

Appendix A – Environment and Climate Change Taskforce Implementation – Action Plan- Update June 2022

Key
Colour Coding:
Internal - Process focused
External - Service focused
Community or external engagement - communications focus

Theme or workstream	Strategic action	Planned tasks	Progress
Housing	1. Use planning policy to ensure higher performance in new build.	1. Liaise with planning policy to improve and strengthen environmental requirements and considerations within the WS Local Plan and Strategic Plan.	Complete: Provided extensive comments on the emerging Local Plan – the Environment and Energy team will continue to feed into this process.
		2. Develop a technical paper to support our response to a climate emergency through new and existing development.	Ongoing: Planning Advice Note has been produced and is due for release by the end of 2022.
		3. Propose a review of the current validation process to ensure there is clarity on what is required and that this supports achieving our existing aims.	Ongoing: Work being carried forward by intern over the Summer 2022.

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		4. Review options for solar panelling (more environmentally friendly) on listed buildings	Ongoing: Officers undertaking horizon scan for best practice examples (both private development and local authority examples). A new note on solar panelling on listed buildings has been added to the website: Solar photovoltaics and planning in conservation areas (westsuffolk.gov.uk) .
	2. Improve housing through funding and regulation	1. Review West Suffolk Council's Housing Assistance Policy.	Complete: We are using government funding rather than this funding source.
		2. Undertake review of development and opportunities of energy efficiency programmes for homeowners, developers, and others.	Ongoing: Project has been redefined to consider where resources can best be focused – especially where it delivers benefits for those experiencing fuel poverty. This is being considered alongside the LEAR and MEES reports, which will allow us to better map housing stock.
		3. Develop support and guidance for owners of listed properties seeking to improve their energy performance.	Ongoing: The council is reviewing better best practice on listed homes and solar panels and working with partners across Suffolk to understand resource requirements. A new note on solar panelling on listed buildings has been added to the website: Solar photovoltaics and planning in conservation areas (westsuffolk.gov.uk) . MEES report is due to be published in August 2022, this will help us understand the scale of the problem.

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		4. Identify properties that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES).	Ongoing: In total, £11m of funding secured to deliver energy efficiency improvements in low income and energy inefficient homes across Suffolk. Will continue to deliver and promote the scheme until March 2023. By August 200 homes in West Suffolk will have benefitted from current LAD funding. Aiming to receive the MEES report in August or September 2022. This will provide useful data, including performance and necessary outcomes to meet target.
	3. Explore working with partners to improve energy efficient of homes.	1. Explore the potential with Barley Homes Board for higher energy efficient spec for their builds.	Ongoing: Barley Homes' first two new build sites in Haverhill have taken a 'fabric-first' approach to reduce carbon emissions. During the procurement stage for a contractor, they have made it a condition that they select products and materials carefully. For example, all hardwood will be from a sustainable managed forest. Many of BH homes on these two sites have had EV chargers installed prior to any requirement under the building regulations. Going forward, it is likely Barley Homes will be looking to install air source heat pumps as a method of heating instead of gas boilers, and at the design stage ask that architects look at the layout and orientation to consider the use of solar PV panels. These measures will result in new homes meeting all requirements for energy saving.

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		2. Work with partners to explore means to improve energy efficient of homes.	Ongoing: Continuing to work with Flagship Homes and other Suffolk local authorities to install energy efficiency measures including solar PV, air source heat pumps, external wall insulation and loft and cavity wall insulation. Looking to improve energy efficiency on West Suffolk Council's temporary housing.
	4. Develop Greener Homes Forum to encourage greener developments	1. Work with Greener Homes Forum to encourage developers to build more energy efficient homes	<p>Ongoing: The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, a Suffolk wide piece of work has been well attended by West Suffolk Council and Local Authority colleagues. The housing priority within this plan have held regular forums with representatives from the public sector as well as local and national housebuilders and registered providers.</p> <p>Within these forums items have been discussed such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to national legislation such as Future Homes Standards 2025 and PAS 2025 • Updates to local planning policies and planning advice notes • Funding options and collective bidding • Promotion of events and websites encouraging greener build and the impact on end users • Retrofit programmes • Exploring options such as heat networks and other Biogas products on live sites within the county • Impact on the skills required to deliver such changes to the construction industry.

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		<p>2. Develop engagement process with existing Developers Forum.</p>	<p>Ongoing: West Suffolk Councils Strategic Housing Department hold a quarterly Developers and Registered Providers Forum. This forum is well represented by local SME's as well as national housebuilders along with RP's who have a connection to West Suffolk, we have used it as a platform to help promote and share the greener homes agenda.</p> <p>We have highlighted the social housing de-carbonisation funding to existing stock within the authority as well as funding via the LAD (local authority delivery) set up as part of the greener homes grant.</p> <p>We also discuss forthcoming changes to policy and seek feedback on our draft local policies that shape the forthcoming West Suffolk local plan.</p> <p>This information has been well received and we continue to have a heavy attendance from within the market as well as informed guest speakers at these events.</p>
<p>Renewables</p>	<p>1. Install renewable energy systems when replacing or maintaining West Suffolk Council assets.</p>	<p>1. Carry out a regular review of the council's property portfolio to assess the opportunities for renewables.</p>	<p>Ongoing: WSC was awarded £1.3m for energy efficiency improvements in 2021. Since then, there has been a lot of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Battery Energy Storage System was installed at West Suffolk House (February 2022) • The Mildenhall Hub now operational and its new battery has been operating since November 2021 in the grid services market. An additional 130kW PV system was also installed at Mildenhall hub in late 2021

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130kW PV installed on Vicon House (Autumn 21). • Solar installed at provincial house • New glazing installed at provincial house • An air source heat pump was installed at Bury St Edmunds bus station in February 2022 and another air source heat pump was installed at Nowton Park March 2022. <p>We are now reviewing projects for further solar PV and heat pumps (among other things) for council buildings as part of the new £9m funding.</p>
	2. Promote domestic renewable energy technologies, initially focusing on solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps.	1. Continue to offer the successful bulk buying 'Suffolk Solar Together' initiative and explore a similar bulk buy initiative for domestic air source heat pumps.	Ongoing: Suffolk Solar Together promotional work complete. Installations ongoing across Suffolk. Since September 2021 there have been 610 properties signed up to the scheme with 238 solar PV installations completed in Suffolk. We aim to report on the number of installations specifically in West Suffolk next year as systems are updated.
	3. Investigate opportunities to build and own another solar farm.	1. Continue to invest in our 'Solar for Business' scheme.	Ongoing: Environmental and Energy team have worked to market Solar for Business to local businesses and have contacted over 1,000. 62 have responded and the grid connection applications for 15 installs have been submitted. Work is currently underway for the largest installation to date in Newmarket -Phase 1 has 385kW with savings of 80t per year. This was completed in 2021 and phase 2 is due in to be completed in 2022.

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		2. Explore the potential for another solar farm by assessing the legal, commercial and technical viability of opportunities.	Ongoing: Actively pursuing solar farm opportunities. We continue to look at options for developing a solar farm at several strategic sites in West Suffolk.
Travel and transport	1. Continued professional development of driving staff.	1. Consider using a driving efficiency metric within drivers PDRs to encourage more fuel efficient and safe driving.	Ongoing: Monitoring apparatus to measure mileage of each vehicle and driver in place. However, currently considered inappropriate to seek to incorporate into PDRs (due to variation in driving stock). Instead focusing on training. And will review potential use of Refurb budget for a driver performance monitoring system.
		2. Professional development through training given to driving staff to aid in understanding the outcomes of differing driver behaviours on emissions and encourage positive change.	Ongoing: Drivers will undertake fuel efficiency and loading module in October and November 2022. We have carried out a review of the fuel efficiency and other relevant info in the module.
	2. Develop Transport partnerships	1. Work with Suffolk County Council to ensure West Suffolk benefits from the Cycling and Walking Fund.	Ongoing: An updated Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy was launched in the summer of 2020, with the aim of doubling participation by 2025. Work is still ongoing as we try to agree an approach with Suffolk County Council.

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		<p>2. Work with partners to develop an EV Charging Point position paper and roll out plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing: A new West Suffolk EV public charging installation position paper is currently in development. West Suffolk is also working with Suffolk partners on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme (LEVI). An expression of interest was submitted in April 2022, with the full LEVI pilot application submitted on 17 June. Bidding for £1.5m towards a £2.5m EV charge point network upgrade. This work will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade 50 of the current 100 sites to include PV solar and battery • Identify and install a further 50-100 sites in urban and rural areas for EV, solar and battery storage. These will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 200 x 7.5kW chargers ○ 25-50 rapid chargers at key sites where commercial business cases can be made ○ Utilise a community ownership model where appropriate.
		<p>3. Support Suffolk-wide air quality monitoring pilot with a view to finding opportunities to improve air quality in hotspot areas and gain greater insight into particulate pollution.</p>	<p>Complete: The conclusions are that there are potentially useful technologies, but that it's still an emerging and unreliable area that requires significant data management and interpretation. As such, the widespread role out of low-cost monitors is not practical at the moment. However, Ipswich have secured some grant funding to allow for a better understanding of different sources of air pollution, which we are continuing to support.</p>

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	3. Continue to work with partners and community groups to improve air quality.	1. Increase impetus on measures to tackle vehicle idling in sensitive locations.	Ongoing: In February 2022, banners put up around Moulton School and promoted on social media. All schools in West Suffolk were contacted and offered an anti-idling session in the 2021/22 academic year but engagement was limited. Worked also engaged with independent car park owners. CEO enforcement continues to be reviewed through overview and scrutiny committee.
2. Work with partners to promote improvement of air quality by sharing information and positive work practices.		Ongoing: Attended and presented at Suffolk Air Quality Summit organised by public health at Suffolk County Council in February 2022. Ongoing work with other Local Authorities to develop joint campaigns for Clean Air Day and domestic burning. The reorganisation of health and care is also providing opportunities to engage with project (specialised) officers focusing on Air Quality and impact upon health. The West Suffolk Clean Air Business accreditation scheme in conjunction with Suffolk County Council will launch on Clean Air Day (16 th June). This will raise awareness of air pollution and support businesses to take action to improve air quality.	
3. Develop partnerships with community groups to improve air quality		Ongoing: We continue to support and engage with BSE Air Quality Group. BSE Air Quality group with Cllrs Wakelam and Hind have requested review of CPE roles to monitor idling this was heard at O&S committee in March or April 22.	

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		4. Continue to support residents of West Suffolk to identify and develop community projects aimed at informing and promoting ways to improve air quality throughout the district.	Ongoing: Churchgate Association (March 22) completed survey with local residents to explore interest in electric vehicles and potential charging requirements. We are carrying out engagement with local community organisations and residents through this.
	4. Fleet Management to ensure that council invests in appropriate ULEV.	1. Review of alternative fuel vehicles as part of vehicle procurement process.	Ongoing: Engaged with a range of external partners, including Nottingham City Council to better understand what vehicles and technology is successfully being used elsewhere. Nottingham have been very helpful and a very useful source of information. With their assistance, the council has signed up for access to their own Vehicle Procurement Framework, which Nottingham run free of charge.
		2. For all who request new fleet vehicles, review their needs and consider ULEV alternatives.	Ongoing: New budget approved by Cabinet in February 2022 has allowed for the replacing of carbon emitting vans and cars with EV (agreement was for vehicles up to 3.5T where suitable vehicles available). To be reviewed for each when due for replacement – provided the vehicles are available and financially viable.
		3. Engage with Energy Saving Trust fleet review service.	Complete: Report now in from EST. This will be used as one of the tools for reviewing alternative vehicles - to be used alongside feedback from other LAs on experiences from using EVs. This new referral tool will be used on an ongoing basis.

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		4. Continue trials of alternative technologies for commercial vehicles, such as Road Sweepers.	Ongoing: We continue to review vehicles as they come onto the market. This includes talking with neighbouring Local Authorities. Mostly recently, we have requested to trial Maxis 3.5tipper, as well as an E-Transit demo. We are waiting for next availability.
		5. When replacing the existing fleet of waste collection vehicles, consider the purchase of at least one electric vehicle.	Ongoing: It has been agreed that RCV's are a long-term consideration and EV alternatives are not viable at this stage. Currently considering HVO but progress here is awaiting the updated procurement framework to be published. We will continue to review new technologies coming on to the market, including electric RCVs.
		6. ALTERED ACTION: Explore options for using EVs within the [Vertas] pool car service and ensure that the number of vehicles is suitable to meet service demand.	Ongoing: Olding road wayleave issues has been resolved. Now waiting on a commencement date from installer after which chargers can be used by staff and electric pool cars. Officers to monitor usage of pool vehicles following environmental statement to check number of pool vehicles supplied matches' demand.
		7. EV charging at depots	NEW ACTION: Since February 2022, working with chargepoint operators (CPO) to review options for EV charging provision at depots. Two specifications have been shared with a CPO to understand costs involved with providing infrastructure. Now writing a specification as part of a wider tender opportunity to select a long-term EV charging partner
		8. West Suffolk Fleet – Zero Carbon Vision	REQUESTED NEW ACTION: Establish a clear long-term vision for the council's fleet – the aim is to ensure that an appropriate framework is in place to move to new technologies when they are available.

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<p>Council consumption and accreditation</p>	<p>1. Review and update organisation's environmental management systems.</p>	<p>1. Review and update environment management systems</p>	<p>Ongoing: Following a review of the carbon reporting methodology we have been leading on/ working with other Suffolk LAs to produce a short guidance note on carbon reporting. The aim is for each LA to align carbon reporting. The greatest changes will take effect when HVO use commences. Changes will include the addition of scope three emissions for liquid fuels and likely inclusion of population-based metric.</p>
		<p>2. Work with all building users to reduce paper consumption by 5%.</p>	<p>Ongoing: Following an investigation at the end of 2021, it was found that printing had been reduced by 50% between 2019 and 2021. However, this still accounts for over 1 million pages per year. Work is underway with the finance team to amend Agresso to prevent printing of batches that are used for checking only; the Elections teams regarding their elections invitations to register process; and the planning team regarding planning site notices. Work will commence with democratic services around paper usage for member meetings later in 2022.</p>
		<p>3. Work with HR (and possibly SCC) to update the WSH green travel plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing: Now involved with project working with Liftshare.com to investigate sustainable commuting to offices starting with West Suffolk Operational Hub. This began in March 2022. New staff lease scheme to include co2 limit. We will promote this system as a low up front cost method of accessing EVs to staff.</p>

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		4. Introduce a suitable water consumption metric to compare building performance. Develop into league table.	Ongoing: New water saving projects to be launched as part of new funding announcement. List of sites and possible projects have been produced - next step is evaluating possible projects based on £ per co2 saving.
		5. Ensure that Cafe West is disposing of waste in most sustainable way.	On hold: Trialled food waste collection but would be a cost involved. Officers are set to follow up with VERSE concerning an action plan.
		6. ALTERED ACTION: Incorporate communications into environment management, ensuring that regular internal communications are coming from this work; develop methods to monitor levels of awareness and activity among staff, as well as open 'conversation space' to allow for suggestions, ideas, and intelligence from all areas of the council.	Ongoing: A new communications plan is being developed, with the aim of ensuring at least one carbon reduction or environmental improvement story is circulated to staff every month; exploring methods to improve monitoring of awareness and engagement of staff in actions of the Environment Management Group (EMG) and wider carbon reduction work.

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	2. Reduce energy consumption from all sites.	1. Set out a prioritised list of energy efficiency projects for all key sites, with projects implemented based upon available budget, return and site constraints.	Ongoing: During 2021, new automated meter readers (AMR) have been installed at key sites, which will provide better quality data for baseline position. In addition, new energy saving projects will be launched as part of new funding announcement. List of sites and possible projects have been produced - next step is evaluating possible projects based on £ per co2 saving.
		2. Implement a 5% reduction in building energy consumption across the council's portfolio.	Ongoing: Projects in the new internal decarb umbrella will deliver savings at sites based on cost per tco2 saved. Building emissions are down 19% during 2021-22 compared to 2019-20. Data is amalgamated from all utilities.
		3. Update property database with building floor areas and develop benchmark and a metric (kWh/m2 or kWh/pp) to assess building energy use.	Ongoing: WSC officers are working closely with SCC carbon reduction officers to produce energy use metrics for key buildings where both councils operate, starting with WSH and Mildenhall Hub.
	3. Learning from COVID - Encourage all council teams to consider and	1. Communications to encourage staff to embed carbon emission lowering approaches.	Ongoing: Internal communications linked into wider council activity and work around changing council culture. Will monitor moving forward to ensure benefits are locked in.

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	review their ways of working	2. Promote the environmental benefits and help to enable flexible working (working from home using Skype for Business; Microsoft teams) amongst employees.	Complete: 'Hybrid' working is fully embedding within council practice. Will continue to monitor.
		3. Offer training on environment and climate change to staff – 'ways of working'.	Ongoing: E-learning course, 'Climate Change Awareness' launched early April 2022. Has been added to induction materials for new starters - will monitor take up of course among present staff and promote further when possible.
		4. Seek to increase office recycling provision supported with clear signage/ comms	Delayed: Action for 2022-23 now staff have returned to offices more regularly.
		5. Requested new action: Green IT systems	Building on the work undertaken to improve the councils carbon footprint by reducing emissions from digital activities, work with IT to investigate the viability of using a 'Green Host' and ensure that a green host is considered when the IT server contract is up for renewal in 2023.
	4. Encourage all employees to understand their own eco footprint.	1. Using a variety of methods (such as internal comms, training) encourage employees to understand eco footprint	Ongoing: Carbon footprint calculator added to staff e-learning. Will monitor uptake of course and changes or additions to Climate Pledges.

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		2. Organise another office waste audit and raise staff awareness within selected office.	Ongoing: Considered as an intern project, ending September 2022.
		3. Create a mechanism for staff to share environmental pledges with communications team.	Ongoing: E-learning course launched - linked to Climate Pledges. Shall monitor.
		4. Digital Footprint	New action: Digital Footprint event held among staff in May 2022. Work ongoing to encourage staff to understand their own digital footprint and embed habits that help lower digital emissions.
	5. Consider developing a more localised procurement approach to improve the local economy and lower carbon emissions associated with the council's own supply lines.	1. Produce a toolkit to help contract managers and bidders understand environmental requirements of the procurement policy within tenders.	Complete: Rather than duplicating our efforts, we have adopted the toolkit produced by the LGA, from the beginning of 2022.
2. New Procurement Policy that encourages localised and green procurement.		Complete: Developed an Environmental ask for the new Procurement plan, which was then reviewed and agreed by corporate leadership. An environment quality question will be included in all tenders and will require more detail with size (and risk) of contract. The Procurement Plan was agreed in June 2022.	

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Waste and recycling	1. Reduce public waste and improve recycling output	1. Reduce the amount of waste that is created by public and businesses, such as food waste, through awareness raising campaigns across Suffolk.	Ongoing: New waste glass recycling campaign launched in March 2022 to tackle contamination in blue/ black bins. This included a new glass video and social media posts. It was also noted that the general amount of waste collected has increased – this is possibly down to the change in working culture following COVID-19. Data from the campaign will be analysed in July 2022 – however, the emphasis is to continue with this type of messaging.
		2. Work to increase recycling through the use of blue bin and recycling sites in order to maximise the use of the current recycling systems in Suffolk.	Ongoing: Some service providers have introduced or increased costs for paper collection services. In addition, paper banks are going to be removed from village halls in Newmarket and Haverhill - as there was some contamination in these banks. This service was designed for when paper use was generally higher.
		3. Increase the quality of waste collected for recycling in response to commodity market requirements.	Ongoing: West Suffolk Council has been working with crews and improving signage for communal bins to help prevent contamination. At the end of 2021, we also produced a new guide to recycling to make it easier for residents to understand, thus reducing waste and saving money. Dealing with blue recycling bin contamination is an ongoing issue but the partnership of councils across Suffolk are keen to do another awareness campaign next year. This may be on textiles or encouraging residents to recycle more metals such as aerosol cans through a behavioural change awareness campaign aimed specifically at metal recycling.

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		4. Continue to promote anti- litter initiatives.	Ongoing: The 'Binrastructure' project was completed at the end of 2021, and it resulted in 74 new bins in West Suffolk. Some bin sizes have increased to help prevent littering and improve efficiency with the use of £23k external funding. The council will continue to look at getting the 'right bins in the right place'. To this end, we installed separate recycling on the go bins for Bury St Edmunds Town Council at Angel Hill in May 2022 to trial how effective these will be with the public in allowing them to separate their general litter waste and recycling materials. Results will be analysed over the summer – if successful, we may look to expand the numbers of these type of bins to other similar locations.
		5. Influence and respond to the future government Recycling and Waste Strategy for England, to be implemented from 2023 onwards.	Ongoing: Suffolk Waste Partnership has submitted a consultation response. We are now waiting for outcomes from the review.

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Biodiversity and environment	1. Through the local plan process address the challenge of protecting and enhancing biodiversity while providing growth.	1. Develop the skills in the Planning team in respect of natural capital, ecosystem services and in particular Green Infrastructure (GI) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	<p>Ongoing: An updated Biodiversity Metric 3.1 was published in April 2022.</p> <p>The Environment Bill received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021, meaning it is now an Act of Parliament.</p> <p>Mandatory biodiversity net gain as set out in the Environment Act applies in England only by amending the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) and is likely to become law in 2023.</p> <p>The government published a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation on 11 January 2022. The consultation sets out proposals on the detail of implementation of mandatory BNG and closed on 5 April 2022.</p>
		2. Review resources necessary to monitor adherence with planning policy and permissions to ensure agreed biodiversity and landscape improvements are implemented.	<p>Ongoing: One FTE is in place and resource requirements being monitored. A business case has been prepared and Place Services are supporting the DM function providing advice to planning applications on a part time temporary basis. This temporary solution will be reviewed before the end of 2021.</p>

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		3. Investigate and develop a new local plan tree policy and work with partners and developers to encourage sustainable tree retention and increase canopy cover.	Ongoing: 'Tree Policy' will be delivered as part of the West Suffolk Local Plan. Draft tree policy included in the non-strategic policies section of the Preferred Options consultation (NSP17). Consultation to take place from Thursday 26th May to 26th July.
		4. Look for outside opportunities for grant funding or other support.	Ongoing: A successful joint grant application for Forestry Commission funding, with Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council, enabled the planting of 50 heavy standard trees along the boundary of the George Lambton Playing Field in January 2022. A further joint bid for tree planting elsewhere in the district during winter period 2022-23 is currently being considered.
		5. Adhere to and progress the actions set out in West Suffolk's Tree Management Policy.	Ongoing: The council is keeping a record of the number of trees that are planted per year, which can be used for annual reporting. 318 trees and 560 whips have been planted over the course of 2021-22.
		6. Work with partners to develop a West Suffolk Wide Green Infrastructure Study (GIS).	Ongoing: The Green Infrastructure Study Report has been produced and included as background evidence as part of the local plan preferred options consultation (May – July 2022). The document will be finalised in autumn 2022.
	2. Developing Parks and Green Spaces	1. Identify improvements on previous Green Flag (GF) scores.	Ongoing: Six Green Flags were awarded in 2021. Made Green Flag submissions in mid-February 2022. Judging visits were scheduled for May and June and we are expecting a decision later in 2022.

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		2. Encourage responsible use of natural environment in parks and open spaces.	Ongoing: The council now has the 'Discover' leaflets for all the district's main parks (West Stow, Nowton, Abbey Gardens, Brandon Country Park, East Town Park). These leaflets provide information on how to use parks responsibly. We are currently looking to revamp the parks websites, with an added emphasis on encouraging responsible use.
		3. Review the maintenance regimes of grass areas owned by the council to increase biodiversity.	Ongoing: First phase was to work to capture all of these grass areas on the GIS system and writing up cyclical regimes. All areas are now digitally mapped, and new maintenance regimes are implemented – regimes are scheduled for all geographical areas, and we will continue to monitor and adapt as necessary.
		4. For those sites not subject to Green Flag scrutiny, progress the recommendations made in the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) phase one habit surveys for the public open spaces surveyed in 2018.	Ongoing: As part of intern project, all water courses in West Suffolk have been mapped, improving our intelligence of blue assets. There has also been extensive work on the yellow brick road area in Newmarket, clearing rubbish and litter along the water course. Since October, work has also been implemented at various sites in Haverhill.
		5. Review the machinery used on grounds and green spaces maintenance (replace the petrol/diesel machines with electric).	Ongoing: In February 2022, the council purchased a Zero Turn mowing machine for Abbey Gardens. We have reviewed lists and mapped out what machinery needs replacing over the next five years – exploring alternatives, where possible as capital investment items. We also have a programme exploring smaller handheld and lower value equipment with a view to replace with cleaner alternatives as these items come up for renewal.

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		6. Requested new action: Investigate and develop business case for grounds maintenance equipment renewal with green equipment.	
	3. Improving Wetlands	1. Map all the existing rivers, ponds, lakes and SUD's in the district which are in West Suffolk's ownership or that we have riparian responsibilities for	Ongoing: Intern project in September 2021 mapped all blue assets. Improvements have been undertaken around the Yellow Brick Road area in Newmarket. In addition, with in partnership with the Bury Water Meadows group, we have undertaken work at Ram Meadow and No-man's Meadow.
	4. Reducing the environmental impact of events	1. Investigate setting up a West Suffolk SMART map app or making use of the smart mapping technology on the existing What's on West Suffolk Website.	Complete: All grounds maintenance features are now plotted and available to the public on the 'Find my Nearest' app. We have also added trees to the mapping from Arbortrak.
	5. Continue to work with our Facilities Maintenance provider VERSE to ensure that in Cafes and Kiosks:	1. West Stow Cafe - Engage with leaseholders to introduce waste management actions with staff.	Ongoing: West Stow Café is currently out to tender, and we will seek to work with new supplier to minimise waste and improve recycling.

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	<p>Single use plastics is minimalised and where possible not used at all; That they will provide tap water free on request and advertise this service; Products are locally sourced where possible and food choices promote sustainability</p>	<p>2. Replicate West Stow waste management actions at other sites.</p>	<p>Ongoing: In August 2021, the council entered into a new agreement on the leasing of the Kiosk in recreation centre in Haverhill. We liaised closely with the town council on the management of waste arising from that facility. Abbey Gardens Kiosk was put out to tender in December 2021. The council included clauses to flesh out green credentials of would-be applicants – this led to a more robust process. We have tendered West Stow country park to AE (took possession in April 2022) using a similar approach. In February 2022, we extended the current lease arrangement at Nowton Park where there is a good provider who met the standards required, including not using plastics and adding additional planters.</p>
	<p>6. Actively seek to reduce the use of Glyphosate and remain vigilant to alternative methods of controlling unwanted vegetation, with the longer term of doing away with its usage altogether.</p>	<p>1. Stop the use of Glyphosate when an alternative solution has been identified.</p>	<p>Ongoing: Trialled a vinegar-based herbicide (acetic acid) and a geranium extract herbicide from March 2022. The vinegar-based herbicide has not been successful; however, the geranium herbicide is effective. While effective, it is more expensive than current glyphosate herbicides (almost four-times the price). Will be seeking direction on budget considerations going forward.</p>
		<p>2. Requested new action: Due to the increased costs of a viable glyphosate alternative, investigate the viability of how increased costs of alternatives can be met (such as weeding less frequently).</p>	

Theme or workstream	Strategic action	Planned tasks	Progress
	7. Promote greener ways of travel to parks & recreation sites and where they exist providing details nearest bus drop off and collection points.	1. Increase provision of cycle racks and charging points at parks.	Ongoing: In March 2022, the council installed bike racks beneath the dovecot at Eastgate nursery (extension to Abbey Gardens). By the end of 2021, cycle racks were present in all our main parks. However, there is no grant funding currently available to put EV chargers in parks. Work is ongoing to investigate potential funding opportunities.
	8. Awareness raising campaigns	1. Provide a range of public events and awareness campaigns at Parks, with a Ranger presence, to promote green initiatives and to provide advice to residents on how to protect and enhance habitats within their neighbourhoods.	Ongoing: The council has been working with local 'In bloom' groups on environmental campaigns, as well as environment improvement groups. A highlight this summer, working with 'Bury In bloom', is the campaign to use captured rainwater to water hanging baskets and planters around the town. On 20 and 21 May 2022, the Bury Water Meadows Group held an event concentrating on surveying biodiversity around the Abbey Gardens – principally around the river and water meadows. The results of this survey will be available later in the summer.
	9. Engage with partners to deploy green improvement schemes	1. Utilise, and where necessary support, partners to engage in green improvements schemes, such as Park Friends of groups, and other voluntary organisations.	Ongoing: The council has been supporting volunteer groups in better maintenance of our sites (such as Nowton, Abbey Gardens, Haverhill Friends of East Town Park, Haverhill Litter Pickers, as well as volunteer groups in Brandon Country Park, Aspal Close Nature reserve and Red Lodge Heath). We have also sought to re-establish a community interest group along the Yellow Brick Road in Newmarket. Since March 2022, the number of volunteers and the number of volunteer hours have been incorporated into our KPI targets, reporting on a quarterly basis – this is focused on Green Flag parks: Abbey Gardens, West Stow, Nowton Park, East Town Park, Brandon Country Park.

