28/07/2023	JF: No new claims

Energy use	2.240	Yes		In response to complaints from tenants in the private rented sector, we will enforce the requirements of the Housing Health and Safety Rating Scheme (HHSRS) and the minimum energy efficiency standards to reduce the hazard of excess cold. Where homes aren't adequately heated, landlords will be requested to carry out energy efficiency improvements.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	John Frost		Mar-20	ONGOING	G	28/07/2023	JF: 1 property identified with potential excess cold hazard. Statutory Abatement Notice Service and alternative heating provided.
Energy use	2.250	Yes		Establish how the Council might more proactively monitor and enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards given the existing resources to do so. Minimum energy efficiency standards have been set by the Government for homes that are privately rented, with a minimum 'Energy Performance Certificate' of E required. Councils are responsible for ensuring that these standards are met, but research suggest that many councils aren't effectively enforcing them at the moment, thus missing a key opportunity for cutting carbon and improving housing quality. Cost £45k pa to cover a full-time officer. Some of this can be recouped through fees.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	John Frost		Oct-20	ONGOING	A	28/07/2023	JF: Enforcement strategy drafted and currently awaiting review by legal team and then subsequent approval. EPC checks are being conducted on all properties in the private rental sector where tenants approach Private Sector Housing team about their properties to ensure EPC standards are met.
Energy use	2.260	Yes		Attend Landlord Forums and work with lettings agents and private landlords on an occasional basis to disseminate information and to raise awareness of Landlords' duties to meet minimum standards and to provide advice on the assistance available.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	John Frost		Mar-20	ONGOING	A	28/07/2023	JF - Landlords Forum held on 23/5/23, next forum scheduled for 23/11/23
Energy use	2.300	Yes		Develop a structured plan of action to undertake energy and renewable technology audits of the main Council buildings (HOUSING) to identify the most cost-effective means to decarbonise our property portfolio. It should also include works to ensure the main Council buildings have an Energy Performance Certificate of B or above by 2030. Low carbon heat sources such as heat pumps or heat networks <u>will need to replace gas fired boilers</u> . The study should explore means to obtain cost neutral improvements through Energy Services Company schemes such as Re:FIT or interest-free programmes such as Salix. Implementation is expected to begin by Nov 2020. (Corporate Plan) Ensure that the Councils office buildings and Council-sponsored developments are more energy efficient, including renewable energy schemes & Develop a plan for greater use of solar panels on Council-owned property and support businesses looking to develop solar or other renewable assets.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Simon Smith	Jason Grace	Apr-21	Sep-25	G	26/07/2023	SS - - Housing Service Energy Strategy approved at Housing and Inclusion Committee meeting on 26/01/22. The strategy aims to achieve a carbon neutral position for Housing Assets by 2030/31. - The Council has been successful in obtaining Government Funding under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1 to carry out energy efficiency works to 136 Housing Revenue Account dwellings to achieve an EPC rating of at least Band C by 31/08/2023. - The Council has successfully bid for funding under the SHDF Wave 2.1 programme for works on 914 HRA properties, the works are due to commence in August 2023 and be completed 2025. - The Housing Department have completed a partially Government Funded Pilot programme to work on 45 HRA properties. The properties all have an EPC rating of C on properties that had an EPC rating of D or below. The pilot programme will provided the basis of an energy strategy that will achieve a carbon Neutral position on HRA stock by 2030/31 and ensure all properties are at least at EPC B . The pilot programme began in March 2021 and was completed by the end of June 2022. - The Housing Asset Team are working with the partnering contractor on the SHDF projects to install Vericon technology in up to half the properties on the projects. This technology can remotley monitor temperatures, humidity and use of heating. This will allow the Council to monitor the results of insulation and renewable heating measures and help to identify causes of damp and mould.
Transport & AQ	3.010	Yes	YES	Provide 2-4 electric pool cars for staff to use for business purposes. These cars will be available for public use outside of working hours.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Steve Dibben Jane Pearce	Aug-20	Dec-23	G	15/08/2023	CL/SD - - Car Club launched to public on 26/01/22. Electric vehicles replaced hybrid vehicles in July 22. - Promoted in Community News, Sustainability News and leaflets have gone out with Council Tax mailing. - Staff processes are now in place and staff launch took place 26/05/22. So far only one staff journey despite ongoing communications. - Between March 2022-June 2023 the cars travelled 14,512. Utilisation is around 5-10% per month so there is scope for much higher usage. - Council and Enterprise are focusing on doing more local promotion including exploring car parks, bus stop posters, banners sites and leisure centres. - Planning to extend contract and looking at how we can promote it again - We know that the more cars availables, the more people will view the cars as a reliable alternative. For now we need to monitor usage and keep promoting the scheme. Aim is to introduce more vehicles to town centres, flat developments and areas of limited parking. - Leaflets will be provided to all occupants of the adjacent ccos south development.

Transport & AQ	3.020	Yes	YES	All Council Housing fleet will be replaced with ultra-low emission vehicles at end of life or by 2028 starting with markets vehicles. This will include service vehicles such as those required for parking enforcement and the recycling collection vehicles.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Simon Smith	Andrew Ilott	Mar-26	Mar-27	G	23/08/2023	Housing only have 1 vehicle which is the caretaker van. This will be replaced by 2028. Our contractors Morgan Sindall have recently purchased their first electric vehicle and have a second on order.
Transport & AQ	3.021	Yes	YES	All Council fleet will be replaced with ultra-low emission vehicles at end of life or by 2028 starting with markets vehicles. This will include service vehicles such as those required for parking enforcement and the recycling collection vehicles. (Waste, Parking, Markets, Grounds Maintenance)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Stuart Fitzsimmons	Candice Luper	Oct-21	Mar-24	G	28/07/2023	SF: - Fleet upgrade or fleet replacement discussions continue with Veolia and JOC. - An upgraded fleet of Grounds Maintenance vehicles has been completed. 38 new vehicles and plant to GM contract of which 4 are EV and 1 is hybrid and these are now in operation. This represents a reasonable interim step. The Council has contributed to the purchase of an electric JCB for the Cemetery Service which is now being fully utilised. - Veolia are currently trialling electric vehicles and keeping abreast of developments in the technology. Electric street cleaning vehicles are currently being trialled. - We have purchased new street cleansing vehicles in 2022 and have ordered new Waste & Recycling vehicles to be delivered in July 2024. - We are closely watching best practice and have attended local authority discussions on the use of different oils such as (hydrotreated vegetable oil) as an interim step towards net zero. - Discussions also underway about the size of waste vehicles being used in the Conservation Area and whether we can choose smaller vehicles in the next contract to minimise damage to the public realm. CL: HCC are procuring a research study to identify the best alternative fuels to use in Council fleet in the transition away from fossil fuels. This will help to inform our strategy.
Transport & AQ	3.022	Yes	YES	Museums Van will be replaced with ultra-low emission vehicles at end of life or by 2028	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Farhana Begum		Mar-23	Mar-24	G	19/05/2023	Service Manager shall start the planning for the replacement of the Museum Service van for an electric version by Mar 2024. 1 vehicle is still in working order and has low mileage. It will be replaced in the next 4-5 years. No further update required until nearer the time.
Transport & AQ	3.030	Yes		Update the Council's Green Travel policy/guidance such that flights will only be authorised in exceptional cases where there is no reasonable alternative and that long-distance journeys must be made using lower carbon options such as rail or else journeys will not be reimbursed.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Jane Pearce	Lakshmi Raghavachari	Jan-21	Dec-23	G	14/08/2023	JP - Draft being developed, delayed by changes to working practices during pandemic and recovery period. Reviewing green travel policy/guidance from other authorities to identify best practice. Staff do not use flights or travel long distances for work so not a significant issue for us.
Transport & AQ	3.040	Yes		Explore options to reward and incentivise staff to choose lower emission travel. As part of this we will look to incentivise cycling by providing a mileage reimbursement for business trips travelled by bike. We will also explore how making changes to the Essential Car Allowance can support this aim.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Jane Pearce	Lakshmi Raghavachari	Jan-21	Dec-23	G	14/08/2023	JP- Green Travel guidance and incentives being reviewed as part of 'modernising our employment offer' alongside new operating model and changed working practices post-pandemic. Work to develop new green travel policy/guidance underway (as above). Cycle to work incentives launched with new benefits platform. Electric vehicle pool cars available to staff for business use. Electric vehicle purchase staff purchase schemes being reviewed. Cycle mileage not introduced yet. Will be considered as part of green travel policy. Formal review is being initiated into the essential car user allowance this summer/autumn ready to request any formal changes (if required) in time for Pay Policy which gets agreed around Xmas time. No change made to policy at the current time
Transport & AQ	3.080	Yes		Work with the County Council to develop planning guidance policies around the installation of electric vehicle charging points in new developments.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs		Jan-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee 10.6.23 for Local Plan Reg 18 consultation 12 July - 25 September 2023.
Transport & AQ	3.090	Yes		Identify locations to install secure cycle storage in the district to maximise the use of bicycles and encourage cycling. This includes the provision of on-street cycle cages for streets of terraced houses.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Steve Dibben	Candice Luper	Feb-21	Sep-23	A	23/08/2023	SD/CL - Form added to website to allow residents to express interest in an on-street cycle cage. 50 requests obtained so far. Expressions of interest from the public were then sorted into catchment areas to assess demand. We have searched council owned land within the high demand areas as well as possible off-street locations. These were taken back to consultees for feedback. The responses are currently being assessed. We received 11 favourable responses to one location however some are unwilling to pay for the service citing the fact that car drivers do not have to pay for parking. Have discussed the option to have a fully managed service exploring options. The demand was relatively low and so no scheme is currently being considered.

Transport & AQ	3.120	Yes		Develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the District to identify cycling and walking improvements required to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle, including key links such as the routes from the City Centre to the rail stations.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs	Wendy Frost	Jan-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Three stakeholder and Councillor engagement events took place spring-summer 2022. HCC are the lead authority and the two Councils and the consultants are taking on board all the comments made. A public consultation took place 7 Feb - 20 March 2023. Proposed final LCWIP due to be agreed at PP&C 12 September 2023 - to go to HCC Panel for their final adoption.
Transport & AQ	3.130			Develop a comprehensive plan with the County Council for measures to reduce congestion and encourage walking and cycling , including the pedestrianisation of Market Place and a significant increase in 20mph zones. As part of our work to improve and extend cycle routes we will develop additional routes leading from the Green Ring to outlying villages. We will also explore opportunities to widen high pedestrian use sections of the cycleway/footpath through Verulamium Park to improve access and enjoyment to all users. (Also in Corporate Plan)	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Steve Dibben		Oct-20	TBC	A	22/05/2023	SD - HCC as the Highway Authority introduces 20mph zones on a rolling basis as funding is identified typically through County Councillors Highways Locality Budget. HCC is currently at design stage for a number of schemes which could introduce 20mph zones, as well as creating more friendly environments for pedestrians and cyclists. HCC's Fleetville Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme will not go ahead due to a lack of resident support. Development of the Council's LCWIP is being led by Wendy Frost in the Planning Team. Consideration to increasing spokes to the Green Ring will be given following completion of the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan.
Transport & AQ	3.140	Yes	YES	Evaluate the most cost-effective and practical options to increase EV charging infrastructure across the District utilising OLEV funding. This will increase our understanding of future needs, management options, costings, and inform our policies on residential charging and appropriate requirements for new developments. Estimates suggest that we will need around 62 electric vehicle chargers in place before 2030 at a cost of £100k. Installation of EV charging to key Council sites is expected to commence before the end of 2020. (Corporate Plan) Develop plans for a significant increase in off-street and on-street electric charging points	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Tom Hardy	Steve Dibben Candice Luper	Oct-20	Mar-23	G	22/05/2023	SD - Phase 2 installation was completed in the middle of May 23. The following sites are now operational: Hart Road – 4 EV Charging Spaces (2 Fast Charging Units) Cotlandswick Leisure Centre - 2 EV Charging Spaces (1 Fast Charging Units) Keyfield Terrace - 4 EV Charging Spaces (2 Fast Charging Units) London Road - 4 EV Charging Spaces (2 Fast Charging Units) Bowers Way – 2 EV Charging Spaces (1 Fast Charging Units) Charter Close – 2 EV Charging Spaces (1 Fast Charging Units) SADC has also installed or is planning to install EV charge points to the new developments at developments at Jenny Lane, Noke Shot, Cottonmill Community & Cycle Centre, and CCOS South.
Transport & AQ	3.150	Yes	YES	Develop a strategy, and associated incentives, to reduce emissions from the pool of local authority-authorised taxis. This will include programmes to encourage electric vehicles through education, marketing, loans, vehicle emissions restrictions, vehicle inspections, reduced licensing costs and determine end date for fossil fuelled licensed vehicles. We will review the proportion of large taxis we demand and agree a timetable for retiring existing polluting vehicles. (Corporate Plan) Develop plans for the re-introduction of electric taxis	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Robin Ray	Desmond Crehan Daniel Pattenden	Oct-20	Oct-23	A	25/10/2022	RR - Briefing paper being prepared to set out potential measures to be introduced. New taxi policy in place, including phasing out of petrol/diesel vehicles, emissions standard and reduction in fees for low emission vehicles. As previously stated larger and often more polluting vehicles can provide wheelchair accessible vehicles, and we have no direct control so unable to 'introduce electric taxis'. - New taxi policy in place, including phasing out of petrol/diesel vehicles, emissions standard and reduction in fees for low emission vehicles. - Currently exploring the introduction of an electric-only taxi rank in town centre (with charge points). - CL - HCCSP are undertaking an exercise to create a unified Herts-wide taxi decarbonisation policy for Herts.
Transport & AQ	3.170	Yes	YES	Introduce an all-electric (or hybrid) pool car club for businesses and residents of the District. This provides vehicles for members to use on demand thereby reducing the need for car ownership.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Steve Dibben	Aug-20	Dec-23	G	15/08/2023	CL/SD - - Car Club launched to public on 26/01/22. Electric vehicles replaced hybrid vehicles in July 22. - Promoted in Community News, Sustainability News and leaflets have gone out with Council Tax mailing. - Staff processes are now in place and staff launch took place 26/05/22. So far only one staff journey despite ongoing communications. - Between March 2022-June 2023 the cars travelled 14,512. Utilisation is around 5-10% per month so there is scope for much higher usage. - Council and Enterprise are focusing on doing more local promotion including exploring car parks, bus stop posters, banners sites and leisure centres. - Planning to extend contract and looking at how we can promote it again - We know that the more cars available, the more people will view the cars as a reliable alternative. For now we need to monitor usage and keep promoting the scheme. Aim is to introduce more vehicles to town centres, flat developments and areas of limited parking. - Leaflets will be provided to all occupants of the adjacent ccos south development.

Transport & AQ	3.190	Yes		Continue to develop and implement the measures of our Air Quality Management Plan to reduce emissions from road transport and improve air quality. As part of this we will look to introduce Air Quality Monitoring points across the District for particulate air pollution.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Tara Murphy		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	23/08/2023	<p>TM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Air Quality monitoring results showed pollutant concentrations of nitrogen dioxide to be under Air Quality Strategy objective levels by a significant margin at 2 of our 3 AQMA's. As a result of sustained reductions in pollutant levels, we have revoked these 2 AQMA's. DEFRA appraised and accepted our ASR22. We then revoked AQMA 2 & AQMA 7 and will report on these revocations in ASR23 (June 23) - Traffic management schemes involving various road closures, are currently being trialled around our remaining AQMA 1 (Peahen Junction) in the town centre. <p>CL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HCC - undertaking a comprehensive Air Quality monitoring and engagement campaign. Installing air purifiers into schools, real time monitoring on walkers in various routes, monitoring air quality in homes and monitoring of air quality where there are open fires and wood burning stoves.
Transport & AQ	3.200			Continue to resist the Luton Airport expansion where we are able to. (Council Plan states) Lead initiatives to reduce the impact of aircraft pollution and noise arising from proposals to expand Luton Airport	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Sarah Ashton		Oct-20	Apr-24	G	15/03/2023	NSIP application for expansion of Luton Airport submitted to Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 28 Feb 2023. DM have responded on adequacy of consultation on 14 March 2023 in line with PINS deadline. Further substantive response on the proposal will following if PINS accept the application. This will require reponse in April 2024 if accepted.
Transport & AQ	3.210	Yes		Widely promote the Idling Action St Albans Campaign to raise awareness of the impact of idling vehicles on health and air quality. We will also introduce anti-idling zones and ensure idling is effectively enforced. Children and parents will be the core focus for any campaigns. (Corporate Plan states) Reduce pollution from car emissions around schools by implementing car exclusion and no car idling zones. Work to promote anti-idling zones with a programme of effective enforcement	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Robin Ray	Jun-21	ONGOING	G	15/08/2023	<p>CL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idling Action banners produced for use at schools and car parks. Signage has been installed to Drovers Way/Russel Ave car park. Banners have been provided to 4 schools to hang on their gates in conjunction with newsletter articles. Had planned to do parent engagement but no Idling Action St Albans volunteers have been available to help. - HCC has provided training for more Idling Volunteers for Clean Air Day and delivered 150 interactions across Herts. We have widely invited people to take part via social media and emails to our network but no-one took up the offer in St Albans. Some active Councillors also did some engagement at a local school using our materials. - HCC are delivering an extensive clean air campaign which will include anti-idling https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/clean-air/clean-air.aspx - Occasionally residents contact the Council and we send them materials to give to drivers. - The ice cream van firm using Verulamium Park under contract to the Council, have invested in a cutting-edge technology battery-only van which will power the production of ice-creams and therefore eliminate the need to idle the engine during use, in addition to their grid-fed van. Since the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the laying of electricity cables to create additional power points is cost prohibitive. - RR - County have indicated that they intend to issue a statement/guidance to schools relating to school streets schemes, no intent to delegate powers to district on this matter. Parking considering other legal options to tackle idling. - No further direct engagement with the public has taken place in 2023 due to limited staff capacity.
Transport & AQ	3.240	Yes		Facilitate a regular transport stakeholder meeting to bring together Herts County Council, local transport providers and Intalink to encourage improvements to local public transport provision, cycle and walking routes and roads. The meeting will provide a forum to share best practice, address and overcome issues, apply for funding and implement improvement projects, for example to convert local buses to electric, hydrogen or biogas.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Steve Dibben		Feb-21	Apr-22	G	22/05/2023	<p>SD: As part of the National Bus Strategy Local Authorities, including HCC developed Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HCC facilitates a quarterly Enhanced Bus Partnership meeting. <p>CL - In terms of Electric buses HCC are looking at putting a bid in for Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) this is funding to work with bus operators not areas on purchasing electric buses and charging points in depots. Currently we've had an expression of interest from UNO and Arriva but further discussions need to be had as the DfT will only fund 75% of the total amount needed so there is a shortfall for operators and potentially HCC. Nothing has been agreed yet on how that bid will look like but we'll be putting something together. If it is with UNO then that will have an effect on St Albans as UNO services go there.</p>
Transport & AQ	3.260	Yes		Continue to meet regularly with St Albans Cycle Forum, St Albans Bus Users Forum, and Herts County Council Integrated Transport Team to discuss issues and future projects, and to give passengers a means to voice concerns and experiences to those that plan and operate their services.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Steve Dibben		Oct-20	ONGOING	R	22/05/2023	SD - St Albans Bus Users Forum meetings have been suspended indefinitely since lockdown. Attendees from meetings prior to Covid don't appear to be active anymore.

Waste	4.010			Deliver ongoing improvements to the Council recycling scheme with regular staff awareness-raising around office recycling.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Tom Hardy	Oct-20	ONGOING	G	15/08/2023	CL - Improved recycling facilities at Verulamium Museum with new bins and signage. New crisp packet and plastic film bins are being used well at the Council offices. Reminder sent to all staff on what can be recycled where. Stickers are provided in all fridges to enable staff to quickly offer up any excess food/milk to others to share. These are being used well and reducing the amount of milk waste. No further improvements planned for now.
Waste	4.020			Increase recycling of waste from the market to 60%. We will look at whether additional recycling facilities can be provided to market stall holders and methods of encouraging or enforcing their use. As part of this project we will be working with stall holders to reduce plastic bag use.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Stuart Fitzsimmons	James Ó Nuanáin/Jane Parker		May-23	A	28/07/2023	JP - will work with our waste provider from June 2024 on how to increase the recycling from the Market. This is not currently included in the current waste contract. JON—two contractors approached to visit the market on forthcoming Saturday and evaluate if collection of wood and plastic pallets viable
Waste	4.030			Develop a Waste and Sustainability Policy for Council events particularly focusing on waste reduction and elimination of single-use plastics.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Katherine Chafer	Jan-20	Mar-23	G	15/08/2023	CL - Sustainable Events Policy has been drafted and is now with the events team. 6000 left over plastic cups have been distributed to community groups and local pubs for ongoing use. KC - Working with CL to identify potential for sustainable cup usage at events in 2023 and onwards
Waste	4.060			Explore options to improve recycling rates further to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030. This will include evaluation of options to introduce TetraPak and plastic films to the kerbside recycling collection, reducing refuse collections and increasing the materials captured for recycling from bulky waste collections.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	A	24.8.2023	JP - Continue to have regular conversations with Veolia . currently looking at coffee pod recycling. The possible inclusion of tetra pac to the kerbside collections saw Veolia run a trial on the recovery of tetra pak it was felt that at this time, this would have a cost to the processing charges due to the manual labour to sort. Raised the handling of tetrapac with the HWP consortium members who send their waste to Pearce Recycling. the material is mixed with 'soft mix' and not separated out. White goods collected in bulky collection are sent for recycling and where suitable other materials are reused or recycled. Items from fly tips are being recycled where possible. Soft plastics are being recycled at supermarkets, being asked if we can at kerbside. New information booklet produced and website up to date.
Waste	4.070		Yes	Develop a strategy to increase recycling collection from flats; ensuring that every flat has access to bins and that bin areas are fit for purpose and that managing agents have the right information to be able to run their bin areas effectively. (Action also in Corporate Plan)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	A	24.8.2023	JP - continue working with both Housing and MA's of private sites to ensure that residents are aware of the collection policies. Recycling Guide to be included to new households when they get their first Council tax Bill. When reviewing planning apps, we comment on the size of communal bin areas to ensure that there is room for growth. information boards have been designed and used. Recently worked with a small number of MA's provided reusable sacks for residents, info boards and guidance letters. Sharing knowledge with HWP Wasteaware group. working with Housing to make sure bin areas are fit for purpose and make them a nice place to use. e.g Hill Dyke flats - cleaned all containers and re labelled and engaged with a number of residents. Private block Ridgemont Plaza gave them boards, leaflets and guidance
Waste	4.080			Continue rolling programme to replace on-street waste bins with dual recycling bins for more recycling on the go. Waste collected from the street cleansing operation is to be sorted to ensure as much as possible is recycled.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	25/08/2023	JP - Litter bin strategy approved at PR. Now using the matrix to review existing locations and requests for new. Where possible, bins that have been removed will be relocated where they will be better served. Continue working with contractor to ensure that the right bin is at the right location and rectifying issues as per contract.
Waste	4.090			Raise awareness of the recycling services through the provision of community talks, regular communications, promotional roadshows, WasteAware initiatives and market stalls. We also provide compost giveaways to give something back to residents.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	25/08/2023	JP - Continue to use media outlets to promote service and reminder letters to residents. Promoting WAW events and sharing information via social media. Website has been updated for clarity. New leaflet produced. HWP food waste campaign being launched and will promote with signage on vehicle and market place stalls.
Waste	4.100			Open up local recycling facilities throughout the year to enable residents to have an opportunity to see what happens to their recycling and ask questions.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	25/08/2023	JP - to reduce carbon footprint and be environmentally aware, aiming to place videos of processes on website

Waste	4.110			Promote recycling to schools in partnership with Herts County Council and the waste contractor by attending assemblies and workshops. Attention will be focused on promoting food waste collections.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	25/08/2023	JP - HCC Education Officer will let us know when more visits are in the diary and feed back on these. use this outlet to engage with the schools and raise awareness around littering
Waste	4.120	Yes		Support community litter-picks by providing gloves, litter pickers, bags and collecting any wastes arising for recycling. (Corporate Plan Action) Develop a comprehensive litter strategy.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Jane Parker		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	25/08/2023	JP - We continue to support the litter picking events. Reception at the Civic offices is a pick up point for litter pickers and log the events that are local to central St Albans. We have already supplied a number of other hubs across the district. Many groups kept the equipment from earlier events. Groups can still collect items from the depot when re-arranged. There are established groups that we work with throughout the year providing collections. Now looking to improve literature and publicity around community litter picks.
Waste	4.130	Yes		Work with other councils, farmers and the police to reduce fly-tipping.(Action also in Corporate Plan)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	David Webb		Nov-20	Apr-24	G	20/03/2023	DW - Two enforcement officers now in post one permanent and one casual, recruitment ongoing to appoint 2nd permanent officer. Cross department working group established to develop improvement plan. Working with Rural Police Crime Team and local Farmers. Increased enforcement activity as a result 47FPN's since Jan 23. Additional solar camera also purchased.
Waste	4.143			Plastic Free Action Plan: Refill fountains installed - One moved from District Offices to Ver Park location where it will be used more and remain fountain installed to city centre location.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Helen Ramsay	Candice Luper Tom Hardy	Jan-22	Sep-23	A	23/08/2023	CL - Refill fountain has been installed in Ver park near the running track. Seeking other locations for remaining spare fountain. Changed to amber as still one fountain awaiting installation.We don't know where to put the other one!
Waste	4.144			Plastic Free Action Plan: Trial separation and recycling of plastic food crates from Charter market	Chris Traill – Community & Place	James Ó Nuanáin	Jane Parker	Feb-22	May-23	R	28/07/2023	JON - attempt at recycling plastic crates by Veolia failed. Will seek other routes for them once new staff are in place to cover day to day market operation requirements. Looking at options for a separate contractor for pallets and crates
Waste	4.145			Plastic Free Action Plan: Prohibit the use of single use plastic cutlery from food stalls at Council events	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Katherine Crafer	Candice Luper		Dec-22	G	28/07/2023	The following items may not be used to package and sell items by traders at St Albans Street Festivals: • Plastic cutlery and coffee stirrers • Plastic plates • Plastic drinks bottles (except water bottles) • Plastic bags • Plastic straws • Any polystyrene items Traders have to tick to say they have read and understood the rules before applying
Waste	4.146			Plastic Free Action Plan: Prohibit the use of single use plastic cutlery from food stalls on the market	Chris Traill – Community & Place	James Ó Nuanáin			Dec-22	A	24/03/2023	Not included in rules approved by R&B Committee but sustainability included in Commodity Mix Policy as a priority for new traders.Traders are discouraged from using single use plastics but are not restricted from trading if they do.
Waste	4.148			Plastic Free Action Plan: Trial the use of biodegradable cable ties across the Council	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff	Candice Luper	Jan-22	Sep-23	G	19/05/2023	In respect of Parks and Green Spaces cable ties will be replaced with biodegradable string. We now recommend that biodegradable cable ties are utilised across the Council. This will be incorporated to the next action plan.
Waste	4.151			Plastic Free Action Plan: Work with Councils suppliers to encourage the reduction of plastic packaging and products in the supply chain	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	John Patrick	Candice Luper	Jan-22	Dec-23	A	24/08/2023	On the new supplier form we send out we could incorporate a section on Plastic free Action plan and if there company follows this plan. If not then encourage them to start making steps on this.
Waste	4.152			Plastic Free Action Plan: Prohibit the supply of single use plastic bags or other single use plastic items to the public at the market	Chris Traill – Community & Place	James Ó Nuanáin	Candice Luper	Jan-22	Dec-23	R	24/03/2023	Not included in rules approved by R&B Committee but sustainability included in Commodity Mix Policy as a priority for new traders. Traders are discouraged from using single use plastics but are not restricted from trading if they do.

Waste	4.153			Plastic Free Action Plan: Prohibit the supply of single use plastic bags or other single use plastic items to the public at Council events and market.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Katherine Crafer	Candice Luper James Nuanain	Jan-22	Dec-23	A	16/05/2023	The following items may not be used to package and sell items by traders at St Albans Street Festivals: • Plastic cutlery and coffee stirrers • Plastic plates • Plastic drinks bottles (except water bottles) • Plastic bags • Plastic straws • Any polystyrene items Traders have to tick to say they have read and understood the rules before applying This does not yet apply to markets so remains amber
Waste	4.154			Plastic Free Action Plan: Single use plastic and plastic-lined card drink cups no longer offered for use by the public at any Council managed events	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Katherine Crafer	Candice Luper	Jan-22	Dec-24	A	28/07/2023	Traders are asked to refrain from using single use plastics or plastic-lined drinking cups, but they are not currently restricted from trading if they don't adhere to this. At this stage we do not have a viable alternative to promote to traders. We are continuing to research suitable cost-effective alternatives to trial.
Waste	4.155		Yes	Plastic Free Action Plan: Consider a scheme by which businesses are encouraged and rewarded for reducing single-use plastics.	Amanda Foley - Strategy, Policy and Transformation	Maria Cutler	Candice Luper Jane Parker	Feb-21	Mar-23	A	15/08/2023	CL/MC - Government has now introduced legislation (subject to completion of parliamentary processes) banning the supply of single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, expanded and extruded polystyrene food and drinks containers, including cups, in England from October 2023. CL - Met with the creators of the Shrewsbury Cup to discover how they introduced their reusable plastic cup scheme. The scheme can be self sustainable but requires volunteers willing to manage the scheme for about 2 days per month to make it work. The Council does not have the resource to do this in house.
Waste	4.160			Use the Council's publicity channels to promote the Refill St Albans scheme across the District to reduce plastic bottle waste.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Claire Wainright	Apr-21	Ongoing	G	15/08/2023	CL - Refill promoted on Social Media following introduction of new fountain to Verulamium Park in Autumn. We have identified a suitable location for the 3rd fountain and are awaiting response from the leisure contractor on whether they will be willing to take on maintenance.
Nature & Food	5.010			Consider and incorporate initiatives for improving the wildlife value of all Council owned new buildings or when doing external works to existing buildings.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Robbie Hazlehurst		Sep-21	Ongoing	G	10/05/2023	CL - Briefing note prepared and distributed to Departments with an offer of finances if they can identify opportunities to increase the wildlife value of their buildings. Working in partnership with HMWT to install a large number of swift boxes to District Offices. Bat bricks and bird boxes have been incorporated to the design of a number of new capital projects buildings. Deadline changed to ongoing
Nature & Food	5.020			Incorporate refuge areas for wildlife, green corridors and wildlife friendly and perennial planting wherever possible to new buildings.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Robbie Hazlehurst		TBC	Ongoing	B	23/08/2023	RH - Project Managers are responsible for ensuring this is incorporated in to all existing and future projects where appropriate. The focus is on informal soft, rather than hard landscaping which allows for pollinator plants, wild flowers and meadow areas.
Nature & Food	5.030			Implement the environmental actions of the Green Spaces Management Plan. This includes heathland restoration, woodland management and identifying areas to leave as meadow.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	03/08/2023	NS: - New management plans to continue to look at opportunities to increase biodiversity. - 2020 CMS/SADC Opportunities Audit to increase biodiversity in all open spaces and significant highway verges. Opportunities audit circulated to ward councillors. Actions added to the HMWT wilding map. HCC and SADC / CMS funded 10 site for wild flower seeding into existing grassland. 50,000 sqm have been sown in last 2 years. - CMS leading on verge opportunities for HCC. - Tree scape fund has been applied for by HCC on behalf of SADC for 2021/22 planting season. New woodland planting areas have been located and included for funding that have been submitted to Local Authority Treescape Fund and part of a wider application by HCC. Successful in bid for 2022/23 LATF. Site identified. - Over 6000 trees planted in last 2 years. new sites have been identified out of the opportunities audit for meadow creation, low pollinator seeding and amenity grass cut. - application submitted for new LATF funding this year to cover replanting of 35 Standard Trees and 3 years maintenance - 23/24 - resident tree giveaway 9,500 to be handed out on in December - sites identified for meadow reseeding - if funding becomes available

Nature & Food	5.040	Yes	Develop a scheme for 'rewilding' parts of Council land to increase biodiversity (Also in Corporate Plan)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Jan-21	ONGOING	G	15/08/2023	NS - see above re opportunities audit. - HMWT recruited a wilder stalbans officer to increase community involvement and participation in increasing biodiversity, as well as giving advice to community groups and provide a central point of contact for information and website development. This funding coming to an end. Officers and partner groups discussing most appropriate way to continue initiative. NS/SF have met with HMWT to develop strategy to build on changes and improvement carried out to allow Wilder st Albans to continue and give stakeholder resident information and collate projects and initiatives being carried out by 3rd parties Jersey Farm open space is to be improved for nature with lake, forest and cycle tracks.
Nature & Food	5.050		Develop planning policy that encourage developers to create and manage open spaces to create new wildlife habitats and provide new tree planting and growing spaces. We will encourage the use of UK sourced and native species wherever possible and will expect to see an overall net gain in wildlife value.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Chris Briggs		Jan-21	Jul-23	G	15/08/2023	CB - Draft policies agreed at Planning Policy & Climate Committee 10.6.23 for Local Plan Reg 18 consultation 12 July - 25 September 2023.
Nature & Food	5.060		Implement the new allotment rules concerning use of pesticides and encourage holders to reduce use of chemicals and manage allotments by more natural means.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Phil Bruce-Green		Oct-20	Dec-22	G	04/08/2023	Very few ploholders use pesticides. Rules have been incorporated into new revision. PBG is working with the Joint allotment group to investigate reduction of pesticides and bonfires. Cottonmill and Nunnery Allotment association undertook a bioblitz recording all plants, insects and animals. Folly lane allotment association planting wildflowers.
Nature & Food	5.070	Yes	Negotiate with the County Council for new ways of managing grass verges and trees alongside highways, and to reduce the use of glyphosate. (Action also in Corporate Plan)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	Jan-21	G	03/08/2023	NS - Changing to meadow regime on highways where appropriate. CMS lead role at HCC to increase biodiversity on highway verges. Investigating reducing 1st rural cut from 2 cuts to 1 to improve roadside verges for spring. Continual partnership working with HCC green infrastructure team. Trial sites were successful. HMWT undertook volunteering surveys of area to collect data. HCC agreed to increase meadow regime verges. Trialing glyphosphate free streets with HMWT and wilderwatch group. Feedback on GLY free streets has been positive. We now need to identify groups and streets to extend the scheme.
Nature & Food	5.080	Yes	Implement the Revitalising the Ver project to transform and naturalise the River Ver and the associated Verulamium Park Lakes. (Action also in Corporate Plan)	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	Mar-24	A	15/05/2023	A meeting was undertaken in latter part of 2022 to identify main risks to project and develop a a duel phased approach of carrying out reaches 1 and 2 improvement, whilst continuing on reach 1 designs.Following the various challenges around the project, The EA have started to make good progress in recent months. The focus is on Reaches 2 & 3 (Causeway up to Cottonmill Allotments) due to a reasonable consensus as to the design approach. Onsite surveys have taken place. and the focus is to finalise the details from the outline design. PPA meeting carried out. riparian stakeholder engagement to be carried out. Archeaological assesement commissioned to assess area in bell meadow to see if suitable to allow re-route of river. Website to be updated in May - Cllr / Officer working group membership agreed, to be held late august. planning application to be submitted in reach 2 and 3 in Sept
Nature & Food	5.090		Where appropriate, make unused areas of land available for residents and community groups to create pocket gardens for food growing, tree planting, wildlife and community wellbeing.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff	Candice Luper	Jan-21	ONGOING	G	03/08/2023	NS - applications being submitted to Council. Discussions on how this process applied and how it is resourced. Francis avenue open space will be managed by a local community group. Licences are currently being signed. volunteers working with JOC on Municiple Gardens in Charter Clsoe CL - Lisenca has now been approved to allow Incredible Edibles and Grow Sopwell to utilise 3 spaces of unused land for community food growin and wildlife gardening.
Nature & Food	5.100	Yes	Implement the actions and objectives of the Tree Strategy which aims to ensure that trees and woodlands within the District are adequately protected, cared for and supported by new planting. We will actively seek to significantly increase the number of trees in the District and prevent removal of trees where possible. (Corporate Plan Action) Greatly increase the quantity of tree coverage in the District	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Stuart Fitzsimmons	Nick Sheriff	Jan-21	Jul-22	G	29/08/2023	CB - Heidi Carruthers of H&MWT and Jeremy Clarke of HCC now regularly attend SADC Tree Planting officers meeting to exchange ideas and help co-ordinate 're-wilding' work with tree planting work. The Tree Stretgy has been drafted and will be reviewed by Public Realm Committee by January 2024

Nature & Food	5.110			Work with partners such as Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Countryside Management Service (CMS) and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) to engage and educate the public on the value of conservation and habitat management and on how they can help protect wildlife. We will encourage these groups to undertake local monitoring and to advise us on how we can support these species groups more.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	ONGOING	G	04/08/2023	NS - Officers have met with HMWT. HMWT will lead in contacting local and national groups. To build up database that can be used in promoting volunteering and monitoring. NS working with HCCSP biodiversity sub group on biodiversity - HMWT and CMS working towards building an action plan locally.
Nature & Food	5.130			Encourage traders at the local markets and at events, to offer more local, organic or sustainable food , especially at the Farmers Markets.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Stuart Fitzsimmons	James Ó Nuanáin/ Katherine Crafer	Jan-22	Ongoing	G	24/03/2023	Markets Team refocusing on Farmers Market and increasing proportion of local, sustainable, arts & crafts. Sustainability included in Commodity Mix Policy as a priority for new traders. Encouragement for sustainable practices is included into the new trader rules.
Water Adaptation	6.020			Update the Council's Climate Change Departmental Risk Assessment in lieu of the UKCIP18 data and ensure that these risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity processes through the Flood Response Operational Plan and Winter Treatment Operation Plan.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Candice Luper	Sally-Anne Percy	May-21	Dec-23	G	15/08/2023	Risk Register produced and presented to Audit Committee and Climate Advisory Group in Sept 2021. This was then updated in consultation with colleagues in 2022 with more attention given to how to embed the actions across the Council. Officer is now participating in the HCCSP Adaptation Sub-group which will create a Risk Register for Hertfordshire. SADC Risk Register has been adopted by numerous other local authorities. Any new learnings will be incorporated to the Council's risk register when the County-one is complete. Some Assistant Directors and Directors recieved further adaptation training in April 2023. Task completed for now and will be reviewed annually
Water Adaptation	6.030			Choose plants for our planting schemes which are able to tolerate our changing climate. As much as possible this will include pollinator-friendly, flood and drought resistant species that are UK sourced and preferably native species.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	ONGOING	A	15/03/2023	NS - 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
Water Adaptation	6.040			Re-procure the Council's water supply to ensure best price and centralised billing of water accounts. This will allow us to monitor water consumption the same way as we do energy.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	John Patrick	Tom Hardy / Helen Ramsay	Oct-21	Dec-23	A	23/12/2022	CL - Water bills are being fed into our energy management software so we have the data in one place. Work has not started on going out to tender for a new supplier.
Water Adaptation	6.060			Ensure parks and recreational facilities are resilient to projected seasonal changes in ground conditions (e.g. by improving drainage systems to alleviate greater risks of flooding and waterlogging in winter) whilst also welcoming new species that replace native species in the area.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Nick Sherriff		Oct-20	ONGOING	A	15/03/2023	NS - Continue with increasing meadow areas, reducing mowing. source/ selecting 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.
Water Adaptation	6.070			Ensure the resilience of Council's tree stock is considered by selecting tree species which are deemed to be resilient to both new pests and climatic changes. We will undertake mixed planting to minimise the impacts from pests and diseases.	Chris Traill – Community & Place	Stuart Fitzsimmons	Nick Sheriff	Oct-20	Annual - by 31 March	G	24/08/2023	SF - This will be covered by the new Tree Strategy due to be produced by the end of the year. The new draft Local Plan will require the use of mixed native species in most instances.
Water Adaptation	6.080			Alleviate and minimise the risk of flooding through engineering solutions; provision of Aquasacs to Parish Councils for use by vulnerable residents; and by working with partners such as the local highway authority to undertake drainage and gully clearing.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Steve Dibben	Jane Parker	Nov-20	Mar-22	B	28/07/2023	NK - Aquasacs are available for Parish Councils to give to vulnerable residents and stocks have been checked. SD - HCC has a county-wide gulley cleaning programme which is not widely available to those outside HCC. Over the years SADC has sought to engage more directly with HCC to coordinate gulley cleansing, parking suspension and street sweeping activity. Good joint working opportunities have been re-established. JP - requested gulley cleaning schedules as it is easier for SADC to adjust streets work as gulley cleaning is cyclical.
Water Adaptation	6.090			Work with communities at greatest risk from climate change (particularly flooding) and work with Parish Councils to assist them as part of neighbourhood planning . Identify community flood wardens in Colney Heath/London Colney. Provide advice and assistance on measures to alleviate flooding.	Suzanne Jones – Customer, Business & Corporate Support	Neil Kieran			Mar-22	A	15/03/2023	NK - We did try to recruit flood wardens but only had one expression of interest. We now question whether flood wardens are effective and even needed.