

Appendix A – Environment and Climate Change Action Plan Update

Workstream	Strategic Action	Task	Update
Biodiversity	1.1 External funding.	Look for outside opportunities for grant funding or other support.	<p>ONGOING: Rural England Prosperity Fund allocation – WSC have been awarded £200,000 for improvements to specified green spaces in West Suffolk over the next two financial years these include: Newmarket - access improvements along the Yellow Brick Road Haverhill – making the landscaped areas in certain estates more sustainable to maintain. Mildenhall – replacing dilapidated infrastructure and enhancing green space in estate areas. Brandon - Improve biodiversity, access and ease future maintenance plus better linking the green corridors around Bury Road, Knappers way, wood close area.</p>
		Seek external funding to help maintain and increase tree cover in West Suffolk Council managed areas.	<p>ONGOING: Using external funds, the number of trees & whips planted during the last financial year on West Suffolk owned land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 454 trees • 1419 whips. <p>A grant application for the Local Authority Treescape fund was submitted in August 2023.</p>
	1.2 Biodiversity & Environment Parks and Green Spaces.	With regards our Green Flag (GF) sites we will identify improvements on the previous judges scores.	<p>ONGOING: In 2023, West Suffolk gained 6 green flag awards – East Town Park, Brandon Country Park, Abbey Gardens, West Stow Country Park, Nowton Park & Aspal Close. Each Green Flag park has a Friends or volunteer group and from April 2022 to March 2023 a total of 7,763 hours were contributed to West Suffolks Green and Heritage spaces. Aspal Close is one of only four sites in the UK that support the rare Field Wormwood species. Over the summer of 2023, maintenance work has taken place to remove competing brambles and conifer saplings from the Sandy Scrape at Aspal Close Nature Reserve. This will encourage the Sand Catchfly and Artemesia plants that support the Field Wormwood.</p>
		Encourage responsible use of green spaces - through better information.	<p>ONGOING: Information leaflets have been produced for Abbey Gardens, Nowton Park, East Town Park, West Stow Country Park & Brandon Country Park. New signage has been installed at Brandon Country Park and at East Town Park. Aspal Close will be the next site.</p>
	1.3 Biodiversity & Environment Parks and Green Spaces.	Review the maintenance regimes of grass areas owned by the council in order to increase biodiversity.	<p>ONGOING: Changes have been made in some areas and signage put up to explain purpose. This is also being considered as part of a wider grass cutting review following concerns raised by residents and partners.</p>

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		<p>For those sites not subject to Green Flag scrutiny we will progress the recommendations made in the SWT phase one habit surveys for the public open spaces surveyed in 2018.</p>	<p>ONGOING: In the latter half of 2023, the council will be commissioning ecologists to undertake new ecological baseline surveys at Ram Meadow and Aspal Close Nature Reserve prior to undertaking a number of initiatives to try and improve their unique habitats. Once those improvements and the maintenance regimes are implemented, we will then appoint an ecologist to carry out further surveys at set intervals to monitor and record those improvements. In the summer of 2023, a new grass management regime has been implemented in the Great Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds. Working in conjunction with the Bury Water Meadows Group, volunteers will carry out scything in specified areas to encourage wildflowers and increase biodiversity.</p>
		<p>Investigate and develop business cases for grounds maintenance equipment renewal with green equipment.</p>	<p>ONGOING: The Landscape service has recently prepared its next five-year capital programme for its machinery renewal. The focus has been on purchasing equipment that is better able to cope with the changes in maintenance regimes to enhance biodiversity, and to reduce the burning of fossil fuel. The Arboricultural Team are now operating with the following battery powered equipment purchased in April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Chainsaws • 2 hedge cutters • 2 leaf blowers • 2 pole pruners • 1 brush cutter. <p>For our parks, we have purchased the following electrical equipment over the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariens zero turn electric ride on lawn mower • Stihl RMA 448 VC Cordless Lawn Mower • Husqvarna 535 IRXT battery brush cutter • Ryobi 18.0 chainsaw • Solar powered pond aerator. <p>For use in Nowton & East Town Park we have purchased a BCS Crusader Power Scythe. This equipment utilises a reciprocating blade that enables the cutting of wildflower and hay meadows. New handheld electric equipment including trimmers, chainsaws, a mower and blower have also been purchased for use at Nowton Park and the Central area.</p>
	<p>1.4 Partnerships.</p>	<p>Work with local environment groups (for example, community groups) to improve environment and biodiversity at West Suffolk Council managed sites.</p>	<p>ONGOING: We have already formed close relationships with a number of Environmental Groups – our partnerships with the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP), Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG), Bury, Brandon & Haverhill in Bloom have already yielded a number of improvements. River Lark Catchment Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing project work improving the River Lark & its catchment. • Initiation & implementation of the Chalk Stream Restoration Flagship project. <p>Bury Water Meadows Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued improvement of the Bury St Edmunds water meadows

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in partnership on the water meadows management plans. Bury, Brandon & Haverhill in Bloom Improving the town environments & competing in the Anglia in Bloom & Britain in Bloom competitions. Increasing public involvement in environmental awareness & projects.
Communities and communications	2.1 Reduce public waste and improve recycling output.	Reduce the amount of waste that is created by public and businesses, such as food waste, through awareness raising campaigns across Suffolk.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County campaign starting May 2023. 'Shake it out'. Shake It Out - Suffolk Recycling (A £50k campaign, radio, social media (need to share through WSC comms). Focus on not bagging items in blue bins). Still Good Food (CIO with focus on reducing food waste) funded through Community chest 2022-23 £7400 to contribute towards 3 part-time staff. Allowing increased opening hours, expansion volunteers etc Food Savvy – Suffolk-Norfolk partnership Food waste - Suffolk Recycling. Havebury Housing – Waste Team attending housing estate inspections. Advising on waste reduction (Howard Est, Priors Est Summer 2022 promoting Love Where you Live). USAF – World Earth Day, Mildenhall May 2023 Waste Team representation.
		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.	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass Bank campaign May 2022. One large campaign per year. Shake it out – May 2023 (as above).
		Increase the quality of waste collected for recycling in response to commodity market requirements.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on metals October 2022 Smaller campaign to educate on what can be recycled but also commodity for council to provide income.
		Continue to promote anti- litter initiatives.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Love where you live' initiative has over 17k volunteers in west Suffolk. Plan to focus on this again over next 12 months to improve participation (*for individuals and community groups).
		Influence and respond to the future government Recycling and Waste Strategy for England, to be implemented from 2023 onwards.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement from Government is pending - expected within next few months. One announced, it will take time to get infrastructure in place to implement (dependent on what changes are identified).
		Increase activity to promote waste and recycling campaigns to local businesses and residents.	<p>NEW ACTION:</p> <p>The council increases waste and recycling campaign activity through a structured campaign covering a range of waste issues.</p>
	2.2 Environment and biodiversity awareness raising campaigns.	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.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting grass maintenance regimes from April 2023. This includes: Web weekly updates where we are cutting. Web link for requests for regime for council managed space to be varied.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media messaging about how grass growth previously managed by weedkiller will be dealt with once a year towards end of summer. • Park signage: East Town Park first park to have signage explaining differing grass maintenance methods being used. • Green Fair West Suffolk Hive – yearly event supported by WSC officers. • Abbey Alive! Event – supported to run with £900 locality budget funding. • Wildlife Friendly Villages (Risby and Chedburgh) supported with locality budgets 2022-23.
		Promote local food production.	NEW ACTION: The council runs a communications campaign, in conjunction with its Economic Development team, to promote locally produced food.
	2.3 Travel & Transport Partnership Working.	Work with Suffolk County Council to ensure West Suffolk benefits from the Cycling and Walking Fund.	ONGOING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel - Pool bikes now in place for staff to cycle to meetings.
		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.	ONGOING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot ended, Summer 2022. monitoring was not reliable. • 2023, Actively Working with Uni of Suffolk on funded project to better understand collective monitoring data. NZIP (innovation programme).
	2.4 Continue to work with partners and community groups to improve air quality.	Increase impetus on measures to tackle vehicle idling in sensitive locations.	ONGOING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer term 2022 - Joint funded With SCC Theatre productions in schools. • Information on website and leaflets for distribution. • YouTube video • Last 12 months have introduced more monitoring points outside schools across West Suffolk.
		Work with partners to promote improvement of Air quality by sharing information and positive work practices.	ONGOING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming strong relations with Public Health Wider Determinants Team. Country Wide campaigns and awareness raising, for example clean air day (every June) • Suffolk Air quality Strategy launched May 2023 Suffolk Air Quality - Healthy Suffolk. • The council ran a stand at West Suffolk College to promote skills and raising awareness on ait quality in October 2022.
		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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSE Air Quality Group continues to meet, is made up of BSE residents and Ward members (previously chaired by RE). Administration now led by community member, supported by officers from Environment and F&C Teams. • Links to community groups who have developed projects within communities around active travel, food waste and raising awareness, for example West Suffolk Hive, BSE Eco-Carriers, Still Good Food. Supported groups to source funding and build local networks.

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	2.5 Promote domestic renewable energy technologies, initially focusing on solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps.	Promote domestic renewable energy technologies, initially focusing on solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warmer Homes Scheme relaunched November 2022. Focus on low-income residents to tackle insulation, retrofit etc May 2023 Launch of Warm Homes for Suffolk residents living with prepayment meters (higher premiums).
	2.6 Raise Awareness and promote actions taken by WSC and Communities.	Create communications plan.	<p>NEW ACTION:</p> <p>Since April 2023, work has been undertaken to develop a framework for comms, cross referenced against events to date and national or local campaigns. This should be developed further to ensure there are regular environment communications to residents and public.</p>
	2.7 Improve Renewable Energy Portfolio.	Continue to invest in our Solar for Business scheme.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <p>1.3MW of solar has been installed in 2022-23 across 11 sites. This was the most successful year for newly installed solar generation. 655kW of solar has been installed since April 2023, with a further 700KW being installed at West Suffolk College over the summer of 2023.</p> <p>Environment and Sustainability Working Group recommend developing a clear business plan to increase number of businesses benefiting.</p>
		Investigate opportunities to build and own another solar farm.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <p>A new solar farm opportunity has been identified and officers are in the early stages of the due diligence.</p>
		Investigate opportunities for the development of renewable energy sources including wind and hydrogen.	<p>NEW ACTION</p> <p>The council continue to monitor the development of hydrogen opportunities and engage with Hydrogen East - Hydrogen East. West Suffolk has been identified as an area where hydrogen could be utilised to provide the fuel for a hydrogen transportation hub.</p> <p>The council have assessed suitable locations for wind turbines in West Suffolk, but a change to national planning policies will be required to enable onshore wind turbine deployment.</p>
	2.8 Improve Public Electric Vehicle Charging.	Increase the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities on council-owned land.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <p>The electric vehicle policy statement was published in December 2022. The Council has signed a contract with ubitricity to install around 100 electric vehicle charging points on council owned sites across the district in the next year.</p>
2.9 Deposit returns scheme.	Pilot reverse vending machines.	<p>NEW ACTION:</p> <p>The Council looks at opportunities to pilot a local return scheme using "reverse vending machines".</p>	
Existing housing	3.1 By working with partners explore how they wish to improve the energy efficiency of homes.	Confirm the standard of build intended. Establish a measure against the standard.	<p>ONGOING:</p> <p>In the early stages of getting a Design and Technical Brief together for Barley Homes, working with AECOM. The two previous sites were built to Building Regulations.</p> <p>Attempts to confirm the standard of several developments completed by March 2023 by Barley Homes have so far been unsuccessful.</p>
		Establish the commitment to Decent Home Standard (DHS) or higher energy performance homes.	<p>NOT YET STARTED – work needs to be undertaken to see how this can be progressed.</p>

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			It is unclear what actions have been undertaken to improve our own housing stock. Attempts to undertake an audit have not taken place. There is a lack of clarity on the councils own objectives with regard to housing stock.	
		Improve social housing.	ONGOING: Work has been undertaken with Haverbury and Flagship homes. However, attempts to regularly monitor this have not been successful. The council will seek to develop a process for better monitoring of social housing improvements.	
		Funding programmes to support retrofit and housing improvement.	ONGOING: 2022-23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAD3 spend: £806,133, 64 measures HUG1: £129,526, 13 measures LAD1B: £324,474, 35 measures. 	
	3.2 Improve housing through funding and regulation.		Establish regular monitoring of performance. Number of rented homes identified against those brought up to standard.	ONGOING: Various performance information and methods are currently under consideration to capture the work we do and understand what we need to do in future. The Suffolk Stock Condition survey, which will provide data on rented properties and help us understand scale and targeting, will be released in April 2024.
			Support Suffolk-wide project to improve Private Rented housing.	ONGOING: The Suffolk "Pathfinder" project – project to improve standards in the private rented sector – launched 26 May 2023. A Suffolk-wide Housing Stock Condition survey (led by BRE) will likely be released later in 2023. The project will lead to increased number of energy efficient properties.
			Improve sign-posting to funding.	NEW ACTION: Seek to scope and improve sign-posting to funding available to residents – link to efforts to improve website.
			Explore options for housing improvement (retrofit) in upcoming Housing Strategy.	NEW ACTION: Seek to find areas in which housing improvement can be included in the overall strategy, ensuring that various current and new schemes are included within a clear strategic vision.
			Housing improvement loans scheme.	NEW ACTION: The council investigate if there is scope to further support the Warm Homes Suffolk scheme, so that more West Suffolk residents can benefit. Further once that scheme is confirmed there is active communication undertaken to West Suffolk residents.
	Planning and regulation	4.1 Maximise application of planning policy to encourage higher performance in new build.	Develop the climate emergency and sustainable development strategic policy for the new local plan.	NEW ACTION: Workshops have taken place with internal stakeholders (May – June) and officers have been reviewing best practice examples of policy and evidence streams. Policy wording is being refined to present to members from September.
			Promote paperless to officers and developers.	NEW ACTION: Summer-Autumn – monitor usage through the website.

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		Monitor usage, evaluate and seek feedback.	Summer – provide lunch and learn sessions for officer to go through the advice note and how it should be used. Autumn – potential to present to developers through the developer forum and seek feedback.
		Develop a checklist to accompany planning applications.	NEW ACTION: First draft of the checklists has been completed and will be consulted on.
	4.2 Through the local plan process address the challenge of protecting and enhancing biodiversity while providing growth.	On a continuing basis, ensure the skills in the Planning team are up to date in respect of natural capital, ecosystem services and in particular Green Infrastructure (GI) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	ONGOING: There are two dedicated officer champions in the Development Management Team who attend relevant training events and disseminate information within the team. Training includes annual Suffolk Wildlife Trust training and any other relevant events run by external organisations such as the Planning Advisory Service, Natural England, RTPI, and the Local Government Capacity centre. Officers also have a regular meeting with Natural England to discuss matters specifically relevant to West Suffolk.
		Review resources necessary to monitor adherence with planning policy and permissions to ensure agreed biodiversity and landscape improvements are implemented.	ONGOING: Additional support for ecology and landscape advice is being contracted.
		Investigate and develop a new local plan tree strategy.	ONGOING: Draft tree policy parameter consulted in May 2023 Part Two: Non-strategic Policies - West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 18) Preferred Options - West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations (inconsult.uk) Officers drafting final plan for member review from September 2023. Suffolk street design guide. Weekly office discussions to consider best practice, review relevant appeals.
		Work with partners and developers to encourage sustainable tree retention and increase canopy cover.	NEW ACTION: Officers involved in the development of the Suffolk Streets Design Guide to ensure street trees incorporated into design approach. Officer attendance at the Trees and Design Action Group forum to improve knowledge and good practice.
Corporate action	5.1 Environmental management systems.	Review environmental management system in March every year to ensure completeness.	ONGOING: This year the environmental statement included electricity consumption of council owned street lighting. This will help to capture the benefits of LED upgrades and ensure the reporting is comprehensive. We will continue to refine our reporting methodology each year. Overall, emissions are down 40 per cent compared to baseline.
		Introduce new measures to the Council's quarterly performance report.	NEW ACTION: Key indicators in relation to emissions, business travel and water consumption are added to the quarterly performance reports to Performance and Audit Committee in addition to the cross cutting environmental information already included.

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		Work with all building users to reduce paper consumption by 5 per cent each year to be measured in March.	ONGOING: Recognising the opportunities around resource and environmental impacts of paper consumption the council has created a corporate project to reduce paper usage – the number of pages printed during 22-23 has decreased by 29 per cent compared to 21-22. Regular reporting, including filtering by team, is being considered as a requirement for the paperless project.
		Work with HR (and possibly SCC) to update the WSH green travel plan.	ONGOING: West Suffolk House green travel plan is due to be updated. This year we have purchased electric bicycles, which can be booked and used during the working day to reduce emissions from business travel. Six bays now have electric vehicle charging provision in Olding Road carpark to help cut staff commuting emissions. The chargers are open to all building users with revenue being returned to the green travel plan budget.
	5.2 Learning from COVID - Encourage all council teams to consider and review their ways of working.	Seek to increase office recycling provision supported with clear signage and comms in place for Sept 23.	ONGOING: This task has previously been on hold due to the shift in staff working due to the pandemic. Now there are more staff working in the offices it's a good time to reinstate this action. Officers will aim to update signage around waste bins with information on what is accepted in each bin by September 2023.
		Include reference and link to net zero ambition in job adverts for new staff. Have this in place for all posts by August 2023.	NEW ACTION: This will help to publicise the council's commitments to external audiences and potential new starters.
		Ensure that environmental impacts are considered when making key decision from September 2023.	NEW ACTION: This will help to prevent any possible negative environmental impacts when key decisions are made.
	5.3 Internal reporting.	Create a central register for grants or financial awards for environmental works by August 2023.	NEW ACTION: Will aid with reporting successes and external grants supplement the decarbonisation fund helping to generate greater impact.
	5.4 Environmental management systems.	Introduce a suitable water consumption metric to compare building performance. Develop into league table.	ONGOING: Obtaining and recording base data for current and previous years. Aiming to develop annual figures based on water use per sqm of building for high consumption sites and publicly accessible buildings over 250m2.
		Ensure that Cafe West are disposing of waste in most sustainable way.	ONGOING: Verse has an environmental action plan and is seeking to reduce waste. It has already removed single use plastics. With wooden cutlery and compostable packaging. All waste is then disposed of in the most appropriate way.
	5.5 Reduce energy consumption from all sites.	Reduce energy consumption from all sites.	ONGOING: Full details published in Env statement this summer covering 2022-23 performance. Continued investment through the net zero fund and improvements made using government funding.

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	5.6 Travel & Transport - Continued professional development of driving staff.	Consider using a driving efficiency metric within drivers PDRs to encourage more fuel efficient and safe driving.	ONGOING: New Refuse Trucks delivered in March 2023 were installed with latest CCTV Camera or tracker System from our FleetClear supplier. This new technology enables us to get absolutely accurate MPG data, harsh driving or breaking reports, engine idling (highlighting problem areas).
		Continued professional development of driving staff.	ONGOING: Driver CPC training is carried out annually. Training is mandatory for Vocational drivers. 35 hours of training must be undertaken over 5 years which can be split into 5 x 7 hour modules. Training is ongoing yearly and staff have recently completed a fuel efficient driving module in November 2022 and more recently a municipal operations and conflict resolution module in March 2023. All modules are JAUPT approved, and we endeavour to select modules which are interesting and engaging to our driving staff.
	5.7 Travel & Transport - Continued professional development of driving staff.	Review of alternative fuel vehicles as part of vehicle procurement process.	ONGOING: We've taken delivery of our first EV pedestrian sweeper which is based in Haverhill. The sweeper has received many compliments and comments from residents. The sweeper is adorned with our West Suffolk Action on Climate change logo. After lengthy deliberations regarding HVO a decision was made to suspend any switch to HVO. Alternative fuel options being monitored across industry. Hydrogen looks as though it will replace EV for large vehicles.
	5.8 Fleet Management ensure that council invests in appropriate ULEV.	Encourage all who request new fleet vehicles to review their needs and consider ULEV alternatives.	ONGOING: The council is actively working to encourage ULEV alternatives. The requisite EV infrastructure is gradually being put into place – as this develops, so will the council's capacity to take up ULEV.
		Continue trials of alternative technologies for commercial vehicles, such as Road Sweepers.	ONGOING: Trials are ongoing of EV vehicles as and when they become available for demonstration. We have had various cars, car derived vans and sweepers on demo during 2022-23, with our latest arriving in May 2023.
		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: Charging infrastructure is now operational in Olding Road carpark and Vertas are aware. A phased approach to locating EV pool cars at Olding Road is being developed by Vertas team ensuring that the transition is supported by clear communications from WSC and Vertas staff. Now with Vertas to take forward.
		EV charging at depots.	ONGOING: There are ongoing discussions on the requirements of charging infrastructure at the operational hubs. Tender process complete and consideration for the installation schedule will be considered in due course.
	5.9 Continue to work with our Facilities Maintenance provider VERSE to ensure that in Cafes and Kiosks:	West Stow visitor Centre - Engage with café operator and ask them to introduce waste management actions with staff.	ONGOING: New catering contract in place at West Stowe and working with operator - green requirements added to the contract.

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	1, Single use plastics is minimalised and where possible not used at all; 2, That they will provide tap water free on request and advertise this service; 3, Products are locally sources where possible and food choices promote sustainability.		
	5.10 Install renewable energy systems when replacing or maintaining West Suffolk Council assets.	Install renewable energy systems when replacing or maintaining West Suffolk Council assets.	ONGOING: 5 HMO sites will have ASHP systems installed by August 2023. WSH, Nowton Park & Park Lane HMO had additional solar PV installed in May 2023.

Completed Tasks

Workstream	Strategic Action	Task	Completed Task Update
Biodiversity	Biodiversity & Environment Wetlands.	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.	COMPLETED: Interns working with the service in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 helped to identify and map the existing rivers, ponds, lakes and SUDs which are in West Suffolks ownership.
	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.	Stop the use of Glyphosate when an alternative solution has been identified. Funds for alternative to glyphosate.	COMPLETED: From April 2023 West Suffolk ceased the general use of Glyphosate, the broad-spectrum herbicide. With the following exceptions: To treat certain invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, which are a serious threat to biodiversity. To treat tree stumps which are liable to send up suckers and damage infrastructure.
Planning and regulation	Use Planning Policy to ensure higher performance in new build.	Identify and scope out available policy options for West Suffolk Local Plan.	COMPLETE: The new West Suffolk Local Plan will include a requirement for higher build standards, sustainable design, energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Officers are looking to capture care home development within BREEAM requirements. Preferred options policy parameters went out for consultation in May – July 2022. Part Two: Non-strategic Policies - West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 18) Preferred Options - West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations (inconsult.uk) See section 3.
	Maximise application of existing planning policy to encourage higher performance in new build.	Develop a technical paper to support our response to a climate emergency through new and existing development.	COMPLETE: Planning advice note on Climate Change and Sustainable Building published January 2023 (Climate change and sustainable building planning advice note (westsuffolk.gov.uk)).

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		Complete review of the current validation requirements to ensure they are up to date and fit for purpose.	COMPLETE: The initial review was undertaken in summer 2022 with further work into the autumn. Stakeholders and statutory consultees were consulted and provided feedback. Officers did a joint review looking at current best practice examples.
	Through the local plan process address the challenge of protecting and enhancing biodiversity while providing growth.	Work with partners to develop a West Suffolk Wide Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) which will include identification of opportunities for restoration, biodiversity net gain and ecosystem services. This will include opportunities for tree and hedge planting and identify potential areas of expansions of woodlands and community orchards, allotments. A key part of the GIS will be to consider links between green spaces (green & blue corridors) for wildlife and people. The GIS will include a 10yr Action Plan.	COMPLETE: GI strategy is complete and published May 2023.
Corporate action	Learning from COVID - Encourage all council teams to consider and review their ways of working	Encourage all council teams to consider and review their ways of working.	COMPLETE: The council now works flexibly helping to reduce business mileage- refer to Environmental statement. Using Teams is now the default position for meetings.
	Encourage all employees to understand their own eco footprint.	Encourage all employees to understand their own eco (carbon) footprint.	COMPLETE: Staff now complete an environmental training module as part of the essential training delivered by the corporate learning and development team. Training includes an introduction to climate change and links staff to an accessible carbon footprint calculator where staff can calculate their own carbon footprint. As of August 2023, 479 people have completed the training.
		Create a mechanism for staff to share environmental pledges with communications team.	COMPLETE: Pledges page is now live on the intranet and is linked to from the new environment training. Once staff complete the environment training module they are encouraged to submit a pledge to the new forum and share their progress. Climate pledge (sharepoint.com)
		Digital Footprint.	COMPLETE: Training and awareness session was provided to staff, and the session has been made available to view. Relevant learning has been incorporated into e-learning training.
	Reduce energy consumption from all sites.	Update property database with building floor areas and develop benchmark and a metric (kWh/m2 or kWh/pp) to assess building energy use.	COMPLETE: The benchmark is already in place through the Display Energy Certificate's.
Green IT systems.		COMPLETE: Guidance updated and session on reducing IT emissions available on the intranet.	